



The Dispatch

"A beacon
of truth."

■ Issue 2, Volume 38

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

DECEMBER 10



PHOTO: DAVID STILLMAN

In Loving Memory... Mr. Robert Potter

» news in short

The redheads take the cake

Seniors Carrie Fante and Michelle Byrne were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Class of 2011.

HHS seniors win first place in business competition

Seniors Lukasz Leonczuk and Anthony Lupo received first place honors in the Young Professionals business leadership competition hosted by BOCES Wilson Tech.

Mr. 240

HHS Junior Andrew Ku recently received a perfect score of 240 on the PSAT; the equivalent of a 2400 on the SAT.

by DAVID STILLMAN

On Monday, November 22nd, 2010, in the early hours of the evening, the phone of every high school student rang. It was a recorded message from a somber Dr. Leonard, saying that HHS art teacher Mr. Robert Potter had passed away due to a sudden heart attack.

Mr. Potter told every student who entered his class, "Mr. Potter is not a potter." He was a sculptor who left his former job because he truly loved teaching and cared about his students. He found his calling in teaching, but he taught much more than sculpting. He was a mentor to students and a guide to many through high school.

For those who had him for a teacher, his doors were always open. Students were constantly in his room even if they did not need help with their projects. With a magnetic personality, Mr. Potter was a friend to every student and colleague with whom he interacted. "You helped us get through each day, just by your smile," an anonymous person wrote.

For those not fortunate enough to have had Mr. Potter as a teacher, he was truly an inspiration. There was never a complaint about him or a person who did not look forward to going to his class. His death has signified the loss of a role model, a friend, and a wonderful human being for the Huntington community.

Unanimity is rare, but after Mr. Potter's passing, there was not one person who was

not struck with sadness. Facebook erupted with statuses honoring him ("We'll never for-

has ever or ever will touch all the wayward souls of teenage years the way you did/ God bless you Potter/ We will always be thinking of you, miss you, we love you."

Some students wore black in memory of him; others wore bright colors to honor him. Grief counselors were provided for those in need, and the absence of Mr. Potter filled the hallways. The Huntington community loved Mr. Potter and was truly shaken by his death.

Mr. Potter was not only a role model to the high school, but a father and husband as well. His daughter and wife are suffering tremendously, and their sentiments have been heard by Huntington High School.

In honor of Mr. Potter, Student Government will be hosting a school dance this January to raise money for either a college fund for his daughter or a scholarship in his name. After a man dedicated four and a half years to helping every individual he could, Huntington High is showing its gratitude.

One Huntington student voiced their gratitude to Mr. Potter in the following statement: "Thank you for bringing laughter, happiness, joy to all who knew you. Thank you."



GRAPHIC: HHS.D.EDU

get you/ R.I.P. Mr. Potter<3"). Murals were put up in the front lobby and in front of his classroom where students could write their thoughts about him. Three murals were filled up within the first day with comments such as, "You were an angel on this earth/ No one

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Huntington goes abroad

Students eager for upcoming trips to Greece and Costa Rica

by MIKE O'CONNOR

While many may view traveling abroad as an activity reserved for college students, over 50 Huntington High School students will be traveling to foreign countries this year to experience foreign cultures.

This year, there are three travel abroad programs in the school, two of which are taking students to Costa Rica while the other is heading to Greece.

For the past several years, Huntington High School students

have opted to travel to countries such as Italy and Peru with Education First (EF) Tours.

During April Break, over 40 students will spend nine days traveling in Greece. They will be exploring Athens, taking a cruise to several Greek islands, and entering Turkey to visit Ephesus to see the House of the Virgin Mary. The group will spend four days in Athens seeing sights like the Parthenon, the Agora, and Delphi. The next four days will be spent cruising from island to island in the Mediterranean, stopping at Mykonos, Rhodes, and Santorini. Senior Ben Kitzen said, "I can't wait for this trip. I went to Italy last year and loved it and hope this trip will be even better."

The other trip through EF Tours is to Costa Rica and is being run through the Spanish department. This trip will consist of a smaller group of students, ac-

companied by Ms. Diaz, that will travel to Costa Rica for nine days during February Break. While in Costa Rica, these students will get a chance to experience Latin American culture firsthand and practice their Spanish as well as visit sites such as Lake Arenal, La Fortuna Waterfall, and Monteverde Reserve. This is the first time that an abroad trip geared specifically towards students taking Spanish is being run and it is likely to be a positive experience for all involved.

