

Husky Herald

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Harrison High School

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The Man Behind Morrie

An interview with Mitch Albom

Alexis Rubenstein

Staff Writer

Mitch Albom is not only a successful author; he's also a journalist, a screenwriter, a playwright, a radio and news broadcaster, and a musician. He is a man of many talents who has come a long way from his original goal. After college, Albom planned to pursue his dream and become a musician. When that career wasn't taking off, he turned to journalism and headed back to school.

Paying for school through playing piano, he earned his MBA from Columbia University Graduate School of Business. After this he spent time being a freelance journalist in New York for many prestigious publications. His first full time newspaper job was as a feature writer and eventual sports columnist for *The Fort Lauderdale News* and *Sun Sentinel* in Florida. He moved to Detroit in 1985, where he became a nationally-acclaimed sports journalist at the *Detroit Free Press*

and one of the best-known media figures in that city's history, working in newspapers, radio and television. He currently hosts a daily talk show on WJR radio and appears regularly on ESPN's *Sports Reporters* and *SportsCenter*. Albom is currently married to Janine Sabino.

In a recent personal interview, The Husky Herald delved into Albom's life. He provided some good life lessons to keep in mind as he willingly shared some personal experiences.

Husky Herald (HH): When did you first realize you wanted to be a writer?

Mitch Albom (MA): Well probably when I was about 23. I was working as a musician here in New York and I was looking to do something else, because I wasn't doing particularly well at music and there was a little local newspaper that they gave out at



Alexis Rubenstein and the author. The supermarket. I pick one up and it had a little ad that said, "If you have spare time, we could use some extra writers." I thought, well, that sounds creative, maybe I'll try that. So I wrote a little story for them and it came out in the next week's paper and I saw my name under what I had written and I was probably hooked right from there.

HH: How long does it take you to write a book?

MA: Well there is a difference between how long it takes from the time you start typing it and how long it takes from when you start thinking about it. I mean I really think you start

Courtesy of Alexis Rubenstein writing the minute you're done writing your previous book. So *Tuesdays With Morrie* I started when I started to visit him. It came out two years later, so that was that. Then I didn't do another book for six years, and I would say it took me all of six years to be thinking about what I didn't want to do and if I did want to write another. With the other books, it has been about three years between each. So you could say that long, or you could say from the time I sit down in front of the typewriter it's about a year, year-and-a-half of writing. But you really can't separate the two. They are part of the same.

(Continued on page 4)

Wool Named NY Superintendent of the Year

Emily Singer

Managing Editor

On December 9, the New York State Council of School Superintendents named Harrison Superintendent Louis Wool as the recipient of the 2010 New York Superintendent of the Year award.

The Council's Distinguished Service Chair, Dr. William Johnson, stated in a press release, "It is clear that his priorities are to open doors of opportunity for every child in his school district. It is wonderful to have someone represent us who is making a merger of excellence and equity a priority in the system he leads."

Thomas Sobol, a professor at Columbia University and former Commissioner of Education, said of Wool, "One of his most stunning achievements has been, and is now, to bring together the diverse population within his own school district and beyond as well [...] As a teacher, a supervisor, a superintendent, a college teacher, and Commissioner of Education, I have worked with hundreds of superintendents and superintendents-to-be. Louis Wool is among the best."

Wool has served as Superintendent of Harrison since 2002. Prior to

that, he was Assistant Superintendent of Harrison and Director of Secondary Education in Mount Vernon.

With Louis Wool as Superintendent, Harrison's schools have drastically improved. Course tracking, which locks students into certain academic paths based on course difficulty, has been eliminated. Access to AP courses has increased – 950 AP tests were administered in 2009, whereas only 180 examinations were taken in 2002. Enrollment in AP Calculus courses has quadrupled since 2002, and 97% of eighth grade students are enrolled

in ninth grade algebra. Wool has also introduced an elementary foreign language program, strings and orchestra programs, and science research.

Wool considers "increased student performance across all demographics and among students of all academic abilities" to be one of his greatest accomplishments, in addition to "improving the academic reputation of our high school," which benefits students in the college admissions process.

Since 2002, the Harrison Central School District has received a AAA

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If you could create your own midterm, what would it assess?



Gaspare Fiorenza, Freshman
"How to pick up girls"



Jacob Temkin, Sophomore
"MTV's Jersey Shore quotes"



Alexandria Brown, Junior
"The mind of Lady Gaga"



Arielle Fried, Senior
"How to overthrow Model Congress"

Inside interviews: Matty on page 5 and Jimmy Roberts on page 15

news & features

Moot Court: In Brief

Alexis Rubenstein

Staff Writer

"I object!" This common phrase is often heard in any movie or television show having to do with law, say *Law and Order: Criminal Intent* or the movie *Legally Blonde*. The cases and phrases in the entertainment industry, however, are not similar to the cases the Harrison High School law students have to argue.

On a Thursday this past November, local high school students put on their advocacy hats, as they tried to argue their way to victory in the annual Donald N. Silverman Moot Court Competition sponsored by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission. The competition is in honor of attorney Donald Silverman and is facilitated by his wife, Robin.

A select eight students from Harrison competed in the competition. This year, a total of 15 schools competed in a heated competition about a very interesting and engaging case. The case given to the students was about a transgendered female who was fighting the fact that she was not allowed to play on the female basketball team and the fact that her fourteenth amendment rights were violated by the dress code and the manner in which she chose to dress.

In the trial court, the court had ruled that the school had not broken the law. The case was brought to the appellate court, where those who did not agree with the decision (in this case the law students of the moot court compe-

tion) further argued the case. Each school was placed on different sides of the case. Representing Harrison was senior Jenna Grippo; juniors Jamie Pitiger and Tessa Greenburg; and sophomores Chloe Williams, Alexis Rubenstein, Danny Glass, J.T. Nangle and Rachel Ostreicher. The students

where all remaining teams competed and argued their case before a panel of three judges. These were real administrative law judges and attorneys, generously volunteering their time for the competition.

The attorneys of Harrison High School were very successful. While



The Moot Court team.

Courtesy of Alexis Rubenstein

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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.

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were paired off to work together as a team and each team was required to research and review applicable laws and then required to prepare a written brief. The Harrison team prepared to argue the side of the case which represented the student who was allegedly discriminated against and had her freedom of speech and expression violated by the school.

As Harrison was representing the transgendered female (or "the petitioner"), the "attorneys" were against the team who represented the school. They then had to compete in the case off brief, testing their knowledge of the case. Students participating in the competition competed in two rounds of argument the first day and then four teams made it to the second day,

they did not return home winners in the oral argument, they did win runner-up for the best legal brief in the petitioner category. Mentor and coach of the team, Mrs. Tiffany Garner, had the following to say about the results of the competition:

"I'm very proud of the students who participated in the Silverman Moot Court Competition. They did a wonderful job arguing complex constitutional issues and defending human rights. It is an honor that they won the runner-up award for best legal brief in the Petitioner category."

Next year, the law students hope to return to the competition and perhaps win a few more awards.



Courtesy of Josh Elder

Beyond the Classroom: Ms. Manno

Emily Singer

Managing Editor



It seems that every year, Harrison High School welcomes new math teachers, and this year is no different. While some new teachers seem too intense or intimidating to be befriended, Ms. Monica Manno is quite the opposite. The Husky Herald was lucky enough to sit down with the new AP Statistics and Probability and Statistics teacher to ask a few questions in order to get to know her better.

HH (Husky Herald): **Give us a thirty-second autobiography.**

MM (Monica Manno): I grew up in Rockland County as the youngest of eight kids; it was lots of fun having so many older siblings around to play with and learn from. I graduated high school and went to the University of Delaware before transferring to SUNY Oswego. In my senior year of college, I studied abroad in Australia. It was a last minute decision that I will cherish forever. I went to grad school at Syracuse University. It was a great experience to live in a small city, teach, and go to school. I love to learn, travel, read, play sports, watch sports, and be with my family.

HH: **How did having such a large family affect you as a person?**

MM: Very interesting question. I think it has made me a better person in every possible way. My family is the most important part of my life. A lot of people think it's a little bit crazy to have so many siblings, but I wouldn't change it for the world. I guess the biggest lessons I've learned are one, how to share, and two, not to sweat the small stuff – health and happiness are the most important. My family is a bunch of storytellers so I had to learn to speak up or else I wouldn't be heard. I learned how to play sports, be social, and interact with others, be caring and helpful. The best part of having eight siblings is that I always had unconditional love and support from so

many people. Maybe slightly off topic, but my mom is the strongest person I know. I never had the chance to meet my grandmother (my mother's mom) but she always told my mother (who in turn always told us), "Educate a woman and you educate a family." My mom took this line literally with all of her kids and made sure that all eight of us went to college.

HH: **What were you like in High School?**

MM: While in high school I thought I was your "average" student and then I realized I wasn't. I loved school and loved learning – math of course, but other classes

too – astronomy, oceanography, meteorology, biology, CAD, DDP, etc. I played sports and was very involved in clubs such as Interact, SADD, National Honor Society, and Mu Alpha Theta. Even as I went on through college and grad school, I continued to stay involved in clubs and volunteering.

HH: **When did you decide that you wanted to be a teacher? Why statistics?**

MM: Just like many kids, I loved my elementary school teacher, so at age 7 I decided I was going to be an elementary school teacher. Then, in middle school, I found another teacher I admired and decided at age 13 I would teach middle school. Of course, again in high school I had another teacher who inspired me to love math and teaching, so when I was 16 I decided I would teach

high school. In my senior year I went through a bunch of different phases as to what I wanted to be: astronaut, engineer, computer programmer, etc. When push came to shove, I stuck with my passion for math and teaching. You ask why statistics? I just sort of fell into it, I guess. While at Syracuse you are given teaching assignments each semester and I was assigned to teach probability and stats over the summer and during the year. At first I thought I would hate it. I always loved the precision of the pure maths like calc, but the more I taught it, the more I grew to love it.

HH: **How did you end up at Harrison High School?**

MM: My family is from Rockland County, so when it was time for me to leave Syracuse, I began searching for jobs in the lower Hudson valley. I had heard of Harrison and was interested in its unique approach to teaching, so when I heard a representative would be at a teacher job fair, I made sure to be there. At the job fair I got to meet and speak with Dr. Brian Ladewig and learn more about the values of Harrison. After this meeting, I knew that Harrison would be a good fit for my teaching style and goals.

HH: **Rumor has it you arrive at school at 6 in the morning and don't leave until at least 7 at night. Why?**

MM: [Laughs] Well, as some might say, there is a little truth in all rumors. I generally get to school at

6:40 and leave at 8. Believe me, I know it is a little crazy – my friends and family remind me all the time! I stay for a variety of reasons. First, extra help: I try to make myself as accessible as possible for all my students, and this requires me to be here before and after school each day. Second, I like to support the students of Harrison, so I will stick around for sports or other events. Third is the most obvious – planning, photocopying, and grading. To be honest, I don't mind it. If I tried to leave earlier, I would just be doing work at home and/or sitting in traffic. I'm more productive here. So far, so good!

HH: **What is the best advice that you have ever received?**

MM: Don't leave for tomorrow what you can do today. I was always a go-getter; once I had my mind set on doing something, I was going to get it done no matter what it took. Some other good advice, don't sweat the small stuff – this is sometimes easier said than done. And just one more: I had a professor (Dr. Jack Graver) and every time I went to his office hours or asked him a question after class, I would always say, "Sorry Professor Graver, but can you just help me with..." Finally one day, he looked at me and told me that I should never be sorry for trying to learn. I guess this goes along the lines of when teachers say there are never any stupid questions.

HH: **What are three things that students don't know about you?**

MM: I love to read just as much as I love math. I love roller coasters and everything outdoors. I was an R.A. at the University of Delaware. I'm an avid blood donor and I've donated 12" of my hair three times to Locks of Love. I'm currently growing out my hair to donate again.



Ms. Manno.

Courtesy of Lauren Warshauer

New Black Box Theatre Coming Soon

Amy Carton

Staff Writer

Currently, the HHS planetarium is undergoing construction. Many students, however, are not aware of the changes that are being made, and have not taken the opportunity to see what has been accomplished. While these renovations are taking place, the dance class, taught by Ms. Gregory, is using the empty space for practice. By the time these changes are completed, the planetarium, which will be known as the "Black Box Theater," will be fully equipped with the latest high-tech planetarium technology and will also function as a dance space. One neat aspect of the theater is that the dome used to project the sky in the planetarium is still in place, and has become the major light source.

As noticeable when first entering the theater, the Black Box Theater gets its name from the black painted walls and the accompanying black floors.

In the meantime, mirrors have been placed on the front and side walls for the dance classes. In addition, the dancers no longer have to take the time out of their class to clear the stage of band and chorus equipment. This allows for the students to get more out of the class, and have more time to practice. Ms. Gregory is especially happy with the change. "The dance program now has its own space for the dancers to practice and rehearse in. It provides an area where the dancers feel comfortable to practice and perfect their technique." The dance

studio was constructed as a Black Box Theater which gives the dancers a sense of always being on stage. The Planetarium lighting is also an added bonus in that it gives students a feeling of being on stage. The construction of the theater has been a great asset to the performing arts program. Because of the construction however, there are days where the dance studio is not available, and the dance classes are forced to use the stage. While having a separate room dedicated to the dancers is a plus, the floors are not ideal. When wearing shoes, dancing is not a problem in the theater, but when wearing socks, or bare feet, dancing becomes more difficult. When asked about dancing in the Black Box The-

ater, freshmen Daniela Castillo stated, "After one or two classes, the floor rips everyone's socks."

On the other hand, the dance studio provides a more welcoming and comfortable environment than the HPAC stage. For some people, having the private room without several rows of seating and vast empty space in the distance is more comfortable. Also, the theatre offers more privacy. Freshmen Stephanie Dragone had the following to say, "I like the new studio; it looks and makes dance class seem both more artistic and realistic." When the Black Box Theatre is completed, it will be a great studio for the dance classes.

Mitch Albom's Insights

(Continued from Front Page)

two. They are part of the same.

HH: **What is your most interesting writing quirk?**

MA: Well I write first thing in the morning always, come downstairs and get a cup of coffee and I sit downstairs and I write and I don't take any phone calls or talk to anyone or anything. If I have any kind of interference, or have the television on, I don't want to hear anything. It's like I want to write with a very clean head slate, and I usually only write until about 10 o'clock in the morning, from 7 to 10 or something like that. And then I don't write the rest of the day because by then my head is all clogged up with noise and phone calls, so that's pretty much the only time I have.

HH: **How do your books affect your own life?**

MA: There are two answers -- the true ones like *Tuesdays With Morrie*, since it's a true story obviously -- there were things that happened and affected me before I ever wrote the books. Things like visiting with Morrie affected me tremendously. I would have never been able to write the new book (*Have A Little Faith*) without visiting with Pastor Henry and Rabbi Albert Lewis. That affected me to write the book, so in those cases, I was affected before I ever even wrote the book and that's what led me to write the book.

In the case of the other ones, after they come out it affects you in that people start asking questions related to it or everyone has got a per-

"I tend to hear a lot of stories that affect my life more than anything."

sonal story that somehow relates. It seems with stories of mine that I end up hearing a lot of other stories, I become sort of like everyone's confidant with all everyone wants to tell me. Sometimes you get sad stories about people they love, people that died. So each one sort of brings in, you know, a whole next year just inundated with people reacting to the book or sharing their stories with me so I have to be a very good listener a year after a book comes out. I tend to hear a lot of stories that affect my life more than anything.

