



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 2, Volume 35

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743



PHOTO: MIKE DIVUOLO

»news in short

National History Day

In March, several HHS students distinguished themselves in the National History Day competition. Five students who went to the Long Island Regional History Day contest will be moving on to the state competition.

Caitlin Etri, Kirsten Freiman, Rebecca Silverman, Colleen Teubner, Jeffrey Bishop, Aliyah Cohen and Mia Rienzo will take their projects to the New York History Day competition.

Poetry from the HART

Seniors Mia Parziale and Jordan Castle were two of 15 winners in a Huntington poetry contest. Their winning pieces will be featured on Huntington Area Rapid Transit (HART) buses that run through the town. Mia's poem is called "Sleep" and Jordan's is called "Terminal." Jordan's poetry is being honored for the second time: she was selected in the HART competition as a freshman as well.

BY CARRIE FANTE

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CLOSED CAMPUS FOR 2010

by JENN SZILAGY

Recent discussion of whether or not senior privileges will be taken away at Huntington High School has caused strong controversy amongst its students and staff, particularly with the Class of 2010.

Because of fatal accidents that continue to occur on Long Island by teen drivers (the most recent of which killed one and injured two students on April 10th in West Hempstead), administrators feel it may be necessary to close the campus completely. This decision has produced varied opinions throughout the building.

"I hope underclassmen can see this initiative for what it truly is, an act out of concern for their safety, not just as an arbitrary revoking of privileges," explains Huntington High School President Megan Doyle. "I know it seems unfair to close campus, especially since going out for lunch is a senior privilege underclassmen can't wait to have, but student safety is the administration's first priority."

Surprisingly to some faculty, many students agree with

GRAPHIC: MIKE MCCOURT



Doyle's statement. "I don't think it would be wise for the school to wait for something tragic to happen before taking action to insure our safety," said one student.

The sophomore class has the most to say about the possible withdrawal of privileges, because their senior year is the one currently threatened. "We need more privileges," states Kirsten Freiman, an active member of the class of 2010. "We might as well close campus now before more kids are injured or killed, but someone has to come up with a good solution." Dayna Reyes, a second associate of the soph-

omore class also expresses her questions, "Shouldn't our parents decide whether or not we are allowed to go out? We need a good compromise; the lunchroom is already crowded as it is."

The biggest concern among upperclassmen is not whether or not they'll be allowed to leave the school campus for lunch, but whether they will gain another privilege in exchange for this one. Most of the other schools on Long Island, including Kings Park

see CLOSED on page 2

HHS Students Give Aid Abroad



PHOTO: LAURA DABROWSKI

■ Senior Laura Dabrowski poses with Steven, a Nicaraguan child.

by DYLAN PAYNE

Many of us have heard about the meetings and fund raising events hosted by the Project Nicaragua club. However, most students know little about this organization. In order to learn more about it, I contacted one of its veteran members, Laura Dabrowski, and asked her to share her experiences with two years of participating in the trip.

Project Nicaragua is a charitable organization founded by *Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish*, which is dedi-

cated to improving the quality of life in the town of Amatitan. Dabrowski, a veteran member, sums up the goal of the club as: "to grant the people of Amatitan with their natural rights and necessities."

Their official website added that they hope to "raise people's awareness of the needs of a third world country." This growing organization now runs up to four trips per year to the needy town of Amatitan in order to transport all of the generous donations and supplies they receive.

The aid brought down

to Nicaragua each trip meets the dire need of the residents, most of whom live in extreme poverty. Monetary donations go directly to the scholarship or house-building programs, which are central to Project Nicaragua.

For as little as \$250, they can sponsor a child's education for one year: this includes tuition, uniforms, and supplies. The housing program selects needy families who are willing to work and provides the means to build a house. With

see PN on page 2

Internet Restrictions Hinder Research

by HENRY BAUGHMAN

Providing America's children with a safe place to learn is the number one duty of all schools. Computers have opened up an entirely new pathway for danger. In the 21st Century, a time when upwards of 40 percent of Internet traffic appeals to the prurient interest and a great deal more is of questionable content, censoring the Internet takes a Herculean effort.

Huntington High School uses an automated system to ensure that any Internet browsing bears on education. Unfortunately for the administration, the Internet resists; as the open-source geek motto goes -- "information *wants* to be free."

The question of what to censor is a hard one, especially considering the Internet's ever-changing nature. Most institutions have decided to err on the side of caution. Huntington's censoring software, the St. Bernard Web Filter, blocks things for a number of reasons ranging from lascivious content to science, politics, news, and technology.

This hits the Forensics classes especially hard laments Edward Florea, a teacher of Forensics. While acknowledging the system's benefits and the ability to "block specific images, while allowing others," he wishes temporary privileges could be bestowed for particular sites. Most of the year, crimelibrary.com fails to fulfill the requirements for approval, but it proves a fantastic resource when researching serial killers, a relevant topic in the class.

As Ms. Decanio, the school librarian, attests, a system through which sites could be temporarily unblocked would be beneficial for many student research projects, though any system of this variety would be ripe for abuse. A system of similar stock was used in Huntington prior to 2005, through which different users could log into the same computer, with their respective clearances. This helped teachers dole out data as they saw fit. Unfortunately it was not long before unauthorized students started finding out passwords and abusing reduced restrictions.

One of the major problems with Huntington's current system is that it is near impossible for blacklisted sites to regain membership in the ranks of the permitted. Ms. Decanio admitted to knowing of no process for amending erroneous censorship. Mr. Gracken, speaking for the technology department, said that one had to go through Dr Leonardi to get a site approved.

According to the policy found at the front of Huntington High School agenda books, "Students and teachers have access to general Internet tools including, but not limited to electronic mail (e-mail); Listservs; UseNet News; File Transfer Protocol, (FTP); Telnet; Gopher and the World Wide Web." Despite the policy e-mail services are still blocked -- independently of St Bernard. Only students the in science research classroom are granted access to e-mail, and even then only after numerous requests. Despite the schools alleged policy, to those that love the service, access to FTP is but a pipe dream.

Playfest 2008: Science Fiction theme inspires senior class to seek redemption

by TIMOTHY O'GRADY

Huntington High's annual Playfest was held on February 2nd, 2008. Each grade had to create a student-run play that followed this year's "Science Fiction" theme. The event was hosted by Sophomores Ian Coneys and Jake Fleisig who joked about breaking the precedent of having the event hosted by a senior.

The night started off with the Freshmen's Sci-Fi Musical. The play involved an evil scientist that created some sort of lethal poison that was soon to wreck havoc in the world. The dances (including The Time Warp) and constant movement on stage made for a successful first attempt by the

Freshmen.

Next came the Sophomore's play "Staph Wars" written and directed by Fleisig and Coneys. The production mocked the infectious Staphylococcus aureus bacteria that threatened the halls of Huntington High School earlier in the school year. The play was chock full of jokes, outrageous outfits and a rather steamy love interest between Space Cowboy and Steven Glansberg. Judged by this year's play, the Sophomores have made themselves a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming years.

The third play of the night titled "High School Stories, Scandals, Pranks and Controversies", was put on by the Class of 2009.

The play was set in the future where the Juniors discussed their senior prank and how they wanted to do something even more outrageous as adults. While the Juniors attempt to execute their plan, they run into several roadblocks.

This rather lackluster performance was highlighted by a musical performance of "99 Red Balloons." After this year's performance many wondered if the Class of 2008 forever left a curse on the Junior Play.

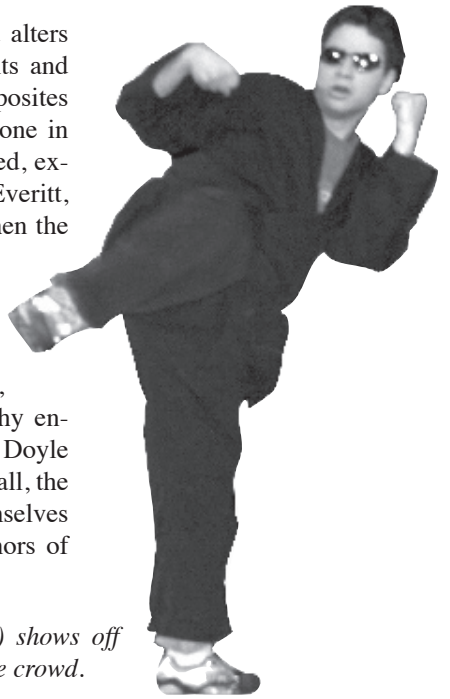
Lastly came the Seniors' "Class of O'Hate: Journey to Redemption." The play mocked the Seniors' disastrous performance last year and attempted to explain why they were so unprepared.

The story involved a magical

refrigerator at a party that alters the personalities of students and makes them the polar opposites of their true selves. Everyone in the Class of 2008 is affected, except Greg James and Greg Everitt, who aren't in the room when the refrigerator went haywire.

There were many funny personality swaps, including Henry Baughman as a lacrosse player, Venice Lagone as a crunchy environmentalist, and Megan Doyle as a suicidal actress. All in all, the Class of .08 redeemed themselves this year and won the honors of "Best Play"

■ Senior Greg Everitt (left) shows off his Taekwondo skills to the crowd.



What is a Proper PDA?

Public Displays of Affection nauseate students schoolwide

by DIYA KAPUR

Most people have at some point experienced that feeling of annoyance or repulsion in being the witness of inappropriate PDA's. Everyone has fallen prey to the entwined couples that seem to purposely be blocking the way into lockers, stairwells, classrooms, and, even though it shouldn't be physically possible, entire hallways. It's irritating and bothersome, but it can also be cute in small doses.

PDA, which doubles as the abbreviation for both the electronic device known as the "Personal Digital Assistant" and, more romantically, for "Public Displays of Affection," refers to any open showing of tenderness. This can range from modest hand-holding to things of a more intense nature.

Generally, though, the worst that is seen in Huntington High is a couple making-out in between periods, using the wall as a support in their amorous play.

People rarely want to see

PDA's, especially anything that too raunchy for the public eye. To the unwilling onlooker, kissing and beyond is something best left in the bedroom (with the door open of course!). As senior Josh Blumberg bluntly says, "those couples need to get over themselves, no one wants to see that." English teacher, Mr. Dumar, is of a like mind. "I think people's tongues in people's mouths and people's hands on people's backsides does not belong anywhere in public."

Couples often don't or can't differentiate between showing proper and improper PDA's and it can get to the point where it's degrading for the people partaking in it. As Mr. Dumar so astutely put it, "Young ladies should have a little more respect for themselves and demand that their men take them someplace a little more romantic and cleaner than the school hallway."

