



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 1, Volume 36

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

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PHOTO: MIKE MCCOURT

»news in short

Lau, Payne at top of class

Seniors Chris Lau and Dylan Payne have been named the valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the Class of 2009.

These honors are awarded to the students with the highest cumulative grade point averages in their class, and are met with praise from the entire student body.

Derbyshire visits HHS class

In mid-October, Mr. Baron's journalism class was visited by John Derbyshire, a nation-wide known freelance writer whose articles can be found in magazines such as *the National Review* and *the American Conservative*.

Mr. Derbyshire has been writing since the 1980's, and has written four books.

He spoke to the class about his experiences and routines as a writer, giving students an idea of what life as a journalist is like.

BY LENA FREED

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Senior lounge in limbo

by CODY JACOBS

Have you been curious about the possibility of a closed campus, dreaming and hoping it will never happen? Well, unfortunately the possibilities are endless. Dr. Leonard is exploring all the ideas with her colleagues. In the future Huntington High School might work with a Pizza or Chinese restaurant for bulk orders of takeout for the seniors.

This would require a great deal of student involvement and commitment. In the event that the campus is closed, the smaller cafeteria will be turned into a senior lounge. Many options have been considered for the student lounge, including possible computer access, takeout orders, and comfortable seating. Eventually another lounge would be built outside, near the garage. Both lounges would require a large amount of fundraising, especially the outside one. The student government is already raising money for the possible student lounges with The Brick Project. For those of you thinking that a closed campus means there will be a replacement senior privilege, you're out of luck.

As this issue of *The Dispatch* came to print, no set agree-



PHOTO: MATT WEST

■ Seniors Mike Crawford (left) and Kevin Freeman (right) enjoy their lunch at KFC. Next year's senior class may have to eat lunch in the school cafeteria, as plans to construct a "Senior Lounge" have come to a halt.

ments or time tables seem to have been made on the closure of the open campus. The first time anyone mentioned the closed campus option was two years ago by Dr. Leonard. She sent a letter to Mr. Finello, the superintendent, mid last year expressing her concerns about the open campus. When contacted at his district office, Mr. Finello said that no action has yet

to be taken and he did not know when it would be. Mr. Finello was a man of few words. Nothing can be done until Mr. Finello takes action on that letter and announces his position. Everything seems to be a mystery, and no one can be sure of what 2009/2010's future might hold. However, some things are known. If the closed campus petition becomes

a reality, there will be a combination effort of the students and staff on a senior student lounge. If any meetings are going to be held about the closed campus situation parents, teachers, and staff will be informed. To be ready for a possible closed campus in the fall of 2009, an approval before the bud-

see LOUNGE on page 2

'Kids Funding Kids' in Africa



PHOTOS: AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

■ Students at St. Justin's school in Ghana (left) read used children's books donated to them by the "Kids Funding Kids" program. A St. Justin's teacher (right) poses with some other donated materials.



by AMANDA GOLDSTEIN

The children of St. Justin's School, in Ghana, Africa, live in extreme poverty under squalid conditions. Many of their families are stricken with AIDS and our assistance is greatly needed. I am involved in an organization called, Kids Funding Kids, which supports the St. Justin's School in Africa. We provide assistance by donating used books to build libraries, and financial support for AIDS medical treatment and education.

We are trying to raise money to supply them with nursing care

and AIDS education, which costs \$3,000 per year. We also send used children's books, which they value a great deal.

In September of 2005 we started working with Jenny Coley, an African missionary for the Anglican-Episcopal Dioceses of Accra, Ghana. She helps us by transporting the books and money to the school.

In addition to raising money and sending books we have also

created a pen-pal system, so that the children at the school feel really connected to where and

"Many of their families are stricken with AIDS and our assistance is greatly needed."

gratitude for what we have done for them.

With the help of Jenny Coley,

and both the students and faculty at Huntington High School, a difference in the lives of the students at St. Justin's School can be made. You can help get involved by raising money, writing a letter or donating gently used children's books. These children are in desperate need of any aid that they can get and would appreciate your help. When they receive either a letter, a book or money for treatments they are encouraged not to give up. If you are interested in helping in anyway please contact Amanda Goldstein for more information.

Homecoming split due to poor weather

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

As every student attending Huntington High School knows, this year's homecoming festivities were split into two weekends due to an unfortunate spell of rain during the weekend of September 26th. Originally, Homecoming weekend was to consist of float night on the night of Friday, September 26th, the homecoming football game during the afternoon of Saturday, September 27th, and the homecoming dance during the evening after the football game. However, as the clouds rolled in and the skies darkened, everything changed.