HH: **What does your family think of your writing?**

MA: Well I think my family understands my writing in a different way than everybody else does. I grew up in a pretty big family and we would have these big thanksgivings and holidays, and everyone at the table knew how to tell a story. If you didn't, you didn't talk, because they wouldn't give you the time of day. So we all learned how to tell our stories around that table. And you had to talk quickly and know how to be interesting and be emotional. I don't think it's a big surprise to them that I can write a story, because they watch me tell stories all the way through. They all could have been

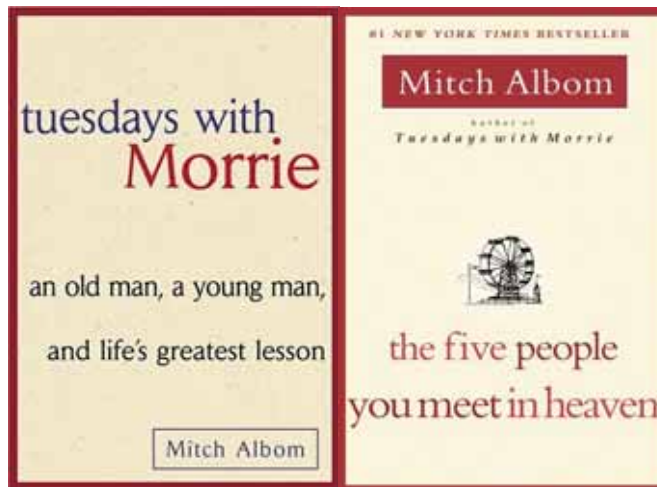
writers: my brother's a good story teller and could be a good writer if he wanted to. My sister is a good writer and, if she wanted to write books, she would be great. So I think they kind of think it's like, oh he is writing stories and they are actually published. It wasn't like a shock as if they didn't know I could tell a story. They are all kind of woven into my stories.

HH: **You have now written two non-fiction and two fiction books. Which do you enjoy writing more?**

MA: Well it's probably more fun to write fiction, because you can always make up anything you want, and it's sort of like a fairytale or fairytale. I can do this, I can do that, I can make this up. But on the other hand, you never know when you've gone far enough or you could come up with something that would make it better and you could have put it in. Whereas with writing non-fiction, you can only tell the truth: like when I wrote *Tuesdays With Morrie*, maybe this would have been a better story if

ers -- you pick up books you like and try to write like those books when you're in high school. Try to mimic them and that writer's particular style. Write a paragraph just like them -- even copy it. You're not going to publish it; it is just an exercise. Copy what they wrote and see how it feels to write those sentences yourself. Try to find a voice, and just read, read everything. Don't try to sit down and say I want to try and write a 300-page book -- you're in high school and you are still learning things. So just read a lot and maybe bring around a little notebook and when something strikes you as a sentence about things or maybe you hear a phrase or look at a wall, and an idea comes to your mind. Like that wall reminds me of a rotted grapefruit. And you go, "Oh that's interesting, let me write that down." Just capture it and see if, when you read your own notebook, you say, "Hey, there is a lot of good stuff in here."

HH: **What kind of student where you like in high school?**



Two of Albom's novels.

Courtesy of wordpress and vox.com

Morrie had a sister who was visiting. Well you know what -- he didn't, so she can't. You just tell the truth. But in a novel, well maybe you should have a brother, or two sisters, or two brothers. So your imagination starts to run away with you and you need to know when to shut it off. You know it's hard to know when you have finished coming up with enough good ideas. So it's more fun to do fiction but it's also more maddening, because you never really know when you are done. With my non-fiction stuff, everything is there that I want to say and then I am done with the story.

HH: **What's your one tip for high school students who want to become writers?**

MA: At high school level, I think they have to read and I know that that sounds boring, but you really have to read everything. You can't contemplate being a writer without being a reader any more than being a musician without ever listening to music. You know no musician will simply pick up a guitar and start monkeying around with it -- they listen to other musicians and want to play like those musicians. The same thing with writ-

ers. I was a pretty good student. I was very interested in talking to kids in class. I got in trouble a lot for talking to the girls, passing notes, and I used to always know I could get out of it by being able to get a good grade. I used my good academic skills to try and make excuses for my social interests. But when I look back on it, I wish I had paid more attention. I think I tried to pass or I tried to get good grades, but there is a difference between trying to get good grades and learning. If I could do it over again with what I know now, I would actually try to learn because there is stuff that I still don't know about American history or European history or basic math. I would get it right on the test because I studied, but I didn't really learn it and it hasn't stayed with me now. I feel ignorant sometimes, and I know it's too late to go back to high school. So I would advise everybody: don't just learn to pass the test, learn to learn.

HH: **What was your favorite subject in high school?**

MA: Probably English...anything where we got to read and write. Math was not, and science definitely, was not. I was terrible at those things.

HH: **What do you like to do when you are not writing?**

"You can't contemplate being a writer any more than being a musician without ever listening to music."

MA: Play music -- I would have been a musician. I was a musician when I got out of school and if I had my preference back then, I would much rather have been a musician than a writer. If I could have made a good living at it, I would still rather probably be doing that (he laughs). So...listening to music, playing music. I have a lot of musician friends. First and foremost, I do that. But I watch a lot of sports because I am a sports writer, but I don't really call that work. And I travel. I've seen so much of the world that I know how little of the world there is to see, and it makes you want to see more of it. I don't have enough years left in my life to see all the places I want to see. I try to knock them off a little at a time.

HH: **What is it like being a sports commentator and a sports writer?**

MA: Well these days it has changed from when I first started, 20 to 25 years ago. When I first went into it, there was a certain innocence and you were excited to be at the events and excited about the performances. Then I was closer in age to the athletes; I was in my twenties, and so were they -- it was a little simpler and more fun then. Now the sports writing business has gotten very angry. You have to be lecturing people all the time and wagging fingers. Everyone wants you to yell and scream and

"I think I tried to pass or get good grades, but there is a difference between trying to get good grades and learning."

get somebody fired. If you're not angry, you are not being serious. I don't think that is right; sports should always be fun. When they start turning into anger, Tiger Woods stories and things like that, it's not why I got into the sports part of it. In the last 25 years, it has gone from being a camaraderie kind of thing and cheering along with the fans to where you need to be better somehow and act better and lecturing the athletes and pointing your finger and saying all their faults, and how bad they are. It's gotten kind of ugly and not as much fun now as it used to be.

Mitch Alborn has written many books - here are summaries of several of his more popular titles:

The Five People You Meet in Heaven

Alborn's most successful novel ever is about a man named Eddie who works doing maintenance at the Ruby Pier. He suffers a freak accident in which he dies. Eddie finds himself in heaven, where he encounters five people who have significantly affected his life, whether he realized it at the time or not. Mitch Alborn dedicates the book to his uncle Edward Beitchman. He says that he wants people like his uncle who felt unimportant here on earth to realize, finally, how much they mattered and how much they were loved. The book explores the life and death experience of Eddie. This book spent 95 weeks on the New York Times' bestseller list.

Tuesdays with Morrie

This true story is about Mitch Alborn's professor Morrie Schwartz, whom Alborn reconnected with for the last few months of Morrie's life. Morrie was dying from Lou Gehrig's disease (ALS) and Mitch wanted him to know how important Morrie was to him. Mitch started to visit Morrie every Tuesday, at which time Morrie would share with Mitch stories and lessons about life. During this time, Mitch realized he would write a book about Morrie, a book to celebrate Morrie's life and to help him pay for medical bills. This book was like the last class from Morrie to Mitch. It is a love-filled book in which Morrie shares his passion for learning and his love for life.

For One More Day

A sad but uplifting story about a mother and son who explore their relationship beyond a lifetime, while exploring an interesting question: What would you do if you could spend one more day with a lost loved one? The story is about a boy named Charley who had a strong relationship with his father. When his father dies, Charley's life goes downhill and things get worse as he gets older. When one event puts him over the edge, he decides to commit suicide. Before he does that, he visits his old home where he finds his mother who died eight years ago. She welcomes him as if nothing ever happened and for that one more day they are able to change things. This fictional novel truly is inspirational.

Have a Little Faith

Alborn's newest book in which two faiths manage not to divide people, but to bring them together. Mitch Alborn's old time rabbi asks him to deliver his eulogy. Mitch says that if he will do it he must sit down and become friends with the rabbi and see him in real life. Then Alborn meets a pastor named Henry- an ex-convict and a drug addict. The novel tells the stories of the Rabbi and Henry through their respective points of view, with additional accounts from Alborn. This story dives into the interesting, sad, but exciting lives of all three men and the many people they affected. The story moves between many worlds, Christian and Jewish, African-American and white, impoverished and well-off. Alborn observes how these very different men use faith similarly in fighting for survival: the older, suburban rabbi, embracing it as death approaches; the younger, inner-city pastor relying on it to keep himself and his church afloat.

HHS Icon Retires

Joey Loreti

Sports Editor

Prior to a recent retirement, Security Officer Matty D'Agostinis has been a fixture in the halls of Harrison High School. We recently sat down with Matty to find out the stories behind his years of service here.

Husky Herald (HH): You graduated from Harrison High School (though the high school then was where the middle school is currently located). How has high school changed since you were a student?

Matty D'Agostinis (MD): Definitely the discipline has changed; when we would get wise with our teachers they would come down on us much harder, but I guess it was okay back then.

HH: What are your plans after retirement?

MD: I'll be going down to Florida to spend my winters with my two sons and grandchildren.

HH: Tell us briefly about your life from when you graduated HHS to when you later returned to HHS.

MD: After I graduated in 1965, I attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City for two years, before being drafted into the military. I served a total of three years, six months, including 13 months in Vietnam. After being discharged I worked for the town until retiring in 2002, and I've been here ever since.

HH: How has school security changed in the time you have been here?

MD: Well, the kids are much more respectful; they listen to what we say, which was not the case in my

first few years.

HH: Tell us a favorite story of something that happened to you here.

MD: Back during my first year here in 2003, a fight broke out between two senior girls, and when I tried to get in between them, they basically beat me up in an attempt to get at each other.

tle bit about your athletic career.

MD: I participated in Track, Gymnastics, Football, and Basketball while I was a letterman here at HHS. Gymnastics actually just started up when I was a junior, and I participated in the parallel and high bars.

HH: Have you ever had to use your gun?

MD: Nope.

HH: Tell us about your life outside the high school - your family, your friends, your hobbies. What do you like to do to relax?

MD: I love to play baseball with my grandchildren, and basically enjoy spending my time with them whenever I can. I used to play golf and ride a few motorcycles that I had.

HH: What will you miss most about the school?

MD: I'll definitely miss the kids the most. Good or bad, all kids are fun to be around, so losing them will hurt.

HH: The least?

MD: Fusco? Only kidding, I don't really have anything to complain about.

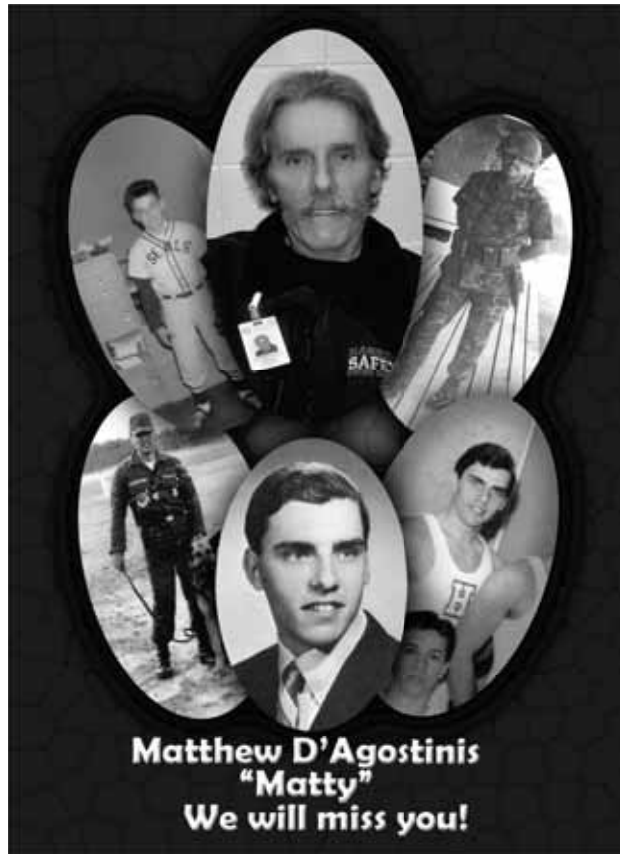
HH: You currently sport some very fashionable facial

hair. Tell us the history of your moustache and sideburns.

MD: I've been sporting this very same moustache since I was in Vietnam, but prior to that I used to wax a handlebar style.

HH: Are there any important words of advice you'd like to share with the HHS community?

MD: Stay well, be good, and always study hard.



HH: Will you still come back from Florida for the Harrison-Rye game?

MD: I'll only be spending my winters in Florida, and then I'll return to Harrison for the remaining months. I'd never miss a Harrison-Rye football game.

HH: In high school, you were actively involved in track, gymnastics, and other sports. Tell us a lit-

Wool Awarded Superintendent of the Year Honor

(Continued from Front Page)

rating from Standard and Poor's and has been presented with the Government Finance Officers Association's highest recognition - the Certificate of Achievement in Financial Reporting. Yearly tax increases have been among the lowest in Westchester County, despite consistent improvements in academic programs.

There are plans to implement the International Baccalaureate (IB) program in Harrison, which will allow

students to graduate with an IB diploma. The IB program allows students to focus on one concentration in six areas of study: language, foreign language, the arts, math and computer science, experimental sciences, or Individuals and Societies. The program "will provide a competitive edge and most importantly help our students begin to uncover what they wish to pursue in life," according to Wool.

Wool hopes that being named

Superintendent of the Year will provide outside validation about the "quality of our work on behalf of the students," in addition to acting as a catalyst for further improvements and recognitions.

In being named New York Superintendent of the Year, Louis Wool is now a candidate for the National Superintendent of the Year award. The winner will be announced later this month at the National Conference on Education.

Cable TV Club: Passion for Communications

Jessica Peña and Mack Rosenberg
Staff Writers

The Cable TV club has been busy this year, but there are even more upcoming events ahead. Club advisor Mr. Andy Nicol is passionate about his time working here with the Harrison school district. Mr. Nicol graduated from SUNY New Paltz as a communications major. From there, he worked in the television industry for twenty-five years before joining our school district.

"I was inspired by watching television," explained Mr. Nicol, as to why he chose the field of communications. "I always wanted to work on television."

Why, then, did he leave the industry? Mr. Nicol's other passion is education. His first job was in education, and he enjoyed that very much. When he had an opportunity to return to education in 1997, he gladly decided to take it.

When Mr. Nicol first arrived at

Harrison High, the Cable Club was not in operation. It seemed to be in a state of limbo, on hiatus. There was no club advisor and little student awareness of the club. However, Mr. Nicol took charge and resurrected the club in 1998, starting with only two members.

"Slowly over the years, more members were added," said Mr. Nicol, "and the activities in the group have also increased." The group currently boasts 25 members, and there has been plenty of technical progress within the club. For instance, the club is now available to shoot with multi-camera shots that excite the students, according to Mr. Nicol.

"We have a mobile production unit, which gives us the ability to go anywhere in the school and do full, three camera switch shoots of school events," he said. "Also new this year is an editing computer which will be

exclusively for student use. It can also be used for Cable Club projects and class projects."

Speaking of projects, the club currently is working on a short film that will be shown at a film festival competition later this year.

"Hopefully the film branches out from the competition," said Ivan Lovjer, the club's Vice-President. He and other club members are hard at work completing this short film, in hopes that it will possibly win the overall competition.

Mr. Nicol knows about winning and success. He is proud to have inspired many of his students to choose a career in communications.

"Being part of this club will definitely help me in the long run," noted senior J.T. McKinsey. He plans on majoring in communications, in hopes of finding a career in sports media.

Those interested in a career in



Mr. Andy Nicol at work. Courtesy of Lauren Warshauer

broadcast or communication should join this club. It will help you learn the basics, and provide the background knowledge needed before pursuing this area further in college. It also provides a great social opportunity as well, allowing for communication with fellow club members.

The best aspect of the club is interacting with the student body at all grade levels," said Cable Club President Mark Neider. "Not only that, but the club also provides hands-on experience like no other club in the school."

Freshman Christopher Morris agreed.

"At LMK, we didn't get to use the equipment that often," he said. "Actually, we didn't get to use any, so joining the club at the high school was a huge difference."