The second trip to Costa Rica is being run through World Challenge. While the other two trips have planned itineraries, the World Challenge trip is much more open, leaving students to decide what activities they want to partake in and when. Although Mr. Gould is the advisor of the trip, he acts as an observer, leaving it up to the students to plan

their trip and fundraise for it. By giving this responsibility to the students, the students are able to shape their experience to what they want it to be and it gives them great leadership skills. The group will leave for Costa Rica just a few days after school ends and will stay for 15 days. Currently, the group is planning on aiding freshly hatched turtles to the sea, zip-lining in a forest, helping a local community, and going white water rafting. Lizzy Saltman, one of the leaders of the trip, says, "Right away I knew this trip was something I would want to do. I liked the idea of the independence that comes with having to raise our own money and being able to decide what we want to

see **HUNTINGON GOES ABROAD** on pg. 3



From texting to trauma

by EMILY MCGOLDRICK

Car crashes are the number one killer of teenagers in the United States. Approximately 100 students have registered for a parking space in the HHS lot for the 2010-2011 school year, not to mention the several other students who are transported to and from school by these new drivers on a daily basis.

In a time where technology is the key to social connections and communications, it is no wonder that the buzz of a cell phone is almost impossible to ignore. The need to be informed of news or plans is one of the main reasons why texting has become so popular, especially amongst younger generations. “I try not to text,” said senior Amy Eisen. “Texting [while driving] is dangerous. I try not to talk [on the phone], but I do probably 18% of the time”.

Another possibility behind this danger is the increasing safety features of cars which allow drivers to become complacent and willing to take more risks while driving. “I know people who have gotten into accidents because they are texting and driving. If you have an emergency, you should just pull over,” added Mrs. Desiderio. “I don’t text. I don’t see the necessity of



GRAPHIC: DAVID STILLMAN

doing it while you are driving...it can scar you for life,” said Mrs. Gilbert. Some studies have even shown that calls or texts have similar characteristics to that of an addiction.

When teens see their peers and adults having the same distractions, it affirms that everyone is taking a call so it must be safe, and like many other negative events, no one believes that a

crash could ever happen to them, though it happens all the time. On the afternoon of October 3rd, a 21-year-old driver suffered a serious head injury from a crash on Route 347 in Nesconset caused by texting.

Just being in the car with someone else who is texting is life-threatening; almost 50 percent of teens between the ages of 12-17 have at one time or

another been in a vehicle with a driver who was texting. Using a cell phone while driving disrupts a driver’s abilities and rate of reaction nearly as much as drunk driving, which puts not just those passengers but all vehicles in the area in danger. “No, I never text in the car. My phone is always next to me, never on my lap. Only if it’s an emergency or a parent calling”, remarked

senior Richie Gray. The issue has become common enough that public figures have started awareness campaigns, such as Oprah Winfrey’s creation of the “No Phone Zone” pledge.

Not even a month before the Nesconset crash, a Hempstead high school student smashed her car in a collision with another car one morning. A week or two later another Hempstead student lost control and swerved into a tree on her way to school and destroyed her car as well. These examples that are so close to home are a mere two of several crashes that have affected students, families and communities on Long Island.

Simple precautions such as pulling over to answer a call, turning off the phone, or placing it somewhere such as the car trunk can help to avoid conversations and on the road altogether. All drivers, no matter what age, must know that a call or text is never worth risking their life or the life of another person. After all, a text is just a text.

Key Club’s “primal project”

by KYMBERLY CORLEY and ALEIA ISOLDI

Most people are unaware that there are only 720 Uganda mountain gorillas left in the world. Huntington High School’s Key Club, a service group dedicated to helping others, has made it their priority to be involved in the “Friend a Gorilla” project.

Friend a Gorilla is a conservation program that was founded by the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA). It was developed to spread awareness regarding the Uganda Mountain gorillas. Since gorillas have no voice of their own, HHS has decided to talk to the world for them.

Huntington Key Clubbers are just some of the 2,500 students involved in this international organization. Key Club treasurer Samantha Levine said, “Learning about and helping the gorillas is an exotic experience that I’m grateful to be a part of.”

The project has two purposes:



GRAPHIC: MELISSA ROSENBERG

♦ (clockwise from top left): Mrs. Colica (advisor), Michelle Rosenbauer (president), Mrs. Krycinski (advisor), Mike Valente (secetary), Holly Flores (historian/editor), Samantha Levine (treasurer), Alex Martinolich (vice president)

it not only benefits the Uganda gorillas, but if Key Club raises \$250,000, two Key Club students will have the honor of traveling to Uganda.

Today, there are only ten countries with naturally occurring gorilla populations. Without the help of Key Club, the number of gorilla populations will continue to dwindle. Fundraisers such as a car wash, bake sales and charitable donations are what HHS needs

in order to meet its \$250,000 incentive.

