



Junior Johnny Sturges acts as docent for a group of 6th and 7th graders at a recent Historical Society event.
PHOTO BY BRE RIEVELT

Senior seminar and the oral comprehensive exam

Unraveled and debunked

BY DREW GARRISON

“When I came here two years ago, I came here with the plan of making this one of the most successful school districts not only on Long Island, but in New York State,” Dr. Hynes enthusiastically told me recently. Part of this bold plan for success is Dr. Hynes’ implementation of the new Senior Seminar and Oral Comprehensive exam, being piloted with this year’s senior class. The idea of the two new additions to the curriculum definitely left many students feeling rather confused and even angry. “If they really wanted to help us with public speaking, they should just offer us a course in it. One exam isn’t going to really help anyone all that much,” shared senior Quinn Hundgen. Contrary to this opinion and many others like it, Dr. Hynes has many good intentions in guiding this new project and he feels it will help to better Shelter Island students.

The idea for the Senior Seminar and the Oral Comprehensive Exam was born from Dr. Hynes’ concern for Shelter Island students regarding their readiness for life after high school. He felt that many students were not prepared for some of the difficult, but practical aspects of adult-

hood, such as finances, the ability to create and present a presentation, and the fluency and confidence required to interact with a group of adults. These are all skills Dr. Hynes feels are essential, thus these are what Senior Seminar and the Oral Comprehensive Exam will be focusing on.

This examination will consist of two parts. Both parts will be admin-

Dr. Hynes has many good intentions in guiding this new project and he feels it will help to better Shelter Island students.

istered by a seven-person committee: one elementary teacher, one grade 6-8 teacher, two grade 9-12 teachers, one special area teacher, one student choice from the entirety of the Shelter Island School staff, and one administrator. With regards to the two part exam itself, the first part is entirely

based on students’ senior thesis papers. Students will be asked to develop and present a multimedia presentation about their thesis papers. All the committee members will read and be familiar with the students’ thesis papers and ask questions about them during and after the presentation. In turn, the students will ask the committee members five questions about their thesis papers. For part two, students make a presentation about their educational experiences at Shelter Island. Students, again via a multimedia presentation, must present reflections, artifacts, and/or share experiences about their learning at Shelter Island School. Again, the committee will ask the students questions about their educational experiences. Students will then ask committee members up to five questions about Shelter Island School and make at least one recommendation to improve the school.

When asked why he chose the class of 2014 to be the first class to participate in these new requirements,

Dr. Hynes responded, “I could have waited and started doing this exam with next year’s class, but I wanted to give this class the honor of being the first. I can’t think of a better class to go on this journey with than this one because of all that they have been through at this school.” Dr. Hynes is aware that this new requirement will be a work in progress. Based on results and feedback, the exam may be revised in years to come. This year’s seniors have a unique opportunity to be a part of this process and assist classes in the future that will face this exam.

A cause of concern for the class of
SEMINAR CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

In this issue...

- Future Field Trips
- Hectic Housing
- Meet the New Kids
- History of Twerking

The power of journalism

BY DREW GARRISON

"The pen is mightier than the sword." Though a somewhat clichéd saying, the written word does have power. This became quite evident following our last published issue of The Inlet in June. The Inlet co-editor, Lisa Kaasik, wrote a scathing and controversial piece on the Shelter Island School mascot: the S.I. Indian. In her editorial, she criticized the school mascot as racist, inaccurate, ignorant, and disgraceful. Though I happen to agree with most of Ms. Kaasik's points, many community members heartily disagreed. Many students were in an uproar to hear one of their own blasting the mascot in such a way, and in such a blatantly open manner by way of the school newspaper. Nevertheless, Ms. Kaasik's piece was the

One editorial, one young woman's voice, riled an island. The power of journalism was evident.

spark that lit a fire. A massive debate and controversy ensued on the island. One editorial, one young woman's voice, riled an island. The power of

journalism was evident.

On August 19th, 2013, Ms. Kaasik turned up the heat even more on the Indian mascot debate when she delivered a carefully crafted and eloquently delivered speech at the Board of Education meeting. Many students, including myself, stood behind Lisa and supported her in her fight. Following the BOE meeting, The Shelter Island Reporter caught wind of the editorial and the speech, and decided to publish a feature article on the controversy. After her fight found its way into The Reporter, the Indian mascot debate went viral, so to speak. Facebook pages were created, online comments stacked up, and follow-up articles, meetings, and discussions were scheduled. Most people were respectful, even while they passionately disagreed; some people got nasty and turned a discussion about a mascot into personal attacks. The Indian mascot controversy had hit a nerve.

Upon returning to school in September, the "to change, or not to change" the mascot discussion was still a hot topic. Journalism teacher and The Inlet advisor, Devon Treharne, opened up her classes with a discussion about the power of journalism and how the written word can spur people to action. Lisa Kaasik's editorial was the

JOURNALISM CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Franco-obsessed

BY KELLY COLLIGAN

"You are Franco-obsessed," is something I am told on a daily basis. Everyday I endure eyerolls and sarcastic comments from my family and friends due to my interest in James Franco. Yes, I stalk him on Instagram, yes, I celebrate his birthday, and yes, I chased him down in a Manhattan movie theater to gift him a kitty-cat neck tie. Does this make me obsessed? Maybe in the eyes of some, but I contend it makes me a young woman who can recognize true talent and appreciate it. I'm not a Belieber, nor do I wear boy band concert tees, James Franco is quite simply my spirit animal. I take it upon myself to enlighten those of you who are not familiar with James Franco and his accomplishments (and maybe along the way legitimize my own Franco-obsession).

At thirty-five years old, Franco has starred in over fifty films and countless TV show appearances, directed seven movies, written five books, is the face of Gucci, has his artwork displayed in several museums, and on top of all of that, teaches writing and filmmaking in several colleges, including UCLA and NYU. Did I mention the man is going to be making his Broadway debut this March? Franco is given acknowledgment for his acting career and beautiful smile, but what many fail to realize is that James Franco is much more than a Hollywood actor, he is a renaissance man.

James Franco is much more than a Hollywood actor, he is a renaissance man.

Franco recently directed and acted in the film, *As I Lay Dying*. When word got out that he would be directing this film, critics were convinced no one could properly adapt this William Faulkner classic into a movie. These critics may have to eat their words. In a recent New York Times Review of this adaptation, A.O. Scott comments, "In this case, the fool would be James Franco, who directed and stars in the first film adaptation of a book that has long been considered unfilmable. But in rushing in where wise men might fear to tread, Mr. Franco has accomplished something serious and worthwhile. His *As I Lay Dying* is certainly ambitious, but it is also admirably modest." Between the split screen shots and intriguing monologues, this film is certainly something else. I have never seen a movie quite like it, and I believe James Franco has certainly proved himself to be quite the filmmaker in this William Faulkner adaptation.