Some forms of PDA's are acceptable, however, and can even be adorable. These are the little innocent things: the flirtations, the touching in completely appropriate places.

Basically anything that doesn't make the people nearby uncomfortable is alright. Says Blumberg, "Holding hands in the hallway is okay, a little kiss before parting ways is absolutely fine."

To be fair to those couples who are guilty of being too passionate when others are around, it can sometimes be hard to restrain all affection, even if people are in the vicinity. When she does something adorable, he just has to give her a little kiss. When he's looking particularly good one day, because that blue shirt makes him even hotter, she has to wrap her arms around him. It's the nature of being in love.

When it comes down it, though, PDA's are usually more of a nuisance than anything else, especially in schools. There are too many people milling about in between periods, getting things out of their lockers, and trying to get to class to be held up by the antics of couples. And as Mr. Dumar says, "the fluorescent lighting doesn't make anyone look good."



GRAPHIC: KEVIN FREEMAN

CLOSED from front page

High School, have used alternative methods such as Senior Cafés. Many schools have adapted these cafés rewarding seniors with food from restaurants and stores. On certain days of the week, pizza, Subway or even Taco Bell may be delivered.

A second concern is the number of students who currently crowd the cafeteria. Many questions have been posed as to whether or not seniors would be forced to eat with the underclassmen. "The cafeteria would be too crowded if people couldn't go out," states Julie Forster, "besides, going out gives us a better choice of food to eat."

Both of these concerns have been addressed by Dr. Leonardi and the rest of the faculty. They are working towards finding a way to solve these problems, where the

atmosphere is comfortable for students. Dr. Leonardi has given her insight on some of the changes that may take place in Huntington High School if the administration decides to officially close campus. "We are considering a senior lounge in the small cafeteria of the building" she begins, describing what she hopes will come into effect when and if the campus does close. "We have also planned a possible outdoor area, which would of course have to be supervised."

She also explains that if there is a senior lounge, there would be a chance that cell phones would be unrestricted and a television would be available. This, of course, would involve a lot of work and effort and has not yet been arranged, as the school has not divulged its future plans for alternative privileges.

"At my school, they have a section

blocked off in the cafeteria for only seniors to sit," explains Zoe Noia, a junior at Kings Park High School, "they used to have a Senior Café but now they have free periods where they can work or visit some of their old teachers. Another privilege they have is block scheduling, where seniors can take a different class on alternative days if they don't have room in their regular schedule."

"At my school [Floral Park Memorial High School], seniors have to have a lunch pass and are only allowed to go home during lunch hours, and return back immediately," explains Stephanie Settele, a senior at Floral Park Memorial High School.

Schools across the Island have been forced to reexamine their open-campus policies due to fatal accidents that have taken place during school hours. The most fatal accident to date has been that of

HHS Students in Nicaragua

PN from front page

\$1,500 in donations, as well as the physical labor of the volunteers and the beneficiaries, Project Nicaragua can build a modest dwelling.

Project Nicaragua also transports donated and purchased goods on every trip. "Each year, our staff distributes hundreds of suitcases filled with clothing, tools, medical supplies, books and school supplies to [Amatitan]. These items have a direct impact on the lives of hundreds of local residents. Simple items we may take for granted are treasured by the people of Amatitan."

Laura finds the dump to be the most emotional activity of the trip. "We go to the city dump... to deliver supplies and pineapples to the people who live and work in the dump. It is honestly a Hell on Earth. There are piles of rotting garbage everywhere, and there is a burning smell in the

air because they set each pile on fire after picking through them. It is extremely dangerous because... explosions can occur if the pile is lit on fire and contains aerosol cans. The people of the dump range in age anywhere from toddlers who can barely walk to old women who look so gaunt that they look like their bones will snap in two any minute. There are horror stories about children dying because they

"It is honestly a Hell on Earth."

accidentally ate rat poison from the piles thinking it was candy." The volunteers also form strong connections with many of the townspeople through teaching at the schools, personally delivering supplies, and generally mingling with the friendly people. Laura found the most rewarding part of the trip to be interacting with the residents, especially the children with whom they "play games, paint faces, sing songs, dance and play sports."

Smithtown West, where two seventeen year old boys were killed, and one seriously injured on the scene, while speeding back to school. Though school administrations had previously been skeptical about whether or not seniors should be allowed out for lunch, this accident ultimately caused more controversy.

Questions regarding the safety of high school students had arisen among parents and students alike, and people are now taking more serious steps in determining what the best option would be for the community.

Though no plans have been made yet, it is pretty safe to say that all high school campuses on Long Island will eventually come to a close due to the accidents that occur during school hours. However, it is unclear whether this will be an immediate or gradual transition.

Students threatened by social networking habits

by GREG JAMES

Nearly all of the 1200 students at Huntington High School possess a Facebook account, and why not? Facebook is a great place to network and keep in touch with friends locally and globally.

But behind this seemingly harmless and at times addicting website lurks a hidden danger that puts many students at risk.

What many students forget is that when pictures are posted on Facebook, nearly anyone in the world can see them, including college admissions offices and future employers. Pictures featuring underage drinking are not unusual on Facebook. All too often,

students post pictures of themselves and their friends playing beer-pong or taking shots. However amusing or fun these photos may be, they jeopardize many of the achievements students have worked for in their high school careers. Just one hard-line administrator stumbling upon these less than flattering pictures can make their honor society or college dreams disappear.

However teenagers decide to spend their weekends, posting pictures of illegal activities puts all those associated at risk. Those who are “tagged” in such photos can be subject to punishment, and an abundance of cases in which students are punished for their internet habits can lead to a petition

demanding Facebook to be shut down.

According to CollegeRecuriter.com, “There has recently been considerable attention in the media to instances of employers rejecting candidates or firing employees based on information obtained from social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook.”

Many students may think that they are safe when they set their profiles to “private,” so only their friends can see their photos in what is known as a “limited profile.” However unlikely, an online friend could easily offer information on your profile to anyone seeking it.

In addition, often times se-



GRAPHIC: MIKE MCCOURT

■ Students are often unaware of the academic risks associated with their activities displayed in online photos.

niors will become friends with students and professors in their future colleges after they have been already been accepted, and it is not unlikely for a particular institution to revoke an offer of admission based upon poor ethic exhibited on Facebook.

The choice is completely up to us; whether to post pictures of us partying to impress our friends, or to not. Hopefully we will all make the more intelligent, outward thinking approach that will benefit us and our community.

Experimental course takes different approach, puzzles students

by SAM GORDON

Before the start of this school year, the University of Chicago confronted Huntington High School with the idea for a pilot class known to students as the “Experimental Pre-Calculus Class.”

This class however, is not quite an experiment. Two editions of the curriculum have already been published, and this class will help improve on the third edition. The goals of this course are made evident by the math department which stated that it wanted to “continue updating the mathematics curriculum by using applications and technologies.” Furthermore, they wish to

“increase the number of students that take math beyond Algebra and Geometry... encourage independent study, such as reading and learning with regards to math.”

“It is not necessarily for advanced students...[but for those] who have shown they can handle rigorous math courses, and are disciplined readers,” said Mr. Edwards, Math Director.

Some students and parents feel that the course is too difficult, while others believe its unique and centered approach will better prepare students for the college environment.

Senior Colin Morrell disagrees. “I haven’t really learned anything,” he says,

“and what I have has corrupted what I’ve learned in previous years.”

The University of Chicago does recognize the rigor of the course and recommends a significant grading scale making an 85-100 an A, a 72-84 a B, and a 60-74 a C. Each test grade is individually curved as to not be detrimental to report card grades.

There are thirteen other schools that are participating in the pilot course, but Huntington High School was the only school in New York to be selected for involvement.

Dr. Leonardi, HHS’s principal, welcomes the innovation in the math curriculum, as she feels it will “better prepare the

students for college level work and higher intensity math.”

One challenge students face with this class lies within the different means of learning. In addition to class lectures and assignments, students are encouraged to read from their provided textbook, a practice atypical of mathematic education.

Students next year who are scheduled to take Pre-Calculus will be enrolled in a similar experimental course developed by Harvard University.

The Math Department assures that “this pilot class gives us the opportunity to develop different learning styles in math classes.”

Where do snowdays come from?

by ANNABEL JOUARD

“Attention seniors, due to inclement weather...”

This all-to-common phrase, as most students know, is our school anthem. Its history, however, is lesser-known, but unfortunately just as innocuous; its almost artistic redundancies are only coincidentally recited verbatim by Mr. Angelo Noce or Mr. Jarret Stein.

Suspending senior privileges, however, happens to be the most minimal preventative measure established by the school.

The next level is, of course, the coveted two-hour delay (where rushed, hungry mornings go to die), which is determined anywhere from 4 to 11PM on the night before based on reports from the highway department.

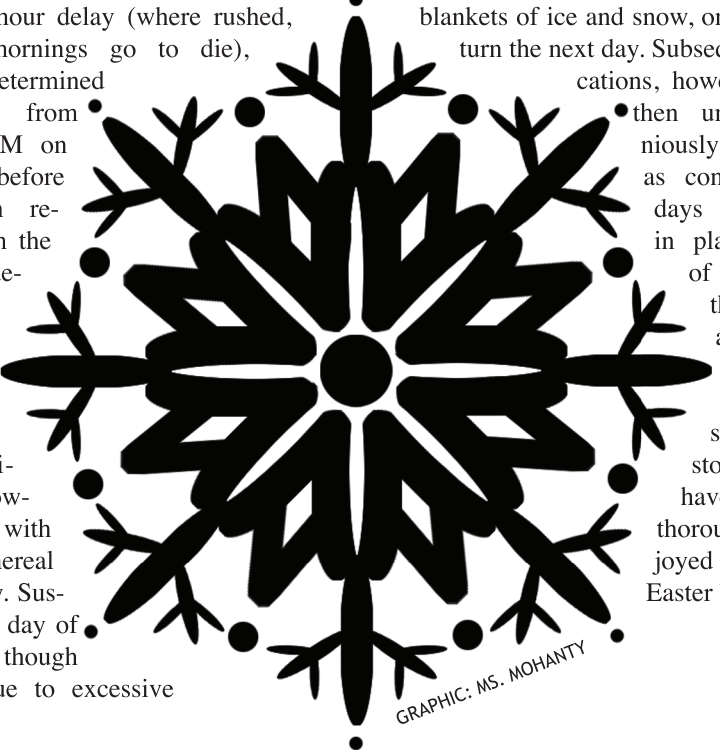
The best and brightest of opportunities, however, lie with the ethereal Snow Day. Suspending a day of school, though mostly due to excessive

snow (therefore encumbering bus routes), is generally a response to an emergency. Serious accidents, electrical malfunctions, and an array of other possibilities lie with the superintendent’s responsibility to regulate attendance. It is there- in his office- where all this is decided at 5:30 in the morning, based on weather forecasts and decisions of surrounding school districts.

