

Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

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Inside the Huffington Post *The World's Most Powerful Blog* A Husky Herald Exclusive

Emily Singer

News Editor

This past November was marked by one of the most important, controversial presidential elections in our country's history. Everyone was talking about Barack Obama and John McCain, and who might be better suited to save our sinking ship of a country.

With newspapers in a media frenzy, writing article upon article about whatever proved to be the "latest controversy," it was easy to get caught up and confused about everything going on. The monotonous, unbiased, equal-time-for-each-candidate articles tended to get a bit boring as well.

In times like those, opinion articles can often clear clouds of confusion and set the record straight, and that's why so many turned to the articles displayed on the Huffington Post.

Founded by Arianna Huffington and Kenneth Lerer in 2005 as a website where prominent political figures and journalists could voice their political opinions, the Huffington Post (also known as HuffPo) has expanded to cover topics such as entertainment, media, and the go-green movement.

Huffington and Lerer met through a mutual friend. According to Lerer, the duo "had this idea to try to start a news site online and change the way news is offered online; much the way CNN changed the broadcast industry 25 years ago."

HuffPo's extensive list of bloggers currently includes Arianna Huffington herself, Rosie O'Donnell, Carl Bernstein, John Cusack, and Bob Barr, among others.

The website is openly liberal, and unlike other political blogs, HuffPo offers both news coverage and commentary. Readers are able to send feedback on a post in the comments section, making the site both private and public.

Several side projects have been created such as OffTheBus, which merges New York University's journalism program and the HuffPo bloggers.

Another project, called FundRace, tracks contributions to presidential candidates and offers maps which pinpoint contributors by city, neighborhood, and street.

HuffPo was recently named the world's most powerful blog by the famous London newspaper, The Guardian. Since the website was founded three years ago, it has grown enormously and is positioned to continue to grow over the next several years.

A TYPICAL WORK DAY AT HUFFPO

Movies have a tendency to portray newsrooms as hectic, with people in business suits talking on their phones, shuffling through piles of paper, and running around everywhere. This may be the case for some newspapers and news websites, but it's definitely not the case for the Huffington Post. In fact, it's quite the opposite.

The offices are on two floors – the lower floor is home to the public relations and business offices while the upper floor is reserved for the editors and bloggers. The editors' office is a large white room with four long tables. One is

used by the tech staff and is separated by a divider. The editors sit at the first two tables and the bloggers sit at the last table. Each seat at the desk has a desktop computer, a telephone, and the respective editor's personal laptop. There are wall-mounted televisions at the end of each table which usually are tuned into various news stations

The Husky Herald was fortunate to sit down and talk to four of the site's major editors – Katharine Zaleski (Senior News Editor), Anya Strzemien (Senior Style Editor), Danny Shea

(Media Editor), and Colin Sterling (Senior Blog Editor). All four were wearing jeans – one of the several reasons why they like working at the Huffington Post.

Apart from comfort, the editors agreed that flexible hours (they can edit and update from home if they want) and the constant energy is what make their jobs so appealing.

Aside from Colin, the editors do not actually edit blog posts. They patrol internet news websites and television reports for the most exciting and interesting news reports. Once they've found something that catches their eye, the original article is edited to several short paragraphs (under the Fair Use

"Huffington and Lerer... had this idea to try to start a news site online and change the way news is offered..."

Law, they cannot put the full article up). Then, accompanying photographs are selected and cropped, the summarized news story is linked to the full-length article, and the story is posted.

As Senior Blog Editor, Colin Sterling reads over 100 blog submissions a day and chooses which ones are the most interesting and site-appropriate. There are sections on the site for every topic, so creating a balanced mix of subjects is important. When asked whether he has received any blog submissions that were too radical to post, Colin chuckled a bit and said that occasionally he does, and he can check with the writer to see how it can be edited so that the argument is not completely lost. Otherwise the blog can be rejected and forgotten about.

"We're not obligated to publish everything that gets submitted," Colin said. "The bloggers are blogging for free, so anything that gets posted gives them exposure." Although the website is predominantly liberal, there are several conservative and moderate blog posts each week.

Many readers turn to the Huff-



The Huffington staff hard at work.

Courtesy of Emily Singer
ington Post for "concentrated news," or news from all of their favorite websites merged onto one website. As a result, the news editors debatably have the toughest jobs.

Senior News Editor Katharine Zaleski was one of the Huffington Post's first employees. She started working as a blogger two weeks after the site was founded. As the site grew, bloggers became editors and political freelancers became bloggers. Being that there are approximately 20 news editors, Katharine's job consists of much more than scrounging the internet for interesting articles. She focuses on how to make Huffington Post stories cover the entire internet (i.e., How close to the top of the page a HuffPo article is when searched on Google), as well as how to make news more interesting (yet still fair) to keep people coming back to the site, which Katharine says is a "fun challenge."

Just like Katharine, Media Editor Danny Shea has been on the Huffington Post team since it first started. Danny started out as an intern and was hired full-time a year ago. He focuses on business and culture in the news, on television, and on the internet. Although the site's focus is news and politics, thanks to the recent election, Danny is confident that the media section's recent popularity will not fade. He says that his section does not rely on the media, and that politics relies on media to be heard (without television or newspapers, nobody would have any idea of what was going on in the political world, or the world in general).

Senior Style Editor, Anya Strzemien, feels otherwise. She began her journalism career working for magazines, but after time, the magazines folded (her most recent magazine career being *Life*, which was shut down in April of 2007). Anya came to the Huffington Post that same month and began working for the Living section. In August of last year, the Huffington Post created the Style section and Anya was promoted to Senior Style Editor.

"Speaking from past experiences,
(Continued on page 3)
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NAVIANCE Aids Difficult College Process Selection

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

As high school students, freshmen through seniors, we have all thought about college. While a freshman may have a vague idea about what colleges they might eventually consider, by this time seniors have already applied to college and either know which one they will attend or are awaiting a response in the months ahead. Throughout this difficult, time-consuming, and probably life-defining process,

Naviance is a powerful tool that can help things to run more smoothly.

Naviance is a relatively new acquisition for the Harrison Central School District, and therefore, many students still are unfamiliar with it. The school district purchases a license that allows its students and families to use the resources available on the site. The website is actually a treasure trove of important resources that can

help students locate schools that offer their specific curriculum interests and more.

In the Harrison Central School District, Naviance is introduced as early as sixth grade. Although most middle school students are probably not considering college anytime soon, they are required to take personality and learning style tests, two features of Naviance that in the future can help



Angelica Catalano checks out Naviance.

with college selection. These tests can also help the student learn how to perform to the best of their abilities. Middle school students are also encouraged to create

Activity Lists.

Before we explore the various capabilities of the website, it is important to learn how to log in. In order to register, see the guidance office for a user registration code, then follow the given instructions. You will be re-

quired to provide an email address; this will become your username, and a password of your choice. The directions are clear and there are FAQs (frequently asked questions) in case you have difficulties. If you have tried everything, and still cannot log in, speak to the guidance office for additional assistance. You cannot call Naviance directly because confidentiality agreements prevent them from releasing information.

Once you have logged on, you are ready to utilize Naviance. You will come to a welcome screen that explains Naviance's purpose and contains information regarding the college application process. Notice the red sidebar; you can access all of Naviance's pages with this sidebar, including your personal profile, recent college searches, and tools for test preparation.

NAVIANCE HIGHLIGHTS

Here are some of the highlights of the powerful Naviance program:

My Resume: On this page, you can create a resume listing your various achievements, including activities, music, sports, artistic, and academic achievements. A resume can help you to describe yourself successfully to colleges in which you are interested.

My Test Scores: Naviance keeps track of all the scores you received on various tests on this page, including the PSAT, SAT, PLAN, ACT and various AP tests.

My Colleges: This page is an organizer for all the colleges to which you plan to apply. It lists important information such as whether or not that particular college accepts the common application, how interested you are in that particular school, and its deadline and decision dates (early decision, early action, priority, or regular decision).

My Personality Type: This page offers a personality quiz that analyzes what type of personality you are, based on the way you answer a series of questions. Later, the quiz asks you to rank your interest in specific career fields (The Arts, Government and Law, Health Services, etc.) and provides a comprehensive list of possible career options.

My Learning Style: Take this quiz, which analyzes your learning style, to find out how you learn and study best. Some of the questions involve discovering if you learn best in a group or individually, what temperature you prefer when learning, and the motivation given to you by your parents. This information helps determine the studying environment that will benefit you most.

College Search: Make sure to visit the "college search" page. This page features a survey that matches you to schools that best fit your requirements. It is a great way to discover colleges that you had not previously known about that possess similarities to colleges you are considering. The survey asks basic questions, like whether you would prefer a two-year or four-year college, and more in-depth questions like what region you would prefer or if a college offers your preferred sport.

College Lookup: College lookup is also a useful tool, as it allows you to look up your college by name, providing you with various statistics about that college. You can also access that college's website through this page and obtain its important contact address(es) and phone number(s).

Scattergrams: Another really fascinating and helpful feature of interest in Naviance is the "scattergrams" page. On this page you can choose a college from a dropdown list and see the acceptance rate of Harrison High School seniors based on their GPA (grade point average) and that student's SAT scores. After the SAT, Naviance will overlay your GPA and SAT scores to show you the likelihood of your acceptance to that school.

There are a host of other pages and links available on the Naviance website that can help with the college process, including suggested summer enrichment programs and scholarship opportunities. Also, a visit to the test preparation page offers tips and practice tests for the SAT and ACT. Naviance cannot make your decisions for you, nor will it tell you definitively whether or not you will get into a certain college, but it certainly offers several realistic tools to concentrate your focus and help you achieve this goal.

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Emily Singer - News Editor

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Jessica Pena - Music Editor

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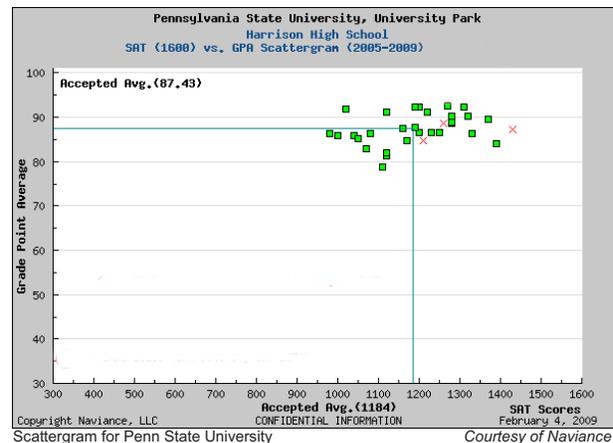
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Special Thanks to Mr. Petrillo

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.



Mother Nudge Urges Students to Raise SAT Scores

Marissa DeCarlo

Photography Editor

Wilson Daily Prep (WPD), a new SAT Prep program, is an inclusive SAT resource with an assortment of test taking tips and strategies. The best part? You only have to study six minutes each day.

The main component of this program is the daily six minute quizzes. Each quiz has six questions which break down to one minute per question. These questions cover various SAT test aspects, such as grammar, vocabulary, sentence completion, reading comprehension and math. By getting a question right, you earn one point. By accumulating points, you can donate various livestock such as chickens, rabbits, ducks and sheep to the Heifer Foundation (HF). Founder of WDP, Laura Wilson, has pledged fifteen percent of her company's profits towards providing these livestock to the HF. The more points a student accumulates, the bigger animal he/she can donate.

The Heifer Foundation is dedicated to eradicating global poverty and hunger. It is a nonprofit charitable organization based in Little Rock, Arkansas. It provides gifts of livestock and plants, as well as education in sustainable agriculture, to financially-disadvantaged families around the world. Some of the animals the organization gives are cattle, sheep, rabbits, guinea pigs, honeybees, pigs, llamas, water buffalo, camels, alpacas, and yaks.

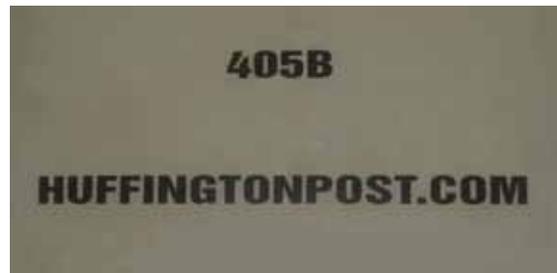
Wilson Daily Prep doesn't just offer quizzes; the website also provides worksheets, video lessons, tips, key information, a vocabulary game and key articles. And if you are enrolled in the program, a workbook with different example problems and tips will be sent to you. The key concept to improve a SAT score is to repeat questions. And by applying the repetition with the little tricks, students are confident they can improve their SAT scores. Also, everyone gets a daily email reminder to remind you to take your daily prep quizzes. And if you fall behind, Mother Nudge, (Laura Wilson) comes into play. Mother Nudge nudges her students to make sure they would do their work. If you don't, Mother Nudge not only sends you an email, but also your parents get one too.

