



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 2, Volume 34

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743



PHOTO: AARON COHN

DECEMBER06

»news in short

Scholars in the running

Hannah Payne and Matt Rienzo were recently named semifinalists in the National Merit Scholarship competition.

Of the 1.4 million students who took the PSAT last October, only 16,000, or slightly over one percent, were selected.

The criteria for selection include performance on the PSAT/NMSQT, an essay, and an official recommendation from the school.

Eagle Project finished

The pond and waterfall in the courtyard adjacent to the cafeteria have been completed. The project was designed and implemented by Chris Patrikis, who is in the process of becoming an Eagle Scout.

Homecoming Fallout

Future of school events in jeopardy

by SAMANTHA ROLLINS

The day after Homecoming, a student's online away message displayed the following:

"The results are in...300 [students were] drunk, 24 suspended, 11 in the hospital."

While these numbers were simply hearsay, there is no denying that the annual Homecoming dance caused an uproar of controversy when the administration discovered that many students arrived intoxicated.

"Many more kids were under the influence than at any other dance in the past six years," Mr. Jarrett Stein said. Upon arrival to the dance, the administration observed the behavior and coordination of the students and was able to determine 12 students to have

been under the influence of alcohol, all of whom were suspended from school. However, many believe that more than 12 people were intoxicated at the dance.

"It put me in such a difficult position, because I can only deal with the visibly drunk," said Ms. Hefelee, who chaperoned the dance.

Many students declined to comment for this article.

"I thought there were more people who should have been suspended, it was sort of unfair that only 12 people were caught, when so many others were just as drunk," one remarked.

The administration is not simply concerned with punishing students, but also with the

see **FALLOUT** on page 2



PHOTO: SAM CONEYS

Shining in a New Light

Performers showcase their talents in outside venues

by SHANNON LEE CONNORS

Performing arts students at HHS are often required to juggle schoolwork, sports, clubs, part-time jobs, and family commitments. However, some have further extended themselves to take part in productions outside of school. For these students, the time commitment is more than worth the experience.

"It never seemed that anyone minded giving up their time and sacrificing something in their life, because they loved the activity so much," said Josh Blumberg, a junior who marches with the Syracuse Brigadiers Drum and Bugle Corps.

While the majority of Huntington High School students spend their Friday nights in Huntington Village or enjoying the compa-

ny of their friends, Laura Dabrowski forgoes such pastimes in order to take part in a unique dance group. Dabrowski, a junior, is entering her third year with The Polish American Folk Dance Company, a multi-generational dance troupe. The folk dance company performs in concerts at New York City's F.I.T. and Alice Tully Hall, as well as festivals in Boston and Poland. The dance company has been known to meet up to four times a week prior to crucial performances,

"I feel that it is completely worth the seven hours I put in each Friday because the company is preserving Polish traditions, customs, and culture for generations to come," Dabrowski said.

Dabrowski represents a highly dedicated group of students within the Huntington High School community; those who are willing to go to extreme lengths in order to pursue their passions.

Juniors Josh Blumberg and Alex Prince are members of the Syracuse Brigadiers Drum and Bugle Corps. The corps, which is part of Drum Corps Associates (DCA), participates in marching band-style competitions with other groups from across the country. Rehearsals take place every other weekend from January to April, and intensify to every weekend until early September. Blumberg and Prince took part in the DCA finals in Rochester on September 3rd, where their corps placed sixth out of the 16 participants.

"I do drum corps because you have the opportunity to learn so much...and everyone is



PHOTO: SAM CONEYS

■ Lillienstein, Porter, and Meszaros play their strings in LIYO.

there to work and loves music just as much as you do, and that's not something you experience on a high school level," Blumberg said.

In a different realm of music, some HHS students participate in the Long Island Youth Orchestra (LIYO).

"I love it...and it is one hundred percent worth it to be around such an amazing group of musicians," Senior Aimee Lillienstein said. She has played in LIYO for the last three years. Seniors Vivian Porter and Samantha Rollins and junior Matt Meszaros are also members of this elite orchestra.

The group practices for three hours every Sunday at C.W. Post, though practices can last for up to four hours before a concert. LIYO takes part in four concerts each year at the Tilles Center, and last year performed at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Huntington Village Theater Company (HVTC) also benefits from the dedication

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PHOTO: JOSH SCHUCHMAN

■ Josh Blumberg blasts for the Brigadiers.

Plagiarize at your own risk

Teachers turn to "Turnitin.com" to catch cheaters

by HENRY BAUGHMAN

Students beware; Huntington High School is looking to crack down on plagiarism with the incorporation of the Turnitin program.

Turnitin has acted as a plagiarism detection service for over a decade; it is used in scores of nations, and thousands of schools, including Huntington High School. While searching the internet or books to determine the validity of a student's work has always been an option, this was a very time consuming endeavor.

According to Mr. Florea, an advocate of the program, the goal is to "teach [students] about paraphrasing."

Another useful feature of the program is that assignments can no longer be lost or misplaced, because everything is backed up

on Turnitin's server. This not only allows for easy access but also creates a unique massive database for the program to search.

Turnitin does not only offer a plagiarism detection program, but also includes a peer review system, an opportunity to do all grading online. While most teachers immediately saw the advantages of an online submission, many may be reluctant to relinquish their red pen and there are currently

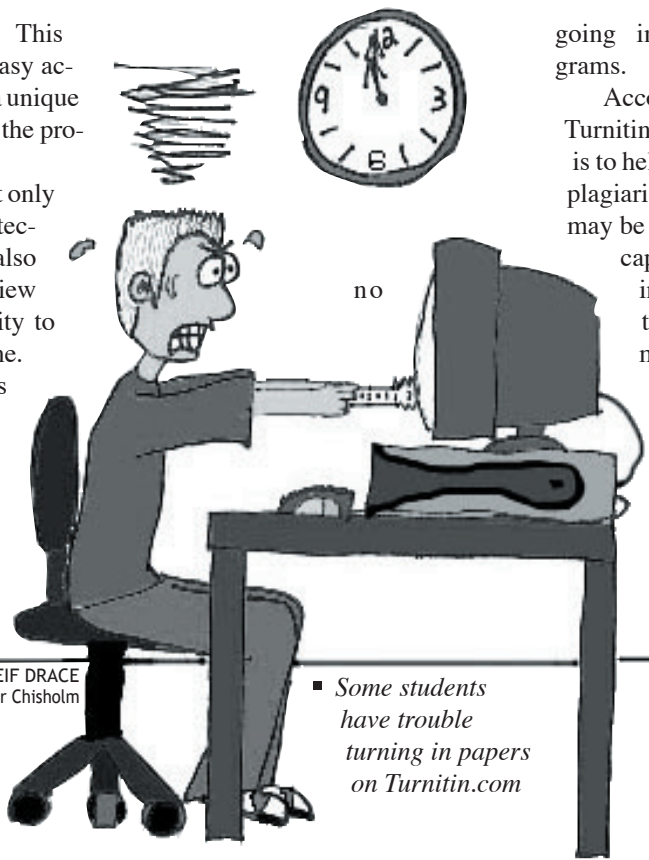


ILLUSTRATION: DAN RABINOWITZ & LEIF DRACE
Edited by Alexander Chisholm

going into getting other programs.

According to advocates of Turnitin.com, the primary goal is to help educate students about plagiarism. Unfortunately, this may be all that the application is capable of doing, as in one instance Turnitin failed to realize that a fake submission was taken word for word from an old Wikipedia article. Because Wikipedia's articles can be modified by anyone, their ever changing content is hard to pin down. Other techniques of assignment fabrication were also successful. As such, Turnitin will not be able to guarantee an end to plagiarizing, but is a significant victory in

the fight against it.

Despite its downfalls, the Turnitin service was a relative bargain financially, costing the school only seventy-five cents per student. If only for the data access, this would be a worthy program. The plagiarism detection just an added benefit.

According to Mr. Florea, Turnitin can greatly help in preparing students for "what college will be like."

While Turnitin is far from a foolproof solution to the problem of plagiarism, it offers many advantages over the manual checking. This program exceeds the old method of "learning the students writing [techniques]," by leaps and bounds. Turnitin is arguably the best anti-plagiarism system available today, and is a critical tool in the school's arsenal against cheaters.

Administrators deal with Homecoming aftermath

FALLOUT from front page

safety of each student.

"School isn't just about books, it's about learning...we need to educate the whole child, not just academically," Mr. Stein said, adding that students who made poor choices on Homecoming night put themselves in danger.

