



# The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 1, Volume 35

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

DECEMBER 07



PHOTO: MIKE DIVUOLO

## »news in short

### International Night

HHS held its annual International Night on Thursday, November 8th in the cafeteria. Students enjoyed food and music from around the world. Students performed dance acts to songs such as Soulja Boy's "Crank That."

Students showed their pride with face paint, flags, and speeches.

Project Nicaragua showed a video of their trip to Nicaragua last year with Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, a local church in Centerport.

### Stragglers Beware!

Starting November 14, administration initiated a hall policy making hall sweeps every period every day.

Any student caught in the halls after the bell without a pass will be given a detention that must be served within two days of the hall sweep.

## HUNTINGTON HIGH TECH?

by KAY LODGE

On the first day of school this year, students and teachers were impressed by the many technological improvements made over the summer. New SMARTboards were purchased; every classroom now has a computer and a new, electronic system of attendance was implemented; televisions were installed throughout the hallways; the upstairs computer labs have updated computers; and projectors were installed in some science classrooms. The technological updates will bring Huntington into the twenty-first century and help prepare students for lives in which they will undoubtedly encounter and interact with technology on a daily basis.

In Mrs. Cassazza's Spanish classes, the SMARTboard (an interactive whiteboard on which movies and projections can be displayed) is used daily to enhance lessons with visuals and video clips. The SMARTboard has increased participation in her class, since "it's more fun to write on than the blackboard." Mrs. Cassazza also loves the visual nature of the SMARTboard. With more visuals and the possibility for video clips, students are more attentive and grasp new concepts more easily and quickly. Students also praise the SMARTboards. "I really



GRAPHIC: MS. MORAHY

■ Although it makes teaching and learning easier, the new technology seen around the high school raises new questions.

like the SMARTboards," said Tiffany Sorenson, a junior, "they're more interactive." Students and teachers alike hoped for more SMARTboards in the future.

One of the biggest changes this year is the new electronic attendance system. It was initiated "in order to be cooler," joked David Grack-

in, Assistant Superintendent of Finance and Management Services. Grackin's responsibilities include overseeing technology within the district. Although teachers praise electronic attendance for being easier and more accurate than the old paper system, stu-

see TECH on page 3

## New Food Policy Sparks Debate

by CHRISTNE RUSSO

What is a Halloween party without candy? Or, for that matter, what is any holiday party without food and drinks?

To answer this question one must turn to the wellness policy newly adapted by the federal government. The policy is a federal and state mandate, although individual schools have the freedom to be as lenient or strict with the policy as they please.

The wellness policy is a reauthorization of child nutrition for all schools throughout the United States. Its main goal is to target the increasing issue of obesity throughout the nation (which has

**"What is a Halloween party without candy?"**

been recognized as a major disease since the 1980s) by limiting the amount of food accessible to students throughout the day. The restriction of sharing food with classmates during the day, combined with the physical education aspect of school, will hopefully improve the health of students nationwide.

This may sound strict, and in ways an act of punishing students, but the government must generalize its policy in order to protect all children under the law; which means primary schools to high schools.

Younger children, such as first through fourth graders, may not have the knowl-

see FOOD on page 2

## Here to Stay: Leonard Returns to High School After Summer Controversy

by ANNABEL JOUARD

Legally and publicly, it began July 9<sup>th</sup>, this past summer, at a routine Board of Education meeting, when an "Alternative High School Principal Position" was created right after the appointment of a new JV coach. To date, there was no other formal mention of the alternative high school; the idea was it would eventually develop into a school for underachieving students. The Principal position was the only formal mention or action concerning the alternative high school; no other positions were created, and the site for it has yet to be found.

Dr. Carmela Leonardi, who re-

ceived tenure in 2003, was sent a letter from the administration in the second week of August, stating that she was being transferred from her current position as Principal of Huntington High School to the Principal of the Alternative High School. The letter, signed by Superintendent John Finello, followed all regulations of her tenure, which stipulates that though Dr. Leonardi cannot be fired, she could be

transferred to a position where she would retain her current salary. Her new office would have been a current copy room located next to the math wing.

Dr. Leonardi had two choices: to accept the position or fight the transfer. She commented that this was a difficult decision--a conflict between trying to cooperate with the administration and maintaining her principles by defending herself to hold on to a position

she felt she deserved. Choosing to fight, Dr. Leonardi applied for reinstatement, following all necessary procedures.

A Board meeting was held on August 27<sup>th</sup>, one week prior to the first day of school, in addition to a preceding meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>, the purpose of which was to formally recognize the case. There, finally, the truth seemed to come out in the form of testimonies from administrators. At the first meeting, Dr. Leonardi spoke of her initial encounter with racial discrimination from the Board. During a past January Board meeting, she translated for a Spanish-speaking parent who wanted to

see LEONARDI on page 2



PHOTO: MR. BARON

**INSIDE**  
**ENTERTAINMENT**

Freshmen Survival Guide:  
page 8

### OPINION

SHOULD HHS  
HAVE UNIFORMS?  
PAGE 7

### FEATURES

Habitat in  
New Orleans:  
page 3

### INDEX

New Teachers .....	pg. 4
Going Green.....	5
What's Hot, What's Not.....	7
Kanye vs. 50 Cent .....	8
Girls' Basketball .....	11
Fitness Test Controversy .....	11

# Blue Devils Celebrate Successful Homecoming

## *From Float Night to Dance, students and community show their colors*



The Blue Devil Marching band parades down West Neck Road.

by TIMOTHY O'GRADY

Homecoming weekend commenced on September 28, in Huntington High School's gymnasium as hundreds of boisterous students and teachers alike cheered on the Blue Devil's athletic teams. The annual pep rally gives the school community a chance to recognize the many athletes that dedicate so much of their time for their teams.

Performances by Huntington High's Ready Step Team, High-steppers, Cheerleaders, Color Guard and Band accompanied the introductions of Huntington's varsity teams that attempted to excite the crowd by jubilantly

dancing to songs. A notable performance was the Varsity Girls' Soccer team's rendition of Lil' Mama's hit "Lip Gloss", which gave everyone in the gym a good laugh.

Students left the pep rally psyched and ready for the rest of the weekend's festivities. Six o'clock on Friday night marked the official start of "Float Night." This annual event enables the classes to make the finishing touches to their floats before they are showcased at the parade. "It's great because the entire grade comes out. It's a true bonding experience," says Junior class president Kristy Lyons.

This year's Homecoming theme was "Decades," so each

class was designated a twentieth century decade that had to be represented in their float. The Freshmen had the 1920's, the Sophomore's had the 1970's, and the Juniors had the 1960's. The Seniors, had the 1950's and constructed a jukebox, an old mustang car and a vivacious cheerleader to create the aura of the time period. Senior, Megan Doyle, was happy with this year's float and attributed "hard work and past experience," to the success of the float. "It would be great if we won," added Doyle.

Even though Float Night lasted until midnight, students had to wake up early the next morning to hear what float won. The following Saturday morning it was declared that the Senior's intricately planned float won the honors of "Best Float".

The annual Homecoming Parade began at approximately at 10:30 AM in Huntington Village. The acclaimed Marching Band led the way, filling Main Street with myriad sounds as the four floats and some athletic teams made their way through the village en route to the high school. Many parents and townspeople alike came out on the brisk morning to show their Blue Devil pride.

Shortly after, the Blue Devil's Homecoming football game began at 1:30PM as Huntington faced neighboring rivals, Harborfields. Hundreds of supportive

fans and residents packed into the newly installed bleachers to witness this exciting event. Although the game was scoreless at the end of the first quarter, the momentum really picked up in the second quarter. Senior Gerald Henderson's nine yard touchdown put the Blue Devils ahead, but their 7-0 lead didn't last very long. Just as time ran out in the first half, Harborfields' quarterback O'Connor threw a long pass that was miraculously caught in the end zone, which made things all tied up going into half time.

The half-time show always astounds the crowd, and this year was no exception. The Marching Band performed an amazing piece lead by drum majors Katherine Johnson, Diya Kapur and Jeff Bishop. The Color Guard accompanied the band's performance which added visual excitement. Performances by the Blue Devil Highsteppers and Cheerleaders kept the spectators intrigued. As well, the Homecoming King and Queen winners were announced. The honors went to Student Government President Megan Doyle and Football star Patrick Coffey, who despite height differences made a great pair.

The second half was as equally exciting. With 1:50 left in the third quarter, Sophomore Leon Barnett used his agile moves to break through the line of scrimmage and run fifty yards to score the second touchdown for Hun-

tington. The Blue Devil's lead quickly ended when Harborfields connected again with a touchdown with 11:12 minutes left in the game. Huntington fans continued to remain faithful that the Devils could pull this one out.

With approximately five minutes left in the game, stellar Senior DaShuan "DaDa" Thomas ran in a four yard touchdown that put the Devils ahead 20-14. This touchdown cemented Huntington's victory and as the seconds ticked down, raucous spectators cheered as Huntington won its "Homecoming game."

This festive weekend ended with the annual Homecoming Dance in which students (and select adults) displayed their dance moves to such hits as Soulja Boy's "Crank That." The dance lasted from 8PM to midnight.

Homecoming weekend is also an exciting time for Huntington alumni. Traditionally, alumni are supposed to meet up and rendezvous with past classmates. Many meet up with each other in the Village after the football game for dinner, and catch up.

Homecoming weekend is not just some customary event made to praise athletes, but instead an opportunity for students, parents and alumni to come together and show their support for the Huntington community.

• • •

## Leonardi fights back

LEONARDI from front page

communicate with the Board. From that point on, she said, her relationship with the administration went sour. At the second meeting, Margaret Evers, principal of Jefferson Elementary, spoke and relayed how after a PTA meeting, at which there had been an interpreter for Spanish-speaking parents, she received e-mails from a board member threatening her job if she used one again. The entire controversy received extensive media coverage from *Newsday*, *The Daily News*, *News 12 Long Island*, *The Long Islander*, and the *New York Times*.

The meeting was packed with supporters, critics and detractors. There "seemed to be no neutral opinion in sight—it was very heated," said one attendee. A few parents spoke out against the Board, citing the entire attempt to transfer as being fiscally irresponsible; thousands of dollars would go into sustaining both principals, when it was only necessary for one.