Once the rain began, Dr. Leonardi called the members of the student council as well as school personnel in for a meeting to discuss the fate of homecoming weekend. The consensus was that all indoor activities were to be held as scheduled, but the outdoor activities were to be postponed until the weekend of October 3rd and 4th. Thus, the pep rally and dance remained as planned, but float night, the football game, and the parade were postponed.

Some students were disappointed by the decision to create a split homecoming, but others were thrilled about it. Kelsey Iwanicki commented, "Homecoming seemed different than in the past. Neither game was filled with as much spirit as I expected from my experience at previous

homecoming games." On the other side, Dr. Leonardi stated that "These changes will only serve to lengthen the celebratory spirit that surrounds this event."

As the end of the school day neared on September 26th, the students and faculty of HHS piled into the gym to attend the 2008 pep rally. Students cheered on their peers as members of the varsity sports teams were introduced. Adding to the mix, the high steppers performed their current dance routine, featuring flips and splits, with perfection. The Blue Devil Marching Band also played a spectacular standing performance of their routine, Bacchanale. Overall, the pep rally was a success and many students left the gym with smiles on their faces, and a renewed sense of Huntington Blue Devil pride.

The next night, the homecoming dance took place in the school gymnasium. Students danced for hours on end, and had a great time. One student said, "Everyone looked great at the dance, and it was a ton of fun." The dance had a record turnout of approximately 500 students.

The following weekend, a.k.a. "Homecoming Part Two" was jam-packed with even more events. On Friday, October 3,

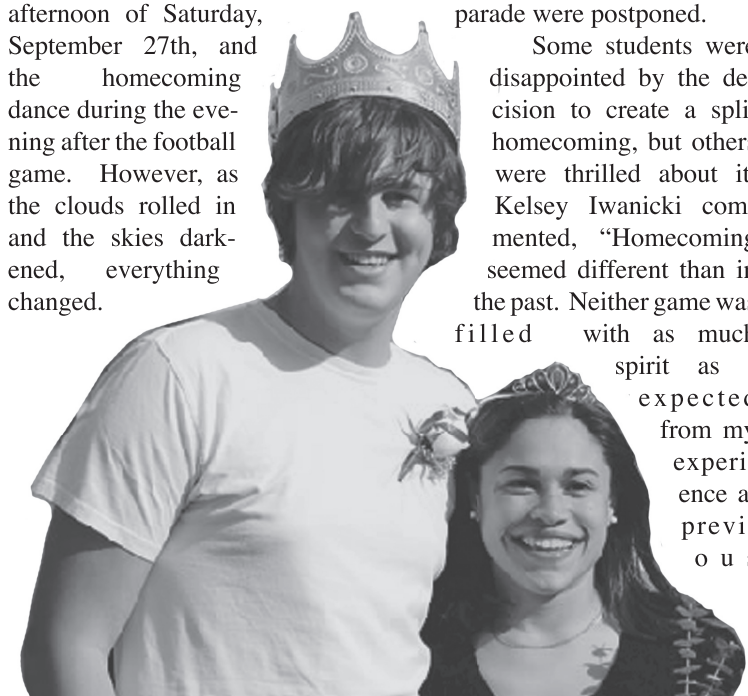
students from each class worked diligently on their class floats for six hours straight, from 6 pm until 12 am. The theme for the 2008 class floats was board games. The freshman class of 2012 decided to base its float off the game Twister. The sophomore class of 2011 chose to decorate their float like The Game of Life. The junior (2010) class' float was inspired by the game Monopoly. Lastly, the senior class of 2009 went with the childhood classic Candyland. The seniors described their reason of choosing Candyland because "it represents a part of every one of us; colorful, fun, and containing personality." The next morning these floats were paraded down New York Avenue in the homecoming parade. Also in the homecoming parade were student government members, various sports teams, the Royal Court, and the marching band. The parade ended at Huntington High School, just in time for the big game.

As nearly 2,000 spectators took their seats, the pep band played various songs to lighten the mood and provide a cheery atmosphere. The sun shone down to create a lovely, sunny, 65° day. Students, alumni, parents, and faculty watched Huntington bat-

tle the Harborfields tornadoes in a challenging game that ended in an ill-fated loss with a final score of 17-19. However, the game proved to be thrilling, with many twists and turns, and Huntington fans kept good spirits despite the loss.

At half time, the High stepers and the marching band each performed outstanding shows. Then the class floats were displayed and the winning float was announced—the seniors with their Candyland float. Next, the Royal Court was introduced, which included homecoming queen nominees Caitlin Ortiz, Christina Boshko, Lindsay Hackett, and Kristy Lyons, and homecoming king nominees Joe Brown, Matt Miller, Steve Perini, and Brian Ruggiero. Superintendent John J. Finello crowned the ecstatic winners, Caitlin Ortiz, and Steve Perini was crowned by Dr. Leonardi.