Although there has been much negative attention, the administration is confident that there is a solution to this looming problem. "Good kids made bad choices...they embarrassed themselves and their families," Mr. Stein said. The administration scheduled an assembly about the risk of alcohol abuse, and there have been rumors concerning the use of breathalyzers.

"If we were okayed to have a breathalyzer...we would have had a wonderful evening," Mr. Gilmor said. However, there are no definite plans to use these devices at future school functions.

Despite the plans to help the district recover from this controversial event, many are still concerned about the effect of the dance on Huntington High School's reputation.

“Good kids made bad choices...they embarrassed themselves and their families”

"This has put the school in a difficult position...it has given the community a black eye," Ms. Hefe said. "We want to speak positively of our school...[this event] may

turn parents away from sending their children here."

Parents and members of the faculty feel that if these functions were cancelled, then this problem would be solved. Mr. Stein, however, disagrees.

"Canceling the dance is not the solution, we shouldn't punish many students for what a few have done," he said, remarking that no activities have been cancelled yet.

"It is a question of whether we as a building can assure parents of the safety of their students. If we cannot assure that for the parents, then I don't think we can have these events," Ms. Hefe said.

For now, the solution to this incident is yet to be determined, but many are optimistic.

"We don't want to be the school that is only known for [what happened at homecoming]. Our school is a great place," one student said.

Laura Dabrowski and Madeline Jensen also contributed to this article.

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'Staccato Stellato' rocks the house

New band teacher brings both experience and fun to music program



PHOTO: KELSEY KUNES

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

Mr. Brian Stellato may be short in stature, but he is certainly not short of energy. To his students, Stellato brings an uninhibited eagerness and passion for music that is contagious.

Mr. Stellato started his musical life in third grade, when he learned to play the trumpet. He went to college at the University of Delaware, where he majored in music education. During his spare time he plays tennis, works with the marching band and roots for the New York Mets.

Mr. Stellato likes students who are passionate and enthusiastic about what they are doing. His major pet peeve is when people do not make eye contact when speaking or listening. Thus far, Stellato has a positive impression of his new surroundings.

"I love the school, that the students are friendly and outgoing, and that the teachers are very supportive," Stellato said.

Three years ago, Mr. Stellato worked at South Hampton High School teaching stu-

dents in grades nine through twelve. He then decided to take a job in the Sachem School District, where he taught fourth and fifth grade students. Ironically enough, the person who took his place in South Hampton was Mr. Giachetti, another Huntington band teacher.

Mr. Stellato came to the high school as a mid-year replacement for Mr. Frank Battista, who went back to Finley Middle School to fill a vacated position and direct the seventh grade band. Mr. Stellato now directs the senior band and teaches Music Theory I. Having taught both beginning and advanced band students, he prefers teaching high school level students because he can show more of his fun side and talk to them more like adults.

"One of the biggest things I strive for is getting my students excited about what they're learning and I'm always looking for new ways to achieve that," Stellato said.

PERFORMERS from front page

of Junior Scott Demotta. A member of HHS's own drama club, Demotta has been participating in the HVTC for the past ten years and has taken part in numerous productions, including *Oliver* and *Gone with the Wind*. The company produces three shows each year and practices every evening for one to two months before a performance. Demotta is an advocate for the group.

"It's worth the time commitment to see the final product. It's amazing to go from not knowing people to being friends and putting on a great show," Demotta said.

The experiences that HHS students are able to take away from their activities are monumentally rewarding for the participants.

"There is nothing in the world that I would trade for that moment [at finals]," Prince said, who plans to march again next season.

Teacher dress code to be enforced

by SASHA LEE HEMMINGS

"Teachers and all other district personnel should exemplify and reinforce acceptable student dress and help students develop an understanding of appropriate appearance in the school setting."

These words from the student handbook seem simple



enough, but teachers have the responsibility to provide a good example for students. Although the teacher's dress code is not physically documented, teachers do have an unwritten code of what they are allowed to wear and what they are not allowed to wear.

As teachers, they are expected to dress professionally and appropriately for school. "We are supposed to be modeling behavior," said Mr. Bruckbauer. Teachers, as role models for students, are expected to give students a better idea of what is to be expected of them in the work force and in terms of dress and conduct. "Should students and teachers wear uniforms? No, by wearing

whatever one wants as far as the dress code is concerned, it is a way of expressing oneself," said Mr. Stein.

If teachers do not dress appropriately for school, it can be rather distracting to students. For instance, how many of us remember the male substitute teacher that wore a dress to school last year? It wasn't only distracting to the class that he was a substitute for, but to the entire student body. The news of a male teacher wearing a dress spread like wild-

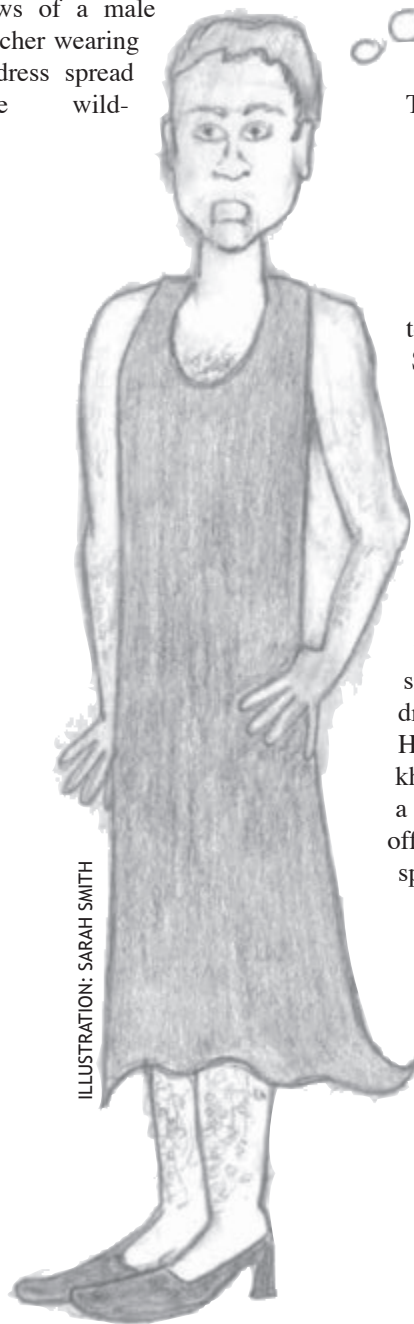
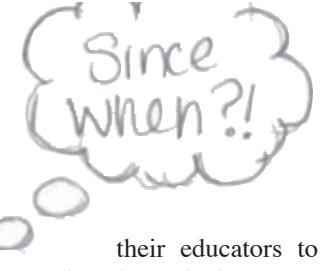


ILLUSTRATION: SARAH SMITH

fire. Everyone wanted to catch a glimpse of him to see if the rumor was really true. While it can be argued that he was expressing himself, it was in an extreme manner; students do not expect



their educators to be dressed that way. Those who did not have him as a substitute can only imagine the distraction and suspicion aroused as to why he would wear something like that to school.

When interviewed, teachers in Huntington High School explained that their daily outfit choices are reflections of both their moods and the weather. Mrs. Colica, for example, likes wearing dress pants with a sweater or something comfortable. She loves flats but wears heels to give off a more professional air. Mr. Crugnale also dresses with comfort in mind. He loves to wear jeans or khakis with a dress shirt and a blazer, which he feels gives off a more comfortable atmosphere in his classroom.

Both teachers and students must abide by the same dress code but perhaps the teachers have to take even more care with their choice of dress each day. If teachers were to wear outfits to school that showed too much skin or seemed inappropriate, it would send a poor message to the entire school and the community.

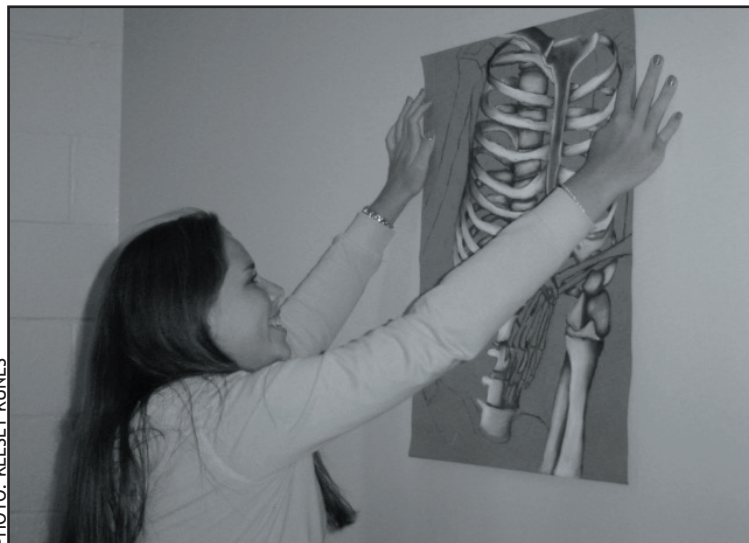


PHOTO: KELSEY KUNES

Student art will plaster the walls of the art gallery when completed.