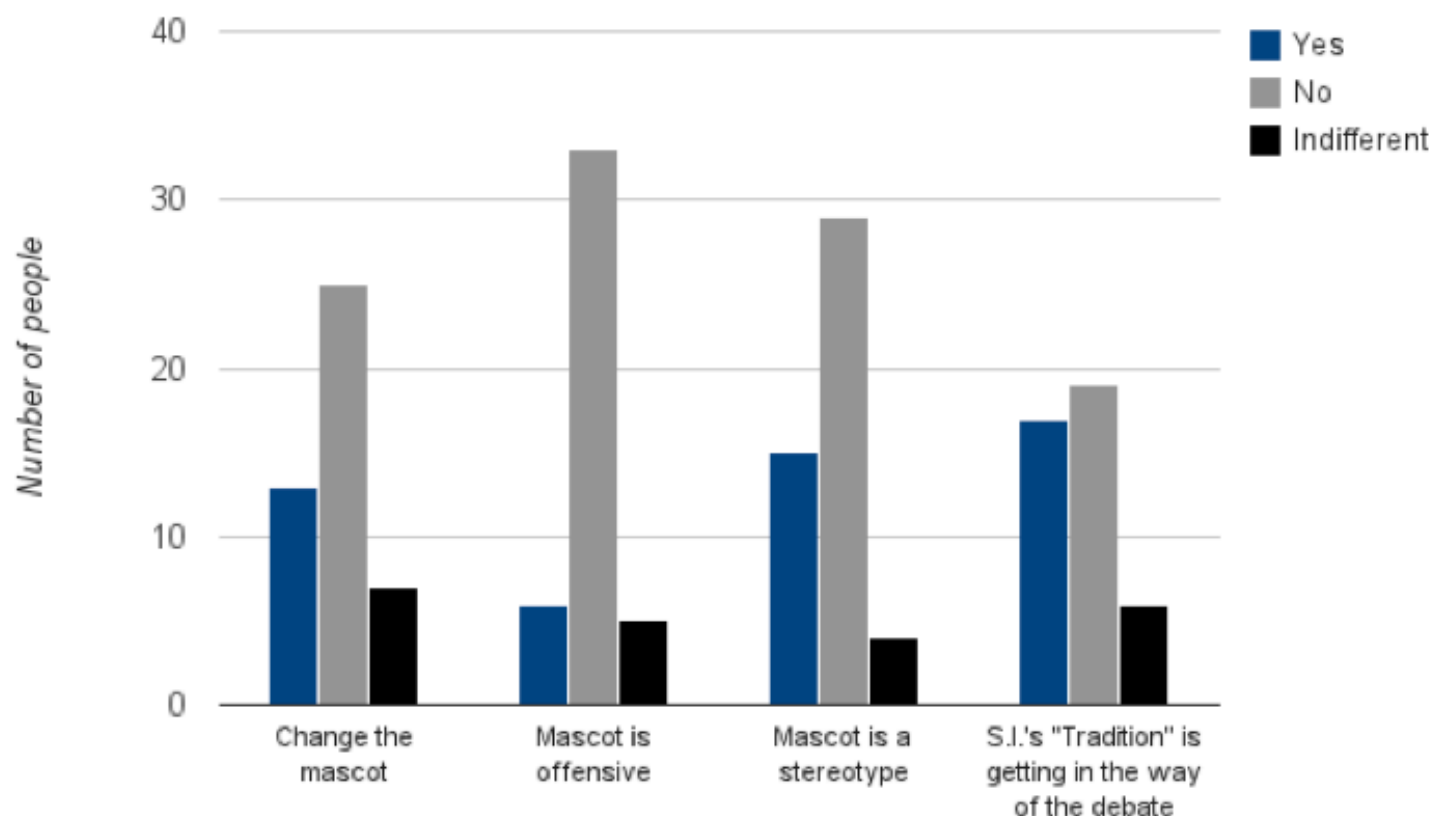
Because acting and directing simply was not enough, Franco decided to enter the world of writing. In 2010, his first book was published, *Palo Alto*. This book consists of three short stories that Franco wrote, based on his

high school experiences in Palo Alto, California. He wanted to develop these short stories into films, so he launched an "indiegogo" campaign in order to raise money for this project. But the money made from these films will certainly not go into James Franco's pocket. All the profits will go towards an organization called, "The Art of Elysium." This non-profit organization encourages working actors, artists and musicians to voluntarily dedicate their time and talent to children who are battling serious medical conditions. He explains, "Working with The Art of Elysium has given me the opportunity to share my creativity with hospitalized children and give them the gift of creativity. These children have inspired me and pushed me as an artist in ways that are truly indescribable."

Franco has undoubtedly earned his credibility in the world of literature, earning an MFA at Columbia, while studying filmmaking at NYU and fiction writing at Brooklyn College. He is a Yale comparative literature Ph.D. can-

FRANCO CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Indian Mascot Survey (By Mr. Theinert's Probability and Statistics class)



We would love to hear from you!

To contact **The Inlet** call 631-749-0302 x144.

Email letters to the editor to: devone.treharne@shelterisland.k12.ny.us
CO-EDITORS: Drew Garrison & Kelly Colligan
FACULTY ADVISOR: Devon Treharne

SPORTS EDITORS: Peter Kropf & Tristan Wisemann
STAFF: Zoey Bolton, Jenny Case, Erin Corrigan, Cameron Clark, Nicolette Frasco, Olivia Garrison, Quinn Hundgen, Serina

Kaask, Jack Kimmelman, Henry Lang, Amira Lawrence, Aterahme Lawrence, Caity Mulcahy, Thomas Mysliborski, Connor Rice, Sophia Strauss, Alexis Sulahian

The Inlet is a publication by Shelter Island High School Journalism participants with the support of Dr. Michael Hynes and the Board of Ed.

The big transition

BY KELLY COLLIGAN AND SERINA KAASIK

"I cannot wait to get out of here!" is a common exclamation amongst high school students, especially here in our tiny community of Shelter Island. Many of us are yearning for a change, for independence, for a new start. However, going away to college is a significant life transition, one that is difficult to prepare for because it is so monumental and unfamiliar. Lisa Kaasik and Katy Binder, both members of the class of 2013, just made that transition and have valuable insights to share.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, adjusting socially for some S.I. students post-graduation to a college with thousands, can be a challenge. Katy Binder, now a student at Villanova University, explained, "You have to put yourself out there in order to make friends because no one knows you. You can't be shy. It's not like Shelter Island, where you have grown up with these people, and you all get along. You have to attempt to make conversation with people and really make an effort to find your group of friends." Lisa Kaasik added, "At first, making friends was awkward, but you sort of fall into a group. Then you get more used to everything and meeting people becomes less uncomfortable."

Both graduates agree that academically, college is much different than high school. Kaasik shared, the shift wasn't too difficult, just different in that there are much longer reading assignments. Binder agreed, saying, "The work-load is much heavier. Since you aren't in class as much, that just means more studying outside of class. There really isn't much room for procrastination, and you have to manage your time well. I probably spend about two hours a day in the library, compared to high school, where I didn't spend nearly as much time studying."