By donating to this cause, donors could be potentially saving this specie. “Every effort we put into this organization will have an impact on the survival of the gorillas,” stated Levine.

The Dispatch would like to wish the Huntington High School community a joyous and safe holiday season!

Make a New Year’s resolution worth keeping:
Join the 2011 Dispatch staff

October Issue Corrections

-The Dispatch sincerely apologizes to all of the students whose school accounts were hacked due to the exposure of their ID numbers in the front page graphic.

-“Sammi Sweetheart” was pictured in the *Jersey Shore* P/CP, not “JWOWW.”

-The Dispatch would like to formally recognize Emily McGoldrick as a member of the October issue contributing staff.

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HHS’ “triple threat” resource

by HOLLY FLORES

If students are having problems with a classmate, teacher, or simply a bad day, few are aware of the availability of HHS’ school psychologists.

Huntington High School has 2.3 psychologists as compared to the typical one or two. Huntington’s psychologists are Dr. Mendez, Dr. DeVito (both full-time), and Dr. Ozimkowski (available one day per week).

Dr. Ozimkowski explained the very involved job of being a school psychologist. They meet with all students, with some students on a regular basis, run counseling groups, perform cognitive assessments, perform interventions in the classroom and work closely with the special education program. On top of all this, they meet with Dr. Leonardi every week and keep her updated about their work.

No student should be hesitant about scheduling a meeting with the psychologists; there are clipboards outside every door where anyone can sign up. Students are encouraged to leave notes on the door if they are out of their offices.

The psychologists are professionals with doctorate degrees who address emotional problems to help success in school; they are great listeners and always keep students’ confidentiality. They also work closely with teachers, parents and community organizations to help students realize their goals and accomplish them. The main goal of the school psychologists is to create ideal situations for learning and to help students to do the best in school. Beyond that, they create the platform which will help kids make plans for their lives,

colleges and in achieving their goals. “We are people who just want to help people,” said Dr. Ozimkowski.

No student who is struggling should ever forget about his or her resource of the school psychologists, always there with open arms and caring hearts.

All three of Huntington High School’s psychologists are available in both Guidance East and West

“Challenge Day” program poses new obstacles

District budget cuts eliminate Challenge Day grant

by MARISSA BALDI

Every day students see the same faces while walking through the halls. Some are friends while some are not, and many would agree that to truly get to know each person would be next to impossible. For the last few years, Huntington has been giving their students that exact opportunity with an all day in school program called Challenge Day.

Challenge Day is a day when the walls between cliques are taken down and people can find out who their peers and themselves are deep down inside. “It is a wonderful day that is very emotionally exhausting” say Dr. Carmela Leonardi. Students who had participated in the event

shared similar feelings. Junior Bianca Iarrabino recalled, “It was an experience that opened me up to the obstacles other people face, and how you otherwise would never be able to realize them.”

This year, however, the Challenge Day program will not be taking place at HHS due to lack of funding. Huntington High School must pay for the traveling and accommodation fees of the people who run the program. They come all the way from California, thus the cost usually

ends up totaling over \$12,000. Without another school in the area that also participates in the program, Huntington must pay the whole fee alone. The yearly grant that has been allowing the program to come to HHS is no longer available.

Dr. Leonardi says that there is talk that the school will do something similar to Challenge Day on its own. “I am talking to the guidance counselors and teachers to possibly put together something much like Challenge Day that we can do here on our own at school,” she said.

Though the professional Challenge Day leaders will not be able to visit HHS this year, not all hope has been lost for the Challenge Day experience.

“HUNTINGON GOES ABROAD” (continued from front page)

do.” While this is the first World Challenge trip to be run in our school, it is shaping up to be an incredibly interesting and exciting trip.

Huntington High School is in no shortage of abroad trips this year and many students are taking advantage of these opportunities to travel to new places and learn about different cultures. It is sure that these students will experience a variety of new things and learn much about the foreign places they will be visiting.

WORD ON THE STREET

What’s the best/worst thing about HHS?

BEST



Phil Cadorette- Junior

“The rock, because no other school has one like it.”

WORST



Ben Jensen- Senior

“Having a bottom locker and being 6’4”. Bending down like that gives me arthritis.



Nadav Klein- Senior

“Wearing ID cards makes me feel like a pet.”

The opinions expressed do not reflect the opinions of The Dispatch’s staff, nor the HUFSD School Board or any affiliated.

SERVING UP SUPPORT

by JIMMY OLIVA

When Huntington High school students are tired or hungry and it's a been a long day at school, all they want to do is to sit down, relax and eat lunch. For those students who buy lunch on a consistant basis, they normally have a routine line to go to, whether it's the sandwich, hot food, or burrito line. For those students who choose the burrito line, they know that the burrito line has something unique about it: this line is honored by the presence of lunch lady Francis Bravo.