Creative Renovations

Gallery in cafeteria shows local art

by EMILY MORTENSEN
AND EMIKA WADA

As most students are aware of by now, a community room has been created to occupy two-thirds of the old stage in Cafeteria A. One may wonder what is happening with the remaining one-third. A creative embellishment was proposed by Ms. Haacke and Mrs. Worth, two of Huntington High School's art teachers, to use the leftover space as an art gallery. This gallery would include any type of artwork made by students. The gallery would also host artwork created by art interns and possibly even artists from the community.

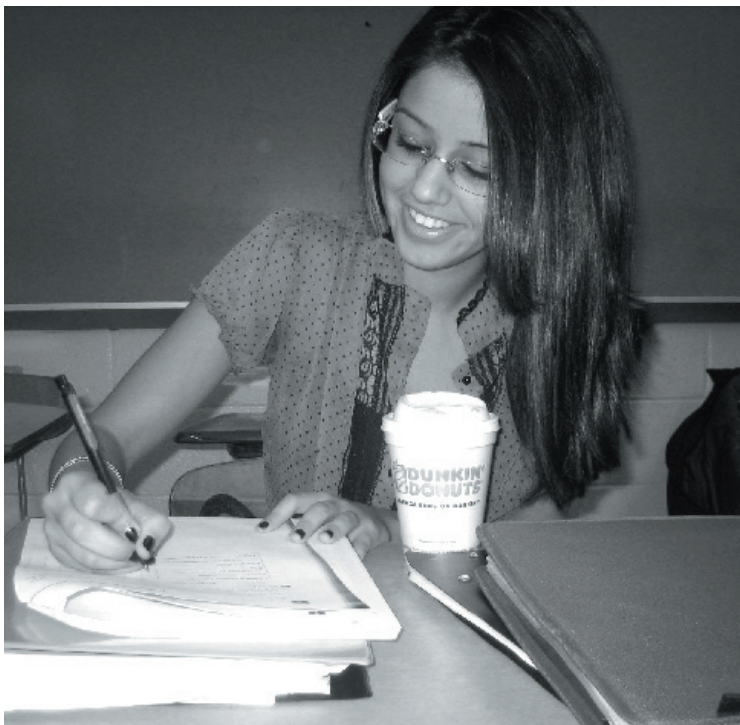
According to Ms. Haacke, if a student wants a piece of his artwork to be displayed, he must write out a proposal addressing why he wants it displayed. That proposal is given to Jessica Kott, a senior and curator of the gallery, so she can make a decision on whether or not to display the piece. The pieces that are chosen will most likely be displayed for two weeks to a month, depending

on how long Ms. Haacke, Mrs. Worth, or Kott choose to display them. Another idea projected for the future would be small receptions with refreshments that would celebrate the new artwork displayed.

The outside construction and parts of the interior of the gallery have been completed. However, there is a lot of preparation that still needs to be done before anything can be displayed. The first project that needs to be completed is the sheetrock that will cover the two concrete walls in the room. Because each wall will be made of sheetrock, hanging up artwork is relatively easy. The only damage being done is a small hole left behind from a nail or a hook. In addition to this, a wall hanging system is being considered. It would consist of a molding that would run around the ceiling of the room and track lighting.

"All of these projects are going to be supported by a grant given to [the Arts Department] by the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education (HFEE) so we won't have to worry too much on the funding," said Ms. Haacke.

Ahead of schedule



■ Monica Thalla is preparing to graduate high school this June, even though she is only a Junior.

by TIMOTHY O'GRADY

During our scholastic careers it has always seemed like graduating would be a methodical procedure. However, there are ways for highly motivated students to arrange their schedules so that they can meet the credits necessary for graduation before their senior year.

Fast-tracking to get a diploma is not for everyone. Huntington High School junior Monica Thalla has altered her schedule so she can do just that this year. "It takes extreme and utter dedication," Thalla said.

Many times, students without specific goals attempt to graduate early as a way to escape the tedium of high school. Sometimes these students decide that going directly into college or into a job would benefit them more than staying in school. Guidance Counselor Catherine Croke discourages this and claims that

missing out on your senior year could be deleterious.

"Most students go into college before they are economically, socially and academically prepared," Mrs. Croke said.

Despite criticism, ambitious students with clear paths could benefit by getting a year ahead of their colleagues. In many cases, accelerated students who go to schools that do not offer AP classes decide to graduate early. This allows them to take college classes instead of electives that would not be as challenging. Others earn the necessary credits early for financial reasons.

"Once we had a student who graduated in 11th grade so that she could work full time in order to pay for her college tuition," said Mrs. Croke.

Thalla is graduating to get a head start on a long academic career. Monica always knew that she wanted to become a pediatrician and figured that graduating this year would bring her closer

to her dream. She was able to accomplish this due to the fact that she was on the "accelerated track" of the science and math programs, which enabled her to receive high school credits in eighth grade.

This year Monica has to "double up" on Social Studies and English classes since New York State requires four credits of each subject to receive a diploma. To receive the four mandatory Social Studies credits, she is taking AP Economics and AP American Government, in addition to AP US History. To fulfill the necessary English credits she is taking Honors English 11 and AP English at the same time.

Obviously, Monica has hardly anytime to relax.

"Sometimes it feels like it [the work load] is too much to handle and you want to give up" she admitted. "But I have my mom there to support me when I'm on the edge of a breakdown."

Despite the fact that Huntington High School is supportive of Monica's decision, the school is very selective when it comes to approving early graduation. According to Huntington High School's official "Early Graduation Policy," there are several criteria a student must meet to receive this privilege. These include a letter from the student's guardians discussing the reason for early graduation and approval from several authority figures, like the Principal and Guidance Administrator.

Despite the added classes, pressures, and extra hours of study, a student's decision to graduate early could be beneficial to her future. Determined by the student's intended plan of action, many high schools, including Huntington, allow select students to receive the special privilege of early graduation.

GIFT GUIDE 2006:

Don't know what to buy?
We have all the answers.

by ELEN DEOLIVEIRA AND JULIANNE CRITELLI

As the holidays approach, everyone is faced with the dilemma of choosing gifts for friends and family. Undoubtedly, the most difficult decision lies in choosing gifts for the opposite sex. Below, there are some tips and suggestions that will help in your search for the "perfect gift."

Suggestions for Girls:

- ◆ Chocolates/ stuffed animals
- ◆ Jewelry

Tips:

- As far as jewelry goes, this is a gift better suited for those in a relationship that are willing to spend more money. When buying the jewelry it is best to keep it simple. A silver necklace or bracelet with a heart or something similar is good enough. Rings tend to imply something more serious, so this would be for someone who you know is "the one."
- For those of you who are in a less serious relationship or are in the beginning stages of one, you might be looking for something less expensive, but equally meaningful. Items such as chocolates and/or teddy bears are just as romantic without the high cost.
- Something from Build-a Bear workshop that you take the time and effort to make on your own is something that would definitely score points with girls.
- If you really know the person, you can take the gifts a step further and give them things that you know for a fact they would love to have. For example, girls interested in music might love to have a specific CD or concert tickets (make sure to get two tickets, which leaves the option of you being included).



Suggestions for Boys:

- ◆ boxers
- ◆ video games
- ◆ humor gifts

Tips:

- Boxers are a perfect gift because they are inexpensive but can still be personal. There are so many options and patterns that can be chosen from for all kinds of occasions. Also, boxers can be bought over and over; guys can always use another pair.
- Let's face it. All guys like video games. Whether they enjoy sports, action, or car games, there are choices galore. For the girls who have no interest or knowledge of video games, this may seem like a hard choice, but any employee at a video game store would be glad to help (but to be safe, just go with something popular and recent).
- For guys that may be just friends or for those little gifts that are complementing a bigger one, funny books, t-shirts, or movies are always a good idea. The same can be applied to girls when appropriate. Also, as with girls, tickets to sports games or concerts are just as appreciated.