After a snow day is proclaimed, the superintendent will start a snow chain. He calls the principals, who in turn notify their administrators, who then tell the staff.

We all stay home, guarded from school by blankets of ice and snow, only to return the next day. Subsequent vacations, however, are

then unceremoniously cut short as contingency days are set in place- one of which, thanks to achingly punctual snow-storms, we have just thoroughly enjoyed this past Easter break.



GRAPHIC: MS. MOHANTY

graphic feature



■ Ayomide Balogun makes a visual statement about the type of fingerprint we can choose to leave behind.



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The Dispatch is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for the estimated 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 2005-2006 school year.

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

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to dispatch@hufsd.edu or submitted to The Dispatch mailbox located in the main office.

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

The Dispatch's goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide 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. The basic rate for advertisements is \$2.50 per column inch. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through dispatch@hufsd.edu. The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate, specifically those that reference illegal or controlled substances, products, services and/or paraphernalia.

College tuitions soar to unfair heights

There is no question that the cost of higher education is growing to unprecedented heights. The average American family made approximately \$48,450 in 2007, yet a four-year private university cost about \$32,300. Many middle-class families that do not qualify for financial aid find it difficult to send their children to private institutions and still have enough money to live comfortably. The rapidly increasing cost of college is an issue that concerns students of all grades. As teens and their families start to research universities their primary concern will be about the school's annual tuition, not its acceptance rate. America's wealthiest universities should take greater measures to ensure that those who need financial assistance paying for college receive it.

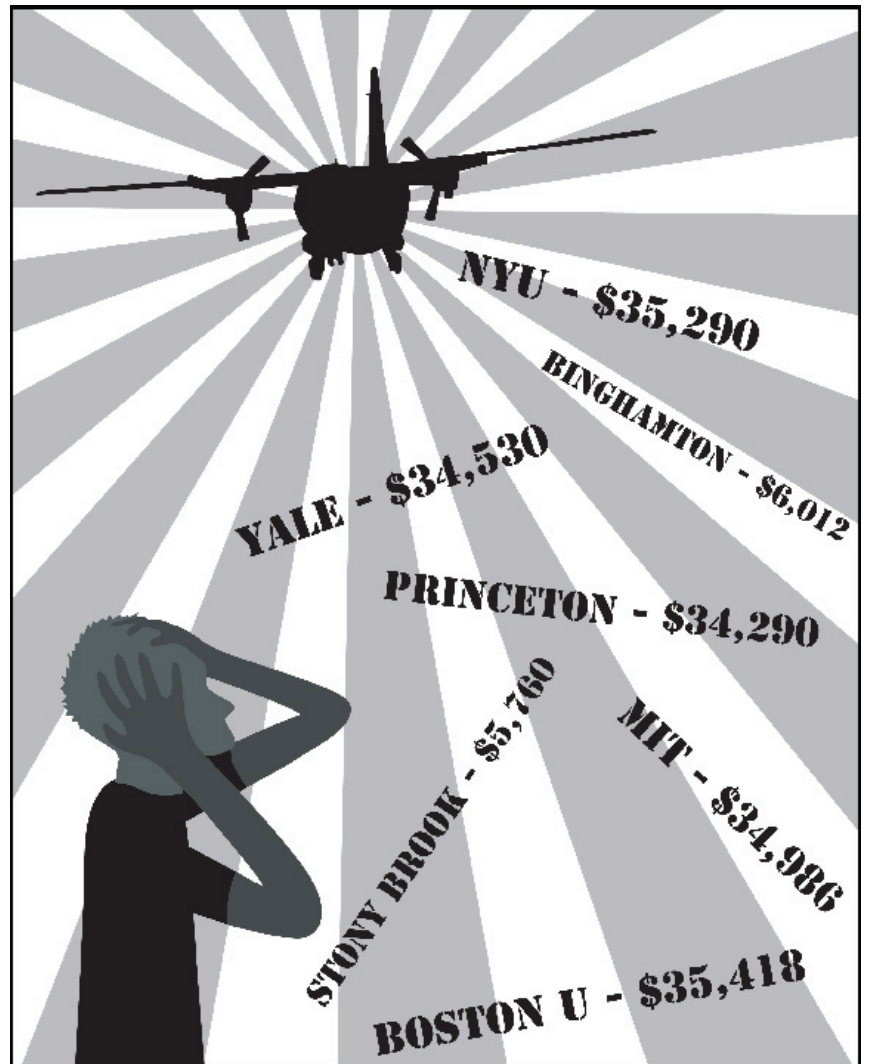
The rising tuition of American universities has prompted concern from The Senate Finance Committee. The committee is requiring 136 of the nation's wealthiest institutions to provide documentation on how they increased tuition over the past decade, distributed financial aid and spent their endowments.

The Senate is now insisting that universities spend at least 5% of their endowments, just as all tax-exempt foundations are required to do. Forcing universities to spend this reserved money will expand financial aid and make it possible for middle-class families to reap its benefits. Increased spending would benefit students additionally by adding new facilities and improving equipment.

Many institutions such as Grinnell College in Iowa claim that endowments ensure financial stability for a university and should remain untouched. Others claim that endowments are not guaranteed to grow; therefore allotting so much money towards financial aid will be detrimental.

Despite these concerns, universities should be required to spend at least 5% of their endowments in order to ensure equal opportunities for all admitted students. In today's competitive world, getting accepted into reputable institutions is difficult enough, and therefore competent students should be able to matriculate to any institution without worrying about whether paying tuition.

Increased endowment spending will encourage the issuance of grants, instead of student loans, to cover one's financial aid. Yale University unleashed a new financial aid initiative that would provide assistance to



■ "Drop tuitions, not bombs."

GRAPHIC: MICHELLE REISS

families earning as much as \$200,000 a year, expecting these wealthier families to contribute 10% of their yearly salary towards the annual \$45,000 tuition. Families earning less than \$60,000 are not expected to contribute anything towards tuition.

Yale and Harvard believe that their new financial aid initiatives will make their student populations more socioeconomically diverse. Having a diverse student body enhances the learning experience, therefore expanding financial aid is crucial a diverse, multifaceted learning experience.

A bill requiring wealthy institutions to spend more of their endowments will also benefit students who live in areas with high costs of living. One such area is Long Island where mortgages and insurance rates are more expensive than most of the country. Many universities view a Long Island family's salary the same as a family living elsewhere when determining financial aid. This policy is archaic and inaccurate as it doesn't factor in the cost of living in a particular area. Expanding financial aid spending will help families whose salaries may perceive wealth, when in fact these fami-

lies are middle-class because of where they live.

Another positive facet of mandated endowment spending is that alumni and current students will see their money going to good use. Yale's increased endowment spending will allow the school to construct new residential complexes and increase research opportunities for undergraduate students. The constant upkeep of facilities and the expansion of opportunities at universities will furthermore ensure financial stability as students choose these institutions over others.

With many private universities costing over \$50,000 a year, it is crucial that Senate requires the nation's wealthiest universities to increase endowment spending. Since every tax-exempt organization must spend at least 5% of their endowments annually, there is no reason why universities should not be required to do the same. This new provision would not only help students and their families pay for the rapidly increasing costs of higher education, but it would ensure socioeconomic, and therefore ideological, diversity at the institutions themselves.

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

After reading the Point/Counterpoint in the December issue of the Dispatch, I agreed with Dylan Payne's argument on the issue of school uniforms.

There is a lot of pressure to wear the "most fashionable" trends and what not. I agree that school uniforms would not only be economically beneficial but also much more convenient. Not having to pick out an outfit everyday would be much easier and might even allow me to sleep for an extra fifteen minutes in the morning!

Sincerely,

Leslie O'Brien
Senior

Dear Editor,

I agree completely with the letter concerning illegal immigrants in the Dispatch. Ultimately, the status of a person is no reason for a lack of respect.

Home invasion without a warrant is highly illegal and must be stopped. Police who do so should be reprimanded. The use of dogs in these invasions is excessive.

In my personal opinion, the authorities need to realize that Hispanic people, regardless of their legal status, are still people.

Sincerely,

Anthony Priolo
Senior

Have something to say?
Send your letters to dispatch@hufsd.edu

Closed campus can't make driving safer

by LAUREN NARINE

The first day of school is notorious for several reasons: new supplies, nametags, nerves. When it comes to seniors at Huntington High School, it's ID cards. Students in twelfth grade will wait on a line that snakes the perimeter of the cafeteria to obtain a card with their picture and information on it, despite empty stomachs or tired legs. This small piece of plastic is their "get out of jail free" card; their liberation from the constricting walls of high school.

Open-campus is a practice that Huntington High School has asserted for many years now. It grants seniors the freedom to leave the building during their lunch period and spend forty-two precious minutes off-campus, so long as they leave their ID's at the front desk. The system is effective, as it places a strong responsibility upon the seniors to return in time for class, or they face the removal of their privileges. But

due to a relatively frequent accident in Smithtown where two students died while speeding back to school in time for class, the open-campus policy is now under question at Huntington High.

The key factor in the open-campus policy is seniors. Seniors are old enough to realize the consequences that will result if they abuse their privileges. Seniors are well aware they will not be permitted out during lunch if they are late repeatedly, and learn to manage their time wisely to avoid tardiness.

Seniors are also equipped with three years experience of eating in a high school cafeteria. "The food's bad and it's always too crowded," Senior Ashley Dell said when discussing the state of the Huntington High School cafeteria. "You wait about a half an hour to buy one meal." It's not news to anyone who attends Huntington High that the cafeteria could use some extreme alterations. Now that there are fewer

lunch period for all grades but twelfth, the cafeteria is packed with a great number of students. Students who yell across the table, throw food, and POP their paper bags. If the open-campus policy is discontinued, the cafeteria will not be adequate to fit the number of students comfortably. In addition, seniors expect "superior" food rather than the provided cafeteria food. The fact that every student knows the poor condition of the cafeteria and food makes the open-campus privilege even more valuable, causing the seniors to be extremely cautious.

A Huntington High graduate of the class of 2003 provided details of the previous open-campus policy and how it has changed over the years. The privilege of going out to lunch and study halls was extended to juniors as well, according to this source. Obviously, over the years, the juniors were stripped of this small independence and only seniors remain applicable to open-campus. A five

minute period was also granted to the students that went out during lunch to arrive on time to class. This small window of time was enough to allow the majority of students to slip into class before the final bell. If a student arrived after the five minute bell, he or she would then be considered late. This demonstrates how vastly different the school is today. Huntington is now bombarded with so many rules that restrict students from performing activities past generations have both committed and enjoyed. "Back then it was school— not prison," states the Huntington graduate.

