

Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

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MoCo Scores Major Win

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

The Harrison High School Model Congress achieved an unprecedented level of success at this year's Princeton Model Congress conference. Of the twenty-four Harrison High School delegates who took part in the four day event, fifteen walked away with either an honorable mention or a coveted Best in Committee gavel.

Prior to the conference, each member of the Harrison delegation penned an original piece of legislation. Freshman delegate Marielle Sheck had this to say about the bill-writing process: "I was a little nervous about writing a bill, since I'd never done it before, but the more experienced members of the club were so helpful! They made sure that I went to the conference with a piece of legislation I knew thoroughly, and could be proud of."

The conference, which began on November 17, was held

in Washington DC. Prior to opening ceremonies, the Harrison delegation paid a visit to Capitol Hill, where they enjoyed a tour of the Capitol Building, and watched real delegates in action from the

as much as I do the next day. I try to feel out my committee; get a sense of other delegates' strengths, and political views. I think it helps a lot, especially if you're new to Model Congress."

others had "full." In full sessions, groups of committees congregate to jointly debate bills that have passed in individual committees. These groups of committees are appropriately dubbed Senates or Houses. "Full"

provides delegates with an opportunity to show off their skills before larger audiences, and to debate bills which they would not typically encounter in their committees. Senior delegate and MoCo president Jacob Temkin had a

great time in "full."

"I was in a foreign affairs committee, and I really enjoy debating this area of policy, but it's always fun to see what comes up in full! I enjoy hearing what the other committees have been up to, and speaking on bills that I maybe don't have as much expertise in. It's great for building your skills as a speaker. You have to learn to think on your feet."

Unsurprisingly, given the
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The Harrison delegation strikes a pose.

Courtesy of Ms. Makarczuk

Senate and House of Representatives viewing galleries.

Following opening ceremonies, which saw the election of Trinity High School senior Eyck Freyman as conference president, the Harrison delegates attended their first committee sessions. Harrison High School senior and Model Congress secretary Angela Troia shared, "The first session is always nerve-racking. I definitely don't speak

The Harrison delegates didn't make it back to their hotel rooms until 11 PM, but when they did, there was pizza waiting. Club advisor Ms. Makarczuk explained, "It's tradition for us to order pizza the first night. The kids are tired. They need fuel."

Day two of the conference was its busiest, with three debate sessions scheduled for each delegate. Some delegates began their day with their committees;

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NEWS & FEATURES

Anonymous HHS complimenter makes some happy, others uneasy

Amy Carton

Managing Editor

On January 16, a new hot topic of discussion hit Harrison High School. One by one, students began receiving Facebook friend requests from an anonymous profile entitled 'HHS Compliments.' What began with a simple friend request has since morphed into a full blown school mystery that has left students with one driving question: Who is behind this HHS Compliments page?

When students began receiving friend requests from this unknown entity, many were apprehensive and reluctant to accept. Some questioned the reliability of the page, some questioned its safety, and yet others accepted without hesitation.

"I wondered why they friended me at first," admitted junior Brian Goldstein. After accepting the friend request, however, attitudes shifted and students became appreciative of the page. Upon confirming the request, students were then graced with a compliment on their wall from the anonymous person. Though general, the compliments have definitely made an impact on students throughout the high school.

The compliments range from aspects of the students' personalities to their physical appearance, and all have received positive feedback. In response to the compliments, students have written thank you notes on the page, but more than that, have become more curious as

to who this mystery person might be. Sophomore Rula Samad noticed the attention the page was receiving on Facebook, and took it upon herself to friend HHS Compliments instead of waiting to receive the request.

"I don't know who is behind it or have any major theories, but I think what they're doing is really nice," said Rula.

While students are much more accepting of the page now than they had been in early January when it first launched, there are still several questions that have yet to be answered. Who is this mystery person? Will he or she ever reveal their identity? Why was the page created? These are just a few of the questions circulating among the students, and many theories have been suggested as well.

While some believe that the page was created to fulfill the IB CAS project requirements, others are under the impression that the page is a mission of Harrison's chapter of 'Rachel's Challenge,' which has lost the attention of students over the past few months. Still others speculate from a defensive stance, and wonder if the page was the idea of the school's administration, a thought that has many students worried.

Junior Casey Rinker not-

ed, "If the school is behind it, they now have access to every student's personal Facebook page."

Though this theory is doubtful, Casey and other students do have a point. Who's to say that this page wasn't created as a way for this mystery person to lure students in and gain access to their personal information?

Through Facebook, this reporter spoke to the person behind the 'HHS Compliments' page, and although he or she did not reveal an identity, it is pretty clear that the page was created with solely good intentions.

In regard to what the page is and what its mission is, the mystery person shared, "It's a page that gets the students happy and makes them feel confident about themselves. It's also a way to pass around the good things that people find in others and it makes their day a little better."

As many people have wondered, why is the person anonymous, and why won't he or she reveal his or her identity?

In response to this popular question, HHS Compliments offered, "I'm anonymous because no one should be focusing on who said the compliment, but rather why they said it. I hope

that, by doing this, I can make people realize that they all have something good about them and that they should pass along the happiness and confidence that it brings to them."

Especially in light of the recent suicides that have occurred in the Westchester area, it is important for students to be reminded about the good and simple things in their lives.

As HHS Compliments shared, "I created the page because you never know what is going to make someone happy. Whether we know it or not, everyone is fighting a battle with themselves at some point. Some battles may be tougher than others, but no matter the severity of someone's sadness, it's important for them to know that there is always something to smile about."

Juniors Olivia Manley and Hannah Hochman agree with the fact that the compliments add a positive aspect to students' days.

"I think it will brighten people's days when they receive a compliment from them and it will boost people's confidence," Olivia said. "I also think that it sets the right example for students and stands up against bullying."

"I think it's really nice and a great idea to help people have higher self esteem," said Hannah. "It comes at a good time, especially because of that girl who just committed suicide."



Lupine sighting at APES assembly

Zach Davidoff

Staff Writer

On December 13, Harrison High School was visited by a gray wolf named Atka. Two spokespersons from the Wolf Conservation Center, located in South Salem, New York, gave a presentation which provided students with information about the endangered status of the gray wolf, and about the Wolf Conservation Center's mission to try to rebuild the population of the species. Atka's audience was

auditorium. I had lots of room to walk around, and the carpet was soft. I'm not used to direct paths because of the terrain my species comes from. It was a great experience."

Students lucky enough to attend the presentation didn't view it just as a way to get out of their eighth and ninth period classes, but also as an educational and fun way to learn about the environment. Most students

his species of gray wolf is on the endangered species list."

There are an estimated 7,000 to 11,000 gray wolves in Alaska, and perhaps an additional 5,000 in the continental United States. In 1973, wolves were deemed an endangered species in the United States by the Endangered Species Act. Wolves are a vital part of many ecosystems and are considered a keystone species. A keystone species is a species that plays a critical role in maintaining the structure of an ecological community. The wolf is a keystone predator, and a necessity in its habitat. Wolves help control the coyote population, and help ensure that populations of elk keep on the move, rather than staying in one location and overgrazing.

The primary reason for the depletion of the gray wolf population over time is the actions of humans. Ranchers and land owners have hunted wolves to near extinction. Hunters cite several reasons for targeting wolves, none of which are viable. Some hunt wolves for sport. Some believe they are protecting people (in fact, wolves are harmless to humans if not provoked). Others hunt wolves for their fur. Game-men are not the sole culprits. Urbanization has ruined wolves' habitats, and driven them from their sources of food.

As a result of Atka's visit, the AP Environmental Science students gathered valuable information which furthered their comprehension of the role of species in an ecosystem. The so-called "field trip" was a resounding success! For more information about the Wolf Conservation Center, visit www.nywolf.org.



Atka heads for center stage.

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

made up of students enrolled in AP Environmental Science. Born on May 17, 2002, Atka is the oldest wolf at the Wolf Conservation Center. He is something of an ambassador for all gray wolves, as he is the only one who meets with students. The Wolf Conservation Center brings him to schools, nature centers, museums, and libraries throughout the northeast.

Atka had lots to say about his experience at Harrison High School. This reporter was able to put together a rough translation: "I was pleasantly surprised by attentiveness and respectfulness of the students. I liked the big

have never seen a wolf before, let alone one five feet away from them. In an effort to make Atka feel comfortable in the HPAC, students were forbidden from touching Atka or making loud noises. Upon first seeing Atka, many students were surprised at how big he was. At 32 inches high and 90 pounds, and boasting a snow white coat of fur, Atka made an impression that won't soon be forgotten.

Senior Sal Giacamo shared, "I was not expecting the wolf to be that big and white. I was pleasantly surprised. But it's a little sad that the wolf has been domesticated all his life, and that



Adam Murray.
Courtesy of Michael Schaefer

A race to remember

Michael Schaefer

Special Contributor

"Spirit can walk, spirit can swim, spirit can climb, spirit can crawl. There is no terrain you cannot overcome." Irisa Hail

When your cardboard boat is fitted with pontoons and wrapped securely with duct tape, it settles nicely on the bottom of the pool! So went the experience of Adam Murray, his family, and two friends on December 3, 2011. The HHS student and his squad were participating in the first annual Cardboard Boat Regatta at the White Plains YMCA. Twelve teams registered for the exciting event that yielded dozens of "winners." Every group was presented with a heap of cardboard and a role of tape. Following a brief welcome from Hillary Gallacher, the YMCA's aquatic director, all hands became busy building boats. Murray's team did their best job constructing a worthy vessel.

Adam was assigned to the first heat of the "race" and paddled valiantly until saturation and gravity prevailed. It did not take long. Nearly every boat in the race either capsized or sank. All participants managed to finish the 25-meter race, many with their cardboard craft in tow. After the race, the skippers all shook hands, celebrating their achievement while promising to return for next year's regatta. Though the "race" only took about 60 seconds, it generated fond memories that will last a lifetime.

Adam is in training for his next big race. He is currently accepting applications for his 2012 HHS "Y" Regatta Team.

MoCo domination continues

(Continued from Front Page)

number of delegates present and the diversity of the bills discussed, full sessions can be a little unpredictable. Some daring delegates use full as a pulpit for debuting unorthodox stratagems. Junior delegate Thomas Lovinger reflected, "I'll never forget [fellow delegate] JT's so-called 'America Speech.' The way he downed that Red Bull before yelling at 150 kids that our country is too good for the metric system was priceless."

Committee sessions offer their own advantages. Bills are discussed in greater depth, and in a setting more conducive to compromise and collaboration. Junior delegate Nicole Suozzo shared, "The best part about committee is that everyone can participate. We all get to vote in full, but making a speech in front of a hundred plus kids can be intimidating. And even if you decide to speak, your may not be called on. There are a lot of placards in the air. In committee, if you want to speak, you'll get a chance too. Also, you get to raise smaller points that might get lost in full. My favorite committee debates are the ones where everyone participates. It's cool to feel like you're getting to know the kids in your committee through their politics."

The third day of the conference offered a reprieve from the chaos of day two. Following a single committee session in the morning, the delegates enjoyed eight hours of freedom. The much anticipated break was kicked off with lunch at an Irish pub. Afterwards, the Harrison delegation split up. Some opted to visit Georgetown with chaperone Ms. Orbin. Others used the time off to get some much needed rest back at the hotel. Sophomore Sam Colangelo chose to visit Georgetown. "I think I made the right choice," he shared "It was cool to see the town. Also, I got to try a lot of great food."

Saturday night marked the delegates' final session with their individual committees. Most of the Harrison delegates had already presented their bills, but delegate Ben Adler made a calculated choice to hold off until this final session. "I like to wait until the last committee session before presenting, because that way you know you'll have a chance to make a good last impression on the chair."

The final committee session is always delegate Lexi Rubenstein's favorite part of Model Congress conferences. "By that

point," she explained "Everyone in your committee knows each other pretty well, and has mostly gotten over their nerves. Debate is more relaxed, and people who present close to last tend to have some pretty interesting and controversial bills."

Sunday morning saw the final "full" sessions of the conference. Then, it was the moment the delegates had all been waiting for: the awards ceremony. All participants in the conference crowded into the hotel ballroom. Following a concluding speech delivered by President Freyman, which described several of the policy breakthroughs achieved at the conference, the presentation of awards began. The Harrison delegates sat with bated breath as one by one, the winners for each committee were announced.

The Harrison delegates were understandably nervous. Junior delegate Hayley Kronthal, "There was definitely a lot of pressure, since we did so well at the U Penn conference last year. It would have sucked not to continue the streak."

She needn't have worried. As the ceremony progressed, one Harrison delegate after an-

other was called up to receive an award. Delegates JT Nangle, Emma Adler, Jacob Temkin, Thomas Lovinger, Rajan Mehra, and Aaron Kaplan won honorable mentions for committee. Jacob Tempkin and Thomas Lovinger both earned honorable mentions for full as well. Delegates Matt DiRe, Hayley Kronthal, Nicole Suozzo, Angela Troia, Julia Druckman, and Jacob Seidman won best delegate gavels for committee. Senior delegate Jacob Seidman was awarded a second gavel for his participation in full.

But sweeter than any individual honorable mention or gavel was the award presented to the entire group Outstanding Delegation. This special recognition, accepted with some would say excessive enthusiasm by President Temkin and Vice President DiRe, ensured that the conference ended on a supremely high note. Delegate Jacob Seidman shared "It was an award we could all celebrate. I can't believe we've come so far as a club!"

Well, believe it. Harrison High School Model Congress is on a roll which seems unlikely to slow anytime soon!

Lil' debaters step up!

Peri Mendelsohn

Staff Writer

On December 2 Harrison High School's debate team, accompanied by faculty advisor Mr. Hertzog and judge Alesia Segal, headed to Princeton University for a tournament.

The team, comprised of seven varsity debaters and six novice debaters, enjoyed yet another successful showing. The Princeton tournament was one of the first national tournaments of the season, and was the first national tournament ever for the novice debaters.

The tournament consisted of six preliminary rounds and out-rounds. In order to break into out-rounds, competitors had to obtain a record of four wins or more. The following varsity debaters broke into out-rounds: senior Christina Loguidice, senior Ally Brabant,

junior Peri Mendelsohn, and sophomore Danny Debois. Peri and Christina had 4-2 records in the preliminary rounds, while Danny and Ally went 5-1. This reporter unfortunately dropped in the first out-round, but Danny made it to the octofinals, while Ally and Christina were double-octofinalists. Given the strength of the competitor pool (140 of the top debaters in the region were present), these were major accomplishments for the Harrison debaters.

Also impressive were the performances of the novices. The following novices were eligible to break into out-rounds: freshman Michael Scoli, freshman Emma Labarbra, freshman Erica Lamanna, freshman Tori Tiburzi, and freshman Kiana Kamizio.

Erica and Tori both reached octofinals, while Kiana and Michael both reached the top 16 debaters. In addition, Erica was named the first place speaker of the novice division.

Following their big Princeton debut, the Harrison debate team travelled to Ridge High School and Regis High School for two local tournaments. The tournament at Regis was particularly successful, with three varsity debaters (senior Ashley Muller, and juniors Peri Mendelsohn and Patty-Jane Geller) and all six novice debaters leaving a lasting impression on the debate community. Senior Ashley Muller stole first place for the whole tournament, while this reporter finished as runner-up. Both debaters enjoyed undefeated

records. Patty-Jane Geller also impressed with a 2-1 record, considered outstanding for this particular tournament.

The novices continued their streak of success at Regis. Freshman Erica Lamana was the tournament's first place speaker. Emma Labarbra went undefeated, and received an award.

But perhaps the most important accomplishment of all of these tournaments was the novice debaters' assimilation into the debate community. Given the strength of both its varsity and novice level members, Harrison's debate team can look forward not only to a successful season this year, but to many more down the road.

The Real Housewives of Purchase?

Alexandra Sanchez

Staff Writer

Everyone hears about luxury through the media and reality shows. Every day one can experience the likes of *The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills* and its closer to home counterparts, featuring lavish homes, expensive clothes and a host of unnecessary material things. But what about *The Real Housewives of Purchase*? According to a recent Yahoo list entitled "Americas Ten Richest Zip Codes, 2011," Purchase New York, otherwise known as 10577, came in as the eighth richest zip code in the nation.

According to Bloomberg.com, here's how the areas placed: #10 was Santa Monica, California (90402), followed by Los Altos, California (94022) at #9. Purchase took the #8 spot. Kenilworth, Illinois (60043) came in at #3, while Long Island's own

Old Westbury, NY (11568), took second place. The richest zip code in America is Palm Beach, Florida (33480).

Purchase's ranking comes as no surprise - although it has one of the lowest population rates on this list, it has some of the highest incomes.

According to CNN, Purchase has 834 households with the average household income of \$268,696. Most of these are single-income dwellings. The average household net worth in Purchase is \$1,503,911.

Some perks that Purchase offers include the corporate headquarters of both MasterCard and Pepsico. Many of these high earners might come from executives living locally. Purchase also is home to many commuters to New York City, which is a quick 25 miles away.

According to Census Bureau statistics, many residents in Purchase hold jobs in health care, professional services, finance, and insurance.