This brings up the valid question, does Shelter Island School prepare their students well enough for college? Kaasik replied, "The college classes

I took, (college English and Psychology), I felt did prepare me for college. College English required thoughtful analyses of readings and a higher level of writing that has been useful in every one of my classes so far. Had I not taken those two courses, I think college classes would have been a shock." Binder had a very similar response to

"You have to put yourself out there in order to make friends because no one knows you. You can't be shy."

this question. "If I hadn't taken College English I would have probably dropped out of college by now," Katy chuckled. "I wasn't really prepared for the amount of work that has to be done in such a short amount of time, but, I'm not sure anyone can really fully prepare for that kind of change."

Going into freshman year of college, many students have different expectations. "Oddly enough, college is almost exactly what I expected. I was expecting the classes to be more interesting, the workload to be more rigorous, to be around more enlightened, politi-

cal, and socially aware people, (at parties we discuss politics and sexism, it's fabulous)," Kaasik explained. Binder added that college was what she expected in that there is much more work to be done and lots more studying, but one thing she did not realize was how much she would miss Shelter Island. "I always knew I would miss my family when I was at college, but I didn't realize until now, that my teachers and peers were part of that family I would miss so much. There is just something about the atmosphere of Shelter Island that is so irreplaceable. I feel really blessed to have grown up in that kind of atmosphere."

Believe it or not, most graduates do, in fact, miss high school. Specifically, Binder recalled missing her high school teachers. She went on to explain how there's really something special about knowing your teachers so well and how she is so thankful that she had such a strong bond with her high school teachers. Kaasik added, "My friends and the laughs we had during classes are what I miss the most. Although I have some pretty entertaining professors, nothing can compete with the interaction and closeness we had at Shelter Island."

Even though these two graduates are nearly two months into college, they had some advice for this year's seniors and other upperclassmen. Lisa Kaasik explained, "My advice is to re-

ally know what it is you want from college and pick the college that best offers that. Then, when you arrive there, be yourself. Go out and join clubs, be social, talk to interesting people (if your school is big enough, you probably won't have to see them again anyway). Don't bring everything you own; you really don't need it all." Katy Binder simply added, "Enjoy where you are. Step back and appreciate everything you have. Don't take anything for granted." Remember, high school is a special time in life, and Shelter Island is a special place. So take it from these graduates- students should enjoy the rest of their high school careers, because the "big transition" will come before they know it.



In with the new

BY CAMERON CLARK AND ERIN COLLIGAN

For those of you still mourning the loss of the New York City field trip, dry your tears, because there are new trips on the horizon, according to Superintendent Dr. Hynes. He explained, "I think a well-rounded field trip includes experience, as well as educational aspects." He went on

If you miss NYC, hop on the Jitney, because D.C., Boston, and Philly are what's to come.

to discuss his future plans pertaining to the sixth through twelfth grades in regards to field trips. For the sixth grade, Dr. Hynes plans to have a team-building trip to Frost Valley, and the schooner and Disney trip for now will remain as is for seventh and eighth graders. The high school has even bigger annual trips to come. The freshmen will experience a two-night, three-day trip to Philadelphia, the sophomores will get a trip of the same length to Boston, while the juniors will experience a much needed trip to Washington D.C., and the senior trip will live on. "The city trip was a budget cut only," says Dr. Hynes. "It was either that, or basketball."

The budget may also be why some students are feeling a decrease in trips, because teachers don't always get the funding they would need to plan these events. "A single bus for student transportation costs around a thousand dollars. If you add this to the cost of chaperones, substitute teach-

ers, and then the cost of other expenses, it adds up," said longtime teacher and field trip coordinator Mr. Reardon. Without the generous help of the Shelter Island Educational Foundation, Shelter Island School wouldn't have many of the great field trips they have now. According to Dr. Hynes, the Educational Foundation provides around half of the expenses necessary to put on our biggest field trips. For example, the school paid nothing for the recent trip to Spain that the rising seniors took; it was completely taken care of by students and the Ed Foundation. As a result, you may be asking yourself how these up and coming exciting field trips are going to be paid for. "The students will be expected to come up with a significant amount," Dr. Hynes said. Again, however, the school may be looking to the Educational Foundation to supplement some of the expenses, along with other grants to defray the cost. This will hopefully help students, as they will be fundraising for consecutive ventures throughout their secondary school career. In addition to the fantastic experiences, students will feel the satisfaction of the hard work that goes into paying for the majority of their trips. So, if you miss NYC, hop on the Jitney, because D.C., Boston, and Philly are what's to come.



The buddies are back!

BY OLIVIA GARRISON

High School is a big and scary place, especially for those who do not have an older sibling to go to to answer their rapid-fire questions about their new classrooms and teachers. This lack of guidance and direction can make the transition from middle to high school very difficult, and can lead to increased stress levels, and a fear of bullying amongst students. Created in 2007 by Communities That Care, the Buddy Program was developed to give those children without a sibling an older mentor to help them get through school and cross-over into the land of older and more mature teenagers.

In 2007, student board member, Justin Reilly, vocalized his concern about students who, unlike him, had no older sibling. Whereas he could go to his older sister, Justin's concern was that some of his peers had no one to go to

The Buddy Program
was developed to give those children without a sibling an older mentor to help them get through school.

since they have someone to go to if they have an older student friend who can give them advice." Mrs. Pysher is not the only one who feels this way about the program. Mr. Doelger and Mr. Miedema have signed on as this year's teacher liaisons for the program, and Elizabeth Dunning and Quinn Hudgen are active student board members. This miraculous team of five has helped to bring the Buddy

to answer their questions and help them with their adjustment issues at school. Marilynn Pysher, the current CTC coordinator, said, "It is our hope that having an older buddy would help a younger student feel a more positive attachment to the school,



Program back to life this year, turning it into something bigger and better than ever before.

Last year, the Buddy Program took a break, as it was determined that it simply "wasn't working." With students' already fully-committed schedules, and a general lack of interest among most older students, the CTC buddy program was tabled. Quinn Hudgen, an active participant of the Buddy Program and CTC liaison this year, stated, "It ran very briefly last year, but there was very little enthusiasm due to lack of coordination, so it kind of just died out."

This year, however, the Buddy Program is back and better than ever! With Mr. Doelger and Mr. Miedema as CTC teacher liaisons, the Program is organized and recruiting new members as older mentors who might have never previously thought of joining. This year, a professional organization,

Long Island Mentoring Partnership, is planning to make a visit to Shelter Island to hold a training session for the older students on how to be productive buddies. Mr. Doelger commented, "This year I think it's [the Buddy Program] especially important because there's no Middle/High School anymore, and it allows the students to better familiarize themselves with each other." This Program will teach older students to be responsible and good role-models and will, as Marilynn Pysher stated, "help younger students to cope with their adjustment."

