



Special New Year's edition!

# The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 3, Volume 37

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743



PHOTO: LAUREN CAMPBELL

## »news in short

### Homeless to Harvard comes to Huntington High School

On Monday, January 11, 2010, Liz Murray captivated an audience of students, teachers, and community leaders alike as she shared her inspirational life story.

Ms. Murray came to Huntington High School in the hopes of uplifting the spirits of her audience and teaching that no "brick wall" is too strong to break. Students listened in awe as Ms. Murray narrated how she went from living on the "D" train and eating out of garbage cans, to sleeping in the dorms of the prestigious Harvard University.

Ms. Murray shared the valuable lesson that with a dream and a push in the right direction, anything is possible.

## INSIDE

## The Year That Was: 2009

Everything from Obama to Abdulmutallab

Timeline pgs. 2 and 3



Huntington's new country-loving, bike riding, Knicks watching teacher

page 4

Why a Huntington staff member voluntarily donated one of his organs.

page 4

# 2010:

## What will the new decade bring?

Editors' note:

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

As we close the first decade of the second millennium, we celebrate with bittersweet remembrance the great achievements humanity has made, as well as the struggles and trials we have faced. Though the New Year brings a clean slate and an open window of opportunity to progress forward, it is important not to forget the events and milestones that have shaped our lives and defined our purpose. In this special New Year's edition of *The Dispatch*, we have compiled a "Year in Review" timeline of 2009 as well as various lists of top-ranking pop-culture, entertainment, and

media. I hope you will view these as tokens of a monumental year, and forever keep the noted historical events in your mind and in your heart. 2009 was truly a remarkable year filled with history-changing and awe-inspiring happenings such as the "miracle on the Hudson", the inauguration of the first African-American president of the United States, steep policy changes, and the death of a legendary music icon. Let us enter this new decade with a clear understanding of what was, and with hopes for what will be. I wish you health, happiness, and success as you strive towards your goals in this new year, and largely in this new decade. Happy 2010!



PHOTO: WWW.PHOTOBUCKET.COM

## A cappella: Let's get the goods!

by SAMUEL SAINTHIL

Huntington High School has always been an academic institution that supports the arts. Whether the art be performance, visual, or literary, HHS has always striven for excellence. This tradition is being upheld by the new choral teacher, Ms. Veronica Escamilla, who hopes to shake things up a bit by instituting a new musical group to the school's already outstanding repertoire. This group will be an a cappella group, in which vocalists perform without accompaniment.

When asked what she hopes to achieve with the A cappella group, Ms. Escamilla responded, "I want to show students at HHS that the music they listen to *does* have a place in the HHS music program!" She continued to explain, "I listen to everything from Iron Maiden to Bach, Nirvana to the Spice Girls. My love of music spans many genres, and I'm sure that many students feel the same way." One of Ms. Escamilla's main goals is to dem-

onstrate the "amazing vocals" of Huntington's choral students, and she believes that, "A cappella music is the perfect way to showcase the talent here at HHS." Ms. Escamilla expressed her sadness because of the fact that "Most students have a negative view of choirs and singing in general. It is often deemed as 'un-cool', but when you think about it, most artists and bands that people listen to utilize vocals in some way, shape, or form." She hopes that modernized choral groups such as a capella "can create a bridge between the HHS music program and the rest of the school, as the music they will perform is really appealing and fun, and students need to see that singing is fun and exciting," said Ms. Escamilla.

The news of the up and coming a cappella ensemble was met with much excitement from musically-minded students at Huntington High School, but it seems that the new addition came at a cost- jazz choir no longer exists. When questioned, Ms. Escamilla answered that she wanted a group that was

able to take on many different kinds of musical genres, not just jazz, but that isn't to say that jazz will not be included in the musical selections. However, there will be a musical focus for this A cappella group. "Most of the music will be in the popular genre- for example, I am currently finishing up Michael Jackson's 'Thriller'. Most music that people listen to is popular music, which again, encompasses rock, R&B, hip-hop, etc., and most people can relate to these types of music."