The overall winner, Palm Beach, has 5,505 households. The average household income there is \$370,136 and the average net worth per household is \$1,486,123, which is slightly lower than Purchase's numbers. Palm Beach is a 16-mile barrier island with the Atlantic Ocean on its eastern boundary and Lake Worth on the west. Palm Beach lures many vacationers during the winter. It also features many fine dining establishments and places to shop on Worth Avenue. The island also provides access to luxuries such as polo, golf, tennis, yachting and deep-sea fishing. The predominant group there is corporate executives and

CEOs in the 40s and 50s, and their children.

Many Harrison students were surprised to learn about Purchase making the list.

"Wow, that's really surprising," noted sophomore Rula Samad. "I didn't think where I live had the type of status this website gave it. This makes me think of Purchase completely differently. I see how fortunate I am,"

"I think that's kind of cool that we live somewhere that is recognized in that way," said Junior Sara Purinton. "I hope this makes people realize how fortunate they are compared to others. I also think its really weird being on a list with places like Beverly Hills."

Gimme some credit!

Stephanie Irvine

Staff Writer

Have credit cards and shopping independently become the new fad among high school students? Many teenagers have begun venturing away from their parents when shopping and spending money, and revealed that they would rather shop alone or with friends than with their parents. Many Harrison students have even admitted to shopping alone with their own credit cards!

Through a study this reporter conducted of the Harrison High School student body, 56 percent of students were found to own credit cards, and an astounding 92 percent of students admitted to abusing the freedom associated with shopping independently. These students shared that when shopping alone or with friends, they are more likely to purchase overpriced or unnecessary objects than when shopping with their parents. This reporter also spoke with some parents of credit card wielding kids, and found that many were concerned about their child's use of his or her credit card.

Many parents worry that their children are taking advantage of the privilege of having a credit card, and are questioning what their money is being put toward. Despite the concerns, these parents continue to permit their children to use credit cards, and students are beginning to wonder why.

"A credit card is very important to have in high school," said current sophomore Eli Barich. "It can be used for emergencies or if someone runs out of cash. A credit cards is always a good back-up plan."

Credit cards offer convenience, but in reality should be used to establish a good credit history so a teenager can learn to become independent and responsible when it comes to spending and handling money. Having a good credit history will help teens to enter the post-high school world ready to tackle life decisions like qualifying for car loans and mortgages. A good credit history will also help teens obtain lower auto and homeowners insurance premiums in the

future. Most importantly, a good credit history will allow teenagers or young adults to qualify for a job, as employers are increasingly using credit scores when evaluating job candidates. According to the Jump\$tart Coalition, an advocate for financial literacy, one in every three high school student uses a credit card.

"I don't abuse the power that I have with my credit card," said current sophomore Christina Midollo. "Although a credit card is convenient and easy to use, I mostly use cash because I don't want to lose track of credit card expenses, and spend too much money with it."

In high school, having a credit card can be beneficial, laying the foundation for financial responsibility as an adult, but only if the teenager is responsible. A credit card with a low credit limit will also help reduce the chances of a teenager spending large amounts of money. In order to ensure that their child is being responsible, parents should monitor his



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo or her monthly payments and make sure they aren't abusing the power of their credit card.

Despite the pledges teens make to remain responsible, when presented with the opportunity for procuring a credit card, many parents still encounter the harsh reality of their child spending too much money. Parents who bail their children out when they overspend are not doing their children a favor in the long run. It is better for a parent to monitor their child's spending carefully from the beginning, than to wait for their child to go into debt before taking action.

"I love my credit card," shared current junior Talya Evans. "I am very responsible with it. I only use it occasionally when shopping but I never take advantage of my credit card or spend money on unnecessary items. My mom always monitors my expenses to make sure I am on the right track."

Early Admission Programs

Emma Adler

Editor-in-Chief

With spring fast approaching, many seniors are looking forward to finally putting the college process behind them. But while the lion's share of college decisions will, as usual, be meted out between March 29 and April 1, a substantial portion of this year's graduating class has long since received their acceptances.

"Applying early just seemed like the way to go," shared Harrison High School senior and member of NYU's class of 2016 Madison Pollack.



Courtesy of stanford.edu

And it would appear that hers is a popular opinion. According to the guidance office, the number of Harrison High School seniors choosing to apply to college early has increased dramatically over the past decade. Harrison High School is far from unique in this respect. At elite private schools, it is typical for upwards of 75 percent of the senior class to apply early. In recent years, public schools across the nation have begun to get in on the act. Over the past decade, the number of early applications received by highly selective institutions has swelled. Georgetown, Duke, the University of Chicago, and Yale are just a few of the universities that posted record numbers for early applicants this fall.

The growing popularity of early admit programs begs the

question: is it worth it? Apart from the possibility of enjoying a more relaxed second semester, not to mention saving one's self the trouble of completing multiple applications, are there are benefits to applying early? Most colleges that maintain early admit programs contend that applying early offers no advantage in terms of one's admission decision. Princeton's admissions website is particularly blunt: "Those who apply early gain no strategic advantage; the only advantage is one of convenience."

Harrison High School guidance counselor Ms. Heyen espoused a similar view. She shared, "Odds aren't necessarily better if you applying early decision to your top choice school."

However, the numbers would seem to suggest otherwise. Last year, Yale offered admission to 14.5 percent of early applicants, as opposed to just 5.7 percent of applicants who applied regular decision. Brown admitted 20.6 percent of its early applicants, but only 7.5 percent of its regular decision applicants. Similarly disparate figures are echoed in the admissions statistics of virtually every school with an early admit program.

There are two schools of thought here. Those who claim that applying early has no inherent advantage argue that these higher percentages can be chalked up to the quality of early admissions pools. Harrison High School senior Emily Koller commented, "Kids who apply early tend to be the ones who know for sure where they want to go, have been good about getting their essays done, and believe they have a good chance of getting in. It wouldn't make sense for kids who aren't even somewhat qualified to apply early. Also, recruited

athletes and children of alumni tend to apply early."

If early applicants are indeed a self-selecting group, it makes sense that a higher percentage of them should be admitted. But given the statistics, many are skeptical that applying early doesn't have some impact on one's chances. Senior Luke Wolf had this to say: "They say applying early doesn't help, but I think it must. When a kid applies early, the admissions counsel knows they're serious, and that they genuinely love the school. It's nice to be first on someone's list. I know a bunch of kids who applied early to their reach schools, because their college counselors said it would give them a better shot."

Several highly selective colleges, including the University of Pennsylvania, concede that applying early heightens one's chances of being admitted. And even if a school is adamant that the only perk of applying early is "convenience," one thing is for certain: it can't hurt!



Courtesy of nyu.edu

"I don't know if applying early makes it easier or not," said senior Brian Lauro, "But I figured, why not? My school's program wasn't binding, so I didn't need to stress about not being absolutely

sure it was where I wanted it go."

This brings us to a whole other aspect of early admissions:



Courtesy of dartmouth.edu

the vernacular. Phrases like "non-binding" and "single-choice early action" may perplex those as yet unversed in the argot of college admissions, but as any senior can tell you, there are few mistakes more serious than misinterpreting a college's early admit policy. It breaks down like this: Early Decision programs are binding. If a student applies to a school Early Decision, and is admitted, he or she must attend. A student may not apply Early Decision to more than one school. Early Action programs are not binding. Students admitted Early Action need not attend. If one applies Early Decision to a school, one may also apply Early Action to other schools. In fact, one may apply Early Action to as many schools as they want. Senior Chris D'Antona is all too familiar with this policy. "I applied Early Action to nine schools. It was great."

Then, there is the new kid on the block: Single-Choice Early Action. A hybrid of Early Decision and Early Action, Single-Choice Early Action (also called Restrictive Early Action) is non-binding, but prohibits the applicant from applying early to any other schools. A student who applies Early Action to Georgetown and

Prove Boon for HHS Seniors



Hamilton

Courtesy of higheredjobs.com

MIT may also apply Early Decision to Brown, but a student who applies Restrictive Early Action to Stanford cannot apply early anywhere else. Confused yet? So was Lexi Rubenstein.

"Half the battle was figuring out how all the different programs work. And once you've figured that out, you have to make some really hard choices. Should you apply Early Decision to a school you really like, but are not sure about, because you

seniors who received good news in December or January were eager to share their stories.

Senior Cayla Pettinato, admitted to Stanford under its Restrictive Early Action program, said "It was definitely stressful applying early. I had to write about 10 other applications while I was waiting to hear from Stanford, because if I didn't get in I had to make sure I met all the deadlines for the other schools...but in the long run it was all worth

it because I got into the school of my dreams and it's so nice to be done and know that everything I have worked for has paid off!"

Senior Chloe Williams, admitted early to the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, shared "Although the stressful ap-

Courtesy of vanderbilt.edu

think you have a better chance? Should you apply Early Action to a bunch of schools, because you want to have safeties? You have to learn to step back, stop strategizing, and just apply to the school you want to go to. But it can be tough."

There's no question, applying early can be an ordeal. Even after all is said and done, there are the months of waiting which can be more frustrating than any essay prompt. But those

plication process was over once I applied early, the harder part was definitely waiting for a stranger to decide my future. I chose UNC Chapel Hill for the combination of a challenging academic environment, tremendous school spirit and friendly students."

Senior Kyle Martino, admitted Early Decision to Dartmouth, had this to say: "I guess my experience was different from those of most people. I was recruited to Dartmouth for squash,

so I had a pretty good idea of where I was going a while back.

But the lack of anticipation involved hasn't made me any less excited to go to college. I loved Dartmouth from the beginning. I especially appreciated how genuinely the people there seemed to want to make me feel welcome. I can't wait for September!"

Senior Julia Coash was admitted early to Hamilton College. She shared, "I visited a ton of schools and found something wrong with all of them. Just as I was beginning to get discouraged, I accidentally took a detour to Hamilton on the way to Colgate. It sounds so cliché, but I walked into the admissions office to get a map, and by the time I got back outside I told my mom that this was the school I wanted to go to. Later, I actually went on a tour of the campus, and attended an information session. These experiences confirmed the feeling I'd had from the start. It was the only school I completely loved, and I literally cannot wait for August!"

Senior Julia Druckman, admitted early to Vanderbilt, stated "The college application process officially starts senior year, but as everyone knows it begins a lot earlier than that. Throughout high school, I thought about what type of college I wanted, where I could see myself, and how high I should or could reach. With this criteria in mind, I was able to see

that I did have a top choice. After submitting my applications, I felt



Courtesy of unc.edu

a mix of emotions, mostly stress. I would try to listen to people who assured me, 'everything will work out for the best,' but at the time it was really hard to believe that. It was a difficult process that came with both ups and downs. But as hard as it was at the time, it gave me a real perspective on what is



Courtesy of tufts.edu

actually important."

Senior Matt DiRe, who will be attending Tufts in the fall, said "Waiting is definitely the worst part of the college admissions process, but Early Decision let me skip a lot of that! Nothing has made me so excited as getting into Tufts. Early decision is awesome. Go Jumbos!"

I know what you did next summer...

Melanie Singer

Staff Writer

With half of the school year behind us, summer has begun to enter the minds of many students. Summer is the time for students to relax, spend time with friends and family, and experience new activities and places. Some students opt to go to camp during the summer, others get a job, and still others travel the country and world. For those students who can no longer attend camp or are looking for an exciting way to spend their summer 2012, there are hundreds of great opportunities to explore!

The opportunities are countless, ranging from programs strictly dedicated to sightseeing and exploring, to academic study opportunities at universities across the world. Community service programs have also become popular options for high school students, providing them with opportunities to help those in need while enjoying scenic landmarks and unique experiences in places like Costa Rica, Hawaii, and Africa.

Last summer, Harrison High School junior Lauren Jacobowitz traveled to England to participate in an academic program at Oxford University, called the Oxford Tradition. Lauren's program was run through Oxbridge Academics. She encourages other students to look into it. She shared, "I would recommend it to people who want to get a valuable academic summer experience. I took Bioethics and International Law, but they offer classes over a wide range of topics so everyone can find a class that interests them. The program offers unique opportunities and was overall a great experience both academically and socially."

Junior Tom Lovinger also went to Oxford with Oxbridge Academics. He chose to study Politics and Economics and

Social Physiology. Like Lauren, Tom had a great experience on his trip, and would definitely recommend it to those interested in an academic summer program. Along with the Oxbridge program, there is another academically focused summer program called ASA which also offers a trip to Oxford. In addition to the Oxford program, ASA also offers trips to various Spanish-speaking countries, countries around Europe, and colleges in the United States.

Interested in expanding his knowledge and fluency in French, junior Grant Wissak traveled to France this past summer. "I went with a program called Abbey Road. We were in the south of France for most of July," said Wissak. "Each morning we took

the continent of Africa. These community service programs provide students with a chance to get away for the summer while helping those in need at the same time. Junior Kate Faxon traveled with West Coast Connection to South Africa, Zambia, and Botswana. She had this to say about her experience: "In South Africa we worked at a school for a week, painting, making shelves, and planting. During the afternoons we interacted with the kids, playing soccer and other active games. We also cleared a field for a nursing home in Botswana and built a bakery in a village in Botswana.

In Zambia we saw Victoria Falls, which was amazing, rode elephants, and went on safaris where we saw all different animals. I would definitely recommend it because it really was eye opening and made me so thankful for my family and my life in America. But it's not an easy trip to take. It takes an emotional toll on you because some of the things you see are really upsetting." Though international programs have become increasingly popular among high school students, there are various summer opportunities which offer the same level excitement and enjoyment right here in the United States. Senior Melissa Goldberg chose to stay in the country, traveling to Santa Barbara, California for a Rein Community Service Program. "I did it in the summer of 2010 and it was a four week program. We had to do four hours



Kate Faxon feeds an elephant.

Courtesy of Kate Faxon

of community service Monday through Friday every morning, and you got to choose where you wanted to volunteer. I chose to work at a camp for underprivileged children, where we played with them and taught them basic reading, writing, math and science skills." The community service trip, although primarily focused on volunteering and giving back to those in need, also offered students the opportunity to relax and enjoy their summer travels. Melissa shared, "Once a week we were able to walk around Santa Barbara in the afternoon. Three times a week we could choose a specific activity of our choosing. I decided to do surfing, which was a blast! Every

night we had activities available for us such as bowling, movies and rollerblading. Weekends were also great. We spent one weekend in Santa Barbara, one in Palm Springs, and one in Los Angeles."

Though most of these trips will not begin until early July, many require enrollment during these winter months. So if you're interested, act fast!



Lauren Jacobowitz with her Oxford class.

Courtesy of Lauren Jacobowitz

a class in French. The class you were in depended on your skill level. There weren't any tests, but we learned a solid amount. In the afternoon we had electives. You could choose between conversation, film study and an art elective. On the days when we didn't have electives we went to museums or saw other parts of the city. On weekends we went to different parts of France such as the Marseille. It was a lot of fun and a good way to learn French!"

For those students interested in community service based programs, there are several teen tour companies that offer such opportunities. Companies like West Coast Connections and Rein Teen Tours offer these community service programs that travel to places like Hawaii, Costa Rica, Peru, Fiji, and throughout

national programs have become increasingly popular among high school students, there are various summer opportunities which offer the same level excitement and enjoyment right here in the United States. Senior Melissa Goldberg chose to stay in the country, traveling to Santa Barbara, California for a Rein Community Service Program. "I did it in the summer of 2010 and it was a four week program. We had to do four hours



Thomas Lovinger and friends.

Courtesy of Thomas Lovinger

HHS gets on board with *Operation Beautiful*

Nicole Golino

Staff Writer

An astounding seventy-seven percent of teenage girls view themselves negatively, according to research conducted and published in 2007 by InfoNLAC. Most researchers accredit this low self-esteem to the media and advertisements that have come to dominate the social world. With these advertisements focused so heavily on beauty and fame, it's no wonder so many teenage girls have developed negative views of themselves. Media and advertisements have changed the definition of beauty in the United States, creating the belief that true beauty is based on physical appearance and photo-shopped models.

The low self-esteem fostered by these picture perfect models and superficial society often leads to the development of illnesses like depression, and eating disorders like anorexia and bulimia. Though the media feeds self-consciousness, there are many ways to prevent the development of such self-image issues. Simply telling a teenage girl that she is beautiful can be a life-changing event. "Operation Beautiful" looks to provide teens with these esteem-boosting remarks.

A California high school student Sophia Jiang established 'Operation Beautiful' in 2009, after her school district lost five students to suicide in the span of two months. Distraught by the tragedies that occurred during those few months, Sophia created "Operation Beautiful" to give hope and support to herself and her peers. Sophia began posting inspirational, self-image related sayings around the school on post-it

notes. Since its establishment in 2009, 'Operation Beautiful' has continued to encourage inner beauty and self-confidence, and Harrison High School now joins Sophia in spreading her mission.

Earlier this year, Mrs. Blunt and Ms. Manno approached Junior Caroline Gaeta with the story of 'Operation Beautiful,' encouraging her to look further into its mission. After reading about the history and events of the program, Caroline looked for her own way to get involved. Because she is a part of the IB Diploma Program, Caroline selected the "Operation Beautiful" mission as her CAS (creativity, action and service) project. "Operation Beautiful" allows Caroline not only meet the IB requirements, but also to complete her project on a topic that she finds interesting and worthwhile.