Bravo, affectionately called "Franny" by students, is one of the many underrated Huntington High School faculty workers. She's a dedicated 22 year veteran and a Huntington High School alumna who has built quite the reputation over the years. Having worked at Finley for 14 years and Huntington High for eight, she has made herself very well known throughout the district. Franny truly does what she loves, and the students take notice of that. What everyone loves about Franny is her satirical sense of humor and her "tell it how it is" attitude.

For Franny, there is one thing she loves about Huntington High School that makes her come back every day; it's not the money she makes, or the benefits she receives, it's the smiles on



GRAPHIC: DYLAN FERBER

Francis "Franny" Bravo in the Huntington High School cafeteria

kid's faces. By kids Franny does not mean her own kids but all of 1200+ students at Huntington High School. If there is one thing everyone should know about Franny, it's the magnitude of her love for the students of HHS. When asked "what's the best part about your job?" Franny's automatic reply is "the children."

She is also incredibly supportive of the athletes at the high school. Any student who is getting lunch and happens to be wearing a school jersey should be prepared to be showered with a wave of blessings and encouragement.

Franny truly is a Huntington High School legend who many

feel receives less credit than she deserves for the time she has put into the district. The students who see her working every day on the burrito line agree that she is truly a hard-working and dedicated member of the faculty. She is also the type of person for whom seeing the smiles of her students makes her job enjoyable

and satisfying, and she is fondly thought of in return by her many students who visit her every day during their lunch periods.

Is AP for Me?

by EMAL WAFAJOW

This year, students at Huntington High School are taking anywhere from zero to six AP classes. With more expectations and a comprehensive rigor unlike any other, Advanced Placement (AP) classes give certain students the opportunity to test their full capacity in a more intense setting.

There are some schools in other states that force all students to take AP exams to improve their school's ranking, while other schools do not offer APs at all. Huntington High School is in the middle in terms of exams that they offer, but whether out of reluctance or the level of difficulty, the majority of HHS have opted

out of AP classes.

Students are under a great deal of pressure from not only their daily stresses, but also college applications. There is a large amount of controversy about college expectations and admittance. Some students feel obligated to take AP courses in an effort to enhance their transcripts. "Colleges are giving the impression that students will not be admitted or adequately prepared if they do not take AP courses," said Mrs. Croke. This poses a problem because a number of parents become worried and for some students it increases tension at home. However, according to guidance counselors, colleges

are looking for well-rounded students with not only academic prowess, but also participation in the school or local area. On the contrary, college counselor Mrs. Walsh pointed out that "colleges have taken the

time to put these courses into action and if they are offered, students will be penalized for not taking any at all."

The negative aspects of APs are quite evident to those students that take them. Without a doubt, these classes promise to be challenging and very demanding work. A student's transition from Honors to AP is often a shock. "Some are really not quite sure what they're getting into. I think that more students worry about getting an AP class into their schedule but don't intend on working too hard" said Mrs. Beck, an AP biology teacher. Due to the fact that these courses are designed to be extensive and time-consuming, a student's success boils down to their work ethic and academic strengths. An analytical person might prefer an AP history class, while someone who is good at memorization would probably perform better in AP biology.

Despite the daunting AP courseload, such courses certainly have their benefits. They arm students with an extraordinary amount of knowledge that far surpasses any other. "It is an indispensable source of information that you can't get in regular classes," said senior Shayne Larkin. Students learn how to manage their time better and become more independent test takers. "AP has a national curriculum and knowledge gained is the most advanced in the nation," said Dr. Leonardi. Many schools in the mid-west don't offer AP

classes; students in regions that do offer the classes will have a leg up on their national peers when it comes time for applying to colleges.

AP classes offer college credit for those who do well enough (this usually means scoring at least a 3 or a 4 on the exam). AP grades scale from one to five, five being a level of mastery. Receiving college credit at an early age is extremely useful because it means fewer college hours, saving a great deal of time and money. Another significant detail is that the classes are weighted tremendously on the high school transcript. A 90 comes out to approximately a 99. "Having a 1.1 weighting makes all the difference. It makes up for working hard in an AP course when you could have pulled an easy A in an honors or regular course," said junior Mark Acevedo.

The numbers of students who have made their mark in the school have risen. "I had one section of 25 kids and now I have two sections with 52 kids" said Ms. Tedeschi. More students are also receiving awards for taking AP exams ranging from AP Scholars who have taken at least three exams receiving a score of a 4 or higher, to National AP Scholars who have taken at least eight during their high school career.

With all this in mind, the decision to request an AP should not be taken lightly, and requires careful attention.