The website grew out of Wilson's tutoring business in Chappaqua. Laura started with four students eight years ago. Today, she has 400 students nation-wide signed up for the online service. Students at Harrison High School enrolled in SAT Prep get the service for free. But, if you aren't you can still get the program for fifty-nine dollars per month, three hundred and eighty-nine dollars for the full nine months. Samantha Hochman, grade 11 said, "I really like the fact that mother-nudge really cares enough to always push us to do the most possible and I feel this will really benefit my SAT scores."



Laura Wilson

Courtesy of wilsonprep.org



The door to the Huffington Post offices.

Courtesy of Emily Singer

HuffPo Opens Doors To HuskHer

(Continued from Front Page)

I don't see much of a future for printed news" said Anya. The Style section on the Huffington Post covers a wide range of material, from fashion to food to relationships to travel. The broad subject spectrum almost guarantees a constant flow of compelling news.

Danny said that his favorite part about working for The Huffington Post is "that its influence is greater than its size, in that it's a small organization with a big platform that is able to cover the entire internet."

The influence of the Huffington Post will expand enormously as the internet continues to grow. Searching through newspapers and television shows for anything captivating might seem like boring, tedious work to some, but the laid-back atmosphere and coverage of not-so-serious news is what makes The Huffington Post so great. "We love *The View*," says Anya. "There's always something juicy going on."

our traffic," says Huffington Post Chairman and co-founder Kenneth Lerer.

In early December, Arianna Huffington announced a \$25 million investment for the website. The timing could not have been better – it was just as the economy went from bad to worse, and as viewership continued to drop. The money came from a venture capitalist firm known as Oak Investments. The money is a C-series round, meaning that it's the third round of financing for the Huffington Post (previously, \$10 million had been raised from other investment firms). Lerer says that the money will be used for "technology, advertising editorial, and for acquisitions."

With momentum from election coverage and an extra boost from a recent investment, The Huffington Post is moving full speed ahead. Big changes are in the works for 2009, including adding more verticals (or sub-sections), adding more content in general, and creating more local news verticals (currently only a Chicago vertical is available, but supposedly a San Francisco vertical is in the works). Although the post-election viewership has decreased, The Huffington Post will continue to expand and play a major role in journalism, especially the modernization of it.

Because of that, Danny doesn't think that internet news is a threat to printed news. Although many magazines are shutting down (the most recent being CosmoGirl), there are many dedicated newspaper and magazine readers who rely on print for their daily dose of world happenings.

POST-ELECTION STATUS

Between December 2007 and December 2008, Huffington Post viewership jumped 245 percent. The recent election had a great deal to do with the massive jump, and the editors are aware that viewership is expected to decline as Barack Obama settles into the White House. To maintain the site's popularity, Huffington Post employees are planning to expand the non-political segments of the blog, such as Anya's style section and Danny's media section. "These pages drive about 50% of

Pros and Cons Of Applying Early Decision

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

There are several ways that people can apply to college. Most choose to apply as regular decision candidates, but some apply with rolling admission, while others apply either as early action or early decision candidates (and some schools offer two separate early decision dates).

For each different means of application, there are slightly different features for the respective application. The regular decision application consists of a nonbinding application that is generally submitted at the same deadline for most colleges. It still is the most common form of application.

The rolling application is a non-binding application in which the college sets no specific deadline date in which to receive the application. Students can apply at any early date and are notified back at random dates by a college that has rolling admissions.

Early action is also a non-binding decision. Many people get the concept of early action confused with early decision. Early action requires the application to be submitted by a specific early deadline. In return, that college agrees to send back its decision at an earlier date, in hopes of

attracting better candidates earlier. Still, early action is non-binding.

More schools are now filling up a sizable portion of their freshmen classes via early decision. As a result, more and more students are applying to college early decision. But what is it about early decisions that make it such a popular choice with colleges and students alike? Is it binding? What are the benefits? Does it give a student an advantage in the applicant pool? Here are the pros and the cons of applying early decision:

Pros: It's no secret that the past few years have seen the largest applicant pool ever. So as the height of this modern baby boom comes of college age, the admissions process has gotten a lot stricter in terms of acceptance. Many applicants feel that applying early decision might give them a leg up toward acceptance, a better chance to edge out the competition. For last year's applicant pool, students applied early decision at a rate that has risen 6 percent from the pre-

vious year. In contrast to those applying in a nonbinding situation, early decision shows a firm commitment and dedication to the particular school of choice.

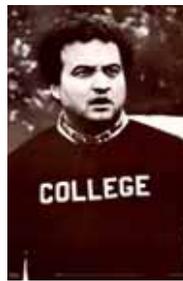
In this year's senior class, there have been a large number of students applying to college early decision. Many will tell you that the choice was worth it. It provides a great opportunity to put you at an advantage over students with similar transcripts and profiles who are not offering to commit to any one school. It also takes the pressure off of waiting. If you really know what school you want, you can find out immediately and have the pressure of waiting to hear over with.

Cons: Although there are some very beneficial aspects to early decision, it also presents some negatives. In terms of commitment, it is a legally binding decision. Therefore, if you do get accepted to a college as an early decision candidate, you must at-

tend. Students applying early decision must sign a contract indicating that they are locked into that particular school. If the student for some reason chooses not to go after being accepted early decision, there will be major complications involved, and it might lead to a hearing.

When one is accepted early decision, other outstanding applications are immediately withdrawn from consideration. Another possible negative is never knowing whether or not you would have gotten accepted at some of these other schools.

Although early decision is an effective process, and one that has become very popular, it is not necessarily the best choice for people who cannot decide on any one school over several being considered. Further, it still is not a guaranteed acceptance, and you run the risk of rejection from your first choice – so approach any college application realistically. When applying to college, do your homework. Visit schools, use Naviance and discuss your choices with your parents and your guidance counselor. While early decision is not for everyone – it might just be right for you.



Blutarsky never applied early decision.

Courtesy of Universal

New Teacher Feature: Mr. Veenis

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

Mr. Veenis, or Señor Veenis, as many of us know him, began his first year teaching at Harrison High School in September. He is excited to have the opportunity to teach in a new school and share his knowledge of Spanish language and culture with his students. Sigue leyendo sobre Señor Veenis. (Keep on reading about Mr. Veenis).

Husky Herald: Where have you taught before coming to Harrison High School?

Jon Veenis: I taught at Spencerport High School in Rochester, New York. I taught there for four years. I also taught at a private academy in Valencia, Spain, for two years.

HH: What was it like when teaching in Valencia?

JV: I had two experiences there. I began by teaching English to teenagers, who came to the academy for extra help. Then I changed careers and taught at the Wall Street English Academy for businessmen who wanted to learn English.

HH: What encouraged you to become a Spanish teacher?

JV: Well, let's see, mostly a passion for the Spanish language, I think. I had a different career at one time and wanted a change. I had taught before, teaching in Spain. I then got my MBA and worked in the business field.

HH: Where did you grow up?

JV: I grew up in Rochester, New York.

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

JV: I had a teacher in the fifth grade, Mr. Lown. And he had a nickname for me. I was the "walking dictionary." Teaching Spanish is as much about learning English. He gave me the motivation to learn new words and apply speech.

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



Señor Veenis gestures toward a map of Spain. Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo

JV: Yes, [laughs] I would say to make a conscious effort outside of class to have contact with the language that you are studying. Forty minutes a day is not enough time to learn a language. Set a goal to learn two or three new words a day. Memorizing for the sake of a quiz is not good enough either. It does not allow you to internalize the information. You need to make it more than the grade. Learning a language is definitely difficult. Studies show that the average

person needs six contacts with a new word before they truly learn that new word. And don't discount the importance of learning and understanding English as well.

HH: Who is your favorite artist (past or present) and why?

JV: Al Pacino, the actor, just for his passion for acting. You can really tell he tries to understand the character and puts all of himself into the character. Whatever your career may be, you need to have that passion.

HH: If Pacino is your favorite actor, what is your favorite Al Pacino movie?

JV: I loved him in *Serpico*. The character was so virtuous and incorruptible.

HH: I understand that you are an adviser for International Club. What types of things do you do in International Club?

JV: [Laughs] Go International Club! We are going to the United Nations and we will probably eat somewhere. Otherwise, we do lots of fun activities. As for the name, I think that we didn't want it to be exclusive, not just Spanish or French club. It is about embracing all cultures, whatever they may be.

HH: What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

JV: Seeing movies, traveling, watching the Steelers, [pause] when they win. And when I really have free time, not during the school year, I enjoy reading espionage fiction. *Allen First* is the author that I love.

HH: Of the countries you have visited, which did you most enjoy visiting?

JV: Spain, definitely, but Greece is wonderful too. Basically all of Europe, but especially the Southern Mediterranean, like Italy and Spain. I'm Dutch, so Holland as well.

HH: How did you come to find Harrison High School?

JV: I was recruited by the director of our department [Brendan Gallivan]. I got a phone call and we met in Rochester for coffee. Eventually, he convinced me to apply.

HH: Are you enjoying your time at the high school so far?

JV: Yes, it was a good decision. I found the population of students to be pretty open-minded when it comes to language and culture. They may not get everything, like grammar, but there is an openness to new cultures and diversity.

HH: Any additional questions or comments?

JV: Just that, in this moment in your life, it may not seem like it, but you need to appreciate studying and being able to take the time to learn. As an adult, you envy opportunities to study. After college or graduate school, it is pretty much over.

An Interview With Sophomore Class Prez Adriana Difazio

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

The Husky Herald touched base with Adriana Difazio, president of the 10th grade class, and here was what she had to say:

HH: What inspired you to run for president for both freshman and sophomore year?

AD: "I've always been interested in student government and coming into the high school I wanted to be part of it as well. I knew being president was such an important position especially in high school, as all our fund-raisers would eventually contribute to prom. I felt like I would do a good job leading our class in the most efficient and successful way."

HH: Are there any sports or clubs you engage in aside from G.O.?

AD: "Yes. I'm part of Jazz Singers, Swing Band, Reef Club, Kids for World Health and Model Congress. I also play lacrosse during the springtime."

HH: Academic-wise, do you feel sophomore year is harder than freshman year?

AD: "In a sense, yes. I feel like freshman year prepared us for sophomore year. The AP classes are a bit challenging, but I feel adjusting wasn't as bad as I thought it would be."

HH: What is your favorite class this year?

AD: "AP World. Even though the course is challenging, I find global history very interesting."

HH: What do you think of the G.O. cabinet this year for the sophomore class?

AD: "As a whole, I feel we work as a great team. Teddy O'Rourke is our Vice President and fulfilled that position last year as well. He does a phenomenal job assisting and helping student government. We have a new Treasurer, Niema Bracey, who is so great and enthusiastic. I'm happy to have her as one of our class officers. Laura Doherty is our Secretary and is a great contributor to G.O. She's extremely organized and I can always count on her to be there when I need help."

HH: Where did you formulate the idea of 'Legends of Rock' for the school's spirit week?

AD: "Last year, a few days after spirit week, a group of us were in the cafeteria and one of my friends, Frank

Corona, brought up the Bon Jovi song "Living On A Prayer." He exclaimed that when Bon Jovi sang, "We're halfway there" that the saying would be perfect for this year's spirit week. From that point, we formulated the whole idea of 'Legends of Rock,' so most of the credit for the theme should be given to him."

HH: What G.O. event do you most look forward to throughout the entire year?

AD: "Spirit Week, because that's when each grade can show what their student government is made of and what they're capable of doing. Overall,



The President speaks. Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo

the entire week is extremely fun."

HH: What is one goal that you'd like to fulfill as Presi-

dent of the sophomore class?

AD: "Honestly my goal is to do what's best for our class by finding different, yet fun ways to do so. I want to make past sophomore events such as The Gong Show, Spirit Week and the sixth grade dance even more successful than they have been in previous years. I'd like to raise the bar higher from any expectations that have come before."

HH: Are there any future events for the class?

AD: "The Gong Show will be coming up shortly. The class is planning to make it big and we encourage people to watch and even participate in it."

HH: Do you plan to run for president in junior and senior year?

AD: "Yes. I feel like I've done so much for this grade already. Student government has become a significant part of my high school career."

I would feel strange if I didn't run for the years to come. I plan on running for junior and senior year because those are the most crucial years for fundraising and organizing for prom. I feel like the experience I already have the past two years will only support me and encourage our grade to perform at its best.



Sophomore Wall. Courtesy of Joni Cooper

Academic Team Meets Challenge

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

Harrison High School's academic challenge team not only performed well this year, but has a bright future. Seniors Jackie Morgen, Dan Zaltz, Harry Reibman, along with juniors Sajjan Patel and Matt Jacobson competed in mid-November at New York's Hotel Pennsylvania, against a very experienced Ardsley squad. Unfortunately, Harrison lost the competition, but not because of lack of smarts. Rather, the Ardsley team was far more experienced, as were many of the other academic challenge teams from other schools who perform in eight or nine competitions annually. This year's Harrison versus Ardsley challenge aired on Channel 12 News in early January.