Toy Drive a Major Success

Kyle Friedman
Staff Writer



This was the sixth year of the ongoing N and N Toy Drive. Its purpose is to bring Christmas gifts to children with cancer at the Hassenfeld Children's Cancer and Research Center. When my brother Corey was diagnosed with leukemia at the age of 3, he went through a lot. Some kids at the Hassenfeld Center are unable to pay for Christmas gifts, so they feel great when given such gifts. Recognizing this, my sister, Nicole, created the Toy Drive with her friend, Nicole Kay. That is why it's called the N and N Toy Drive.

In an effort to get more people involved, I was asked to bring the Toy Drive to Harrison High School. The drive is also going on in Scarsdale, Riverdale, and Blind Brook. Jordan Hochberg, friend of Nicole Friedman, was able to get Blind Brook involved in the Drive, along with Jackie Lavitt. Nicole and Nicole sent out a letter providing specifics about the N and N Toy Drive, letting everyone understand how the drive is run.

There is a list of kids at Hassenfeld that get 'adopted.' This is the term that is used to show a commitment to get certain gifts for any one kid. There is also a miscellaneous list for people not interested in adopting specific kids. These people purchase random gifts, which are then separated and given out to different kids. N and N are given a list from the hospital that has each kid's wish list. The gifts range from Barbie dolls and Power Rangers to iPods and PSPs. People are able to "share a kid," which means they are able to go in together on some of the more expensive gift items.

"The look on the kid's faces when they get the gifts is priceless," says Sherri Friedman, mother of Nicole. "It feels so great to know how much these kids appreciate what we are doing. It is great to put a smile on their faces." Husky Herald - Page 6

The Toy Drive was brought to Harrison High School by starting slowly. This year, some of the teachers of the school provided several gifts for the kids. It turned out to be a great success. Next year, the hope is that students at Harrison High School also will participate in this drive, either by adopting a kid or giving miscellaneous gifts.

Since the drive started, it has progressively gotten more successful. Each year, it is getting more schools and more people involved, which means that there are more gifts. This year toys were provided for over 200 children that are being treated with cancer, along with some toys for their siblings as well. For some of these children, these were the only gifts they got for Christmas. The N and N Toy Drive also raised over \$6,500 for the Friedman Fund which will be used for the Center and for research by Dr. Carroll. The drive also provided over \$2,000 in gift cards for the children.

The Hassenfeld Center is for cancer and blood disorders. They give great care to everyone, especially to younger children that are going through a tough time with their illness. Established in 1990, the Stephen D. Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disorders at NYU Medical Center is one of the nation's leading pediatric outpatient facilities for the treatment of childhood cancers and blood diseases.

The Hassenfeld Center's unique interdisciplinary and family-centered approach combines the most advanced medical treatments with psychosocial and emotional support services for young patients and their families. More information about the center can be found at their website - go to <http://hassenfeld.med.nyu.edu>.

Get On the Road

Danielle Carpiello
Staff Writer

Many freshmen and sophomores who walk Harrison's hallways dream of the day when they will pass their road test and can finally have the freedom of hopping into a car and choosing any destination they desire. The first step to obtaining one's license is the permit test. Here at the high school, students have the convenient option of signing up to take their online permit test during the school day during one of their lunch or free periods. This is ideal for anyone who is 15 years of age and short on time.

There are only a few simple steps to being able to take your permit test at the school. In the school's library, there is a sign-up sheet for a date and period when you would like

to take your test. Once you sign up, you will be given a "Driver's Manual", a handbook describing all of the major street signs, road lines, intersection rules, etc. After studying these driving basics, you can take your permit test online, in one of the computer labs. The test consists of 20 multiple choice questions. Once you pass this exam, you receive a certificate of passing that you may take to any Department of Motor Vehicles building to obtain your learner's permit. You must also pass a vision test at the DMV in order to obtain the permit.

Although the permit test seems simple enough to pass with just common sense and an overall idea of road vocabulary, it is actually quite challenging. Angelica Catalano, junior, took her permit test in October and failed on her first try. When asked why she had failed, she said, "I was just having a bad week and wasn't paying close attention to what the question was asking. It definitely helps to know a lot of the criteria in the handbook though; it is what the questions are based on."

Once you have your permit, you have six months to practice driving with

an adult over the age of 21 who owns a senior drivers license. You must also take the Five-Hour Drivers Education Course at any driving education facility. The most popular facility for Harrison residents to take this Five-Hour Course is the Formula 1 Driving School building, in Mamaroneck. However, Formula 1 also has a facility in White Plains. If you feel like you are ready for the next big step towards getting your junior driver's license, you can sign up to take your road test at any DMV that holds road tests exams.

In place of the five-hour, many students opt to take the drivers education course offered by the high school. This course takes place over the span of about three months. Half the time is spent in the classroom— learning about everything from obtaining proper insurance to driving in inclement weather— and the other half is

spent on the road, practicing the different types of driving required by the road test. As an added bonus, completing the school's drivers ed program allows you to receive your senior license at seventeen, rather than having to wait until you are eighteen to get it.

To sign up for your road test, you can schedule a date and time for an appointment on the department of motor vehicles website or go to any DMV that offers road tests. On the day of the test, you must present your 5-hour course certificate of completion and your learner's permit to the driving instructor who will be grading your road test.

This is perhaps the most nerve-racking test in your driving career, so make sure you are fully prepared for it. Focus on what you have to do on the road, not on the teacher's reactions. And remember, you always have a second chance.



Lend a Hand in Haiti

Joe Maida and Theo Gevirtz

Staff Writers

On January 12, 2010, Haiti got hit with the biggest earthquake ever recorded in the area. The earthquake had a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 and, with its incredible power and force, wreaking havoc on the nation. Schools, hospitals, jails, and other buildings and houses were destroyed in this terrible tragedy.

The country of Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western hemisphere. Approximately half of the population is illiterate.

Many basic public services are absent in this impoverished country. Even before this tragedy, Haiti was marked by a lack of travelable roads and communication systems. Haiti also has a history of having an unstable government and financial system. Haiti has made it onto the U.N.'s list of the least developed countries in the world.

One of the reasons why so many buildings fell during this quake is because Haiti has no nationally upheld construction standards. In 2008, after the collapse of a school, the mayor of Port-au-Prince reported that about 60% of buildings in Port-au-Prince were poorly built and were not always safe in normal circumstances.

The tragedy claimed the lives of an estimated 200,000 people, and left thousands more injured. The survivors of this tragedy are very desperate, and

in need of much help. Many survivors have been staying in crowded basements filled with people, shoulder to shoulder for days. The living conditions



Courtesy of nationalgeographic.com

for these people are terrible and, without help, their survival is in question.

Looting is spreading throughout the small country as it recovers from this massive earthquake. These looters are people in gangs, hurting other people and committing crimes in order to keep themselves alive and get food and water. In one instance, looters robbed a market to steal bottles of rum, thinking the alcohol might keep them alive and running. They were armed with broken glass, machetes, and razors as they scavenged the market. Some were even carrying pieces of wood with nails attached to them.

People have been packed in airports, golf courses, and whatever buildings are left standing as they desperately await aid. Some 50,000 people were found sleeping on a golf course in Port-au-Prince on January

17. Reports from Haiti say that 70,000 bodies have been buried so far, but there are still many more laying on the street.

The U.S. Armed Forces are currently in Haiti trying to help the country get back on its feet in any way possible, as well as to curtail the looting. Thousands of other soldiers, politicians, police, and good-hearted people are also in Haiti giving aid. Food and water are slowly being transported to the country, and slowly, Haiti is beginning to rebound. The only question is how fast the resources can arrive, and whether they will get to where they are needed fast enough to save lives.

Hundreds of millions of dollars have been pledged to help Haiti, and the American Red Cross is doing its best to collect more donations to rebuild the country. When choosing to donate, please be sure to choose charities that are known organizations, preferably ones that are already established and doing work in Haiti (such as The American Red Cross, Doctors Without Borders, Oxfam America, and others). A more complete list of approved chari-

ties can be found online at the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org).

Simply by texting "Haiti" to 90999 on your cell phone, you can instantly donate \$10 to the American Red Cross, and the money will be charged directly to your cell phone bill. You can also donate through local churches and synagogues, many of which are collecting clothes and money for this cause.

In addition, donations can be made through the drive organized at the high school. Harrison for Haiti was set up by the student government, and

has drop-off boxes in the cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to drop any bills or change into the boxes, as they will be sent directly to Haiti to help the desperate

survivors. There is so much you can do to help the country recover from this tragic disaster. They really do need your help. Get out and donate something to help these desperate people fighting for survival.



Courtesy of washingtonpost.com

Operation Chihuahua!

Rachel Breslin

Staff Writer

Operation Chihuahua is in effect! During 2010, over three hundred homeless Chihuahuas are being flown in from California in hopes of finding a new home in the Big Apple.

There is a problem in California with Chihuahua over-population. Chihuahuas make up one third of all of the shelter populations in California. With all of the celebrities in California who own Chihuahuas (see Paris Hilton), there was a high demand for these little pups. When people began to realize that the dogs actually needed to be taken care of, abandoned pets began to pour into the shelters.

Another reason that people bought so many Chihuahuas is because of movies. When people see any movies where animals have a large part, they want to get that type of animal. They mistakenly think the dogs will act the same way they do in the movie. In reality though, animals in movies are trained from a young age by professional handlers, so they act nothing like normal pets.

According to the ASPCA, there is a high demand for Chihuahuas all over New York. It is illegal in New York to breed Chihuahuas, so the dogs are always in high demand. Lots of people

in New York, especially in the city, live in apartments, and most apartment buildings do not allow medium or large sized dogs, so most people who live in apartments and want pets go for small dogs like Chihuahuas. It is also easier to travel with these small dogs on the bus and on the subway.

People often forget where most of these puppies come from. Since the dogs quickly went into high demand, puppy mill owners saw it as an opportunity to make some quick money. Most people do not realize that dogs from



Courtesy of latimes.com

puppy mills are not the healthiest dogs. The mothers of these dogs and the puppies themselves are usually kept in tight, dangerous cages. They do not get much exercise and they usually have many health problems stemming from lack of food and proper medical attention. These dogs are then trans-

ported to local pet shops, where people buy the dogs. When people quickly realize that these dogs are much more than an accessory and that they require lots of work and attention, they often drop them off at shelters. Just because a dog is small, it does not mean they require less work. Small dogs involve just as much work as large dogs. Kat Brown, a member of San Francisco Animal Control, spoke to the Associated Press regarding the Chihuahuas. "They need to be dogs, not just stuffed toys," she said.

Not every dog from a shelter is sick. The dogs you find at shelters have just as much, and maybe even more personality than dogs from breeders. One unique kind of animal you find at shelters are mutts. For those who do not know, a mutt is a mix of two or more breeds. There can be two dogs, and they can be a mix of the two exact same breeds, and they may not look alike because of the multitude of possible gene combinations. When you adopt any animals from a shelter, they are so grateful toward you for giving them a warm home where they will be

loved and fed and cared for.

Most people at the high school seem to prefer adopting a dog rather than buying one from a breeder.

"I would adopt one of these dogs even though it possibly came from a puppy mill," said Heather Remsen, a sophomore, "because then it actually has a chance to live and not be put to sleep."



Courtesy of dogsindepth.com

With shelters around the world being overcrowded from multiple causes (such as a pop culture surge regarding Chihuahuas), more and more animals each year are being put to sleep. What can Harrison students do to help? When getting your next new pet, consider adopting from one of the local shelters, rather than buying from a pet store or breeder. Did you know that statistically, for every dog that is bought, three more are put down in a shelter? Think about that the next time you or someone you know is thinking of getting a new pet.

opinion

editorials

When Will Left Ever Be Right?

Danielle Carpiello

Staff Writer

American life is oriented around being right-handed, and as a result, any lefty can tell you: "Life as a lefty is extremely difficult!" Being left-handed in a so-called "righty's world" is pretty challenging, especially with most technology and gadgets invented with the righty in mind.

Every day, left-handed people go through more troubles than you'd imagine merely doing normal human activities. Whether it's dealing with bumping elbows when sitting next to righties, or getting ink or pencil lead all along with sides of their pinky fingers, the life of a lefty is full of challenges. It's tough, but somehow a lefty makes it through the day and starts their struggle all over again when they wake up.

Lefties are constantly running into new problems. Young children who do most activities with their left hand being dominant usually end up prioritizing

their left hand in other tasks like writing and playing sports.

Writing for lefties is slightly harder than for righties, because the writers' hand covers the words that they have just written, often causing a mess of ink or lead on their hands. Lefties also have difficulty with cursive handwriting, being that they cannot glide their hand across the page in a continuous movement as well as righties can. Binders are another issue for left-handed writers, because the rings on the left side of the loose-leaf get in the way of the writers' hands.

Another major problem that deserves some attention from the state is what occurs during testing. Imagine the problems of left-handed writers sitting through state tests and being deprived of the correct seat for their dominant hands. Our school provides are foldable chairs with a pull-out desk attached on the right hand side of the chair which supports a righty's arm, allowing for the writer to sit and write comfortably through a typical three-hour state exam. Lefties often have to go searching for a desk that is either unattached to the chair, or find a chair with the pullout desk on the left side, an option not commonly available. If lefty students do not find either of these, they have to sit through the test with no support for their left arm.

Alyssa Maida, a left-handed

junior here

at HHS, has been in this situation before. "Every time I take a state test in the school gym, there are never left-handed foldable chairs available for me!" she says. "I end up having to sit uncomfortably for the whole three hours, with a bad back from reaching over to the right side of the entire time."

It is also a financial burden to be a southpaw. Items that are usually made for the convenience of a righty cost more when bought in a left-handed version. Certain things like baseball gloves and golf clubs cost only a slight amount more, but often are difficult to locate and purchase.

Other items cost far more when made for lefties. In order for a lefty guitarist to purchase a suitable guitar, he or she has to pay an extra fee that starts out at about \$70 and climbs upward from there. In this instance, the



Courtesy of The Simpsons

strings have to be flipped and the pick guard attached on the bottom right of the base of the guitar instead of the bottom left.

While it is easy to point out several of the negatives of being brought up "lefty" in a right-handed universe, there also are many advantages. Although lefties are said to live shorter lives than their right-handed counterparts (by approximately four years), they also are known to be more creative and sly. More lefties are vegetarian than righties, and did you know that five of our most recent seven presidents have been lefties? Although it's often a challenge, being a lefty can be worthwhile.



Courtesy of Jason Slater

Kar Donors Steered in Wrong Direction

Christina Loguidice

Staff Writer

You know that radio jingle? 1-877-Kars4Kids? Following investigation, donators were in for a shock when they learned where their cars were really going. Contrary to popular belief, the money generated from donations to Kars4Kids is not used directly to aid underprivileged children. Rather, profits go to an organization called "Oorah" – specifically, an Oorah run foundation called Joy for Our Youth (JOY).

This should come as a surprise to all who have heard the Kars4Kids radio ad. Oorah ("awaken" in Hebrew) is never mentioned in the jingle, nor is JOY. So what exactly is the Kars4Kids charity supporting? According to Oorah's website, JOY is a foundation

dedicated to educating "at risk" Jewish children about their religious heritage. In 2007 alone, JOY raised \$16.2 million.

The problem with Kars for Kids is that it does not disclose the true recipient of the donations and the charity's methods of procuring donations are questionable. On the Kars4Kids website (which can be linked to from the Oorah site), potential contributors are promised a "free vacation" in exchange for their donation. This "vacation," it has been surmised, comes with some strings attached. Issue has also been taken with the fact that the religious aspect of the charity isn't disclosed in its advertisements. Recently, disenchanted contributors from

Oregon decided to sue.

According to Mitch Lipka of walletpop.com, "The Oregon Attorney General's Office charged that Kars4Kids misled Oregon consumers about a 'free vacation' and the charity's religious purposes. It also failed to disclose that a 'free vacation' was only intended and designed to recruit people to timeshare presentations. This is significant because the deposits (such as cancellation fees and other conditions) end up ultimately costing the same amount as their so called 'free vacation.'"

There is something else Kars4Kids fails to mention in its promotional material - the diminished tax value of the cars donated to the group. Due to this caveat, the "maximum tax deduction allowed by the law" promised to donators doesn't amount to very much at all.

It goes without saying that Kars4Kids is not the first charitable or-

ganization to mislead its contributors, nor will it likely be the last. Readers interested in donating to charitable foundations should take care, under



Courtesy of theshivaworld.com

all circumstances, to research any charitable organization before making donation decisions.