Open campus is beneficial for several reasons. Most importantly, it grants students a small amount of freedom. It's imperative students feel they have a status in school where they are entitled to certain rights. Open-campus is also an incentive for seniors towards enduring their last year of school. The popular phrase "senioritis" best explains

the tired obligation several seniors feel to last through one more year of high school. "That's the best thing about being a senior! My days go by so fast. Open-campus breaks the day into two days— I have two mini days. It's fantastic!" Greta Johnson, a senior and student of Huntington High that has long awaited her senior privileges comments. This policy also teaches students responsibility. Open-campus is a privilege of prestige, dubbing the students who follow it 'experienced' and 'reliable.'

As for the accident, teenage driving is not likely going to change with the retraction of open-campus. Insurance rates and statistics show that teenagers have been for past generations and most likely will be in the future extremely vulnerable to road accidents. It cannot be forgotten, also, that parents sign a consent form allowing their children to go out for lunch. Driving will never stop being a risk.

POINT / COUNTERPOINT Challenge Day Creates Change Not Enough for Desired Effect

by LENA FREED

by KAY LODGE

How many faces in the crowds at school are true to who they belong to? Honestly, not many. Mostly in school, superficiality is common because it's an easy tool to utilize. Once a year Challenge Day comes around, and for those that participate in it, the masks are off and verity is revealed.

Challenge Day provides the opportunity for both children and teachers to really talk about things greater than the homework, or what happened over the weekend. There's a chance for them to really find out who the other truly is.

Whenever Challenge Day is brought up in the classroom or even outside of school, it has only been regarded as a positive aspect of school.

"Challenge days opens up your eyes into seeing that people really are not as naive as you think they are, and though that feeling fades and life goes back to normal, the information learned is not forgotten. From the experience [of Challenge Day] you take with you so much more insight on the world and the people inside of it," said Theresa Spohrer, a sophomore who participated in the program last year.

It's true that the immediate aftermath of Challenge Day may be short lived, but the long-term effects have a lasting impact on the participants. The goal of Challenge Day is to "open up your eyes" to bring you to terms with the world that you are not alone in many of the feelings and experiences that you live through.

Though it is wished and hoped for by the hosts of the program to maintain these feelings year round, or even for the rest of your life, well that's immensely improbable. In reality we will always be the same people that we have been since we were 5, and even the greatest eye-openers couldn't change that.

Not only do the students open up during challenge day, but some teachers and the hosts do as well. At first it can be unnerving to find yourself partnered with a teacher for the exercises because most of us don't really see them as hav-

ing a separate life that we don't know about other than what they show to us in school. The feeling of connecting with an adult turns out to be incredibly rewarding because while we are in the midst of our adolescence, of the years of drama and knowledge that high school holds for us, they have lived through it and they hold the weight of the future and whatever emotions coincide with what will inevitably happen to us.

The hosts also usually have an anomalistic life which they naturally share with everyone. They are the first to really open up with their personal stories of grief and growth and set up a comfortable environment for the students (and staff).

Challenge Day, the day-long program that is directed, not to reconcile strangers, but to bring about the understanding that everyone, even those who you don't know, goes through similar emotions and despondent stages of life.

Even though people can be duplicitous, the truth to who they are is just under the surface and this once-a-year course can reveal that truth. To those that are able to participate it is truly a rewarding experience and it is earnestly recommended to all students.

You may not find the immediate effects of Challenge Day to be immensely evident in the majority of the high school a month after the program, but you will find people a year later who still talk of its greatness.

Every April for the past couple of years, a few hundred Huntington High School students participate in Challenge Day, a day-long program intended to unite students and encourage us to "be the change you wish to see in the world". The organizers of Challenge Day attempt to make students more caring and proactive in a six-hour period. However, no single six hour program, no matter how intense or well structured, can permanently change one's views and actions. The program's goals are certainly important, and goals that every school should strive towards, but Challenge Day as it is is not an effective means for reaching those ends.

At the end of the day, many participants take Challenge Day's challenge to heart. They swear to be more accepting of fellow students, and help those in need. And indeed, the next day, students can be seen reaching out and helping those with whom they normally wouldn't socialize; but the day after that, those promises are often forgotten when the pressures of jobs, school, and athletics become real again. A much more rigorous program than six hours once a year is needed to foster the ideals of compassion and initiative among students. Administrators, teachers, and students should work together to make the effects of Challenge Day last.

If each Challenge Day "family" (a group of about six students plus a teacher) were to hold regular meetings after Challenge Day, the goals of the program could become reality. The meetings would remind both students and teachers of the ideals they're supposed to be living up to, and encourage them to continue the behaviors

they exhibited on the day after Challenge Day. The facilitators should also return to the school and meet with the original group to check up on them, and see how they've changed attitudes and actions.

Revealing one's hardships and listening to the hardships of peers is a central part of Challenge Day. The outpouring of emotion that follows is incredible. Many students cry and hug everyone they see (even people they've never talked to.) However, the program doesn't give participants a way to deal with their emotions, nor does it suggest effective outlets; a necessary step since the emotions experienced on Challenge Day are often the strongest participants have ever felt. Regular "family" meetings could also address this shortcoming of the program by helping participants cope with their emotions.

Challenge Day also encourages participants to come to terms with the people who have caused difficulty in their lives. However, the program does not provide enough tools for students to confront every negative situation or person. Challenge Day leaders should distribute materials and initiate role-playing situations to teach participants the appropriate setting and manner to confront someone. Confrontations can also be discussed in the "family" meetings, and students can be given suggestions about how to deal with an aggressor.

Challenge Day strives to create a more proactive and caring student body. However, six hours once a year can only go so far in instilling those ideals. Administrators, teachers, and students need to pick up where Challenge Day leaves off to continue its positive effects.

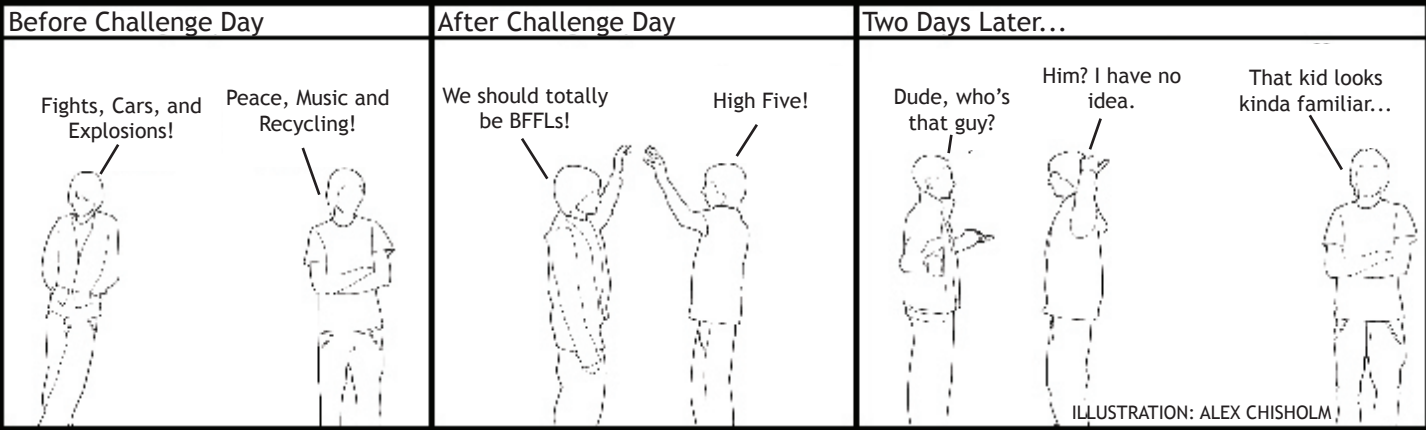


ILLUSTRATION: ALEX CHISHOLM

HHS Students at the Polls: OBAMA TAKES ALL

by MIKE MCCOURT

Barack Obama’s recent success in his Presidential bid hasn’t excluded Huntington High School.

In a January poll conducted by *the Dispatch*, students chose him as their favorite presidential candidate, giving the Illinois Senator exactly 50% of their vote. New York’s own Hillary Clinton finished in a distant second with a mere 20%.

Although the high school won’t be a pivotal spot in the November election, these numbers tell us several important things. This convincing victory for Obama mirrors the widespread theory that he attracts young voters. This attraction is the result of, among other things, his often laid-back look, charisma, inspirational and optimistic speeches, strong opposition to the war in Iraq, and Facebook page with over 660,000 friends.

Obama makes the youth demographic feel important and powerful. “Let’s bring a new generation of leadership to this country,” Obama said during a campaign stop at the University of South Carolina.

When asked for a reason for their support of Obama, students said they looked forward to the change promised by his campaign. “He is commanding and I

believe we need a fresh mind. . . to have a fresh start,” said one student. “Change is necessary, and plus, where have ‘experienced’ candidates gotten us in the past? They got us into Iraq.”

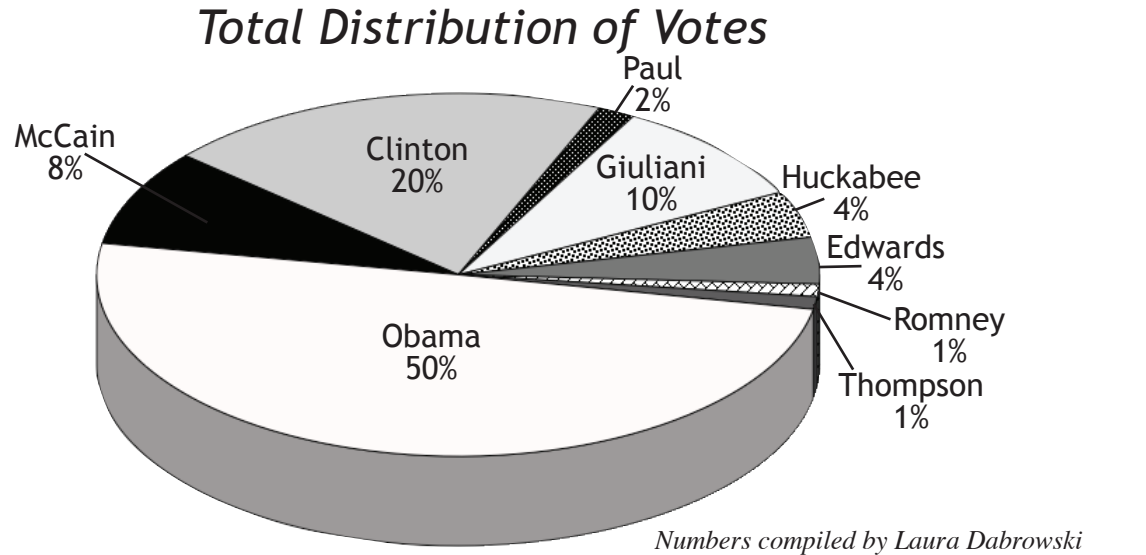
Another admitted that although Obama is “the obvious choice for an African American, I feel as though he will represent my community and my feelings towards politics.”