Ms. Escamilla hopes to eventually take a back seat in the A cappella choir, and leave most of the creative control in the hands of students. This is why she has instituted a prerequisite to joining the group which states that one must already be a member of a musical program here at Huntington High School. Ensembles such as band, orchestra, or choir ensure that the members will be able to read music and that they already have a strong background in musicality and musicianship.

## Video Club newscasts are a hit

by MADISON BIERNACKI

Recently, there has been a major buzz amongst the students and faculty of Huntington High School regarding the weekly newscasts. Our school's Video Club has created their own Huntington News that is displayed on the video boards across the building. It includes many comical yet professional skits, interviews, weather forecasts, newscast reels and commercials.

According to the club's advisor, Mrs. Swan, the Video Club meets once a week to brainstorm ideas for upcoming editions. The students then carry out with their material by taping the videos and editing them outside of the club.

"It takes about 20 hours to edit videos," Mrs. Swan explains. "This means that members of the club come in whenever they have free periods to just work on the editing process."

The effort and time that goes into these videos is very worthwhile, as these videos have quickly become extremely popular amongst everyone at Huntington High School.

Mrs. Swan informed me that the Video Club has been running for 3 years. But why has it only recently been receiving so much attention? This can be explained through their new way of doing things. In years past, text was usually the only thing displayed on the video boards, which left minimal creativity for students. Members of the club today now have the freedom to broadcast their announcements to the student body and faculty in an attention-grabbing, enjoyable manner.

The Video Club always has something that will make one want to listen. Luckily, the boards are updated about once a week. This



PHOTO: WWW.HUFSD.EDU

allows new skits to be shared and displayed in school frequently.

Be sure to check out these video boards, located in the cafeteria and the main office of school. They are more entertaining than the basic text announcements of years past and are sure to make students laugh!



The Dispatch's

# 2009: YEAR IN REVIEW

ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FROM THE YEAR THAT WAS

**Jan. 20:** Barack Obama is sworn in as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the U.S. by chief justice John Roberts. He is the first African American to ever to be elected to this position.



**Jan. 2:** John Travolta's son, Jett Travolta (age 16), dies as a result of a seizure due to Kawasaki syndrome.

**Jan. 22:** President Obama orders the closure of the prison camp at Guantanamo Bay. He also orders a review of military trials for terror suspects and a ban on harsh interrogation methods.

**Feb. 3:** Hilary Clinton accepts the position of Secretary of State.



**Mar. 10:** Chris Brown is charged with domestic violence against Rihanna.

**Mar. 18:** Actress Natasha Richardson dies after head trauma resulting from a ski accident.



**Apr. 13:** 350 miles off the Somali coast, U.S. Navy snipers kill 3 pirates holding an American ship hostage for 5 days.



**May 26:** Obama nominates Federal Judge Sonya Sotomayor for the United States Supreme Court.

**May 21-25:** The space shuttle Atlantis conducts the final servicing mission to the Hubble space telescope.

**June 11:** H1N1 (Swine Flu) is deemed a global pandemic.



**June 12:** Food Inc. is released.

**June 26:** S.C. Governor Mark Sanford is having an affair with an Argentinian woman who remains in office.

## JANUARY

## FEBRUARY

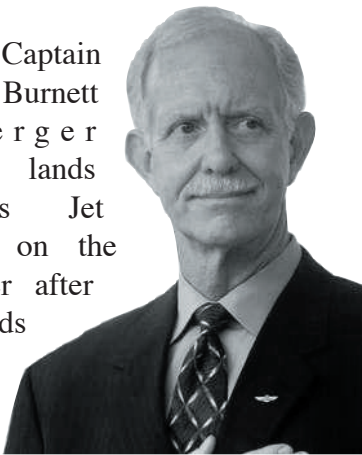
## MARCH

## APRIL

## MAY

## JUNE

**Jan. 15:** Captain Chesley Burnett Sullenberger miraculously lands U.S. Airways Jet Flight 1549 on the Hudson River after a flock of birds chokes the plane's engines.