The Board voted 5:1 in favor of Dr. Leonardi. The only opposing member was Richard McGrath, the school board president. Bob Lee, the Board's Vice President, was absent from the meeting.

Dr. Leonardi has filed a fed-

eral lawsuit against the school district, The Board of Education, Mr. Finello, Mr. McGrath and Mr. Lee in a rebuttal to their accusations and actions. "I certainly support Dr. Leonardi as our high school principal, however, her allegations are inaccurate and hurtful to the community," said Mr. McGrath.

In an interview, Dr. Leonardi was unable to comment on the specifics, due to the pending lawsuit, yet, other news sources have stated her attempted demolition was due to the fact that she was being penalized for, among other things, seeking to increase spending on special-education and ESL classes while making cuts in other departments.

Dr. Leonardi remains proud of her presence in this school district for sixteen consecutive years. There are some students throughout the building that still believe her to be largely unavailable to and distant from the student body. However, there are others who have sought help and have found that she does all that she is able to do.

Dr. Leonardi has said many times, along with the Board and superintendent Finello, that she hopes the district can move forward and continue to embrace the diversity as a strength.

Additional contributions by Mike McCourt

## Students Hungry for Reform on Food Policy

FOOD from front page

edge to effectively decide whether or not to buy certain junk foods, which could be detrimental to their health. Also, the policy considered the fact that many children may have allergic reactions to specific ingredients in snacks, unbeknownst to them. The wellness program focuses primarily on intermediate and primary level schools.

The amount of food consumed throughout the day by the younger children was "getting out of control", as stated by Mrs. McCarthy.

From birthday celebrations to lunch, candy rewards, and snack time, children were constantly surrounded by food. The motive of the program is to inspire a creative way of celebrating holidays and special occasions in a school environment that does not include food.

As a seventeen year old who will be able to vote in a year, one might question why he or she is still facing restrictive rules and reg-

ulations in school, but the fact is that we are all still children under the law so we must abide by these restrictions. The point is not to deny students from eating throughout the day but instead to replace typically found junk foods with a "healthy alternative", a term which we have all become very familiar with. Cafeterias have been swept of the candy and soda machines and instead are being substituted with healthier low-fat chips, or peanuts and granola bars.

So, will this policy be successful or will it just be one of the many rules we as students and faculty members disregard daily? When asked if the policy will have positive results, Ms. Youlanda Hayes, the administrator of health for Huntington school district, said, "Maybe not immediately, but the long term goal will probably be successful."

So far there has been no difficulty enforcing the policy and seems as though the policy will lead students into a healthy lifestyle both in and outside of the school setting.



# Raising Homes and Hopes in the Big Easy

## Habitat for Humanity aids the city of New Orleans in their reconstruction

by MADELINE JENSEN

Hurricane Katrina lingers on the faces of the inhabitants and in the dilapidated buildings that still bear the marks of frantic escapes and rescue workers' spray paint. I did not expect to be greeted by this scene upon arrival, believing that much of the work would already be underway or completed. Instead, it seemed as if New Orleans had been frozen in time since the hurricane, with little work finished and massive destruction still evident.

In the week following graduation, I flew with 10 classmates and three chaperones to New Orleans to begin a week-long service project, that had been in the works for the preceding two months. Mr. Gilmor and I, as leaders of the Habitat for Humanity Club at Huntington High School, had been hoping to make this journey since Katrina hit in 2005. The club has participated in many builds on Long Island and in the Tri-state area, and we wanted to offer aid beyond the East Coast.

It is very difficult to put what we experienced into words and there were many moments in New Orleans that cannot possibly be conveyed in writing. I was shocked by the two extremes of

the bustling French Quarter and the impoverished surrounding area. Buildings bare watermarks that are ghostly reminders of what people endured and mud still falls from light fixtures in damaged homes. An area that once held 20-30 homes was stripped of all but its telephone poles as floodwaters broke through the levees.

During the trip we shoveled mud out of a community center, built the floor, two exterior walls, and three interior walls of a home, and served dinner at a food kitchen. I am very proud of what we accomplished and I am pleased that we were able to make a difference. My hope is that by renewing awareness of this disaster, we can help New Orleans even more. It is important that we remember how much help is needed in our own nation, both in New Orleans and on Long Island.

### Habitat's Mission:

"Habitat for Humanity: building hope one home at a time." This is the motto that guides us in our endeavors, and justifies our club's contributions to the local community. It may seem like a disproportionate amount of work to fundraise all year to obtain enough money for one day of



PHOTO: MADELINE JENSEN ■ Habitat for Humanity members raise the frame for what will become a house in New Orleans.

building, but the expression on the homeowners' faces and the promise for a better future makes it worthwhile.

Habitat for Humanity International has built over 225,000 homes since its founding in 1976. What began as a small project at Koinonia Farm in Georgia, escalated into a global mission to provide affordable housing based on the idea of "partnership housing." The term reflects a personal

relationship between homeowners and volunteers, who work together to construct the houses. Though it originated from Christian ideals, Habitat for Humanity is nondiscriminatory and a non-profit organization.

Our local chapter of Habitat for Humanity has high hopes for the coming year. With large student interest and the support of the community, we believe that we can make a great difference

## New scholarships offer support to students of all shapes, talents and names

by DAN McGALE

Good news for all of you seniors out there! There's a new wave of wacky scholarships given to students throughout the country. Thousand of dollars are being given away toward your college education, and you don't have to be a 'brainiac' or athlete to get them. The qualifications are crazy and unheard of. Here are a few simple scholarships being given away that could easily be yours.

Are you a vegetarian? Well, if you are, that's good news for you, because the Vegetarian Resource Group awards two \$5,000 scholarships each year to graduating high school seniors who are vegetarians and who have promoted vegetarianism within their school or community.

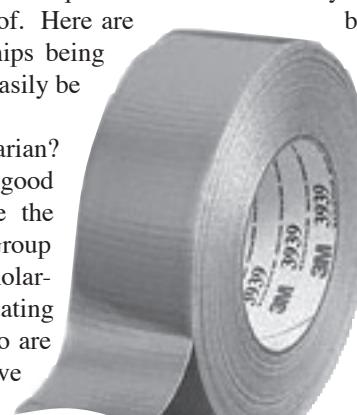


PHOTO: wickedstageact2.typepad.com

their picture to the DUCT Tape Company, you may be eligible to win a \$5,000 scholarship.

Speaking of Ducts, if you think you sound just like Donald Duck, the Chick and Sophie Major Memorial Duck Calling Contest gives scholarship money just for duck calling. If the whole quacking thing isn't for you then maybe having a twin or being a triplet could help you make a few extra dollars for college. Some colleges, such as George Washington University, offer scholarships to twins and triplets.

If you're a skateboarder, or if you caddy, there are colleges looking to give you money too. If none of these things are right for you and you are a left-handed, weird-named freak, you still have a chance to succeed. Some schools give scholarships to you left handed writers out there. Others give scholarships based on a particular name. Bobby Zolp hated his name; he was always last in line and had to sit at the back of the class. However, that all changed when he went to apply for scholarships. Loyola University offers a full tuition scholarship to anyone with the last name Zolp. Another school offers a scholarship if your name is Gatlin. Why Gatlin, we don't know.

Find yourself pretty tall? Tall Clubs International offers scholarships to women who are at least 5'10" and men who are at least 6'2". And for the small fries out there the Little People of America Scholarship provides scholarships to members 4'10" or shorter.

Breaking news for all you prom couples! For the couple who makes their prom attire completely out of duct tape and sends

## New Technology Raises Questions

TECH from front page

dents are worried about the system's accuracy and the "big brother" nature of teachers' ability to view cuts as they happen. Electronic attendance also eliminates the need for students or teachers to deliver attendance folders to the office; now students won't miss class time because of that, and teachers can more fully enjoy their breaks. Additionally, it allows teachers to instantly correct mistakes, so students don't have to wait for a cut slip and get it signed by a teacher. The new system helps Spanish teacher, Mrs. Cassaza, because "I make less mistakes with the new system, and it's much easier and quicker than bubbling." The consequences for cutting class will remain the same as last year's. In time, it will become apparent whether or not electronic attendance is more accurate and easier than paper.

One of many questions raised by the presence of this new technology is the absence of a go-to-person for any problems and concerns. Although Grackin holds the responsibility of supervising these new gadgets, there is no one salaried to head technology.

The only change that was met with universal criticism was the installation of four televisions in the hallways. Many students, and even David Grackin, don't know what the purpose of the televi-

sions is. Some wonder when students can watch the televisions, since loitering isn't allowed, and others worry that lateness will increase as students stop to watch the them.

The school's computers received a desperately needed update over the summer. The improved, faster computers in the computer labs upstairs are lauded as the most needed and effective change. "They're definitely better," said Farah St. Louis, speaking of the new computers, "they're faster, and there's not as much freezing or lost work." The new computers are regarded as the best change; students are happy that that it takes much less time to log in, so they can be more efficient during each class period.

In the near future, students can expect to see a fully wireless school, which will eliminate the clutter of cords in rooms with SMARTboards. For now, students are enjoying the technological updates and the district is working hard to "keep pace with the changes," according to Mr. Grackin. Although the school has recently made huge strides in technology, more computers and SMARTboards are needed to prepare students for the increasingly technologically centered world, as well as to help teachers make lessons more interactive and exciting. Huntington is definitely headed in the right direction technologically, but more is still needed.