GRAPHIC: DAVID STILLMAN

Mrs. Beck's AP biology class

POINT/ COUNTERPOINT

I have a DREAM

by SHIRA MOSKOWITZ

Each year approximately 250 students graduate from Huntington High School. Some go on to college and eventually pursue careers, while others are forced to discontinue their education. They can no longer pursue their learning because of a choice their parents made. These are the children of illegal immigrants. After attending school for as much of kindergarten through 12th grade as possible, these students are released into the real world to discover that in addition to not being able to further their education, they cannot drive, work legally, or pay taxes to contribute to the economy.

They have built their lives here, but because of a choice their parents made, they will never be able to truly achieve the American dream. It is a loss for these young people as well as for our society as a whole. Americans spend money through the public school system to educate all, including immigrants, and now they will not be able to give anything back to society. The main point of education is to provide someone with the knowledge to go out and use what they have learned to improve society. Under current legislation, the children of illegal immigrants have little to no opportunity to do this.

This is why the DREAM Act (Development, Relief, and Education for Alien

Minors Act) needs to be passed. This will permit such students conditional legal status if they meet certain standards.

To blame children for their parents' actions is unfair. This act would prevent America from throwing away potential that has been invested in for many years while these children traveled through the grade school system. It is a waste of resources to educate them for years and then

not let them repay the country. This act would add to our work force of skilled

laborers. It would also improve immigrant communities and has the potential to decrease crime and other violent activity. By allowing illegal immigrants to become citizens we are also allowing them to pay taxes. More taxes means more money under our belt.

Passing the DREAM Act would not only be beneficial to the children of illegal immigrants, but to America as a whole both economically and socially. It would not encourage illegal immigration because families of immigrants would still have to pay equal tuition. This act would merely level the playing field and allow immigrants the opportunity to further their education.

“To blame children for their parents’ actions is unfair.”

Stick to the system

by HENRY GRILL

The DREAM Act: a dream for some, but a nightmare for many. Coming into this country through Ellis Island, my grandfather had one thing on his mind: to achieve the American dream. If the DREAM Act is passed, illegal immigrants will only be further distancing themselves from the American dream.

The DREAM Act states that by either graduating a two-year college or serving two years of honorable military service, any illegal immigrant under the age of 35 who has lived in the United States for at least five years can attain legal status within the United States for a period six years. If during those six years they pursue a further two years of higher education, or two years of active duty military service, they can become permanent citizens. As citizens of the United States of America, we should not have to pay for illegal immigrants to go through our public school system as well as provide their health-care, and then allow them to become legal residents.

Attending college and serving in the military are privileges. By passing the DREAM Act, and not only allowing, but rewarding illegal immigrants with these privileges is absurd. Our service men and women join the military for the sole purpose of serving their country, because they have a strong American identity. However, illegal immigrants don't want to identify themselves as

Americans. Illegal immigrants simply aren't raised under patriotic American ideals and therefore have no initiative to fight for our nation. The DREAM Act is their only source of motivation to join the military. To make our military fight alongside illegal immigrants would be disrespectful, and potentially harmful to active duty Americans and our veterans.

In New York alone, it is estimated that there are over half a million illegal immigrants. We do not need more residents when New York already has an unemployment rate of 8.2 %. Illegal immigrants have already taken

“...rewarding illegal immigrants with these privileges is absurd.”

thousands of jobs from hard working Americans. The DREAM Act would only encourage illegal immigration because as they begin to move into white collar jobs, new illegal immigrants will come only to replace the opening in the blue collar labor force. If it is passed, the DREAM Act will be nothing but a free ticket for illegal immigrants. They can already attend college, they just can't receive federal Pell Grants. Many support this line of reasoning due to the fact that illegal immigrants do not pay taxes. If illegal immigrants have ambitions to go to college or serve in our military, they should go through the standard process of becoming an American citizen like our ancestors did before us.

YouTube fights for “Gingers”

M.I.A.’s “Born Free” music video banned from YouTube.com

by SAMI AIMAN

In today's world, redheads, commonly referred to as “gingers” are considered their own pseudo-ethnic group. Huntington High School has a minority of students that are considered to be gingers. Recently, there have been jokes passed regarding redheads. M.I.A, female singer and rapper, attempted to bring attention to this problem through her controversial music video for her new single, “Born Free.” This music video was no different from any other music video that has ever existed in that one could watch and listen to it on YouTube.com. The only difference was that her music video was banned from YouTube. This wasn't because of music copyright infringement but of its content of gingers being forced to run over an active