If anything can be learned from Kars4Kids, it is to look carefully before laying out cash or cars. This reporter doubts, however, that this lesson can make up for the intolerably catchy jingle.



Izzy Sheck

Courtesy of typepad.com

Staff Writer

The library at Harrison High School has been remodeled this past summer, and the new arrangement includes new laptop computers, a flat screen television, new comfortable chairs, a wider assortment of new books, and a different physical layout. In the midst of all these positive changes, however, there are a few changes that are not positive at all. This year, the librarians have instituted a host of new rules that govern when and how students are permitted into the library. To many, these new rules are troubling. The rules center on *when* students can come to the library, *where* they can enter the library and *what* they are allowed to do in the library.

Of the changes made, the one that seems to have the biggest impact on students is when they can go to the library. As of now, students are not allowed to go to the library for the last fifteen minutes of any period. To most people, fifteen minutes may not seem

like a lot of time, but for hardworking students, the end of a lunch period is an important opportunity to get a lot of work done. In my own experiences, completing homework in school is a necessary task because, having several after school activities; it can be difficult to get everything done at home. What I and many other students like to do is eat and socialize during the first half of lunch and then spend the remaining time working in the library. However, with this new rule in effect, this constructive use of time is no longer possible.

The other main change that has been made in is where you are allowed to enter the library. There are several entrances to the library; however, all of them have been closed off to students except for one. Though seemingly trivial, this is annoying because you have to walk around the entire building to enter. It is especially frustrating when you walk all the way to the library and find out that you

aren't allowed to go in, and have to walk back to the cafeteria, wasting time that could be spent on the aforementioned homework or studying. By literally closing its doors, the library has again made it more difficult for students to get work done.

The reasoning behind closing off certain doors (as well as the need for identification cards in order to enter) is that the librarians are trying to limit the number of people allowed in the library. Now, this has some merit, since excess noise in the library can create an unsuitable study environment. Nevertheless, I feel that the problem is not how many people are in the library, but what the people are doing while there. If the librarians could monitor the noise levels in the library instead of focusing on how many people there are, the goal to have a more peaceful learning environment would still be achieved.

Many students are familiar with being barred from the library. Senior

Ana Nitis remarks: "One time I wasn't allowed into the library because while waiting on line the girl in front of me was the last person to be allowed in. I was so frustrated because I had homework to do on the computer and there really aren't other resources in the school." The only solution to a problem like this appears to be running to secure a place in the library before it closes its doors, which is inconvenient and inefficient.

I would like to know what the school is really accomplishing by imposing these restrictions on students. It seems kind of ironic that the staff at a school would actually kick students out of a library and send them back to the cafeteria. Maybe as students of this school we should share our opinions with the faculty and tell them that while the new rules may promote order, they do not endear the library to the student population.

Closing the Doors on Library Access

Trip of a Lifetime

Ray Corona

Staff Writer

Many people never have the opportunity to go see the outside world. Most only see the country they live in. They see the opportunities, freedom and the prosperity in this great country. I've seen it all my life and was never able to fully appreciate it. On Saturday December 19, 2009, my brother Frank (a junior at HHS), my father and I were able to experience this opportunity. We flew to El Salvador to visit the people and send them gifts (money along with soccer and lacrosse equipment). Although we were there only for five days, hundreds of lives were changed for the better. Things we thought were nothing meant so much to them. All participants worked hard to ensure all the children received a gift. Some saw the trip as an opportunity to travel and used it as a vacation. For me, this was a trip of a lifetime.

El Salvador is located in Central America. It has a total area of 8,123 square miles. It is the smallest country in continental America and is called the "Tom Thumb of the Americas." It has 123 square miles of water within its borders. Several small rivers flow through El Salvador into the Pacific Ocean, including the Goascorán, Jiboa, Torola, Paz and the Río Grande de San Miguel. Only the largest river, the Limpia River, flowing from Guatemala and Honduras across El Salvador to the ocean, is usable for commercial traffic. Volcanic craters enclose lakes, the most important of which are Lake Ilopango and Lake Coatepeque. Lake Güija is El Salvador's largest natural lake. Several artificial lakes were created by the damming of the Lempa, the largest of which is Embalse Cer-

rón Grande. El Salvador shares borders with Guatemala and Honduras. It is the only Central American country that does not have a Caribbean coastline. The highest point in the country is Cerro El Pital at 8,957 feet.

A small group of the country's people are considered "rich," while most of the people are poor. Those who are rich live near the city, in gated-off communities protected by barbed wire and groups of men with automatic machine guns. The houses compare to those in Purchase. The one I

easily see the holes in the ceiling and also see parts that were falling. The houses had furniture that consisted of one table and a few chairs. The houses had an area filled with trash and garbage.

It struck me immediately how unsanitary their lives were. The plates they ate on had bugs sitting on them; the beds were piles of mud with a blanket on top and their water storage were large oil drums filled with water. What also struck me was how every-



Photos courtesy of Frank Corona

was able to go into was extraordinary. It had a garden inside the house and a large backyard. It truly was one of the nicest houses I've ever seen. But the prosperity was rarely seen where I went.

We then went to the "poor" sections, where life was completely different. The town that we visited was Corinto, located in the mountains. It was very tightly put together with many people living there. The roads were steep and covered with rocks. The houses were like nothing I could ever imagine, made out of sheets of metal, held together by wooden poles with wires. When inside, you could

one was working, no matter their age. Our grandparents or even our moms don't work. Women who were in their 80s worked the fields in ninety degree weather. The kids worked in the farms alongside animals that were much larger than they were.

The little time that they had for fun was in the soccer fields. One field was in the town. The field was just dirt with areas of sharp rocks and glass. The goalpost was sticks tied together; only a select group of kids had balls. After we came with our gifts, most of the children had something with which to play.

Overall the Corinto experience

was spectacular. I expected some of the things that I saw, but what really surprised me was their faith. These people had nothing. They seemed to have no real future and many knew that they would live in Corinto their whole life. The whole time I was there, they never complained. They didn't blame anyone and weren't upset at they lacked. They were proud of who they were and felt as if no one could change them. Even when times are bad, they look at the good. The people who lived there are role models of what a good human being should be.

I learned one thing about Americans from the trip. We don't really appreciate what we have. We may not realize it, but we have so much. Whenever we're hungry, we have a refrigerator full of food. When we're bored, we have games or books to entertain us. Yet we always want more. The people I visited made me really think of a question you should ask yourself: "When you die, do you want to be remembered as the person with the biggest house or the person with the biggest heart?"

I would like to express my gratitude to all those who donated equipment. I would especially like to thank Mr. Kinisky for all his hard work in getting us most of the lacrosse equipment we donated, along with Mrs. Maricevic and Mrs. Heyen for all their time and effort. Your donations and hard work went to a great cause.

The Renaissance Revisited

Emma Adler

News Editor

The Renaissance Festival is a longstanding tradition at Harrison High School. For several years now, Harrison High's Madrigal singers (Under the direction of chorus director Lynn Fusco) have taken to the stage each winter in a celebration of the music of the famous time period. This year was no exception.

The festival began promptly at 7 p.m. on December 3 with a procession of the Madrigal singers down the aisles of the HPAC and onto the stage; song, of course, accompanying their stride. The singers, dressed in traditional Renaissance attire, were then introduced by their court names. Among the lords and ladies presented to the crowd were Lady Scarlet of Scalat (junior Rachel Crozier), King Tritan (senior Devon Krobetzky) and Queen Elizabeth of England (senior Judy Florio).

Following this opening, the Madrigal singers entertained the audience with four Renaissance style selections, "Ach Elselein, Liebes Elselein", "Now is the Month of Maying", "Adieu, Sweet Amaryllis" and lastly "Fair Phyllis I Saw Sitting." The Madrigals sounded excellent throughout, and performed each number with admirable poise and character. The audience responded with great enthusiasm to the singers, praising their clear talent with fervent applause.

This year's Festival also featured

the talents of the HHS dance department and the newly formed theatre department. The latter of these presented next, performing the first of three Comedia Dell'Arte (a form of theatre developed in Italy during the Renaissance) scenes the



Courtesy of Door Cow Renaissance

theatre classes prepared for the event. Nina Mansfield, the head of the theatre department, would later comment, "I was thrilled that the theatre arts classes were able to participate in the Renaissance Festival this year. It was excited to see Comedia Dell'Arte brought to life in the HPAC." Lacking a formal title, the sketch was referred to on the program simply as *Servant and Master Scenario*. Starring juniors Nicole Frattarola and Jules Montes as the servant (Zanni) and master (Pantalone) respectively, *Servant*

and *Master Scenario* was notable for its spot on comedic timing, and thoroughly entertaining plot.

Third on the program was a dance performed by three HHS students (Courtney Parada, Tiffany Reyes, and Jacklyn Ledesma). Choreographed by Ledesma, the dance featured Renaissance era steps and showcased the skill of the participating students.

Another skit produced by the theatre department was fourth to perform, enacting a Lazi play entitled *Home from the Wars*. A lengthier and more multi-farious piece than the *Servant/Master* selection, *Home from the Wars* featured the talents of four HHS students, freshmen Laura McKinsey, Marlina Gomez, and Carmen Velazquez and sophomore Heather Remsen. Directed by junior Teddy O'Rourke, *Home* was a resounding success, particularly impressing the audience with its witty dialogue, well crafted performances, and pitch perfect costumes (complete with traditional Comedia Dell'Arte masks).

Next up was a second set of Renaissance songs performed by the Madrigal singers. As they had previously, the Madrigals performed with vigor, precision, and clear enjoyment. The selections featured were *Of All the Birds That I Do Know*, *Fatal la Parte*, *Sing we and Chant It*, and *Il Est Bel Et Bon*.

The penultimate performance of the Renaissance Festival was a third, and fi-

nal Comedia Dell'Arte play. Appropriately titled *The False Turk in Twelve Minutes*, the play compressed a renowned (and rather languid) Renaissance era tragedy into just under a quarter of an hour. The players were expressive, the scenes well rehearsed, and the plot captivating — overall, a production whose quality far exceeded its running time.

Closing the festival were the Madrigals who performed several Christmas carols, including the timeless standards *Jingle Bells* and *Deck the Hall*. Though they had sung nearly a dozen already, the Madrigals skill never faltered. Their finale rang throughout the HPAC as crystal clear as the opening number had.

Lastly, the singers themselves descended into the audience, leading the crowd in a spirited, HHS Renaissance Festival traditional rendition of *The Twelve Days of Christmas*.

The Madrigals then filed out of the auditorium singing *Fine Knacks for Ladies*, the audience applauding thunderously all the while. Refreshments outside the HPAC capped off what had been a thoroughly enjoyable, and talent filled evening. Ms. Fusco later commented, "The Renaissance Festival is always one of my favorite performances of the year, and this year's festival was the biggest and best ever." Junior Madrigal Rachel Kaplan also weighed in, exclaiming "I can't wait for next year!"

Disney Crowns a New Princess

Alexis Rubenstein

Staff Writer

Every kid growing up has their favorite Disney fairytale movie—be it *Cinderella*, *Snow White*, *Beauty and the Beast*, or another. All of the movies have the ability to make a little girl or boy happy and teach them lessons that last a lifetime. Disney's new movie has a new twist that separates it from all that has come before — the princess is African-American. It may have taken 84 years and the election of an African-American President to push the idea forward, but now it finally has happened.

Parents are trying to stress this difference to their children, that this is not just another Disney fairytale — that it's special. It has a hidden message for children that no matter the color of your skin, you can be anything you want. Even outside of the movies themselves, Disney princesses become global icons of childhood. There are always promotional toys, dresses, and figurines that accompany any Disney release. Sleeping Beauty is awakened by a kiss, Cinderella's clock strikes midnight, Belle waltzes in the Beast's castle, Ariel meets Prince Eric in the moonlit lagoon — these are the heroines that young girls have idolized and mimicked for ages. And while Disney has brought us

nonwhite princesses before (Mulan and Pocahontas), the character Tiana will be take company's first black princess.

The new movie, *The Princess and the Frog*, is a vintage Disney fairytale with its Broadway-style music. It takes its inspiration from an eighteenth century fairytale from the British Isles and a teen novel by the same name written by E.D. Baker.

In the Disney version, the story takes place in New Orleans circa the 1920s. It has been changed around to produce a more modern feel. Tiana the princess has a real job working on her own. She is a waitress at a restaurant and dreams of one day owning her own restaurant and being a chef just like her father. She eventually kisses a frog and is transformed into one. She must journey into a dark and evil world and ask the voodoo queen for a magical cure. The frog turns out to be a Prince from the far-off fictional land of Maldonia, and the story is narrated by a very goopy firefly, and a trumpet playing



Courtesy of disney-clipart.com

alligator. Disney stated they are trying to stay away from the "modern norm" and instead, seeking to bring back the feel of the old Disney classics. The new movie has all been done through hand-drawn graphics rather than by any computer-generated imagery.

With this fairytale being the first with an African American Princess, it has caused great controversy. When the movie was in the planning stages, Tiana was first intended to be called Maddy (short for Madeline). People objected on the basis that they felt the name sounded like one of a slave-worker. Others have also spoken out about how the movie takes place in New Orleans, the setting of one of the most devastating tragedies to hit an African-American community.

"I find that's rude," said Amahd Ali. "Just because that's a place where many African-American people live — they also have gone through many trag-

edies there, too. Disney could have set the movie anywhere...LA, NY, etc."

Not all at the high school took offense.

"I think it's great," said sophomore Faryn Brown. "Disney will be seen in new ways that people will like and appreciate."

Disney producers stood strong against allegations like Amahd's and said that they wanted to create a fairytale set in the United States and centered in New Orleans because of its colorful past and deep musical history.

Apparently, young African-American girls are proud to learn about Tiana the princess — they can view her as a role model. Overall, Disney just wants to create a great and wonderful movie that can be loved by all.

Like any other Disney fairytale, there is an uplifting message. In the film, Tiana learns that balance is important in life. She needs a career and love to find happiness. Just like previous classic Disney fairytales, this one is bound to be a hit. "The Frog and the Princess" shows the strides our country is taking toward erasing the color barrier — at last the fairest of them all is Tiana, a black princess!

Coco vs. The Chin

Emma Adler

News Editor

Last August, NBC shook up its lineup in a big way. Longtime host of "The Tonight Show", Jay Leno, handed off his coveted position to Conan O'Brien. Leno himself was bumped down to 10 p.m., and has since been front lining "The Jay Leno Show" – an hour long program similar in format to "The Tonight Show" which airs Monday through Friday.

However major, this change was by no means sudden. O'Brien, who for sixteen years hosted "Late Night with Conan O'Brien", was promised "The Tonight Show" nearly six years ago. The fine print long dry, it seemed O'Brien's transition to the prized "Tonight Show" desk would be a peaceful segue-way. And for seven months, it appeared to be. "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" premiered June 1, 2009, with late night newcomer (and former SNL star) Jimmy Fallon taking over for Conan on "Late Night".

In 2010, though, the waters at NBC muddied. "The Jay Leno Show" was devised as a money saving scheme for NBC, the logic being that a nightly variety show would be much cheaper to produce than five hours of scripted programming. However, following its premiere in September 2009, ratings for the program had been less than spectacular. As a result of a poor lead in, many NBC affiliate 11 p.m. news programs lost a significant percentage of their viewership. Representatives from these stations were prolific in airing their dissatisfaction with the NBC line up. Also contributing to the issue was "The Tonight Show" itself.

Since Conan had taken the helm, audiences had shrunken substantially from what they were when Jay Leno's name fronted the program.

In light of the situation, NBC decided, yet again, to shuffle its schedule. Their original proposal, put forward in the early days of January, announced the network's plans to push a shortened version of "The Jay Leno Show" to 11:30, and the "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" to 12:05.