The split homecoming, although quite different than in past years, proved to run smoothly. Students seemed happy to extend their celebrations into a two week ordeal, and still attended all of the numerous homecoming events. Homecoming was enjoyable for all members of the community and school.



■ Seniors Steve Perini (left) and Caitlin Ortiz (right) were voted the Homecoming King and Queen, respectively. PHOTO: HUFSD.EDU

HHS introduces new recycling program

by REBECCA FRIEDMAN

Looking around the classrooms, you may have noticed something new this year: a recycling bin. Recycling white paper is one of several ways in which Paul Rispoli, director of facilities, and the Buildings and Grounds Department are helping Huntington High School "go green."

Every Tuesday, the contents of the recycling bins are brought to the maintenance garage. The town picks it up every Wednesday morning, and takes it to a private facility. From the private facility, the paper is shipped to a mill in Canada. While the school is at this time only recycling white paper, Mr. Rispoli says that the school board is actively discussing the possibility of recycling water bottles.

There are other steps that the school is making in order to be deemed green that are not discernable to the average student. The heating and ventilation system was upgraded two years ago to a more energy efficient one. In the past, it was run by the custodial staff, and required them to turn a series of switches on and off. According to Mr. Rispoli, "We have installed a computerized energy management system that turns on the heating plant. It is on a schedule that brings the school up to sixty-eight degrees one hour before the start of school, and self adjusts itself depending on the outside air temperature."

"While the control system and burner heads are state of the

art, the boilers are original to the building [1957] and could be upgraded to a more energy efficient system" says Rispoli. The multi-fuel system uses both natural gas and fuel oil, depending on the temperature of the air, and the cost of fuel on that day. The district also combines with other districts in Suffolk County in order to reduce the cost of fuel by buying it in bulk.

On September 1, 2006, the New York State Education Department passed a law that requires all schools to use green cleaning products. Huntington High School is taking further steps to be environmentally conscious. According to Mr. Rispoli, "The school has saved millions of dollars by switching to low en-

ergy light fixtures called T8. We went from using 32 watt bulbs to 30 watt bulbs." Motion activated lights also help lessen the amount of energy consumed.

Mr. Rispoli and Mr. Giani, the assistant superintendent, are also seeking alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. If the district opts for solar energy, it would take approximately 18 months for construction to begin. One drawback to wind energy is that the only useable location is the high school.

It is no secret that every school seems to be hopping on the "going green" bandwagon, and with the hard work of Mr. Rispoli and others, our school is one of them.



■ The high school's new recycling program has made Blue Devils more aware of the effect they have on the environment.

LOUNGE from front page

get would be preferable in preparing the senior student lounge. Next year's seniors might be allowed to go out next year, if a decision isn't made soon enough.

When interviewed, Dr. Leonardi recalls what lead her to become so concerned about Huntington High School's open campus. She remembers reading various articles about student casualties and accidents during an open campus lunch period, especially an account about six years ago that ended with a fatal accident after school at Huntington High School. In other school districts, where there have been tragedies during a senior lunch period, the open campuses have been closed. Dr. Leonardi sympathizes with the students, and realizes that lunch is a time of relaxation and socialization for seniors. Dr. Leonardi says her only concern is that of the safety of the student body. She stated that, students

aged 17-18 have proven to be the more daring and, dangerous drivers, with the highest percentile of fatalities. Adding that to students being in a hurry with only 45 minutes for lunch is a hazardous combination. "You can't predict the future and limits have to be established somewhere," as Dr. Leonardi put it.

If the campus is closed, fund raising for a student lounge will be started. Both sides of the argument have strong support. While much of the faculty believes that the closure of the campus is essential, most of the student body disagrees. Although it seems that the decision is weighted heavily on the closing of the campus, there is still a possibility that it will remain open. Maybe the student body will agree that safety is more important than the open campus senior privilege, or maybe ideas will be generated to address safety, while maintaining the privileges of the past.

Join The Dispatch!

Be part of the "beacon of truth"

New members always welcome!

Meetings after school on
Tuesdays, Room 242



ATTACK OF THE COCKROACHES

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

Imagine this; you're a freshman and you're opening your locker for the first time. After a few turns of a Master lock, your locker pops open. You look down, and there's a huge cockroach crawling around to greet you. Could it only happen in a

movie? No. This very incident happened to Shelby Clarke, a junior, at the beginning of her high school career. Shelby swears she has never used any lockers since.