**Meetings:**  
**Tuesdays, Room 242**

**Looking for an extracurricular?**  
**Join the Dispatch!**

**New members**  
**always welcome!**

# Spotlight on HHS' new teachers



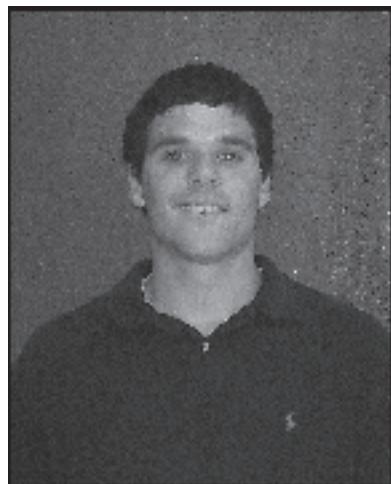
■ Mr. Ken Graham,  
Director of Science



■ Ms. Jacqueline Silvers,  
School Nurse



■ Ms. Courtney Clarke,  
Social Studies



■ Mr. James Creighton,  
Physical Education

PHOTOS: STEVE INMAN

## How much teaching experience do you have?

"I did student teaching at Walt Whitman High School." -Ms. Courtney Clarke

"I've worked for 17 years as a nurse." - Ms. Jacqueline Silvers

"I taught Earth Science and AP Environmental Science at Long Beach High School for 11 years." - Mr. Ken Graham

## What is your favorite food?

"Pizza." -Mr. James Creighton and Ms. Silvers

"Chocolate." -Ms. Clarke

## What is your favorite movie?

"Anything with Tom Cruise." -Ms. Silvers

"Ferris Bueller's Day Off because Ferris = Coolness." - Ms. Clarke

## What is your favorite sport? What sports teams do you root for?

"Tennis, Cross Country, and the Mets." -Ms. Clarke

"Lacrosse, the Giants, and the Yankees." -Mr. Creighton

"Lacrosse and the Miami Dolphins." -Ms. Silvers

## What is your favorite genre of music? What is your favorite band?

"My favorite band is Taking Back Sunday."-Ms. Clarke

"I love 80's music." -Ms. Silvers

## Which ice cream flavor would you most like to be?

"I'd be Pistachio because it's green and nutty." -Ms. Silvers

"I would be chocolate." -Ms. Clarke



**BEAUTY BOUTIQUE**  
**369 New York Avenue**  
**Huntington, NY 11743**

**631-424-1851**

(next to the Blue Honu)

**\*\*\* 25% OFF \*\*\***  
**All Salon Services**  
\* with your High School ID

### Choose from our BEAUTY menu:

Wash and Blow Out

Threading

Deep Condition Treatment

Hair Cut

Hi-Lite

Henna Tattoo

Single Process Coloring

Glazing

Facials

Eye Lash Tinting

Make-Up Application

Wax

Japanese Straightening

# Blue Devils Go Green

by LAUREN NARINE

At last, the seasonal weather that makes Huntington such an enjoyable place to live has allowed the residents to experience a real autumn, complete with both scattered leaves and crisp breezes. Many believe that it was an "Indian summer" that delayed the presence of any natural fall features, and enjoyed the extended

summer vacation. Yet it's a scary thought that not just Huntington, but the entire world could endure a year-round summer season.

Global warming is a very real threat to the stability of the environment throughout the globe. And just as humans were the cause of this destructive matter, only humans can truly make great efforts to slow this process down. This does not exclude high

school students. Yes, on top of homework, tests, sports, driver's ed., SAT's, house chores, and part-time jobs, students have a responsibility to the earth as well.

"You can't teach an old dog new tricks," is an appropriate phrase in this sense. The "old dogs" don't have to worry about what the world will look like in twenty or thirty years because they have already lived their lives. It's the "new dogs" that will have to adapt to the desert climates, the Jetson-like cities, and blatant fade of the color green from the environment. Global warming will bring species extinction, a damaged Ozone layer, and the rise of water levels across the world (yes, Long Island will eventually be underwater). It's true students are incapable of halting the release of carbon dioxide, CFC's, and other damaging greenhouse gases. But they do have the ability to practice small changes that can benefit the environment; ultimately, master "new tricks."

As it's getting colder, the main concern is conserving water, electricity, and heat. So after getting off the bus and emerging into that comfortably heated home, adjust the thermostat to around 62 degrees Fahrenheit. So instead of raising the temperature, bundle up. Layers, boots, sweaters—anything that will trap a person's body heat and cause one to act as one's

own personal furnace. Also, try warming up from a fireplace and light a log. At night, sleep with a hat and socks, for those are two areas where heat escapes in great amounts. And as tempting as it is to simply stand there and soak up the heated steam emitted from the showerhead, attempt to take five to seven minute showers.

But before jumping into the nippy cold of winter, take some autumn action towards helping the environment. First, don't resort to using a leaf blower to re-

main to a community garden. While giving away the homemade fertilizer, maybe purchase a garden. The world in its present state could always benefit from planting.

High school students generally have one desire in common: driving. But for the new drivers out there, the consequences of adding more harmful gas to the atmosphere must be considered. Carpooling is an easy and convenient method of cutting back on the emission of these gases.

Not to mention, it will save money on the costly prices of gas. Drivers shopping for a new car should look into a hybrid car. A great variety of these eco-friendly cars are available to the consumer, and they are extremely affordable for its gas mileage. Yet the best way to conserve is by utilizing public transportation, like school buses, or even better, walking.

The state of the environment depends on students' efforts. Simple things like recycling, turning off the faucet while one brushes one's teeth, and shutting off the light switch when it's not in use will make great strides towards helping the environment. Students should think of the earth as a priority, and help spread the word of its condition. Always remember to recycle this newspaper, plastic and glass once they're ready to be tossed away.

**"Students have a responsibility to the earth as well."**

## WORD ON THE STREET

What is the #1 thing on your wish list this holiday season?



Olivia Hayes-Hurley, Junior

*"I want a Pretty Pretty Princess and a Barbie Vacation RV (Pink version)."*



Jake Fleisig, Sophomore

*"High on my wish list for this holiday season is a cardboard cutout of Michael Bolton."*



Steve Nigro, Senior

*"A mustache."*



*"For this holiday season, I would like to pass Pre-Calculus and Discrete Mathematics."*

Ava Nicoletto, Junior



*"A car and World Peace."*

Joe Brown, Junior

PHOTOS: MIKE MCCOURT

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

## Newsday Journalist visits aspiring writers

by CARRIE FANTE

Newsday columnist Joye Brown visited Mr. Baron's journalism class in early November. She is the mother of Cat Toor, who graduated Huntington High School last year. Mrs. Brown was gracious enough to speak to his class about her role as a columnist and former editorial writer.

Brown told the class that she knew even when she was younger she didn't want to work in the same place and do the same thing everyday. She shared the story of how on her high school newspaper where she wanted to take pictures, she had to write an article before she got a camera. She watched the editor turn her awful piece into a good story and was inspired.

The class learned what Joye's life is like as a columnist: How she is always on call to cover a big event, how she is recognized by people, and how she brings her children with her to cover stories so she can spend more time with them. She explained the respect that exists between her and other columnists at Newsday. She told the class the most difficult part of being a reporter was being calm and collected while listening to tragic stories, for example being calm while interviewing a family about a murder case while they were distraught. It was a great opportunity for the journalism class to talk to someone whose job it is to do what they are learning.



PHOTO: NEWSDAY.COM

**Toys for Tots Toy Drive**  
**Drop off all unwrapped toys in Main Lobby!**

SM

# New food policy ignores true problems



2007/2008 Staff

**Editors-in-Chief**

Shannon Lee Connors Mike McCourt

**Managing Editors**

Greg James Timothy O'Grady

**Business Editor Creative Director**

Danielle Gershowitz Annabel Jouard

**Contributing Staff**

Leif Drace	Brian Teubner
Alexander Chisholm	Greg Everitt
Lauren Campbell	Brian Venturino
Laura Dabrowski	Alex Lau
Madeleine Jensen	Greg Meyers
Danielle Gershowitz	Dan McGale
Henry Baughman	Rita Eian
Dylan Payne	Carrie Fante
Diya Kapur	Lauren Narine
Kay Lodge	Elizabeth Mormile
Christine Russo	Jamel Bratton
David Lillenstein	Michael Valente
Sam Eisen	Jenn Szilagy

**Advisors**

Mr. Mickey Baron Ms. Kasmira Mohanty

The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for the estimated 1200 students attending HHS, The Dispatch is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

There is something sad about an elementary school birthday party without cupcakes. Defining moments in school, from holiday parties to constructing DNA from licorice, are no longer taking place in Huntington School District. Beginning this September, the district's new wellness policy has curbed all food in the classroom and put serious restrictions on cafeteria food sales as well.

While New York State's wellness policy forced the district to cease the sale of soda, candy, and sweetened ices during the school day, Huntington has taken the policy even further. Along with several other districts on Long Island, the administration has banned all food from entering the classroom setting, even for instructional purposes, except in Home and Careers classes.

Much of the justification for the policy comes from a concern about student allergies and dietary restrictions being violated. It has been proposed that there is peer pressure on students to accept food that is offered to them, in spite of any allergies. Others say that students are not aware of their food restrictions. However, this is not the case, as most students are highly aware of their allergies and have the foresight to ask before eating something questionable. It is the responsibility of parents, not the district, to make their children aware of their allergies and to have them check before eating something outside of their homes.

Instead of allowing elementary school children to participate in typical celebrations, such as Thanksgiving

"feasts" and Valentine's Day parties, Huntington administration has urged teachers to use alternative celebrations. These include songs and games. Though the critics who advocate such changes claim that parties are detrimental to the children's overall health, they fail to take into account that parties and birthdays do not happen every day in elementary school. Instead of taking classroom parties as an opportunity to encourage moderation, such as by saying that students can only have two treats, Huntington has cho-

make an overall stand for "wellness."

Many students have already commented on how easy it is to subvert the many food regulations, including the ban on sharing food with friends. Though security guards in the cafeteria tell people not to share food, students frequently break the rule when they are not being watched. Such widespread disregard for the policy demonstrates its ineffectiveness, both in preventing sharing and in encouraging students to only eat the healthy food that their parents are encouraged to pack for them.

Overall wellness is barely emphasized in the regulations, as food is the primary concern of the changes. While the official policy states a "fitness" component, it is only a reinforcement of the pre-existing physical education class requirements. Many students refused to participate in physical education classes, largely because of a lack of choice. A better way to approach fitness would be to offer a variety of physical education classes that would inspire students to actively participate in this initiative.

The food policy, part of Huntington's overall wellness initiative, teaches students that they cannot eat in moderation. By taking away choices, it does not prepare young people to make their own decisions in the real world, where cupcakes are not banned. The goal should be to teach everyone to eat in moderation and maintain an overall healthy lifestyle. Instead, the only thing that is being cultivated is a mindset that foods are only acceptable or not acceptable, with nothing in between.

**"It is the responsibility of parents, not the district, to make their children aware of their allergies."**

sen to ignore that its students will have to make these decisions in their lives outside of school.