Caroline established the Harrison High School chapter of "Operation Beautiful" earlier this year, in hopes of reaching out to fellow students, and is excited for the development and growth of the program at HHS. With regard to the HHS chapter, Caroline shared, "Unfortunately, many girls tend to hide behind their makeup. Even at HHS, our peers don't always reinforce that it is what's on the inside that is

more important than your appearance. I think it is important to celebrate inner beauty and having a day dedicated to no makeup is exactly what this school needs, a confidence booster! Everyone is beautiful on the inside and out!"

Caroline and the other

confidence.

The program welcomes any and all interested students, and hopes to build self-esteem among teens in the high school and the greater Harrison community. Since its introduction to Harrison High School, "Operation Beautiful" has caught the attention of many students.

"I am an active member of 'Operation Beautiful,'" said junior Kaylee Araoz. "I think it is a really great idea because it brings awareness to young girls that not everything is about Beauty, and that it is personality that matters. If more people get involved this event could be even better!"

Junior Samantha Guarnero is also involved with "Operation Beautiful." She shared,

"Once I found out what it was trying to do and learned that I could easily join, I jumped at the opportunity. Girls these days are too preoccupied with their looks; even here at Harrison there are many superficial people, and I want to help change that." Samantha even added, "If it were up to me I would turn this event into a full blown club!"

Even the boys that were asked about "Operation Beautiful" were optimistic about its mission.

Junior Kyle Clokey had this to say: "I'd never heard of something like this before at the high school, but if it will help girls in our school then it's definitely worth it. I always hear girls talking about how upset they are with their appearance when they look fine." Kyle also shared that and there are girls out there that are very attractive but also very rude. "If this event can get that all to change then let us commence 'Operation Beautiful!'"



Caroline Gaeta, and "Operation Beautiful" bracelets. Courtesy of Harrison Central School District

members of the "Operation Beautiful" program are working diligently to create informative and exciting events for students to take part in throughout the remainder of the school year. Caroline shared, "We meet every week, and are planning on sending compliment cards to students in addition to holding several days dedicated to natural beauty." During these days, students are encouraged to come to school makeup free and show off their confidence in themselves and in others. In addition to the days without makeup, Caroline and the other members have also launched their version of the original post-it note campaign. Flyers with images of confident and inspirational women have been posted throughout the school, and tables will be set up in the cafeteria selling wristbands and red ribbons. Students are encouraged to wear the ribbons and other red clothing to show support for inner beauty and

Tragedy strikes snowboard pioneer

Alexandra Sanchez

Staff Writer

Sarah Burke was an X-Games competitor with a daredevil mentality. She was a super pipe skier with much success on the slopes. The Canadian freestyler, who helped get super pipe accepted into the next Olympic games, died January 19, 2012, after a January 10 crash during one of her training sessions in Park City, Utah. Burke, who was a four-time Winter X Games champion, lived near Whistler, in British Columbia. She was 29.

Burke crashed on the same half pipe where fellow snowboarder Kevin Pearce sustained traumatic brain injury during a training accident on December 31, 2009. Tests revealed she sustained "irreversible damage to her brain due to lack of oxygen and blood after cardiac arrest," according to a statement released by her publicist, Nicole Wool, on behalf of the family. Burke's organs and tissues were donated as requested by the skier prior to this accident.

The accident did not come from a risky jump, as most people would suspect, but rather from a simple 540-degree jump that she had landed routinely multiple



Burke caught in action. times.

Courtesy of CTV.ca

"I think it is really weird that she died on a trick that she had landed a million times before and in not a very high risk sport," commented sophomore Gina Smoyer.

According to Yahoo, Peter Judge, CEO of Canada's freestyle team commented on Burke's injuries, saying, "It was more the freak nature of how she landed. The angle of how she hit must have been exactly the right way to create a very bizarre circumstance."

Burke lobbied to add super pipe skiing to the Winter Olympic Games program, noting

that no new infrastructure would be needed. Her argument won over the Olympic officials, and the sport was to debut in the upcoming Olympics in two years in Russia. Burke would have been the favorite for the gold medal.

Burke's death is sure to reignite debate over half pipe snowboarding and extreme sports in general. The athletes defend the record. They say that mandatory helmets and air bags used on the sides of pipes during practice and better pipe-building technology has been made to ensure that the sport is made safer. Contrary to these additions, the size of the pipe has risen drastically in the past decade to 22-feet, making the sport more dangerous than ever before.

Some have suggested limiting the level of difficulty of the tricks on the half pipe, a suggestion that was shot down quickly. The growing popularity of extreme sports globally, along with the increased wealth and notoriety that accompanies it, only encourages athletes like Burke to go faster and attempt even more daring stunts. In 2010, snowboarding pioneer Jake Burton told The Associated Press that much of this was self-policed by athletes who knew where to draw the line on the severity of

their tricks.

"I think it is a dangerous sport to start with," said sophomore Shannon Roman, "but I think that athletes know that. I still think they should make more reforms to the sport to make it safer and prevent these types of injuries from occurring to more people."

In 2009, Burke broke a vertebra in her back after landing awkwardly while competing in slope style at the X Games. It was Burke's campaigning that helped get the X Games to include women's slope style. This is where riders shoot down the mountain and go over various "features" including bumps and rails the athletes must successfully ride over. This wasn't Burke's best event, but she felt she had to compete because she pushed for it to be there. She came to terms with her injury quickly.

"I think that they should honor her in the Olympics in some type of way," said freshman Gianna Cassavecca. "She changed the Olympics by getting this sport in and now she won't even get to compete in it."

Burke returned a year after that injury and kept competing at the highest level and trying the hardest tricks. Some of her accomplishments include winning the ESPY in 2007 as Female Action Sports Athlete of the Year. In 2010, she married another fellow freestyle skier, Rory Bushfield. They starred in a documentary film project on the Ski Channel called *Winter*.

Burke will be deeply missed on the slopes, especially during the upcoming Winter Olympics. Burke was a pioneer for women in sports and accomplished much during her short career. She had an amazing spirit that was admired by everyone in the sport, and will be dearly missed.



Sarah Burke during happier times.

Courtesy of CTV.ca

Apple juice not so kid-friendly

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

Everybody knows the story of Snow White, and what happened when she took a poison apple from an evil witch. It would seem this same evil watch has found her way into modern day supermarkets. Due to recent revelations about the amount of arsenic in apple juice, many are beginning to question whether the popular drink is as safe as the Food and Drug Administration says it is.

The investigation into the amount of arsenic in apple juice began in September, when Dr. Oz announced on his popular daytime television show that tests had revealed ten out of three dozen samples of apple juice to have arsenic levels greater than ten parts per billion (the legal limit). This sparked controversy as to whether apple juice is safe to drink. Consumer reports conducted tests on 88 different brands of apple juice to determine how much arsenic was in each. Popular brands, such as Apple & Eve and Mott's, were found to contain greater amounts of arsenic than the 10 parts per billion sanctioned by the FDA.

Altogether, roughly ten percent of the juices tested had over 10 ppb of arsenic.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, arsenic exists in inorganic and organic forms. Arsenic exists naturally in the environment. Only inorganic arsenic is harmful. The FDA responded to the allegations levied by Dr. Oz, stating "We have advised you that the test for total arsenic DOES NOT distinguish inorganic arsenic from organic arsenic." In another letter, dated September 13th, the FDA stated that Gerber had done tests on a specific lot number in two different laboratories and, "The results of these tests for total arsenic in Lot # 1157515791 are substantially in agreement with the results of the tests performed by the FDA" (which found Dr. Oz's allegations to be exaggerated). The FDA called the claims that the Dr. Oz show made irresponsible and misleading.

Depending on the amount of arsenic found in drinks, they can be harmful to your health if consumed. Arsenic can be a known carcinogen; a cata-



Courtesy of
Christie Suozzo

lyst for cancer, diabetes, and heart disease. Toddlers and young children, the primary consumers of apple juice, are especially at risk due to their small size. Though the FDA remains adamant that the amounts of arsenic found in apple juice are harmless, the general public appears less optimistic. In numerous blogs posted on Food-Safety.gov, people are questioning whether the FDA is looking after the well-being of Americans or the big food companies.

Mrs. Wilson, a biology teacher at Harrison High School, had this to say about the situation: "As a mother of a toddler I am much more skeptical about the foods that I give her. I try to limit the amount of processed food that she consumes. I do not typically give her juice because it has lots of sugar, but I will definitely be more careful and skeptical of juice drinks and apple juice in particular. I think the

FDA has a tough job to regulate all foods but I do find it troubling that any amount of arsenic (even if it was low) was found in apple juice which is predominately consumed by children."

Part of the problem is that the concentrate for apple juice comes from orchards all over the world, especially Asia and South America. If a company purchases the concentrate from, say, Brazil, the apple concentrate may come from different orchards throughout Brazil. While the concentrate's nation of origin may be known, determining which bottles of apple juice contain apples from which orchard is almost impossible. Since arsenic is found in soil, it is just as likely to be found in organic apple juice as in standard apple juice.

So far, the FDA has not set a standard for arsenic in juices, since the levels are deemed to be low and not dangerous. However, through continuous collection of data and information, they will determine whether or not to set a guideline, and whether the current amounts of arsenic in apple juices constitute a threat.

Apple takes a byte out of textbooks

Olivia Manley

Staff Writer

It seems that every day, technology brings changes to some aspect of our lives. It allows us to do amazing things; explore and expand our knowledge in ways we never could have imagined just ten years ago. Apple Inc. has played an important role in the technological revolution of the past few decades. Now, the company which brought you the iPod and the Mac is expanding into the education market!

Apple launched its attempt to make the iPad a replacement for a satchel full of textbooks, with the debut of a new version of the iPad featuring software that supports textbooks. Also announced at the event was Walter Isaacson's now best-selling biography of Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, which appropriately includes information about Jobs' hopes for integrating textbooks

with the iPad.

The new software will allow textbook makers to create fully interactive titles for Apple's iPad. Users will be able to swipe across the display screen with their fingers to open textbook pages and view movies within each chapter. The pinching and tapping features familiar to any iPad user will also apply. This will allow students to interact with the text in ways they never have before.

Junior Stephanie Dragone had this to say about Apple's newest innovation: "I think that these digital textbooks are a great idea and will allow us students to be able to gain more from our textbook readings."

Apple's main focus in developing the software was interactivity. Students will be able to view 3D images and rotate them.

This will be an invaluable feature in classes where students must grasp, say, the structure of DNA. Another feature of the software is that books can be switched from portrait and landscape modes, as the student pleases.

Students usually aren't allowed to mark up traditional textbooks because future students will have to use them. Not so digital textbooks! The iPad software allows students to mark up their textbooks, by highlighting the text or adding notes that can later be made into study cards.

In advance of the software's release, Apple has formed partnerships with several major textbook makers. These include Pearson, McGraw Hill and Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. According to Apple, 90 percent of



Courtesy of Amy Carton

the textbooks in the United States are produced by these companies.

Junior Casy Rinker was excited about the digitization of textbooks. She

shared, "I think this is an amazing idea! It will definitely help students expand their knowledge in new ways. I would love to be able to have digital textbooks. I feel that the only problem will be convincing schools to switch to digital textbooks."

Whether or not Harrison High School will make use of this new technology remains to be seen. But even if they do not for quite some time, it appears certain that education is on the brink of a major transformation.

Poverty hits home for American families

Clarissa Karantzis

Staff Writer

During this rough economic period, Americans all over the U.S. are struggling to keep their jobs, earn money, and support their families.

According to the New York Times, 15.1 percent of the population was living below the poverty line last year, the highest percentage since 1993. This means that 46.2 million Americans are in poverty. According to CNN, the poverty line is \$22,314 per year for a family of four, and \$11,139 for an individual. In New York, according to the 2010 Census, the poverty rate is 16 percent. The state with the most poverty is Mississippi, with 22.7 percent living in poverty. The state with the lowest poverty rate is New Hampshire, with 6.6 percent.

Though unemployed adults are the most visible victims of the rotten economy, they are by no means the only ones affected. According to the College Board, economic factors play a role in a majority of high school seniors' college choices. Over 40 percent of students surveyed shared that, due to financial concerns, they were focusing their college search on public universities rather than private ones. 80 percent of students surveyed shared that financial aid would be necessary in order for them to attend the college of their choice. Harrison High School provides programs that can help students in need of financial aid to attend the college of their choice (for full information, visit the district website), but many students in need are without such resources.

The Princeton Review, a company familiar to any student who has used their AP review books, recently released its 2011 "Best Value Colleges" list, which

ranks schools according to how much the students get out of the money they put into their education. According to the Princeton Review, the top five value private colleges in the country are Swarthmore College, Duke University, Princeton University, California Institute of Technology, and Harvard College. The top five public colleges are University of Virginia, New College of Florida, University of Florida, State University of NY at Binghamton, and University of Georgia. But the hard truth is that no matter how valuable a college education can prove in the long run, paying for it in the here and now can be a difficult obstacle to surmount.



Courtesy of The New York Times

Younger children are also suffering as a result of the economy. The poverty rate for children under 18 was at a shockingly high 22 percent in 2010. This translates to roughly one in five children living in poverty. According to the NCCP, 855,305 of these children are living in New York State. Hopefully, economic conditions for these children will eventually look up, but the effects of a childhood spent in poverty do not simply vanish with improved fortunes. Research has shown that childhood poverty is often accompanied by parental ne-

glect, which is a known catalyst for poor academic performance. Severe poverty can also lead to malnutrition, longstanding health issues due to lack of medical care, social behavioral problems, and low self-esteem.

The issues caused by the recession may seem daunting, but everyone can do something to help. The Youth Volunteers of Harrison is a club at Harrison High School that helps families and individuals that are struggling economically. Every two weeks, students involved in the club, this reporter included, meet to voice ideas for raising money, or helping in any way the less fortunate. Sophomore and YVH member Eica Dattero shared, "Our main goal at YVH is to show people that they can take the initiative and make a difference. I really encourage everyone to join a club such as this to gain insight into the little ways that we can change the world for the better."

This November, the YVH organized a clothes drive which asked people to donate hats or gloves. These articles of clothing, essential during the long winter months, were given to needy families in the area. More fundraisers and drives are in the works which will provide support for those who have hit hard times. "YVH is a great way to get involved in the community of Harrison," said sophomore Kendra Deschamps. "We have fundraisers and many opportunities to donate so the needy can benefit from our donations." YVH members make a point of publicizing fundraising events well ahead of time, so be on the lookout for news about upcoming projects.



Santa who?

Jamie Derosa

Staff Writer

Christmas time is special for kids of all ages, but one of the most exciting aspects of the holiday for the younger ones is the belief that come December 25, Old Saint Nick will be coming down their chimney with plenty of presents to leave beside the Christmas tree. Santa is a big part of the Christmas experience for many children. This is a fact that Mrs. Eng, a teacher at a Rockland County elementary school, clearly does not understand.

It was a normal day in the second grade. Mrs. Eng was in the middle of a geography lesson. When the North Pole came up, one student pointed it out as the home of Santa Claus. Mrs. Eng proceeded to correct the seven-year-old, informing him and the rest of her students that Santa was not real. Unsurprisingly, things quickly got ugly. Parents of the students had little sympathy for the teacher, labeling her a "modern day Scrooge." It's hard to blame them.

Harrison High School students who heard the story were equally unforgiving. Junior Chris Cosentino shared "It's just plain wrong. The teacher had no right to do that."

Junior Ryan Nangle had this to say: "I feel really bad for the kids. Mrs. Eng is obviously a terrible teacher. I loved Santa when I was younger. We all did!"

After receiving numerous complaints the school board confronted Mrs. Eng, who subsequently called each and every parent apologizing for her actions. The question many are asking now is whether the school should ask for her resignation. However, the chance of this happening is very small. Telling kids the truth about Santa may be frowned upon, but it's not exactly a fireable offense.

The most important meal of the day!

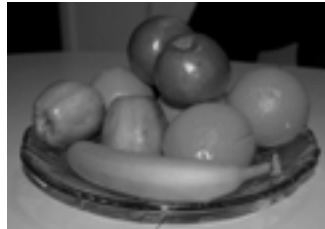
Sarah Camillone

Staff Writer

Everyone assumes that eating breakfast is a healthy life-style choice, but has anyone ever wondered how it specifically helps to improve one's academic performance? Experts have confirmed that eating a good breakfast in the morning can positively affect a student's ability to retain information in a classroom environment. In a study publicized in Psychology.about.com, Harvard researchers discovered that the students who ate breakfast were "significantly more attentive in the classroom, earned higher grades in math, and had significantly fewer behavioral and emotional problems."

Breakfast's benefits to the brain have been proven time and time again—yet, the sad truth is that many people still don't eat it. Perhaps it is because it is inconvenient or people think it is simply unnecessary. However, the benefits of taking a few minutes out of your morning to

eat breakfast outweigh the costs. According to becoming smarter.com, by eating breakfast you have improved memory, think faster and clearer, concentrate



Always a good option!

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo better, improve verbal fluency, better your mood, are less likely to become depressed, and can even lose weight.

Clearly, the meal's significance should not be overlooked by students.

"I find it really helpful to eat breakfast in the morning," said sophomore Emma Camillone. "It makes it much easier to focus in my morning classes."

Eating breakfast enables teens to improve their academic performance by providing the brain and body with essential nutrients and energy. This energy helps an individual think clearly and perform properly early in the morning. Breakfast gets the body going and it starts up the body's metabolism—which allows students to go for longer periods of time without food. When you think about it, without breakfast, there is a large time gap between dinner and lunch the following day. In order for the human body to properly function, food is a necessary component for health, overall attitude, and other noticeable aspects of someone's general performance.