In preparation for this year's competition, the team performed a "mock challenge" against a team of teachers from Harrison High. Mr. Lee, Mr. Mcrae, Mrs. Brennen, Mr. Burns, and Ms.

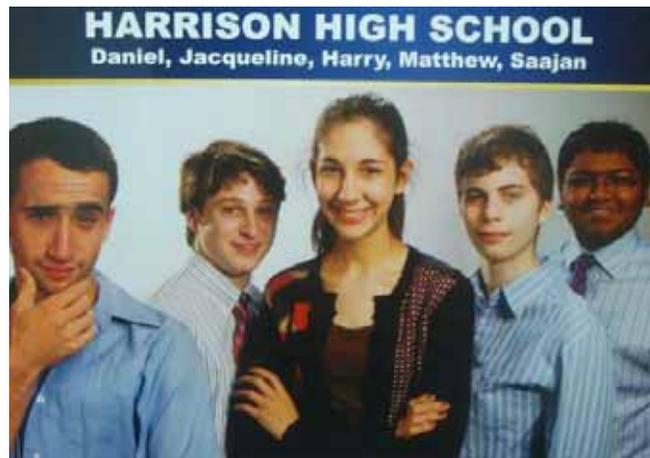
Garner went up against the team in the HPAC, asking challenging questions that spanned the realm of English literature, history, math, and science. It was a close game, but the teachers pulled through, barely winning the contest.

Mr. Kaplan, the academic challenge team coach, says he is looking forward to next year, and is certain that he will field a strong team that will go further in such challenges. Next year's team is scheduled to get an earlier start, with more practice time.

Any students interested in qualifying for the team must try out. They will be asked questions, and the selections are based entirely on skills and knowledge. Next year the academic challenge team is going to become an official team club, and will be attending many more competitions. The mock challenge with the

teachers this year was deemed a success, and the tradition will continue next year as well. The team also will begin practicing with buzzers, as opposed to only having one week to prepare in using buzzers before this year's competition.

The team is looking forward to new academic challenges ahead, and a chance to transform its smarts into victories. They will be attending more competitions throughout the course of this year, and possibly traveling to New Orleans in the spring.



Courtesy of News 12

Green Collar Jobs: Boon or Boondoggle for America's Troubled Economy?

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

The last two decades held the hottest temperatures in 400 years. The Arctic may have its first ice-free summer as early as 2040. Hurricane Katrina and extreme Indian Ocean earthquakes might only be the start of a new weather trend. So what is one way the U.S. can take action in hopes of keeping global warming in check? Many believe the answer is simple: green-collar jobs.

A green-collar job may be defined as "a paid position providing environmentally-friendly products or services with terms that suggest high standards regarding fair wages, equal opportunity and healthy working conditions."

Companies that deal with the production of solar panels, wind turbines, and hybrid cars are examples of jobs in the green-collar sector. Green-collar jobs are easily understood by breaking down its name. They are the kinds of jobs that encourage our country to go "green" or, in other words, reduce other sources of energy that affect the environment.

How do blue-collar jobs

compare to green-collar jobs? A green-collar company would construct hybrid cars versus a blue-collar company that would build SUVs. Plextronics, a com-



Men installing solar panels.

Courtesy of Apollo Alliance

pany composed of solar panels and electronics, believe that workers of green-collar are more trained than employees of blue-collar. Several companies throughout the country hold frequent seminars that discuss a variety of topics and questions pertaining to green-collar jobs.

So why were presidential candidates such as Obama, McCain, and Clinton raving about the idea of green-collar jobs? These opportunities would not only promote a cleaner environment, but they would also open the door to millions of job

opportunities. The RAND Corporation and University found that if 25 percent of all U.S. energy was created from renewable sources by 2025, that five million more jobs would be created.

Companies stress that government policies must be created to encourage and fund the increase of green-collar jobs. Apollo Alliance Chairman Phil Angelides says that these jobs, "...[must] pay decent wages and benefits that can support a family. It has to be part of a real career path, with upward mobility."

Angelides also notes that green-collar jobs must, most importantly, reduce waste and pollution to benefit our environment.

The formation of new jobs as well as the creation of more products will prevent the U.S. from unneeded outsourcing. Skyrocketing gas prices over the past few years have made it nearly impossible for low income families to afford travel to work each day. By stimulating the production of hybrid cars, the United States can rely less on its relations with countries like Iraq and Afghanistan for fuel.

While green-collar jobs seem a great idea, are they really too good to be true? Does the end truly justify the means? Several believe that the creation of green-collar jobs will negatively affect our economy in the near future.

The cost of the products created by companies to improve the environment will be much more expensive compared to those in use currently. If prices for cars and other desired goods increase, then how will this end up benefiting the economy? How will it help curb poverty if millions can't even afford these products?

Many argue that the increase of green-collar jobs will take jobs away from other industries and sectors. Environmentally-friendly companies would thrive with success while other important corporations would lose business fast, increasing the need for jobs in these abandoned areas.

People also complain that there is a lack of guidance with policy makers in the federal government. At the moment, the green sector is operated by industries, businesses, and individual homeowners that promote the conservation of energy. Unless the U.S. government forms clear and effective policies that are relevant to green-collar jobs, the increase of these occupations will prove useless.

Over the next ten years, President Obama plans to spend 150 billion dollars to institute green-collar jobs. Will green-collar jobs become the savior of America's environment and economy? Only time will tell.



Courtesy of treehugger.com

Turmoil in Zimbabwe Increases Further with Cholera Outbreak

Judy Florio and Chloe Williams
Staff Writers

While we may be having a great new year for 2009, in South Africa, some of Zimbabwe's rural citizens are facing one of the poorest, hungriest years in history. Forced to live on only a single meal a day, people are dying at an alarmingly rapid rate. Years of food scarcity, economic failure, corrupt government, AIDS, and poor weather have combined to put Zimbabwe in a category all its own, even in a region where all, or most, of the nations are incredibly poor. A recent cholera outbreak has put Zimbabwe into a state of national emergency. The epidemic has taken 560 lives thus far and the country now is asking others for aid.

Zimbabwe, a nation that was once built on agriculture, can no longer afford the equipment that is needed to farm. The economic collapse, with inflation increasing at a fast rate, has put necessities such as fertilizer



Villagers wait for clean water.

and seed far out of reach for Zimbabwe's citizens. Economic failure has not been the only thing to devastate Zimbabwe. AIDS has ripped through the already malnourished population, killing many in its deadly path, resulting in an enormous decrease in people making up Zimbabwe's work force. Weather has also been a factor, further affecting the terrible conditions in Zimbabwe. Some parts of the region have been faced with drought, while other parts have been pummeled by ferocious rains, preventing almost everyone from producing a successful crop.

The cholera outbreak has led to rioting, and doctors and nurses are petitioning for higher pay and better working conditions. Teachers and other union workers tried to join in the protest, but were brutally clubbed by police officers, and 15 protesters were arrested.

Grocery store shelves are barren; hospitals and school are closed. Aid agencies had been blocked for months by President Robert Mugabe. This ban was lifted in August, but it took several weeks for the agencies to put their work into action. In September, one of the first distributions of food took place after the ban had been lifted, resulting

in hundreds lining up for handfuls of dried corn, rice, and vegetable oil being distributed. Reporters took videos of the food being distributed, and the scene was grim. Villagers painstakingly picked kernels of corn off the dusty ground, and packed them into bags and sacks, which they then carried home.

According to United Nations sources, some 12,500 people have been infected with cholera since this past August, and nearly 600 have died. Proper health care facilities are non-existent. A health minister, Mr. Parirenyantwa, was quoted telling potential donors, "Our central hospitals are literally not functioning. Our staff is unmotivated and we need your support to ensure that they start coming to work, so our health system can be revived."

To add to the turmoil on a recent Monday, soldiers angry about their low pay rampaged through the center of Harare, one of Zimbabwe's biggest cities. They looted stores, broke windows, and stole money from whomever they could. Police officers had to use tear gas to break up the scene; many people were arrested, but soon later were released.

Villagers recall how, during previous years of poverty, a few bags of grain could be harvested, but this year there is nothing that can be reaped from the land, resulting in a high death toll and the poorest quality of life imaginable.

Unfortunately Zimbabwe isn't the only nation living through this hard time. It's hard to describe the difficulties going on in Zimbabwe -- imagine waking up and instead of worrying about what to wear to school, you had to figure out where you are going to find your next meal, or whether or not your family

will survive this next day.

Recently UNICEF, the International Red Cross, and the European commission, announced an emergency response to these conditions. These organizations are hopeful that the outreach from other countries will be able to help the dire situation, and help restore life to Zimbabwe once more.



The White House.

Courtesy of politico.com

Obama Girls Move In

Dominique Cuce

Co-editor in chief

Imagine living in a house that contained 132 rooms, 35 bathrooms, and all the free ice cream you could ever eat. Well, for the Obama girls, Malia, 10, and Sasha, 7, this situation is real. On January 20, the Obama girls moved into 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, a.k.a. The White House. The White House contains everything for the girls' enjoyment: a bowling alley, a movie theatre, a children's garden, and many secret passages. The girls also have an 80-person staff waiting on their every request. The staff list includes the kitchen staff, ready and willing to cook up anything the Obama girls might desire, day or night. The holidays also will be a special time for the Obama family, as basically every toy imaginable flows in as gifts from across the world.

On the first night of their stay in their new digs, as their parents attended the numerous Inauguration Balls, the girls invited some of their closest friends for a night to remember. The girls got to watch a private advance showing of *Bolt*, as well as *High School Musical 3*. Besides the movies, the staff planned a scavenger hunt intended to show the girls the history behind the White House. But the big surprise was at the end of the hunt, which led the girls to open a door which contained...the Jonas Brothers! The girls and about 50 of their closest friends got a private concert which included three acoustic songs as well as numerous photo ops with the Jonas Brothers.

The girls also got their wish granted to get a dog -- something their father had promised once the election was over. In his election speech, Obama added that both girls, "have earned the new puppy [who's] coming with us to the White House."

Choosing the right dog has been a difficult process, as Malia has a lot of allergies. Also there's been some controversy over whether they should adopt or buy a dog. Whatever dog the Obamas end up getting, they will continue a longstanding tradition of having a dog in the White House.

While the perks seem pretty awesome, being the President's daughters also can have some drawbacks. The Obama girls' privacy will soon disappear as the media and the Secret Service will be watching their every move. While the choice of attending a private school will afford a little more privacy, already there is backlash about them being "snobby" or "too good for public school."

Junior Carmen Linperio thought that being the daughter of the President would definitely have its perks. "I would like to live their lifestyle because the benefits of being a Presidential child would outweigh the negatives," she said. "Chelsea Clinton got to go to Stanford, and the Bush twins got to work for the U.N. It's four years of people caring what you're doing, but it's worth it. You're participating in U.S. history."

Senior Sean Neu disagreed. "Even though there are many benefits to being the president's child, I don't think it is worth the lack of privacy," he said.

Four years will go by quickly and before anyone knows it, election time will be here again. Malia will be about to begin high school and Sasha will be in middle school. The next four years are sure to be a wild ride with highs and lows, and the girls will be taking part in history. Let's hope they are able to take advantage of the benefits and enjoy life in the White House.



Sasha and Malia spend time with their father, the President.

Courtesy of The Telegraph

Fashion Trends

Angelica Catalano
Fashion Editor

For 2009, the incoming fashion trends and upcoming styles from various designers have spread throughout the fashion world and have modeled for us what's to come for this year! As usual, specific designers such as Marc Jacobs and Ralph Lauren have been in the spotlight, but new styles are coming into play as well because of celebrities and the Hollywood world. Celebrity influences, particularly those from various movie stars and teen stars on television are setting the new fashion grounds in 2009.

As winter is passing, several new styles, designers, and looks have come into play. For example, take a look at what's going on with "the scarf." This winter scarves are being used to make a fashion statement, mostly through being paired with different looks, both in casual and formal wear. Many celebrities attending winter events completed their outfits with scarves that matched their ensemble. These days you see more and more kids here at HHS wearing scarves as part of their outfits.

There's no forgetting the good ole' Uggs boots! Every winter, these amazingly stylish and warm boots attract new followers members from both sexes, especially as new prints and colors begin to flourish and expand



Uggs are in fashion. Courtesy Boot Barn

the Uggs line. However, this coming spring it's goodbye to scarves and boots, and a big hello from fun colors and patterns!

New spring fashion trends for 2009 include soft-looking women's revealing sheers, retro prints from the '70s to Roman Goddess togas, dazzling metallics to exotic floral prints. Lovely spring fashion colors will include lime greens and pretty corals. This year it's all about exotic flowers and colors. Spring fashion trends for 2009 are interesting on the runways, but would you actually go out in public wearing them? That's always been a questionable subject, but as celebrities and stars start to carry off these looks, teens everywhere like you and me are soon attracted to these new styles. Slowly but surely, they soon become appealing to the teenage eye.