Pizza connoisseurs seek the best

by TIM CRAWLEY AND
CHRIS AMBROSIO

It was a dark and stormy night. We were cold, tired and hungry, but on a mission, one with the possibility to alter the course of history. This is the story of two seniors who love to go out and enjoy great food. In this episode, we will analyze some of the hot spot pizza parlors in Huntington Village.

Rosa's: Probably one of the best known and most popular pizza places in town, this classic pizzeria was great.

Food- Very good selections with many variations. Pizza itself had very nice crust, along with thick and succulent body. Pizza was served at perfect temperature, and when it was eaten, it formed a great bond between the pizza and our mouths.

Service- Great bunch of true Italian guys working here. Their eyes are on the prize at all times.

Speedy service is always a plus.

Atmosphere- One of largest dining area of all of Huntington's pizzerias. Stretches as far as the eye can see. Very clean, well kept area with great location. Makes you feel like you're back home in an Italian kitchen; or if you're not Italian, it has marble everywhere, pictures of food on the walls and smells delicious.

Overall- We felt like we were sent an invitation to the Rosa's pizza party and were welcomed with open arms.

Rating- 4 ½ Pizza Slices

Junior's: Clear cut worst of the bunch. A very big disappointment, seeing as how the original Junior's in Halesite is not that bad.

Food- Had we not put garlic and oregano onto the "pizza," and if we had eaten it blindfolded, we would have thought we were eating warm, wet cardboard. The consistency was very doughy, as if it wasn't cooked enough. We felt

like Tyrannosaurs Rexes gnawing on the heads of our prey.

Service- The priciest and the slowest. It felt like it was run by a horde of greedy sloth-men.

Atmosphere- It was so cramped we felt like we were in

“ If Zeus threw sauce instead of lightning bolts, it would be on this pizza. ”

a prison cell. It would be difficult to zone out the digestive sounds of the person next to you, let alone their conversations.

Overall- Oh well, they tried.

Rating- 1 Pizza Slice

Little Vincent's: The only thing little about this pizzeria is the pizza, everything else was big

time dy-no-mite.

Food- Packs a powerful punch. There was a choir of angels singing to the artist that made this pizza. If Zeus threw sauce instead of lightning bolts, it would be on this pizza.

Service- Good pricing; The cheapest so far on this expedition. If Speedy Gonzalez was in the pizza business, he would work at Little Vincent's. It was that fast.

Atmosphere- Great way to impress your lady friend on a hot date, with fresh flowers on every table.

Overall- There was great pizza, speedy service, a little small on the serving size however. There was a void in our hearts that we thought Little Vincent could fill, but his little slices proved inadequate.

Rating- 3 ½ Pizza Slices

Stevie's: What a find. Possibly the best pizza place in town, nestled in the midst of a construction site, a larger Italian restaurant,



and multiple nail parlors.

Food- The Holy Grail of local pizzerias. They have sesame seed crusts, which are the equivalent in the pizza world to Minotours in the real world (not very common).

Service- Very quiet, yet very personal; the library of pizzerias, if we may.

Atmosphere- Very open shop, with movies playing for our enjoyment. It just made us happy. It was like sitting on rocking chairs made of rainbows on a porch of delilahs.

Overall- Talk about saving the best for last. The ultimate sleeper of Huntington pizzerias. Stevie's is to pizza what bears are to tree-hugging hippie hikes, making it worthwhile.

Rating- 5 Pizza Slices

Model UN Club to promote global awareness

by LAURA DABROWSKI AND
MADELEINE JENSEN

With more than 35 organizations at Huntington High School, junior Shannon Connors has created a club that will appeal to students interested in world affairs and in the dynamics of debate. Working with an outstanding board of faculty members,

Connors has established a Model United Nations (MUN) Club, something that has long been absent from the roster of Huntington High School clubs. As part of this international organization, Huntington High School members will be able to participate in conferences where world issues will be discussed and debated. “It offers a wonder-

ful opportunity for students to explore and examine countries that students might not necessarily seek out or find in their everyday studies,” said Mr. Bisogno, an advisor for Model UN. This year the Model UN Club aims to attend an official conference in hopes of becoming better prepared to enter a larger forum in future years. At these meetings, each school represents a country that they have researched in a formal debate centered on international topics. In addition to planning for this event, fundraising will be essential to the success of the group in the 2006-2007 school year due to the fact that it is not yet supported by the school budget. Recently the group at Huntington High School has been considering partaking in the UNA-USA Conference in May. Held in New York City at the United Nations and Hyatt Hotel, this meeting will primarily include schools from New York state and the tri-state area. Stu-

dents involved will participate in both formal and informal debates, as well as create proposals to be discussed collectively at both the general assembly and the regional forums. There will also be an opening ceremony at the United Nations and a guided tour of the building, in addition to a dance for all of the delegates. In order to take part in this conference, the club will most likely split into committees, such as an economic group, to research certain aspects of the nation it is given. These committees will then submit proposals based on their focus topic. “Model UN fosters two really



GRAPHIC: JSJU.EDU

important life skills, communication and compromise,” said Connors, who is eager to make students more aware of global concerns.

- Model UN- Tuesdays at 2:30 in room 211.
- Advisors: Mr. Bisogno, Mrs. Haskins, Mr. Graber, Mr. Leavy, and Ms. Tedeschi

WORD ON THE STREET

Do you think that the alcohol assemblies were effective and will influence students’ decisions to drink? Why or why not?.



Alex Mayen - Senior

“Nope- I don’t think there is anything you can do about it.”



Catherine Tacopina- Freshman

“No because this isn’t a stupid high school sitcom where some inspiring leader or teacher will say something and for some ridiculous, unrealistic reason the kids will stop...kids aren’t going to change their minds.”



Joselin Rodriguez - Freshman

“No, because it was a brief assembly and I didn’t learn anything new. All the people said was that too much alcohol can harm you. Wow, like I didn’t know that.”



Deidre Fleming- Senior

“I don’t think they were 100% effective...but it’s a step in the right direction. It’s good that administrators and adults care about us and that they are trying.”



Jake Fleisig - Freshman

“The assembly had some meaning, but what they told us was nothing we haven’t heard before.”

PHOTOS: TOM LEE

The opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Dispatch’s staff, nor the HUFSD School Board or any affiliated. Additional Notes: 95.4% of the students who responded to this question said that the assemblies were not effective.

Being funny for money

by LIORE KLEIN

One of the primary things on students’ minds is money, and how to go about getting it. Those not fortunate enough to get regular allowances from their parents often have to suffer through mind-numbingly boring jobs that have decent pay, but are not the least bit fulfilling. However, there is always an exception to the rule. Cody McCann, a senior at HHS, is one of the lucky few who managed to find a great job that is actually enjoyable. Since last summer, McCann has worked as a member of the comedic writing staff of Plan Z Media, a film production company that specializes in animation. He first heard about the job from a former student, who told him about the position and helped him get hired. As someone planning to make a career in visual arts, this seemed like the perfect

fit for McCann. “The one major drawback is the commute! The studio is in Kew Gardens [Queens]. That’s an hour train ride, costing \$10 each way,” McCann said. When school started, another issue arose—how to balance school and work. As the year has progressed, McCann admits that trying to keep up with all of his assignments as well as his job is “getting difficult.” In spite of the initial setbacks, McCann seems to be very happy with his job. “I love the fact that it’s considered a ‘white collar’ position, where I am a valuable worker because of [my] talent and creativity. [It is] much better than my first job, where I basically moved heavy objects all day.” In addition, working with skilled people in his desired field has given him valuable experience as well as a foundation that will make him a great asset to



PHOTO: AIMEE LILLIENSTEIN

■ Cody McCann writes comedy for Plan Z Media in Queens. whatever college or university he attends next fall. When asked if he had any tips for job-seeking students, McCann advised them to “take advantage of any opportunities [they] may come across and they will find a job worth the effort they put into it.”

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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for the 1100 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 2006-2007 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 to dispatchcopy@gmail.com or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox in the main office.

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

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

No More 'No Pass Days'



"But I have to pee!" yelled one student in disgust after her teacher told her she could not go to the bathroom. Why? Because it was a no pass day.