Huntington's policy falters in its statement against sweets, as they are allowed after 2:20. Nearly every day, bake sales continue to take place at Huntington High School, to the delight of students who have been deprived of baked goods due to the ban on saturated fats in the cafeteria. Though student fundraisers, including those that sell Hershey's candy products, are no longer allowed during school hours, bake sales show that the district cannot even

## Have something to say?

Send your letters to [dispatch@hufsd.edu](mailto:dispatch@hufsd.edu)

## Letter to the Editor

### Immigration roundups cause concern in Huntington community

Querido Editor,

Mi nombre es Marcia, tengo 17 años y soy Salvadoreña. Yo te escribí esta carta para contarte que ha sucedido en uno de los apartamentos vecinos del mío, durante una de las muchas redadas que ha estado realizando migración recientemente, y de las cuales tú ya has de conocer.

Los parientes de las personas afectadas, cuentan llenas de pánico que fué en horas de la madrugada en la que oficiales de migración, llegaron a tocar la puerta, y uno de los habitantes habrió preguntando que pasaba y ellos sin decir más nada entraron de una manera abusiva, agrediéndolos física y moralmente, hasta lograr llevarse a dos de los personas presente, una de los parientes de uno de ellos dice que los oficiales no llevaron ninguna orden para hacer todo lo que hicieron y que ninguno de los habitantes pudo hacer nada y dicen los oficiales iban muy bien preparados, que incluso llevaban con ellos unos perros, y les decían a los habitantes que si intentaban escapar soltarían a los animales para que fueran tras ellos, está muy indignada, ya que ellos son personas inocentes, y su único delito es ser inmigrantes.

Es lamentable lo que están haciendo con nosotros los inmigrantes, por mi parte siento mucha pena con las personas que les están haciendo esto, ya que en mi familia pasó algo similar. Ciertamente los miembros de la policía llegaron a nuestro apartamento acusando a mi padre de algo que él no había hecho, ellos no llevaron ninguna orden, ellos entraron bruscamente agredieron físicamente a mi papá el cual tiene un transplante de riñón pero a ellos no les importó y lo

golpearon muy fuerte, también agredieron a mi mamá, a mi hermano de 14 años, estando también presente mi hermana de tan sólo 5 años y por supuesto también estaba yo presente, ellos no demostraron respeto ni siquiera después de saber que arrestaron a la persona equivocada y que el culpable seguía suelto. Gracias a Dios mi papá fue liberado el día siguiente, pero muy afectado por los golpes que recibió en su riñón, pero todos nosotros estamos aquí de manera legal y a mi papá se le hizo un poco más fácil buscar ayuda, pero hasta el día de hoy esta injusticia no ha sido remedida ya que mi padre continúa yendo a corte.

Pues, como verás, por experiencia a las injusticias de las autoridades de este país, de alguna manera entiendo el sufrimiento de tantas familias inocentes que están viviendo esta pesadilla de que sus seres queridos sean arrestados sin razón, o lo peor, que sean deportados.

Sólo queda esperar a que alguien haga algo y le pongan un fin a todo esto; sabemos que es verdad que estamos en un país que no es el nuestro pero también es verdad que somos personas inocentes y tenemos el derecho de no ser tratados de esa manera, porque somos inmigrantes, no terroristas y merecemos el respeto de todos incluyendo la misma autoridad, y sin importar nuestro estatus legal, porque somos seres humanos al igual que ellos y valemos por igual sin importar nuestra origen, y eso es algo totalmente real, que no lo puede cambiar ninguna ley, en ningún lugar del mundo.

Sinceramente,  
Marcia Moreira

Dear Editor,

My name is Marcia. I am 17 years old and I'm Salvadorean. You surely know about the roundups Immigration has been doing recently in many places in New York. I write this letter to you to let you know my own personal account dealing with this issue, for just recently a roundup took place in my neighborhood.

Filled with anguish, relatives of those stated that it all began in the early hours of the morning. Immigration officials came knocking on the front door, and one of the family members opened it. Without saying a word, the officials aggressively entered, physically assaulting those who lived inside. They ultimately took two people. One of the relatives stated that none of the officials carried a warrant, but there was nothing the family could do about it. Also, these officials came fully prepared for anything, as they brought dogs with them. They told the family if anyone attempted to escape, they would release the dogs to chase them down. The whole family is very upset over their situation because they are an innocent family. Their only "crime" is that they are immigrants.

It's upsetting to see what is happening with the immigrants. I feel pain for the family who was affected, for a similar situation also took place with my own family. On the same day as this other incident, the police arrived at my apartment and accused my father of something we all knew he did not commit. Once again, they had no warrant, and they attacked my father. He was recovering from a re-

cent kidney transplant, but the police did not care because they continued to assault him. They then went on to grab me, my mother, my 14 year old brother and my sister of only 5 years. The policemen showed no respect toward us, even after they found that they have arrested the wrong man. My father was released the next day, but he still suffers from those attacks, especially with his kidneys. My whole family is here legally, and my father was able to find some help more easily. But this injustice is still prevailing in our community. Our case hasn't been resolved yet, for my father continues to go to court over this.

As you can see, because of my own experience, I understand what many innocent families have to go through. It's a constant nightmare, the fear of having their loved ones arrested and possibly deported without reason.

I only wait in hope for someone to put an end to all of this. We, as immigrants, know that we are not in our own countries. But we do know that we have the right, as human beings, to be respected and treated equally. We are immigrants, but not terrorists. We deserve equal recognition even from the authorities, no matter what our legal status is. We are human beings just as they are; we are worth just as much. This is reality, a fact of life that no law can change.

Sincerely,  
Marcia Moreira, HHS Student

Translation by Nelson Maldonado

# POINT / COUNTERPOINT

## Uniforms violate students' rights

by HENRY BAUGHMAN

Expression of oneself is one of the key elements of growing up. Rules limiting children's capacity to do this decrease the creativity of future generations, and hurt society as a whole. In 1968 the Supreme Court ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines* that students don't "shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate" while defending their right to wear black armbands in protest of the Vietnam War. While lewd speech was later removed from protection, expression as displayed in one's choice of apparel certainly falls into the former of the two categories and ought to be protected.

Those that support the enactment of uniform dress codes often feel that it is a boon for parents, as it stops arguments between children and their parents over their standards of acceptable attire. This argument falls flat on its face at closer examination though. Thanks to a New York Circuit Court all school uniform policies in public New York schools have to be approved by the student's parents on a case by case basis (i.e. not a vote). Being that the uniforms aren't statutory any informed student (and all students ought be

informed, that is the point of schools after all) will surely blame their parents for any limitations. If a parent really wanted to impose a dress code on their child they don't need the school's grace. As the provider of clothing they could easily choose to give their children khakis and polo shirts themselves. And if the children are purchasing their own clothing who is the school to tell them that they can't wear something.

One of the strongest arguments for the implementation of school uniforms is that it improves grades by reducing distractions. While improving grades is certainly a noble cause the ends don't justify the means. Freedom of expression was considered an unalienable right by this country's founders and rescinding it for any

reason is a step backwards. If this train of thought is taken to its logical conclusion perhaps all students should don burqas, as this would redoubtably cut down on distractions.

Another claim made by the advocates of a school uniform is that it makes class differences dissolve. Unfortunately class differences do exist and limiting the rights of one group in order to increase the moral of the other is not the mindset which should be taught to the children.

The idea that purchasing expensive clothes for growing children is a bad economic idea is also faulty. Providing that the individual purchasing the clothing understands that they/their children will

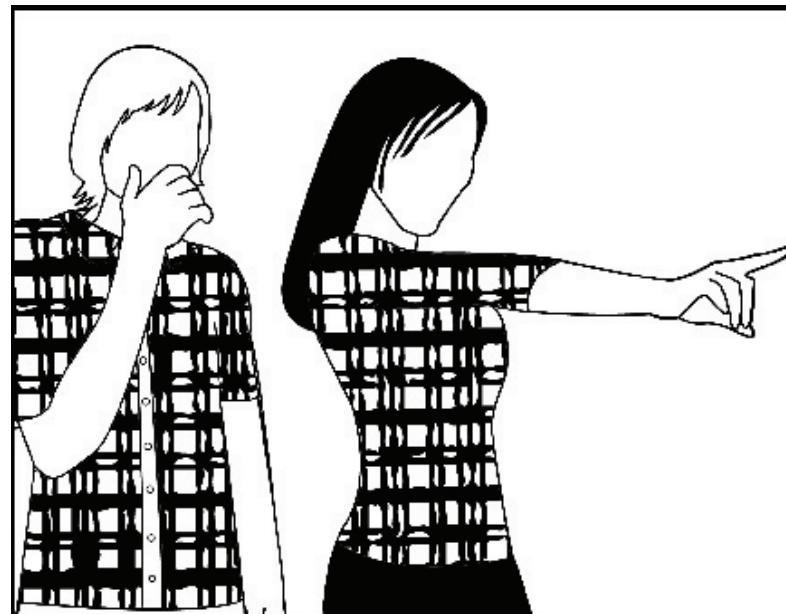


ILLUSTRATION: LEIF DRACE AND ALEX CHISHOLM

grow, any purchase they choose to make is economically sound. The fact that rational people pay ten USD for movie tickets (and another six for popcorn), an experience which only lasts a couple of hours, and walk away with a smile on their face, shows that a high price for a short lived experience is still a good choice.

Thankfully school uniforms can not be forced on a students by the state of New York. However, regardless of the legality, school uniforms should not be encouraged, because it stunts the personality of students. The right to express oneself is unalienable and the idea that these rights should be rescinded in order to better the children is an offense to the rights the founders fought so hard to gain.

## *the Dispatch examines . . .*



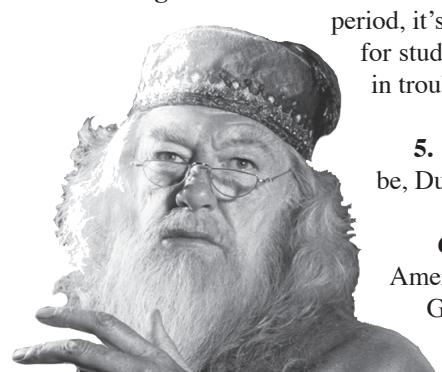
**1. Kanye West's Graduation:** West claims that he doesn't try hard on his single "Can't Tell Me Nothing," but this unforgettable album shows otherwise.



**2. Joe Torre:** Sure, the man lost his job, but he exited with some class, made a mockery of the most successful sports team in history and already has a new job in Los Angeles.