For the past 20 years, runway fashions have not commonly been worn in public, that is, unless you are a celebrity and/or a high-end model. This year, though, things are beginning to change. Belts, pea coats, and boots that have been displayed on the runways of the modeling world are now demanding the attention of teenagers and women everywhere!

The Friendship Circle-Friends Helping Friends

Lindsey Tannenbaum
Staff Writer

The Friendship Circle is a nationwide organization that helps children with Autism. Founded in 1994 by the Lubavitch Foundation of Michigan, each volunteer of The Friendship Circle is assigned to spend time with one child with special needs. Kids with autism generally have a hard time communicating with others and have problems with social confrontation. By having other children volunteer in The Friendship Circle, it gives these special needs kids an encouraging, reliable companion.

Symptoms of autism generally occur before a child is three years old. The child starts to become disobedient and lacks an ability to focus. The condition is caused by genetics, with deletions or duplications of genes during mitosis. There is no known medicinal way to prevent autism, so it continues to affect the world, with many cases diagnosed per year.

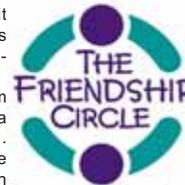
There are various ways to get involved in The Friendship Circle, with many local synagogues that support this organization. In addition to spending one hour per week with an assigned child, there are also events to attend such as trips, camps, and programs. All these activities are designed to ensure that the volunteers' main focus

is their child, and that they can spend time making sure they are giving their utmost care and attention.

Teen volunteers of The Friendship Circle not only learn the value of giving back, but they also learn how to display themselves as role models. These children with special needs look up to their teen volunteers, and from them they learn confidence and self sufficiency. It shows when kids know that they have friends who care about them, and they begin to present themselves with a positive attitude and the feeling that they can accomplish anything.

The "friends at home" approach gives The Friendship Circle participants a relaxed environment in which they can spend time with their children at home. By spending just a few hours

per week playing games, doing homework, arts and crafts, or just hanging out, it makes the children feel comfortable because their home is a familiar place. The kids also take the initiative to show the volunteers what they like to do in their free time and what their talents are. The Friendship Circle gives all kids the chance to try and step out of their comfort zone in a generous, giving way. If you are interested in joining The Friendship Circle, visit www.friendship-circle.com for additional information on helping a friend by being a friend.



Courtesy of friendshipcircleboston.org

One Lost Soul Helps Others Get Found

Sarah Sachse
Staff Writer

What started out as a simple article featuring a lost soul has grown into what has become a popular non-profit organization. That organization, To Write Love on Her Arms, is aimed at helping those who suffer from depression, addiction, self injury, and suicide. To Write Love on Her Arms provides information about those who suffer and also gives hope for those in need.

The organization had its unlikely beginning when Jamie Tworowski was approached by a close friend named Renee in her time of need. After struggling with drug abuse, cutting, depression and suicide attempts at the young age of 19, Renee had agreed to enter rehab. Because of the fresh cuts on her arms and the drugs in her system, the rehab center turned her down. The center in Orlando, Florida, instead told her to return in five days to ensure her body could handle the detox program.

Jamie and his friends cared for Renee those five days and gave her the kind of love she had never known.

Jamie asked Renee if he could write an article about her story, thinking she would probably turn him down. He believed she was too fragile and that she wouldn't want people to know her story but, to his surprise, Renee willingly agreed. She said that she loved the idea of having a purpose for her pain. She believed that other people could relate and find hope from her struggles.

Jamie made a Myspace page, www.myspace.com/towriteloveonherarms, dedicated to Renee's story. He then printed logos on t-shirts to help raise money for Renee's treatment and sold them at www.twloha.com. Quickly the news began to spread. Tworowski started to realize the impact he could make. As friend requests and profile views began to increase drastically, he knew he could make a difference. Now with over 200,000 members, Jamie has created his own caring online community.

The website began posting links for suicide help prevention and featured blogs telling all about the person who started it all, Renee. Thousands of members now post their own stories relating to Renee's stories. There

are people who post explaining their desperate need to help someone they love and there are others who honestly explain that they do not know much and would like to learn more.

The success of To Write Love on Her Arms proves that you don't have to go through life alone. It has been estimated that 17 million Americans suffer from depression and that two-thirds of those people never get treatment for it. TWLOHA provides hope that depression is curable and that hope can help guide people through such troubled times.

To Write Love on Her Arms recently was featured on NBC's Nightly News, in their segment entitled, "Making a Difference." Both Jamie and Renee appeared in the three-minute piece to explain what TWLOHA was and what it meant. They explained the impact it had already made and the goals that they hoped to achieve in the future.

TWLOHA recently began selling shirts on its website dedicated to Hawthorne Heights' deceased drummer, Casey Calvert. In late 2008, at the age of 26, Casey passed away in his sleep while on tour with the band. The shirt features this quotation: "Our

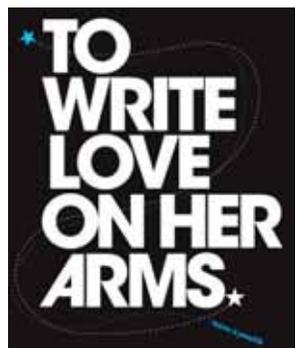
hearts are heavy and light. We laugh and scream and sing. Our hearts are heavy and light." All proceeds from the sales of these shirts go directly toward Casey's family to help cover funeral expenses.

The word continues to spread through Facebook as well. Multiple groups have been made, dedicating certain days as "To Write Love on Your Arms." The groups ask you to write love on your arms, literally. Not only does this show support for Jamie's movement, but it also causes people to ask questions. People are given the opportunity to explain TWLOHA to those who don't know and to share why it is important to be aware of the facts.

To support Jamie's movement, you can buy t-shirts, bags, sweatshirts, bracelets, pins and even a book written by Renee on To Write Love on Her Arm's website (www.twloha.com). Renee's inspiring story shows that, with enough love and hope, you can achieve anything.



Courtesy of twloha.org



Courtesy of twloha.org



Courtesy of twloha.org

The Grim Reap-ort Card of 2008

Marissa DeCarlo

Photography Editor

As we come upon a new year, it's always timely to look back upon the year just gone, remembering all the people we lost, and all the contributions they made to our lives. In 2008, we lost many celebrities and notable persons; in solemn tribute, the Husky Herald looks back on some of those special lives lost.

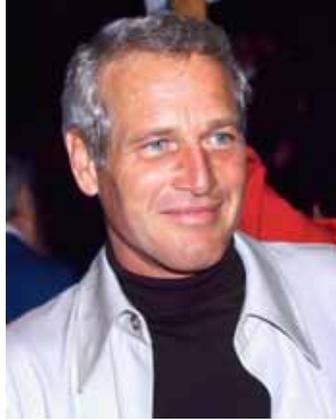
In January, 2008, we lost two great people: Heath Ledger and Bobby Fischer.

Actor Heath Ledger moved to the United States from Australia in 1998 to develop his movie career. His work includes 19 films, most notably *10 Things I Hate About You* (1999), *The Patriot* (2000), *Monster's Ball* (2000), *A Knight's Tale* (2001), *Brokeback Mountain* (2005), and *The Dark Knight* (2008). For his portrayal of Ennis Del Mar in *Brokeback Mountain*, Ledger won the 2005 New York Film Critics Circle Award for Best Actor and was nominated for the 2005 Academy Award for Best Actor. He has also been nominated for and won awards for his portrayal of The Joker in *The Dark Knight*, including a Best Actor International award at the 2008 Australian Film Institute Awards and the 2008 Los Angeles Film Critics Association Award for Best Supporting Actor. Ledger became the first actor to win an award posthumously. He died at age 28 from an accidental "toxic combination of prescription drugs." A few months before his death, Ledger had finished filming his penultimate performance as The Joker in *The Dark Knight*. At the time of his death, January 22, 2008, he had completed about half of his work performing the role of Tony in *The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus*.

Chess master Bobby Fischer first became famous as a teenage chess prodigy. In 1972, he became the first and so far the only American to win the official World Chess Championship. He is often referred to as one of the greatest chess players of all time. In his later years, Fischer lived in Hungary, Germany, the Philippines, and Japan. During this time, he made increasingly anti-American and anti-Semitic statements. In 2004–2005, after his U.S. passport was revoked, he was detained by Japanese authorities for nine months under a threat of extradition. After Iceland granted him citizenship, the Japanese authorities released him to that country, where he lived until his death in 2008. Fischer was suffering from degenerative renal failure. This had been a problem for some years, but became acute in October, 2007, when Fischer was admitted to a Reykjavik Landspítali hospital for stationary treatment. In the middle of January, his condition deteriorated and he was returned to the hospital, where elevated levels of serum creatinine were found in his blood. He died on January 17, 2008, at home in his apartment in Reykjavik.

In February, we lost the actor Roy Scheider. He is best known for his role as police chief Martin Brody in *Jaws*, his role as Joe Gideon in *All That Jazz*, and as detective Sonny Grosso in *The French Connection*. His first

film role was in 1963's *Curse of the Living Corpse* and his first starring role came ten years later in 1973, starring in *The Seven-Ups*, a quasi-follow-up to *The French Connection*. His role in *The French Connection* gained him



Paul Newman. Courtesy of photobucket.com

an Oscar nomination for Best Supporting Actor. In 1975, he portrayed Chief Martin Brody in the Hollywood blockbuster *Jaws*. Scheider's famous movie line from this movie, "You're gonna need a bigger boat," was voted 35th on the American Film Institute's list of best movie quotes. In 2004, Scheider was diagnosed with multiple myeloma. In June 2005, he underwent a bone marrow transplant to treat the cancer. Scheider died on February 10, 2008 in Little Rock, Arkansas, at the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Hospital. His wife attributed her husband's death to complications from a staph infection.

In March, blind guitarist phenom Jeff Healey died of cancer at St. Joseph's Health Centre in his home town of Toronto; he was 41. At only eight months old, Healey lost his sight as a result of retinoblastoma, a rare cancer of the eyes. His eyes had to be surgically removed, and he was given artificial replacements. After living cancer-free for 38 years, he developed sarcoma in his legs. Despite surgery for this, the sarcoma spread to his lungs and ultimately was the cause of his death. Healey began playing guitar when he was three, developing his unique style of playing the instrument flat on his lap. When he was 17, he formed the band Blue Direction, a four-piece band which primarily played bar-band cover tunes. After being signed to Arista Records in 1988, the band released the album *See the Light*, featuring the hit single "Angel Eyes" and the song "Hideaway," which was nominated for a "Best Instrumental" Grammy Award.

In May, Irvine Robbins died. He is one-half of the duo whose names grace the Baskin-Robbins ice cream parlor chain. He founded that chain in 1945 with his partner and brother-in-law Burt Baskin. Robbins grew up scooping cones in his family's ice cream store. He recalled that he often "finished a day's work happy" and wanted that same feeling when he started his own business. He opened the Snowbird Ice Cream store on December 7, 1945 in Glendale, California, while Baskin opened Burton's Ice Cream at 561 So. Lake Pasadena,

California. By 1948, the five Snowbird and three Burton's shops had been combined into a single enterprise, and they had devised their 31st flavor, Chocolate Mint. Daughter Marsha Veit says that Robbins died on May 5, 2008, at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, California. He had been in ill health for some time, she said.

In July, Jesse Helms passed away. He was the five-term Republican United States Senator from North Carolina who served as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee from 1995 to 2001. Helms was the longest-serving popularly-elected senator in North Carolina history and was widely credited with shifting the one-party state dominated by the Democratic Party into a competitive two-party state that now usually votes Republican in presidential elections. Helms, an outspoken conservative, opposed many progressive policies regarding race such as school integration, the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Rights Act. After he retired from the Senate in 2003, Helms' health remained poor. In April, 2006, news reports disclosed that Helms had multi-infarct dementia, which leads to failing memory and diminished cognitive function, as well as a number of physical difficulties. He was later moved into a convalescent center near his home. Helms died of vascular dementia during the early morning hours of July 4, 2008, at the age of 86.

In August, Isaac Hayes died. He



Heath Ledger. Courtesy of webwombat.com

was an American Academy Award-winning singer-songwriter, actor and musician. Hayes was one of the main creative forces behind southern soul music label Stax Records. In addition to his work in popular music, Hayes was a film score composer for motion pictures. His best known work was for the 1971 blaxploitation film *Shaft*. This earned Hayes an Academy Award for Best Original Song, the first Academy Award received by an African-American in a non-acting category. Also, he earned two Grammy Awards. A third Grammy was received for the album *Black Moses*. Hayes also acted in motion pictures and television; from 1997 to 2006, he provided the voice for the character "Chef" on the *South Park* TV series.