This plan, however, was soon scrapped. Almost immediately following NBC's announcement, Conan O'Brien drafted a statement in response. His message, addressed to the "People of Earth", makes clear his disapproval for their intentions. It reads, at one point, "I sincerely believe that delaying The Tonight Show into the next day to accommodate another comedy program will seriously

damage what I consider to be the greatest franchise in the history of broadcasting. The Tonight Show at 12:05 simply isn't the Tonight Show." O'Brien goes on to say "My staff and I have worked unbelievably hard

and we are very proud of our contribution to the legacy of The Tonight Show. But I cannot participate in what I honestly believe is its destruction."

Following the above text's publication, Conan O'Brien and NBC entered litigation with the intent of negotiating a resolution. Though the conclusion of O'Brien's statement had

expressed the host's hopes for reconciliation with NBC, it soon became clear that the network was backing Leno. As publicity surrounding what *The New York Times* dubbed "Late Night Wars" mounted, it became increasingly apparent that popular culture was siding with Conan. Over the course of little more than two weeks, support for O'Brien reached a fever pitch in the media. Protestors organized rallies on the host's behalf in cities across the nation. These included one at Universal Studios, the filming locale of "The Tonight Show", which O'Brien aired during a January episode. A fan developed image of an orange tinted Conan which declared in equally orange letters "I'M WITH COCO" (a nod to a nickname given to O'Brien by Tom Hanks) was widely circulated on the internet, and appeared in many Late Night themed news articles (including this one). Though support for Leno was also present on the web, an estimated 80% of Late Night related content was decidedly pro-Conan.

In spite of this, NBC stuck to its guns. Following lengthy negotiations, NBC and O'Brien brokered a deal, the details of which were released on January 21. In the end, Conan walked away with a projected 32 million dollars in severance pay; roughly the sum he would've been paid for hosting "The Tonight Show" for three years. This is in keeping with the conditions of his now terminated contract with NBC which guaranteed O'Brien "The Tonight Show" for a minimum of three years.

On January 22, the final episode of "The Tonight Show with Conan O'Brien" aired. Though NBC will continue to show repeats of Conan



Courtesy of The New York Times

during the 2010 Winter Olympics, the network has stated that Jay Leno will return as host of "The Tonight Show" following their conclusion.

It is rumored now that Conan is in talks to develop a late night program for FOX, representatives for which have repeatedly voiced their desire to employ O'Brien. Though a condition of the former host's deal with NBC stipulates that he is barred from returning to television until September of 2010, it appears likely O'Brien will not be off screen for long.

This is not the first time NBC has experienced controversy surrounding late night succession. In the '90s, then host of "Late Night" David Letterman was passed over in favor of Jay Leno when much beloved host of "The Tonight Show" Johnny Carson retired. Letterman promptly fled for CBS, and has been hosting his hit "The Late Show with David Letterman" ever since. As yet another Leno-centric struggle draws to a close, one wonders how many times NBC is willing to stick out their leg for the famously big chinned comic.



Courtesy of glidemagazine.com

5 Key Safety Tips for Babysitters

Amy Carton

Staff Writer

Many high school students babysit, either for their parents, or for a neighbor to earn some extra money. Time and time again we listen to the precautions to take when we are alone at home or babysitting—"Don't answer the door, don't leave a child in a run bath alone"—and then go back to texting. However in a high pressure situation, teenagers are likely to forget everything they've been taught, causing them to panic and putting their safety and the safety of the child in danger.



Charles Lichtenauer and Joni Cooper babysit for their neighbors. Courtesy of Lauren Warshauer

Recently, a fourteen year-old girl was left at home to babysit her younger sister. While hanging around the house, the doorbell rang. Taught by her parents, the older sister ignored the doorbell, and took her sister upstairs. As the doorbell rang again, the babysitter locked the two of them in a room. A robber then entered the house through a window. Quietly, the older sister called the police and without any instruction, gave the operator the information he needed. Because she remained calm and collected, the babysitter was able to provide the police with a detailed description of the robber and received help.

Many teenagers may not have the courage to remain as calm as this older sister was, just from lack of experience. For this reason, it is even more important that teenage babysitters learn and understand the ways to react in unexpected situations.

The tips below are basic, but they are extremely important in order to keep both child and babysitter safe.

Take a safety course. Having a few hours of training will help you gain knowledge on what to do in frightening or life-threatening situations.

Be sure to stay in contact with not only the child's parents, but your parents as well. If the child's parents are unreachable, contact your own parents for advice.

Keep the doors and windows locked at all times. Do not let the child answer or open the door by themselves. Even if there is a family member or close friend at the door, do not let them in unless given permission by the child's parents.

When answering the phone, do not give out any information as to the location of the parents of the child, the fact that you are alone with a child, or the time that parents will return home. Instead, tell the caller that the parents cannot come to the phone, and that you can take a message if necessary.

If a call to 911 is needed, be sure to stay calm so the police operator can understand you and so you don't scare the child. Be prepared to pro-

vide the operator with the location of the house, as well as names of child's parents.

If you have the opportunity, it is also good to know CPR. Today, many babysitters don't have experience with CPR training. While most kids are not likely to need CPR in the few hours they will babysit for, it does not hurt to have some basic training and if used correctly, CPR can help save a life. In 2007, a study was taken, and the results showed that starting at age nine, children should be required to learn CPR. Although children are younger and less mature than adults, it does not mean that they cannot perform CPR as well as adults. It is true, however, that teenagers thirteen and older have been more successful in performing CPR than nine year old children.

As long as the rules above are considered and you have the right mindset, babysitting will come easily. Whether you are babysitting a sibling or a neighbor's child; always remain near the child, and do not be afraid to take charge when you feel you or the child might be in danger.

Get X-Cited: 20 X-Box Games To Put on Your List

Jack Cusick

Staff Writer

20. Halo Wars (rated 8.2 out of a possible 10)

Command the soldiers of Earth from the games of Halo in a third person strategy-based game. Build your bases, train troops, create vehicles and then go on a full force rampage on the covenant. This game can prove loads of fun and then you can go online and battle against your friends. But if you don't have this game, and are thinking about getting it, you should try the free demo that you can download at the game market place on Xbox live. If you like commanding a huge overpowering army of Tanks, Spartans, and Warthogs --get this game.



courtesy of productivitygamer.com

19. Left 4 Dead (8.4)

Ever wondered whether you would survive a zombie infection? Well, it's time to find out. Fight through the four campaign modes with a group of four fighting through hordes of endless zombies. Then you can go online with a group of eight -- four humans and four playing as special zombies. These special zombies have abilities beyond the average "flailing your arms at the guy" moves. Although the campaign is fun, it is pretty short, and will definitely get a little boring if none of your friends are online. But you should still get this game if "fighting zombies" is a favorite hobby.

18. Need for Speed Shift (8.6)

Sit in the driver's seat of one of the best racing games to date. Race through the campaign in all sorts of different sceneries and maps that change as the race continues, such as a building falling down, or a plane trying to land on your road. Bash cars off the street, slide around turns, and watch for your enemies as you race in tons of different tracks and sceneries. If you enjoy any Need for Speed games, this one is definitely a must-have game, and will be, by far, your favorite racing game of all time.

17. Call of Duty 5: World At War (8.8)

COD 5 takes place during World War II, as you bring down Hitler and the Nazis. Although the campaign, weapons, and PvP battles aren't as good or intense as COD 4, they do take a step in the right direction by putting in a co-op campaign. But, what puts this at number on the top 20 list is Nazi Zombies. Fight through waves and waves of

increasingly harder-to-kill zombies as they break into your hideout and you have to take them all out. There were four maps that were made -- I suggest getting only the last map called Der Rise (only the first map comes with the game, others cost Microsoft points). In Der Rise you can buy perks (such as quick reload and juggernaut), upgrade your weapon into a crazy awesome pawning machine, and take out even harder zombies. You should definitely get this game -- if not for the campaign, get it for the Nazi Zombies.

16. Left 4 Dead 2 (9.0)

The second Left 4 Dead is finally here, and it is definitely better than the first. Although the first Left 4 Dead made it to number 19, anyone who has ever played it knows its limitations. There are only four campaign stories and only six weapons in total, with an added melee and two types of bombs. Left 4 Dead 2 has solved this problem, making ten guns available, with three weapon upgrades and two different types of bombs. They have also added melee weapons to the mix, adding ten melee weapons ranging from a katana to a chainsaw, and yes, even a frying pan. They have also added new special zombies, which will be revealed once you buy the game. Left 4 Dead 2 is definitely a game worth buying.

15. Red Faction (9.0)

Step onto Mars as a part of the Red Faction. After witnessing your brother die before you, you seek revenge, and you join the Red Faction and revolt against the rulers of Mars. This game has a huge campaign, taking over 20 hours to beat, and it will prove loads of fun with the available new technology weapons and crazy cars. What makes this a must have game? It is the ultimate destruction game available. Every single thing in this game can be blown up, shattered, or crushed. Walkaround destroying buildings, blowing up pipes, and obliterating towers. But the destruction level is incorporated in the game, which makes the campaign even more fun. Some missions require you to blow up buildings, cars, or huge enemy bases. Another good part is the story is non-linear, so you can just drive around bashing threat buildings if you want. And finally, there is the multiplayer mode. You can go online and play in awesome maps, with the special "backpack" perks. These grant you special abilities like smashing through walls, shooting hundreds of

feet into the air, and invisibility. This game proves a ton

of fun with all the crazy things available, just make sure not to be crushed by your own tumbling building, and go out and get this game.

14. Mass Effect 2 (9.2)

Mass Effect started with a huge stable of good ideas. Maybe the task of executing on all those ideas was too great for any one development team to accomplish in a single game, but BioWare has really gotten it right the second time around. They took those same ideas and figured out an even better way to combine them into a more cohesive, more playable sequel that makes good on every bit of Mass Effect's potential and leaves me staring very grudgingly at the presumable two-year wait until my own Commander Shepard can continue his fight in the next game.

13. Batman Arkham Asylum (9.3)

Finally, an awesome and fun game has been released based on a cartoon character. Batman Arkham Asylum is probably the only good game I have ever played based on a cartoon character, but it's better than just good, it's over the top. Play as Batman, and take down The Joker and some of his new, surprising allies. The game starts off as you put The Joker in jail, but then things turn for the worse as he escapes and takes over the jail, releasing all the bad guys on you. You can play through this part of the game by downloading the demo, which I suggest because this game does introduce a new, but awesome fighting style, mixing buttons and combos to create super attacks and finishers.

There also is a whole new assortment of available weapons; one of my favorites is the controllable Batarang. If you enjoy watching Batman, I assure you'll have even more fun playing as him -- just buy this game!

12. Saints Row 2 (9.4)

Take back your city as you and your gang, The Saints, take out the other local gangs as you fight the police, fly around in planes, and drive through the city taking out the bad guys, or the good guys. This game will bring loads of fun online, playing co-op through the story or participating in other team based missions. What puts this game at number 12 are its hilarious and awesome cheat codes. Once entered and activated, you get low gravity, evil cars, and super explosions. This game is definitely a must have for lovers of comedy.

11. Halo 3: O.D.S.T. (9.4)

Step into the shoes of the Orbital Drop Shock Troopers and take on the Covenant in the most recently released Halo game. In a normal drop procedure over New Mombasa, a Covenant ship enters slipstream, resulting in complete chaos. You black out, and wake up six hours later, alone, with

Covenant all over searching for you. In addition to the campaign, there is firefight mode, which you fight against waves of Covenant, trying to survive with your buddies online. Also there is a disk with every Halo 3 map-pack to date, including three new ones yet to be released. This is a must have game for any Halo fan.

10. Rock Band 2 (9.5)

Rock out with your friends on the drums, guitar, bass or the microphone in Rock Band 2. This game proves hours of fun at parties with your buddies. Play along with amazing songs and go through "campaign" mode with your own band. This game is a must have if you have any social life and your friends like Xbox 360.

9. Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion (9.5)

Play as your own customized character with different classes, different abilities, and different looks. Play



courtesy of ps3.ign.com

through the adventurous story line, fighting through caves, turning into a vampire, pulling off assassination missions, casting powerful spells, and loads more awesome things that you can do in this non-linear game. This probably is the most fun game you'll play in a long time, and it is fun for hours and hours. Definitely get this game.

8. Fall Out 3 (9.7)

After the nuclear war of World War III, people flee into underground vaults, which are safe against the radiation. At the beginning of Fall Out 3, you are born as a baby and learn the basics of movement, skills, and fighting. It skips ahead a few years after you have mastered the basics, and you learn that your dad has gone missing. You venture out into the unsafe world on an adventure to find your dad. This game brings a new fighting style. There is a mode where you can slow down time, and aim at specific parts of the body, such as the head, the leg, the arm, the heart, and fire a series of shots at that area. This type of shooting proves very enjoyable, especially when a monster's head goes flying off its body.

7. BioShock (9.75)

The underwater world of Rapture is a very tormented and unforgiving place. After you survive a plane crash you must venture into Rapture in order to survive, but soon you realize you have made a very big mistake. You'll battle against demented people as you try to escape this dreadful place. You must use your incredible plasmids ("spells" such as fire, ice, levitation, etc.) and weapons to take down the all-powerful Big Daddies and get out of



Courtesy of Babble

Rapture alive. This game has a great storyline and the plasmids make this game one of the most fun, yet spooky games ever.

6. Gears of War (9.8)

Join humanity's last hope for survival, and fight against the alien force, the Locus. You are recently promoted to the Delta squad, and you have one mission; find the Locus ruler, and destroy it. Fight through tons of Locus, enter a huge worm, see your buddy be killed in front of you, and destroy a huge city. This game is jam packed with tons of action and adventure, which can also be played in co-op mode, either split-screen or online. This game also has multiplayer, such as execution and other team-based game modes. But the best part of this game is the weapons. Use assault rifles with chainsaws, auto-pistols, and even flamethrowers. This game will prove loads of fun, and has great replay value.



courtesy of api.ning.com

5. Grand Theft Auto 4 (9.8)

GTA 4 is one of the most well-made sandbox games of all time. Although the campaign can get boring at times, you can always just mess around wreaking havoc on Liberty City. The online attribute to this game is just unbelievable. It will likely be the funniest, craziest game you will ever play. Online you can play about a dozen different kinds of games; from cops and robbers to team Deathmatch, to racing, and to a Free-Roam (a favorite). This pretty much completes the Xbox (as long as you have Halo 3, COD 4, and Xbox Live). This is a MUST HAVE game.

4. Halo 3 (9.9)

This is one of the greatest first-person shooter games of all time. You play as Master Chief, a super soldier in the war, against alien life forms for the survival of mankind. Play through campaigns by yourself, or go co-op online, or with a friend split-screen. You can also go into matchmaking, fighting against other people, either free-for-all of different kinds of team fighting. You can also play custom games, creating your own map and game type (in forge) and then playing it with up to four people split-screen or 16 online. I am only skimming the top of Halo 3's awesomeness. YOU NEED TO GET THIS GAME!



courtesy of techwarelabs.com

3. Assassin's Creed 1 (9.8)

Step into the shoes of an assassin, as you run around Jerusalem, Acre and other famous cities taking out

targets and fighting your way through the mobs of people all trying to kill you at once. This game will make you feel so sneaky as you drop from a rooftop right behind someone silently, and then take the guy out with one of your hidden blades. Assassin's Creed provides hours of fun in the story mode, and then even more fun just sneaking around and taking down anyone you want, or starting a huge fight in the city streets. Either way, you should definitely get this game.

2. Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 (9.9)

The sequel to the one of the best selling shooter games is finally here, bringing in amazing graphics, weapons, attachments, unlockables, maps, and game modes. You'll battle across numerous landscapes through the amazing action-packed campaign mode, or lit-screen in the brand new

Special Ops mode. Fight with a buddy locally or go on Xbox live and fight through hordes of enemies, sneak past patrols, or go all out, rushing in with shotguns and blowing people away. Whichever way you choose, you'll have a great time with this mode. After your buddy leaves, you can finally enjoy the multiplayer, which is better than ever. Fight in over 15 maps, and over 10 game modes, as you unlock new weapons, new attachments, and new achievements. The amount of unlockables and attachments has tripled from the already awesome Call of Duty 4, so this mode will make many people lose hours of sleep for months to come. Whichever way you like playing, teamwork online, playing with a buddy, or playing by yourself, you need to get this game, because in a nutshell, it is amazing. Yet the main problem with this game is the fact that most of the maps are repetitive, there's an abundance of XP glitches and hacks, and a weak server system keeps it from being the best.