**3. the World:** Al Gore was right about our global climate crisis. And who can argue with his Nobel Peace Prize?



**4. Getting Detention:** With hall sweeps being done every period, it's become much easier for students to land themselves in trouble.

**5. Fictional, Gay, Dead Wizards:** Way to be, Dumbledore.

**6. the Mafia:** With Denzel as a drug lord in American Gangster and the appearance of John Gotti in the headlines, the Mafia is still a prevalent force in America.

## Sense of community enhanced

by DYLAN PAYNE

No student wants to say that they support school uniforms. However, there are many benefits for students, teachers and parents that are worth considering. When the Long Beach School District of California created a uniform dress code, it experienced many positive results in the first year. A 51% decrease in fights, 32% fewer suspensions, and 36% less school crime occurred, while attendance and student achievement rose. These numbers alone should be enough for school officials to start buying khakis and cheesy school polos. However, the most direct impact that school uniforms would have

children is a very bad investment. However, students feel extremely pressured to do so, and face ridicule when they wear the same shirt twice in a week, or wear the same pants two days in a row.

This combination of peer pressure for expensive clothing and a growing body puts a strain on those with a limited budget within the school district. An extreme example would be the child of a middle-class family trying to fit in at Cold Spring Harbor High School. The family would have enough trouble paying taxes and the mortgage in such an affluent area, without the added pressure of buying their child expensive clothing to help him make friends. If school uniforms were in place

at CSH High School or any other school where the students cared about their clothing, class distinctions would be reduced during the school day, where friendships are initially formed. More mixing of economic groups would occur and cliques would have

on all students is often overlooked.

Students care about how their peers think of them. What you wear is often the first thing others notice, and it is the easiest thing to comment on to show that you like or dislike someone. Social groups are defined by clothing style as much by interests and classes. However, in order to "keep up" with the crowd, you must always have plenty of stylish clothing. The hundred-dollar shoes and jeans that define "well-dressed" students may fit them for less than one school year. Economically, buying expensive clothing for school-age

one less differentiating factor. Outside of school, students would be free to express themselves as they pleased, but the friendships would already be formed under fair conditions.

Dress codes benefit everyone in the school since the everyday hassle of trying to look good to everyone would be gone. Students would focus more on personality and other traits when choosing their friends and would be more likely to form friendships outside of their economic class. Lastly, uniforms increase school spirit and companionship between all.



**1. the College Office-** Seems that juniors have no interest in college, as the office is open exclusively to seniors.

**2. Quoting Movies-** Now that *SuperBad* has died down, how will we be funny? Surely we can't be original.



**3. Fights-** Either security has gotten too good at their job or everyone has been in an exceptional mood as of late, because the halls of the high school have been suspiciously peaceful. Perhaps this is the eye of the storm.

**4. Achievement-** Who's passing these days? Success is so last year.

**5. Huntington Sports:** With the loss of a certain dynamic duo of twins, Blue Devil Athletics have taken a big hit. Perhaps the only team worth noting is Boys' Volleyball.



**6. Red Bull:** Kids have abandoned their wings for Monster, which tastes just as bad as Red Bull but still provides that caffeine rush.

# Gould Times With Mr. Gould

by GREGORY EVERITT

Mr. Gould teaches economics at Huntington High School. I decided to interview him about the economy, geography and United States history, among many other random topics.

*What is the meaning of life?*

"That's a hard question to answer. I guess it depends on each person's perspective, but my meaning of life is the opportunity to make the world around us a better place and to create a path, sometimes a new path, off the beaten path, to progress and happiness."

*What is the best book you've ever read?*

"Noam Chomsky's Manufacturing Consent. That's one of the best."

*Is it even better than Harry Potter?*

"I usually don't read fiction."

*Tupac, Biggie or Wordsworth?*

"None of the above."

*Do you like your eggs better sunny-side up or sunny-side down?*

"Sunny-side-up, without a doubt."

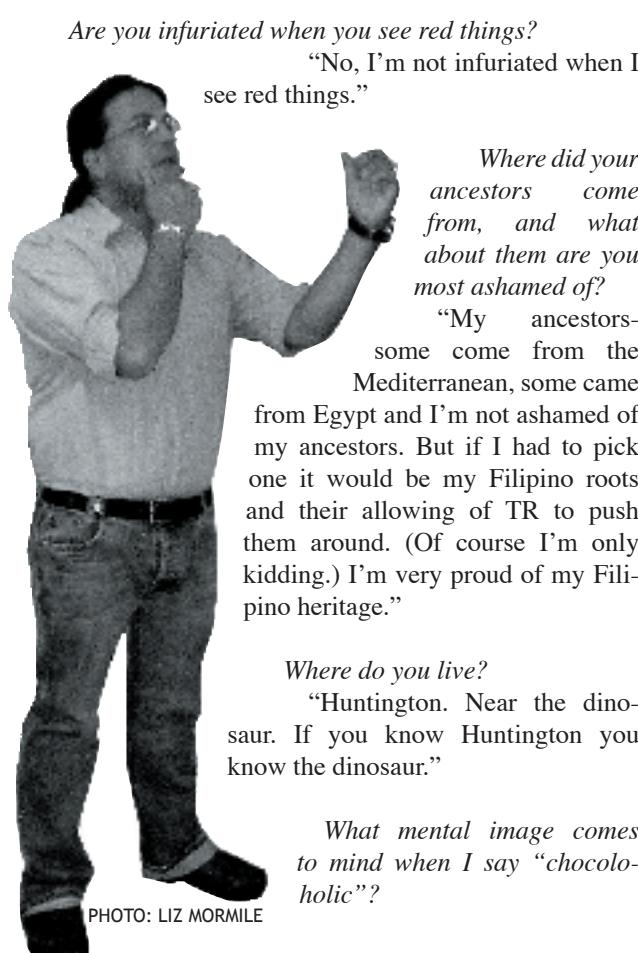


PHOTO: LIZ MORMILE

*Are you infuriated when you see red things?*

"No, I'm not infuriated when I see red things."

*Where did your ancestors come from, and what about them are you most ashamed of?*

"My ancestors some come from the Mediterranean, some came from Egypt and I'm not ashamed of my ancestors. But if I had to pick one it would be my Filipino roots and their allowing of TR to push them around. (Of course I'm only kidding.) I'm very proud of my Filipino heritage."

*Where do you live?*

"Huntington. Near the dinosaur. If you know Huntington you know the dinosaur."

*What mental image comes to mind when I say "chocoholic"?*

"Not me. I'm allergic to chocolate."

*If you could have a pair of scissors, a hammer or a pencil, which one would you pick and why?*

"I would rather have a pencil so I could write down the description of the guy that's chasing me with a hammer and the guy that's chasing me with the scissors."

*What is your favorite scandal: Watergate or Blackwatergate? (a reference to the mercenary problem in Iraq)*

"Probably Watergate."

*As an economics teacher, do you prefer cutthroat amoral pure capitalism or soul-oppressing, money-sucking communism?*

"I'm probably more in line with the bleeding-heart commie."

*Bill Gates: most awesome man ever, or most awesome man who will ever exist?*

"Neither. Scourge of the Earth."

*Tell us, we're dying to know: is anyone not confused by the economy?*

"I'd say that people that are least confused about the economy, the people that know the reality of the economy more than anybody are the people that can't afford to put food on their table."

## FASHION SPOTLIGHT

by ELIZABETH MORMILE

### AMANDA HO, JUNIOR

1. *Describe your personal style in three adjectives/words.*

It's hard to tell I'm very eclectic... whatever I'm inspired by the moment I'll dress by.

2. *Do you prefer high heels or flats?*

Heels by far.

3. *Biggest trend you predict/ plan to follow for fall?*

The big belt like Dolce and Gabbana did the whole gunmetal corset ones and McQueen.

4. *Which trend would you like to see disappear?*

Leggings! I can't say it enough.

5. *What is your favorite store to shop at?*

I don't have a favorite store, wherever I find something I like I'll buy. I can shop anywhere from Forever 21 to Bloomies.

6. *Who is your personal style/fashion icon?*

Kate Moss, Mary Kate Olsen

7. *Who is your favorite designer and why?*

Roberto Cavalli. He emulates the ideal confident woman. Everything he does is feminine and sexy.

8. *A trend you predict has staying power-*

The 1920's-1950's. Old Hollywood. It's been around but it's being seen now more than ever. Being more modest, and leaving more to the imagination. Back when dressing glamorous was not an everyday thing.

9. *Something you are surprised to see is trendy?*

Ugg boots. They're possibly the most hideous looking things ever, but yet I have a pair as well as every girl I know and I have worn them in public, but I protest simply for their comfort.

10. *Favorite outfit/accessory you own?*

Hmm, that's hard. Probably my biggest purse just because I can fit everything inside of it.



GRAPHIC: LIZ MORMILE

from Gossip Girl.

7. *Who is your favorite designer and why?*

Free people because they have unique and trendy clothes.

8. *A trend you predict has staying power?*

Ballet flats and dresses

9. *Something you are surprised to see is trendy?*

Bright color jeans

10. *Favorite outfit/accessory you own?*

Micheal Kors handbag and Tory Burch flats

● ● ●

## Freshman Survival Guide

*Top ten tips to make it through the year*

by GREG JAMES  
AND SAM EISEN

10. Mr. Gilbert isn't really as mean as he looks!

9. Be sure to develop something worth while, like nifty card tricks and a smooth way with the ladies; it works for "McLovin!"

8. Wear your "Vote for Pedro" shirt, if you really want to be original.

7. Don't play lacrosse; join the up-and-coming thriving, chipper JV Baseball squad led to glory by Coach "one-win" Catania!

6. Don't get into the habit of studying now; you may never be able to break it by Senior Year.

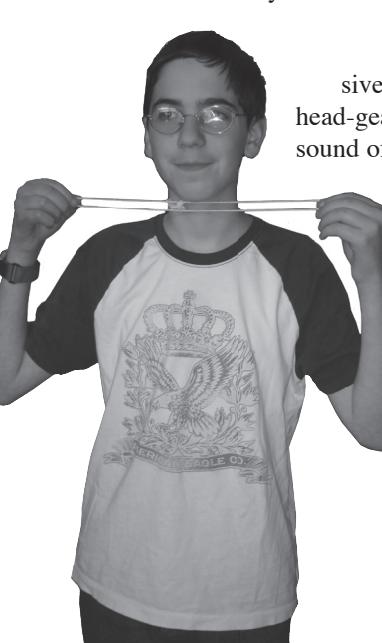
5. Guys, milk the last out of your boyish charm, because next year you'll have an annoying cracking voice and have "hair in new and scary places," according to Mr. Agnello.