No pass days present an unwarranted nuisance for both students and teachers. Students are prevented from having any sort of routine to their day and teachers must deal with edgy students. These days have no concrete purpose and penalize those who are looking to do no wrong anyway. Having a no pass day on the day before vacation could even promote rowdy behavior, as some students could feel the desire to rebel and go against a rule they feel is needless.

On no pass days, bathrooms are locked so that students are unable to access them. The notion of a bathroom being locked is ludicrous. To go to the bathroom, a student must be escorted by a security guard. Students are treated like prisoners, having to find a security guard to bring them to the bathroom. This is not third grade. Students should be able to take a pass and go to the bathroom without a hassle. If you have to go, you have to go. Making something as simple as going to the bathroom such as a project is an unnecessary aggravation for all parties.

The whole purpose of no pass days is flawed. While the idea of keeping people out of the hallways is good in

concept, it does not really work. The "nomads" who roam the hallway are not going to be deterred by a no pass day. They will still be in the hallways, while the innocent kids who have somewhere to go can not do so because passes are not given out.

"The whole purpose of no pass days is flawed."

No pass days make it extremely difficult for a student to function in a normal manner. A student can not stay after class to finish a test because a teacher would be unable to give them a pass. A teacher could give the student a pass but it would be akin to trying to bail someone out of jail with Monopoly money. Thus, it is difficult for a teacher to give tests on no pass days, knowing that a student who may need an extra minute or two will not have that leeway.

On these days, it can be almost impossible for students in a study hall to accomplish any sort of work, as passes are not given to the library or college office. A student must stay in a study hall, which is probably even more chaotic than usual due to the increased amount of people. This is not a conducive atmosphere for doing homework or college applications. It is also an added burden to teachers who must now keep a full

study hall in control.

All of these factors not only make it difficult for students, but demean the whole purpose of no pass days. Teachers and students have to go to extra lengths to do ordinary things and these days become a waste. Students are more stressed because they can not go to the bathroom or accomplish work as they usually would and teachers must accommodate their frustrated students.

A better solution to no pass days would be to have hall sweeps each period on days before vacations. It would achieve the same goals as a no pass day without penalizing people who just want to carry on their school day as they typically would. More hall sweeps make more sense than no pass days and do not require much more effort. Security guards would no longer have to spend the day escorting students who are not looking for trouble to the bathroom. Instead, the students who are causing trouble would be caught up in the hall sweeps. Thus, the goal of no pass days, which is to eliminate chaos in the halls before holidays, would finally be achieved.

No pass days have never made sense and still do not. They cause unnecessary burdens for students and create a sense of abnormality in the atmosphere. While no pass days may save paper, they are good for little else.

Letter to the Editor

Slang can turn innocent words into offensive terms, and many people are oblivious to their ignorant use of our language. I joined the Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA) knowing there was a lot out there that needed correcting. Not just gay marriage or human rights, because there are simpler, basic things that need to be assessed. From where I'm standing, right now it's the perception of the gay community itself that needs to be addressed. Being gay is considered something deviant by many people in my school. The faculty as well as the students. It's common for people to call someone or some-

“It's common for people to call someone or something 'gay.' It's supposed to be funny, but it's not.”

thing "gay." It's supposed to be funny, but it's not. It's not even the issue that

someone might be offended, that's not what I'm talking about. How did "gay" go from "happy" to "homosexual" to anything the speaker does not like? You can use the word gay as you could any other word. You could refer to someone as a "banana" with a specific inflection and it's an insult. Using a word that defines an individual or a community as a negative term is accepted, and that is what is wrong. To correct this is why I joined the GSA.

- Submitted by Leah Teplin

Note to readers: The Dispatch welcomes letters to the editor. Letters can be responses to articles or other letters. Please e-mail all to Dispatchcopy@gmail.com and make your voice heard.

Students are unaware of today's issues that will affect their futures

Thus it is our responsibility to take action! All we need to do is get



Teenagers may have fun while drinking but when a friend is sent to the hospital or dies in a car accident, then the fun ends. Therefore, society must make a greater effort to enforce the laws against underage drinking. If this is not done, then the amount of consumption and deaths as a result of alcohol will continue to rise, and the cause of it will not be too hard to find.

80's are back in style

Spandex, knee-highs are year's hottest look

by RACHEL HAMMEL

The over the top decade of the eighties was famous for its oversized sweaters, loud spandex, big hair, and silly power suits. Who would ever suggest a comeback for such heinous looking garb? Surprise, the eighties are back! This year's fall and winter fashions bring back so many of the classic eighties trends that most believed would never resurface on the runway.

Although many of this season's trends are largely based on eighties fashion, things will never be quite the same. The new millennium has added more class to generally obnoxious and unflattering outfits.

Something that works great for every body type this season is knee high boots with heels. Whether brown or black, just make sure the heel isn't too chunky because this flaw may cause one's leg to look

■ *Maya Bluestone and Dana Macaluso know that the 80s are back and better than ever.*

thicker than it really is. Ladies, remember the cardinal rule of heels: never buy anything too high for you to walk in, or else you will look like a little girl parading around in her mommy's shoes.

Even though spandex is back, have no fear! Spandex looks great, as long as one does not wear bright colors. They add pounds and draw attention to body parts such as the thighs and hips. If you really want some color to spice up

your spandex wardrobe, go for muted tones of olive, brown, or burgundy. When wearing leggings, pair them with a long, fitted sweater. It is vital that the sweater covers one's derriere; otherwise the look becomes distasteful and unbecoming. Add some cute ballet flats or slip-ons, and you've got this season's hottest look.

Remember when you told your mom that straight legs looked lame? Well, you can eat your words now because the flair is out. Be careful though: skinny jeans do not flatter all body types, as they slim the lower part of the leg and emphasize one's thighs and behind. Skinny jeans should skim just below the naval. Sorry, girls, low rise jeans do not cut it this year. Short ankle boots, flats, or knee highs complete the outfit.

Thank goodness, the mini-skirt is dead! Pencil skirts that come just above the knee and hug a girl's curves make every

see FASHION on page 9



PHOTO: AMEE LILLIENSTEIN

Fashion Mania: What we can all learn from Fashion Week 2006



by JIORDAN CASTLE

Olympus Fashion Week was held in New York from September 8th to 15th. Bryant Park was converted to a temporary fashion arena with tents. Individual venues can be as large as 12,000 square feet and come complete with runway, seating, backstage areas, lighting and sound.

This highly publicized event hosts a season's worth of couture in just eight days, and 26 shows. The event itself is not very long, but the repercussions are not to be believed.

New York Magazine, a veritable account of Fashion Week, boasted Vena Cava and Brian Reyes as favorite shows. Reyes was a rarity, citing olive as this season's color, while Vena Cava's show offered a modern twist on a twenties garden party; models lounged at makeshift picnics and grassy knolls. In contrast to more favorable shows, Luella Bartley's show was poorly received. It ran late and was clumsily arranged; music was a mess of eighties hits and the clothes were a bore.

Phillip Lim proved to be the

Above: Zac Posen and Diddy together at fashion week.

most dangerous show, packing hoards of drunken socialites into a dimly lit room with open flames.

Zac Posen's show, one of the most anticipated of the season, was met with praise. Sean "Diddy" Combs, a financial backer of Posen, was first to give him a standing ovation. While tactless, this maneuver did manage to get the entire first row on their feet.

In keeping with outrageous shows and modeling, seven themes were noted: I Love the 80s, Japonisme, Couture Construction, and Showgirl Style, Going to Extremes, Space Exploration, and Ethereal Elegance. For designers never straying far from the eighties, this season's looks were less Madonna and more Azzedine Alaia: rich gals lying out by the pool.

Designers like Ralph Lauren, Phillip Lim, BCBG, and Narciso Rodriguez chose whites and metallics for this season's coloration. Behnaz Sarafpour, who is about to become far more well-known with her new Target Go International collection, chose a different route – designs inspired by Charles and Ray Eames, making use of graphic prints and a largely mod styling.

The time for tight skirts and tops, alongside wide-brimmed hats and large accessories, has come. As New York Magazine so lovingly spouts, "The decade of decadence marches on." Huntington High School females (and the token males) may be comforted in knowing that classy is back and better than ever.

PHOTO: CHANNELS.ISP.NETSCAPE.COM

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ENTERTAINMENT

What's new with #2?

'Jackass' sequel better than original

by MAX SENDER

Mel Brooks once said, "Tragedy is if I cut my finger. Comedy is if you fall in a hole and die." That pretty much sums up the point behind "Jackass Number Two."