In October, Paul Newman, an American actor, film director, food entrepreneur, humanitarian and auto

racing enthusiast passed away. He won numerous awards, including an Academy Award for his performance in the 1986 Martin Scorsese film *The Color of Money*. For acting, he won a BAFTA Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role for his role as Eddie Felson in the movie, *The Hustler*, an Emmy Award and a Golden Globe for his role as Max Roby in the movie *Empire Falls*. For directing, he won a Golden Globe Award for Best Director and New York Film Critics Circle Award for the movie *Rachel, Rachel* and was nominated four various times. In addition to these awards, he received an honorary Academy Award in 1986 for his "many and memorable and compelling screen performances" and the Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award for his charity work in 1994. Newman was scheduled to make his professional stage directing debut with the Westport Country Playhouse's 2008 production of John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*, but he stepped down on May 23, 2008, citing health issues. In June 2008, Newman was diagnosed with lung cancer, due to former chain smoking. In August, Newman reportedly had finished chemotherapy and told his family he wished to die at home. He died on September 26, 2008, aged 83, surrounded by his family and close friends.

In November, the best-selling author of the novel *Jurassic Park*, Michael Crichton, died. He is best known for his work in genres of science fiction, medical fiction, and thrillers. His books have sold over 150 million copies worldwide. He created the TV series ER but is most famous as the author of *Jurassic Park*, and its sequel *The Lost World* (both of which were later adapted into successful films). In 1994, he became the only creative artist ever to experience chart-topping success in America with a film, a television series, and a novel, all at number one simultaneously. Given the private way in which Crichton lived his life, his battle with throat cancer was not made public until his death. He died unexpectedly of throat cancer on November 4, 2008.

In the last month of the year, notable actress Eartha Kitt died. She is best known for her 1953 Christmas song classic, "Santa Baby." She also took over the role of Catwoman for the third season of the 1960s Batman television series, replacing Julie Newmar, who was unavailable for the final season. She has won and been nominated for many awards. Some of the awards she won are the Annie Award for Best Voice Acting by a Female Performer in a Featured Film (2001), Best Voice Acting in an Animated Television Production (2007 & 2008) and the Daytime Emmy for Outstanding Performer in an Animated Program (2007 & 2008). Kitt died from colon cancer on December 25, 2008, at her Weston, Connecticut home at the age of 81.

This is but a small sample of all the notable people who passed away in 2008. As we move ahead to new times and high expectations in 2009, let us not forget all those who came before us, and helped to shape our lives in various ways.



Playwright John Patrick Shanley. Courtesy British Theatre Guide

John Patrick Shanley's modern one-act parable, "Doubt," has recently been welcomed with open arms as riveting and provocative theater. It even had a successful run here at Harrison High last year in a production masterfully directed by Thomas Blake. Now it is getting considerable more recognition and exposure as a major motion picture release. The movie stars Philip Seymour Hoffman, playing Father Brendan Flynn, a warm, "modern" priest at Saint Nicholas school, and Meryl Streep as Sister Aloysius Beauvier, the witty, stern, feared principal at Saint Nicholas school. Amy Adams stars as the young, innocent, impressionable Sister James, who works alongside both Sister Aloysius and Father Flynn.

"Doubt" tells a fictional drama that takes place during the mid 1960s,

Doubt: From the HPAC to Wide Cinematic Release

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

when an authoritative nun explores her suspicions of the welcoming, tolerant, priest's relationship with the young boys attending Saint Nicholas school.

Father Flynn's deep interest in Donald Muller, the one and only, isolated, African-American student at Saint Nicholas, convinces Sister Aloysius that her suspicions are correct, and that Father Flynn indeed is plotting to have, if not already has had, an inappropriate relationship with the young boy. The cat-and-mouse-like chase between Sister Aloysius and Father Flynn begins as they are at war for the moral young soul of Sister James.

The movie successfully takes the drama off the stage and translates it

well onto the big screen. Meryl Streep's performance is astonishing, and she completely immerses herself into the role of Sister Aloysius. The tension between Father Flynn and Sister Aloysius on stage is what fuels this riveting drama. Thankfully, that tension on screen is identical to the troubles experienced in the play, probably because John Patrick Shanley adapted his own writings for the screenplay. Shanley is no stranger to the cinematic medium,



Meryl Streep and Amy Adams in Doubt. Courtesy Entertainment Weekly

having scored big successes with "Moonstruck" and a cult hit with "Joe Versus the Volcano." Sister James' personality on screen retains the same "the world is good" attitude as it has in the script.

John Patrick Shanley's play has already won a Pulitzer Prize and a Tony Award, and should reap further recognition as a film. The movie already has been nominated for two Screen Actors Guild awards and a Golden Globe. In addition, Meryl Streep has been nominated for an Oscar as Best Actress in her performance here, while Hoffman and Adams have been nominated for Best Supporting Roles, respectively. Shanley's adaptation was nominated for an Oscar as well.

On the screen and on the stage, "Doubt" has won the hearts of viewers, and kept them on the edge of their seats as the suspicious, edgy, controversial story unfolds.

Travolta Tragedy

Lindsey Tannenbaum

Staff Writer

On Friday, January 2, 2009, sixteen year-old Jett Travolta was found unconscious in the bathroom of the Old Bahama Bay Hotel, and pronounced dead at the Rand Memorial Hospital in the Bahamas. Jett had a condition which caused him to have seizures about once every four days. He was taking medication called Depokate, which lowered the amount of seizures experienced to an average of once every three weeks. To ensure his safety, Jett was never left alone, but he apparently was alone in the bathroom before being found by his nanny, Jeff Michael Kathrain, that Friday.

Jett's condition, Kawasaki Syndrome, started when he was around two years old. Some believe that exposure to fumes from ordinary household cleaners can cause this condition. The disease caused Jett's blood vessels to become inflamed, which resulted in seizures. He may have also had Autism, which the Travolta family consistently denied, as autism is not recognized by members of the Scientology religion.

The death was hard on the remaining Travolta family members John, Kelly, and eight year-old Ella. "Jett was the most wonderful son that two parents could ever ask for and lit up the lives of everyone he encountered," said

John Travolta. "We are heartbroken that our time with him was so brief."

The autopsy of Jett Travolta was completed the following Monday, and his body confirmed the cause of death as a seizure which caused him to lose consciousness. This still has raised a lot of commotion from medical specialists, as death from seizures is very rare. The most common death from seizures occurs when, during the fifteen-to-twenty minutes of the seizures,

the victim stops breathing. Jett was still alive when he was found on the floor and John attempted to administer CPR, but Jett remained unresponsive. He was then rushed to the Rand Memorial Hospital where he soon was pronounced dead.

Jett was cremated on Monday after the autopsy and flown back to the Travolta's home in Ocala, Florida, where a private memorial service took place. Travolta family friend Mike McDermott stated, "John and Jett had a very strong relationship. Words cannot explain how close they were. This will take a lot of time. His life will never be the same again."



Jett and John in happier times. Courtesy of telegraph.uk

Shrek The Musical!

Jessica Pena

Music Editor

When Mike Myers, Eddie Murphy, and Cameron Diaz get their voice talents together, it spells box office success. With three Shrek movies already on their collective resumes and a fourth one being released in 2010, the rude green-ogre is getting some love from his fans.

Now that love is taking the ogre to Broadway. On December 14, 2008, *Shrek the Musical* debuted on stage and it had audiences laughing out of their seats. USA Today gave the show three and a half out of four stars, writing, "Shrek, which draws from William Steig's book about a lovable ogre and the DreamWorks animated movie that it inspired, is nonetheless a triumph of comic imagination with a heart as big and warm as Santa's. It is the most ingeniously wacky, transcendently tasteless Broadway musical since *The Producers*, and more family-friendly than that gag-fest."

At the opening, when Cameron Diaz was asked if she would reprise her role for the musical, the actress responded, "No. Absolutely not. What they do up there is, to me, impossible. It's wonderful, though. They've done such a great job. They worked really hard, and it really pays off."

While fans might love to see Diaz live, she assured fans that the musical is wonderful theater. "It's hilarious," she said. "There are so many laughs. It's great to see all the actors playing it together, because when we do it for the animated films, we never see each other. We don't work together."

The stage actors that work well together here include Brian d'Arcy James as the lead role of Shrek, Sutton Foster as the lovely Princess Fiona, Christopher Sieber as the cruel Lord Farquaad, and of course everyone's favorite back-talking animal and the wooden boy who lies, Donkey

(portrayed by Daniel Breaker) and Pinocchio (played by John Tartaglia).

The musical has received great critical acclaim, along with the creators behind it. David Lindsay-Abaire, the man behind the idea of *Shrek the Musical*, currently is involved in writing the much anticipated *Spider-Man 4* movie. Jeanine Tesori wrote the songs, and Jason Moore directs the play. Tim Weil serves as musical director, and Josh Prince is the choreographer for the show. The art and technical team consist of Tim Hatley as set and costume designer, Hugh Vanstone as lighting director, and Peter Hylenski as sound designer.

This warm and funny fable is a cross between "Into the Woods" and "Monty Python's Spamalot." According to The Seattle Times, 'Shrek the Musical' possesses something that too few musicals have: real heart.



Brian Darcy James as Shrek. Courtesy of Broadway.tv

Top 8 of '08: The Big Screen

Jessica Pena

Music Editor

The past year had its share of both movie magic and dreadful movies. There were a bunch of sequels, some prequels, and some "no way, you must be kidding me" kinds of movies! So here are the top 8 notable movies of the past year:

1) **The Dark Knight**--verdict says: 5 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Christian Bale, Maggie Gyllenhaal (replacing Katie Holmes who appeared in the first film), Aaron Eckhart, Gary Oldman, Michael Caine, Morgan Freeman, and the late Heath Ledger.

The sequel to *Batman Begins* (2005) starts off from where the last one ended. In this movie, Bruce (Bale) must face Rachael (Gyllenhaal) dating another person who's quite a catch. The new hot shot in Gotham City is D.A. Harvey Dent (Eckhart), who later in the movie happens to be a challenge for Batman, as the D.A. becomes Two-Face-Harvey. Another challenge for Batman is The Joker. The Joker (Ledger) causes problems for the hero as he plays around with the lives of innocent people and the system of justice, which causes citizens of Gotham City and Batman himself to question who is the villain and who is the savior. The rest is history.

2) **Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull**--verdict says: 2 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Harrison Ford, Cate Blanchett, Karen Allen, Ray Winstone, John Hurt, Jim Broadbent, and Shia LaBeouf.

After two decades since the third movie was released, Steven Spielberg brings back the rogue man of action and adventure, Dr. Henry Jones Jr. (Ford). This time he has a new partner, since his old one betrayed him for money. Dr. Jones must now deal with a rebellious slick teenager, Mutt Williams (LaBeouf). With this new partnership, the conflict of two generations must work together to reveal a deep dark secret! Mutt turns out to be Jones' son from Marion Ravenwood (Allen), Jones' first love, in the first Indiana Jones film. Go figure! Even though fans rejoice at that moment, not everyone enjoyed the first hour of the movie, since it was somewhat dull. (*My friend slept through that hour*). Another thing fans and critics did not like was the plot of the movie. Aliens? You've got to be kidding me. The Soviet Agent (Blanchett), the crazy local tribes, the spaceship? Even though the movie made bank at the box-office, the plot sank downhill.

3) **Iron Man**--verdict says: 4 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Robert Downey Jr., Gwyneth Paltrow, Jeff Bridges, and Terrence Howard.

This latest superhero movie by Marvel Comics was different than other superhero movies, in that it was not filmed in the Big Apple, but in L.A. In the film, billionaire weapon builder Tony Stark (Downey) is on a trip to the Middle-East to visit the soldiers and

launch his new weapon, the 'Jericho.' While being driven around by a few soldiers, Stark is attacked by rebels and kidnapped by them. While being kidnapped, he realizes the rebels have most likely stolen his weapons from the



Kung Fu Panda poster. Courtesy DreamWorks

soldiers and used it against them, and also on him, as his heart is injured. The rebels manage to save him in order to force him to re-build the 'Jericho.' At first he refuses, until the man that saved him is threatened. Supposedly working on the 'Jericho,' he builds a machine that can power his heart without the wire attached to the box, and another weapon that would get him and the man that saved him out of there. So as Stark lives and the man who saved him dies, Stark discovers a whole new meaning of life, including shutting down his Weapons Industries. With this new life, Stark takes on his new private project, the Iron Suit, but Obadiah Stane (Bridges), steals the plans for the Iron Suit and brings it on with a direct challenge to Stark. Life and Death! Who will win?

4) **The Mummy: Tomb of the Dragon Emperor**--verdict says: 2 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Brendon Fraser, Jet Li, Maria Bello (replacing Rachael Weisz who appeared in the first two films), John Hannah, Luke Ford, and Isabella Leong.

This anticipated continuation of the mummy saga came as a blockbuster disappointment. For one, Rachael Weisz, who played Evie in the first two movies, didn't return to reprise her role. Instead, Maria Bello took the role of Evie, and the on-screen chemistry with Brendon Fraser just didn't heat up. Alex O'Connell, introduced in the second movie as a little 10-year-old boy, returns in the third installment, only this time as an adult. He gets a love interest with Isabella Leong's character, a woman who gave up her mortality to fight in the battle of good and evil. Even with this twist and the mummy relocated to China (which is a new mummy, played by Li), it still couldn't save people from noticing this was the worst mummy movie ever.