Huntington High School seems to be a paradise for cockroaches, despite measures that have been taken to exterminate them. Locker rooms and the

basement seem to be hot spots to encounter our school "pets". When asked about his encounters with roaches, Jack Russo stated, "Cockroches? I practically live with them! In the football locker room, a day doesn't go by without some kind of encounter of the unwanted kind." Sammy Saint-hill adds, "Last year in the boys locker room there was a huge dead cockroach and everybody freaked out."

The music wing also has a large population of roaches. According to Katie Levittan, "In my sophomore year, I saw two in a matter of ten seconds in the music hallway... one by the stairs and one by the chorus room." If you're in any music classes, I advise checking your mouthpiece for any of our little friends to avoid an unwanted crunchy afternoon snack. Also, you may want to watch your back in the music wing, as Jake Fleisig exclaims, "A cockroach ate my family...

by the band room." Will Jenne also had a musical encounter with cockroaches and says, "Freshman year, when I was in band, a roach crawled on this kid's shoe so we all took turns beating at it with old music stands." Well, at least the roaches provide a source of entertainment and humor.

ing to Rebecca Lader and Angela Bosco, "A cockroach decided to crawl out and hang out (literally) on the ceiling above the students' heads, so our class had to wait for the bell to ring in the hallway in case it decided to let go of the ceiling and end up on someone's head. Later, it jumped down and crawled behind something."

Cockroaches detract from learning in the classroom and when spotted, disrupt classes. Something greater than the previous extermination attempts needs to be done. Cockroaches are unsanitary and can carry diseases such as dysentery, typhoid and poliomyelitis, as well as gastroenteritis. They can also live in virtually any condition, so any diseases cockroaches may have are quickly spread. Cockroach horror stories may seem fun and amusing on the surface, but deep down there is a risk of disease.

WORD ON THE STREET

If you could nominate one person for the presidency who is not currently in the race, who would it be and why?



Rickia Bollar, Sophomore

"50 Cent, because he's a smart person. And because he had a hard life. And he got shot nine times."



Caitlin Etri, Junior

"If Tim Russert was still alive, I would nominate him. He was a very bright man who was diligent in every aspect and knew his politics."



Marc Acevedo, Freshman

"Alec Baldwin- because he's good with the kids."



Joe D'Esposito, Sophomore

"Grandpa Phil from 'Hey Arnold!' He's got good stories, an eating title under his belt, and a solid laugh."



Ken Holden, Senior

"Jesus. He's old school, good at avoiding fights, invincible, magical, forever young, and grizzly."

PHOTOS: MIKE MCCOURT

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

"A cockroach ate my family... by the band room."

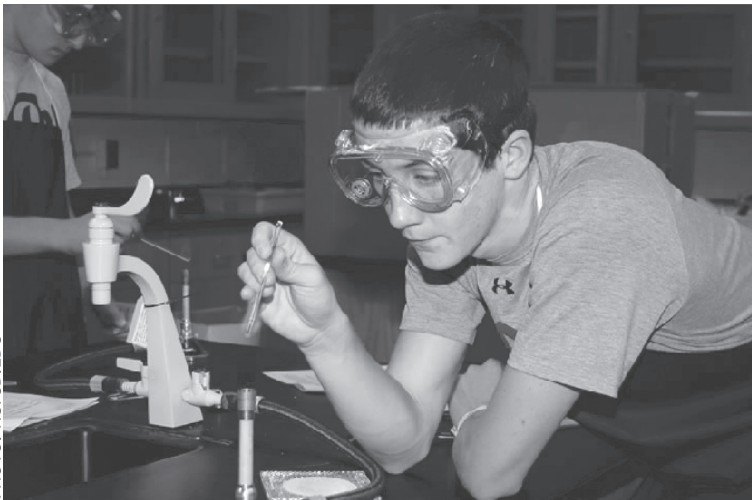
However, you know it has gone too far when cockroaches fall from the sky. Last year in Mrs. Casazza's Spanish class, a cockroach crawled out of the hung ceiling and fell straight to the floor. A similar incidence happened this year during Mr. Agnello's health class. Accord-

HHS builds two new science labs

by CARRIE FANTE

Over the summer in the social studies wing of Huntington High School, two brand new chemistry labs replaced three former social studies and ESL classrooms. These new classrooms now hold the Regents and AP chemistry classes and are used nearly every period. They have been outfitted with better technology and provide more space, which makes it easier for chemistry students to conduct labs. They also give teachers more flexibility with which labs they are able to do. The Huntington Science Program has always been excellent and students have always done extremely well on science Regents and AP exams. These new chemistry labs will help ensure that the science program at Huntington continues to grow and excel.