The follow-up to the controversial 2002 "Jackass the Movie," features a cast of regulars. They include actor Johnny Knoxville and a crew of former skateboarders and other daredevils like Bam Margera, Steve-O, Chris Pontius Ryan Dunn, Dave England and

feel that the pure comedy was better than the physical, often painful comedy displayed throughout the movie. However, it was possibly the most I have ever laughed in a the span of one hour and forty-five minutes.

As the movie ended, the exiting crowd reminisced about their favorite parts of the movie. Some included Knoxville being launched by a 10-foot rocket 50 to 60 yards before splashing into a lake. Another fan favorite included Dave England, trying to pull a fake terrorist attack inside a

taxicab, but the joke was on him when the cab driver had been pre-informed by the cast about the stunt without England's knowledge. When the cab driver pulled out a fake gun and locked Dave England in the trunk as part of the scene, the laughter in the theater reached an all-time high as England screamed like a toddler.

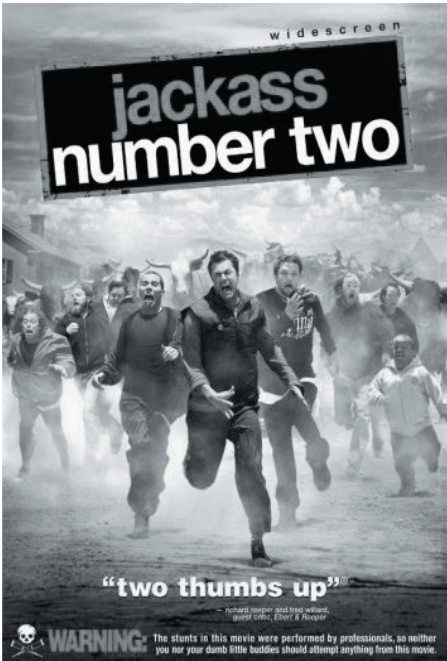
Another favorite scene was when Ryan Dunn was placed inside of a shopping cart in a human sling-shot,

and shot ten feet into a garage door, which caused Dunn to fall down writhing in pain.

This movie is considerably better than the first one. The first movie just a merging of every episode that had been shown on television, while the sequel's stunts were completely original.

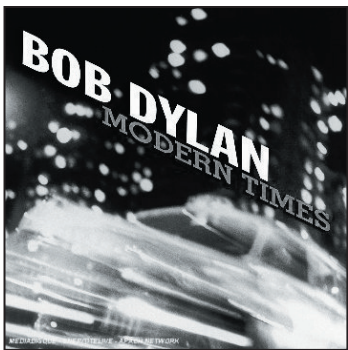
The downside to this movie is that it is rated R, so those under 17 may have to share some of the crude humor with their parents. Still, this shouldn't be a problem since this is a movie too funny to not enjoy. Prepare yourself for a sore face by the end, due to excessive laughter!

As for the movie, some



GRAPHIC: AMAZON.COM

Legendary Dylan makes comeback



GRAPHIC: WWW.ALLMUSIC.COM

ALBUM: *Modern Times*

ARTIST: Bob Dylan

by IAN GOLDSTEIN

Sometimes after an artist has been around for many years, his writing starts to decline because he no longer has much to say and forgets to write from the heart.

This is what has happened to Bob Dylan the past two decades. Dylan was one of the biggest artists of the 1960s and 70s and de-

fined his generation. Although his last two albums were very well received, his writing was not up to his previous standards. Dylan released many influential albums in his early years, and finally has made yet another great one.

His new album, "Modern Times" goes back to his former days when he talked about the typical American man. He mixes a different type of jazz with his early sixties folk and the result is an amazingly well-crafted and original album.

The album starts off with "Thunder on The Mountain," a fast paced country song. Dylan shows his jazzier side with "Spirit On The Water." He then transitions to a nice slow paced folk song, "Workingman's Blues # 2."

Dylan shies away from his typical rock and uses folk and jazz to express his lyrics. If you

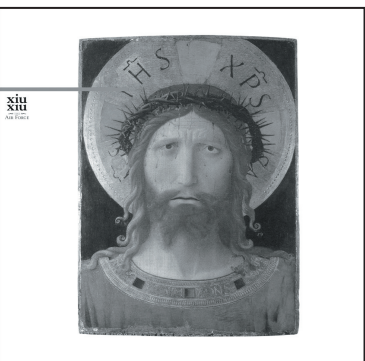
like Dylan's early folk songs like "The Times They Are A Changing" and "Blowing In The Wind," this is definite buy. Even if you don't like the melodies in the songs, Dylan's lyrics are always something to listen to. The only problem with the album is the repetition of a few melodies in some songs, but otherwise this is vintage Dylan.

If you have seen the ipod commercial of him singing "Someday Baby" then you have gotten a taste of what the album sounds like. This album is a reminder of the early Dylan and where he started out as a musician.

"Modern Times" is definitely one of Dylan's best and most spiritual albums. It is an album his fans having been waiting 30 years for.

★★★★★

Xiu Xiu creates cornucopia of sound



GRAPHIC: WWW.ALLMUSIC.COM

ALBUM: *The Air Force*

ARTIST: Xiu Xiu

by KATHERINE BEAVERS

Xiu Xiu's highly anticipated fifth album has surpassed expectations. Xiu Xiu (pronounced

shoo-shoo) was created in 2000 by Jamie Stewart, Xiu Xiu's only permanent member. Stewart is currently working with Caralee McElroy and Ches Smith.

This band is extremely difficult to label. They incorporate many different sounds and genres including rock, punk, folk, experimental, and modern classical.

"The Air Force" is much more user-friendly than some of their earlier releases. Lyrically, the content is morose and thick with metaphor. "The Air Force" is no exception, however there are several lighter tunes. Though often dark and bizarre, their lyrics are intensely beautiful.

"The Air Force" begins

with a soft piano played by Greg Saunier, who also produced the album. The listener is led into a hook driven "Bishop C.A" and instrumental koto. The darker side of the CD follows soon after, dealing with death, love and one's perception of both. Stewart takes a break from fury and rage driven metaphor in "Buzz Saw," where he explores much finer, potent detail. "The Air Force" finishes off with a narrative by Stewart and his pitch-swinging vocals.

"The Air Force" is absolutely brilliant. Expect the unexpected with this band. They will inexorably surprise you.

★★★★★

A 'Kick, Push' into the spotlight



GRAPHIC: WWW.ALLMUSIC.COM

ALBUM: *Food and Liquor*

ARTIST: Lupe Fiasco

by NATHAN OBEY

Muslim hip hop artist Wassalu Muhammad has exploded onto the pop and hip hop scene.

To fans of hip hop, however, he is known as Lupe Fiasco. He first made a splash in Kanye

West's huge hit single, "Touch the Sky." In the fall of 2006, Fiasco released his first album "Food and Liquor." This album reflects Lupe's Muslim background and growing up on the streets of Chicago.

When listening to "Food and Liquor," you may be reminded of established artists Kanye West or Pharrell. This is because many of the tracks were produced/written by Kanye and the Neptunes. The ninth track, "Daydreamin," samples a piece of a song called "Daydream in Blue" which brings a retro melodic feel to the song. This carries through with track four, "Kick, Push", and track five, "I Gotcha." The album contains a rich contrast of sounds, which gives it depth. The cover features

Lupe with a trippy background, containing floating electronics, books, and items of personal significance. While cycling through the booklet there are pictures of children carrying weapons in elementary school, along with gang bangers and drug dealers. This is his representation of how difficult it was being a child in Chicago in the midst of this lifestyle every day. Despite the dark message, many of his beats have a happy sound to them, and his lyrics speak of how everything might just work out. Overall, Lupe Fiasco's freshman album is a success and should mark the beginning of a prominent hip hop career.

★★★★★

Fashion for the masses

FASHION from page 8

body type look fabulous and chic. Just make sure that when wearing a skirt you do not have bare legs, for it is a big no-no this

year. Every girl should own a durable pair of hose or tights to wear with their skirts.

Admit it; you always knew the power suit had a certain flare to it. Thankfully, this generation can wear sleek, stylish skirt suits minus the masculine shoulder pads and unfitted blazer tops. This year's suit look is more fitted and feminine than its intimidating eighties counterpart. A thick belt worn around the waist (not the hip!) is

a must have accessory for this outfit.

Tight vests are also a necessary part of one's wardrobe this fall. Whether it is jean, corduroy, or cotton, a vest layered with a man-tailored shirt underneath instantly dresses up an outfit without compromising one's comfort.