With pairs having already been matched by Mr. Doelger, Mr. Miedema, Elizabeth, and Quinn based on mutual interests between the two students, the Buddy Program is already off to a great start. Students throughout the school are excited and eagerly awaiting the Program's start, which will kick off with a pizza party at Camp Quinipet. With this year's Buddies, there is hope that bonds will be formed that will last for many years to come.

Common Application 2.0

BY THOMAS MYSLICORSKI

The class of 2014 is in the midst of the college process, and just to make things more complicated, the Common Application has rolled out its newest incarnation with quite a few changes. The Common Application must be filled out online and is accepted by more than 80% of colleges and universities, so nearly every high school senior completes a Common Application.

The most notable change in this year's Common Application is the new essay prompts. The Common Application has completely changed all the five prompts and eliminated the previously included "topic of your choice" prompt. Many students and teachers

have criticized the elimination of the "topic of your choice" prompt, arguing it limits students. "I think that it takes away the extra room for creativity that the old common app. provided," said Shelter Island High School senior Quinn Hudgen.

Another significant change to the Common Application is an extended word limit. Applicants are now allowed up to 650 words in their essays, compared to a limit of 500 on last year's application. This might speak to the assumed complexity of the new essay prompts. Senior Drew Garrison appreciates the change, commenting, "It makes it easier for students to get their point across and write more ef-

fective essays, while still having a sufficiently short limit." These changes are something for this year's seniors to get used to, but with the time in Senior Seminar to work on the Common Application, seniors are feeling comfortable overall in having begun the college application process.

JOURNALISM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

perfect example of this. Mrs. Treharne said in disbelief, "I am still receiving messages and comments about that article published in June. It is incredible. I am proud that an issue that arose in The Inlet gave the community something to dialogue so passionately about." What started as one student's voice communicated via the written word, blossomed into an island-wide debate, resulting in our school's mascot now being referred to as an "icon." Although this change is a small one, the emotions Lisa's powerful editorial stirred up were anything but small; that is the power of journalism. In future editorials, I hope to harness some of that power and keep the island talking.

FRANCO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

didate and has decided to teach what he loves at colleges around the country. One of Mr. Franco's previous students, Nicolas Curcio, explains, "He definitely cares a lot about teaching and it's not just something he's just doing." Where do I sign up? James Franco clearly loves what he does, and deciding to share his experiences and creativity with these upcoming filmmakers and writers makes him exceptional in Hollywood. Franco finds it essential to share his insights and facilitate the growth of other artists.

As if Franco isn't already busy enough, the actor/director/teacher/author/artist has agreed to act on Broadway for his first time this upcoming April in the return of Steinbeck's classic, *Of Mice and Men*. How's that for legitimate? *Of Mice and Men*, the American classic that every SIHS student is required to read, will be brought to life in part by James Franco. (Take that, mom.) The first stage production was written by Steinbeck, premiering in the Music Box Theater in Broadway in 1937. The production was later revived in 1974, and is now making its latest comeback in 2014. I smell a high school field trip! Because James Franco has never really acted live, (with the exception of SNL), I am excited to see his versatility on display in his Broadway debut.

You may be asking yourself, "How on Earth is James Franco going to be able to perform in a Broadway show while holding down all his day jobs?" I cannot answer that question. I will never know how James Franco does what he does. The man did in fact earn a degree at NYU while acting in 127 hours, for which he was later nominated for an Oscar. I'm convinced James Franco can do anything. I am not crazy, people. James Franco is a man worth obsessing over.



Hectic housing

BY CAITY MULCAHY

Prior to this year, had you ever heard of an “Academic House”? When the idea was first sprung on the student body last spring, most of us probably thought we would be separated completely. Maybe you envisioned the “Houses” in Harry Potter, organized via students’ different values and strengths. Alas, Dumbledore is not teaching at Shelter Island School this year, but things have changed.

This year, students in grades 6-12 entered the secondary school, which makes no distinction between middle and high schools. What was the middle school wing is now the Humanities House, housing the English and History departments. The old high school wing is now the MST, or Math and Technology House, which includes the Math, Science, and Spanish departments, along with the computer lab.

Yet, the question that still lingers, long after we know which “House” we are going to when during our school day, is: why this change in the first place? According to our superintendent Dr. Hynes, the shift aims to “further our educational process.” Dr. Hynes explained that the shift is not only in the secondary school, but begins as early as kinder-

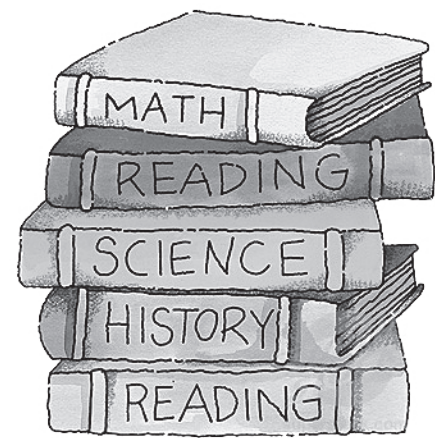
garten/first grade. Even at these early elementary levels, students will be split into math/science and english/social studies sections. This divide will be consistent all the way through the secondary school level, so in a few years, the concept of the Houses will be second nature.

With the combined efforts of the Humanities and MST Houses, students and teachers will have new opportunities to share knowledge, complete integrated projects, and explore curricular changes. According to Dr. Hynes, there is a hope that Shelter Island will be changed to resemble that of a “mini university” in order to make us “fully prepared for the big, bad world when you leave here.”

It is clear that with this shift Dr. Hynes anticipates great things, but how are students feeling?

Dr. Hynes has expressed a concern that he has not yet received much feedback from the student body, but says that the faculty has been supportive from the beginning and continues to be that way. Junior Julia Martin was willing to weigh in on the change, commenting, “I think Dr. Hynes has the right idea trying new things, but I don’t think this one will work out in the long run.” Quite a few other students seem to share this view, along with other

concerns, such as the possible increase in bullying, with younger and older students co-mingled during the day. Freshman Will Garrison said his biggest fear was, “Definitely more bullying. A lot more bullying.” As Dr. Hynes summed it up, “[I think] change is difficult regardless.” Getting used to the new school structure is an adjustment, but now that we all know where we are going and when, we will have to wait and see what real changes result from this latest shift..