Additionally, some teenagers do not get the recommended amount of nutrients throughout the course of a day. To remedy this, students should eat breakfast to increase daily nutritional intake. According

to Livestrong.com, teens that skip breakfast are twice as likely to have low levels of iron and two to five times as likely to get the recommended amount of minerals and vitamins.

Students even notice the difference in their performance after a day of eating breakfast.

"I can definitely tell the difference on the days that I do eat breakfast, and the days that I don't," said freshman Emma Jorgensen. "I feel more refreshed and ready to start the day when I eat breakfast, and it helps me in school."

There are many benefits to eating breakfast, whether or not the outcome is related to school. Although it might not be easy to make time for breakfast in your busy schedule, it is worthwhile to take the time to receive these positive benefits. Eating breakfast can yield many great benefits that are well worth whatever minor inconvenience is involved.

MyPlate ousts Pyramid

Lindsey Barnett

Staff Writer

Americans are notorious for their unhealthy food choices and love of all things greasy. In hopes of improving the health and eating habits of Americans, First Lady Michelle Obama and Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack have teamed up to design a new food guide known as MyPlate. The redesigned food guide has replaced the previous MyPyramid, and is focused on getting people to think about building a healthy plate during meal times.

"I remember being extremely confused when we learned about the food pyramid in third grade," shared senior Faryn Brown. "I am very happy that they have decided to turn the pyramid into a plate. I believe that the plate will help families visualize what a wholesome meal should look like."

America's attempt to highlight the importance of a balanced diet is not something new. Over the past twenty years the United States Department of Agriculture

has unveiled several food guides, all of which featured foods from the five food groups: grains, vegetables, fruit, meat and milk. The previous food guide, MyPyramid, was the first food guide to experiment with bright colors, and emphasize physical activity. MyPyramid accurately presented a well balanced diet. However, it failed to teach Americans how to eat properly.

"I am a firm believer in working out and eating healthy! I am so happy that they changed the pyramid. It was way too hard to understand with all the different colors and codes. MyPlate is straightforward and to the point just like it should be," said senior Rachel Hurvitz.

MyPlate makes eating healthy easy through its great visual image. The new food guide separates a dinner plate into four different sized sections representing the five food groups. This is the first food guide that is not in the shape of a pyramid. The

new design was created to teach Americans two lessons: to eat a variety of foods and to promote portion control.

"It is a really good thing that our government is trying so hard to keep our country healthy and to help people understand how to eat properly. I am a big fan of everything that they are doing to make it easier for Americans to become healthier and happier," commented senior Jacob Temkin.

But will this new food guide truly lead to a healthier America? Zoe Stein doesn't think so.

"As a vegan I feel that the new food guide is limited. MyPlate is promoted as a guide for everyone. However, it fails to address the needs of vegetarians and vegans. Everyone is different and suggesting that there is a universal meal plan is unrealistic."

The new food guide has also faced criticism for its lack of proper labeling. MyPlate is the first food guide authorized by the USDA to label a section



MyPlate itself!

Courtesy of myplate.gov

"protein." Protein is not a food group. Protein is a nutrient. Many people think of meats when they hear the word protein, but that is not the only source of protein. Protein is found in vegetables, grains, dairy, beans, and meats. You eat food to get nutrients; you don't just eat nutrients.

Health conscious senior Alexa Nardulli had this to say: "I am puzzled by the protein section. Protein can be found in almost all of the other food groups. MyPlate appears to be emphasizing protein at an unhealthy level."

Although MyPlate has faced a wide range of criticism since it was first unveiled in late 2011, supporters of the image remain confident that it will succeed in swaying more Americans toward balanced diets.

Marcel proves funny things come in small packages

Melanie Singer

Staff Writer

Sometimes the little things can be bigger and better than the big things in life. This wisdom can be applied to the popular videos co-created by Jenny Slate and Dean Fleischer-Camp, Marcel the Shell with shoes on. The two videos to date are proving to be a bona fide YouTube hit.

Marcel the Shell with shoes on has a small shell body, a large googly eye, and large pink shoes that allow him to walk around. Slate provides the small voice that speaks with an uneasy tone and draws the attention of an audience that spans all ages, from kids to adults. Shortly after Slate and Fleischer-Camp first aired their imaginary character's first installment on YouTube, it became a hit. Re-makes were being created instantly, causing this small shell denizen to become the next big thing.

The first video, made almost a year ago, shows the shell with large shoes on providing

a casual tour of his house. With deadpan delivery, Marcel explains some of the activities he participates in throughout the course of his usual day. For example, in an adorable and hysterical way, Marcel confesses how, for fun, hang-glides on a Dorito. The absurdity truly makes the short movie an entertaining amusement.

"I hadn't head of Marcel the Shell until recently," said sophomore Nicole Cuneo, "and when I first saw it, I thought it was the weirdest thing I have ever seen. But as the video went on, it was so funny." Many agree. Marcel is one hysterical shell.

Slate says that their main purpose for creating this video was to see the reactions of the viewers prior to the creation of a children's book, which has been her dream for quite some



Marcel. Courtesy of *The Gloss*

time. Now that the book is out, Slate and Fleischer-Camp are promoting it with a cross-country tour aimed at bookstore story-times.

"If there was a word that could describe 'Excited times 100,' that's how I feel," says Slate about the tour. According to her website, she reveals that, as a kid, she would always love when authors would come to her school and read their books out loud. Her favorite part was the way the author read the book. That is another reason why she came up with this irresistible voice for Marcel.

Recently, a second Marcel the Shell with Shoes on was released on YouTube, hitting a million views instantly. Some thought nothing could beat that first episode and Marcel's tour of his house and his hobbies.

"The first one changed my life," confessed junior Jake Lerner. "I talked to shells for a while after seeing the first one, but the second one doesn't make me want to do that."

Others think that the second one is just as funny, if not funnier than the first. In the second video, viewers learn that Marcel gets around on a bug and how his bed is a piece of bread.

Slate's notoriety prior to this was from getting fired from the famous TV show *Saturday Night Live* after accidentally dropping the F-bomb. That incident is long gone and in the past. For now, Marcel is the one thing that is really keeping her going, helping Slate achieve her dreams of writing and creating a children's book. She wanted to bring smiles to peoples' faces and, through the little guy with shoes on, the oddity of his body, and the charm of his voice, she and her friend have succeeded in a big way.

American public passes on SOPA and PIPA

Olivia Manley

Staff Writer

January 18 was lights off for many online websites. Websites such as Wikipedia, Reddit, Craigslist, and Boing Boing were blocked out that day to help make a stand. Even Google took part in this by putting a blackout sign over its familiar "Google" heading on their homepage, and providing an informational link explaining why the company opposes the legislation. These websites are protesting the controversial proposed bills of SOPA and PIPA.

These two bills were brought to Congress and are known as the Protect IP Act (PIPA) in the Senate and the Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA) in the house. The proposed legislation was designed to tackle online piracy, with emphasis on illegal copies of films and other forms of media hosted on foreign servers. The bills also proposed that anyone found guilty of streaming copyright content without permission 10 or more times within six months would face up to five years in jail.

Media companies are always looking for new ways to fight against piracy. They have tried suing individual users, getting Internet service providers to take actions against subscribers, and even working with the United States government to shut down domains. But none of these actions has been successful in stopping overseas websites.

Both SOPA and PIPA targeted foreign websites that infringe upon copyrighted material. They provided two different methods for dealing with copyright violations. The first method stipulated that the U.S. Department of Justice could seek court orders requiring Internet service providers to block the domain names of infringing sites. This tenet of the bill greatly concerned many Internet security experts.

The second method would have allowed rights holders to seek court orders requiring payment providers, advertisers, and search engines to stop doing business with an infringing site.

The site in question would have had five days to appeal any action taken.

Many websites and companies opposed these bills because they would censor the web and impose harmful regulations on American businesses. The members of Congress were trying to do the right thing by going after pirates and counterfeiters; however, this was not the way to do it. Under the bills' provisions, The U.S. government could order the blocking of sites and search engines could be forced to delete their entire website from such results. This could cause businesses to shut down.

A group of companies including AOL, eBay, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Mozilla, Twitter, Yahoo and Zynga wrote a letter of protest to Congress. This letter expressed that these bills "pose a serious risk to our industries which continue to have a track record of innovation and job-creation."

Google also stated that

SOPA and PIPA would likely not achieve their desired results. The censorship regulations wouldn't shut down pirate sites completely. The sites would likely just change their addresses and continue their illegal activities.

"I don't know much about this issue," said junior Taylor Friedwald, "but from what I know, I feel that these bills will have a negative outcome in our society. I agree with the fact that shutting down websites would hinder American businesses and lead to job losses."

As a result of the massive backlash surrounding SOPA and PIPA, the bills were pulled from the floors of the House and the Senate. Many feel that Congress should consider other alternatives to protect the Internet, like the OPEN ACT, which takes targeted and focused steps to cut off the money supply from foreign pirate sites without letting US companies censor the Web.

Smart phones linked to back pain

Stephanie Irvine

Staff Writer

According to Dr. Alton Barron, an orthopedic surgeon at St. Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital, smart phones may be causing back and neck pain.

"We are straining our muscles both in our necks and our upper backs and our shoulders to accommodate for this position," said Barron when he was interviewed recently on CBS.

A few years ago, WebMD reported a study that was conducted at the American Public Health Association showing that many college students were experiencing extreme back and shoulder pain. It was concluded that this pain can be linked to the usage of cell phones because of the fact that the majority of college students use their cell phones frequently. The posture that people have when using cell phones strains the neck and back, which can lead to pain and discomfort.

Judith Gold, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Temple University's College of

Health Professions and Social Work, presented evidence at this year's meeting of the American Public Health Association suggesting that the more college students texted, the more pain they reported in their necks and shoulders. Gold and her colleagues conducted a study of 138 college students to see if correlations exist between the number of text messages sent per day and pain in the upper body.

"What we've seen so far is very similar to what we see with office workers who've spent most of their time at a computer," Gold says. "The way the body is positioned for texting -- stationary shoulders and back with rapidly moving fingers -- is similar to the position for typing on a computer."

"I always use my cell phone," said sophomore Eli Barich. "Sometimes I experience upper back pain and my neck gets sore. I think this is because I text a lot and when I text I have to look downwards in order to

see my phone."

The British Chiropractic Association recently carried out an experiment on the effect that smartphones can have on a person. The research, which centered on 2,000 adults aged 18 and over, found that 24 % of those asked complained of back, neck or shoulder pain while using smartphones. Results from the survey show that one of the key causes of suffering results from users spending hours bent over a small screen, with 44 % of those that use a smartphone admitting to spending between 30 and 120 minutes on non-call related tasks such as texting, surfing or tweeting.

"It is important that we recognize the potential impact on our bodies and learn to lessen the impact on pressure points with some simple steps," said Tim Hutchful from the British Chiropractic Association. "It is particularly important now more than ever with 36% of Britain currently suffering from back or neck pain, up from 32% in

2010."

"Sometimes my back gets sore when I use my cell phone," said sophomore Coby Lefkowitz. "I used my phone a lot because I like to keep in touch with my friends. When I have back pain from texting, it usually is not persistent and does not last for a long period of time."

The time people spend texting, being on Facebook, and Tweeting should be limited as much as possible. The popularity amongst smartphones is increasing year by year, which means that back and neck pain will increase as well. It is important for people to take some time to get away from their phone so that their backs and necks can have a chance to recover. In general, texting, tweeting, emailing, and any other activity that involves constantly looking down at a cell phone should be avoided in order to ensure good posture and freedom from back and neck pain.

Following changes, NASA looks to future

Jessica Oggeri

Staff Writer

On May 25, 1961, President John F. Kennedy stated, "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." Space exploration and discovery had been a hot topic for years, but it really heated up during the Space Race that took place throughout the Cold War. Since then, the United States has continued to research space through the efforts of the National Association of Space and Aeronautics (better known as NASA). That is why it is so hard to believe that on July 21, 2011, the space shuttle *Atlantis* and its four crew members returned to Earth, completing the last of 135 NASA space missions.

Since its founding, NASA's achievements as a research association have been manifold.

NASA's first great achievement was the landing of the Apollo 11 on the moon on July 20, 1969. But this was just the beginning. NASA is accredited with the invention of the Hubble Telescope. This telescope offered the first clear view of the universe beyond our galaxy! NASA also succeeded in launching the Pioneer 10, a space shuttle that left Earth in 1972 and traveled 7.6 billion miles. This was the farthest a manmade object had ever traveled and was also the first ship to pass through Jupiter's asteroid belt. In 1981, the United States followed in the footsteps of the Soviet Union with the dispatch of NASA's first shuttle fleet.

One of NASA's most incredible accomplishments was the construction of the International Space Station, which became the largest structure in space when it docked on Novem-

ber 2, 2000. The station weighs 861,804 pounds, spans the area of two US football fields, and has more living space than a five bedroom house. The United States, Russia, Japan, Canada, and numerous countries in Europe have astronaut representatives housed in the station.

When Americans learned that the *Atlantis* mission would be NASA's last, many were incredulous that a program that had led to so many breakthroughs would be coming to an end. Would there be no more searches for extraterrestrial life, no more experiments conducted in outer space?

The answer, fortunately, is no! In spite of reports to the contrary, NASA as a whole has not been ended -- just its out-of-date space shuttle program. Its missions to space may be over for the time being, but it has big plans for the future. Some of

NASA's goals include landing a man on Mars, creating a vehicle-like space launch system that will enable humans to leave Earth's orbit, and furthering technology in areas as diverse as radiation, and life support. The International Space Station (ISS) will continue to be a place of research and a site for testing future exploration technologies. NASA is also working to build aircrafts that are safer, more fuel efficient, quieter, and environmentally responsible, so that when an updated space exploration program is put into place, it can hit the ground running.

Junior Erik Johansen summed up the topic by saying "There are many new and unbelievable ideas that are currently in the works. I know it will be interesting to see what our future holds!"

opinions & editorials

Dubious about dubstep

Danny Glass

Opinions Editor

Before I begin my personal assessment of Dubstep, and detail my personal experiences with this unusual genre, I should perhaps describe what it actually is. Dubstep is a type of electronic dance music that originated in London within the last fifteen years. It is characterized by very heavy bass lines, and tempos of around 130 to 140 beats per minute (bpm). Dubstep generally makes use of a synthesizer, a keyboard, turntables, and hard hitting drum tracks.

It doesn't seem very long ago that I had never heard of Dubstep. It seemed on first listen to be a very foreign type of music, featuring limited and usually incomprehensible lyrics. But Dubstep has slowly become the zeitgeist music of current free running and other extreme sports videos. It has also reared its head in cereal commercials, and ads for other run of the mill products. Whether they like it or not, it appears that in the coming years most Americans will be exposed to Dubstep.

Some have questioned whether Dubstep, or electronic music in general, can be considered music at all. The official

definition of music according to Merriam-Webster is "an art of sound in time that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color." Music has also come to imply organization, and sonority. In my mind, Dubstep should be considered music because it is organized, and is considered by some to be pleasant.

While I am not musically talented myself, and don't pretend to be the best judge of the works

of actual artists, I believe Dubstep is a step in the wrong direction for music. Dubstep is repetitive, usually played at oppressively

loud volumes, and tends to giving people headaches. There is some Dubstep that I enjoy listening to, but the majority of the stuff is utter garbage. The genre has become so blatantly derivative of itself, with people producing copies of copies of other musicians' work, that any shred of artistic integrity has been removed. Furthermore, since Dubstep is usually produced by one person working from a personal computer, domination of the music world by Dubstep would inevitably put thousands of

musicians and instrument makers out of jobs.

I am not the only one with a bad opinion of Dubstep. Music aficionado and Harrison High School student Michael Stiglianese calls Dubstep "awful, and suitable as "nothing more than a ringtone". Junior Steven Jacobson also has a negative opinion the genre. He shared, "I find Dubstep to be incredibly over rated. It's alright, but only some of the time". Other students at the high school took on fan-boy attitudes, and could stop gushing about this odd form of techno. In this reporter's opinion, the extremity of their veneration is in itself a testament to the overhyped nature of Dubstep.

There is nothing wrong with Dubstep, on its own. But it is a step in the wrong direction for music as a whole. I would rather not live in a world where every commercial is tuned to hollow sounds of an industrial building project. Let's only use it to score Transformers fighting, or cars racing.



Courtesy of Stomp Mag

Do you believe Adele was deserving of the six Grammys she picked up at this year's awards ceremony?



"I can't think of anyone who deserves it more. She's the ultimate professional."

- Senior Kevin Song



"She is definitely a very talented singer; she breaks a lot of boundaries."

- Junior Mikie Sakanaka



"Some, but not all of them. She's great, but everyone's blinded by the Adele craze."

- Freshman Troy Trippichio



"Yeah, she's talented and all of her songs have meaning behind them."

- Sophomore Karol Moises

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 talks about the waste involved in our dealings with food.



We live in a society that demands perfection. We tend to gravitate toward the aesthetically pleasing and shun the things that don't quite meet our standards. This is a common occurrence in our everyday lives, but it happens even more than we might realize. Think about going to the grocery store. When you see an apple that has a scratch on it, do you buy it, or put it back in the pile? Of course, the answer is that you put it back, because no one wants to buy something that is "damaged." But that's just it - is that apple really damaged, or is it just not up to our standards? *The Big Waste*, which aired on the Food Network, investigates this in the form of a battle between chefs Bobby Flay, Michael Symon, Anne Burrell, and Alex Guarnaschelli to see which group could make the best meal, using only foods that were headed for the garbage.