**Feb. 17:** President Obama signs \$787 billion stimulus bill, designed to "create or save" 3.5 million jobs and end the economic crisis.



**Mar. 12:** Ponzi scheme ring leader Bernie Madoff pleads guilty to eleven different federal offenses including wire fraud, money laundering, perjury, and securities fraud.

**May 8:** The release of the movie Star Trek, based on the classic television series, has "Trekkies" everywhere on the edges of their seats.



**June 25:** King of Pop Michael Jackson is pronounced dead after collapsing in his home. It is later announced that his death was caused by a lethal dose of perscription drugs.



## The Dispatch

### 2009/2010 Staff

#### Editors-in-Chief

Lauren Campbell Natasha Stollmack

#### Managing Editors

Carrie Fante Cat Tacopina

Rebecca Friedman Samuel Sainthil

#### Contributing Staff

Katie Petrozzo	Kevon Pekchi
Mark Drobnjak	Alexa Kaplan
Sam Widerman	Nicolas Maiarelli
Amy Eisen	Cody Jacobs
Lauren Bialkowski	Emily Feldman
David Levin	Andrew Ku
Nellie Derbyshire	Carly Glowacky
Nathan Smith	Molly Prep
Melissa Cook	Eric Szilagy
Madison Biernacki	Mike Valente
Shira Moskowitz	Marissa Schedler
Jake Goldsztejn	Alex Reinertsen
Ryan Greenhill	Emily McGoldrick

#### Advisor

Mr. Mickey Baron

The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for the 1253 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. The Dispatch staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2009-2010 school year.

The Dispatch of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editors are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions,

comments, and letters to the editor should be sent to hhsdispatch@gmail.com or submitted to The Dispatch mailbox in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

The Dispatch accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through hhsdispatch@gmail.com. The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate.

The Dispatch would like to extend a special thanks to Ms. Kelly Quintero-Lashley and Mr. James Graber for their help with this issue.



FUNNIEST & MOST BIZARRE HEADLINES OF 2009:

“Michelle Obama Wore Clothes to Light the Christmas Tree”  
“Pittsburgh Police Want To See Junk In Your Trunk”  
“Police use Taser on fake cougar”  
“Chance of rain today depends on where you live”  
“Spokane parks to detonate squirrels”  
“Shoplifter stole lingerie and bacon”  
“Boise boy licks pole, gets stuck”  
“Speeding bullet stopped by hair weave”

“Woman steals \$650 in gum from hospital gift shop”  
“Missing baby found in sandwich”  
“Pet dog’s underwater fetish almost proves fatal”  
“Miss. Police Use Taser, Handcuffs On Wayward Emu”  
“Church Kids Raid Pantries For Foodbank Supplies”  
“Gold tooth missing after crutch attack”

Compiled from www.cafeterra.info

**Aug. 5:** North Korean authorities release journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee after they were arrested and jailed for illegally crossing into the country via the Chinese border.

**July 24:** Governor of Alaska, Sarah Palin, resigns from her position during the annual Governor’s picnic.

governor  
admits to  
r with an  
men. He  
e.

**Sept. 13:** MTV’s Video Music Awards night is full of entertainment, from Lady Gaga’s numerous costume changes to Kanye West’s rude comment to Taylor

**Aug. 20:** 1988 Lockerbie bomber Abdelbaset Ali al-Megrahi is released from his life sentence on “grounds of compassion”.

**Sept. 14:** Patrick Swayze dies after a long battle against pancreatic cancer.

**Oct. 14:** Appropriately dubbed “Balloon Boy”, Falcon Heene, age 6, was found hiding in the attic of his home after being reported as missing and having been carried away in an experimental balloon built by his father, Richard Heene. The situation was later announced to be a hoax.

**Nov. 13:** NASA announces that there is a large amount of water present on the moon.

**Nov. 24:** Tareq and Michaela Salahi crash the State Dinner at the White House. They succeed in passing through security without being on the guest list, and shake the hands of the President and the Vice President.