minefield. The M.I.A. video certainly should not have been banned. It clearly isn't the most graphic or obscene thing on the website. The work was clearly being satirical and ironic; it's music video named “Born Free,” yet people are being captured and slaughtered. The video was being symbolic, yet YouTube denied this form of meaningful art judging it to be too brutally graphic. M.I.A was trying to send out a political message that portrays an anti-militarism and possibly

even anti-American sentiment as it is U.S. authorities that appear to be an occupying force as well of the fact that the final scenes borders images of Iraq. She also wanted to send a message in regards to the treatment of minority groups all around the

world. M.I.A. was not, however, trying to assail or inspire actions against gingers. YouTube claimed to have several reasons for banning the video. It was too graphic. It was too violent. It was too sexual. Its political message went a tad bit too far. And finally, it was trying to inspire hate crimes against redheads. YouTube has a section for these types of videos. There are restricted videos that can only be watched by an audience of 18 years or older. YouTube should have just restricted it to those conditions. When asked if the

video should have been banned, senior ginger Curtis Herrington responded, “ No. I think it was funny and that people should just learn to laugh about it.” The brutal violence wasn't as brutal as YouTube portrayed it to be; people laughed at it. YouTube judged the work to have gone too far and to have been too controversial, but the young minds who would've been tainted, us, deemed it to be a form of satire and comedy. If younger audiences could pick up on M.I.A.'s strategies, the video should have simply been limited to that age group and above's viewing.



⚡ A frame from M.I.A.'s music video, “Born Free”

The Dispatch

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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1200 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 2010-2011 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 editor 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 electronically to dispatch@hufsd.edu or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located 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 pre-views and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

The Dispatch accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. The basic rate for advertisements is \$2.50 per column inch. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through dispatch@hufsd.edu. The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate, specifically those that reference illegal or controlled substances, products, services and/or paraphernalia.

EDITORIAL

The Yearbook Club recently held its annual yearbook photo sessions for student groups after school. For two days, the cafeteria was flooded with the members of various honor societies, clubs and student organizations. Several of the group photos contained 10 people or less, however the majority of groups that were photographed could barely fit everyone into the camera's view. Moreover, these massive groupings of high-achieving scholars and community service volunteers reappeared each day to pose in multiple photos. How is it possible that such enormous groups can function effectively, all the while sharing many of their members?

The first month of the scholastic year is usually when the magic happens. The halls of Huntington High School become the grounds for recruitment; freshmen are inundated with announcements, newsletters, and are approached by overly nice upperclassmen. By the time HHS students graduate, most have created hefty resumes that are bursting with extracurricular activity participation. Yet when asked about their attendance and contributions to the various clubs they belonged to, many will admit that they were overcommitted.

If thousands of students have been running into the same problems of conflict of interest for years, why are HHS students spreading themselves so thinly? In the beginning of the year when student groups are holding their informational meetings, students are often genuinely interested in seeking membership in multiple clubs. Others are swayed by the chance to beef up their resumes. Either way, students that sign up for a handful of organizations are doomed to become just another face in the yearbook photo. They are bound to miss meetings, leading to their lack of productivity and devotion to the club's goals. Some groups have become so inefficient at HHS that they have been left no other choice but to elect such members as officers. As President Reagan taught us with trickle-down economics, it all starts at the top. An unproductive president will carry over to other members.

What is to become of Huntington High School's student groups that were once prized organizations of dedicated teens? Perhaps clubs and honor societies should up their standards of membership, and rightfully rid themselves of members who prove entirely absent. They also should take into account the varied interests of students. If it is possible to arrange meetings so that they do not conflict with those of clubs, than the clubs and honor societies must be willing to be flexible. Students should also take it upon themselves to contemplate the reality of their commitment to these groups. Students must realize that they truly can't do it all.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

I feel that you have not identified the reasons for why IDs are harmful rather than good. We as the readers would lke to hear predictions as to what may happen as we get more and more comfortable with a barcode attached to us all the time.

Sincerely,
Cole Peters

Dear Editors,

I would like to commend you on a very thorough and well written first issue. The articles were all very long and showed a process of thoughts- all of which were completed and written eloquently. Most of them pertained to school issues, therefore they were of much relevance and, arguably, much importance. I enjoyed the Point/Counterpoint on *Jersey Shore*. The idea of using two opinions made for a very interesting piece. A different topic, however, would have been preferable.

Sincerely,
Cali Hochman

Dear Editors,

I can imagine that putting together *The Dispatch* is very difficult. However, I found the October issue very offensive and sort of rude. Among several reasons, one was the article "Land of the Free?". I found it to be extremely racist. The article assumed ESL kids to be immigrants...I didn't get the reason why this article was put into a high school newspaper. I also found that the P/CP on *Jersey Shore* was completely inaccurate.