The Big Waste featured different restaurants where much of their foods were thrown out, not because anything was wrong with it, but because they couldn't sell it. Some of the time, they were unable to sell their foods because they over-stocked their pantries, but more often than that, it was because customers did not want to buy them. Things from fish to eggs are thrown out on a daily basis, wasting up to 27 million tons of perfectly good food each year. This food then sits in a landfill, which takes its toll on the environment. Some stores, like *Whole Foods*, try to redistribute foods that have not been purchased so that they can go to local food pantries where people in real need of food have better access to it. Despite this effort, much of the food still has to be thrown out. Most stores would rather throw out the food that they



Courtesy of foodnetwork.com don't have room for, rather than sell it at a reduced price, which is why such large quantities of food end up in the garbage.

When Bobby Flay visited a pick-your-own farm in New York, watchers were made aware of the tragedies that occur on these farms every day. A shocking 40-50% of the crops are wasted, because if someone isn't happy with the quality of the crops they have picked, they simply throw them on the ground. The worst part of this is that there really is nothing wrong with the quality, but if people see something they like more than what they have already picked, it is only natural to choose that product instead.

Small organic farmers also struggle with the problem of wasting their produce because it will not sell if it's not uniform and pleasing to look at. Small farmers have a hard enough time battling against commercial farmers without having to waste half of their produce, including crops, eggs, and even chickens. In the process of butchering the chicken, there can be a break in the skin or bones, which then makes that entire chicken unable to be sold. The amount of time and money that it takes to raise chickens and

have them butchered is too much to have them thrown out in the end. The eggs of those chickens also go to waste. Despite what we might believe based on what we see in the grocery store, not all eggs come in the same size, shape, and color. Different chickens produce different kinds of eggs, and if their eggs don't fit into the egg container, or if they have a blue color unlike the rest of the eggs, they are thrown out. In the commercial world we live in, there is no room for anything different, even if we are only talking about a different shade of color in our egg shells.

After the chefs visited restaurants, grocery stores, and farms, they realized how much food goes to waste. They even discovered that there are certain people who do not care about where their food comes from, as long as it still tastes okay. These people are called "freegans." Freegans are often times seen going through garbage bags on the side of the road after the store or restaurant has thrown it out. Although they might be mistaken for homeless people searching for scraps, freegans *choose* to do this. They do not want to contribute to the market that pays for foods that are of the same quality as food on the side of the road.

While being a freegan isn't for everyone, it definitely changes our perspective on what it means for something to be edible! Keep this in mind the next time you are at the super market...don't be afraid of the blemish!



Chefs Burrell, and Flay.
Courtesy of cafemom.com



Courtesy of Google Images.

Sound off!

Which candidate do you believe stands the best chance of winning the Republican presidential nomination? Do you think this candidate could beat Obama?

"Mitt Romney stands the best chance, because he is the most well-known of the Republican candidates and seems to be the most rational choice."

- Senior Jose Porretti

"Mitt Romney, because he's not entirely crazy,"

- Junior Sara Purinton

"I believe Rick Santorum has the best chance to win the nomination because he has the strongest possibility of winning blue-collar workers in the midwest states. Romney has no appeal with blue-collar workers whatsoever."

- Junion Rajan Mehra

"None of the Republican candidates really stand much of a chance against Obama. Obama, in my opinion, is in office for another four years."

- Junior Pornin Thongkhamyoo

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 debut installment, Danny shares his thoughts on Republican presidential candidate Ron Paul.

I was participating in some online gaming when I happened to stumble upon a group talking about politics. I immediately chimed in with my own viewpoints. We agreed initially on a variety of subjects, but when the subject of who should run the country in 2012 came up I heard one resounding answer: Ron Paul. I immediately spit out my cola and uproariously yelled "surely you jest." But alas they were speaking the truth. I would usually pass this off as purely bad luck, as usually the members of any online community are sensible individuals, but then I started hearing the mythos of Ron Paul everywhere I went. Kids and teachers were talking about him, the news started paying attention, and his campaign coffers began to fill up. Ron Paul had seemingly captivated the imaginations of millions. At the end of the day, however, only one thing matters: should Ron Paul be president? No.

Ron Paul is an enigma. He presents himself as a libertarian who will cut taxes, scale back foreign intervention, and boost gun rights. Yet if one sits down and listens to his policies and reads about what he plans on doing, one will quickly realize he is nothing more than a mouthpiece who lacks the proper ideas to have a positive impact on the country. But it is unfair of me to deal in generalizations. So I will break down each of his policies and strategies and prove logically that Ron Paul does not deserve your support.

I would first like to attack Ron Paul with regards to his views on firearms. Second Amendment issues are generally not at the forefront of the political landscape, but in the

ludicrousness of Paul's opinions deserves a mention. Paul wants to ease procedures on the purchase of guns; he opposes the Washington DC gun ban, and he would support legislation allowing law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weapons. Put simply, Paul believes that as long as a person has no prior crimes he or she should be permitted to carry a concealed TEC-9. If that gun sounds familiar it is because it is the same gun used in the Columbine Shooting. I understand the idea that guns can be used for recreational and hunting purposes. But the idea that citizens should be allowed to carry concealed firearms, especially of the semi-automatic variety, is both upsetting and insane.



Ron Paul. Future president?
Courtesy of Fight4truth.com

I am also irked by Ron Paul's views regarding gay marriage. Ron Paul suggests that each state should determine for itself the legality of gay marriage. I am fine with this viewpoint, apart from one flaw. If two men were married in a state where gay marriage was legal, and then moved to a state where it was not, would they still be married under the law? Harrison High School seniors Richard Hadad and James Nitit, both known politics-enthusiasts, were in concord with re-

gards to gay marriage but disagreed on the viability of Ron Paul. Both support gay marriage, but while the former despises Ron Paul, the latter venerates him. Richard went so far as to denounce Paul as a "nut job."

Ron Paul's stance on foreign policy is purely non-interventionist. He believes that the United States should not be involved in countries like Libya, Iran and Iraq. This viewpoint is understandable to a degree. War saps valuable resources, and b causes the deaths of thousands if not millions. But in the case of Libya the United States has done an amazing job in aiding the removal of Gaddafi, an oppressive dictator, from power, and in creating an opportunity for democracy. Both casualties and expensive have been kept low. Ron Paul was also against the raid that ended up killing Osama Bin Laden, and supports ending aid to Israel, one of the few allies America has in the Middle East. These policies among others suggest that Paul has a poor grasp on foreign policy, and in an increasingly globalized world would not be an effective president.

But in my mind, the main factor which disqualifies Ron Paul as a potential leader is his views on the economy. Ron Paul has some unique if not downright nonsensical ideas about the current state of the American economy, and how the government can best address its failures. Ron Paul wants to lower spending and decrease the size of the government. These are fine goals, but the way he proposes going about achieving them is simply ridiculous. Paul supports the elimination of five depart-

ments of the Executive Branch, and the dismantlement of several integral agencies. Administration bodies that would cease to exist during a Ron Paul presidency include the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Interstate Commerce Commission and the Internal Revenue Service. Logically, one cannot simply eliminate institutions and assume that their jobs will somehow get done. The elimination of these agencies would also result in many government employees losing their jobs.

Ron Paul also would like to get rid of the Federal Reserve. He believes that the Reserve is responsible for inflation and that their actions erode the value of American currency. The main source of support for Paul's belief is the Austrian Business Cycle Theory. There are two things to consider here. First, every major industrialized nation has a federal bank. Second, the Austrian Business Cycle is a non-empirical system devoid of a mathematical basis. Ron Paul believes that the algorithms created by the nation's top economists are not a suitable model for economic productivity and success.

Ron Paul is not who you want for President. He has foolish social policies, outdated and unsubstantiated economic policies, and ineffective foreign policies. He will never be elected or even secure the Republican nomination. Seventy-five percent of Presidents are elected for a second term. If the Republicans want to stand a chance in 2012, they will have to do better than Ron Paul.

The Big Bust Theory

Danny Glass

Opinions Editor

If you watch *The Big Bang Theory* on Thursday nights at 8 PM on CBS, you are making a tremendous mistake. *The Big Bang Theory* is a miserable show, with overarching themes of political incorrectness, fifth grade humor, and a poor grasp of modern nerd/geek culture. What's more, it is incredibly inferior to another comedy airing at 8 PM on Thursday: NBC's *Community*. There are those who might argue otherwise, but in the words of

Matt Shaffer, "You are entitled to your own opinions, but yours are just stupid and wrong."

It is inevitable that some people will find incredibly bad shows to be good. I understand that some people enjoy *The Big Bang Theory*, because watching a show about physics makes them feel smart. This incorrect assumption brings me to my first argument. It is ironic that a show about physics graduates draws its humor from the absolute bot-

tom of the barrel. In one episode I was unlucky enough to view, a stereotypical Jewish character has his bowel movements didactically discussed by his stereotypically overbearing Jewish mother. Apart from the fact that the discussion of fecal matter in what can be construed as anti-Semitic voices is inherently offensive, it is ludicrous that a working engineer would still live with his mother. But such is the nature of this show; it gives little credence to logic. The humor of *The Big Bang Theory* is so low-brow that a laugh-track is necessary to let people know when something is (and I use this term loosely) 'funny.' In one episode, the character Sheldon repeats his signature catchphrase, "Bazinga!" while the character Leonard attempts to remove him from a ball-pit. I rest my case.

character and not at his jokes. In fact every character is just poor stereotyping: dumb blonde, awkward nerd, Indian, Jew, disabled. The fact that people find the show funny is representative of how, as a culture, America finds its roots in making fun of other cultures.

The thing that angers me most is not the outright racism, or the bottom-line humor. The misrepresentation of nerd culture is by far the point that pushes me over the edge. Real nerds, especially physics graduate students, do not reach Archie comics, they do not go to costume parties as Superman, and they sure as hell do not play *Halo 3*. It seems like the show's creators searched mainstream media and picked out stuff to which "regular" people can relate. Real nerds like *The Watchmen*, *LARP*, and play *Dota*.

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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.



Courtesy of sharetv.org

But people constantly tell me that the show is more than just fifth grade humor told by grown-ups. They tell me that the humor lies in the personalities of the characters. I attempted to watch the show while focusing on each individual character. We have Sheldon, whose humor lies in the fact that he has some form of Asperger's Syndrome. Then there's Rajesh, commonly known on the show as Raj (not to be confused with Rajan Mehra, class of 2013), who is made fun of for being Indian. This is another example of laughing at a

But Harrison students disagree. They love *The Big Bang Theory*.

Senior Michael Chen, a scholar like no other, professed it was one his favorite shows.

"*The Big Bang Theory* is the only show I watch during the week besides *Modern Family*," he confessed.

Senior Matt DiRe, self-proclaimed "mega nerd," said, "I think it is a champion of modern television."

At the end of the day, do yourself a big favor and watch *Community* instead.

ARTS & entertainment

Voices Heard hits HPAC

Trent Lefkowitz

Staff Writer

On December 3, 2011 the "Voices Heard" concert, a fundraising event which benefits Autism Speaks, was held in the Harrison Performing Arts Center. According to the Harrison Central School District website, this was Harrison's fifth year hosting the concert. The "Voices Heard" concert was created by LMK music teacher Mrs. Spinner, who has a child at the high school, Anthony Spinner, living with autism. This year, "Voices Heard" was holiday-themed. During the concert, over 25 Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa songs were sung, including "All I Want for Christmas is You," and Ms. Spinner's original composition "For Hanukkah."

The entire Harrison community came together to help make the "Voices Heard" concert possible. Members of the high school government and juniors participating in the IB Program helped make flyers for the event, and made announcements over the school PA that invited students to volunteer at the concert, or attend. Students from the high school band played the holiday classic "Jingle Bells" with friends of Mrs. Spinner, while the chorus sang backup for both the feel good classic "Celebration," and the inspirational song "Light a Candle." It was not just the students who worked hard to make the concert a success. Faculty members throughout the district also pitched in. District teachers Mrs. Singel, Mrs. Cascone, Mr. Tager, and Harrison High School's very own Ms. Fusco all joined Mrs. Spinner on stage, either singing or playing instruments.

One of the students in the band who participated in the concert was senior trumpet

player Rachel Oestreicher. Rachel thought that taking part in the concert was a great experience, because it brought all kinds of people in the community together.

is a community effort now and the awareness is sparking a great interest among our young people in helping children and families who live with Autism and related



Ms. Spinner, Harrison students, and a great big check!

Courtesy of Harrison Central School District

She shared, "I did the concert because it was for a really great cause, and because I love playing music. Autism is a disorder that people don't know much about, and need to be more aware of. I would recommend taking part in the concert next year because it was a lot of fun and not a lot of rehearsing. All in all it was a great thing for the community." When asked which of the numbers she enjoyed most, Rachel responded "I loved Mrs. Singel's performance of 'Santa Baby,' because it sounded great, and her acting made it hilarious."

This reporter spoke to Mrs. Spinner about the process of preparing for the concert, and how students can help raise awareness about autism. Since the first concert five years ago, Mrs. Spinner has seen amazing improvements regarding student participation. She shared, "The best improvement is the addition of Harrison High School student participation, on and off stage. It

developmental disabilities." When asked about how much time she spends working on the concert, Mrs. Spinner said that she had to work every single day, from the time she came up with the concept for the concert until the big night finally arrived. Rehearsals with the performers taking part in the concert began three months in advance. The student government began their hard work two months in advance. However, the work that Mrs. Spinner put into this year's concert pales in comparison with her plans for "Voices Heard" in the future.

"My goal is to make the concert the culmination of a week of awareness and activity in our town and school community. And from there it will reach other communities. We are ready to save the world one event at a time!"

This may sound like an enormous undertaking, but anyone who knows Mrs. Spinner can tell you she is more than up for

the task.

When all was said and done, this year's "Voices Heard" concert raised over 7,000 dollars for autism research. This is an extremely impressive figure, but Mrs. Spinner is even more proud of the support provided by the rest of the community.

"I am truly humbled by the support of so many in this town. Here in our schools I am beyond grateful for the support of our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Wool, the Board of Education, along with the entire administration. I have support from faculty and staff, parents, students, friends, neighbors, so many Harrison town officials... the list is endless. It is a wonderful feeling. I never take the support for granted and I am thankful every day. I am proud to share my personal experience on behalf of all of us who live with Autism and worry about our children's future. When people give support I am not sure they even realize how much it is appreciated."

This year, "Voices Heard" ended up raising more than 7,000 dollars for the Autism Speaks organization. "Voices Heard" may be over for now, but there are many ways to support people living with autism year-round. Each June, there is an Autism Speaks walk-a-thon that is open to whoever wishes to participate. There are also buddy programs being implemented throughout the district which help Autistic students make friends, and become fully integrated in the school community. Please consider participating, because the best way for these programs to thrive is for people who care about the cause to get involved. As Mrs. Spinner says, "Enthusiasm is contagious!"

Pettinato crowned Westchester Teen idol

Angela Troia

Arts Editor

Some are born to dance. Others are born to sing. Cayla Pettinato, a senior at Harrison High School, was born to do both. This past November, Cayla showcased her performing abilities at the Westchester Teen Idol competition, where she sung her way to first place!

Over 300 teen performers from across the tri-state area auditioned for Westchester Teen Idol, but only 25 were chosen to perform at the actual competition. If competing amongst New York's top teen performers doesn't sound nerve-racking enough, the judges at this year's competition were three bona fide Broadway stars: Robi Hager from *Spring Awakening* and *Bye*

the top 25 had all performed, the group was narrowed down to just five: three boys and two girls.

As one of the top five, Cayla wowed the judges with her rendition of "Gimme Gimme" from the musical *Thoroughly Modern Millie*. That Cayla nailed the song is no wonder, since she played the title role in Harrison High School's production of *Millie* last year.

The top five contestants' final round performances were judged based on five different criteria: vocal ability, styling, acting, movement, and showmanship. Cayla's undeniable stage presence and knockout voice made her shine in the eyes of the judges. She walked away with first place.

Cayla's talents will undoubtedly continue to win her praise when she matriculates at Stanford University next fall.

This reporter sat down with Cayla, and asked her some questions about the experience of participating in the Westchester Teen Idol competition, and about the

work that goes into perfecting her performances.

Husky Herald (HH): How long have you been singing/ performing?

Cayla Pettinato (CP): I started dancing when I was three, so I've technically been performing all of my life. I didn't realize I could sing though until third grade when my mom signed me up for Star Kidz, a singing, acting and dancing class. After seeing me perform the owners of Star Kidz started training me privately. I then began participating in musicals,

which led me to realize that performing in musicals is what I really love. It combines all my passions: singing, acting, and dancing.

HH: How do you get ready for a performance?

CP: Once my songs are picked I go through a process that I have used since third grade when I started training. I print out the lyrics to the song and read them through as if they were a poem. I determine what I am singing about and who my audience is. I basically connect my life to the meanings of the music. I get to the point where I don't have to think about the lyrics or the choreography. When I perform all I think about is the message I am trying to convey.

HH: Were you nervous to perform in front of three Broadway stars?