Being able to perform labs is really important for students because it helps them learn and understand necessary concepts. Learning something in a "hands on" way, where students get to observe chemical reactions as they occur, can really make a difference to the students' understanding of the material. A lot of the new features of the chemistry rooms were added to make it easier for the classes to perform labs; for example, some of the labs and demonstrations done in chemistry use chemicals that can be dangerous if they are inhaled. In the past, teachers that wanted to do some of these demonstrations had to do them outside, or just cut them out all together. The new fume hood that was added to both rooms vents fumes out of the room and is transparent on three



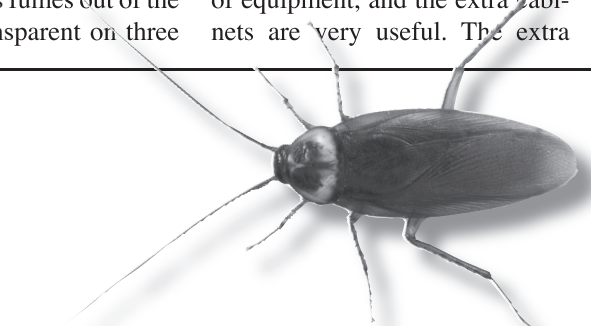
■ Junior Ryan Greenhill uses a bunsen burner in one of the high school's two new science labs.

sides so students can see what the teacher is doing. Also in the past teachers who wanted to do labs that involved ice had to bag the ice beforehand and bring it to the classroom. Now, there is an ice machine shared between the two rooms that makes setting up labs involving ice much easier. Finally, both of these classrooms are especially large which helps provide more space for students and teachers to move around during labs. In smaller rooms when the students are working closer together, it can be harder to complete the labs and keep everything organized.

Other new features include gas jets that whistle if they are left on, more storage space, and eighteen foot white boards at the front of the classrooms. Leaving gas jets running can lead to leaking, which is a safety hazard, so the fact that they whistle if they are left on helps eliminate that risk. Chemistry labs require a lot of equipment, and the extra cabinets are very useful. The extra

large boards are convenient for teachers who need to put a lot of notes on the board. Unfortunately, the boards weren't installed until nearly two months into the school year, making things harder for the teachers in the beginning. For the most part, however, all the work to the new labs was completely done before the school year started, so they caused minimal disruption.

It is clear that the new chemistry labs are a big improvement to the school's science department. The students are happier in brand new classrooms with new equipment, and the teachers are happier with more space, better technology and resources to help them with demonstrations and labs. The new classrooms are the largest of several recent improvements to science classrooms (including work on some of the Earth science and biology labs), and while not all of the chemistry classes get to use them, they make a big difference to the many classes and teachers that do.



The forgotten elections: *other races to consider on November 4*

NY's Second Congressional District

NY's Fifth Senate District



■ Steve Israel (D)



■ Frank Stalzer (R)

by NICK MAIARELLI

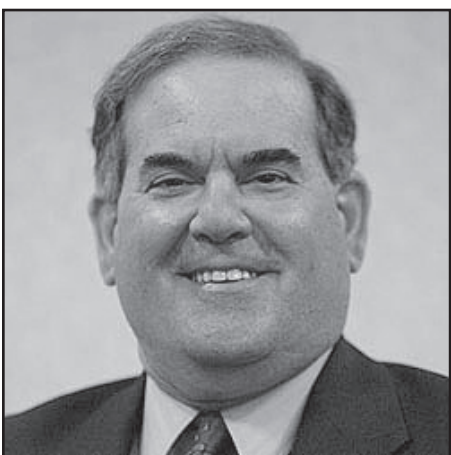
In the excitement surrounding the presidential elections, many people have overlooked the fact that this November, the people of each state will have to elect a representative to serve in the House of Representatives. Every state is divided into districts based on population. New York state is made up of twenty-nine Congressional Districts. Long Island includes a total of sixteen Congressional Districts. Huntington is in the Second Congressional District.

This year, voters who reside in Huntington will have a choice of two candidates that they can elect for this position: Steve Israel (Democrat), or Frank J. Stalzer (Republican). Steve Israel (D) has served four terms, and is running for a fifth term. He supports alternative energy, and for years has been working on an initiative that would limit greenhouse emissions, decrease American dependence on foreign oil and support the growth of renewable energies. He also supports a bill that would give middle class families with an income of less \$200,000 a \$5,000 credit

towards college. Steve Israel supports bills that would protect the environment, and is working to raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur.