1. Call Of Duty: Modern Warfare (10)

COD 4, is the greatest realistic war game of all time. Play through campaigns as Soap, and stop the world from going into nuclear war. Although there is no co-op campaign, the crazy awesome campaign and crazy online battles make up for it. Online you can battle with up to 16 people in a match, creating your own mix of weapons and grenades, as it turns into a real brawl. Offline you can battle against your buddies with up to four people split-screen. Even if you don't have Xbox Live, get this game.

The campaign is probably the game's best attribute, although the Xbox live is definitely amazing as well. This is the epitome of gaming.

The Day of Love is A Special Occasion

Alyssa Maida

Staff Writer

Every year when February 14th rolls around, a mix of emotions are felt by people of all ages. This holiday, known as Valentine's Day, can foster anticipation, excitement, infatuation, or loneliness, depending on your relationship status. Valentine's Day is the perfect time to express your feelings for that certain someone or to show your loved ones that you care. This year, Valentine's Day falls on the first Sunday of February vacation – take advantage of this by spending the day with close friends or your significant other!

Typical Valentine's Day gifts such as Necco candy hearts (who has added "Tweet Me" to their slew of flirty phrases) and roses go hand in hand with a creative dinner date. This doesn't have to mean an expensive candlelit dinner at a five-star restaurant – try cooking a simple yet romantic meal at home. Half the fun will be working together! Your dining room can easily be transformed into a fancy restaurant: add candles, flowers, music, and dim the lights!

When it comes to Valentine's Day gifts, the trick is keeping it simple yet thoughtful. Most girls would be delighted to receive a dozen roses and a heartfelt card. Jewelry acts as personal memento and is a great gift for both boys and girls. Cologne and clothing are great presents for boys. No matter who you're gifting to, you can rest assured that a box of high-quality chocolate would also be greatly appreciated. As junior Collin Frank always says, "Love is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're going to get." Though the substitution of one word would render this quote curiously familiar.

If you find yourself without a date on Valentine's Day, there is absolutely no reason to stay home and feel sorry for yourself. Get together with other singles! Have a spa day with the girls, or watch the game with your guy friends. Get together for a big group hang-out and have a scary movie

marathon, as classic Valentine's Day romance movies might put you in a bad mood. My first choice would be My Bloody Valentine, a murder mystery starring Jensen Ackles as accused killer Tom Hannerger.

This Valentine's Day you can also head to the movie theater and check out the latest releases. The star-studded cast of *Valentine's Day*, which comes out on February 12th, is sure to keep your spirits up. Jessica Alba, Bradley Cooper, Patrick Dempsey, Jamie Foxx,



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

Jennifer Garner, Anne Hathaway, Ashton Kutcher, Queen Latifah, Taylor Lautner, George Lopez, Emma Roberts, Julia Roberts, and Taylor Swift appear together on one screen in a movie about the lives of intertwining couples and singles in Los Angeles. They experience the break ups and make ups, and the pressures and expectations that accompany Valentine's Day.

Dear John is another new movie that will be great for Valentine's Day. Slated for release on February 5th, this movie promises to be this year's *The Notebook*. Both movies are based on Nicolas Sparks' bestselling novels. The movie chronicles the struggles of two young lovers in a long distance relationship, separated by war. Channing Tatum plays a young soldier and Amanda Seyfried stars as an idealistic college student. Junior Alexa Basciano expressed her excitement for this movie premier in exclaiming, "I simply cannot wait to see Dear John. It seems like an adorable love story, my favorite movie genre!"

Love is in the air this Valentine's Day. Whether you spend a romantic evening with a loved one or have a fun get-together with friends, you can be sure that this Valentine's Day will be a memorable one. Whatever you decide to do, make the most of your day and don't spend it alone. As junior Duke Alvora once said, "You only live once, so love a lot."



Courtesy of Nibs

Still 'Live at 35

Julia Druckman

Staff Writer

"Live from New York, it's Saturday Night!" For 35 seasons, that saying has gotten people to sit up in bed and watch to see their favorite comedians, actors, and singers perform on NBC's stage. *Saturday Night Live* first aired on October 11, 1975, on NBC. It has maintained that spot in their line-up, despite significant cast changes and occasional controversies concerning topics they have poked fun at. The show was developed by Dick Ebersol with producer Lorne Michaels in 1975 as NBC needed

a show for its Saturday late-night slot. For years now, the show has dominated late night; and SNL even became more popular than another NBC late-night show *The Tonight Show*. SNL airs most Saturdays at 11:30pm. The show usually

opens with a famous host, who has starred in either a recent movie or TV series. The host will be in many of the skits, accompanied by the cast of that season. Oftentimes, these cast members play recurring roles in certain skits, since they prove to be popular in prior weeks. One recurring skit is "Weekend Update," a fake news sketch that parodies that week's newsworthy events. The show also features a musical guest—usually one who has just released an album.

When *Saturday Night Live* began over 30 seasons ago, the producers and directors of the program casted the first ever SNL line up. This cast made SNL's name and publicized it as a noteworthy show. The original cast consisted of Chevy Chase, Dan Aykroyd, John Belushi, Jane Curtin, Gilda Radner, Laraine Newman and Garrett Morris. George Coe and Michael O'Donoghue were writers and occasional performers. When people think of the original, traditional SNL lineup, these comedians come to mind.

Mr. Dearstyne agrees. "I don't think any skit or comedian will ever match what Eddie Murphy and John Belushi brought to SNL," he said, "and the show wouldn't have taken off like it did."

Most people do not know the full extent of the variety of comedians who have been on the program.

Many famous movie stars, celebrities and comedy icons got their start on SNL. Adam Sandler, Jim Carrey, Chris Rock, Eddie Murphy, Jimmy Fallon, Will Ferrell, Mike Myers and Chris Farley are some of the famous actors who debuted on *Saturday Night Live*'s stage. SNL proved to be an important force in starting these actor's careers and making them household names.

One of the most famous stars to emerge from the show is former head writer and "Weekend Update" anchor Tina Fey. If the public



An earlier season's cast, packed full of stars. Courtesy of www.danacarvey.net

responds well to a comedian, the writers for SNL create particularly humorous skits to display their talent. In Fey's case, the writers thought that she would be the perfect person to do an impersonation of the 2008 vice presidential hopeful, Sarah Palin. Her performance

of Palin was spectacular, parodying her "hockey mom" lifestyle, the hypocrisy concerning her pregnant teenage daughter and some her more ignorant remarks. She has since moved on from the show, gaining professional independence by co-writing and starring in her first film "Baby Mama." She also created, writes for, and stars in NBC's *30 Rock*, which has won ten Emmys and has been nominated for many more since its debut.

The top skits from SNL history have been scattered throughout its many seasons. One of the classic scenes is "Celebrity Jeopardy" which features Will Ferrell, Darrell Hammond, and Jimmy Fallon. The skit has gone down in Saturday Night Live history as one of the most popular scenes, and is re-



Courtesy of chicagonow.com

used, making fun of different celebrities each time. Other classic skits are the "Samurai Deli" with John Belushi and "James Brown's Celebrity Hot Tub" with Eddie Murphy.

New cast member Andy Samberg has also had a few hit skits in his career so far. They usually have a music video theme, and one (*I'm On a Boat*) even made it to the top of the iTunes most popular video list. D**k in a Box, featuring Justin Timberlake, Maya Rudolph, Kristen Wiig and Andy Samberg, is a reenactment of a boy band music video. He and his "band" The Lonely Island often collaborate with famous musicians like T-Pain for the show. In addition, many of his music videos have gone viral on the internet and YouTube.

Given easy access to the skits on the internet, many students at the high school enjoy watching SNL. "My favorite skit this season is "The Mellow Show" (featuring Samberg as Jack Johnson, Bill Hader as Dave Matthews, and Joseph Gordon Levitt as Jason Mraz). I love Joseph Gordon Levitt!" said junior Lorena Linero.

As of now, the show's fate lies in the young hands of the 25th season's cast. The current cast includes Fred Armisen, Will Forte, Bill Hader, Seth Meyers, Andy Samberg, Jason Sudeikis, Kenan Thompson, and Kristen Wiig, with contributions by Abby Elliot, Bobby Moynihan, Nassim Pedrad, and Jenny Slate. These comedians



Fey and Poehler as Palin and Clinton. Courtesy of wordpress.com

must strive to live up to the expectations of their SNL ancestors. For all we know, Andy Samberg or Abby Elliot could very well be the next Will Ferrell or Tina Fey.

SNL's legacy is not nearly over; it will continue to be the center of people's Saturday nights for years to come. This show is so influential that generations have grown up to the different casts SNL has featured. So, if you are ever up late on a Saturday, turn on your TV to NBC, and watch. Just don't fall asleep; there are a lot of commercials.

SHHH! Post Secret

Taylor Friedwald

Staff Writer

Have you ever had something that you wanted to get off your chest but never had the confidence to do so? Do you love to hear other people's deepest, darkest secrets? If you answered yes to either of the previous questions, PostSecret is the website for you.

PostSecret allows people to send in secrets anonymously, and those messages are then posted on the web page. Some are as simple and relatable as "I think I have better taste in music than everyone else." Others are darker and unsettling such as, "The nights I sleep the best, I dream about being shot." The subject of the secrets ranges from body images to death. These secrets can be submitted via Twitter, email, or snail mail (often on creative, handmade postcards).

Frank Warren created PostSecret in 2004 by handing out postcards to strangers in Washington D.C. and inviting them to submit their secrets. Warren expected to stop receiving postcards several weeks after he finished handing out cards, but the secrets kept coming. "I realized that I'd accidentally tapped into something, full of mystery and wonder, that I didn't really understand," says Warren in an attempt to explain what compelled people to share their most secretive information. Now, Frank Warren has earned the reputation as the most trusted stranger in America, as he receives over 200 secrets daily.

In addition to PostSecret's website (which one of the top-visited websites among college females), there are five PostSecret books and a PostSecret Twitter page. Soon after the PostSecret concept took off, Frank Warren teamed up with the National Hopeline Network, 1-800-SUICIDE, and has since raised well over \$200,000 for suicide prevention. The anguish and desperation that he witnessed inspired him to take action, as he realized just how many people were suffering. PostSecret has given "voices to those that have not been heard," and Frank Warren's involvement with the National Hopeline Network has given help to those who do not know how to ask for it.

You can mail your own secrets to PostSecret at Frank Warren / 13345 Cooper Ridge Road / Germantown, MD 20874. To read other people's secrets online, check out postsecret.blogspot.com and postsecretarchive.com. The five PostSecret books can all be found at your local library – ask for *PostSecret: Confessions on Life, Death, and God*; *PostSecret: Extraordinary Confessions from Ordinary Lives*; *The Secret Lives of Men and Women: A PostSecret Book*; *A Lifetime of Secrets: A PostSecret Book*; or *My Secret: A PostSecret Book*.



Courtesy of Post Secret

sports

An Exclusive Interview With Jimmy Roberts

Amy Carton

Staff Writer

The Husky Herald was given the opportunity to sit down and interview sports commentator Jimmy Roberts. Roberts began his career in journalism in high school, where he wrote for his local paper. After becoming involved in journalism and sports broadcasting in college, Roberts began working for ESPN, where he covered golf tournaments and other golf-related events. Recently Roberts published and released his first book, *Breaking the Slump*, which revolves around the sport of golf as well as the adversities life presents. In 1980, Roberts was given the chance to cover the Olympics, and has continued to do so for the past 13 years. He will be covering the upcoming Vancouver Winter Olympics this February.

HH (Husky Herald) : **How did you first get into journalism? Was it something you were interested in when you were in High School?**

JR(Jimmy Roberts) :I actually first started because I wrote for what was then the Westchester Rockland Newspapers. I grew up in White Plains, my mother was a kindergarten teacher, and a woman volunteer in her class was the sports editor of the *Reporter Dispatch*. They were looking for kids to come and work part time and do kind of grunt work. So I went and I worked there and I got my start there and I learned. They let me go out and publish some stories – some local high

school sports events and then write a couple of columns. That was how I got my start really.

HH: **Where did you go to college? Did you major in journalism?**

JR: I wrote for *The Journal News* for a few years and then I went to the University of Maryland because I was going to play lacrosse. I was a decent lacrosse player in high school and I did not get to play at Maryland, but I did end up broadcasting the team on the college radio station. The first year that I was there, Maryland went and played the national championship game and it was on what was then the biggest sport television program called ABC's *Wide World of Sports* and so I went and volunteered for *Wide World of Sports* and sat in the truck and helped them kind of understand how the game was supposed to go, what to expect and it kind of turned into a career from there. I worked for them all throughout college as what they call a "gopher," you know, "go for this and go for that" and when I graduated, they hired me and I worked there for eight years behind the scenes as a production assistant and then I worked my way up the ranks until I left there and went to work for ESPN.

HH: **Was that your first official newsroom job?**

JR: Well the first job I had on camera was with ESPN. I went to work for

ESPN and the way it started was I had spent a lot of years writing and producing feature stories – a lot like the feature stories I do now. But I would write and produce them for somebody else. So I would put them together and then hand the script over to somebody else and they would narrate them. So I figured, well if I could put all this stuff together, then I should be able to narrate it myself. So, I put my own voice on a lot of these stories and I sent out audition tapes all over the country and I got a lot of nasty rejection letters and, at the time, ESPN was just not even a fraction of what it is today – I mean most people hadn't even heard of it - and they gave me a job, so that was it.

HH: **What would you say is a definition of the term "gopher"?**

JR: A gopher means that you "go for this" and you "go for that" – technically it was the entry level position in sports television production when I started doing it. You know it was a bunch of college kids who were just looking to catch on, get a job, learn something and none of us were staff employees. You know, like your dad I'm sure works for a law firm, right? And your mom is a doctor with a practice, so they have jobs where they work as part of the company. Gophers – we were just people who got paid, so we were employees, but we were not full-time employees.

HH: **Almost like an internship?**

JR: Yes, kind of like a paid internship, is basically what it was, but we did the most menial of tasks -- everything from picking people up at the airport and going to get food for people. If you were more experienced, they let you do things like doing the computer graphics that would be on the screen – that was a big thing for gophers – I did the graphics for speed skating in Lake Placid when Eric Heiden won five gold medals – it was very exciting.

HH: **What would you consider to be your "biggest" story that you've worked on?**



Olympic gold hopeful Lindsey Vonn.

Courtesy of Damch

JR: I don't know that I've broken any news, but the biggest scoop I probably ever got was that I was the only person Tiger Woods gave an interview to after he won his first Masters when he was 20 years old. It was a gigantic story and I was the only person that he gave an interview to – so that was pretty big and I was on *Good Morning America* – it was a real big break for me.

HH: **What do you think of the Tiger Woods scandal today?**

JR: He's in a lot of trouble. He's in a mess. It's a shame.

HH: **How did you choose to focus your career primarily on golf?**

JR: It kind of just happened. I was working for *SportsCenter* and everybody had something that they were covering and I didn't really have anything I was covering – and I always liked golf and when I had worked behind the scenes, I had worked on the production crew that actually televised golf and so I thought well, maybe I'll see if anybody is interested – so I asked my bosses at ESPN if we could cover some golf and they said yes, why not, and this was in the early 1990s and so they let me go out and cover a few tournaments and I just kind of became the golf reporter because no one else wanted it.

HH: **And your book was based on golf as well?**

JR: My book is called *Breaking the Slump* and it is about how some great and famous people have gotten over their worst slumps in the game of golf – but really it's not only about golf – it's really about adversity and how successful people handle adversity – because a lot of these people told me about how they got past their worst times, which could apply to a lot of different things – not only golf.

HH: **When looking back on all the pros you interviewed for your book, who was your favorite to interview?**

JR: Well, they were all very nice
(Continued on Page 16)



Amy Carton and Jimmy Roberts.

Courtesy of Amy Carton

Roberts Revealed (continued)

(Continued from Page 15)

to me. There were a lot of very famous people - Arnold Palmer, Jack Nicklaus, former President Bush. But I think that my favorite might have been a golfer by the name of Scott Verplank - only because he had such a great story - and I didn't know about his story as much - it was a real eye opener for me so I really liked that part of the book the best. [Editor's note: Verplank battled diabetes throughout his career.]