5) **Kung Fu Panda**--verdict says: 4 ½ Stars out of 5

The animated movie features vocal roles by Dustin Hoffman, Jack Black, Angelina Jolie, Seth Rogen, Ian McShane, Jackie Chan, Lucy Lui, and David Cross.

When you put Jack Black and Seth Rogen together in a movie, you'll probably get a hilarious hit film. When you put Jackie Chan and Lucy Lui together in a movie, you'll probably get an action-packed hit Asian adventure film. Adding Angelina Jolie into each of those prior mixes, and combining them all together, you get *Kung Fu Panda*. In this unusual mix of acting talent, each star brings an animated kung fu animal to life. Po (Black), a panda, dreams to become a kung fu master, but realizes he can't because of his weight. But when evil arises, it's up to Tigress (Jolie), Monkey (Chan), Mantis (Rogen), Viper (Liu), and Crane (Cross)—a quintet of supremely skilled martial artists trained by Shifu (Hoffman) to save the day. However they need the Dragon Warrior to succeed in this quest, and that's where Po fits in. After Po destroys the ceremony, the head master decides that Po will become the Dragon Warrior. From there, the true story begins.

6) **The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian**--verdict says: 3 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Ben Barnes, William Moseley, Anna Popplewell, Skander Keynes, Georgie Henley, Sergio Castellitto, Eddie Izzard, Peter Dinklage, and Liam Neesom.

The story continues, but this time 1,300 years have passed in dear old Narnia. In that amount of time, only a year has passed in the real-world of merry old London. Not only that, but the Pevensie children have grown up into teenagers as well. The four return to Narnia and see that everything has changed after they left—the Golden Age has now been diminished and now has become the Dark Ages, where Narnia is no longer ruled by the large lion Aslan (Neesom), but by humans, the Telmarines. The Telmarines have managed to find Narnia, and take the land of the Narnians by means of mass extinction. However not all are dead, which causes the encounter between Prince Caspian (Barnes) and the Pevensies. Here sparks fly between Caspian and Susan, the second eldest child (Popplewell), and a little competition for leadership emerges between Caspian and Peter, the eldest child (Moseley). Could this competition help or destroy the Narnians against the Telmarines? You be the judge of that and how well the movie portrays C.S Lewis' book. Even fans of the book found the movie quite confusing. Even if you know what's going to happen, the movie doesn't remind a viewer of all that has gone before. The fight scene between the boys seems rushed, and the romance between Susan and Prince Caspian seems lacking. Still, you be the judge.

7) **Sex in the City**--verdict says: 4 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Sarah Jessica

Parker, Kim Cattrall, Kristina Davis, Cynthia Nixon, Chris Noth, Candance Bergen, Jason Lewis and Jennifer Hudson.

The film based on the HBO hit *Sex in the City*, is set four years after the series ended in 2004. The movie starts with Carrie (Parker) moving with Big (Noth) into a penthouse, when they decide to get married. After getting carried away with the wedding details, Big has doubts about the 'wedding' because this isn't what he wanted (and Carrie agrees). They wanted a simple wedding. Miranda (Nixon) is having trouble with her marriage, and during the rehearsal dinner she flips out on doubtful Big. She rants about how marriage ruins people, which convinces Big to not go through with the wedding, which is obvious when he doesn't show up. However, Big realizes what he has done and returns to the wedding, only to have Carrie get upset and flip out on him too. When Miranda realizes she caused this whole fiasco, will she set it right? For Samantha (Cattrall), life is committed to a relationship with a younger man (Lewis). Charlotte (Davis) seems to be the only happy one in the bunch. Will happiness catch up to the rest? Get a box of tissues and



The stars of *Sex in the City*. Courtesy of HBO

get ready to cry and laugh with this movie. Trust me, you don't want to miss a thing.

8) **Twilight**--verdict says: 3 Stars out of 5

The movie stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart, Nikki Reed, Kellan Lutz, Ashley Greene, Jackson Rathbone, & Taylor Lautner.

When Bella Swan (Stewart) moves to Forks, Washington, to live with her dad, she gets attention from everyone in the small little town, including an old family friend, Jacob Black (Lautner), and the boys at school, but one in particular, the outsider, Edward Cullen (Pattinson). After Bella grabs Edward's attention, he seems to act weirdly around her, especially when he demands to be switched out the class he's in with her. But it doesn't end there; he starts to ignore her and then leaves for quite a while. This leaves Bella confused, especially when he returns and starts talking to her. When the two continue talking after class, Bella notices that something throws off Edward and he leaves. The initial tension returns, leaving Bella even more confused — so she starts talking to Jacob about the Cullens. Here is where she discovers the truth — that Edward is a vampire. But what's worse than knowing that a classmate is a vampire is that you are in love with him! Oh and that vampire is in love with you, a human. So will this romance turn out happily? Well if you read the other three books by Stephanie Meyer, then you know how it will end. And you also know that this movie left out important and memorable scenes from the book, which many fans criticized. However, it was good for a first adaptation.



Courtesy of Film Detail

Top 8 of '08: The Small Screen

Jessica Pena

Music Editor

1) **The WRITERS GUILD of AMERICA STRIKE** (All Networks)

When the writers decided to go on strike because they wanted more money, TV as we know it came to an abrupt end. Everyone's favorite TV shows moved into re-runs or ended seasons early due to the strike. It was sad; millions and millions of revenue dollars were lost. The ABC Network lost money when it promoted its broadcast of The Golden Globes of 2008, because they had no writers for the show and nominees were boycotting the show in respect for the striking writers. Ultimately, the show was cancelled. Eventually, some late-night talk-shows began airing, with the respective hosts (Leno, Letterman, O'Brien) creating their own scripts. Soon enough, the strike was settled – but not before a ton of money was lost.

2) **SNL** (NBC)

SNL has been on television for several decades now (it started in the mid '70s). For a number of years, its comedy sketches were good. But this year, SNL returned to number one largely based upon its political relevance. The likeness of Tina Fey to that of Governor Sarah Palin was remarkable. When Fey did her Palin imitation, it was pure gold. Even better was when the real Sarah Palin came on the show, confronting Tina Fey impersonating her. SNL did so well with its political satire prior to the election, that it even provided some prime time specials for the network. Overall, it was a great year for SNL, reviving what had been a somewhat tired franchise.

3) **Gossip Girl** (CW)

The show had a great first season and the second is even better, especially the mid-season ender. We learned that Rufus and Lily have a secret love child from when the two were teens. Did you see that one coming? So now a question remains - what will happen to Serena and Dan, since the two now share a sibling? As the 2009 season opener began, we learned that the love child still remains alive! Tune in to learn more as the season continues!

4) **90210** (CW)

The hit show from the '90s returns, but now it features a new cast. The anticipated remake of *Beverly Hills 90210*, now called *90210*, brings back some of the old cast, especially so-called 'frenemies' Jennie Garth and Sherry Doherty (the two, who were rumored to have had a



The cast of the new 90210. Courtesy Access Hollywood

cat fight on set), reprise their roles as Kelly Taylor and Brenda Walsh. This is a historical moment for fans of the old show, especially knowing that Sammy, the son of Kelly, is also the son of Dylan (Luke Perry). But it doesn't end there – Erin Silver (*Jessica Stroup*) is Kelly and David's (*Brian Austin Green*) half-sister, who carries the torch on to this remake.

5) **Bones** (FOX)

Bones proves to have a good fourth season—filming the fourth season opener in London. However, its third season had a lot of fans buzzing when at the end of the season, Zack (*Eric Millegan*) left the Jeffersonian and was

put into a mental institution after helping out a serial killer. Now he returns for one episode in the fourth season, revealing that he didn't kill anyone, which questions his motives as to why he first lied.

6) **House** (FOX)

House always features a good season, but this show just keeps getting better and better. After five years of bickering, pushing each other's buttons, and incessant flirting, House and Cuddy (*Lisa Edelstein*) finally kiss. Even better is when Wilson (*Robert Sean Leonard*) returns after his fizzled "bro-mance" with House and finds out about the kiss, then tries to hook up the two on a date. The two deny that the kiss ever happened and in the mid-season ender, Cuddy adopts a baby.



Bones is going strong. Courtesy of Fox

7) **The Secret Life of the American Teenager** (ABC Family)

American Pie clearly showed teenage audiences that band people were cool and that what happens in band camp stays at band camp. However, the movie never showed you the consequences of band camp and how that happens there really never stays there. Ask Amy Juergens who, at 15, is a freshman at fictional Ulysses S. Grant High School. She gets pregnant after having a one night stand with the high school player, junior Ricky Underwood. The show focuses on Amy's pregnancy and other goings-on at the school. What makes this show a highlight of 2008 was that the creator of the show

is no other than Brenda Hampton, the same woman who created and worked with producer Aaron Spelling on *7th Heaven* (1996–2007).

8) **Live with Jimmy Kimmel** (ABC)

After a tragic split from comedian girlfriend Sarah Silverman, you might think there'd be hard feelings between Kimmel and his ex. But no, the two are good friends, even when there's a strange competition among them. Silverman seems to be with Matt Damon, so Kimmel responded with Ben Affleck. Say what? When wishing Kimmel a 'Happy Birthday,' Silverman created a video with Damon (*you know what's it about*), so that Damon can get back at Kimmel for all the times he "ran out of time" when scheduled to have Damon

on his show. This explains Damon's words at the end of the Silverman video. However Kimmel responded with a video of his own involving Ben Affleck. The video included guest appearances by Robin Williams, Harrison Ford, Cameron Diaz, Christina Applegate, Benji and Joel Madden, Lance Bass, Pete Wentz, Rebecca Romijn, Lauren Conrad, Josh Groban, Mike Shinoda with David Farrell from Linkin Park and unnamed choir singers as recording booth singers, along with Brad Pitt as a delivery man. The two videos got so much press they were nominated for an award by the Academy of Television Arts & Sciences.

"ER" Resuscitates Leno on NBC

Chris Cassevecca

Sports Editor

After a healthy 15-year tenure, NBC's long-running hospital drama "ER" has been suffering from viewer attrition, leading to lower ratings. Therefore, it currently is in its last season. In 1999, "ER" was the top-rated show on television with 25.4 million viewers. In the current season, it has now dropped to #33 in primetime audience ratings, averaging 9.9 million viewers. According to David Bauder, a television writer for the Associated Press, Jay Leno will be taking over the 10 p.m. primetime spot that "ER" has held for the last decade and a half.

Back in March, even the thought of Leno being able to keep his show seemed impossible. However, NBC feels this move will benefit everyone. The network was facing a dilemma in that it did not want to risk losing Leno to a competing network. Jay Leno has worn the crown as king of late night TV for so long that losing him to a competing network could significantly affect NBC's ratings.

While Leno's Tonight Show usually

wins its nightly share of the ratings, NBC as a network currently sits at #4 in the overall ratings. By bringing Leno to their primetime lineup, they not only get to keep one of the most renowned and popular late night hosts ever, but they also save tons of money through not having to fill that 10-11 p.m. timeslot with scripted shows.

Leno took over as the Tonight show host from the beloved Johnny Carson in 1992, and when he renewed his contract in 2004, he told NBC Networks that he would be retiring in 2009. Now that Leno is taking his late night talk

show into primetime, what's going to happen to NBC's other late night show hosts-in-waiting, Conan O'Brien and Jimmie Fallon? Again, things become easier for NBC by moving Leno into primetime, because the late night



Jay and Conan both will remain at NBC.

Courtesy of NBC

schedule remains the same as it would have had Leno retired.

Conan O'Brien takes over Leno's

11:35 p.m. slot and Jimmie Fallon moves into Conan's current 12:35 a.m. slot. These changes should be happening shortly before we go to press, at the end of January. According to the Associated Press, Leno's fellow late night host Conan has told reporters he is thrilled.

"I've known about this for a while," O'Brien said recently during a taping of his current NBC late-night show. "I've talked a lot about this with Jay. I am thrilled. I am absolutely thrilled that Jay is staying at NBC."

Jimmie Fallon has yet to comment on the current situation of Leno's new contract but is assumed to be pleased to get his chance on late night. Jay Leno has faced down the competition before and has triumphed. Johnny Carson hand-picked Leno as his successor and Leno has yet to let him down. It should be interesting to see how America responds to seeing him earlier each weeknight.

Slumdog Millionaire: A Great Film

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

The screen shows that Jamal Malik is one question away from winning 20 million rupees. "How did he do it? A) He cheated. B) He's lucky. C) He's a genius. D) It is destiny."

'Slumdog Millionaire' opens its first scene with that multiple-choice question. Malik, an 18 year-old orphan, is within reach of opportunities he never dreamt of before the final question. So what brought him to this chance of a lifetime?