The candidate running against Steve Israel is Frank J. Stalzer (R). The son of immigrant parents, Frank Stalzer grew up in Valley Stream, NY. After graduating from high school, he attended NYIT, and graduated with a B.S. Degree in Public Administration. He supports offshore drilling and nuclear energy. He also supports reducing capital gains tax from 15% to 10%, and reducing the corporate tax from 35% to 25%. In addition, he supports making the tax cuts made under the Bush Administration permanent for all Americans. Stalzer believes in keeping American troops in Iraq until Iraqi forces can defend their own country. He promises to support efforts that will empower the Department of Homeland Security. Stalzer is pro-life, and believes that the amount of terms a congressman can serve should be limited to 6 terms. Stalzer has experience as a business manager, but will be serving for the first time if he is elected to the House of Representatives.

NY's Tenth Assembly District



■ James Conte (R)



■ Jeffrey Stark (D)

by MIKE McCOURT

Republican James Conte will seek an eleventh term representing the 10th District of the State Assembly against Democrat Jeffrey Stark on Tuesday's election.

Conte, who is also running under the Independent, Conservative and Working Families parties, has vowed to continue his efforts to better the district he serves. "I still have the fire in the belly to go to Albany and do what we need," he said. Conte has stated that his main priority will be to lower property taxes for residents of the tenth district. He has supported a statewide property tax cap and the Taxpayers Protection Act, which shifts tax burdens from the local to state government. He has also pushed to rid of the state gas tax to reduce the price of gasoline.

His opponent, Stark, argues that Conte

has failed to bring "effective, meaningful change" during his service in the Assembly. Stark has proposed tax breaks for towns and counties that take environmentally friendly initiatives. "That would send the message that we are serious about reducing our dependence on foreign oil and would jump-start an industry that is slow growing," he said. "If you put the effort in, the market will take off."

Both candidates have emphasized increasing funding for education, lowering taxes, and keeping the Huntington area environmentally clean.

The race should prove to be very close, as there are only 1,000 more registered Republicans than Democrats in the area.

Conte and Stark have done door to door campaigning, hoping to appeal to as many residents as possible.



■ Carl Marcellino (R)



■ Matthew Meng (D)

by ANNABEL JOUARD

This November, Democrat Matthew Meng will challenge the incumbent Republican Carl Marcellino. Marcellino currently represents the 5th district of the New York Senate, encompassing everything between Fort Salonga, Commack, Bethpage and Glenwood Landing.

Marcellino (who grew up in Syosset) is running on his environmental record, citing the 114 laws he has written towards clean air, fuel and roads since his first term in 1995. "It is imperative that Congress develop a far reaching energy program that will fund alternative fuels and vehicles and those who create these technologies," said the senator. He also commented on how the Senate will have to work so as to not burden the New York taxpayer even more during this financial crisis, explaining his experience would give him the ability to do so: "We need to focus on job creation and stability. We need to focus on reducing the tax burden for both young and old. We need to slash government spending and keep the money where it belongs, in the

overburdened taxpayer's pocket."

Matthew Meng (from East Norwich), Senator Marcellino's opponent, is trying to connect more with the voters based on his business experience running Little Garage, which fixes specialty cars, for 28 years. "I've been fixing a lot of problems all my life and I think I can solve a lot of dysfunction in government," Meng reasons. He also is committed to environmentalist legislation, saying, "I think we need to aggressively set new standards to get better gas mileage. When it is done across the board it is easier for all car companies to compete." American ingenuity, he argues, is the answer and will survive through the financial crisis, concluding "...the most important issue in the state today is in one word- the economy. That and how to as painlessly as possible close the deficit gap in Albany... There were warnings out there for a long time that the economy was overleveraged and now we all have to pay the penalty unfortunately. And now, everything has to be reviewed and on the table."

NY's Ninth Assembly District



■ Andrew Raia (R)



■ Karen Kerr-Ozimek (D)

by MIKE McCOURT

On the other side of town (east of Park Avenue), Republican Assemblyman Andrew Raia will face two other candidates in his bid for reelection.

Karen Kerr-Ozimek of the Democratic party and Michele Mastrangelo of the Working Families party are also in the race.

Raia has said he is fully committed to the State Assembly, working as a "full-time legislator." He says he often works late nights six days a week to better his district.

He has worked hard during his six years in the Assembly to provide for senior citizens and keep the area environmentally clean and safe from sexual predators.

Kerr-Ozimek, on the other hand, claims that Raia's commitment to the as-

sembly keeps him out of touch with the concerns of the normal citizens of the district.

She says that as a parent and business owner, she can better represent the interests of the average Huntington resident.

Kerr-Ozimek hopes to use her 18 years of prosecuting experience to work with other legislators and judges in Albany. "I've spent years negotiating with judges and lawyers, dealing with victims and people who are accused of committing crimes," she said. "Each of those negotiating skills requires a different technique. These negotiating and advisory skills will serve me well in Albany."