**Dec. 1:** Obama announces his war plan for Afghanistan and plans to increase our troops by 30,000. He says he hopes to make the first troop withdrawals in June 2011.

JULY

AUGUST

SEPTEMBER

OCTOBER

NOVEMBER

DECEMBER

**June 29:** Bernie Madoff (see March 12) is sentenced to 150 years in prison.

**Sept. 9:** Representative of South Carolina, Joe Wilson, outbursts with the comment, “You lie!” during President Obama’s speech to Congress on his proposed plan for health care. Wilson later apologized to Obama for his disrespectful behavior.

**Oct. 1:** David Letterman scandal: Letterman’s former assistant blackmails him in an attempt to extort \$2 million.

**Dec. 10:** Obama receives the Nobel Peace Prize.

**Nov. 27:** Tiger Woods crashes his Cadillac Escalade into a tree outside of his home after a fight with his wife. It is later revealed that Woods had numerous affairs while married to his wife.

**Dec. 25:** Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab attempts to set off explosives on a Northwest Airlines flight from Amsterdam to Detroit. Although the explosives fail to detonate, the event causes panic and delays in international air travel.

**Nov. 4:** The New York Yankees win the World Series against the Phillies.



TOP FIVE LISTS: THE BEST IN 2009 ENTERTAINMENT

FASHION TRENDS:

1. Leather jackets
2. Wayfarers
3. Floral patterns
4. Textured tights
5. Boots

SONGS:

1. *Single Ladies* (Beyonce)
2. *Poker Face* (Lady Gaga)
3. *Blame It* (Jaime Foxx/T-Pain)
4. *Empire State of Mind* (Jay-Z/Alicia Keys)
5. *Love Story* (Taylor Swift)

MUSICALS

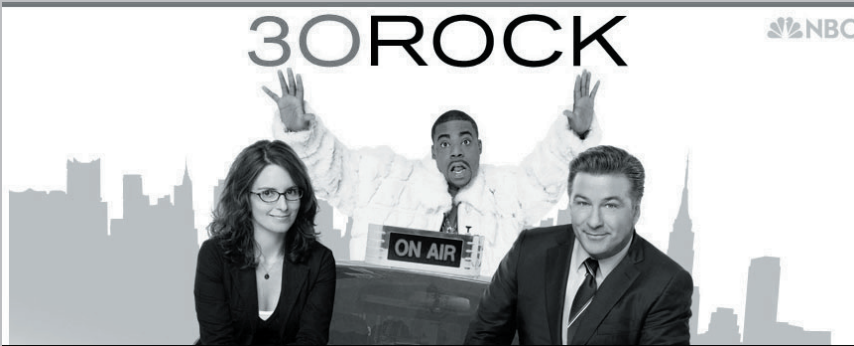
1. *Hair*
2. *Wicked*
3. *Avenue Q*
4. *Jersey Boys*
5. *Billy Elliot*

MOVIES:

1. *Star Trek*
2. *Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince*
3. *New Moon*
4. *The Hangover*
5. *Paranormal Activity*

TV SHOWS:

1. *Glee*
2. *The Office*
3. *30 Rock*
4. *Mad Men*
5. Tie between: *Big Bang Theory* and *True Blood*





# TEACHER FEATURE: Mrs. Jasinki

New social studies teacher is a young and fun American girl

by SAMUEL SAINTHIL

**Q:** Where are you from and how does it compare to Huntington?

**A:** My hometown is Westville, located in upstate New York. How does it compare to Huntington? Well, it has more cows than people, so yeah, it's pretty different! Now I live in Hampton Bays which is very different from Huntington.

**Q:** What kind of music do you like to listen to and why?

**A:** I listen to everything, but if I have to pick a favorite genre, then I'd have to say country. I think I like it because I grew up in "the country" and I like the "simple life" concept and feel of that type of music. I really can't relate to songs that talk about "hangin' out in the club!"

**Q:** What is your biggest pet

*Huntington's new ninth and tenth grade social studies teacher, hailing from upstate New York, is pretty much your typical All-American girl. She's married and has a three year old daughter who she absolutely adores. She graduated from Sacred Heart University in Connecticut and she currently lives in Hampton Bays.*

peeve about students?