4. Don't bother writing a good Play Fest, because the undeserving Class of '08 will probably even win that out of pity.

3. Guys out there, be sure to wear the same hat every day no matter how sweat stained it is, and never shave your new peach fuzzed, moist upper lip. There's nothing that makes ladies go crazy than a little consistency.

2. Make sure to have a massive wheelie back pack, with an added head-gear pouch. Nothing marks the sound of a proud Freshman more than 60 pounds of books and orthodontic accessories clunking down the stairs.

1. Be sure at all times to be within screaming distance of Big Mike! Unfortunately at Huntington it's the only way to make it to Sophomore year.



# MUSIC: Album Reviews

## Kanye Devalues 50 Cent

by MIKE McCOURT

It all started this past August, when Curtis Jackson, known to most as 50 Cent, challenged Kanye West to sell more albums than he. Jackson's album *Curtis* and West's *Graduation* were both released on September 11th, and it was soon clear that Jackson was in over his head; *Graduation* sold nearly 300,000 more copies in the first week than did *Curtis*. This landslide victory left many music fans wondering: what was Curtis Jackson thinking?

This amazing gap in sales was not so much the fault of Jackson, but the accomplishment of West. *Graduation* was unprecedented in its musical complexity, using samples ranging from Kanye's mentor, Jay-Z, to classic rock band Steely Dan.

Tracks such as "Good Morning," "I Wonder" and "Flashing Lights" feature irresistible progressions that show us that West is one of the first rappers to simultaneously be a musician. His experience and mastery of production have made him a rap mogul after just his third album.

West's strengths also come out in his lyricism. Although weak in the ability to freestyle (as shown on Saturday Night Live), West's lyrics show a tremendous deal of thought and execution. Rarely does a line from *Graduation* not roll off his tongue with a



GRAPHIC: JAMEL BRAITON

seamless flow.

Perhaps the only thing missing from *Graduation* helps the album. West's decision to not include skits makes this tracklist more listenable.

With nothing but good to say about *Graduation*, it is unfair for *Curtis* to be compared to such a masterpiece. Jackson attributed the loss to his producers, but the biggest weakness of the album is in its lack of appeal. West was able to create an album that could be enjoyed by fans of all genres, something at which Jackson failed. His single, "Ayo Technol-

ogy," displayed Jackson's feeble attempts to reach out to a new audience.

The rest of *Curtis*, however, does not show this attempted change. Tracks such as "My Gun Go Off," "All of Me" and "Touch the Sky" sound like any other 50 Cent song you've ever heard, with a redundant sample and tough-guy lyrics. These songs are full of what plagues gangster rap today: a testosterone driven ego sprinkled with a contempt for a harsh upbringing. Unfortunately for Jackson, his muscles and self-pity get him nowhere.

ALBUM: *Graduation*  
ARTIST: Kanye West

ALBUM: *Curtis*  
ARTIST: 50 Cent

## New video games live up to hype



HALO 3  
GRAPHIC: FUZZMARTIN.COM

by DAVID LILLIENSTEIN

The video game world is abuzz with excitement as the highly anticipated Halo 3 arrives in stores. In the past years, Halo 2 was the most popular game for Xbox, and now the sequel comes out in high definition. Electronics stores prepared for the arrival of Halo 3 by buying thousands of copies for the people who pre-ordered the game, and for in store sales. Now that it has arrived, many gamers say that this is the best Halo game in the trilogy. With new storyline, maps, weapons, vehicles and its amazing Xbox live multiplayer version, it is sure to be rated the best game in the country.

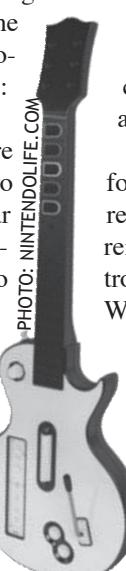
Another highly anticipated new release is EA skate. Unlike the popular Tony Hawk skateboarding game, this new game takes skateboarding to a whole new level. The difference is, instead of pressing buttons to do

tricks, you use do tricks by moving your thumb on the joystick. Now gamers feel more into the game than ever before!

When you move your thumb in different directions, the skater moves his feet and the board with it.

From playing experience, it makes you feel more like you're actually skating and is more of a challenge to do hard tricks like in real life. You can play as famous skateboarders, such as Rob Dyrdek, Paul Rodriguez and Jason Dill. Many people are saying that it is much better than the Tony Hawk games. The slogan is perfect for this game: "Let your little skater out."

Other games that are very popular are Guitar Hero III and Bioshock. With Guitar Hero III, gamers can actually use a guitar controller to hit notes, riffs and frets. It's the same theme as Dance Dance Revolution, but you use a guitar instead of a mat. Many people like it because it feels like playing a real guitar, with strumming, rhythms, and leads. With new popular songs from My Chemical Romance to Van



Halen, and songs that you can buy with Xbox live, there's no end to the variety of music you can play.

Bioshock is a new kind of first person shooter game that takes place in Rapture, an underwater city during World War II. Rapture was created so that people could avoid going to war. But something went terribly wrong. Scientists tried to come up with a way to make life easier. They were called plasmids. The plasmids were injected into peoples' bloodstream, which gave them incredible powers, such as telekinesis, the ability to create electricity, and the ability to create fire. Unfortunately, the plasmids

made the peoples' minds crazy and the people relied on these plasmids to live. Now, your character must destroy the city and the people who live in it.

Many games also came out for the Wii. The Wii itself is a revolution for gaming. It uses a remote and a thumb stick controller held in separate hands. When you move the remote, the character moves with you. You can punch, throw, and swing, and actually get exercise doing it. It brings a new meaning to the phrase, "virtual reality."

The top seller for the Wii is Resident Evil 4, which is a first person shooter in which you must kill zombies.

## Stars Reinvents Indie Rock

by MIKE McCOURT

ALBUM: *In Our Bedroom After the War*

ARTIST: Stars

When Canadian Indie rockers Stars released their fourth studio album, *In Our Bedroom After the War*, electronically in July, they hoped that it would give fans an alternative to illegally downloading a possible leaked album before the physical release in September. They also gave an alternative to the sound that had been present in their previous three albums, disappointing loyal fans while attracting newcomers.

*In Our Bedroom After the War* lacks a certain melodic charm that was evident on 2005's *Set Yourself On Fire*, which featured more daring and intricate tracks such as "He Lied About Death" and "Soft Revolution."

Stars shows their new sound from the get-go, leading off with "The Beginning After the End," a very Postal Service-esque track that would feel more at home at the end of the album than at the beginning.

The album then jumps to "The Night Starts Here," and the first single off the album, "Take Me to the Riot," a track reminiscent of Coldplay's *X&Y*, with its deep synths and mellow piano progression. It is here that Stars disappoints its oldest fans while attracting new ones; "Riot" sheds Stars' indie shell and declares them a pop force to be reckoned with.

It is strange, then, that Stars would choose to return to their

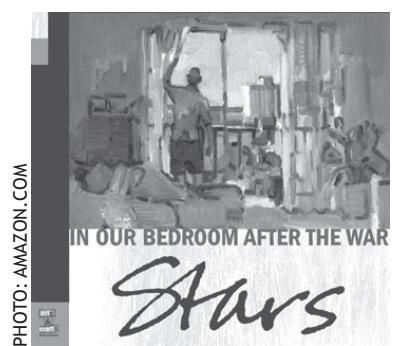


PHOTO: AMAZON.COM

old sound after creating such an appealing single; "My Favourite Book" contrasts "Riot" as the biggest reminder of Stars' former sound. The delicate melodies once abundant on *Set Yourself On Fire* return to accompany Amy Millan's vocals, which are another component lacking on *Bedroom*.

Stars' runs with these melodies in "Midnight Coward," blending Millan and frontman Torquil Campbell's voices in what could be the band's next single.

The album then goes into a mellow slump, with a failed attempt at a disco-groove in "The Ghost of Genova Heights," an unflattering piano ballad in "Barricade," and another Coldplay-influenced song, "Life 2: The Unhappy Ending." Tracks 6 through 12 are undoubtedly the weak point of the album, but lead to a climactic finish in the title track, "In Our Bedroom After the War."

Although the melodies and courage of Stars have been lost, the album still offers an easy listen and the chance to call yourself and indie rock fan, which the ladies love.

★★★★★

## Across the Universe

by JENN SZILAGY

*Across the Universe*, an original musical directed by Julie Taymor, brings to the screen a mélange of color and creativity depicting the epic portions of the 1960s. Through outstanding visuals and vivid colors, this film is effortlessly

entertaining and mesmerizing to the eyes. It freely expresses the constant drug use which occurred during the era.

If anything, this movie accurately portrays the sixties without censorship. As the film plays, viewers find themselves entangled within the thoughts and ideas which caused

controversy at the time. It is not uncommon to lose yourself throughout the course of the movie. The music also coordinated brilliantly as every song intertwines itself with the scene and the characters' emotions. It was an interesting endeavor to follow each song as it created an entirely new poignant level for each specific moment.