British director Danny Boyle showcased his independent film at the Toronto Film Festival with intentions of perhaps winning the audience award. Boyle is a director always game for a change of direction and pace. Every film he directs exhibits a different topic of interest, ranging from the sci-fi flick 'Sunshine' to a film exploring heroine addicts in 'Trainspotting.' A distinctive movie like 'Slumdog Millionaire' was no surprise from this eclectic director.

'Slumdog' traces the lives of two brothers living in the slums of Mumbai, India. Losing their mother at a young age, the two siblings continue their lives by traveling to different parts of India in search of happiness and stability. Jamal (Dev Patel) portrays the benevolent brother while his older sibling Salim (Madhur Mittal) plays the rebellious one.

Together they endure life-threatening circumstances that test their love-hate relationship with one another. At times life for the Malikis is all fun and games. They live spontaneously on top of a train for weeks and sneakily manage to take food from the kitchen until they are discovered and thrown off the train. When visiting the Taj Mahal, the two boys disguise themselves as guides who offer tours to foreigners for cash.

Although the brothers experience a sense of liberation, Salim remains a father figure for Jamal. He protects his little sibling when mislead into situations that he knows would crush Jamal forever. Salim helps his brother escape from the wrath of Mamam, a gangster who runs an orphanage and then uses the children to sing and bring back money.

Along with the struggle of survival, love comes into play. At the age of four, Jamal meets Latikah (Freida Pinto), an orphanage girl who was separated from her family as well. Latika and the two brothers name each other after characters from the Three Musketeers. Years later Latika is befriended by Salim when he purposely misses her hand when hopping onto a train. Despite their separation, Jamal fantasizes about Latika every day.

Jamal searches for Latika until he is finally able to locate her in a brothel, where she works as a dancer. Salim fools Jamal once again when attempting to rescue her from Mamam. After killing the gangster to "protect" Latika, he forces Jamal to leave her to himself. Jamal leaves his brother with Latika and finds a job alone as an assistant at a calling center.

It is his love for Latika that encourages Jamal to become a contestant on India's version of "Who Wants to be A Millionaire". Twenty million rupees holds no true value for Jamal. His purpose for participating in the game show is solely because he knew that Latika would be watching.

The questions that Jamal are given allow him to connect with past-time experiences. He finds the answers within obstacles he faced and memorable moments that he encountered when younger. Jamal recalls little facts and details he gathered when traveling from place to place with Latika and himself.

'Slumdog' received exceptional reviews from both The LA Times and The New York Times. A critic from Rolling Stone raves, "What I feel for this movie isn't just admiration, it's mad love. And I couldn't be more surprised. The plot reeks of uplift."

Critics cited the film's superb cinematography. From a chase within the slums to shots of India's urban and rural settings, 'Slumdog' does a great job of filming action and scenery.

Several HHS students also weighed in with opinion. Tenth grader Danny Pierro said, "The film was jaw dropping and constantly kept me on the edge of my seat. Boyle's depiction of India is truly incredible, yet depressing at the same time."

'Slumdog' opens the eyes of millions of teens who live in well-off towns similar to Westchester County. Many have not been exposed to the poverty of Asia that still remains in the majority of India today. People believe that "being poor" means that one lives in a small house in a not-so-good neighborhood. There is no comparison to the real poverty experienced by countless people in India today.

After viewing the movie Angelica Catalano said, "It's unfortunate how those in Westchester carry around Louis Vuitton bags while millions of children in Mumbai are suffering and homeless. Some of these children like Jamal and Salim have little or no money to live off of for the duration of their lives."



vs.



Courtesy of Tech 2

Apple to Apple: Beatle Music Finally Coming to iTunes

Emma Adler

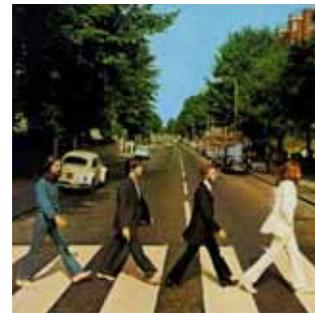
Staff Writer

Good news, Beatles fans -- they're coming to iTunes. At the very least, they should be, and sometime soon. According to the London Telegraph newspaper, Paul McCartney has agreed to a deal with Apple, and will be releasing the band's music to them. For those not in the know, yeah, it's a big deal. The Beatles not being on iTunes has been controversial for some time now; or, rather, not so much controversial as aggravating for fans, especially considering the reasoning behind the Fab Four's not having caved in before.

The Beatles' production company, Apple, was formed in 1968. Apple Inc. (think Macs and iPods) as we know it today was established in 1977 (which actually is farther back than expected). So there's been a bit of a controversy there. The Beatles, because of the name similarity, had previously refused to have their work sold on iTunes and actually were involved in a long, drawn-out lawsuit over the name's use. So what's changed? Is it just that Paul needs extra cash to pony up for his divorce settlement with Heather Mills? The reason why things have changed isn't clear. But what's plain is that it's going to cost Apple Inc. some 400 to 600 million dollars to procure the rights to the Beatle songs. Whatever that final figure amounts to, it will be split between the two living Beatles, Paul and Ringo, and the estates of George Harrison and John Lennon.

Though there presently is no set date on which the music will be released, Paul McCartney has stated that it will occur within the year. So 2009 is the year -- and there's not long to wait.

But have they waited too long? The iPod was launched on October 23, 2001. Since then, it has spawned four separate generations of updates, and now the iPhone is all but equivalent to a Blackberry. In that time, people have had seven years of iPods, and



Abbey Road will soon be on iTunes.

Courtesy of Apple

of iTunes -- of buying music, and of downloading CDs. Some have speculated that it may be too late for Apple Inc. to make much of a profit off the music of The Beatles. Despite their not being on iTunes, many

people have The Beatles on their iPods, either having downloaded their own CDs, or having purchased songs illegally through LimeWire, or some other service. For many die-hard Beatles fans, there is no need to purchase anything further on iTunes.

Those at Apple Inc. are, perhaps, hopeful that The Beatles being available on iTunes will give rise to a revitalization of their music which, frankly, has never suffered too much of a fade away. Perhaps this music's being more easily accessible to teens and children will spawn a new generation of Beatle fans and associated Beatlemania, in appealing to the elusive target market of "Well I like them, but not enough to download my dad's old CDs."

So what will happen? Don't expect anything drastic. Don't expect 10-year olds to be able to distinguish George from Ringo on your new Let It Be zip-up hoodie. Still, there is an awesome hope that somewhere in that daunting top one hundred most downloaded iTunes link that is the "go to" for so many of the Z100 generation, there may be (perhaps at about the mid-eighties spots) "Hey Jude," or "All You Need is Love." That, in itself, would be an achievement.

So there will be Beatles on iTunes. Probably, there will be profits and great success. Wall Street vigilantes, expect to see an increase in Delia's stock -- half of their tee-shirt line is sketch-faced portraits of John Lennon and varied forms of the Abbey Road CD cover.



For Second Straight Year, Super Bowl is "Super"

Chris Cassevecca
Sports Editor

Super Bowl XLIII could go down as one of the best Super Bowls ever played. The Pittsburgh Steelers capped off their season with what might go down as the most dramatic Super Bowl ever played, lifting the Lombardi Trophy after a 27-23 win over the Arizona Cardinals. Super Bowl XLIII could be characterized as record-breaking. Kurt Warner now owns the top three spots for most passing yards in a Super Bowl (414 yards in SB XXXIV, 377 in SB XLIII, and 365 yards SB XXXVI). Kurt Warner also broke the record for most passing yards in a playoff run with 1147 yards and most career passing yards in a Super Bowl with 1156 yards. Pittsburgh Steeler James Harrison also broke a record for the longest return for a touchdown (previous record holder was Green Bay Packer Desmond Howard with his 99-yard return for a touchdown in Super Bowl XXXI) and longest interception (previous record holder was Seattle Seahawk Kelly Herndon who had a 76-yard

interception against the Steelers in Super Bowl XL) when he intercepted a Kurt Warner pass right before halftime.

The Cardinals staged a great comeback, even though they ultimately lost the game. Their 13-point comeback will go down in history as the best comeback

of all time. With phantom flags against the Cardinals and punches by the Steelers that were left unseen by officials, this game seemed to go against the Cardinals in every way, but that wasn't going to hold them back. Down 20-7 in the fourth quarter, the Cardinals never dropped their heads and kept on fighting. The fourth quarter began with a Ben Graham punt for 27 yards. The Cardinal defense then kicked it up a notch, sacking quarterback Ben Roethlisberger. Kurt Warner then put his strong arm to use, passing to all of his targets, including J.J. Arrington and Jerheme Urban then finished off the drive with a 1-yard TD pass to none other than super wide receiver Larry Fitzgerald. The next Cardinal drive was another three-and-out, but they managed to down the punt at the



Santonio Holmes makes controversial sideline catch to seal the win. Courtesy of SI.com

Steelers 1-yard line. This field position eventually led to a safety, due to a holding penalty by center Justin Hartwig. Larry Fitzgerald then used his ability to stretch the field and turned a 13-yard slant into a 64-yard touchdown run to put the Cardinals up by 3. However, even after all the Cardinals did to come back, the Steelers still managed to triumph. With 43 seconds left on the clock, Big Ben put out a 6-yard floater to Santonio Holmes for the lead and eventual win.

In addition to its many historical records, Super Bowl XLIII also will be remembered for its "In Your Face" halftime performance by Bruce Springsteen and a spine chilling, heartfelt "National Anthem" performance by Jennifer Hudson. This was Hudson's first performance since her mother, brother, and nephew were tragically murdered at their home in Chicago. People are saying this was the best National Anthems since Whitney Houston's performance in 1991 (SB XXV). Bruce Springsteen got

the attention of many female viewers, which may be one reason why this was the most watched Super Bowl in history, racking up over 97 million viewers. Bruce Springsteen put on another amazing show for this Super Bowl and

the final drive of the game. If the penalty was called, the 40-yard pass to Santonio Holmes would have been negated and could have cost the Steelers the win. Another seeming penalty that was left untouched was the helmet off un-sportsman like conduct against Kurt Warner. In the NFL, it is considered un-sportsmanlike to take your helmet off to talk to an official and results in a 15-yard penalty. There is also a dispute over Santonio Holmes's celebration after his touchdown for using the football as a prop. If the flag were to have been thrown, it would have taken the Steelers fifteen yards back on the final kickoff to the Cardinals, thus giving the Cards likely better field position. The biggest and most controversial call on the field was the challenge that would have ruled Kurt Warner's last play an incomplete pass instead of a recovered fumble by Pittsburgh. The play was reviewed for a total of 13 seconds and ruled a fumble. After the Super Bowl, officials took another look at the footage and real-



Larry Fitzgerald puts Arizona ahead late in the game. Courtesy of SI.com



Courtesy of www.tenminutesports.com

ended his final song by throwing his junk in the face of the camera.

The officiating of this Super Bowl was controversial. Two calls were overturned by successful challenges from Cardinal coach Ken Whisenhunt. There was an unseen holding penalty on Steeler center Justin Hartwig during

ized it was an incomplete pass, not a fumble, according to ESPN. That call would have given Warner one more shot at the end zone, but instead it led to a quicker Steeler win.

Despite these disputes, it was a great Super Bowl. There was bone-chilling, teeth-grinding excitement all game long, with never a dull moment. Both teams showed a great amount of heart and determination. At the end of the day, it was the Steelers coming up victorious -- the first team to ever have won six separate Super Bowls. This year's Super Bowl will go down in history as one of the best championship games ever played.



"The Boss" rocks the SB XLIII halftime show. Courtesy of www.1010wins.com

Graduating High School Hoop Stars Make The Big Leap

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

A large number of Section 1 high school basketball players have gone on to play Division 1 basketball at big colleges. One might find that hard to fathom, but current NBA star Ben Gordon once was facing rivals at Mount Vernon High School. What most people don't realize is that the class of 2008 graduated a solid core of outstanding local players. If names like Sean Kilpatrick, Mookie Jones, Tony Taylor, and Kevin Jones don't ring a bell for you, then you

probably need to watch more high school basketball. All four of these local players are highly touted for the upcoming season, and you most certainly will hear about them doing great things in the near future.

After graduating Mount Vernon High School in 2008, Michael Coburn was offered a full ride to Rutgers and should see plentiful minutes on the hardwood as a Scarlet Knight. Michael Coburn is one of the many Mount Vernon graduates to have received a full scholarship to a Division 1 School. When Ben Gordon graduated, he was given a full scholarship to play at the University of Connecticut, where he helped lead the Huskies to a National Championship. Another recent graduate who bears watching is Manhattan College's Devon Austin. Austin, formerly of White Plains High School, was given a full scholarship and can now be seen on

televised games. All of these players who have made it at the college level truly are an inspiration to young players who will first be playing in big games for their respective colleges this year.

Mookie Jones has made the transition to college from Peekskill is often featured as an integral part of the Syracuse Orange's quest for victory. A true freshman, Mookie fits well into their system and eventually be a big factor in their overall game plan. At 6'7," Mookie plays small forward, and has good size for his position.