HH: Outside of golf, or sports in general, do you have another topic that you enjoy writing about?

JR: Well, I think writing is just writing. And if you like to write - like I've been helping a young lady whose father and I played lacrosse together - I've been helping her try to get into college - and she said to me that her two interests are journalism and fashion. So she wants to be a fashion journalist which makes sense. Me, I just like to tell stories - so if there is a good story, I'm interested in it no matter what it is - it's just about I'm a pretty curious person - so I'm curious to know about people and what their stories are.

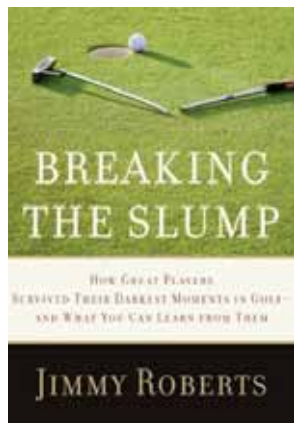
HH: With the Olympics coming up, who should we be keeping an eye on?

JR: Definitely, Lindsey Vonn - she is an American alpine skier - she was the two time World Cup overall champion and it's really extraordinary - I don't think any woman or any American has ever won two overall World Cups in a row. So she is the big favorite. I think she's going to be the biggest story at the games.

HH: How did get into covering the Olympics?

JR: I think this is my thirteenth Olympic games. I worked for ABC Sports all throughout college and then when I was graduating, they were going to broadcast the 1980 Winter Olympic Games in Lake Placid, New York, and they asked me if I would work for them as a gopher. I worked for ABC Sports in 1980, I covered two Olympic Games in 1984, the Summer and the Winter and then the Winter games in 1988. Then I went to work for ESPN, where we covered the Olympics. Only because I had experience, they sent me to cover the Olympics and now it's just kind of gone along with the places that I've worked.

HH: If you could interview any athlete- either dead or alive, who



would it be and why?

JR: Off the top of my head, I might say the golfer Bobby Jones. He died in the 1960s and was considered by many to have been the greatest golfer ever. But he played golf at a different time when he was never a professional. He was a life long amateur. But the reason I would want to



Golf Pro Bobby Jones. Courtesy of Bobby Jones Open

interview him is because he was someone who could have become a professional, but decided that he wanted to compete only for the joy of competing. He actually became a lawyer. He was a fascinating guy. So I think I would like to know what made him tick. A guy who didn't want to - you know he could have made lots of money being a professional golfer for his time, but he decided that there were more important things in life and he just liked playing golf because it was a game and he enjoyed the game.

HH: What traits do you think make for a good journalist?

JR: Well, number one, you should be curious. When I was a little kid, I was always getting into trouble because anytime something would happen, I would ask why. And when I was little, grownups would always say, "Don't ask why, just do what you are told." Well, the most important tool a journalist can have is his or her curiosity. I always want to know why or question - so you need to be curious and you need to listen. It's so important to listen. When you are interviewing somebody, they might tell you something and you might be so intent on your next questions that you miss something important. You might be so intent on what the next question that you're going to ask you might just miss their having said, "I just murdered my wife" or something. They may have said something that could turn into a big point in your story that could be very, very interesting. So be curious. It's okay to ask "why" all the time, and to listen. I just think good journalists are people who read. You know, if you're a sports journalist, it doesn't mean you should read sports. You should just read. You know, learn about the world. I think that's really, really important.

HH: With all the technology available, you don't always have the same opportunity to meet and

talk in person with someone you're interviewing. What advice do you have for high school students interested in this new journalism?

JR: Now journalism has changed. It really has changed. When I started writing for The Journal News, I would call somebody on the telephone - not even an answering machine, you'd just have to keep calling and calling and try to find them. I still think some of those old school values are important. I think, go and seek out the information from people. Don't take the easy way out. I mean, look, work is hard but I think if you take the easy way out too often, it kind of shows in the end. So go and find people. You may have to answer an email, but if it were me, I would say to whomever an email saying, "Listen, can I meet you for a cup of coffee?" There is nothing better than getting to know somebody and those things pay off.

HH: How do you go about interviewing celebrities?

JR: I went to the White House this past year and interviewed then President George W. Bush for my book. And even though I had met him before, and I know his father, and I've interviewed Presidents before, I'm still interviewing the most powerful man in the world in the White House, so I get a little bit nervous, but you have to kind of try and just remember what you are doing. Wherever you are, you're not there to be the head of you know "Person X Fan Club," you're there to do a story. And in the end, they're just people, they have two eyes, two arms, you know, 10 fingers. Maybe they have a great voice, maybe they are seven feet tall and a great basketball player, but we're all people and you just really have to try hard to remember the fact that you need to have some self respect. You should think you belong there, wherever you are. You know, as long as you take your job seriously, you belong there. Just never forget that. It's really important.

HH: Does this job keep you from rooting for a certain team or something in sports because of your position?

JR: It's supposed to. Yeah, there's an old saying which is "No Cheering in the Press Box" - which means that once you're a journalist, you're not supposed to be rooting for one team or another. You're not supposed to be a fan. You just kind of keep it to yourself.

HH: All people have to deal with some sort of adversities in their lives. Do you have any advice as to how to overcome them?

JR: In writing this book, one of the things I learned from people who were successful is that we're all presented with lots of challenges in our lives. I think that one of the best things you can do for yourself if you work hard towards your goals, is to have confidence in yourself. If you feel good about yourself, you can go a long way. The point is that you want to give yourself a chance. So have confidence. It's the most important thing you can have. Work hard and then have confidence.



Courtesy of Perry Grosser

Titans Hope For Revenge

Spencer Rosenstein

Staff Writer

The 2009-10 high school hockey season in the lower Hudson valley area has been as exciting as ever. The divisions have been changed from years past. Many players have gone on to play on their respective college teams, while freshmen from nearby schools are emerging as the new future of hockey in our area. Since Harrison is not able to field enough kids for its own team, we still join with two other schools on the ice. The Blind Brook/Harrison/Rye Neck Titans are looking for redemption and revenge after a disappointing hockey season in 2008-09.

According to LoHud.com, last year's hockey team amassed a 2-22-2 record. This year is different, however. In the first pre-season game against Scarsdale High School at The Ice Hutch in Mount Vernon, the Titans won handily with a flurry of quick goals. The final score was 9-0, with many members of the team contributing to the scoring. While this pre-season confidence boost was nice, it didn't translate through to the first regular season game. In that game at Rye Playland's Ice Casino, Byram Hills team beat the Titans in a hard-fought 6-2 contest.

The Titans are not the only team in the lower Hudson Valley area wishing to return to former glory. Many formerly successful teams are feeling optimistic about this new season. The New Rochelle Huguenots hockey team, led by Head Coach Jim Tozzo and junior Rich Prunesti, are looking to repeat the success of their 15-7-2 season last year. The White Plains team, led by Coach Howie Rubenstein, wants to return to the Section 1 finals. Last season, White Plains suffered a disappointing loss in those finals.

The always informative LoHud website runs a blog that focuses specifically on the area's various high school hockey teams (both Section 1 and Section 2). They give "an outlook" on how the season will go for the various teams.

Mike Dougherty, the blog reporter, had this to say of this year's RTH Titans: "The Titans have a strong core of players returning and are set to return to being a top team in the area."

Having several players returning to this year's squad is a plus, as many of the competitors have lost star seniors to graduation.

"We need to skate hard for all 45 minutes," said Head Coach Rob Striar, prior to his team's frustrating 2-1 overtime loss to Pelham. One team member said, "He could not be more proud of our effort throughout the game."

The Titans have found most teams have a few good players with the ability to score goals, get assists, and make game-changing plays. This year's key strategy is to focus on those opposing playmakers, making sure they are covered and unable to get the puck in the net. We'll see how that formula for success turns out for this year's Titans team.

World Cup 2010: Controversy in South Africa

Kelsi Wolf

Staff Writer

The next World Cup will be held in 2010 with South Africa as the host country. The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the 19th FIFA World Cup, the premier international football tournament. It is scheduled to take place from June 11 to July 11, 2010, in South Africa. The 2010 FIFA World Cup will be the culmination of a qualification process that began in August, 2007, and involved 204 of the 208 FIFA national teams. As such, it matches the 2008 Summer Olympics as the sports event with the most competing nations.



Logo courtesy of Soccer Chat

This will be the first time that the tournament has been hosted by an African nation, after South Africa

beat out Morocco and Egypt in an all-African bidding process. As with all major worldwide events, the 2010 FIFA World Cup has been connected to evictions in South Africa which are meant to "beautify the city," impress visiting tourists, and hide shack dwellers.

On May 14, 2009, Durban-based shack dwellers took the KwaZulu-Natal government to court over their controversial Elimination and Prevention of Re-Emergence of Slums Act, meant to eliminate slums in South Africa and put homeless shack dwellers in transit camps in time for the 2010 World Cup. They have gained a lot of publicity for their efforts in the international media. The biggest controversy surrounding preparations for the World Cup is the N2 Gateway housing project in Cape Town, which plans to remove over 20,000 residents from Joe Slovo Informal Settlement along the busy N2 Freeway and build rental flats and bond houses in its place in time for the 2010 World Cup. The residents would be moved to

the poverty stricken Delft Township on the outskirts of the city and out of sight from the N2 Freeway.

In July 2009, South Africa was hit with rolling protests by poor communities who demanded access to basic



Is funding for building stadiums taking money away from social needs?

services, jobs, adequate housing, and the democratization of service delivery. These protests have been linked to the World Cup as protesters complain that public funds are being diverted away from social issues to build stadiums and upgrade airports.

The total prize money offered for the tournament was confirmed by FIFA as \$420 million, a 60 percent increase from the 2006 tournament. Before the tournament, each participating team will receive \$1 million for preparation costs. Once at the tournament, teams exiting at the group stage would receive \$8 million. Thereafter, the prize money is distributed as follows: \$9 million - Round of 16; Quarterfinals - \$18 million; Semi-Finals - \$20 million; Runner Up - \$24 million; and the winners will receive \$30 million.

In a first for the World Cup, there will also be payments made by FIFA to the domestic clubs of the players representing their national teams at the tournament. This would see a total of \$36 million being paid to domestic clubs, amounting to just over \$1,390,000 per day. This was the result of an agreement reached in 2008 between FIFA and European clubs to disband the

G-14, an organization of European football clubs, as well as drop their claims for compensation dating back to 2005 over the financial cost of injuries sustained to their players while on international duty, such as that from Belgian club Charleroi S.C. for injury to Morocco's Abdelmajid Oulmers in a friendly game in 2004, and from English club Newcastle United for an injury to England's Michael Owen in the 2006 World Cup.

The World Cup is going to be another very exciting event, and has a high standard to live up to from the 2006 World Cup. It is a tradition to many families, but, as history shows, can quickly get out of hand. The World Cup is a very important event for some countries, much more than simply a tournament of football.

Hofstra Gets Rid of Football Program

Ray Corona

Staff Writer

The football program at Hofstra University has had many chapters in its years since it started in 1937. It has produced Pro-Bowl wide receivers like Wayne Chrebet and Marques Colston and, in 1991, it moved from a Division III school to a Division I school.

But on December 3rd, 2009, Hofstra will add a new chapter to its program: elimination.

School President Stuart Rabinowitz has decided to eliminate the Hofstra football program, which cost the school \$4.5 million last year, and use the money toward scholarships and new classes, according to the University's Department of Athletic Communications. The decision was voted for unanimously by the school board. Board members complained that the cost of the football program outweighs the possible return the program may provide and that the program was losing interest from its fans.

Rabinowitz explained what this decision meant to the school. "As we continue to improve our academic programs and reputation, and plan the University's future, we have to consider the investment we make in all of the University's programs," he said. "The cost of the football program, now and

in the future, far exceeds the return possible from an FCS program, which does not generate significant national interest. Given that, along with the low level of interest, financial support and attendance among our students, our alumni and the community, the choice was painful, but clear."

Players have reacted in anger and feel as if Rabinowitz has taken their careers right out of their hands.

Even though the current football players will still have their scholarship honored if they choose not to transfer, what they really want is to play football, and they

have made it very clear. Hofstra has been put on the college football map by developing five major NFL draft picks. Players such as Wayne Chrebet, Marques Colston and Willie Colon have been the best to come out of the program. They too are disappointed in the way Hofstra has handled this.

"I am both saddened and shocked to hear the news that the Hofstra University football program has ceased," said New Orleans Saints wide receiver Marques Colston to ESPN's Adam Schefter. "I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to the university,

my coaches and my former teammates and I am sure that they share in my disappointment."

Tampa Bay Buccaneers head coach Raheem Morris, who played at Hofstra from 1994-97, called the move a "sad state of affairs."

"It was the last thing I was expecting them to say," said current player Keith Ferrara. "I had no idea it was coming. I want to play football, so I'm probably going to transfer out."

Others agree with the decision. As it is, there is little interest in the team. Rabinowitz said students were offered free tickets to games, but an average of only 500 students showed up in the 13,000-seat stadium, including cheerleaders and the pep band. Hofstra has a student body of 12,500, but only 4,200 live on campus. The average attendance this season, by students and nonstudents was 4,260.

The fact that the team was not a contender and that only a few Hofstra players have made it to the NFL has not helped draw in additional fans. The Pride went 5-6 this past season, tying for third with a 3-5 record in the CAA North. All of these factors made it an easier decision to eliminate the program.

The termination of Hofstra football has put fear into

many high school and college football programs. While Hofstra is dropping the sport, 13 new programs have been announced, including six next season.

Hofstra's controversial decision has caused much debate, even here at the high school.

"Maybe it's because I stink at football, but I think what they did was right," confessed junior Michael Jacobson. "A sport that takes up millions of dollars better be worth it."

Freshman Thomas Lovinger disagreed. Like many, he couldn't imagine a school like Harrison without football on a fall Saturday.

"It's horrible," he said. "Football is such a good game. I could never imagine something like that happening."



This is a sight for the record books -- Hofstra football is gone. Courtesy of libn

Cheer Squad on Top of the World

Alyssa Maida

Staff Writer

The Harrison Varsity cheerleading team has had a great season. Contrary to popular belief, the Huskies' cheerleading season does not end when football season does, it just begins. After months of cheering at games, making signs for the players, and running the pep rally, the real cheerleading season begins. This is also when the cheerleading competition season starts.

The first competition took place at Westlake High School on November 14th. This was a small competition and its main purpose was to allow the cheerleaders practice time on the mat and the ability to run the routine in front of a large crowd. Fortunately, after hitting their routine without any falls, the Husky cheerleaders took home second place, trailing behind the first place team, Maria Regina, by just half a point.

Despite the team's successes, there was still a lot of work to be done. Regionals and County Center, the two most important competitions in the season aside from Nationals, were coming up the next week. Regionals took place at Hofstra University on November 22nd. This competition would decide whether or not the cheerleading team would go to nationals. The first place team in each division would receive an automatic bid to nationals. The other teams' fates would be decided depending on if the amount of points they received were in the same range as the first place team. The Huskies had formidable competition. One team was Saint Josephs by the Sea, who had gone to the final round at nationals the previous year. The other three teams in the division were all very advanced and well recognized. Nev-

ertheless, the Huskies refused to get intimidated and focused on what they

When the announcer announced that Harrison had received third place,

Harrison Cheerleading, no other team ever placed that high. The team also won the wild card spot that night to compete again the Grand Champion Division.

The Grand Champion Division is the final round for cheerleading and is the most important competition, with the area's best team competing. These teams include New Rochelle, North Rockland (defending Grand Champions), New Rochelle, John Jay-East Fishkill, R.C. Ketcham and Scarsdale.

Harrison placed third in the Grand Champion round, which was quite an accomplishment, behind New Rochelle who received first, and North Rockland who received second.

Harrison continued to succeed a few weeks later. They placed 2nd at the Croton High School Holiday Invitational and 1st place at the New Rochelle competition.