The poll taken by students asked them to distinguish themselves based on social class, race, residency area, and gender. Obama was victorious in all of the categories with the exception of ties in the upper class (Obama 23%, Giuliani 23%) and the lower class (Obama 40%, Clinton 40%). His largest margin of victory was with working class students, who gave him 67% of their vote.

Black students did not offer as much support for Senator Obama as one might have anticipated, as 43% of those who classified themselves as such cast their ballot for him. Senator Clinton came in a close second, receiving 39% of the black vote.

Clinton enjoyed a fair amount of votes from students. Those who supported her were attracted to her experience in the Senate and her plans for the future.

Said one student, “Hillary Clinton’s plan for insurance



stands out the most against those of the other candidates. She seems to be the only candidate with a pre-meditated plan.”

The greatest amount of disapproval for the New York Senator came from male voters. Clinton was given just 11% of their vote, compared to 31% of the female vote.

Clinton also failed to receive many votes from Hispanics, who have given her much greater support on the national level. She received nearly 66% of the Latino vote on Super Tuesday, but the HHS poll showed her behind Senator Obama in that category with just 21%.

Huntington students as a whole came out in overwhelming support of the Democratic party.

74% of students polled said they supported a Democratic candidate.

This lack of success on the part of the Republican party is somewhat surprising on Long Island, but the bigger surprise is in the failure of GOP frontrunners to attract student votes. Candidates such as John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Mitt Romney in particular scored very poorly among HHS students. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who dropped out of the presidential race just two short weeks after the poll was distributed, won the greatest support of any of the Republican candidates.

The responses given by our students say a lot about their values and preferences, but could

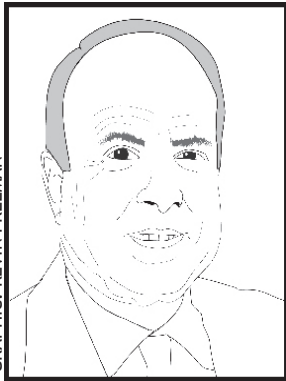
also bring them into question. One might inquire whether the overwhelming support of Barack Obama is due to a sincere trust in and alliance with him or due to the fact that he is undoubtedly a trendy and fresh candidate.

Whatever the reason, a Democratic ticket headlining Obama would be a safe choice with the consideration of young voters (especially those of Huntington High School).

Note: These results were obtained from a survey that was given out to 11th grade and 12th grade social studies classes. At the time the survey was distributed, all of the candidates displayed were on the primary ballots. Since then, some candidates have dropped out from the race.

A primer on presidential hopefuls

by KAY LODGE



John McCain

- Fully supports No Child Left Behind. Believes parents should be given a choice of public schools to which to send their children.
- “The best schools in my state [Arizona] happen to be charter schools.”

Health Care

- Does not support federal-sponsored health-care. Wants to make health-care more affordable.
- “The ‘solution,’ my friends, isn’t a one-size-fits-all-big government takeover of health care.”

Immigration

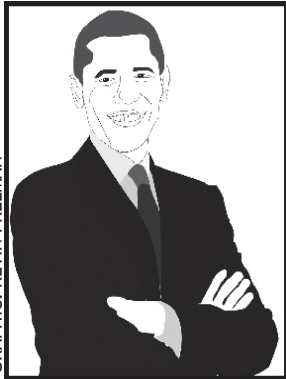
- Supports much tougher border security and decreased taxes to discourage employers from hiring illegal immigrants.
- “Amnesty is forgiveness... this is payment of a fine. This is admission of guilt. This is earned citizenship, that’s what it is.”

National Security

- Plans to curb terrorist activities by continuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and encouraging free trade in the Middle East.
- “They [foreign policy experts] say, if you set a date for withdrawal then the consequences are catastrophic.”

Global Warming

- Supports alternative energy sources, plans on raising the minimum MPG rating, and establishing a cap for major corporations.
- “I believe it is going to be technology that gets us through this very difficult period as greenhouse gas emissions continue to increase.”



Barack Obama

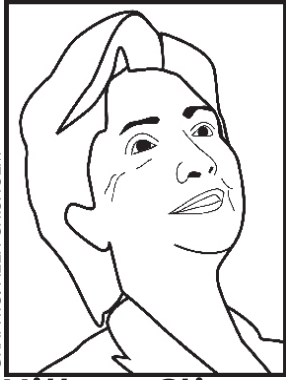
- Supports testing reforms to No Child Left Behind, plans to expand access to Pre-K, and increase teacher training and pay.
- “It’s time to treat teaching like the profession that it is. It’s time to pay our teachers what they deserve. Pay them more money.”

- Plans to establish a federal program to give coverage to those who don’t already have it.
- “I am absolutely determined that by the end of the first term of the next president, we should have universal health care in this country.”

- Supports tougher border security, an easier citizenship process, and a crackdown on businesses hiring illegal immigrants.
- “Millions of undocumented immigrants live and work here without our knowing their identity or their background. We need to strike a workable bargain with them.”

- Plans to end the war in Iraq, strengthen the fighting in Afghanistan, slow nuclear proliferation, and destroy many of America’s nuclear weapons.
- “We shouldn’t be sending more troops to Iraq... It’s time to find an end to this war.”

- Plans to increase fuel standards each year, increase tax credits for hybrids, and increase federal spending on renewable energy.
- “The fossil fuels we burn are setting off a chain of dangerous weather patterns that could condemn future generations to global catastrophe.”



Hillary Clinton

- Proposes universal Pre-K and doubling the college tax credit.
- “No Child Left Behind has been a terrible imposition on teachers and school districts & families & students.”

- Supports federally sponsored healthcare.
- “We need to take step-by-step progress toward providing insurance for every American. I’d expand the Children’s Health Insurance Program. I’d allow people between 55 and 65 to buy into Medicare.”

- Supports tougher border security, an easier citizenship process, and a crackdown on businesses hiring illegal immigrants.
- “I believe we have to, as part of comprehensive immigration reform, create a path to earned legalization...”

- Plans to end the war in Iraq, strengthen the fighting in Afghanistan, and rebuild alliances.
- “We need to begin moving our troops out [of Iraq], and we have to do it carefully and responsibly.”

- Plans to reduce greenhouse gas and cut foreign oil imports.
- “We can create millions of new jobs if we go toward renewable energy. Those are not jobs that will be outsourced.”

How much do our students know?

The Dispatch's *Political Awareness Quiz* puts kids to the test

by MIKE MCCOURT

As high school students near the legal voting age of 18, it becomes increasingly important for them to know the names, processes and issues of politics that exist in this country. In February, 100 Huntington students were given a quiz on their knowledge of current United States politics, the results of which were more than disappointing.

Perhaps the most surprising of these numbers is the apparent indifference to the American government on behalf of students. Just 47% of those polled said they cared about politics.

When asked why, most students who responded as such cit-

ed their ineligibility to vote as a justification for their lack of concern. "I can't change anything if I can't vote," said one student, "So why care?"

Others argued that politics were boring or confusing. The fact that students find government to be so ponderous could be a result of a poor education or a lack of pressure for teens to educate themselves.

Students are also distracted from the issues in their immediate future by forms of media more entertaining than politics. Improper use of television and the internet have made students completely apathetic to urgent issues and problems such as national and social security, the economy,

and health care.

Of those who identified themselves as Honors or AP students, 54% said they cared about politics. 38% of Regents students said the same.

This obvious indifference to the American political system explains, but does not quite justify, the rest of the results obtained.

Only 61% of students could name a single Republican candidate for the presidency. Some who could not name a candidate instead responded by expressing their unflattering thoughts about the GOP. "I don't like Republicans," said one student, while another questioned the competency of Republican party members.

Students also showed the popularity of Hillary Clinton, as 62% could identify her as a US Senator representing New York. However, a mere 14% of students could name Charles Schumer as the second Senator, although Schumer has held his seat in the Senate for two more years than Clinton.

Yet another disappointing and shocking result of the quiz was the poor knowledge of the origins of Senator Barack Obama. Although Obama received exactly 50% of the high school's popular vote in January (see "Obama Takes All," page 6), only 31% of

Quiz Yourself:

1. Name two Republican Candidates for President.
2. Name both United States Senators from New York.
3. For what state is Barack Obama a Senator?
4. Do you care about politics? Why or why not?

students knew the Senator represented the state of Illinois.

Although students have little or no say in the topics and issues being debated in this election, they will have that right in the near future. Teens have an indisputable responsibility to educate themselves about their American government. These issues are far more important and applicable than such classes as physics, foreign language or calculus.

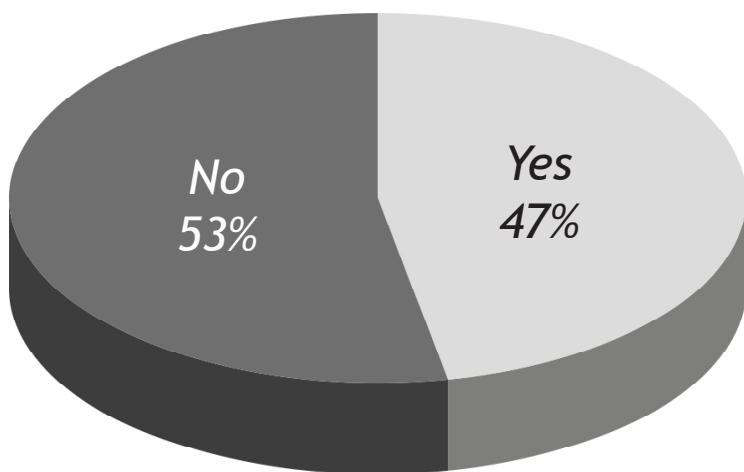
Note: This quiz was given to students of all grade levels in Regents, Honors and AP courses. It should be noted that the representation of the Honors/AP level students was slightly higher than that of Regents students.

Have a response to our election coverage?



Send your letters to:
dispatch@hufsd.edu

Do you care about Politics?