**A:** I'd have to say that I hate it when students don't take their homework seriously because if they don't do the work at home, then they make it that much harder for themselves to understand the material.

**Q:** What are your favorite and least favorite foods and why?

**A:** I like everything, that's my problem! My favorite would have to be fruit. My least favorites are the foods that have a strong odor, like brussel sprouts or onions.

**Q:** What do you like to do in your free time?

**A:** I like to hang out with my three-year-old daughter; just

spend time with her, you know? We go to the beach, the aquarium, the park, and animal farms. I also like to ride motorcycles with my husband. Yeah, I'm a biker chick!

**Q:** Yankees or Mets? Giants or Jets?

**A:** Mets. Giants. I like basketball though, why didn't you ask that? I like to watch Lebron James, but I've always been a Knicks fan.

**Q:** What is your favorite thing about Huntington High School?

**A:** I love how everybody is really helpful. From students to staff, everyone's been going out of their way to be helpful. It's hard to start out in a new school and I really appreciate all the friendliness.



PHOTO: LAUREN BIALKOWSKI

## Kidney-less Caleca

by MELISSA COOK

*"Every year I send my kidney an anniversary card... just to let him know the other organs miss him."*

Every day, we pass countless faculty members of the school, some of which have gone through something significant in their life.

Mr. Caleca, the Huntington High School dean, set a great example for students and the community alike on August 19, 2008. One action we were always encouraged to take in our youth was to share with each other, although most of us would never dream of taking it to the extent of donating an organ.

When Mr. Caleca's sister, Joan Rullo, was diagnosed with kidney failure by her doctor, their family was devastated.

In the United States, over eighty thousand people are waiting for an organ transplant. When a family member wants to donate an organ there are two requirements that must be met; the first is that they both must have the same blood type, and the second requirement is the pairing of alleles. As far as statistics go, when a member of the family is trying to donate their organ to another, fifty percent of the cases are qualifying matches. Twenty-five percent of cases are a perfect match. Of that twenty-five percent, ten percent are an identical match. This means that both people have the same blood type, and five out of five allele matches are found. This is a rare oc-

currence, and when it does happens it is usually found in twins.

In fifty percent of cases, the family member will not meet these standards, and therefore, the donation cannot take place. It did not come as second nature to Mr. Caleca when he went to Ms. Rullo's doctor and completed testing to see if he qualified to be her donor. Joan's kidney was failing

thing her kidney would have.

When Mr. Caleca went for testing, to his surprise the doctor said that not only was he a perfect match but he was an identical match. Mr. Caleca stated, "We were thrilled... it was like winning the lotto." Almost a week later, Mr. Caleca went into surgery for two hours. They made sure Mr. Caleca and Ms. Rullo were ready first by removing tissue. They then removed his kidney, dropped it into a bag and quickly inserted it into Joan. After two days in the hospital on bed rest, the doctor instructed him not to return to work for at least fourteen days. Mr. Caleca was back in ten days to crack jokes on the kids in the hallway and be the energetic dean students relate to.

Mr. Caleca will not be participating in any bull-riding, boxing or tackle football, though he said he doesn't complain at the age of 45. He's more than happy enforcing the rules of our school, ensuring our safety, and keeping smiles on our faces. As for Ms. Rullo, she will be taking anti-rejection pills for the rest of her life, though will be forever grateful for her brother's brave actions.

When asked about his relationship with his sister before and after the surgery, Mr. Caleca agreed that he definitely grew closer with her. In fact, he viewed this as such an empowering action that he said, "If it was a student in need, I would do it all over again if I could." This surgery was both risky and admirable. Such a heroic action should not go unrecognized.

for a year before her surgery because the doctor refused to do such a complex surgery without it being a complete emergency.