The Harrison varsity cheerleaders are very excited with their success. Junior Nicole MacIlvane says, "I'm very proud of how we came together as a team and achieved our goals. And, as a somewhat new team (the Varsity team has four freshmen) we really defied expectations."

The cheerleading season is far from over. There are competitions planned for every weekend into January. At the end of the season, the Huskies will be competing at Nationals in Orlando Florida. Junior Angelica Catalano comments, "We're proud of everything we've achieved, but we're not stopping here. This is just the beginning."



Harrison cheerleaders dominate the competition.

Courtesy of Ms. Diane Frawley

came to do: win a bid to nationals.

The Huskies arrived at Hofstra University determined to take home the bid. On the warm up mat, the team faced a hurdle. As they were warming up, a UCA (Universal Cheerleading Association) instructor noticed a part of a pyramid was illegal. If the team performed with this pyramid, there would have been a major point deduction and the Huskies would have gone home without a bid. With only three minutes left on the warm-up mat, the Huskies made a few quick changes so the pyramid would be judged legal.

Even with the change, the Huskies hit a perfect routine and their energy and precision impressed the crowd. As the result section began, the anticipation among the team grew.

the team was thrilled! The announcer then moved on to announce the teams that received bids. The Huskies sat in a circle with arms crossed, holding hands. Finally, the UCA announcer awarded Harrison with a bid, which meant that the Huskies were going to Disney. Junior Dana Annatone shares her thoughts about the competition. "We had a lot of pressure to receive a bid to nationals. But, it was very fun performing, and even more amazing that we won a bid."

Two days later, the Huskies competed in The Westchester County Cheerleading Invitational. After hitting a flawless routine, the cheerleaders won second place, which was especially exciting because it was in a large division and in the history of

Bowling Teams on a Roll

Joey Loreti

Sports Editor

Bowling is back and better than ever. Both the varsity boys and the varsity girls bowling teams have enjoyed early success in their 2009-2010 campaign. The boys, led by Coach Michael Ciavarella, had a monumental victory over top-ranked Rye Neck, winning two games to one. The girls' team, headed up by Coach Heath Kaplan, has a lon-

ger tradition of success. They are up to their usual winning ways, knocking down opponents with every throw.

Recently, the boys' team played Rye Neck over the course of two days. Fortunately for the Huskies, it played to their advantage, as the entire team caught fire and kept bringing it back to their bench. With a full head of steam, they were able to rise above the heavily favored Rye Neck squad and make a statement that the Huskies are here to stay in Class A.

Jordan Brandes, a senior, is new to the team this year.

"I knew I couldn't let my innate, God-given bowling dexterity go to waste, so I tried out for the team, hoping to fill the void left behind by the graduating seniors," he said. "Once I made the team, I was a bit concerned about being the only bowler on the starting roster who doesn't spin the ball. However, my technique hasn't posed a problem for me so far and, in the big win against Rye Neck, I really felt we came together as a family."

The victory improved the team's record to 42-34, and put them right back in the thick of things in their league. Leading the boys team is lone captain

Saajan "Saigon" Patel, a starter since his freshman year. Other starters include Rocco "Rufio" Cipriano, Joe "The Pro" Albanese, Bennett "All-Madden" Wissak, Brandes, who goes by "Zuma," and Jake "The Future" Solomon, whom Coach C was quoted as saying was, "the most enthusiastic and improved player on the team."

"It's exciting transforming a young student from a novice bowler into a strong competitor," said Coach C. "Going into this year we thought we would be in a rebuilding stage; however, the team has rapidly progressed and now we've jumped from seventh place into a heated battle for third."

For the girls, it's the same story that's been told these past few years. Owing an undefeated record and an overall record of 71-6, they are well on their way toward capturing a league title, which would be the first in Harrison Bowling history. There are three captains for the girls; Molly "The Hammer" Stevens, Aneri "Ashanti" Doshi, and Alison "The Professor" Nathanson. Recently, Miku "El Fuego" Ohkimoto broke the Harrison girls single game record with a score of 204 pins.

"That's better than my career best," noted Coach Kaplan. "Bowlers are the athletic pinnacle of this school. When you think about an athlete, you think about a bowler, you think about

the ideal combination of grace, hand-eye coordination, and strength (both emotional and physical). To be a good bowler, you have to have the heart of a rock; you can't surrender to the constant heckling of the opposing teams. We're small, but intimidating; we're like Mike Tyson in his prime. And we will bite someone's ear."

The girls won their league handily and are waiting to see if, based on the final standings, they have qualified for the sectionals. They have an excellent chance to win a tournament as Lower Westchester Bowling Champions. With their nine seniors leading the way, they have a great shot at winning.

It's not hard to see the progress being made thanks to the coaching of Coach Ciavarella and Coach Kaplan. As both teams put it, "Working under the tutelage of Mr. C and Mr. Kaplan is like receiving instruction from a combination of Mike Krzyzewski and John Madden."

With each passing season, the records of both the boys and girls teams continue to improve. As more and more students try out for the bowling teams, this is no coincidence -- the competition grows keener. Although it remains relatively young as a sport at the high school, the Harrison bowling program is definitely on an upward trend, and the sky is the limit.



Shreena Shah bowls for the strike!
Courtesy of the HHS Yearbook

Wrestling Toward Success

David Polakoff

Staff Writer

The Harrison Huskies Wrestling team is always one of the hardest training varsity sports at Harrison High School. The varsity team consists of mainly juniors and seniors, but this year's squad features two freshmen who started off the year on varsity, Gavin Menchel and David Polakoff. A week later, two additional freshmen hopped aboard the varsity train, Joe Maida and Bobby Scatenato.

The team's first event was the Tony Carlucci Duals Tournament at SUNY Purchase College on the first weekend of December. On the first day of the tournament, Harrison's opponents were Mamaroneck, Mount Saint Michael, and West Lake, all of whom had previously defeated the Huskies. The following day Harrison lost a very tight match to Port Chester that was decided by a tiebreaker, as the Rams recorded more wins than the Huskies, giving them the victory. The stars of the weekend for Harrison were Duke Alvora and Rob Mulderrig, who both went 3-2, Tyler Rodrigues and Zach Guarnero, who went 4-1, and Andrew Planamento who went undefeated at 5-0 along with three pins and didn't allow a single point throughout the tournament.

The team's next outing was on December 8 at Horace Greeley. The Huskies as a team went 2-0, defeating Irvington by a score of 49-30, and the host team by a score of 63-20, along with nine pins. Next up was a daylong event at John Jay Cross River. Despite falling to John Jay, the Huskies were able to rebound in their next match, defeating Ardsley.

The Huskies' last tournament



The Varsity Wrestling Team

Courtesy of Coach Nicita



Andrew Planamento wrestles an opponent from Pleasantville. The Huskies were unable to come away with any champions at the tournament, but did have a few place in their

respective weight classes. Among those was Alvora who came in third, Guarnero, who placed second by losing in the final match to a wrestler from Roundout Valley, and Planamento, who also settled for silver after falling to the previous year's fifth best wrestler in his weight class, Sam Speno from Fox Lane. Season highlights for the Huskies included revenge wins over Westlake and Mount St. Michael, two teams that had defeated them earlier this season. The trip to Disney World was a great success, where the Huskies were up against nationally ranked competition.

Planamento, ranked third in his weight class by a committee from the Section One Wrestling Coaches Association and considered one of the section's top 103 pound wrestlers, is 34-2 and on pace to become only the second wrestler in Harrison history to reach the 40 win mark in a season. After falling to Speno in the Patriot Tournament, Planamento rebounded nicely by winning the Shoreline Tournament at New Rochelle High School, the first tournament win for a Harrison wrestler this season. Co-captain Guarnero has 26 wins and been the most consistent Husky wrestler, placing in every tournament so far, while Alvora leads all 215 lb. juniors in the state with 29 wins, including the Scarsdale Title.

The Huskies will conclude their season with matches against White Plains and Iona Prep before heading to Yorktown for the Section Qualifiers. The Section Championships will then be held a week later at Pace University.

HHS Sport Shorts

Compiled by Joey Loreti

Pictures courtesy of HHS Yearbook

Varsity Girls Basketball

The Harrison Girls Varsity Basketball team has experienced an up and down season thus far. There have been the lows, such as heartbreaking defeats to Byram Hills and Westlake, and more recently, the highest of highs, avenging an early season loss to Rye with an exciting one-point victory. The girls hope that dealing with adversity



Andi Moschetta goes up for a layup

early in the season will propel them to greater success in the post-season, having already qualified for the Sectional playoffs. The win against Rye came in dramatic fashion, as junior Nicole Tenner hit a buzzer-beater shot to give the Huskies the win. Senior guard and co-captain Johnna Valentzas has been leading the scoring all season, along with fellow guard Andi Moschetta. Handling the post has been sophomore Shawn Caparelli, who leads the team in rebounding and blocked shots. With the regular season winding down, the Huskies will be looking to finish strong and carry their newfound momentum into the playoffs.

Track & Field

Harrison track athletes have a history of breaking records, and this year's indoor teams are no different. School records have already been established by Nina Sarmiento in the 300-meter dash and pole vault for the



Emily Singer in her winning stride.

400-meter dash times and teamed up with David D'Antona, Paul Buonocore, and Ryo Inkyo to break the 4x200 meter relay record. The boys and girls 4x400 meter relay teams both won the league championship, while Sarmiento, Emily Singer, Buonocore, Park, and Al-Doori all came away with individual championships in their respective events. Both teams will be competing at the Sectional Championships in mid-February.

girls. On the boys' side, Chris Repecki and Zaid Al-Doori have been busy. Repecki bested his own school record in the 3200 meter and established a new low time in the 1600-meter run, while Al-Doori broke 200 - and

Boys' Varsity Swimming and Diving

The team has had a good season thus far, with six wins against three losses, and six Sectional qualifiers. At the upcoming Section One meet, several have hopes to qualify for the States, including Captain Matthew Pon, J.T. Nangle, and Matthew Carducci. In addition, Lorenzo Mitil and Reo Mukudai may post times that would qualify them for States as well. Currently, the relay team of J.T. Nangle, Matt Carducci, Reo Mukudai, and Matt Pon is one second shy of breaking the 200 freestyle relay that has been on the school's record board since 1993. It's almost a certainty this longstanding record will fall before the end of the season!



Matt Pon pulling ahead in his lane.

Huskies Head To Playoffs

Mack Rosenberg

Staff Writer

The 2009-2010 Harrison Huskies basketball season has been a defining year for the starting five. When junior point guard Mike Chiarella was proclaimed out for the season with a torn labrum, the attention turned to the two starting seniors in Dennis Rinaldi and Jared Hodes. Both have responded well, averaging double figure points per game this season. These two have been the centerpiece of an offensive attack led by junior Brendan O'Shea and new starting point guard Matt Pipitone. Junior Steve Ricciardi has also entered the picture as a starter and has begun to chip in offensively.

The team coasted to a 6-1 start with key wins over Rye and Eastchester. Against Rye, Harrison played what was perhaps its best game all year. The Huskies started strong (which they are very used to doing), and only gave up eight points in the first quarter. A huge confidence builder was the fact that Harrison never gave up the lead in that game. The Garnets were fighting from behind the whole way through, making it a much tougher game for them to win.

Another really big turning point for this team was the game against Somers. Harrison committed turnover after turnover in the second half, but fouls were the key in the final seconds as Jared Hodes hit two foul shots that

would prove to be the game-winning points for the Huskies. They won 39-37 in an effort that really brought out the best in this Harrison team.

and junior Mike Jacobson. Their speed is a testament to this team's ability to run the floor.

The presence of Dennis Rinaldi

as the Huskies turned it over 11 times. However, the defense was very promising, giving up only 50 points to a very good Port Chester team. This effort was another learning experience for the Huskies.

Since the two point win against Somers, Harrison has just one win. They lost two absolute heartbreakers to Fox Lane (they let the Foxes go on a 20-4 second quarter run) and to Rye, a team to whom they gave up only two first quarter points. The Huskies have secured a playoff spot, but a home playoff bye is really what the team is looking for.

As for the possibility of Mike Chiarella returning, the outlook isn't good. Having talked to the point guard who led the Huskies to their first playoff berth in years in 2009, I got the feeling Chiarella will be out for the rest of the season.

"It always hurts to lose a high caliber player such as Mike [Chiarella], especially being the point guard controlling our offense," said O'Shea. "We want him out there every game with us and hope he can come back as soon as possible."

Overall it's been a very exciting year for Harrison on the hardwood, as Coach Chiarella looks to win his first playoff game here at Harrison.



Dennis Rinaldi leads another fast break.

Photos courtesy of Ms. Diane Frawley

"Never go in underestimating your opponent because, before you know it, you're fighting for a win in the final minutes," said Ricciardi, reflecting on the lessons learned. Somers was an up and down team coming in, and it proved to be a defensive battle with some offensive miscues by both teams mixed in.

The real key in watching most of the Husky home games has been offensive boards. Dennis Rinaldi has 77 offensive rebounds this year. This is a stat that tends to be overlooked, but it's the main reason for those second chance points and it proves to be a big motivator for the rest of this team.

Having watched this team over the course of the past two seasons, the big difference is in the mechanics and the smooth play. This team has become smarter and its character fits the gameplan. Not having one "go-to" option at point guard because of Matt Pipitone's knee injury is a plus because Head Coach Gary Chiarella can rotate Pipitone in and out and get more playing time from sophomore Brandon Ellis

down low for this team is the reason they are winning basketball games, and it goes without saying that he is the big man who can get the easy basket down low in the paint or even from mid-range.

Even in a season like this, where the Huskies have dominated many opponents, there have been occasional heartbreaks. At one point, Harrison was 10-3, with two of the three losses coming by a combined total of only six points. The loss at home to Roosevelt was simply one that the team let get away from them early in the second half. Harrison held a slim three point lead at the half and an even slimmer two point lead at the end of the third quarter. They got too far behind in the fourth. Still, it was an effort from which this team can learn.

In their first game against Port Chester (who Harrison beat late in the last year's season), it was neck and neck the whole way through in a very low scoring game. In the end, turnovers led to the loss for Harrison



Ricciardi has made a difference offensively.



Jacobson has been stellar off the bench.

Molloy Signs Letter of Intent with Buffalo

Joey Loreti

Sports Editor

On National Signing Day, February 3, 2010, Jack Molloy in Harrison High School's library, made official his decision to play Division 1-A football for the University of Buffalo next season. In front of family, friends, and crews from MSG Varsity and News 12, Molloy signed his letter of intent to become a Bison as a preferred walk-on for the upcoming 2010 season.

In what proved to be a well thought out decision-making process



Jack signs, surrounded by parents, Dr. Ruck, and Ms. Kiernan.

Photos courtesy of Lauren Warshauer

for Molloy, Buffalo stood out as the clear choice.

"They'll give me an opportunity to play immediately," said Molloy. "Not only were they a great academic fit, but the coaching staff is very impressive."

Jack will look to use his versatility as both a kicker and punter to his advantage in training camp, where he's expected to battle for both starting positions. Special Teams coach Martin Speiler has also hinted that Molloy will have the first chance at kickoff duties in his freshman year.

At the start of National Signing Week for high school football players across the country, Molloy took the opportunity to look back on his high school playing days.

Molloy had a very successful career at Harrison, where he has been the punter since his junior season, and took over for Claudio Delli Carpini as the team's primary kicker

as a senior after sharing time as a junior.

He posted a very impressive resume for colleges to consider with a 46 yards per punt average, along with 31 of 33 points after touchdowns. His shining moment came in the Huskies' biggest win of the year, nailing a 40-yard field goal in stormy conditions that proved to be the deciding point of the game. In handling the Huskies' kickoff duties this season, Molloy consistently forced the opposing teams to start at their own 20-yard line, leading the section with 45 touchbacks.

Whether it is as a kicker or punter, Molloy hopes to establish himself as a premier college football player at Buffalo that will ultimately lead him to the next stage in his football career.

Molloy said of his chances at playing at the top level, "It feels great



Jack thanks Coach Troilo.

to be one step closer to realizing my dream of playing in the NFL, but my work has just begun." He took time to acknowledge and thank his former teammates and coaches, while saying, "Maybe next year you'll see me on ESPN. Probably not, but maybe."