Getting active is easier than you think

by SHANNON LEE CONNORS

"Save Darfur," "One Million Strong for Barack Obama," "Students for McCain," "Stop Global Warming Now."

These slogans are only a sampling of the hundreds of groups and causes that teenagers are pledging their support to online. Political and social issues have recently garnered unprecedented attention from high school and college students as they sign up for movements in droves on social networking sites such as Myspace

and Facebook. But what does being politically active actually mean for today's students?

In a society that is constantly flooded with information and technology, joining a cause on Facebook has become a convenient way to show support for a popular issue. The ease and instant gratification of demonstrating this allegiance to all of one's friends in a public forum has taken much of the activity out of activism. Gone are the days of sit-ins, protest marches, and petitions; or are they?

Though it's unlikely that a 2008 high school yearbook will base its theme around political issues, as Huntington did in 1972, students are still embracing traditional activist techniques, with a twenty-first century twist. During this election season in particular, Long Island teenagers are putting their time and energy into the campaigns that they believe in.

Long Island for Barack Obama, which hosts an affiliated group for high school students, has garnered attention from News12 and Newsday for the canvassing that has been done at local supermarkets and festivals. Students from Huntington, Northport, St. Anthony's, and districts in Nassau County have dedicated time and energy into championing their causes.

Long Island students have thrown their support behind social movements as well. Last year, four students in the Half Hollow Hills School District wanted a way to raise awareness about the genocide in the Sudan. They organized a highly successful benefit concert to raise money for the organization Save Darfur, which received the support of Congressman Steve Israel.

Getting involved in a cause or cam-

paign is far less daunting than it may appear. This election cycle political candidates are embracing technology by setting up virtual phone banks. Virtual phone banks take on the role of the traditional "call center" but allow supporters to make phone calls for their candidate in their homes.

Feeling more ambitious? Campaigns thrive on canvassing events, where volunteers pass out pamphlets and raise awareness about key issues. Several hours spent canvassing brings a candidate's message to dozens of people. Innovative strategies have allowed students to connect in support of their causes unlike ever before. Studentsforhillary.com, a site started and maintained by students, unites young people with other supporters in their area.

The most vital and simplest way to show support for a campaign or issue is to be informed. Starting a conversation, with parents, teachers, or friends, is an opportunity to share your passion with someone else and to build interest. Students across the country are becoming active participants in the conversation about the future of America and the world and becoming active is easier than you'd think.



PHOTO: SHANNON CONNORS

■ Supporters of Barack Obama rally in Huntington outside of the Walt Whitman mall.

Get Involved!

www.barackobama.com
www.hillaryclinton.com

www.johnmccain.com
www.ronpaul2008.com

www.savedarfur.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Tour de CHINA!



by MIKE MCCOURT
AND MAX SENDER

Everyone knows that Chinese food is as much a part of American culture as pizza or British pop-rock. In fact, our culture is basically made up of foreign things or ideas that are adopted and made better by great Americans.

Every citizen of this nation hopes to some day make someone else's idea their own and change the world. This, friends, is the American dream, and no one exemplifies the American dream better than the employees of the Chinese restaurants of these United States.

It would be absolute blasphemy to say that all Chinese food is the same; that no restaurant stands out as the best. People tend to believe that Chinese food itself is so great that it makes no difference how it's made or where it comes from. This, however, is simply false. We're here to set the record straight and declare which Huntington Chinese eatery is the true champion.

Ming Star Chinese

Ming Star is tucked away in a small plaza on Park Avenue. This well kept secret

of Huntington offers speedy and friendly service as well as some delicious dishes. Their beef lo mein was particularly appetizing, but may have had too much sauce. The sesame chicken was impeccable, as were the fried dumplings and won-ton soup.

All in all, Ming Star Chinese made us two very satisfied customers.

Fortune: "Your happiness is intertwined with your outlook on life."

Rating:

New China Express Restaurant

New China, located in the Big H on New York Avenue, is like the O.A.R. of Chinese places. It's very popular, and people think they love it, but only because they have no idea that something far superior is out there. New China manages to create what we thought to be impossible: mediocre Chinese food.

The lo mein seemed to be watered down, and had more beef than actual lo mein. The sesame chicken was in one large piece, and the won ton soup was tasteless. Perhaps the only redeeming part of our

meal was the Fried Dumplings, which were quite exquisite. The place itself seemed to be closing in on us. The faded signs and obviously unsanitary conditions made us scream Kelly Clarkson's name in vain.

Fortune: "A woman without a man is like a fish without a bicycle."

Rating:

Dragon Gate of Huntington Village

This traditional Chinese restaurant on Main Street wins extra points for presentation. The owners went above and beyond to make their place look like the real deal, even including a fish tank in the front. This eatery's downfall lies in its high prices, which do not exactly match the quality of the food served.

Don't get us wrong, all of their dishes were ravishing (with the exception of the fried dumplings), but there was an obvious question about the value of your dollar at this place.

Nonetheless, Dragon Gate still managed to win our hearts, and has been rewarded accordingly.

Fortune: "No job is so simple that it cannot be done wrong."

Rating:

China King Chinese Restaurant

This is it! China King has undoubtedly won the crown of the best in all the land. This East Main Street restaurant has it all; great food, great service, a great facility, and even a hint of patriotic flare (The chefs show their American pride in their baseball caps sporting bald eagles and the Star-Spangled Banner).

China King is the leader that will take us to the promised land, and has recently expressed interest in a presidential campaign for this November, which *the Dispatch* would graciously endorse.

China King brings honor and class back to Chinese eateries. It's a place that Confucius himself would be proud of.

Fortune: "Heads, you do it. Tails, you go home."

Rating:

music: Album Reviews

Sia's Youth Shines

by JORDAN CASTLE

ALBUM: *Some People Have Real Problems*
ARTIST: Sia

Sia Furler, an Australian pop singer most commonly known as Sia, has once again colored the United States with her third album, *Some People Have Real Problems*, released early this January. Her first album, *Healing is Difficult*, was not nearly as good as her second, *Colour the Small One*, just as the second doesn't quite compare to her latest and greatest album.

At first glance, Sia's playful tone and beauty come across in bold, brilliant colors on the cover, a sweet image of the 32-year-old covered in marker. Her blatantly youthful spark shines through her more obvious tracks (now made popular by Starbucks locations across the country), like "Academia" and "Little Black Sandals." With intensely curious lyrics ("Thank you feet, for guiding me / I'm glad somehow I got brains down there, at least.") and deep, passionate vocals, Sia has made a home for herself among similarly critically-acclaimed artists Regina



PHOTO: AMAZON.COM

Spektor and Andrew Bird.

My favorite song on the album is "The Girl You Lost to Cocaine," which tells the ever-popular story of love gone awry. It's evident in this track that Sia is infinitely more than "your crutch, your smell, sight, and touch." She dissects relationships with precision, an eye for flawed lust rather than imperfect love. It's a concept that any listener can willingly subscribe to.

Though her taste is bitter-sweet at times, perhaps even a bit contrived, Sia remains an old soul. Her capacity for honesty is refreshing as an artist and as a woman, specifically within the harsh world she so vividly portrays. This is good news, considering Sia shows no signs of stopping.

★★★★☆

It's heavy metal- with a plotline

by ANDY BENE

ALBUM: *Ziltoid the Omniscient*
ARTIST: Devin Townsend

The band Devin Townsend, which is named for its lead singer, is a lesser-known heavy/power metal band. The band's newest album, *Ziltoid The Omniscient*, follows the story of the mighty commander Ziltoid, who comes to earth seeking the ultimate cup of coffee, black, in the song "ZTO."

When the humans bring him an unsatisfactory cup ("By You're Command"), he proceeds to destroy humanity ("Ziltoid At-taxx!!!!").

Only Captain Spectacular

and a few surviving humans escape and set out to expose Ziltoid as the nerd he is ("Solar Winds"), only to be destroyed by Ziltoid who catches up with them ("Hyperdrive/N9").

He then begins a series of strange activities, which include being rejected by the fifth dimensional "Planet Smasher," and making the creator of the universe ("Omnidimensional Creator"), among other things.

It is then revealed in the last song, "Tall Latte," that this epic adventure was nothing more than the fleeting daydream of a Starbucks employee.

The music itself is a very good mix of Heavy and Power metal. If you don't like scream-



PHOTO: FUNERALPOLIS.COM

ing in your music, than "Heavy Devy" really isn't for you.

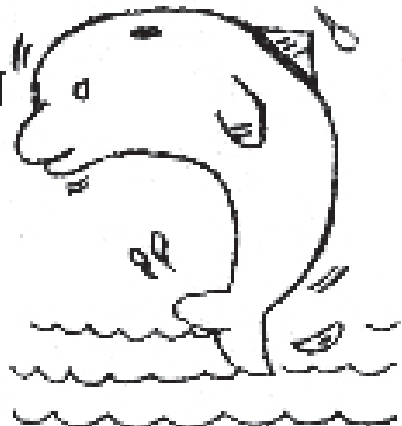
But if you're into Heavy metal and are looking for a nice laugh, then this is a great album to check out.

Another album to check out by him is Synchestra, which includes the hit Vampira.

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Title Arts

Docents Demand Attention

Students travel to learn art techniques

by JILL SILVERBERG

What is a docent, you might ask? Well, a docent (derived from the Latin word docere, meaning to teach) is officially defined as a professor or university lecturer—but the term has been expanded to designate the corps of volunteer guides who staff many of the museums and other educational institutions in the world.

Here at Huntington High School, the docent program means so much more. In cooperation with the Heckscher Museum, Huntington students have partici-



PHOTO: SAM LOBUE

■ *Sophomore Bo-Ashley Brindley lights a bunsen burner as part of the Docents' ceramics studies.*

pated in the Docent program for the past several years. Huntington docents have been honored with giving a tour to Senator Hillary Clinton and being featured in Newsday's "Part Two." Several docents have had their work exhibited in the Heckscher Museum's annual Long Island's Best competition.

This year has presented the docents with even more diverse and exciting opportunities due to the Museum's recent renovation. The docents have been visiting museums and galleries and creating artwork throughout Manhattan and Long Island. Earlier this year, the docents took a trip to New York City and visited the Guggenheim Museum to view the art exhibit "Spiritual America," created by Richard Prince. Most of the docents had mixed opinions about the exhibit. Their opinions ranged from finding the exhibit strange and complex to inspirational and edgy. This was based on Prince's use of recycled jokes, photography/collaged images and his idealized simulations of reality.