CP: Nervous is an understatement. It was a great opportunity for someone like me who dreams of being on Broadway to actually meet and perform in front of such a professional group.

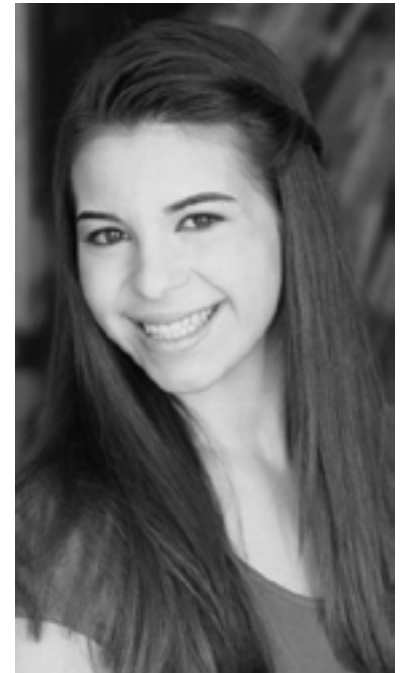
HH: How did you decide which songs to sing for Westchester Teen Idol?

CP: I knew I wanted to choose Broadway songs, because that is what I do best. I did not want to sing a ballad because those can be boring to watch, so I picked up-beat songs that I could move around to. There were a lot of pop singers in the competition, so my commitment to choosing Broadway songs was something unique.

HH: Did you ever think you would win?

CP: No, never. My goal going into the competition was to make it to the top five. Once I saw the other contestants perform, though, I really didn't think I had a chance. Everyone was just so talented.

HH: How did it feel when they



Photos courtesy of Cayla Pettinato announced you as the winner of Westchester Teen Idol?

CP: It felt unreal. It was like nothing I have ever felt before. I could hear everyone in the audience that came to support me, my grandma especially, going NUTS. I couldn't stop smiling for the entire weekend.

HH: Now that you've won the Westchester Teen Idol will you be auditioning for American Idol?

CP: Hopefully! I've always wanted to. They do auditions in California right?

HH: Do you plan on continuing performing in college?

CP: Of course! I'll keep performing for as long as physically possible. I had to make the decision not to major in musical theater, but I will audition for all the musicals open for non-theater at Stanford, and join one of their A Capella groups.

HH: What's your secret to giving a great performance?

CP: It's all about showmanship. So many people can sing and are really talented, but few who can really bring a song to life on stage. All of other performers in the top 25 had incredible voices, but the hardest aspect of performing is being able to add personality to a pop song! The judges said it was my personality on stage that made me win.



Cayla, doing what she does best.

Bye Birdie, Chris Jamison from *Annie*, and Craig Schulman from *Les Miserables*, *Phantom of the Opera* and *Jeckyll and Hyde*. Yet singing in front of proven experts didn't seem to faze Cayla, who stole the show with her flawless performances.

As one of the top 25, Cayla made it through the first round singing "Don't Rain on My Parade," a song first made famous by Barbara Streisand in the musical *Funny Girl*. The upbeat tune allowed Cayla to display her singing abilities, as well as her acting and interpretation chops. After

Coming to theaters in 2012

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

In 2012, just as in 2011, the film industry will be dominated by sequels that look to generate hundreds of millions of dollars at the box office. It may be hard to pick out an original idea among them, but the newest crop of blockbusters promises to make this a fun year in the world of cinema.

The Dark Knight Rises: This film will most likely be the highest grossing movie of the year if not of all time. The last Batman movie collected an incredible billion dollars at the box office, and is considered by pretty much everyone the greatest super hero movie of all time. Unsurprisingly, the hype behind *The Dark Knight Rises* is monstrous. The first trailer released for the highly-anticipated sequel broke practically every record imaginable when it became the most downloaded trailer of all time in less than two weeks. *The Dark Knight Rises*, the third and final film in the *Dark Knight* trilogy, catches up with Bruce Wayne eight years after the

events of *The Dark Knight*, as he goes up against his toughest opponent yet: Bane. Based on the footage released so far, the film looks absolutely incredible, and promises to deliver the most cinematically thrilling experience of the year. Harrison High School senior Kevin Song had this to say about the film: "I've been waiting

for this movie for so long. It looks awesome. I'm expecting it to be one of the year's best."

The Avengers: *The Avengers* is a movie people (especially fans of super hero films) have been waiting years for. The combination of Iron Man, the Hulk, Captain America, and Thor in one movie is a prospect that will undoubtedly cause millions of fans to flock to theaters. Marvel has been hyping up *The Avengers* for a long time (since 2008, to be precise). Pretty much all of their recent movies have been advertisements for the big show. Fans obviously have high expectations for this film. Everyone is hoping it will not disappoint, after what has basically been a four year wait.

The Hobbit: Though it's not coming out until the end of 2012, *The*

Hobbit is easily one of the most hyped films of the year. *The Lord of the Rings* trilogy might have ended a way back in 2003, but its legacy as one of the greatest film series

ever lives on. *The Hobbit* is the ultimate prequel, and has been eagerly awaited by fans since the credits rolled for *The Return of the King*. Harrison High School sophomore Rob Spurduto shared, "The trailer is insanely awesome. I can't wait for this movie to come out."

The Hunger Games: Set in a not

too distant future, *The Hunger Games* revolves around a brutal tournament which forces teenage "tributes" to fight to the death. Based on the highly popular series of novels, *The Hunger*

The Amazing Spider Man: Here's a film that has everyone very excited. Spider Man has been causing a stir on Broadway for a while now, but he has been absent from the film world for a



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Games has generated a huge amount of hype, and has only gotten more attention with the casting of Jennifer Lawrence as the protagonist, Katniss Everdeen. There's no doubt that *The Hunger Games* will rake in loads at the box office, but it remains to be seen whether the film will measure up to the book.

Prometheus: The director Ridley Scott has become very famous among sci-fi fans, due to his past successes with films like *Blade Runner* and *Alien*. His new film *Prometheus* is easily the most highly-anticipated sci-fi film of the year. *Prometheus* is a prequel to the sci-fi classic *Alien*. It has been in the works for a very long time, and has maintained an impressive level of secrecy. Even now, just a few months before its release in June, nothing is really known about the plot other than that it will follow a group of scientists dealing with menacing aliens. But even if fans learn nothing more about *Prometheus* prior to its release, it's a virtual certainty that they will come in droves when it hits theaters.

solid five years. Fans have been desperately awaiting a new entry in the much beloved franchise. What's interesting about this film is that it is not a mere sequel – it is a complete reboot, featuring an entirely new cast and kicking off a brand new canon. It's based on a different Spidey comic book storyline than the series of films starring Tobey McGuire. It's still the Spider Man we know and love, but there are some big changes. For one, this movie keeps Spidey in high school throughout the entire film. Also, we can expect the new Spider Man to sport a more care free personality than previous incarnations. Here's hoping the new Spider man/Peter Parker (played by Andrew Garfield of *The Social Network*) can deliver the goods when the film comes out in early July.



Courtesy of Sony Pictures

Larsson's Girl Makes Waves

Allison Fuerst and Olivia Manley
Staff Writers

Swedish author and journalist, Stieg Larsson, is responsible for creating the trilogy known as "The Millennium Series" that has become a best seller in several European countries as well as in the United States. The three novels that make up the trilogy are *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, *The Girl Who Played with Fire*, and *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*. The trilogy has sold over 150 million copies in 46 countries. A *New York Times* bestseller, the books have captivated millions of readers, including hundreds of our very own Harrison High School students.

"I have just finished reading the first book in the series. It's amazing!" says junior Daniela Castillo. "I can't wait to get started on the second one!"

"The trilogy is one of my favorites," says senior Farhan Nasim. "I'm not one for reading, but a friend of mind recommended this book to me and I wasn't able to put it down."

The Girl With The Dragon Tattoo is a book that takes place in Stockholm, Sweden. Here the journalist, Mikael Blomkvist, is aided by a young computer-hacker named Lisbeth Salander in his search for a woman who has been missing for 40 years.

According to the storyline given by Music Box Films, 40 years ago Harriet Vanger disappeared from a family gathering on the island owned and inhabited by the powerful Vanger clan. The story is that her body was never found, yet her uncle is convinced it was murder and that the killer is a member of his own tightly knit, but dysfunctional family. He employs disgraced financial journalist Mikael Blomkvist and the tattooed, ruthless computer hacker, Lisbeth Salander, to investigate. When the pair link Harriet's disappearance to a number of grotesque murders from decades ago, they begin to unravel a dark and appalling

family history. The synopsis goes on to state that the Vangers are a secretive clan, and Blomkvist and Salander find out just how far they are prepared to go to protect themselves.



Courtesy of
Yell Magazine

The book was so extraordinary that it was adapted for the big screen... twice. The original film version was directed by Niels Arden Oplev. It was a Swedish foreign film that was very popular throughout Europe. However, when the books began to fly off the shelves in the United States, Hollywood felt it necessary to produce an American version. Directed by David Fincher, the new movie hit the box office and quickly reeled in substantial revenue. *Rotten-tomatoes* describes the movie as, "Brutal, yet captivating...the result of David Fincher working at his lurid best with a total role commitment from star Rooney Mara." The website also rated the movie with an 86, which is pretty high up on the "tomato meter" scale.

Perhaps the most interesting and mysterious aspect of the trilogy to readers is the fact that Stieg Larsson died as soon as the last book in the series was written, before ever getting a chance to publish his masterpiece. Six years later, there is still heated controversy over Larsson's death.

It's a wonderful thing when books such as those in "The Millennium Trilogy" are able to captivate readers of all ages. It brings back the joy of reading that often gets left out amongst our generation's busy lives. It's important that students continue to read books that are of interest to them, as opposed to drowning themselves in front of the television screen every night. Larsson's books do a great job in allowing readers from all over the world to engage in the adventure of a lifetime.

Extremely Loud, and Much Too Soon?

Brittany Wolfe
Staff Writer

The recently produced film, *Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, based on the 2005 novel by Jonathan Safran Foer, depicts how a mother and son cope with the loss of their father and husband after the September 11 attack on the Twin Towers.

Break-out actor Thomas Horn plays nine-year old Oskar Schell, who lost his father, Thomas Schell, played by Tom Hanks, during 9/11. The movie depicts the experiences and obstacles presented to the Schell family as they cope with their loss. Oskar Schell, in particular, searches to find answers to his fathers' riddles that he left behind. The final adventure would be discovering the "sixth burrow." His father leaves him with few clues which continue to deepen.

As he searches through his father's closet for the first time since he had last seen his father, he discovers a blue vase which holds a key unknown to Oskar. With only the name "Brown" on the envelope holding the key, Oskar concludes that it must belong to an acquaintance of his father or be passage to a box that holds a secret for him to find out. This sends him on a search around the city and the surrounding boroughs for all people listed in the phonebook with the last name "Brown."

Through a strategic schedule and months of visiting almost 472 strangers around the five boroughs, with his tambourine to boost his confidence, Oskar finds that the answer was with him all along, but was too obvious to even consider. At 11 years old, he works his way around the city, unbeknownst to his mother, Linda Schell, played by Sandra Bullock.

There are several instances in the movie that show events from the day of the attacks, but the true meaning of the movie is to reveal the aftermath, as opposed to the actual events that took place during the attack. The movie also depicts how a family stricken with loss learns to cope and grasp the memories of their

loved one rather than holding onto anger and disbelief.

Critics voiced their opinions on the mini-controversy over how the ads for the movie were displayed merely feet away from the site of 9/11. Also, some viewers have questioned why the previews give no emotional or graphic warning. Many also simply believe it is insensitive.

A Warner Brothers spokesperson was quoted in the *New York Post*, claiming, "It was



Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

never our intention to cause any distress." The studio's spokesperson also said that there were approximately 40 digital panels around Manhattan, 500 posters on subways and buses, and 40 billboards across the city.

"Where else is appropriate to advertise the film?" said sophomore Tori Lovullo. "Most people who would be offended by it really shouldn't be, because they can connect to Oskar Schell and his experiences after the loss of his father."

Though Warner Brothers had no intention of causing distress or controversy among viewers and New Yorkers, many still see the movie's release and promotional trailers as insensitive and disrespectful.

Regis Philbin signs off

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

After 28 years on air, the very popular talk show host Regis Philbin has officially retired from Live with Regis and Kelly. Philbin enjoyed an incredibly successful and consistent on-air career. His departure left many fans extremely disappointed. The talk show, now called Live with Kelly, will go on, but the future its future sans Philbin remains uncertain.

Regis got his start as a television host with *Westinghouse Tonight Show from Hollywood*, which debuted in 1964, and *AM Los Angeles*, a local broadcast only program which Philbin co-hosted with a woman named Sarah Purcell from 1975 to 1981. In 1988, *Live with the Regis and Kathie Lee* had its debut. Regis has since become a confirmed television icon, rec-

ognizable by tens of millions, and beloved by fans around the world. While there's nothing particularly groundbreaking about Philbin's style, his simple approach to what he does, from giving interviews to just chatting about the day's news, has made him a favorite with many viewers of daytime TV. Regis is also famous for hosting *Who Wants to be a Millionaire*.

It has been rumored that Regis's main reason for choosing to leave the *Live* franchise was a pay cut. An anonymous TV executive told TMZ's Rob Shuter, "Regis was insulted by the offer he got and chose to leave, blaming his agent on his way out." Regis's salary is thought to hover between 18 and 20 million – more than double what co-host Kelly Ripa makes. In light of this, many

have denounced Regis's actions as selfish.

Though Philbin's motives were undoubtedly questionable, it makes sense the 79-year-old's career would come to a close. Harrison High School senior Kevin Song shared, "Regis had a good run, but I don't think the show will suffer without him."

Senior James Nitis had a very different opinion. He stated, "The show is nothing without Regis." Clearly, whether the show will succeed without Regis is a bone of some contention. Many believe the program will enjoy the same success it's had for years. Others believe that Regis's absence will cause the show to lose its footing as one of the top morning shows on TV. Kelly Ripa was initially offended by the Regis's



Courtesy of deadline.com
sudden decision to leave, which he shared with her just fifteen minutes before telling the entire nation, but she now believes she can thrive without him. A former soap opera star, Kelly Ripa joined *Live with Regis and Kelly* in 2001. Since her arrival, ratings for the show have been at their highest ever. The search has begun for a co-host to take Regis's place, but at least for now, Kelly will have to go it alone.

MTV strikes gold with "Caged"

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

MTV has done it again, creating yet another lifestyle driven show that is sure to suck viewers in week after week. "Caged," MTV's new drama about amateur mixed martial arts, is quickly taking over Monday nights. Set in Minden, Louisiana, "Caged" deals with three young men who are putting it all on the line for a chance to make their dreams of UFC fame come true.

One of these young men, Wesley "Wes" Branch, is trying to balance fighting with being a father to his one-year-old son Jax, and maintaining a relationship with his on again off again girlfriend Jessica, better known as Red. Red is a single mother who is trying her best to go to nursing school while raising the son she has with Wes. They both are trying to provide Jax with a better childhood than both of them ever had.

Another main character is Matt "Danger" Schnell. Schnell has given up his job and moved back into his mom's house in order to be in the train, in the hopes that he will one day be able to

provide for his family as a fighter. In addition to dealing with the stress of training, Danger also has to worry about his mother's alcohol addiction, and his father's absence from his life.

Completing the trio is Daniel "Golden Boy" Payne, a young fighter struggling to cope with the tragic death of his girlfriend, and the stigma of coming from a very wealthy family. His great grandfather founded Minden. The Paynes's wealth and prestige pressure Daniel to be perfect.

"Caged" documents the boys' lives as they cope with work, training, and of course, issues that occur outside of the cage. The show makes clear how hard these young men must work, and how much they must sacrifice, in order to achieve their ultimate goal: beating their opponents in the cage of Saturdays. For Matt, Wes, and Daniel, it's not just about winning the match, but also about winning respect, and



Courtesy of mtv.com
building a better life.

According to mmappayout.com, the ratings for the premiere episode of "Caged" captured only 619,000 viewers, significantly fewer than expected. But week by week ratings have increased, as viewers have spread the word about the show.

This reporter took some time to talk to some Harrison High School students about their opinion of "Caged."

Sophomore Paige Brabant had this to say: "I really enjoy watching Caged because it's not the normal reality show of women arguing over petty things or teenagers getting pregnant. This is a real show that shows actual emotions and sincere

problems. My favorite character is Red because she is so driven to help her son and help herself."

Freshman Emily Giorgi commented, "Amateur MMA caged fighting is actually really cool and interesting. The fact that there is no other show like this on TV also makes it fun to watch. Danger is my favorite character because he wants to impress his family, and he put his life on hold to follow his dreams."

"Caged is a show that I didn't think I was going to like in the beginning," said sophomore Alexandra Psaros. "But now that I've watched an episode I've learned that I really enjoy it, and wait for Mondays to come so that I can watch it. I would say that my favorite character is Wes because he has such a good story behind him. He grew up not that wealthy but is trying to make a better life for his son. I admire that a lot."

"Caged" airs Monday nights at 9 PM on MTV. If you haven't already, check it out. These boys will capture your heart!

Get in the game with 2011's best

Jamie DeRosa

Staff Writer

The year 2011 was an incredible one for gamers everywhere. Releases were stretched out perfectly and every month there was a big release. As such, compiling a list of the top ten was pretty difficult, considering all the big titles that came out.