The only aspects lacking within this film is that of its weak

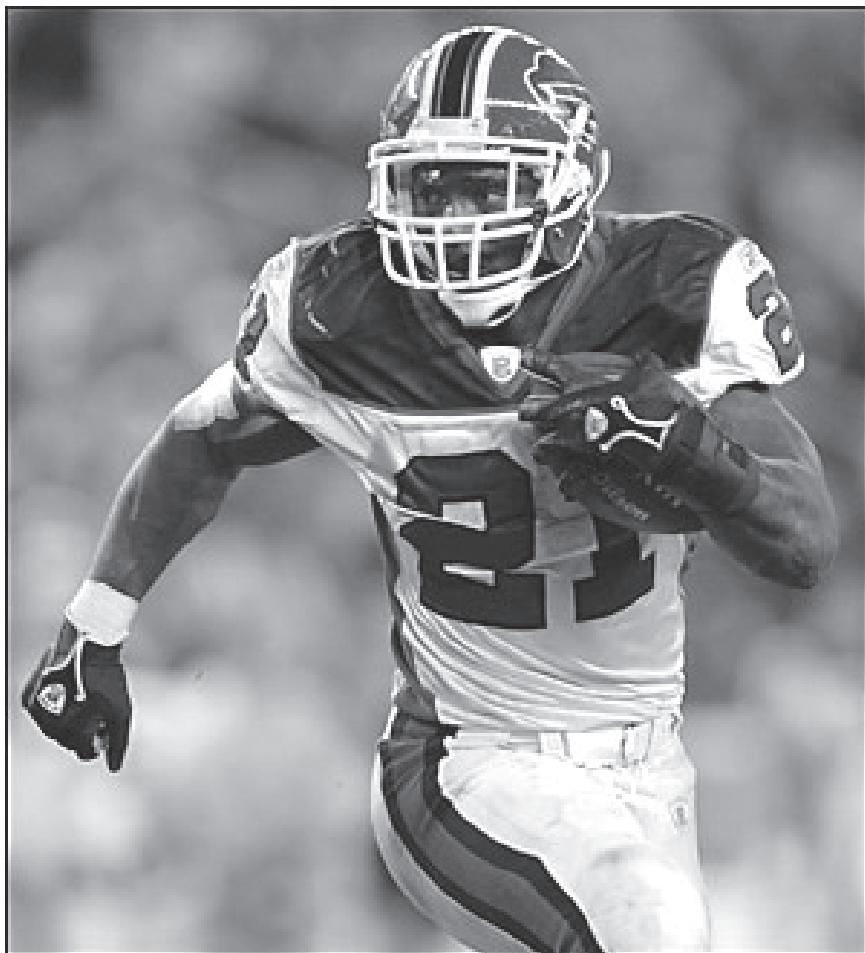
character development and plot. For the first half hour of the movie, viewers found themselves being thrown around in a whirlwind of characters which changed more quickly and drastically than the era did. If one wished to watch a movie with strong bonds and storylines, this would not be an acceptable choice.

*Across the Universe* is a movie most appropriately suited for adults and late teens who find themselves interested in the events of the sixties. For those who grew up in this era, it was a mere flashback to the trials in which they had previously lived, for those who did not grow up in this time it would be the perfect depiction of life during the Vietnam War. However, the most unique factor of all is that of the Beatles' influence on the movie and its time period. Any true fan of the band may appreciate the modern voices and stylized illustrations of all the songs and their meanings. Overall, *Across the Universe* is a film worth seeing at least once, especially if you enjoy music, art and a twist on philosophy.



PHOTO: IONCINEMA.COM

# Injuries pose threat to student athletes



Buffalo Bills tight end Kevin Everett suffered a fracture to his cervical spine in September.

by MICHAEL VALENTE

Football is arguably one of the nation's most popular sports. Most kids can't wait until they get to put on a uniform and go out onto the field. High school students play

the sport they way they see their idols playing it. They make hard tackles; do celebratory dances in the end zone, and sometimes even play through severe injuries. Concussions and other head/spinal chord traumas have become one of the leading causes of sports related injuries throughout the coun-

try. On September 9<sup>th</sup>, tight end Kevin Everett of the Buffalo Bills, sustained a fracture and dislocation of his cervical spine. He was taken off the field by an ambulance and did not show any signs of movement in his arms and legs. Doctors say that Everett may have a small chance of walking again, but he will be left with permanent brain damage. The example of Kevin Everett is common. Neck trauma can snap vertebrae and leave the player paralyzed for life. Since 1997, fifty or more high school football players have been killed or sustained serious head/neck trauma. All of this has occurred in 20 or more states! With all of this recent focus on the subject, the NFL has been questioned about their approach in handling concussions after four former pro football players have been found to have permanent brain damage in their mid-30's. High school players sometimes even hide their injuries from their parents, friends and coaches.

Football is a dangerous sport full of risks. There is no doubt about it. Ladanian Tomlinson knows it every time he goes to run the ball. Brian Urlacher knows it every time he goes to make a tackle. Players are quite aware of what lies in front of them. Every single crush to the head will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

The players' passion for football is one of the reasons they shy away from telling coaches. Questions abound about whether players would be willing to sacrifice a season of football for medical treatment, or ultimately their lives. Some think that if they admit their pain, many coaches would never think twice and just say, "Play through

it". Mr. Wilson, assistant coach of the varsity football team, is not one of those. During a telephone interview with the coach, he explained that when one of his players a few years back showed signs of injuries to the head, he sat out the next game and didn't play until undergoing thorough medical clearance. He also stated that with the new helmets used in high school football, the chance of head trauma is reduced. "There is still the chance of a significant injury, even with the appropriate equipment". At Huntington High School, along with 42% of high schools in the United States, there is either a certified doctor or trainer at every game. The teenage brain is far less developed than an adults', and with a strong blow to the head brain tissue can tear easier. With this assistance, many lives can be saved and put the players out of potential risk.

Even when high school players feel any kind of severe pain, they convince themselves that it is ok. Over time, players will become sick, exhibiting all kinds of signs of a concussion. High School, and even Middle School, football players look up to and imitate the pros. If they see a player get up after being knocked down and badly shaken, that is seen as a fearless and competitive act. Although it is very brave, younger players have to know when to stop themselves. High school players and the pros are very different in the way they play the game. They do have one thing in common though. Before they step onto that field, their minds wander with nervous thoughts. But one has to wonder: Is it worth it?

## Football Overcomes Loss of Key Players

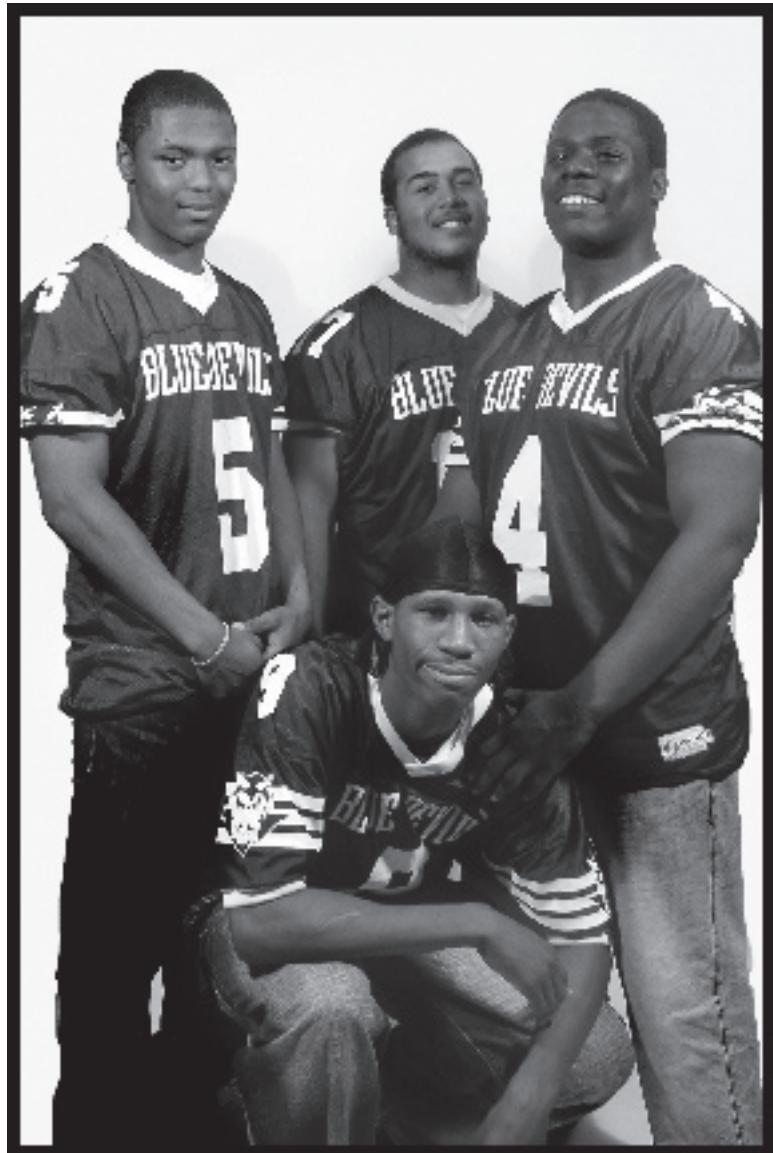


PHOTO: JAMEL BRATTON

by JAMEL BRATTON

Some people call it the death of a dynasty. I call it the rise of the phoenix. The Huntington High

School football team has overcome so much this season. This is a true story of coming from nothing to something. With a stellar victory over cross-town rival

Harborfields, the H-ton boys are back on top once again. Some differences between this year's team and last year's team is obvious...Hustle! H-ton's 2006-2007 boys' football team was lead by all world athletes Zach Howell and the Bratton twins. It hurts me to say it but they were pretty boys! This year's team is a lot tougher and more raw. Captains Walter Stephens, Eddie Santos and "Day Day" Thomas were some of Huntington's top players this year. Big time hitters Gerard Henderson. Josh Daves helped Huntington's secondary become one of the top defenses in Suffolk. Some returning juniors that played big roles in this year's team are Brian Ruggiero, Joe Brown and Brian Smith.

Keys to success- This year's keys to success is definitely Head coach Steve Muller and the H-ton coaching staff. They have found a way to get all these great athletes to build great team chemistry.

New faces: Some new faces on this year's team are transfers Quillian Respass from Georgia and soul brother Leon Barnett from Florida. These players have found their roles in H-ton's new offensive system.

The bottom line is Huntington back! Same jerseys just some new faces; now crank that Spiderman!

*The equipment you need, for the sports you love!*



**Huntington Village Sports, Inc.**

229 Main Street, Huntington (631) 423-3300

Mon. - Fri., 10am - 6pm; Sat., 9am - 6pm; Sun., 11am - 4pm

# High Hopes for Girls' Hoops

by JAMEL BRATTON

The Huntington high girls' basketball team is back and hungry for more success.

The girls lost a heartbreaking game to Harborfields in the county championship last year, but have put the loss behind them and have started to look forward to this coming season.