Mastrangelo decided to throw her hat into the race because she felt neither candidate would benefit the working class citizens in the area.

HHS Students mock the vote

Vote on presidential, congressional and local elections

by MR. JOSEPH LEAVY

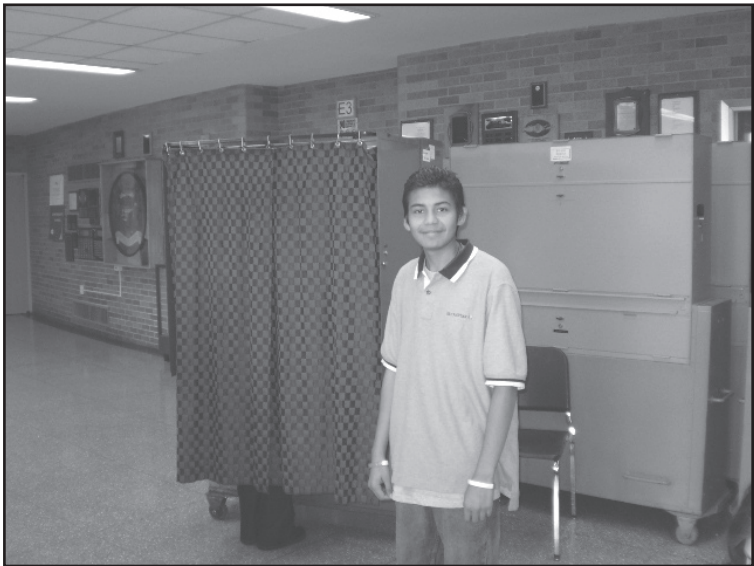
Over the course of three days, Huntington High School students immersed themselves in a civics learning experience in which they voted with actual election machines in a mock election that will long live in their memories. Not only will they remember the event, they will also have practical skills in how to negotiate the sometimes complicated process of discerning who to vote for and how.

On Tuesday, October 28 through Thursday October 30, all social studies teachers brought their classes to the main lobby to vote not only for national and state elective offices, but also for an important referendum, asking students to weigh in on the best way for students to serve suspension. The question read, “Are you in favor of a six hour community service alternate to in-school suspension?”

The results of this referendum will be shared by the principal and addressed further through the student-faculty forum, which originally proposed the question.

Preliminary results available at the time this paper went press indicated a strong Obama victory among students, with a close to 2-1 edge over McCain. All precincts have not yet reported.

Students also voted for their local US Congressman, choosing between the incumbent Steve Israel (Democrat) and the challenger Frank Stalzer (Republican).



■ A student waits on line to vote in the main lobby.

For state elections, students chose between the incumbent Carl Marcellino (Republican) and the challenger Matthew Meng (Democrat). Finally, two separate booths enabled students to cast ballots for their assemblyman, in either district 9 or 10.

Students learned that depending on where they live, they may be in either the 9th Assembly district, which has Andrew Raia (Republican) representing them, or in the 10th, which is represented by James Conte (Republican). Each student was able to vote based on their residency between these incumbents and their challengers. Conte is up against the Democrat Jeffrey Stark and Raia faces Karen Kerr-Ozimak.

Many students expressed that they learned a great deal from this hands-on experience and now know how to manage this chal-

lenging process of not only voting, but also know how and for whom.

The Social Studies staff, one and all, did a remarkable job in guiding and teaching students one of the most important civics skills they need to know.

A forum, offered on Wednesday October 29th, enabled interested students to go a step further to see where they stood on specific important issues and which candidate most closely represented their views. A participating alumni, Ken Wood added that this experience will “teach students how to vote in this election and future elections, not based on who is the slickest candidate, but rather which candidate will represent me on how I feel.”

Basement horrors take positive turn

by AMY EISEN

The Huntington High School building is not in perfect condition. There is no air conditioning, it’s always cold in the winter, and the turf may cause cancer. In addition, there are hundreds of cockroaches roaming the halls along with the students. And that’s just above ground. Below ground, in the basement, is a different story. The Transition Room, located in a slightly concealed hallway in the basement, is a model example. Not only are there cockroaches, but frogs and mosquitoes.

Due to lack of efficient drainage systems, water overflows by one of the windows, and with it comes mold and puddles, which make it a home for creatures to live and reproduce.

The Transition program is a project to help students gain the academic skills needed for success in high school and the future. The program is restricted to ninth graders, and is currently in its second year. English and social studies are the only two classes taught in the Transition Room. English is taught by Ms. Guarino, and social studies by Mr. Bisogno. Before the room was used for the Transition program, it was used for the Turn-

around program. Both courses are extremely alike, only Turn-around was for students in tenth grade, while Transition is for students in ninth.