Sincerely,
Allie Wieland

FASHION COLUMN

Seniors Emily Feldman and Brian Castillo tell all

by MARISSA GOLDSTEIN

(Emily Feldman Q&A on top; Brian Castillo Q&A on bottom)

Q: What does your sense of style say about you?
A: I'd say my style really shows my cultural background. I like to take aspects from the classic French style and others from modern American trends and mix them as one.

Q: Is there a certain someone or a genre of music that influences how you dress?
A: A few things influence me. Indie music is one and traveling to different countries is another. Indie music gives generic and mainstream style the boot, which I love. But also seeing styles from around the world and incorporating them into different outfits is like a game for me. Whether it is a headscarf or something as simple as a ring, I like to mix and match different cultures and make unique outfits.

Q: What is one thing you own that you constantly re-wear or re-use?
A: I bought a necklace a few years ago from an antique store in Massachusetts for two dollars. Best purchase I've ever made considering I wear it almost everyday.

Q: What is one fashion "do" and one fashion "don't"?
A: Do: Simplicity. Don't: Gah, just one? Neon, neon, neon.



GRAPHIC: MARISSA GOLDSTEIN

Q: What does your sense of style say about you?
A: Well, my sense of style says, "Hi I am Brian Castillo and I like to dress comfortably while still coordinating my outfits."

Q: What is one thing you own that you constantly re-wear or re-use?
A: My watch. I like to tell time while wandering the halls and just knowing the time is such a great feeling. It also makes for a nice accessory.

Q: Where is your favorite place to shop?
A: H&M, such a great place, especially when it's sweater season.

Q: What is one thing that you'd love to see go out of style?
A: Let's see... I'd say a good portion of our school still has that whole "LAX" flow thing going on. You'd think that'd be gone by now. I'm not a fan of the whole scene style. I'd like to see that go too. Girls who are more then half naked in the winter as well... like aren't you cold? Sheesh.

Q: If you had the opportunity to shop in one person's closet for the day, whose would it be?
A: Kanye West. He's always looking fresh. Basically, I'd rob him of everything.

COD BLACK OPS
REVIEW

by JACOB RODAY

Call of Duty: Black Ops recently hit stores on November 9th in the biggest launch event since Halo: Reach came out this past September. The seventh installment in Activision's hit video game series, Black Ops has proven to be even bigger than last year's entry in the series Modern Warfare 2 (MW2).

Set during the Cold War period, the game's campaign takes players around the world to locations such as Cuba and Vietnam. Missions range from assassination missions to full out battles. The game expands on MW2's game engine, although there are several major changes.

All of the weapons are now Cold War era instead of the modern arsenal from MW2. Some of the new weapons include the AK-74u, Galil, Dragunov, Olympia, and the Crossbow. The game is slated to be much grittier, like the change from COD 4 to WaW. Players now have to spend in-game currency for weapons instead of auto-unlocks. The player can also engrave their clan-tag unto their weapon.

The matchmaking experience is also going to change. The In-game currency, called COD bucks, can be bet in cage matches. They can also be used for buying contracts, which



GRAPHIC: CALLOFDUTY.COM

can earn a lot of pay-out once complete. Other features include gametypes such as "one in the chamber" where you start with one bullet. Another is called "gun game" which player receive a better weapon every kill they make. Kill streaks have become more standardized and the Tactical Nuke is gone, however, the customization in the game has improved significantly. Players can now customize everything about their class; they can choose a custom reticule, face paint, and appearance. The game was awaited by many of the schools gamers; some even claimed to be sick the day it released. "I had it pre-ordered for months!" said sophomore Jon Wood.

The Dispatch examines . . .



3. "I Love Boobies" bracelets- These bracelets were created to raise breast cancer awareness and are worn by many HHS students.



4. Pink Friday- Nicki Minaj's new album Pink Friday hit stores several weeks ago and coveted the number 2 spot on the Top 200 Billboard.

5. "Glee"fully pushing boundaries- Gleeks all over are cheering for the TV series' fearless storyline that is raising awareness of the abuse that many gay teens face.



1. General James F. Amos- The top U.S. general's claim against the repeal of "Don't ask, don't tell" says that gays serving in the military would cause "distractions" in the armed forces. Have straight women lost their ability to sexually distract straight men, or did we miss something?



2. "Don't Shave December"- "No Shave November" was bad enough...guys, please do your ladies a favor and don't follow suit with this awful trend for yet another month.

3. The Numb Ones- We may be freezing, however a significantly large percentage of the HHS female student body have proven themselves immune to the cold weather, and have continued to sport their summer-wear.