On a final note, straight hair is out! Big, curly waves are back and a little volume never hurt anyone. This doesn't give

you the right to tease your hair within an inch of its life, but pin straight hair just doesn't make the grade.

In fashion, we must remember that everything comes full circle; even the dreaded eighties. Find which trend works for you and your body type. Have fun with fashion and take chances; a little originality never hurt anyone. Most importantly, keep this in mind: you are what you wear.

Dating 101: Top ten tips

by TIM CRAWLEY

Hello potential ladies man; I am sure you have been wondering the ten best ways to court a young lady at Huntington High School?

1) Get her instant messenger name/ Myspace site and message her frequently. If she doesn't engage in conversation, don't get your hopes down. Try having the conversation by yourself for a while until she says something.

2) Always have an interesting conversation topic ready. For example: Charles Manson, which is the best *Star Wars*, how to pickle a cucumber, etc.

3) If at any point in the conversation you feel like you're being annoying, make sure to ask her repeatedly if you are. This will show her you're capable of change and that you care. Try to ask about once every 60 seconds.

4) Avoid bathing, shaving, deodorizing, and any other form of grooming. Women like a man in touch with his natural side. If your own body odor is offensive even to you, that's when nature will take its course and women will be drawn to your musk.

5) Compliment her every chance you get. The bare minimum amount of compli-

ments she should receive is about four per minute. This gives you enough time to say about 16 different things about how great she looks/ how nice she smiles/ the power behind her forehead slap in the time it takes to walk her from class to class.

6) Speaking of walking from class to class, make sure you and her have all the same classes together. If you can't get your schedules aligned, at the very least you absolutely MUST be waiting outside her classroom to escort her. This is sort of like a dog peeing on a hydrant; it's how you mark your territory.

7) Assume you have the same tastes in music and movies. Constantly burn her CDs you think she'll dig and always recommend a movie. Naturally, she will investigate every film you recommend, so make sure to have a new one ready every day.

8) Quote *Anchorman: The Legend of Ron Burgundy* and *Napoleon Dynamite* constantly. Chances are she hasn't seen nor heard anything from these movies so try to throw in your favorite line(s) as often as you can. In no time, she'll be in stitches. Trust me, it never gets old.

9) If you know she's going out somewhere, "accidentally" run into her. Do it ten more times and she'll know it's fate.

10) Have you ever heard the myth



Tim "accidentally" runs into Reisa Berg and Morgan Hughes at the College Center.

that girls love men with confidence? Well, that is false. Women actually love men who they can pity. You should try to make her feel sorry for you as often as possible through constant self-loathing and by always saying that no girl will ever like you "like that."

Three Pitfalls to Avoid

1) Having classic good looks. There's nothing girls hate more than chiseled abs,

a well-groomed face and a good sense of fashion.

2) Being devoted only to her. If you catch a fish in the lake, is the lake forever off-limits? No! Try and catch as many fish as possible and sell them for a profit.

3) Asking her to prom in creative and romantic ways; Snoozefest '07. Everything has been done before, so just ask her on the phone. You'll be cooler than Matthew McConaughey in "Dazed and Confused."

Adventures of senior lunch: Taco Bell is closed, so tandem seeks alternatives

by TOM LEE AND
STEPHANIE SMOLLER

Where do we go? We certainly don't know. It is 9:48AM. Even Blimpie isn't open this early. But come on, seriously, what are two lonely seniors plopped into "SEN LUNCH" to do? Well, desperate times calls for desperate measures. We've spent most of our time entertaining ourselves, so we figured we'd entertain you

nice people, and let you in on some very random, yet important findings.

1) Bay Deli is "played out." Period. End of story. That's it. It's final. Porco's has indeed taken over, at least in our minds and mouths, as the dominant delicatessen on the block.

2) Burger King "Hash Browns" are delicious as a morning snack. The only bad thing is that they are loaded with unwanted

carbs and saturated fats. Now, do we need to tell you where those hash browns go? Yes, the love handles.

*For added entertainment, the jungle gym playground in Burger King is a great way to let off steam while wearing no shoes.

3) Napping is always a viable option. Power naps puts pep in your step without that awfully terrible morning grogginess.

4) 9:45-10:30 (or 10:39 if we are lucky enough to have a COMMUNITY PERIOD!) is the most awkward time of day for purchasing food items. If you walk into a food service establishment looking for breakfast, you look like a lazy person who couldn't get their rear out of bed. But, if you enter a food service establishment looking for lunch, you are jumping the gun. Gun jumpers are frowned upon by society.

5) It adds great humor to our morning when we decide to go to Dunkin' Donuts (DD's) and get there before the Cold Spring Harbor kids. They are relegated

to the back of the line. If it were the Amazing Race to Dunkin' Donuts, we would win everytime.

6) Last but certainly not least, we feel dejected, rejected, humiliated, embarrassed, and flat out disappointed because Taco Bell is not open. Therefore, we are shut out of Taco Bell Friday. We feel as though we are missing out on a crucial piece of our senior year all because of those three little letters plastered before our lunch period: "SEN."

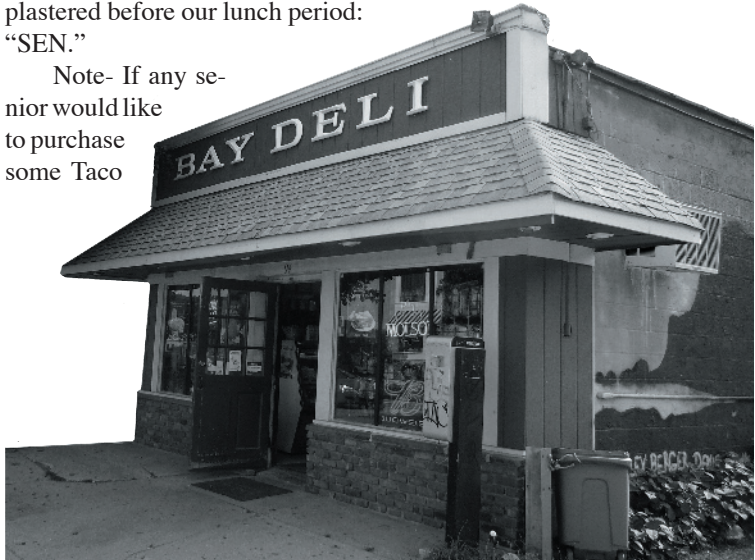
Note- If any senior would like to purchase some Taco

Bell for us this Friday, Tom would greatly appreciate a Cheesy Gordita Crunch, with some hot tamales and relish. Stephanie would die for a Chalupa with some refried beans.

If you would like to join our senior lunch experience, contact your local guidance counselor, today! We are filling up fast and spots are limited. We already have four people in total!



Tom Lee examines a suspicious clump of hair during senior lunch.



Much like Green Day, the Bay Deli has been "played out."

New iTunes 7 good for Apple, bad for consumers

by CHRIS KOUTTRON

The iTunes store might as well start another music and media revolution, by bringing the power of iPods and computers together into a media based living room. Apples release of iTunes 7, will bring media and DVD quality movies into ones home via the Internet. Dubbed as iTV, iTunes 7 is intended to stream standard and "high definition" content from computers and iPods to ones television set. This is possible due to Apples extensive overhaul to the iTunes website. Apple in-



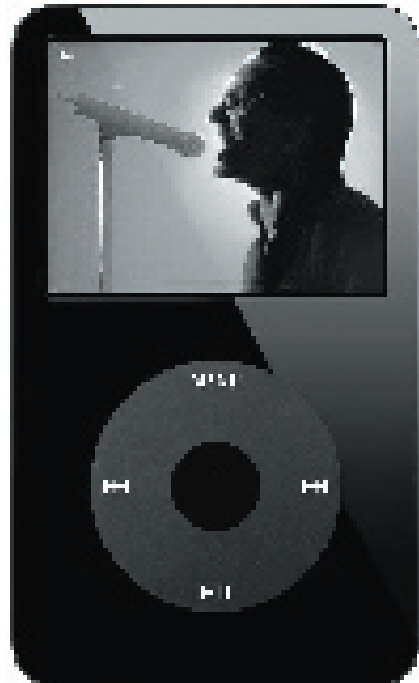
creased the reliability of the software, and added new capabilities, including more file compatibilities and a feature films utility under the movies link.