GTA V: Don't waste your time

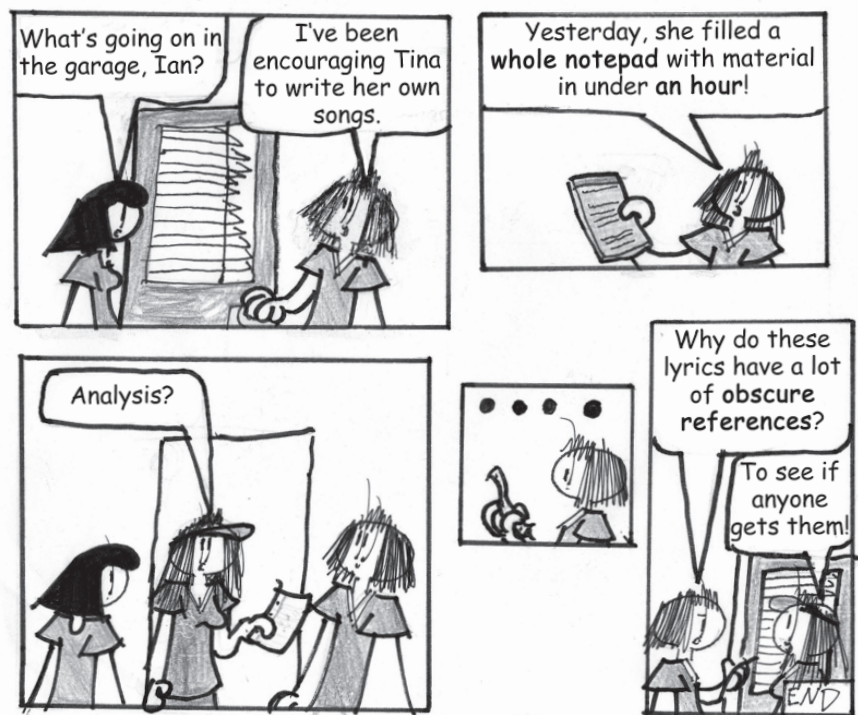
BY CONNOR CORBETT

If you are a gamer, odds are you have been eagerly awaiting “Grand Theft Auto V,” just released in late September. Gamers on the whole love the latest and greatest, and “Grand Theft Auto” is a franchise with diehard fans. I won’t be in line for “GTA V,” however, I’m still playing “Halo Wars” and “Castle Crashers” because the game has a lack of morals and skill. “Halo Wars” came out on March 3rd, 2009 for Xbox 360 only as a RTS (Real Time Strategy) game instead of the usual FPS (First Person Shooter) game. In “Halo Wars,” gamers command an army of United Nations Space Command marines fighting the Covenant Empire, which is waging a genocidal war against humanity. It has a rich, complex plot and requires tactical skill, unlike the pure luck or “who sees who first” chance-based play “GTA V” demands. “Castle Crashers” was originally released in August of 2008. This game starts players out at a party crashed by evil minions who break into a castle and steal the princess’s huge magic red gem. “Castle Crashers” players are then tasked with getting back the princess’s red gem, trekking through marshlands, volcanoes, and ice lands in the quest. This is like an old school arcade game and it’s plain entertaining. It is no doubt worth your time over “GTA V.”



The PLASTIC E-GULLS

Thomas Fay



SEMINAR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2014 is how this exam will be graded and if it could affect graduation. Dr. Hynes explained that the exams will either be graded fail, pass, or passing with distinction. If a student were to fail, he/she would not be prohibited from graduating, a fear many seniors shared. Instead, if a student were to receive a failing grade, he or she would have to revise and edit the presentation and do it again. A student would continue to do this until he or she received a passing grade. For students who pass with distinction for exceptional work, special recognition in the form of a pin or honor cords will be given to wear on graduation day.

Through Senior Seminar, students are learning vital life lessons and skills

that they can take with them and use long after they have graduated from Shelter Island School. These skills include financial literacy, how to construct a resume and essay, and how to interact with peers and adults. From the Oral Comprehensive Exam, students will gain the ability to interact with a panel of adults, the ability to think quickly on their feet and answer questions intelligently, and the skill of public speaking. Though many students find the new academic additions of Senior Seminar and the Oral Comprehensive Exam to be cumbersome, I am sure that after this year and later life, they will look back and be thankful for the extra work.



Freshman Zoey Bolton

PHOTO BY JENNY CASE



Freshman Byron Hernandez

PHOTO BY JENNY CASE



Sophomore Emily Hyatt

PHOTO BY JENNY CASE

The new kids on the block

BY SOPHIA STRAUSS AND AMIRA LAWRENCE

Shelter Island School has welcomed many new students this year, and they have jumped right into the swing of things. Shelter Island is small compared to most other schools, and having a number of new students in the high school is different (and impressive) for us. Changing schools, meeting new people, and living in a new place can be exciting, but that can all be scary too. Let's get to know Emily Hyatt, Zoey Bolton, and Byron Hernandez, three of SIHS's new students.

Tenth grader Emily Hyatt moved here from Southold, and likens the change to "moving to Madagascar," as a result of all of the stress and the new people. Even though the change has been a big one, she has found everyone very nice and is fitting right in. Getting into the flow of classes was challenging at first for Emily, but "everyone is so much nicer here" and she is finding her way. She already has a few favorites things about SIHS, like walking around the track, and having the freedom of self-directed learning in Intel. Still doing her best to figure everything out and jump into the flow of it all, Emily is working hard and doing well.

Byron Hernandez is a ninth grade student, who, surprisingly enough, moved here from El Salvador. This is his first time ever changing schools, and what a big change he's made. Despite the monumental change, Byron is enjoying school and describes the island as "quiet and safe." Byron's biggest challenge is the language barrier. Byron said, "I don't speak English [well] so friendships are difficult." He likes his classes and teachers, but thinks that school expectations

are a lot more rigorous here. He says school is entirely different than his old school in El Salvador, but he wouldn't change a thing. Byron was nervous and sad to leave his home and start over here. Yet, despite the language barrier, he is relieved it has been easier than he thought it would be.

Freshman Zoey Bolton moved here from Tampa, FL, but is no stranger to Shelter Island. She has relatives on the island and has been here before, and after talking to her, it seems she is happy about her move. Shelter Island School differs greatly from her school in Tampa, FL. Zoey said, "In my old school, I didn't really learn anything because teachers didn't really try and they seemed to not care whether we did well, but here the teachers are nice and more focused on actually making sure we understand and do a good job." Zoey acknowledges that SIHS is "much smaller" than her previous school, but its size has offered her a lot in the way of academic and extracurricular opportunities. "This school is great, I'm on the sailing team and I love it, even though I'm not the sporty type." Zoey is also working as a part of the Yearbook staff and commented that since coming to SIHS she is very excited to attend her classes. "I have met a lot of new people and made many friends. My favorite teachers are Mr. Williams, Mrs. Sareyani, and Ms. Bosak." Zoey is a great student and we are very lucky to have her.

It is an exciting year of firsts for these new students and we hope that their transitions are smooth and look forward to what their fresh faces bring to the halls of SIHS.



SPORTS

Great expectations

BY TRISTAN WISSEMAN

As the summer began to wind down and students prepared for yet another year of school, the varsity volleyball team got to work to make sure the players would be well prepared for the upcoming season. After losing seven seniors from last year's successful team, coach Cindy Belt and assistant coach Karen Gibbs let their players know from the start that even though they lost some great talent, they are still a team to be reckoned with.

When asked about the hopes for this year's team, head coach Cindy Belt acknowledged that this year is somewhat of a rebuilding year, but the expectations are still high, as usual. The team may not be stacked with seniors as it was last year, but it has

This year is somewhat of a rebuilding year, but the expectations are still high, as usual.

team hopes that although Logan, who is currently recovering from injuries and will be unable to join them on the court for an undetermined amount of time, will continue to inspire and support their play with her quiet leadership.