Ms. Rullo's last visit to the doctor before she got her transplant was a wakeup call, and the doctor stated that if she didn't go into surgery by the end of the week she would be put on dialysis for the rest of her life. This would mean she would be frequently hooked up to a machine that would mechanically do every-

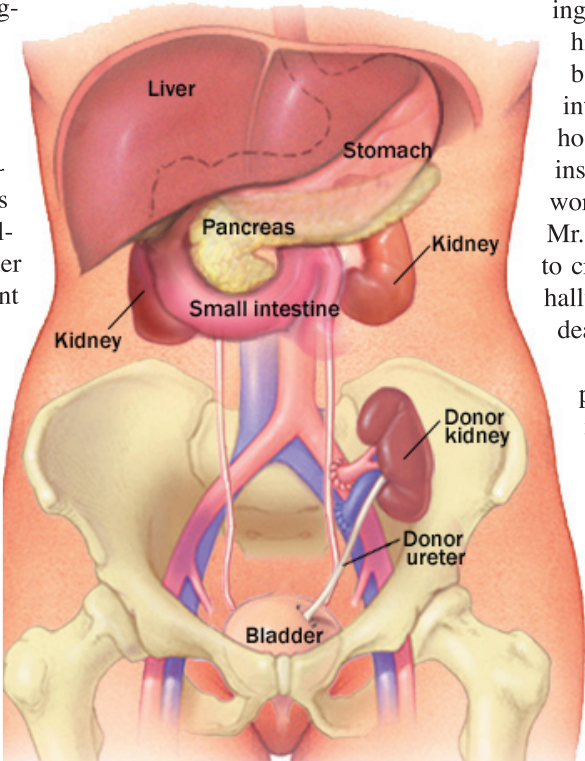


Photo Foundation for Medical Education and Research. All rights reserved.

PHOTO: WWW.MAYOCLINIC.COM

## Brilliant Books

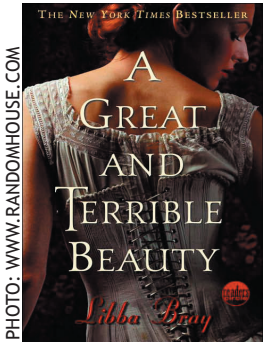


PHOTO: WWW.RANDOMHOUSE.COM

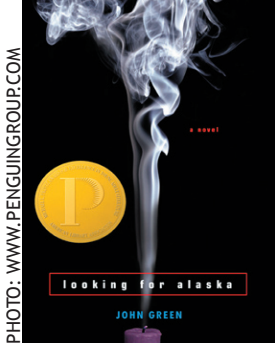


PHOTO: WWW.PENGUINGROUP.COM

by EMILY MCGOLDRICK

Out of all the books I've read, one of my favorites is *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray. The story is set in the late 1800s, but isn't like the average historical fiction. The story starts off with a bang when Gemma, the main character, sees her mother commit suicide. The twist is, she's already just had a vision of it happening. Devastated and confused, Gemma is sent to the Spence Academy for Young Ladies, where at first she has trouble fitting in with other more "proper" girls. Meanwhile, her visions continue, leaving her full of questions and without any answers. Through her talents, Gemma learns of an ancient society called The Order, and is drawn to the similarities between it and herself. The story continues in a trilogy, including *Rebel Angels* and *The Sweet Far Thing*. All of these books are very detailed and well written, and the best part of reading them is having no clue about what is going to happen next. Also, the story never gets stale since it alternates between the real world and one very different from everything man knows,

resulting in many different sub-plots.

Finally, a book that both guys and girls can enjoy! *Looking for Alaska* by John Green is an extremely compelling read relatable to all walks and aspects of life. Similarly to *A Great and Terrible Beauty*, the book starts off with the protagonist leaving home for boarding school; the main character is Miles. He never really had any friends, but finds a whole new perspective on life when he meets his roommate, who insists on being called "the Colonel", and introduces him to the intriguing Alaska Young. Miles quickly becomes smitten by her, and before he knows it he is sucked into their world of pranks and weirdness and is having the time of his life. The book is broken up into two halves: "before" and "after" the most significant event in the story. This creates curiosity and anticipation as the book moves along. The best part is getting a little bit of everything from reading it; laughter, tears and a good message.