4. Tom Brady- Man Uggs? C'mon, Gisele, talk some sense into your man!

5. College rejections- 'Tis the season to be jolly...until you get one of these.

SPORTS

COMMITMENT ON A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

by ROBERT HUGHES and MIKE VALENTE

Jack Castelli

Jack Castelli has certainly caught the attention of many both on and off the lacrosse field. His studious attitude and fiery passion for lacrosse have earned himself a reputation as the quintessential “student athlete.”

Castelli’s strong determination on the field has certainly carried over in the classroom. Consistently on the high honor roll, he has excelled in AP and honors courses. When it came time to think about playing lacrosse in college, Castelli knew he wanted the best academic fit. “I really focused on small, academically renowned schools,” he said. After meeting with coaches during the summer, he narrowed down his list to Tufts, Haverford, Swarthmore, Trinity, Union and Wesleyan. Although all extraordinarily impressive, one school gave him the “gut” feeling. “Wesleyan, for me, was the total package. It is an exceptional school academically, which was the main focus for me when choosing a college. In addition, I feel that I am a perfect fit in Wesleyan’s lacrosse system.”

The decision was a very close one, with all schools being of high interest to Jack. After what he called a long and tedious summer of recruiting events, tournaments and college visits, Jack had made a verbal commitment by the end of August.

Despite his decision, Jack allows the recruiting process to remain open and keeps in contact with other coaches. “All the schools I considered are great places, so it’s nice to keep things open with them in case things don’t work out at Wesleyan.”

Although he is relieved to be able to look ahead to the next chapter in his life,

Castelli knows his responsibilities in high school have not diminished. Bombarded with APs and preparation for the upcoming lacrosse season, he does not



Seniors Jack Castelli (left) and Sarah Ehrman (right) have both committed to college lacrosse teams.

plan on performing at anything less than his best.

As for the upcoming season, Jack thinks that the outlook for Huntington varsity lacrosse is positive. The attackman is also excited to find ways to improve. I need to develop into a more explosive player and develop my leadership role.”

This eagerness to strive for excellence and his reputation as “student athlete” will certainly follow Jack through college and beyond.

For most high school athletes, the thought of playing NCAA Division I athletics is a fantastical daydream. For Sarah Ehrman, her dedication and tough-

to home was also very important in her final decision. “I was comforted by the fact that I could have the choice of never coming home or coming home whenever I wanted.”

Although Stony Brook seemed like the easy choice, schools such as UConn, Colgate University, and Saint Francis University fought for her talent. The attention may seem desirable to most, but it has a different kind of effect on the athlete. “The process is very stressful. It is unbelievably competitive. I couldn’t even talk about the schools with my best friends, because there was a possibility that they were also being recruited.” The recruiting process was obviously no easy period for Ehrman, but the end result was surely worth the ordeal.

The Huntington girls’ lacrosse program is undoubtedly proud of Ehrman’s commitment to a Division I school, but her departure will not go unnoticed. Coming off arguably her best year of lacrosse, Ehrman seeks to build off of her All-Division season

with a strong finish. She would love to cap off her high school tenure with a run to the playoffs and to win the County championship. Having a better season than she had last year may be difficult, though, as she managed to score an astounding 24 goals with an impressive 25 assists. However, her determination to be All-County and motivation to always play with a winning attitude could put her among some of Huntington’s greats.

It is fair to assume that her competitiveness on and off the field will help her find the same success at Stony Brook as she has enjoyed at Huntington. Before her senior year had even begun, Sarah Ehrman took one step closer to planning her future. By the end of August, she committed to play lacrosse at Stony Brook. “The coaches of the team and the Stony Brook campus really influenced my decision,” Ehrman remarked. The reasonably close proximity

ness have transformed this dream into a reality. As other seniors struggle to meet their deadlines for college applications, Ehrman can relish in the excitement of knowing that she has found a home at Stony Brook University for the next four years.

Football Recap

by SHIRA MOSKOWITZ

This year, the Huntington football team did the best it had done in 3 years, making it all the way to Suffolk County semi-finals where they lost by a mere two points to Islip. However, in week 8 of the season they beat Islip, the number one team, 14-0.

In addition to a great season, many of the players experienced personal successes.

Calvin Bollar (RB/LB), Dante Allen (OL/DL), Danny Plant (QB), and Trayvon Toney (RB/LB) received all-county honors.

Will Coffey (WR/DB), Rich Fernandez (OL/DL), CJ Herington (OL/DL), Jack Forster (OL/DL) earned all-division honors and Matt Curley led Suffolk county in points scored kicking.

Ryan Mulligan (WR/DB) recieved all division and all division academic honors.

The Dispatch would like to extend its congratulations to all seniors who have signed letters of intent, and wish them the best of luck in their upcoming collegiate athletic seasons.