10) Dead Island

Dead Island was a great, well-made game, there's no way around it. Putting the player in a giant open world environment filled with zombies and forcing the player to use everything he/she can to survive was a no-brainer genius idea that was never really executed before. Throwing in four-player co-op sweetens the already great deal.

9) Mortal Kombat

Everyone knows it. Even if you're not a gamer, you've heard of it. Everyone knows the catchy techno theme, and the "so crappy, it's good" '90s movies, but what many people fail to realize is that it's also a fantastic fighting game. The new game returns to basics after the weird left turn the series took a few years back and has brought the glorious franchise back to its gory roots with a great cast of characters and absolutely devastating fighting moves.

8) Battlefield 3

Battlefield 3 was a blockbuster of a game. While not beating out COD, it still was one of the top-selling games of the year and for good reason. With fantastic online multiplayer, gorgeous graphics, and an intense single player, it had everything in it that a great shooter needs and wants.

7) Infamous 2

Infamous is one of PS3's best franchises. Putting you in the role of a powerful super hero with electric based powers in a giant open world city is awesome. It's great that the game play surrounding this awesome concept is incredibly well polished and fun.

6) Modern Warfare 3

Call of Duty is easily the biggest franchise in gaming, if not the world. Each iteration generates billions in sales and

this year was no different and understandably so. Modern Warfare 3 was a great continuation of the franchise with an incredible, adrenaline-fueled single player, the traditional well-made multiplayer, and massively addicting spec-op co-op missions. The new addition, the two-player survival mode is a great new feature that adds even more longevity to an already content-filled game. "The online is ridiculously awesome," says senior Steven Stark.

5) Dead Space 2

The original Dead Space was a big surprise to many. It flipped the survival genre on its head by switching the known cliché of "shooting the monster in the head" to a brand new take on the genre with the idea of strategically dismembering your foes. Dead Space 2 was a phenomenal follow up to that game that delivered even more scares, a much tighter story, more game play variation, and even a surprisingly fun multiplayer component, all in a world that seems ripped right out of *Aliens* -- an awesome combination.



Courtesy of EA Games

4) Crysis 2

Crysis 2 is the best looking game to date. Period. It puts the player in the middle of a destroyed and absolutely beautiful New York City, in the signature high-powered nano suit. This suit allows for incredible game play that is a breath of fresh air to the genre. By allowing the player to



Courtesy of gamelists.com

be super fast, strong, and even to turn invisible, Crysis 2's single player never gets old throughout its lengthy 12-hour story. The online was also an incredibly well-made feature, with 12 high-powered nano suits duking it out over breathtaking maps based on actual parts of New York City.

3) Uncharted 3: Drake's Deception

Uncharted has become Sony's crown jewel. It's easily one of the biggest franchises at the moment. The reason for this is pretty clear: the games are simply fantastic. The game play, graphics, the deep and involving story that feels like right out of an *Indiana Jones* movie, and the presentation in these games are pretty much flawless. The attention to detail is almost mind boggling, and watching the characters that Naughty Dog developed go through these epic stories, interacting with each other, is a treat every time.

2) Legend of Zelda: Skyward Sword

Every time a new Zelda comes out, everyone always asks if it better than Ocarina of Time. The asking has almost become tradition. But what many people forget is that what makes this franchise so special is how, instead of focusing solely on building on known foundations, each entry tries something totally new and unique. Wind Waker did it by putting the player in a huge open sea environment with gorgeous shell-shaded graphics; Twilight Princess did this by presenting a mature story and allowing the player to turn into a sacred wolf. Skyward Sword does this again by putting the player in a massive open sky. By streamlining the pacing and progression, and

by making it the most cinematic entry in the franchise yet, the game adds up to what is considered one of the best releases in the series, and one of the best games of the year.

1) The Elder Scrolls 5: Skyrim

This is one of those games that comes out not very often. The reason is obvious. Just by looking at the pure scope and size of the game, it's easy to see that it's one of the biggest games ever made. Hundreds upon hundreds of hours of content fill one of the most epic fantasy worlds ever created. It's a childhood fantasy, being put into a fantastical universe right out of a *Lord of the Rings* movie, and it allows the player to live another life. You can do anything: explore the countryside, open a business,



Courtesy of game-online-reviews.com

fight bandits, slay dragons, buy a house, and even work for a living (if you really wanted to). The possibilities are literally endless and the fact that the game packs absolutely breathtaking graphics, tight and intuitive game play, and addictive and unique character progression, adds up to what is a monumental achievement in game design, the best game of the year, and simply one of the best games of all time. "It's really awesome knowing that everyone who plays it will have a different and unique experience," says sophomore Aaron Kaplan. To quote G4's Adam Sessler, "When you look at the disk itself, there's not a game inside it, rather it's a world."

Local cocoas, boiled down

Jenna Clemens
Food Editor

'Tis the season!
That is, the season of cold weather and hot drinks! As you wander through the snowy-less avenues, you may find yourself wanting a warm treat. To help you out as you make your hot cocoa choices, I have completed an intensive investigation of a few local hot chocolate hot spots! And the results are:
In my experience, Panera provides the best hot cocoa experience. The baristas there begin with thick chocolate syrup, and by adding a magical combination of steamed milk, whipped cream and more chocolate syrup, craft an almost godly cup of cocoa that will transport you to winter wonderland! To my surprise, I

worth the splurge) makes a rather disappointing hot chocolate. Mine was cold, overpriced and in desperate need of some whipped cream. While you can ask for your drink to be served "extra hot," it is rather disappointing to order something that should be delicious and have it be blah. I would steer clear of Starbucks hot chocolate and opt for a latte if your travels take you to the aromatic reaches of the coffee bar anytime soon.
On a final note, I noticed that the Bagel Shop on Halstead and the HHS Cafeteria both use the



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

Vender	Overall Rating (0-5)	Chocolateyness (m-mmm)	Texture (thin-thick)	Price (\$-\$\$\$)
Harrison Bagel Shop	3	m	thin-medium	\$
Dunkin Donuts	2.5	mm	thin	\$\$
Starbucks	3	mm	medium	\$\$\$
Panera Bread Co.	4.5	mmm	medium-thick	\$\$
HHS Cafeteria	3	m	thin-medium	\$



Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

also discovered that Starbucks (whose coffee I believe to be

same or *very similar* machines to produce their hot chocolate delights (These machines also serve a variety of other hot beverage choices, ranging from chai tea to cappuccino to French vanilla lattes, all of which are likely better-tasting than their chocolaty counterpart). So, if you like the hot chocolate in our very own caf., you'll be a fan of the Shop's cocoa as well! And if you're not thrilled by what HHS has to offer, you may want to try some of the other choices that the Bagel Shop offers (highlights include the French Vanilla hot or iced coffee, a half-vanilla/half-coffee combina-


tion, a smoothie or a pink "Passion" iced tea). Wherever your travels may take you, stay warm and enjoy the chocolate that is all around you!



Courtesy of dunkindonuts.com

Bagel Battle

Jennifer Renda
Staff Writer

Most mornings you get up and are exhausted from the hard work that you did the night before. All you need is a boost of energy. Having a bagel and a coffee is always a great way to start off an action packed day. Each morning many students stop off at a bagel shop to grab a quick bite to eat before the school day begins.
The real question is, where can you find the best bagel in the surrounding area? The reporter decided to test the quality of the bagels at the following storefronts: Lenny's Bagels in Rye Brook, The Bagel Shop in Harrison, The Bagel Emporium in Port Chester, and Upper Crust in Rye.
The bagel shops are all similar to one another. They all offer your basic bagels, coffee, chips, drinks, and so on. The point of the test was to determine which offers the best bagel. This reporter surveyed twenty high school students. Each person was asked to try a piece of four different bagels, labeled A, B, C, and D. Many said that bagel C was their favorite.
Junior Katie Fanelli shared, "Bagel C is the fluffiest and the moistest of them all. It really hits the spot!" Nine other students agreed with her. Bagel C was the clear winner. But where did this delectable bread come from? The answer is, The Bagel Shop in Harrison. Lenny's came in second, followed by Upper Crust. Portchester's Bagel Emporium came in dead last.
It seems that the best place to get a plain bagel is also, for most Harrison students, the most convenient option. The Bagel Shop, located less than ten minutes from the high school, is the place to go!

Courtesy of Christie Suozzo

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, we sat down with Social Studies teacher Mr. Hertzig, and English teacher Ms. Brennen.

Hertzig



Brennen

First car? 1994 Honda Accord.

Teacher best friend? Well I've got to give a shout out to Ms. Cipriano. She sits behind me. Shout out to Kaplan too, of course.

Favorite midnight snack? A bagel with Tazo tea.

Favorite song? "Here Comes the Sun," by The Beatles.

Favorite romantic comedy? *When Harry Met Sally*

First love? The Statue of Liberty.

Favorite book? *Government in America*.

Favorite superhero? Superman. It's in his name!

Any siblings? One older brother.

Least favorite subject? Don't kill me, but anything science related!

Favorite celebrity? Kathy Griffin.

Fashion staple? A digital watch.

Favorite movie? *Back to the Future*.

Favorite TV show? *Seinfeld*.

Favorite decade? The 90s.

Favorite cartoon character? Fievel Mousekewitz, from *An American Tale*.

Favorite word? Relocate.

Mac or PC? Mac, all the way.

Personal idol? Not Ally Brabant.

Favorite singer? Gavin Creel. Look the guy up!

Favorite musical? *Caroline, or Change*, *Sunday in the Park with George*, and *Gypsy*.

Best part of being a teacher? When the kids get it.

Worst part of being a teacher? Those early mornings.

Favorite cereal? Life.

Favorite ice cream flavor? Mint-chocolate chip. There is nothing better in the whole world.

Favorite holiday? The 4th of July! I love fireworks!

Teacher best friend? Too many to choose.

Favorite song? "Ribbon in the Sky" - it was the first dance at our wedding.

Favorite romantic comedy? *You've Got Mail*.

First love? Reading.

Favorite book? Jane Eyre.

Least favorite subject? Sorry C., but math!

Favorite chain restaurant? White Castle ("murder burgers" from college days).

First pet? A hamster that escaped into the basement and reappeared some time later like Cujo's twin.

Catch phrase? "Get over it" (And yet so few seem to do so).

Favorite movie? *The Godfather* (Parts I and II - Part III is a waste of cinema).

Favorite TV show? *Madmen*.

Favorite decade? The 1970s - nothing says fun like bad hair, awful clothes and horrible decor choices.

Favorite word? "No" (it's all-purpose).

Favorite musician? Miles Davis.

Favorite band? The Clash.

Favorite musical? "The Rocky Horror Picture Show."

Best part of being a teacher? Nothing remains the same.

Worst part of being a teacher? Nothing remains the same.

Favorite ice cream flavor? Rocky Road.

Favorite shopping experience? Home Goods (it's the Mother Ship calling me home).

Favorite holiday? My soon-to-be adopted son's birthday.

SPORTS

Cheerleaders Head to Nationals

Nicole Golino

Staff Writer

The Harrison Girls' Cheerleading team is back and better than ever with a new and improved routine, along with a skilled and confident group of girls.

It has not been an easy season after the girls were disappointed at the Hofstra Regionals, but with their hard work and determination, the girls have not only overcome the many injuries to their teammates, but have also produced an exciting new routine, one that they hope will help them earn the top spot at Nationals.

Despite an amazing performance at Hofstra, the cheerleaders did not receive the bid to Nationals that they were hoping for.

"It was awful when we didn't hear our name called," said junior Amanda Mirakaj. "We thought we weren't going to go to Nationals this year."

But instead of using their disappointment as a negative, this team used it as a positive, fueling them to work harder for their next competition. Luckily, the girls took advantage of their chance to go to Nationals at the Pocono's Regionals, which was four days after Hofstra. In that short amount of time, the team was able to change their stunts and fix choreography from their past routine, one that had taken them the entire football season to learn. Creating a new routine that would be a crowd pleaser, yet still require sophisticated skills was difficult, but in the end they were successful.

Varsity cheerleading coach Rosa Acocella thought highly of the new routine.

"It's a better routine than before," she said. "The girls are working hard to increase the difficulty of the



Courtesy of Nicole Golino
energy and had a great routine.

"The bus ride went by quickly," said senior Christie Suozzo.

"Everyone was very nervous and excited. We knew that this was our last opportunity to go to Nationals, and that one tiny mistake in our two minute routine could break us."

The team was able to take home the second place trophy overall, finishing higher than all the other super varsity cheerleading teams in the region except one, and also won a bid qualifying them for this year's National Competition in Orlando, Florida.

"This will be my first year attending the UCA Nationals and I cannot wait," exclaimed sophomore Ashlee Milone, "I'm really excited for the opportunity and I know we'll do great."

Against all odds, the Harrison Cheerleaders have done it again. Although the girls finished nineteenth at Nationals, the Girls Cheerleading squad has had an extraordinary season with many achievements.



Courtesy of Zach Oliva, Harrison Patch

rou-
tine so they can make it to finals at Nationals. They also are aiming high at their local competitions, trying to bring home trophies and prove that the Harrison Cheerleaders are talented athletes."

The girls found out what the judges thought of their routine at the New Rochelle competition the night before they had to compete at Regionals. The judges approved of their routine, awarding them first place. After this validation of their hard work, the team was reassured that, if they performed perfectly, they could get the bid that they so longed for.

In spite of having to wake up at six to get on a bus for a grueling three hour trip, the girls persevered. The team took the mat with smiling faces, loud voices, high



The cheerleaders work hard to perfect their routine.

Courtesy of Nicole Golino

Boys' varsity basketball finishes season strong

Trent Lefkowitz

Staff Writer

Coming into this season, the Harrison Husky Varsity Basketball team knew that this would be a rebuilding season. Although the team faced many challenges in the beginning of the season, they've finally begun to hit their stride at the season's end. Whether it's extra motivation or team chemistry finally coming together, the Huskies have proven themselves to be a very dangerous team to play.

Tryouts took place in early November, but the season began much earlier for the players on the team. The Huskies were entered in summer and fall basketball leagues. Starting in September, players hoping to make the team practiced at "open gyms" held by Head Coach Gary Chiarella and Assistant Coach Danny Pesco.

The young team, consisting of only three seniors, began their season at the Salesian Tournament in the middle of December. The Huskies defeated the Iona Prep B team, and then lost to the formidable St. Raymond's B team in the finals of the tournament. The team struggled in December, taking a 1-4 record into the new year.

Sophomore and team captain Coby Lefkowitz said that it was difficult for the team to stay positive after starting so slowly, but they never lost faith.

"We kept our confidence high because we knew that we played a tough schedule," he said. "But we knew that if we kept working harder in practice, it would pay off."

After practicing almost every day over the Christmas break, the Huskies were ready to kick it into gear. After suffering a close 5-point loss to a tough Horace Greeley team in a game that was televised on MSG Varsity, the Huskies defeated Port Chester for their second win of the season. The team capitalized on the momentum, beating Port Chester as well as defeating archival Rye 52-49 in the first round of Mamaroneck's Martin Luther King Day basketball tournament.



Jack McCarthy posts up his defender.
Courtesy of Jack McCarthy

The team lost in the finals to the hosting Tigers, but Coby Lefkowitz and Jack McCarthy were named to the All-Tournament team. The team then struggled from mid-January through the beginning of February, going 1-4 over a five game stretch.

With the Huskies struggling with a 3-7 record and reeling with injuries, Coach Gary Chiarella decided to call up two members of the JV team to play for varsity: Matt Stein and Nick Esposito.

After another victory against Port Chester, Harrison went into their Senior Night game against Section 1A Champions Byram Hills. Graduating seniors Brian Lauro, Michael Goldman, and Kevin Vendola were honored in a ceremony before the game,

rewarded for their hard work and effort throughout their time in the Harrison basketball system.

Harrison took control of the game early, taking a 27-20 lead into halftime. The game tightened up in the second half, with Byram Hills cutting the Husky lead to three points multiple times. However, powered by sophomores Coby Lefkowitz and Nick Esposito scoring 17 and 13 points, respectively, Harrison held their lead, shocking Byram Hills by winning the game 46-39. Speaking to The Daily Harrison, senior captain Michael Goldman expressed his excitement over the upset win, but claimed that the team still had more to do.

"Our goal is to win a playoff game and to see how far we can go," Goldman said. "We only have two seniors starting this year. But this definitely was an exciting win and morale is up right now. So that was a big win."

Harrison will finish its season playing Fox Lane and Port Chester in the Dick McDonald Tournament and then play in the NIT High School Tournament.

JV girls' squad ends successful season

Sarah Mazza

Staff Writer

Many get so excited about the Girls' Varsity Basketball team that they tend to overlook the success of the Junior Varsity team. The JV girls, coached by Jay Ciraco (who also is assistant baseball coach at HHS), started off the season on a high note by defeating White Plains and Scarsdale.

"Most of our girls are returning from last year; we have very few new girls which helps because they have experience with the team and know the plays very well," said head coach Ciraco. "Our team is comprised of three very talented sophomores, seven really good freshmen, and two very talented eighth graders that were pulled up due to their athletic ability and basketball skills. Our team should do very well this season and I expect great things from this group

of girls."

He explained that there is no one star player on this year's team.