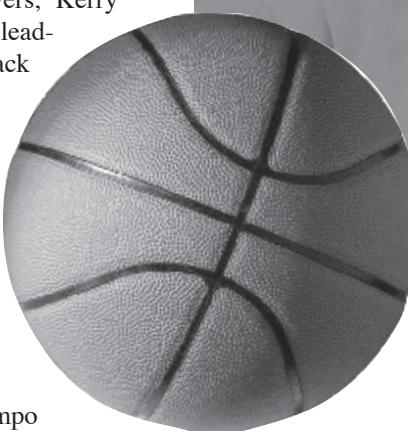
After an amazing 21-1 record last year, expect a repeat performance from the girls. Last year the team graduated Kailene Abt, who was a great inside presence. Prepare to see a speedy and tenacious team. The girls will continue the same up tempo style of play seen in years past.

**Players to Watch-** Caitlin Ortiz and Maria Marascia bring phenomenal ball handling and speed to Huntington's backcourt.

**"In The Paint"-** Expect big things from Matty Scully and Julie Forster in the paint for the lady devils this year.

**Returning Captains-** Both 4 year varsity players, Kerry Hicks and Casey Scully are experienced and are great leaders. Don't be surprised if they help Huntington get back on top!

*New captains hope to go above and beyond last year's league championship*



*Being mostly a young team this year, what style of play can the fans expect?*

Kerry Hicks: "The fans will be able to see an up tempo and high intensity type of play. I think the fans will enjoy our style of play."

*Going into your Fourth Varsity season, what do you think head coach Brad Reminick will be expecting from you?*

Casey Scully: "I think he will need me to be a good leader and to help the team stay

motivated throughout the season."

*What are you most excited for in this year's season?*

KH: "Just the atmosphere in general, with the new gym floor and new bleachers."

*After losing to Harborfields last year, are you guys nervous to play them again?*

CS & KH: "No, not at all! We're bringing back mostly the same team as last year and we can't wait to get on the floor and play them again."

## Mets and Yankees face uncertain future

BASEBALL from back page

compared to the Yankees.

After a roller coaster season, in which they were once 14½ games out of first place, but ended up as the wildcard team, the Yankees have a lot of questions to answer this off-season. With the departure of beloved 12-year manager Joe Torre, AL MVP hopeful Alex Rodriguez, and coaches Don Mattingly and Larry Bowa, the possible loss of pitcher Andy Pettitte as well as George Steinbrenner handing the team down to his sons Hank and Hal, the Yankees could be getting younger. With many Yankee veterans wanting to explore free agency, the Yankees could be moving towards a new era.

To meet the demand for pitching and to fill the void of the third base spot, the Yankees could look to the Marlins for thirdbasemen Miguel Cabrera and southpaw Dontrelle Willis. However, it has been reported that the Marlins would ask for the Yankees' young talent in such a trade, which is a sacrifice the Bombers are not willing to make.

New manager Joe Girardi hopes

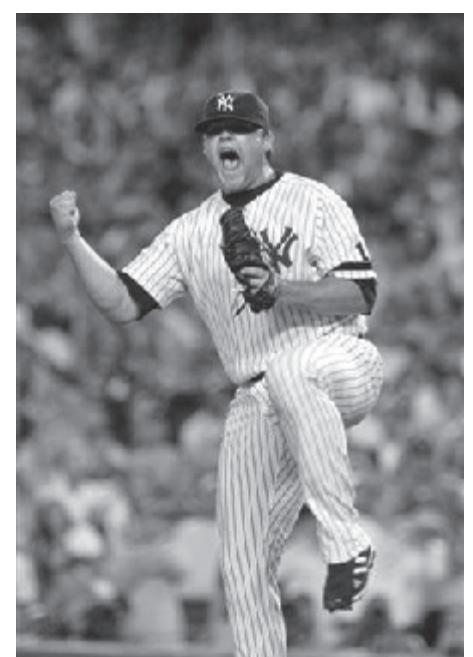


PHOTO: MSNBC.COM

to make his NL Manager of Year honors show with this ambitious team. With young players like Robinson Cano, Chein-Ming Wang and Melky Cabrera, Ian Kennedy, Joba Chamberlain and Phil Hughes, the Yankees could be going out with the old and in with the new.

**GOLDEN DOLPHIN**  
*Diner-Restaurant*

365 W. MAIN STREET  
HUNTINGTON NY 11473



(631) 421-1508

## Fitness tests draw embarrassment and concern from students

by RITA EIAN

As most of us here in Huntington High School know, students are required to participate in a yearly fitness test in gym. During this fitness test we are told to give our weight, age, and height, and then our body-fat percentile is calculated.

Should students have to participate in this part of the fitness test? I asked around school to get some students' opinions. Kirsten Freeman, a sophomore stated "I don't think the body-fat test is necessary. If someone wants to do it then they should be able

to, but some people are embarrassed by it." Other students find it ridiculous, like this junior, that wishes to remain anonymous. "The body fat test is stupid. It really doesn't make any sense why the teachers want to know." Is it taken for the insight of the gym teacher, or just for us to know, to be more clued in on what's going on inside our bodies so that we can do something about it? Senior Evelyn Canales said, "I think the body-fat test is ok, but our body-fat should not be said out loud. It's not for the whole class to hear."

So should this part of the fitness test keep going, should this school put a ban on it, or should students have a say on whether they take it or not? Think about it.

**FITNESS**

HHS' gym classes persuade their students to be physically fit, but does this pressure cause embarrassment with certain students?

GRAPHIC: STEMAKER.EDU

# SPORTS

## New Kids on the Block

### Boys' volleyball team raises questions

by BRIAN VENTURINO

Should our high school volleyball team really be considered a Huntington team? The 2007 fall men's varsity volleyball team consists of 5 Huntington players and 5 Harborfield's players.

The coach of the varsity volleyball team, Danny Contopolus believes that it is a good thing to bring to Harborfields players over to Huntington. "It is a great way to improve the team. All of the Harborfields players have just as much talent as the Huntington players.

Senior Derek Mulvey of Harborfields is a great contribution to the team. He was the former captain of the Empire State Team." Like coach Contopolus, the players from Huntington also believe that Harborfields players are a great acquisition for the team.

One of the two Huntington captains on the volleyball team is Will Cohn. Cohn believes that the Harborfield's players bring a lot of energy to the team. Cohn,

the setter for the team says, "I am positive that we can make it to the playoffs."

Mike DeMarzi, an outside hitter, is the other Huntington senior captain. He sees the additions to the team as a positive, "it really helped the junior varsity players get some more game time." He also said that the varsity team has improved so much that they have more wins than the last three years combined.

Though there are benefits to having Harborfields players on the team, there also come negatives. One negative is the fan support. Why would parents of volleyball players be supporting a player from another school? Another negative to this situation, is the fact that many players on junior varsity could've had a great opportunity to play on varsity if the Harborfield players weren't there.

The last, and most problematic aspect is that the Huntington School District is supported directly by our parent's taxes which are now going to di-



PHOTO: JAMEL BRATTON

rectly fund players from another school district. Why should Harborfield's students be allowed to play for our school, if they don't

pay into the program and take the positions of those whose parents make the contributions?

Regardless of their talent,

Harborfields players are standing in the way of Huntington players and their aspirations to play either Varsity or College Volleyball.

### Boys' Soccer makes playoffs for second straight season



PHOTO: JIM HOPPS

by GREG MEYERS

The boys' soccer team had a great season under the coaching by John Pagano and assistant coach Mr. Suarez. After a long season the boys soccer team ended their season with an outstanding 10-5-3 standing and with that qualified for States. Although losing to Comsewogue in the Suffolk Playoffs by only one goal,

the team still feels that they had a great season and is even more excited to go back to the playoffs next year. After asking Captain Baxter Olson how he thinks the team will do next year with a staggering thirteen seniors leaving for college, he said, "Next year will be a rebuilding year, but the current juniors and sophomores should be able to pull through and get the team back on track."

done." Thanks to a new turf field, all of the Varsity's home games and a few practices were played comfortably. The soccer team will have a lot of work to do next season yet with all the talent and determination of the players, including Stevens Merlin, Nick Dipoala, Chris Sandaval and Marcelo Guardado as well as the inspiration from the coaches, the varsity team will do just fine.

by ALEX LAU

After disappointing seasons from both of New York's baseball teams, many Yankee and Met fans are wondering to themselves: What's next?

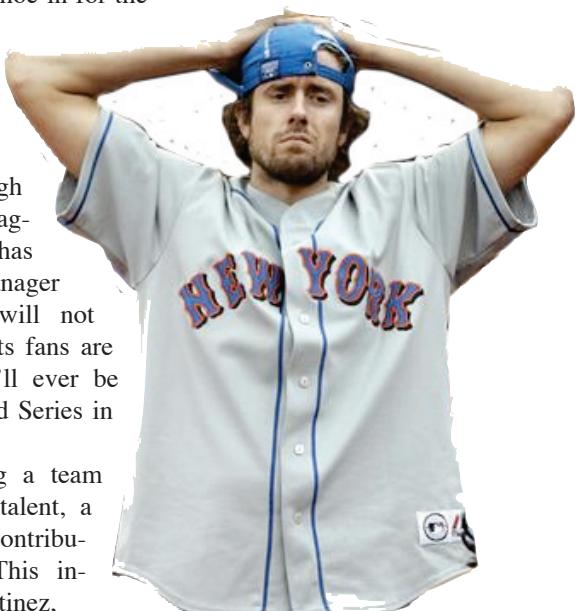
With a seven game lead in the National League East with seventeen games left to play, the Mets were practically a shoe-in for the playoffs. But after one of the biggest collapses in baseball history, the Mets missed the playoffs. Even though Mets General Manager Omar Minaya has announced that Manager Willie Randolph will not be fired, many Mets fans are wondering if they'll ever be able to win a World Series in the near future.

Despite having a team filled with young talent, a lot of their key contributions are aging. This includes Pedro Martinez, who missed most of last

season with a torn rotator cuff, Carlos Delgado, Paul Lo Duca, Shawn Green and Moises Alou. Even through the Mets have lots of young players on their team, replacing these veterans will not be easy to do.

The Mets had it easy

see BASEBALL on page 11



Many Mets' fans were distraught over the team's collapse in late September.

#### INSIDE SPORTS

Blue Devil Football, p. 10



Girls' Basketball, p. 11



Do NFL injuries effect the play of high school athletes? p. 10

PE Fitness Tests examined, p. 11