PHOTO BY JIM COLLIGAN

Seniors: Erin Colligan, Meme Lawrence, Logan Pendergrass and Brie Rietvelt are all ready to go for the big "Dig Pink" volleyball match.

a good combination of youth and experience; the players complement each other in their play. Coach Belt is lucky to have a lot of leadership on her team this year. In particular, Logan Pendergrass is a player Coach Belt calls, "a quiet leader," who "does what is needed without asking." The

Coming off of a tough loss in regionals last year, the squad hopes to continue its legacy of impressive accomplishments on the court. This may be a small school team, but nothing is small about their play. Coach Belt is hopeful that in years to come, the team will continue to succeed. In regards to what awaits the team in future seasons, Coach Belt says, "We always have good athletes. There is always talent coming up, but you don't always know who is going to play." Sometimes students switch to another fall sport, such as tennis, golf, or soccer. Others just like to take a year off. Even with these obstacles, Shelter Island volleyball has been a revered team and can even be considered a powerhouse. After the team's dominance at the Dig Pink event on October 10th, the varsity squad now stands at a perfect 8-0 record with four games remaining in the regular season schedule. They hope to carry over their impressive play into the postseason to make a push to go upstate. Putting all else aside, Coach Belt says she just wants her players to "play to their expectations" and "have fun."



PHOTO BY JENNY CASE

Senior Charlie Binder and freshman Evan Thilberg, Shelter Island School's resident soccer players.

Shelter Island soccer duo

BY HENRY LANG

Shelter Island does not have a soccer team, but that does not stop Charlie Binder and Evan Thilberg from taking the ferry six times a week to play the sport they love. Charlie, a senior, and Evan, a freshman, are the only two non-Greenport players on the team, and they represent Shelter Island well.

Playing for Greenport offers Charlie and Evan the opportunity to meet new friends and build skills in a new setting. The team has good chemistry and according to Evan, team members "all get along and there is very little criticism of each other." Charlie feels the best thing about playing for Greenport is the diversity. "Shelter Island is not a very diverse place," Charlie says, "and by playing

in Greenport, I have met many people who are really different than my friends on Shelter Island." These team bonds last long after soccer season. Charlie is always sure to "go to Greenport basketball games, see my friends, give them a big hug, and get caught up."

As for their assessments of this season, Charlie sees the team's key strength as its speed. "The team this year is very fast, but our skill level is not the best," he shared. Both Evan and Charlie hope that this season's record will be better than last season's. Whether or not that winds up being the case, both Charlie and Evan still get to take away the experience of playing for a different school and all that brings with it.

Tennis: the triumph of the underdogs

BY JENNY CASE

Most people do not even know tennis matches have been played until the school announcements make mention of them the day after. That hasn't changed the tennis team girls from pushing their limits and sharpening their skills everyday. This year's team has beat every school in their league at least once. Being on the tennis team is a big commitment, even though it might not come with a ton of recognition. About her tennis participation, newcomer Francesca Frasco said, "I would kind of like some freedom every once in a while. It would be nice maybe once a week to have a free day, but, the practice is necessary in order to increase our tennis abilities and skills." Rookie player Cameron Clark decided to join the team this year after field hockey was cut. Cameron explained, "I needed something to fill my time and tennis was something I was interested in. I'm better at tennis than field hockey anyway." With these two new players and returning veterans, the team was ecstatic about their winning season.

The key to success this year? Some say, "The seniors." Emily Hyatt, new to the team, but not the sport due to her experience playing at Southold, said, "[The key to success is] Practice everyday, and also scrimmages during practices. It gives you the feel of the actual games." This winning season is being led by coach Susan Warner. About the season, Coach Warner said, "We practiced hard. I'm going to miss the seniors, they've been with me for the past six years and we've had some good times."

With the season coming to a bittersweet end, especially for the four seniors playing since seventh grade, the daily runs, stretches, and games of "around the world" will soon be distant memories, but this winning team will stay with the players well into the future.



Bogeys, birdies, eagles: Indians varsity golf is under way

BY PETER KROPP

Summer might be over, but the Shelter Island varsity golf team's season is just beginning. Although the school is small, there was a grand turnout for the golf team this year. With ten golfers playing, the team is much larger than in years' past. The team includes seniors Matt BeltCappellino, Matt Dunning, and Spencer Gibbs, freshmen Will Garrison, eighth graders Bianca Evangelista and Peder Larsen, and seventh graders Owen Gibbs, Mason Marcello, Erik Thilberg, and Nick Young. Yes, there are seniors and seventh graders playing on the same varsity team, which makes for a very diverse mix.

Coming off a solid 7-5 2012 season, the 2013 Indians are also off to a quality start, as they have a record of 4-3 in seven matches at press time. The squad, which practices and plays home games on island at Gardiner's Bay Country Club, has five experienced players and four fresh faces with little or no experience playing this sport. Returning coach Bob DeStefano described this situation as being "difficult" now, but he also feels that it is good for the future, as the young, new players will develop into great golfers going forward. After being asked about the number of players on his club, he simply said, "the more the merrier."

As for the course, Coach DeStefano said playing at Gardiner's Bay is "an advantage" because the team "plays half its matches there." BeltCappellino said the course is "high quality" and has "good greens." Dunning added that it is "beautiful" and "kept in great shape." The only girl on the team, Evangelista, noted that the course has "wide fairways," which the team uses as "an advantage."

As for the strengths and weaknesses of the team, BeltCappellino described their "long game" as a strength, and Coach DeStefano thinks that their "short game" and "bunker play" could be improved upon. Dunning believes that Eastport South Manor is the toughest team to play in their league because they have "smart players" who BeltCappellino says truly "love the game."

When asked about the goals for the season, Dunning responded, "to finish above .500." At the end of the day, though, Coach DeStefano just wants to do "what is best for the kids" and to make sure that his players "want to play golf."



Members of the S.I. Golf team pose with new golf bags generously donated this season by David Doyle. Photo by Bob DeStefano.

Trick-or-treat expiration date?

BY QUINN HUNDGEN

Will you be trick-or-treating this year? Chances are if you are in high school, you will not be. But why not? When is it really too old to go trick-or-treating? If you grew up on Shelter Island, at some point in your childhood, you probably marched in the Halloween parade and then down Smith Street where you ran from one house to the next, you and your friends, in colorful costumes. There were years when friends would dress in group costumes, only to get chased down School Street by older kids with shaving cream and "Silly String." But then there comes a point at which some get the idea that Halloween is childish and "we're too cool" to trick-or-treat.