Sean Kilpatrick (formerly of White Plains High School) is attending a prep school this year in preparation to honoring a commitment to play for Cincinnati next season. Kilpatrick is a 6'3" shooting guard, a complete player with a solid outside shot and a quick move to the hoop.

Tony Taylor from Archbishop Stepinac is arguably one of the most exciting players to watch. At 5'11," Tony dominated the section and averaged close to 30 points per game.

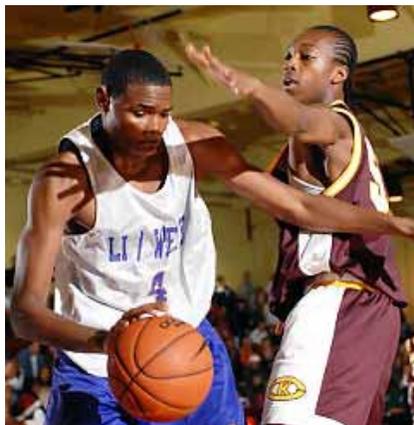


Mike Coburn drives inside. Courtesy of www.dailylife.com

He was offered a full scholarship at George Washington and will have a very bright future there.

These new freshmen will definitely be a major part of their respective college teams' success. Just take a look at how former Mount Vernon High hoops star Kevin Jones is doing. The 6'6" freshman has seen a solid role player with legitimate playing time for the West Virginia Mountaineers. He certainly enhances the rebounding and defensive play for the team.

Ultimately all of these new freshmen have made the leap from Section 1 to the Division 1 level, and they are competing for playing time against the best in the country. In a couple of years, many of these players will certainly be doing great things at the college level, and may even find their names selected in a future NBA draft.



Kevin Jones looks for a lane. Courtesy of The Daily News

Interview with Mike Protano: Who's The Beef?

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

Recently the Husky Herald sat down with star wrestler Mike "Beef" Protano and learned more about what's behind the man on the mat.

HH: Who gave you the nickname "Beef?"

MP: I got the name "Beef" in second grade at the Purchase Community House from Vince Lombardi.

HH: What is your current record as a varsity wrestler?

MP: I'm 28-4, with a lot of pins.

HH: In what weight class do you wrestle?

MP: I currently wrestle in the 285-pound weight class.

HH: Are you interested in wrestling in college, and if not wrestling, are you interested in playing any other sports?

MP: I am somewhat interested

in wrestling in college, but I prefer to play football in college on account of commitment.

MP: I'd say my body type is more suitable for wrestling than any other sport, so I fit the sport well.

them, but you gotta do what you gotta do.

HH: Can you compare the training for other sports and wrestling?

MP: There is no other sport that compares to the training and conditioning for wrestling. I remember the first practice of the year -- I'm pretty sure I lost five pounds in one day. I have played other sports too, and wrestling is by far the toughest.

HH: Who is the toughest opponent you have faced?

MP: I would definitely say Garcia, from North Rockland. He's one kid that is just at a level above everyone else when it comes to wrestling.

HH: Who would win in a match, you or Andrew Planamento?

MP: That's a good question, but I would have to say me.

HH: Does wearing the singletes feel uncomfortable in any way?

MP: I don't enjoy wearing

HH: What is your fastest pin?

MP: 17 seconds.

HH: Why do you wrestle?



Mike Protano takes on another opponent.

Courtesy of Lauren Warshawer

Bowling Team Rolls Toward Improved 2009 Varsity Season

Hank Rubenstein
Co-Editor in Chief

It's a place where the testosterone level is through the roof, the intensity so high that any missed opportunity can be viewed as a lifetime mistake. It's Varsity Bowling, the nation's unsung sport. On any given match day, one can expect to find themselves swarmed with sweaty, determined, and over-emotional teenagers. Kids who, for a short while, hang their hopes and dreams on dropping small white pins, and anticipations grow with each passing ball. Harrison High School finds themselves amidst these competitors for their third season, already beginning to see some promising results. Once a club for kids to fool around with friends, the bowling team has evolved into one of the school's most beloved sports. A position in the starting lineup now is just as coveted as a new trend or must-have material object. The bowling team members are ready and equipped for whatever the lanes throw their way.

Attending one of their matches this past January, the first shock was in seeing how many matches go on at once. Each lane is packed with five bowlers and a few spectators. Coach Ciavarella (Mr. C.) stood a decent distance away from the lane, quietly watching his team progress while subtly coaching each player. That day the teams' focus was entirely on the match. Each pin knocked down brought them closer to upsetting top-ranked Mamaroneck. The Tigers had already defeated the Huskies once this season and weren't planning on losing anytime soon.

The teams play three games each, getting two points for winning a match and one point for most overall pins. In match one, Harrison went out strong, winning by a large margin of 100 pins. The team's early attack was lead by junior Sajan Patel. Sajan, a second year member of the team, knows what it takes to compete on the big stage. His numbers have been pretty solid so far this season and only show signs of improvement.

"I've had a good season so far," he said. "My performance against Mamaroneck was really good, and it definitely helped the team out."

After the first match, Senior Captains Steven Dimilia and Phil Di-

lullo felt confident that they could pull away with the "W," as long as the team stayed consistent.

Harrison followed their game plan, but were being outbowled by a feisty Mamaroneck squad. The Tiger bowlers had no problem letting emotions fly, practicing heel clicks and air high-fives after strikes.

"Those kids always bring heart to the game," said Coach Ciavarella. "I try telling my team to reach down for something extra during the match. Mamaroneck understands that concept."

Although it appeared that the Huskies would have total pins in the bag, they still needed to win the third and final match with the score knotted at two apiece. As the first frame began, Coach Ciavarella left his distant post and approached the team. It was clear that these next ten frames would be some of the biggest all season.

"I told the kids they needed to relax and bowl and the pins will come," said Coach C. "Yesterday was a tough day. We were without senior Jason Neu and had to ask sophomore Bennett Wissack to step up."

Wissack has been a member of the team for the past two seasons and holds the team's season high score of 263. In early January, Wissack found himself in the tenth frame having already achieved nine strikes. Although he was unable to complete the 300, Wissack's performance will certainly go down in the history books.

"During the fifth frame I told teammate Joe the Pro that I just was feeling it," Bennett said.

The Huskies stayed neck and neck with the Tigers for the entire third match, once again following the lead of junior Sajaan "Saigon" Patel. Patel accounted for five straight strikes in the latter half of the game to accompany the team's three frames of complete pin decimation. The late strike by Harrison wasn't taken lightly by the Tigers; Mamaroneck bowlers only seemed to get better as the Hus-



Phil Dillulio shows mad style on the lanes.

The Huskies were inching closer to winning the match. As the tenth frame began, it was clear the Huskies would need a stellar performance to have any chance of winning.

Sophomore Wissack and senior captain Dillulio led the rally with tenth frame turkeys, but they were left empty-handed as the other three bowlers' impressive frames were not quite good enough to steal the match from Mamaroneck. The Tigers won the third game, clinching the 4-3 victory (though the Huskies achieved a third point by virtue of winning the pin total).

"It's tough to handle right now," said a disappointed Dillulio. "I'm proud of what we did because we lost 7-0 last time to these guys, but I really feel we should have won today."

The boys aren't the only ones who take the lanes after school. Harrison also has an impressive girls' team. The

Courtesy of Shreena Shah team is led by junior Molly Stevens, whose older brother Mo was a frequent starter during the '08 season.

"What can I say," Stevens quipped, "bowling is in my blood." When Stevens steps on the lanes, it's all business. She explained her stance: "Like I tell the team, we're in it to win it."



Jenna Grippo, going for the spare.

Courtesy of Alison Nathanson



Courtesy Top End Sports

Titans Skate Into Playoffs

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

The Rye Town/Harrison Titans, coming off a season in which they finished 13-9 and made a run into the playoffs, lost a few key senior players. Still, they have battled all season long to achieve success. Although the Titans' record stands at 1-8-1 currently, the team will still qualify for the playoffs because they play in



Dean Brancucci fights for puck. Courtesy of LoHud.com

Harrison is well represented on this composite team, with forwards Harry Reibman, Joe Porzio, Andrew Grosser, Matt Jacobson, and

Matt Baer scoring goals this season. Other upperclassmen include Jimmy Daraio, Jeff Heine, and Connor Strozza. Adam Urban leads the team in both goals and assists, with 17 and 14, respectively, and is tied for third in the league for goals scored. The Titans fell to Rye earlier in the season, but they will look to split the season series with their cross-town rival on February 13. With a strong end to their season, the Titans hope to make a playoff run once their regular season concludes on February 18.

HUSKY HOOPLA AS TEAM HEADS TO PLAYOFFS FOR FIRST TIME IN YEARS

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

When you are coming off a season record of 3-17, you know all about adversity. The Harrison High School Boys Varsity Basketball team learned last season that winning wasn't a common occurrence. However, during the off-season, the Huskies resolved to improve their skills through dedication, commitment, and extra strength training in the weight room. As of now, the extra work seems to be paying off. Heading into the last segment of the current season, the Huskies boast a record of 8-10, and the team morale seems to be rapidly improving. With a certain playoff appearance in store, the team has more than doubled its total number of wins from the prior season, and truly is in the running to be a real playoff contender.

The major change from last season to this season has been mostly been the level of maturity shown by the starting five. With significant improvement from sophomore guard Brendan O'Shea, junior forward Jarred Hodes, sophomore point guard Mike Chiarella, junior center Dennis Rinaldi, and senior guard Sam Goldman. With an entire shift in the attitude of the play-

ers, the Huskies have been taking their opponents by surprise.

Strong contributions from other players on the team have helped to elevate play for the boys.

"We're a maturing team, and as long as we play defense we'll be in good shape," says senior James Falciglia, a two-year player and major contributor to the Huskies' success thus far on both sides of the ball. All of the boys certainly have their eyes on the playoffs. From this point on, every additional win promises the Huskies a higher seed come the playoffs, against a likely weaker opponent. This upcoming playoff appearance will be the first one for the Huskies in five years.

The Huskies have changed their strategy offensively and defensively for this new season. Coach Chiarella and Coach Pesco have implemented a swarming defensive mentality which stresses applying pressure and attacking the ball handler. As far as offense goes, the Huskies utilize their speed and generally run the floor for quick transition points. Their run-and-gun style offense has helped them to put up higher final scores. Ultimately the team lacks size, but each member plays with a lot of intensity and it is shown during the games. If you have not checked out this newly improved Harrison team, definitely swing by the gym.

Clearly this year's team already



Dennis Rinaldi goes up big against Spring Valley.

Courtesy of Ms. Diane Frawley

2008-2009 Roster

Mike Chiarella
Brendan O'Shea
Dennis Rinaldi
Jarred Hodes
Sam Goldman
James Falciglia
Zack Eklund
Will Oggieri
George Stokoe
Steve Decarlo
Benny Menetti
Brady Klein

Coach: Mike Chiarella
Asst. Coach: Dan Pesco
Manager: RJ Suhre

has exceeded all expectations and is turning heads throughout the section. After beating teams like Tappan Zee, Yonkers, Ardsley, and Nyack, the Huskies have shaken things up. Look for the Huskies to play deep into the play-

offs this season. This Cinderella team seems to have what it takes, and with that kind of spirit, you never know how far they will go.

Varsity Boys Swim Team Dives into Divisionals

Chris Cassevecca

Sports Editor

With the Divisionals right around the corner, the Boys' Swim Team has shown nothing but "excellence" according to Coach Phillip Dearstyne. The captains for the Harrison Boys' Swim Team are Matt Pon, Jeremy Ng, and Chris Malfitano. Each formidable swimmer has shown facets that help contribute to the team as a whole. Matt Pon has helped this team all season by using his ability to do multiple swims without flaw. His main strokes are the fly,



Jeremy Ng about to race.

Courtesy of Liz Dowling

breast, IM and 500 free. Other swimmers who have been huge parts of this successful season are Matt Carducci with the Butterfly stroke, J.T. Nangle, with his Individual Medley and Back Strokes, and Chris Malfitano and Sean Yang with their Freestyle strokes.

As of this writing, the boys' swim record this season is 5-1, with two huge wins over Keio Academy and Yorktown. Those wins were both inspirational, considering that those two teams are in faster

leagues than Harrison. The swim team's only loss thus far was to Our Lady of Lourdes which may have been due in part to a media error when Harrison Swimmers' times were not recorded accurately.

With two more big meets against Nyack and Ossining upcoming, Coach Dearstyne sees these as preparation for the Divisionals against Our Lady of Lourdes. Coach Dearstyne stated "Our current goal is to defeat Our Lady of Lourdes at Divisionals.



Greg Van Tongeren gets ready.

Courtesy of Liz Dowling

This will be tough because, although we take a few first places at this meet, they have the depth to take 3rd, 7th, and 10th, which will trump our first place points."

After Divisionals, those swimmers who qualify will swim for the Sectionals team, and those who go on to win at that level would qualify for States. These swimmers have prepared hard all season and this team is literally holding its collective breath for another victorious extended season.