However, do not rejoice over movie downloads, because they start at \$9.99 apiece. That's not all; the movies cannot be played on the previous video iPod because Apple came up short in the engineering of them. The previous video iPod had a very low quality screen, with a low pixel contrast ratio and a sluggish graphics processor, and an insufficient battery. To overcome this issue, Apple has released the 5.5G, which can play more than one clip before losing power. Apple is not stupid for doing this because they will make a profit by having everyone with a video iPod upgrade to a

video iPod 5.5G to watch movies.

iTunes goes to the movies, but the consumer suffers with the price of a new video iPod and a limited selection of movies that are not even in high definition format. The nuisance of upgrading will not linger as the demand for movies at the touch of ones finger increases. Soon everyone (except the PC enthusiasts) will be buying new video iPods, fueling and supporting Apples revolution in digitizing the living room.

Your new video iPod may have become obsolete with the release of the new iTunes movie service. Current owners of video iPods will have to upgrade in order to enjoy movies in full quality.



GRAPHIC: IPODTOTAL.COM

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HHS Gym Program Unique

by GREG EVERITT

Your gym class may be very untraditional. Your gym teacher may not ask you to change your clothes for gym. You may not have as much as touched a ball in gym class lately.

If this is true for you, you are probably taking a course called Project Adventure. This course focuses on teamwork and trust exercises, not sports and fitness. All students are required to take Project Adventure for one semester of their freshman year. While the mandatory Project Adventure course does not delve into conditioning, the other semester is devoted to one's own physical fitness.

Huntington High School's gym program also now offers students with a choice in sporting activities. For seniors and juniors, traditional gym class is divided into two categories: team sports and individual sports. This is due to the scheduling of equipment usage. The mountain biking program is unable to run because of a lack of available equipment.

In the realm of different physical fit-

ness courses, the amount has increased. Last year marked the inception of a dance course which students can take to fulfill their physical education credits. Unlike Project Adventure, this course involves rigorous exercise.

"It stretches your muscles, and allows you to become more flexible," junior dance student Sabrina Miles said. The dance course provides a unique opportunity for students to stay fit in a creative way.

Physical Education teacher Mr. Stephen Henry believes that more should be done for student fitness. Although he believes that Project Adventure is useful, he says that no one should rely on it for exercise. "We feel it's more important to stress fitness rather than to just go out playing the games," he said. He also stated that in the future he would like to upgrade the weight room and allow people to use it after school. "I think that if we did that with an upgraded facility it would develop a good relationship and cause positive effects for everybody," he said. The new initiatives and active effort seek to provide students with a solid foundation for fitness in an original manner.

RUNNING from back page

work out in a weight room on "Conditioning Days." The team has run as far as Caumsett State Park during practices.

Winter Track is almost a training season for spring track. The team runs through the high school halls each afternoon during practice, and all meets are indoors.

Last year's meets for the Spring Track team were all away, as the high school track was deemed unsafe to use. Despite this, the team was able to win a league championship. "These boys practiced without a track

and went out on the road for every meet and beat great teams, but nobody heard about it," Coach Walker said.

This ignorance was also noticed by Cotter. "There's a banner in the gym, but no one seems to know it's there."

Overall, the boys' running teams achieve their success through great coaching, hard work and raw talent. Coach Walker claims their performance is solely because of the boys, but the boys think he plays a big part.

"He's a great motivational speaker and knows a lot about running," Cotter said.

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SPORTS

Blue Devil Basketball Preview

Lady Devils stress defense and speed Boys maintain intense gameplay



■ Kerry Hicks
& Kailene Abt

PHOTOS: AARON COHN

by CONNOR KIESEL

Defense and speed are two strengths that this season's girls' basketball squad is predicated upon. "We're one of the quickest teams in Suffolk County," said Coach Brad Reminick.

The team returns a plethora of players from last season's playoff group. Captains Kailene Abt, Morgan Hughes and Casey Scully will be looked upon to provide leadership on a night-to-night basis.

Along with strong play from upper-classmen, Reminick emphasized that the underclassmen must also get involved. Although they are only sophomores, Julie Forster, Kerry Hicks and Maria Marascia are all in their third year on varsity. They began playing with the team in 8th grade and have had time to hone their skills before taking on a greater role this season.

Spectators will not be bored by prod-

ding basketball, as the girls will employ a fast, upbeat style of play.

"This is not a team to walk the ball up the floor," said Coach Reminick.

The team will also rely upon its defensive prowess to win games. Although Reminick is not sure when and where scoring will come from, the team should be able to use their speed to score off of turnovers. After last season's landmark success, with 13 victories and their first playoff berth in a decade, expectations are high. The road to success will not be easy though, as league competition is fierce. Huntington is 0-6 against Eastport in Reminick's three years as a coach, including a playoff loss last season. The squad will have to beat this perennial foe to advance further.

"These girls are looking forward to making the playoffs and taking the next step. Anything less than the playoffs would be tough," said Coach Reminick.



by CONNOR KIESEL

Although the boys' basketball team boasts a new coach, the team's exciting style of play will remain the same.

The quick, fast-paced approach is made possible by the team's athletic group of seniors. Rhamel and Shamel Bratton, Kevin O'Neil, Kashif Clark, and Darriel St. Leger are all extremely athletic, shown by the fact that they all play numerous sports.

The squad of players has new coach, Mike Schmitz, excited to harness their potential. Schmitz comes back to Huntington after 8 years as a coach at Commack. He brings 35 years worth of experience to the Blue Devils.

Although Schmitz is new to the team, he can already see the way his team is going to play.



■ Kevin O'Neil
& Kashif Clark

"We're gonna run, play fast and play super aggressive. Huntington is going to play exciting basketball," said Coach Schmitz.

After making the playoffs last season, the team will be looked at to repeat the feat. To do this, they will have to rebound, defend and play consistent basketball at both ends of the floor.

Winning a league title is an attainable goal but will not be made easy by stiff competition. East Hampton tied with Huntington for the League V title last year and returns an arsenal of strong players. The goal for the team though is to win the League Championship and have a shot at Counties.

"I'm expecting big things from this team and I think we're one of the best teams in Suffolk County," said Coach Schmitz.

Boys' Soccer has season to remember

Despite tough playoff loss, future looks bright



PHOTO: JIM HOOPS

■ The soccer team huddles together during their playoff game against Islip.

by BRIAN TEUBNER

Dedication is a word that comes to mind when you hear about a team making it to the playoffs, and nowhere was this more prevalent than in the case of the boy's soccer team.

"The team was much more disciplined this year; everyone on the team had the same mind set and worked together in order to get the team to the

playoffs," Coach John Pagano said.

Huntington's record this year for the regular season was 8-3-3, which was achieved by the momentum built up early in the season when they realized that they stood a good chance of making the playoffs. At mid-season, the team's record was .500, but they went 5-1 in their next six games, subsequently raising morale. The season's highest and lowest points may

have come during their playoff game with Islip, which they lost in a shoot-out following four overtime periods.

The team captains this year were Peter Palacio, Tyler Balzer, and Matt Scott. Scott said that he believed that he was able to help motivate the team to the playoffs, as well as to help them get there with an impressive five goals total. He also believes that the outlook for next season is very good, and that the team will almost certainly make the playoffs, and possibly counties, next season.

Coach Pagano is also looking forward to next season. He sees the playoff game as a good learning experience for the team, and a great way to attract new players. He was very happy about hosting the playoff game and the large turnout, with many students there to cheer on the team.

Eight of the eleven starters are coming back, so the team will be strong and experienced from the start. This which will establish an early foundation for victory, as the team can build on the success they have already had..

Runners 'can't get no respect'

by MIKE MCCOURT

Through injuries, a lack of runners and despite an unusable track, Blue Devil Boys' running teams have continued to shine throughout this past year. Talent and drive make the Boys' Cross Country, Winter Track and Spring Track Teams a force to be reckoned with.

Coach Dennis Walker named Senior Greg Brunner, Sophomore Brian Cotter and Junior Chris Glaser as captains and the driving force of the Boys' Cross Country Team. Junior Brian Teubner was another leader, but was sidelined by an injury for most of the season. Although the team went 1-6, Coach Walker does not think the record was an accurate representation of the team's ability, and credits them for their hard work. "Had Teubner been running in more meets, we could have finished at 2-5 or 3-4," he says.

Coach Walker's coaching style is very unique; he focuses on different skills in a three day rotation. He'll have the boys run short sprints on "Speed Days," run for as long as 45 minutes at a time on "Distance Days," and



■ Ian Belanger, one of the best sprinters on the team.

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