"We are a team of many people with different skills that contribute to our success," he explained. "We win as a team and we lose as a team. We take each game on its own and change up people where need be."

"Currently we are three and zero. We have worked really hard during the pre-season to get where we are," said two-year starting JV player and freshman Gianna Casavecca. "We practice everyday and work extremely hard during practice so we could have a good record."

"This upcoming season is definitely going to be based off of hard work," said starting point

guard and freshman Alexandra Franco. "When we work hard and play our game, we shine and win the game. We all make mistakes and we learn from our mistakes, but we try and fix them in practice before the games."

"Being on the team for two years, I have learned so much and I really feel like there is a good vibe and energy from the team," said two-year JV player and sophomore Erica Dattero. "The season has started off better than anyone had expected and beating Scarsdale was a very big win for us because we were the underdogs. It was a very tough and physical game that ended up in success for us. We learned a lot through those four quarters. Winning by only one point was a sign that we need to go over some things like out of bounds

plays and foul shots. We will play them again this season and they will be hunting for revenge."

"Being pulled up from JV as an eighth grader is very special, but it is also a lot of hard work and practice time," explained JV player and eighth grader Emma Smolev. "Basketball is dedication and it takes a lot of your time, but winning games and getting to celebrate with the team is so rewarding. Coach Jay is a very good coach; he supports us and he listens when we have input on the game or plays. While practicing, we work very hard, but we all have fun too. In these few weeks we have grown together to become one team and it really helps that we all have that connection."

Wild NFL season comes to a close

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

From the ending of the lockout to the crowning of the New York Giants as Super Bowl Champions, this season was nothing short of amazing.

"What made this season so great was the fact that every single week, something crazy happened," says junior John Gisondi. "There were so many memorable games and players, making this season the best ever."

One factor was strong rookie performances. At the quarterback position, first overall pick Cam Newton proved dangerous in the air and on the ground. Newton not only ran for 14 touchdowns and over 700 yards, but threw for over 4,000 yards along with 21 touchdowns. Andy Dalton, a second round pick, helped lead the Cincinnati Bengals to the playoffs with a 9-7 record, all while having a 80.4 quarterback rating. His other rookie teammate, A.J Green, was one of the top wide receivers in the NFL. Green received over 1,000 yards this season, proving worthy of a

fourth overall pick.

On the defensive side, Von Miller of the Denver Broncos and Aldon Smith of San Francisco 49ers racked up sacks throughout the season. Miller picked up 11.5 sacks and forced 2 fumbles, while Smith had 14 sacks despite playing in a limited number of snaps. J.J Watt helped the Texans reach the playoffs for the first



Cam Newton threw for over 4,000 yards. Courtesy of cbssports.com

time in franchise history, getting 5.5 sacks and having a key interception in the Divisional Playoff game against the Bengals. Ryan Kerrigan was impressive as well, forcing 4 fumbles, grabbing an interception and getting 7.5 sacks. Fifth overall pick Patrick

Peterson did well on defense for the Cardinals. Peterson was spectacular on special teams, returning 4 punts for touchdowns.

Many players had career highs along with record-breaking performances. Three quarterbacks threw for over 5,000 yards this past season: Tom Brady (5,235 yards), Matthew Stafford (5,038 yards), and new record-holder Drew Brees, whose 5,476 yards surpassed Dan Marino's long-standing record of 5,084 yards back in 1984.

Defensively, Michael Strahan's record of 22.5 sacks was almost broken by strong efforts from a couple of pass rushers. Jared Allen (Vikings) finished with 22.0 sacks, while DeMarcus Ware (Cowboys) had 20.0. London Fletcher of the Redskins had 166 tackles and Kyle Arrington, Eric Weddle and Charles Woodson each had 7 interceptions this past season.

Many fantasy team owners, like junior Tim Alfieri, were

very happy with the performances by the players this NFL season.

"My fantasy team did great this season," he said, "since it seems everyone was doing well. The only problem is that next year it's going to be hard to figure out who to pick."

The NFL has left all fans wondering for next season. Will "Tebow Mania" continue? Will the Colts come back, and will it be with Andrew Luck, or a Peyton Manning returning from surgery?

"I would love to see Peyton as a New York Jet," says Jets fan sophomore Eric Gutierrez. "I think that even at 75-80% he's still one of the best quarterbacks. Mark Sanchez could learn from him and gain better leadership skills."

Next year's draft class has many players with the potential to be game changers. That factor, along with a strong free agency group, means that teams can change their luck with a signing of a pen. If this season is any indication of what's coming next year, all football fans have much to look forward to next fall.

Super Bowl XLVI observations from one who was there

Danny Cuneo

Staff Writer

This year's Super Bowl was another instant classic. As a Giants fan, this is the pinnacle of watching sports. My favorite team is now champion of the world, and this reporter can comfortably rest in the offseason, putting to rest any argument about their prospects for the coming year.

Similar to all other Super Bowls, quick judgments are made following the game. Here are a few of my observations based on the outcome of this game, as well as this past season:

Eli Manning is not a Hall of Famer right now. Eli has not played

to the standards of a Hall of Fame quarterback until this past season. The 2007 Super Bowl run was a testament to Eli's ability to not turn the ball over, not make plays. Also, the defense was dominant during that run. This is not to knock Eli, but this year he took over the team and proved that he is an elite quarterback, dominating several fourth quarter comebacks and being the main reason that the Giants were as good as they were. The next five-to-eight years will determine whether Eli Manning takes a trip to Canton in the future.

Tom Brady is better than ever. Brady lost his second Super Bowl to the Giants, Brady masked a lot of the problems that this Patriots team had. Brady played

with a defense that was a woeful thirty-first in the league overall, a run game that was nonexistent, and zero deep threats to stretch out the field. The coaching staff devised an offensive game plan comprised of complex short routes, allowing Brady to find the open man and create in space. This is what the Patriots attempted to do to offset the violent Giants' pass rush. Brady's precision allowed for his offense to defeat teams with a methodical approach, taking time off the clock with long drives, while still having his offense rated highly in the NFL. Yes, he had Rob Gronkowski at tight end, but Brady never stretched the field with Gronk. The Patriots receivers specialized in yards after the catch. That a Patriots team with this many flaws reached the Super Bowl is incredible, and the play of Tom Brady and the coaching of Bill Belichick are the only reasons this team got as far as they did.

Wes Welker should not be condemned for this Super Bowl loss. Yes, he dropped the ball in the most critical moment of the game, but a lot more went wrong for the Patriots that should be recognized. The Patriots defense has to take some blame. Although the Giants were held to 21 points, the defense did not stop the Giants in the final minutes of the game. Eli and the offense marched right down the field for the winning score, the remarkable Manningham 38-yard sideline catch acting as catalyst for the drive. When a perfect throw is combined with a perfect catch and toe-drag, no defense in the world can stop it. The Giants eventually scored the winning touchdown with 57 seconds left. Also, the Patriots' running game was lackluster. These factors, combined with a fantastic performance from the Giants on both ends, allowed the Giants to win their second Super Bowl in five years.



Indy's Lucas Oil Stadium. Courtesy of Dan Cuneo

From teammates into rivals

Lindsey Barnett

Staff Writer

With the release of colleges' early admission decisions, many Harrison High School seniors have figured out where they will be going to school in the fall. One of the more interesting developments to come out of this year's early acceptances involves two Harrison teammates who will soon become college-level rivals. JT Nangle and Matt Carducci are both award-winning athletes on the Harrison High School varsity swim team, and have been teammates since eighth grade. Both have been team captains three years in a row, and have been recruited to college swim teams. They will even be swimming within the same college conference! But JT will be swimming for Bucknell, while Matt will be making a splash at Lehigh.

"Matt is one of my best friends on the team" shared Nangle. "It'll be sad to leave him and the rest of the team, but I am looking forward to some friendly

competition next year."

JT has received many awards for his swimming achievements over the years. In 2011, he was All-Section, a Journal News Swimmer to watch, and a Journal News All-Star. He has broken the school record for the 100 backstroke, 200 free style relay and the 200 medley relay. It is clear why Bucknell wanted to have him as a swimmer on their team. JT is just as excited to be going to Bucknell, as the school is that he will be attending.

"I am really happy that I am going to be swimming for Bucknell," he said. "It is so exciting that I will be able to compete at the next level. The thing that most attracted to me to Bucknell was the facilities. Not only is it a great school, but the team is also strong, and getting faster and faster. Swimming is my passion and I am very lucky that I get to continue competing for the next four years."

Just like his friend JT, Matt has received many awards over the course of his swimming career. He was named an All-American in 2011 and is a State Qualifier. He has loved swimming ever since he learned how, and has been competing on a club team with JT ever since they were young. Both of these talented athletes will miss being on the same side, but are thrilled they will still get to see each other at competitions.

Matt shared, "It will be very exciting competing against JT. We have always been competitive with each other and we are each responsible for part of the other's success. We have trained together for years and we push each other to higher levels. In a way, we have always been competitors. Next year, we'll just be on different teams."

Matt is very excited to matriculate at Lehigh. Like JT, he was drawn to his choice of

school for reasons other than its strong swimming team. In Matt's case, he was also attracted by Lehigh's impressive engineering program. Matt shares JT's passion for swimming, and has been a swimmer for as long as he can remember. Matt first decided to join the high school's swim team because he had been swimming on a club team outside of school, and decided that more practice couldn't hurt. It certainly did not!

It is amazing that JT and Matt will both be competing at the college level, and still more remarkable that they will be attending schools which pit them against each other. JT and Matt will doubtless be missed by the Harrison High School swimming team, by teammates and fans alike. But both students are being given an incredible opportunity to live out their dream. Hopefully, their friendship will continue as their skills in the pool continue to bring them success.

Young team wrestles an impressive season

Max Lukaswitz

Staff Writer

The 2011-2012 wrestling squad has surged through the winter season, getting better as the season progressed. Despite being a young team with no seniors, the team's top three wrestlers, Gavin Menchel, David Polakoff and Joe Maida, have taken charge. Menchel, wrestling in the 126-pound class, is coming off a season in which he was the only one to place for sectionals. Polakoff, wrestling in the 138-pound class, and Maida, wrestling in the 120-pound class, both have worked hard this season to place for sectionals. While these three have flourished on the mats, the underclassmen have made an impact on the team. Dominic Schepis (160-pound class) and Max Uretta (99-pound class) have both stepped up this season. All the freshmen this year gained a lot of experience, but some of them struggled in learning the more advanced moves on the varsity level. In spite of the team's many freshmen, the feeling is that the

team's record could have been better. James Carducci, another freshman wrestler, showed some technical savvy on the mat prior to being knocked out for a week or two after suffering a knee to the face.

At the Huskies' first tournament, the Tony Carlucci Tournament, each wrestler had their own highlights. Joe Maida went 3-1.

"I was happy about my performance at the tournament this weekend," said Joe Maida. "Although we didn't place as a team, I was still proud of what everyone contributed."

Josh Rodriguez, a freshman, also did very well, winding up 3-1 mostly due to his "cradle move," a key to his success.

"You know I came into the tournament nervous," he said, "but listened to my coaches from the sideline and did what I had to do in order to win my matches."

Many skillful wrestlers attended the tournament, including Brian Realbuto, a two-time New York State Champion and Freestyle National Champion.

At the Huskies' meet be-



Joe Maida pinning his opponent.

Courtesy of Joe Maida

tween Suffern, Mamaroneck, and Nyack, the Huskies lost their first match to the powerhouse Suffern and won their match against Nyack.

"Our team is very young and we need to be more defensive," noted head coach Nicita.

"We had some tough matches and lost to Suffern, but we came out with our first team win on the year so I'm happy about that."

Many wrestlers did well, including Joe Maida, David Polakoff, and Gavin Menchel, each securing an individual victory.

"I did a good job on the top position by keeping my opponent from getting up," said Gavin Menchel. "I also took good shots on my opponents and finished them to get my two points."

Recently, the Division 1 Sectional Qualifier Wrestling Tournament was held at Harrison High School. This is the first step to the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) Championship. To proceed to the next level, wrestlers had to finish among the top four spots within their given weight class. The following Harrison wrestlers will continue to the Section 1 finals: Joe Maida, Gavin Menchel, David Polakoff, Max Lukaswitz, Brian Cipriano, and Max McMullen.

Track in running for sectional champs

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

After coming off one of the most memorable seasons in Winter Track history, the 2011-12 Huskies had the daunting task of continuing their successes into this season.

"It was challenging for us," says junior Bilal Al-Doori. "We had such a good season last year that it seemed as if we needed to not only match, but do better in our competitions from last year."

Both the girls' and boys' teams had to overcome many challenges heading into the winter season.

The boys' team lost some of their best runners last year when Zaid Al-Doori, Joe Papa, Rob Merit, and Gary Castelli all graduated. The team had additional struggles this season, trying to overcome injuries from some of their best runners in Ryo Inkyo and Will Hilliard.

The girls' team, although many of its runners returned, also

was hampered by injury. Nina Sarmiento, one of HHS' best runners, was plagued all season with an injury. However, both track teams not only were able to overcome these challenges, but wound up having successful seasons.

At the Armory Track, in which all competitions took place, the boys achieved victory. Throughout the season, the boys placed and even won various matches. In the 4x2, Ben Konigsberg, Gio Holguin, Will Hilliard, and Jacob Seidman won. In other events, like the 4x4 and 4x8, the boys did well, especially the 4x8 led by Trey Wasilesky, Stephen Stark, Jose Porretti, and Ben Adler. Other noticeable performances included the shot put, with Jeremy Altamuro and Anthony Brown, and the high jump with Bilal Al-Doori.

"We had a lot of great athletes this year, and our success proves it," says Trey Wasilesky. "I thought we had a great season

and know that we can be even better next year."

With the strong performances throughout the season, the boys' team cruised to an easy win at leagues. As the boy's team moves on to sectionals, the overall performance by the team and its achievements cannot be overlooked. Ben Konigsberg tied the school record for the 55-meter dash with a time of 6.66 seconds. With a core group of great runners and athletes, Coach Zanot, Coach Pellet, and Coach Simon were able to lead the boys to a great season.

Similarly, the girls' track team performed well this year, seeing productivity from many of its key athletes. At leagues, many of the girls placed and even won their events. Hannah Hochman won the 55-meter dash, while Olivia Caparelli won the 300-meter dash. Rula Samad won both the 300-meter dash and the triple jump. From the great performance



Courtesy of Bilal Al-Doori

by the team, the girls placed first at leagues. At the Millrose Trials, the 4x4 team of Hannah Hochman, Ashley DelliPaoli, Rula Samad and Olivia Caparelli won and even came close to breaking the school record. Sarah Purinton and Alex Sanchez did well in the 3,000 meter long run, and Shannon Roman performed admirably at the long jump. With great coaching by Coach Zanot, many of the girls are not only competing for sectionals, but are seen as favorites in their upcoming matches.

The overall success of the boys' and girls' track teams cannot be overlooked. With the combination of great coaching and determined athletes, it seems as though more success is likely to come in sectionals and the seasons ahead.

Titans Look to Make Playoff Run

Ray Corona

Sports Editor

After a slow start to the 2011-2012 season, the Rye Town/Harrison Titans have emerged as of late, making a push in the playoffs. With production throughout the roster, the Titans' late push has shown the many aspects that make up this very strong and determined group.

The Titans started the season slowly with a disappointing 0-3 start.

"It makes you work harder," says junior Spencer Rosenstein, referring to those first three losses. "You realize what you need to work on and it makes you determined to turn your season around."

The Titans did in fact turn their season around, winning the next four out of five after that slow start. The Titans had their share of big wins, cruising to an 8-1 win over Lakeland/Panas and shutting out Sleepy Hollow/Irvington 6-0. The Huskies would lose to Eastchester/Tuckahoe/Bronxville shortly after, a heartbreaking 6-5 loss in over-

time. But showing their fortitude, they weathered this tough loss,

fix them."

Despite losing 4-2 to North



The 2011-2012 Rye Town/Harrison Titans. *Courtesy of Section1hockey.com*

rebounding in a huge way, going on a 4-game winning streak and shutting out both Byram Hills and Mount Pleasant.

"That seemed like the general trend this season," says junior Steven Jacobson. "Whenever we lose, we always seem to rebound and come up with a streak of big wins. I feel like that's one of our biggest strengths, being able to understand our mistakes and to

Rockland, the Titans rebounded with a huge win against Rye. The Titans trailed 1-0 going into the third, but shut out the Garnets in the final period to win 2-1.

As the Titans head into the playoffs with a 11-7-1 record, it will be important to see if the team can end the season strong. But regardless of whether the Titans make the playoffs, the team's overall achievements cannot be

overlooked. The Titans have been 5-0-1 against league opponents and have shutout their opponents four times this season. Senior Sal Giacomo is eleventh in Section 1 in goals with 22, and is also twenty-second in points with 32. Goaltenders Jamie Ketchabaw and Brian Ketchabaw rank in the top 10 of various goaltending categories, including saves and goalie rating. Although these players have struggled at times, the Titans have seen production throughout. Evan Jacobs has dished out 14 assists, Dean Brancucci has produced 19 points, and Kevin Fusco has scored 10 goals.

When Titans enter the playoffs, many believe that the Titans are capable of making a strong run.

"I think that we're capable of making it deep into the playoffs," says Rosenstein. "We have so many great players and we're strong offensively and defensively. If we're going down, we're not going down without a fight."