What is really wrong with trick-or-treating? If you ask a 2nd grade class when they think is too old for Halloween, they'll

say, "NEVER!" Halloween seems like so much fun to little kids that they imagine themselves ringing doorbells dressed as princesses and werewolves until they are gray and old, pushing their walkers from house to house. It seems like so much fun when we are young because all of our

No one wants to be the oldest kid trick-or-treating.

friends are participating in Halloween with us. Then, slowly, some kids stop trick-or-treating, and as a result more and more kids feel pressured by their peers to give up Halloween. It doesn't mean all of us start hating Halloween, it's just simply not as fun

without our friends, and no one wants to be the oldest kid trick-or-treating.

I think it's a shame that so many kids quit trick-or-treating because their friends do. Kids feel like they might be seen as losers if they still decide to trick-or-treat past middle school. So many kids lose their 2nd grade enthusiasm and simply quit on Halloween. I asked a few high school classes if they will be trick-or-treating this year and got resounding "NOs!" I wonder how many of them secretly would love to go out and nab some free candy, but are just too embarrassed. The reasons to quit on trick-or-treating are silly, and if you, like me, love Halloween, you should go for it. You can never be too old to have fun. And don't worry, you won't be the only one, I'll be trick-or-treating too.

Twerking: dancing's "newest" trend

BY ATERAHME LAWRENCE

Miley Cyrus and Jimmy Kimmel might have pushed the twerking trend into the viral stratosphere, but twerking is really nothing new. What is twerking? Who invented it? And most of all, where did it come from? These are questions with some surprising answers.

For those of you who aren't familiar with twerking, you need only look to the Oxford dictionary, which has now officially added the word. (That's right; twerking has made it into the dictionary.) Twerking is defined as, "to dance to popular music in a sexually provocative manner involving thrusting of the hips and a low squatting stance." Sounds scandalous, doesn't it? Obviously the media has a fascination with twerking since it seems you cannot go more than a few days without seeing a new twerking news piece, viral video, or social media posting. In fact, in the last month, the record was set for the most people twerking simultaneously in New York City's Herald Square. 358 twerkers, aged 8-80 twerked their way into the Guinness Book of World records. With all of this recent attention, you might think that twerking is a newly invented trend, but Miley Cyrus is not to thank for the origin of twerking. (Feel free to blame her for bad taste, however.) Like so many trends, twerking has been around by another name for hundreds of years.

The Mapouka dance is a traditional tribal

dance indigenous to West Africa. The Mapouka dance is a dance performed by women and focuses on the shaking of the buttocks while in a squatting stance. (Does that sound familiar?) It was most commonly performed during ceremonies and gatherings. So, although twerking may be new to our American mainstream culture, it is not a newly invented dance we can claim as our own.

Obviously, twerking is not ballet, and many find the dance offensive and graphic in nature. Just as the salsa, the flamenco, the tango, and many other dances were in their time, twerking is being criticized as raunchy and inappropriate. Maybe the twerking trend will pass, maybe not, but in the meantime, if twerking is distasteful to your elders, but you feel the need to dance it out, just tell them you are performing the traditional Mapouka dance.



AROUND the Halls

BY
JENNY
CASE

Cafeteria Edition

Last week I roamed the halls to get the inside scoop about how people really feel about cafeteria food. Students, faculty, and staff weighed in and this is what people responded when asked:
"What is the best and worst thing about our cafeteria?"



MATTHEW DUNNING

Best: French Toast sticks
Worst: Mac and cheese



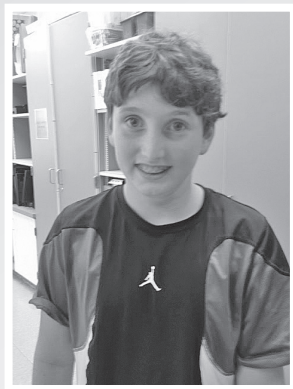
MRS. GALLAGHER

Best: The people, like Helene and Kim
Worst: The noise



AMELIA CLARK

Best: The plums
Worst: Everything else, except pretzels, 'cause pretzels are good



LUCAS QD

Best: The French toast sticks and sometimes you can get two apple juices
Worst: Some of it is bad for you

EMILY HYATT

Best: The taco salad
Worst: The little dixie cups that you get for water are too small, I need more water than that, but compared to Southold I approve. They have larger portions and even though it's a little more money, it's definitely worth it.



TRENDS

Hot Books

BY ALEXIS SULAHIAN

Lone Wolf by Jodi Picoult • Fiction writer Jodi Picoult has once again grabbed fans' attention in her newest novel, *Lone Wolf*. I was never actually into reading until I picked up a Jodi Picoult book; her books are so interesting and such page turners, you just won't want to put the book down! *Lone Wolf* is about an estranged family that is brought together by a sudden tragic accident which lands the family patriarch in a coma. Gut-wrenching decisions must be made and alliances are tested. All of this and very detailed information on the study of wolves! I would absolutely recommend this book to anyone who is looking for a quick and engaging read. Bring your tissues.

The Reapers Are The Angels by Alden Bell • In this fiction novel, Alden Bell gives read-

ers America infested by zombies. Young Temple roams around America hoping to find a place she can stay safe from the zombies that have invaded and taken over her small town. Throughout her journey she picks up an orphaned boy and cares for him like a "not so little" brother, since the rest of her family is nowhere to be found. Temple endures the adventure of a lifetime and proves to be one strong chick. Zombie fans, get in line, *The Reapers Are The Angels* was an American Library Association Alex Award winner for "Best Books 2010" and a movie is in the works.

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly • This book introduces the reader to Andi Alpers. Struggling with drugs, bickering with her parents, and mourning the tragic death of her brother that she blames on herself, Andi is forced to accompany her father on a business trip to Paris. While there, Andi is tasked with completing her senior thesis, during which her research bring her closer to history than she ever thought possible. *Revolution* was Amazon book of the year in 2010 and for good reason.

Hot Apps:
who's downloading what?

BY JACK KIMMELMANN

CloudOn is an app that stores files from Google drive and Dropbox into one central location. Nurse Mary likes it, because she can "store all her files in the same place in cyberspace."



Spotify is an app that enables you to listen to music, but is different than the popular app Pandora because you can choose the exact songs you want to listen to. Johnny Sturges, a junior, adds, "I like it because it's free!"



Oyster is a new app that streams ebooks to your iPhone. According to Mrs. Colligan, "It's like Netflix, but for books."



Little Riddles is an app that gives you points by solving riddles. Freshman Sophia Strauss admits, "It's just a stress reliever."



Hot Movies

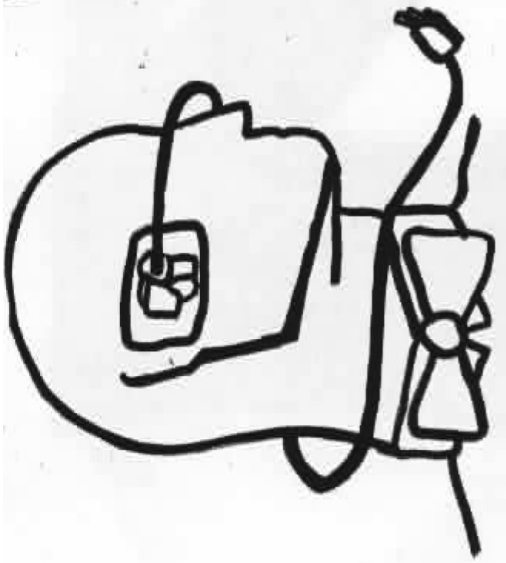
BY ZOEEY BOLTON

Looking for a good flick? Check out these new movies that have all dramatic plot twists, endearing characters, and wonderful new worlds to see.