After spending time in the Guggenheim the docents took to the streets of the Chelsea/Soho

area capturing photos for an upcoming project. The best part of the trip was the discovery of a gallery owned by Jacques Lieberman. Lieberman specializes in colorful modern optical art in dazzling patterns and designs. He gladly welcomed the Docents' surprise visit and explained the process of making his art and gave away several free post cards and CD's with his work on them. By the time we returned to Huntington, we were all eager for our next field trip.

In January the docents traveled to the Universal Limited Art Editions (ULAE). The ULAE is a famous fine arts publisher located in Bayshore. The ULAE creates lithography for artists such as Kiki Smith, Jasper Johns, Chuck Close, and Helen Frankenthaler.

With the help of Bill Goldston, the docents learned the process behind lithography and had the special opportunity of creating and printing their own work. It was very exciting watching their own work being printed, and once it was finished they were all amazed at how wonderful it looked.

The most recent jaunt the docents embarked on was to Haven



PHOTO: SAM LOBUE

■ *The Docents pose for a group photo in the Guggenheim Museum.*

Art, where they had a first hand experience at creating two different pieces of art work out of glass. It was amazing watching the colors blend together and form different shapes as they melted together. At the end of the visit they all watched in awe as a glass professional created a bowl right before their eyes.

If you are interested and wish to be as inspired as the Docent program has inspired its current members, you may want to join.

In the mean time, check out some of these websites and addresses to view more of what they had the opportunity to enjoy and experience. Don't forget the Heckscher Museum will be re-opening this spring.

- www.guggenheim.org
- www.heckscher.org
- havenart.net
- ulae.com

Jacques Lieberman – 484 Broome Street, NYC

fashion spotlight

by ELIZABETH MORMILE

Ms. Irvolino, English

- 1. Describe your personal style.**
"Classic, with a hip flare."
- 2. Who is your favorite designer?**
"Currently, Roberto Cavalli."
- 3. How has your style changed over the years?**
"I used to be a lot more trendy but now I tend to buy more classic pieces instead of buying the 'it' item."
- 4. What was your style like in High School?**
"It was the late 80's, so I had big, high hair and wore blue contacts."
- 5. What do you predict will be the biggest trend for spring?**
"High waisted shorts, 1950's style dresses and bathing suits."
- 6. What is your favorite accessory?**
"A pocketbook."
- 7. Favorite store to shop?**
"Saks Fifth Avenue and Anthropology."
- 8. Have you ever attempted to make any of your own clothes?**
"After the Guns 'N Roses video 'November Rain,' I bought velvet and tried to make gloves to match the girls in the video."



Mrs. Quintilian, Math

- 1. Describe your personal style.**
"Classic and Conservative."
- 2. Who is your favorite designer?**
"Ralph Lauren."
- 3. How has your style changed over the years?**
"I've gotten more conservative with age and I stopped buying trendy items. If I do now I will buy one piece and it will usually just be an accessory."
- 4. What was your style like in High School?**
"It was the 1960's and the trend was to dress like Twiggy, but I was counterculture and I dressed very preppy."
- 5. What do you predict will be the biggest trend for spring?**
"Neutral shades will disappear and bright colors will make a comeback."
- 6. What is your favorite accessory?**
"A scarf."
- 7. Favorite store to shop?**
"Brooks Brothers."
- 8. Have you ever attempted to make any of your own clothes?**
"Not since High School in Home Ec. when I had to make a skirt."



PHOTOS: LIZ MORMILE

The Orange Box

by ANDY BENE

The Orange Box is a combination of five video games made by Valve Studios. It features Half-Life 2: Episodes 1 and 2, Portal, and Team Fortress 2.

Valve, which has always been known for their excellent design philosophy and high standards of visual quality and detail, defiantly delivered with this game pack. The already great Half-Life 2 and Episode 1 make an appearance, each featuring some amazing storytelling and compelling, physics based puzzles.

Episode 2 features the same amazing sense of story, all the way to the emotional punch in the face that marks the ending, and expands on the source engine allowing for beautiful in-game moments such as water bursting out of a broken pipe, bridges collapsing, and striders being blown apart in the games amazing climax.

Than there's Portal and Team Fortress 2. In Portal, you go through the Aperture Science test chambers using the Portal Gun, all the while being instructed by a super computer that runs the

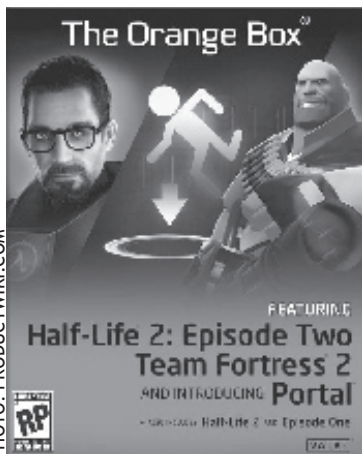


PHOTO: PRODUCTWIKI.COM

facility. The game, based around first person puzzles using the portal guns, features not only storytelling that rivals the Half-Life games in the package, but features a level of humor that is unheard of in games.

Team Fortress is a game most Half-Life players will know, as it is a popular modification of the original Half-Life. It's safe to say that Team Fortress 2, using the Half-Life source engine, definitely delivers a great online experience. From the very fun and well-balanced classes to the zany graphics, everything in the game is made with loving detail and very fun execution.

WORD ON THE STREET

What's the worst job you've ever had?



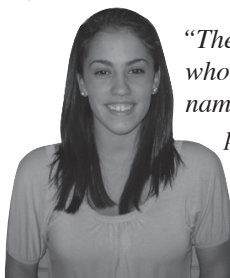
"Joanne's Pizza. I had to do the most slave work in the kitchen and restaurant."

Josh Daidone, Senior



"Ben and Jerry's! They made me work 12 hour shifts without even asking me, and I have to work until I AM sometimes."

Allie Conlon, Junior



"There was this one kid who I used to babysit named Joey. Both his parents were body-builders, so he felt the need to beat me up the entire time."

Jaime Cutrone, Senior



"Rite Aid. There is bad there."

Steve Secular, Junior

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

PHOTOS: MIKE MCCOURT

Anticipation mounts as NFL Draft draws near



■ Arkansas running back Darren McFadden could give the Jets a necessary offensive boost at pick number six in the draft.

by ALEX LAU

With the NFL Draft quickly approaching (April 26th-27th), most, if not all, teams are still

wondering which players can make the biggest impact on their performances. New York's teams, the Jets and Giants, had completely different seasons and therefore

have very different draft picks. The Jets finished with a dismal 4-12 record, while their counterparts, the Giants, finished with an unexpected Super Bowl victory

over the previously undefeated New England Patriots. The Jets' disappointing season puts them in the 6th spot in the draft, while the Giants' championship earns them the last pick in the first round.

The Jets have an abundance of solid options with their early pick. Because all of the teams ahead of them (with the exception of the Oakland Raiders) do not need running backs, the heralded and talented Darren McFadden of Arkansas could be a viable option for the Jets. McFadden's speed, agility and power could offer a much needed boost to their struggling offense.

If McFadden is unavailable, then Jets' fans can expect their team to draft Ohio State defensive end Vernon Gholston, who had an impressive performance at the NFL Combine.

If both McFadden and Gholston are available when the Jets make their pick, a tough decision could face the team: choose the star (McFadden) that might not satisfy the team's biggest need but would undeniably bolster their offense, or choose the lesser known player (Gholston) who can effectively fill a position the Jets are in dire need of.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel for Gang Green: the Jets have already filled gaping holes in their roster by signing offensive linemen Alan Faneca and Damien Woody along with linebacker Calvin Pace.

With free agency already

taken care of, a solid draft would increase their chances of success.

Thankfully, the New York Giants won't need to make as many tough decisions at the draft with a late pick and already solid team.

The Giants do seem to have their eye on Penn State linebacker Dan Connor. Connor is a great fit for the Giants who recently lost two linebackers, Kawika Mitchell and Reggie Torbor, to free agency. Connor would make this already formidable defense even more powerful with his instincts and nose for the ball. The G-Men might also want to look at taking speedy Tennessee linebacker Jerod Mayo if he is still available.

No matter what the Giants do, they really cannot go wrong, as nearly every position on the team is covered. Their only holes are in the linebacker and safety spots, both of which can be filled in the later rounds.

The Giants haven't made too much of a splash in the free agency pool, and why would they? They are the reigning Super Bowl champs, which puts them at the top of the football world.

Although the Jets have a hard road ahead of them, their chances for success could be increased by their pick in the draft. The Giants look ready to ride the momentum of their Super Bowl win to another great season.

Who knows- maybe *both* New York teams could be looking at winning seasons.

PHOTO: PICTOPIA.COM

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Wax

MLB 2008 Season Predictions:

MIKE MCCOURT's picks

SAM EISEN's picks

American League

Eastern Division:

1. Boston Red Sox
2. New York Yankees*
3. Tampa Bay Rays
4. Toronto Blue Jays
5. Baltimore Orioles



National League

Eastern Division:

1. New York Mets
2. Atlanta Braves
3. Philadelphia Phillies
4. Florida Marlins
5. Washington Nationals



Central Division:

1. Detroit Tigers
2. Cleveland Indians
3. Minnesota Twins
4. Kansas City Royals
5. Chicago White Sox



Central Division:

1. Chicago Cubs
2. Milwaukee Brewers
3. Houston Astros
4. Cincinnati Reds
5. St. Louis Cardinals
6. Pittsburgh Pirates



Western Division:

1. Seattle Mariners
2. Los Angeles Angels
3. Oakland Athletics
4. Texas Rangers



Western Division:

1. Arizona Diamondbacks
2. Colorado Rockies*
3. Los Angeles Dodgers
4. San Diego Padres
5. San Francisco Giants



AL Most Valuable Player:

Miguel Cabrera, Detroit Tigers

AL Cy Young:

C.C. Sabathia, Cleveland Indians



PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

■ *McCourt and Eisen's pick for AL MVP:*
Miguel Cabrera

NL Most Valuable Player:

Matt Holliday, Colorado Rockies

NL Cy Young:

Johan Santana, New York Mets

Playoff Results

ALDS:

- Tigers d. Yankees
Red Sox d. Mariners

NLDS:

- Cubs d. Rockies
Mets d. Diamondbacks

ALCS:

- Tigers d. Red Sox

NLCS:

- Mets d. Cubs

World Series:

- Detroit Tigers d. New York Mets

* Denotes Wild Card Winner

American League

Eastern Division:

1. New York Yankees
2. Boston Red Sox*
3. Toronto Blue Jays
4. Tampa Bay Rays
5. Baltimore Orioles



National League

Eastern Division:

1. New York Mets
2. Atlanta Braves*
3. Philadelphia Phillies
4. Florida Marlins
5. Washington Nationals



Central Division:

1. Detroit Tigers
2. Cleveland Indians
3. Chicago White Sox
4. Minnesota Twins
5. Kansas City Royals



Central Division:

1. Chicago Cubs
2. Milwaukee Brewers
3. Cincinnati Reds
4. St. Louis Cardinals
5. Houston Astros
6. Pittsburgh Pirates



Western Division:

1. Los Angeles Angels
2. Seattle Mariners
3. Oakland Athletics
4. Texas Rangers



Western Division:

1. Colorado Rockies
2. Los Angeles Dodgers
3. Arizona Diamondbacks
4. San Diego Padres
5. San Francisco Giants

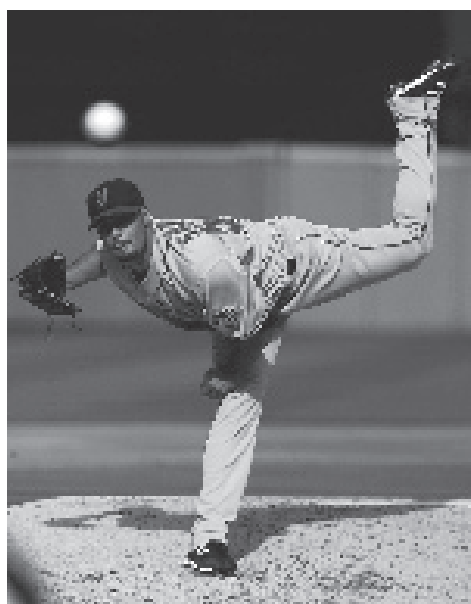


AL Most Valuable Player:

Miguel Cabrera, Detroit Tigers

AL Cy Young:

Erik Bedard, Seattle Mariners



■ *McCourt and Eisen's pick for NL Cy Young:*
Johan Santana

NL Most Valuable Player:

Prince Fielder, Milwaukee Brewers

NL Cy Young:

Johan Santana, New York Mets

Playoff Results

ALDS:

- Yankees d. Tigers
Red Sox d. Angels

NLDS:

- Cubs d. Mets
Braves d. Rockies

ALCS:

- Yankees d. Red Sox

NLCS:

- Cubs d. Braves

World Series:

- New York Yankees d. Chicago Cubs

Blue Devil athletes going to the next level



Casey Scully
Lacrosse
Iona College



by MIKE MCCOURT

Casey Scully began playing lacrosse eight years ago when she was in the fourth grade, and she has no plans of making her senior year her last in the sport.

Scully will play for Iona College, a Division I school in New Rochelle, next year.

"I liked Iona because it was close, but not too close," she says.

Coaches value Scully due to her work ethic, athleticism and overall attitude.

Ms. Scully's fondest lacrosse moment was playing in the Suffolk County Championship last year.

Casey has also made a name for herself playing Soccer and Basketball. She helped the Girls' Basketball team win a County Championship in March.

Correction:

In our December issue, an article entitled "New Kids on the Block" reported that the Harborfields members of the Boys' Volleyball team did not contribute financially and hindered the play of Huntington players, which Athletic Director Georgia McCarthy has stated to be false. We also inaccurately reported that fitness test scores were announced in physical education classes. Although one student said her scores were announced, it appears to be an aberration.



James Beck
Baseball
Iona College



by MIKE MCCOURT

In December, Senior James Beck signed an NCAA Letter of Intent to play baseball for Iona College.

Beck will join his older sister, Jill, at the Division I school. "It'll be good to have my sister there with me," he said, "We get along really well."

The presence of his older sister wasn't the only reason Beck chose Iona. James says he loved the campus layout as well as the surrounding town of New Rochelle.

Entering his senior season, Beck owns a career .396 batting average with 5 homeruns. His coaches value his

bat, cannon arm and leadership behind the plate. James intends to play catcher and/or first base at Iona.

His successes are not limited to the baseball diamond. In the classroom, James is an Honor Roll student who is enrolled in several AP classes.

James was also an integral part of the Blue Devil football and basketball teams, but he says his true passion since kindergarten has been baseball.

"I fell in love with baseball at an early age and I've always been motivated to be the best player on the field, which I think really helped my development as a player," he said.



Leslie O'Brien
Soccer
Johns Hopkins University



by TIMOTHY O'GRADY

Leslie O'Brien will be attending Johns Hopkins University this fall and playing for the school's highly regarded soccer team. This Distinguished Senior has had an admirable four years of high school, both on the field and in the classroom.

O'Brien is a member of the Italian, National and Math Honor Societies and has taken a plethora of AP courses.

Leslie's combined academic and athletic success has earned her a Suffolk County Zone Award.

She has played on the Girl's Varsity Soccer team for four years, being awarded All-County three times and All-State once.

Leslie also plays soccer for the Sachem Blazers (ranked 30th in the nation in her age group) and previously played for the LI-JSL ODP soccer team.

Although soccer is her true

passion, she has participated in various sports at Huntington with similar success. Leslie has been on Varsity Winter Track (three time all county), Varsity Spring Track and Varsity Lacrosse. She currently holds the school record for the 55m hurdles, 55m dash, Sprint Medley Relay, and Shuttle Hurdle Relay (winter track).

Leslie was recruited by Johns Hopkins over the summer during soccer showcase tournaments. Leslie also considered attending Lafayette College and William Smith College, but decided to apply Early Decision to Johns Hopkins.

"I have always been participating in one sport or another, so balancing school and sports has just been my way of life for as long as I can remember. I also get bored easily so it's good to always have a sport to play," concluded Ms. O'Brien.

PHOTOS: TIMOTHY O'GRADY

SPORTS

Mock and Load: Steve Mock steps up to lead Blue Devil lacrosse

by MIKE MCCOURT

When asked about who anchors the Boys' Lacrosse Team, Senior Co-Captain Chris Potter answers without hesitation: "Steve Mock."

Mock, a Junior and Co-Captain, made a name for himself on last year's team while playing under the shadow of Rhamel Bratton, Shamel Bratton, and Zach Howell, among others. He has emerged this year as the team's leading scorer and go-to man.

In March, Mock's four goals, including the game winning score with two minutes remaining in double overtime, and two assists helped lift the Blue Devils over West Babylon, 13-12.

In a 6-4 win over Bay Port-Blue Point, Mock scored 4 goals and contributed an assist.

But despite his obvious talent, Mock seems to name every

other player than himself when asked the same question as Potter.

"Andy Brohel, Pat Brady, Pat Wright..." he lists.

"Geez, don't forget yourself, Steve," teammate Kevin Bilzi chimes in.

Mock credits his success to a motto he refers to as the "Triple-H Factor," which consists of "Heart, Hustle and Hard work."

His Co-Captain Potter stresses teamwork. "Our team works together," he says, "we just take things one game at a time."

The team is also charitable, looking to give back to those in need. On March 29th, the boys played crosstown rivals Cold Spring Harbor in the second annual "Shooting for a Cure" charity game for Juvenile Diabetes.

Head Coach Paul McDermott's son, Matthew, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2006. All proceeds from the game went to find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes. Although Cold Spring Harbor won the game, 9-5, Huntington's spirits were high afterwards, as McDermott and opposing coach Dennis Bonn agreed to make the game a tradition.

The team faces an obvious



■ Huntington attack Steve Mock speeds past a Cold Spring Harbor defenseman during the Blue Devils' second annual Juvenile Diabetes charity game. PHOTO: NEWSDAY

challenge this year to rebound from the loss of vital players such as the aforementioned Brattons, Howell and Sean Brady.

Potter applauds goalie Mark Salerno, who has averaged 16 saves per game. Salerno's contri-

butions have successfully filled a void created when Brady, last year's goalie, graduated and left for Duke University.

Other varsity players who have answered the call include Juniors Andy Brohel and Kevin

Bilzi, who have both scored six goals apiece, and Sophomore Patrick Brady, who has scored four-times thus far.

Note: All stats are as of April 10th

Wrestling Trio Goes All-State

by BRIAN VENTURINO

Despite its illustrious history, with 23 State Championships thus far, the Blue Devil Wrestling Team is often overlooked by fans who offer more support to other winter teams such as basketball.

Many students seem to be unaware of the wrestling team's perfect season this winter and of the three wrestlers who earned All-State honors.

Sophomore Damon McQueen and Seniors Jose Vazquez and Dashaun Thomas all reached the semifinal round before a crowd of 5,000 at the State Championship in Rochester.

"Of course, we would have liked all of them to win, but, overall, they did a great job," said assistant Coach Travis Smith.

With this trio, Varsity Coach Lou Giani has now coached 53 All-State wrestlers, the most in New York State history.

These three wrestlers ended what was a very successful year for the Devils, as the team was

undefeated in the regular season. The team was anchored by their All-State trio along with Seniors Francisco Pereira and Guillermo Dominguez and Junior Anthony Lupi, who missed last year's season due to a broken leg suffered playing football.

Lupi says that "desire, determination and discipline" motivated him to have a strong comeback after last year's injury. Lupi worked hard to regain

his strength over this past summer, and his efforts paid off. Peter Fusco, one of three varsity coaches, credited Lupi on the improvement he made this year.

Fusco also explained that the future is bright for Huntington Wrestling. With McQueen, Lupi, Nigel McNeil, Louie Puca and T.J. Wilson to lead the team, Blue Devil wrestling fans can look forward to many more successful seasons such as this one.



■ Senior Jose Vazquez wrestles his Rocky Point opponent during a closely contested rivalry match in January.

Forster, Hicks All-State

by MIKE MCCOURT

Juniors Julie Forster and Kerry Hicks of the Huntington Girl's Basketball team were named to New York's All-State team earlier this month.

"There weren't many Long Island girls on the team, so to be honored like that is pretty cool," Hicks said of the distinction.

Hicks, a 5'6" point guard, scored her one-thousandth career point in a game in late January. Her leadership and ability to control the game led her teammates to give her the nickname of "Floor General."

Forster, a 5'11" forward, is valued for her defensive and rebounding abilities. She averaged 12 points and 11 rebounds per game during the regular season.

The announcement comes nearly one month after the Lady Devils fell short of a Long Island title with their overtime loss to Floral Park. A crowd of 1,500 saw the girls lose an 11-point fourth quarter lead and eventually fall, 47-44, with Forster scoring their last 8 points.

Senior Casey Scully and Ju-

nior Maria Marascia were also given All-League honors. Hicks credits the two of them on being exceptional defenders and clutch shooters.

Coach Bradley Reminick was named the Suffolk League V Coach of the Year, leading the Lady Devils to a 17-7 record and a Suffolk County title.

■ All-State forward Julie Forster (left).



PHOTO: NEWSDAY

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