"The Hunger Games: Catching Fire" (PG-13) • "The Hunger Games" Saga continues with this second installment that finds a new revolution brewing as Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) and Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) take a "Victor's Tour" of the districts. President Snow (Donald Sutherland) plots their demise during preparations for The Quarter Quell, which only happens every 25 years as a celebration of the Capitol's victory over the districts. I am definitely looking forward to this movie. If you liked the first "Hunger Games" movie, I'm sure you'll love this one. In theaters November 22nd.

"Ender's Game" (PG-13) • Seventy years after a horrific alien war, an unusually gifted child is sent to an advanced military school in nearby space to prepare for future invasions of planet Earth. *Ender's Game*, based on Orson Scott Card's beloved 1985 novel, is written and directed by Gavin Hood. Based on how the book kept me on the edge of my seat, I can safely assume the movie will be amazing as well. In theaters November 1st.

"The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug" (This film is not yet rated) • This movie, based on J.R.R. Tolkien's novel *The Hobbit*, published in 1937, is the second film in *The Hobbit* film trilogy. The cast remains largely the same as the first *Hobbit* film, and this one is sure to sweep viewers away with its incredible scenery, costumes, and non-stop adventure. Check out the film's website and you, like me, will be impatiently awaiting its release on December 13th.



THE OUTLET

By Aterahme C. Lawrence

*All quoted lines excerpted from "Sold the King to the River & Edit Your Hometown" by La Dispute

Every rotation of this wretched planet
begins and ends with a struggle
Darling you escape me
You run away right me off
and I, I run after you
And darling, you've opened my window
but broken on the ground, and left the pieces
as you too get caught in the breeze
carelessly on the ground, and left the pieces
You left me heavy with emptiness
The force slowing me pushing me down
while my fingers try to find the breeze
but I cannot hold on to my
no-longer-dear life
And I can only helplessly watch as you
set fire to our bridge and the ashes
catch in the breeze
I've given in. It's love is a bridge we built it wrong.

The Breeze by Emily Hyatt
"All these memories turn each day more to gray
While the distance is longer than the length
we all part one day and
drop like leaves into the breeze"
I cannot shake this emptiness
brought on by time
On precious pain
A name given us a name
where you used to be in my heart
and an empty jar with an unmistakable label
The breeze carried the leaves
and the birds far away
swept them along
They carry on peacefully
as my heart stays in the past
tugging my brain along

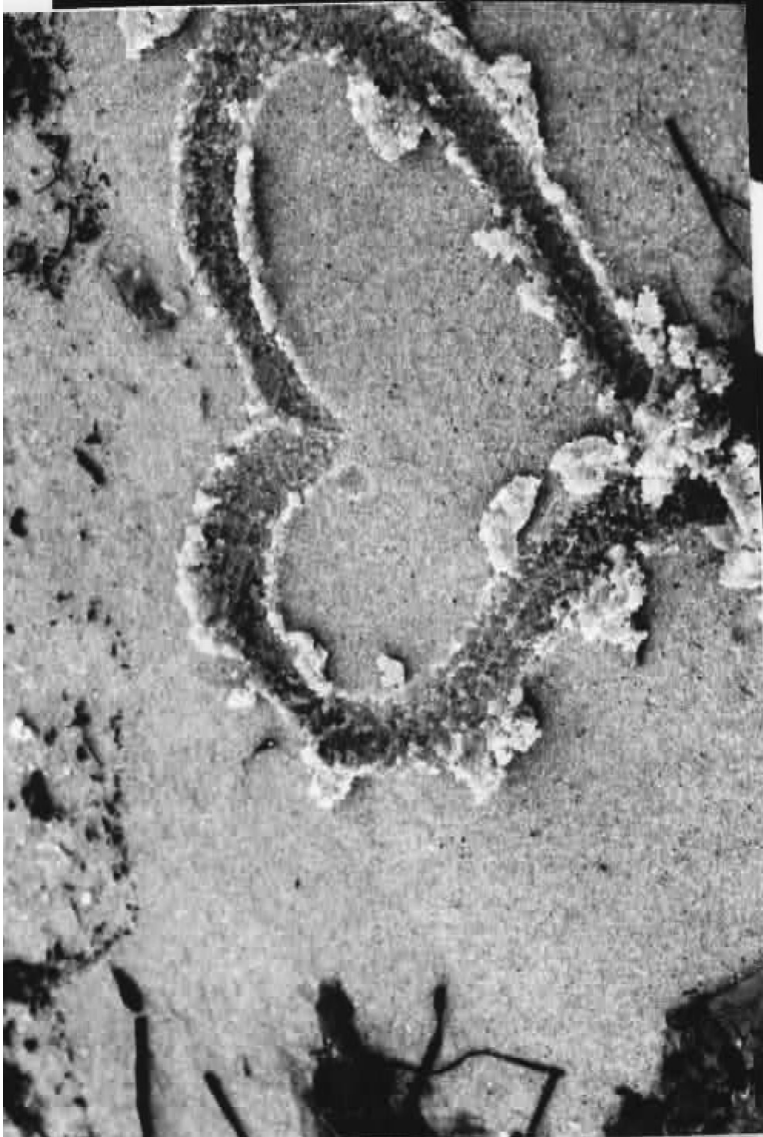


Photo by Bre Rietvelt

A Dream of the End by Sawyer Clark

I finally figured out how it feels.
sitting alone screaming, burning.
What should I think now?
The years are gone, wasted, pointless.
She moves on, despite my love.

The memories we made were a waste.
The love is still there.
or is it?

The thoughts that come are of death.
My own? Hers?

When I go out to shake it off,
she is there. With him.
Like nothing ever happened.
I run. Faster and faster.

At home, my mother's crying
it scares me, but I keep walking.
To my room I go.
There is blood on the floor.
Then I see the body. My body.
It's all clear now.



Bre Rietvelt



Photo by: Bre Rietvelt

The Struggle by Johnny Sturges

I am from family,
going fishing with grandpa,
a lingering fishy smell all day.

I am from attitude,
talking back to teachers,
detention every other day.

I am from God,
church every Sunday,
receiving the body of Christ.
It tastes like cardboard.

I am from change,
moving to Shelter Island,
switching schools.

I am from friends,
Camping out in the woods,
surrounded by silence.



I am from a heart that
always loves people
even when I don't like them.

I am from electronics:
tv, touchscreens, games, apps.
An escape when I need them.

I am from struggle,
but I'm still here.