Despite Ms. Guarino’s successful attempts in improving the room, by redecorating the walls, rearranging the desks, and adding color and light, the room still suffers irreversible damage. “Ventilation can be a problem.” Mr. Bisogno says. “Poor ventilation and lack of exposure to fresh air cause further problems during times of humidity. The room becomes damp and musty.” Despite the

mounting list of problems, “The room has great potential to be a model classroom for the future,” Mr. Bisogno adds optimistically. He hopes for computers to line the wall, and smart-boards and projectors to be readily available. The room’s large size is also a helpful factor. The Transition Room can be a great location for students to learn, only if, however, they are not distracted by frequent visits from cockroaches, mosquitoes, and frogs.

After *the Dispatch’s* investigation of the issue, the problems of the Transition Room were quickly cleaned up and resolved.

“Not only are there cockroaches, but frogs and mosquitoes.”

The Huntington High School Drama Club presents

Auntie Mame



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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.

The Dispatch endorses change with Obama

Over the past eight years this country has been led by a Republican administration. Now, at the end of George Bush's final term, this country is facing many serious problems. The decisions and leadership that have gotten the country to this point have not been beneficial. The country is now in what is the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, in a war it can't seem to get out of, leaving millions of people without health-care, more dependent on foreign oil than ever, in trillions of dollars of increasing debt, and putting an excessive amount of financial burden on the middle class. With this coming election comes an opportunity for change.

Senator Barack Obama represents the nation's best chance for change and for dealing with these problems. Having Senator John McCain as president would only be a continuation of the bad decisions of the past eight years. As a man who has voted alongside George Bush ninety percent of the time, John McCain would only lead this country further into crisis.

The Iraq War is one of the major causes of this country's increasing debt and is costing us the lives of many soldiers. Barack Obama is the candidate who knows that we never should have been in Iraq in the first place and has a timetable for getting us out. He has voted against the Iraq war from the start. He is the candidate who realizes that the real threat from 9/11 came from Afghanistan and that is where our military efforts should have been focused. The country was sidetracked by Iraq and now needs to get out. McCain refuses to say when he would get the troops out of Iraq, while Obama plans to remove the troops from Iraq within sixteen months.

Barack Obama's plan for health-care is more efficient than John McCain's in many aspects. First off Obama plans to lower the cost of healthcare by at least \$2,500 per year, whereas McCain's intentions will lead to a rise in costs to \$5,000 per family for each year. Also Obama will be looking to help the middle class to be



able to obtain affordable health insurance regardless of their health record by setting up social health-insurance, where employers cover the costs of the health insurance of employees. McCain does not plan on doing this.

Obama and McCain also vary in their tax-cutting policies. Though they both intend on cutting taxes, Obama plans to tax the lower class very little in contrast to the wealthier class who will be taxed more, whereas McCain plans to cut the taxes for large corporations and the upper class. Obama's plan makes the most sense because the upper class has the greatest amount of money, and so when they have to pay the greatest taxes the wealth can be more evenly distributed. Both Obama's health-care system and tax plan will help relieve some of the fi-

nancial burden on the middle class.

Other examples of Obama's policies that make him a better choice than McCain are his policies on renewable energy and abortion. Though the United States is one of the world's largest consumers of oil, we only hold three percent of the world's oil. While McCain proposes offshore drilling as a solution to the United States dependency on foreign oil, Obama recognizes that offshore drilling is harmful to the environment and will not eliminate our dependency. He proposes investing in renewable energy such as solar and wind energy that would be better for the environment as well as making the US less dependent on the Middle East. Barack Obama also supports

see **OBAMA** on page 10

Letter to the Editor

Send your letters to:
dispatch@hufsd.edu

Ordinarily, a parking sticker is exactly that: a parking sticker.

This year's parking sticker, however, has created some controversy and taken on a significance that was never intended. Although the bright, multi-colored stickers were chosen to make spotting them easy, some seniors have begun to confuse the multicolored stickers with the symbol of gay pride.

Because of this confusion and the highly homophobic nature of certain students, some seniors have received the wonderful surprise of finding their cars covered in homophobic graffiti. Others have been made fun of, called "gay," called a "fag", and other derogatory terms – all because of a simple sticker.

Some of the seniors dislike the color of the sticker, going as far to say that "rainbow stickers are for rainbow guys," and "It's a symbol of gay pride; it's unfair to make us advertise it."

In response to the rainbow-colored sticker and the harassment that results, a number of seniors have colored over it with a sharpie, leaving only the number showing. The school, however, prohibits this and forces those that

deface the sticker to put on a new one. If a student continues to deface the sticker, the school can and will revoke that person's parking privileges.

Meanwhile, most seniors couldn't care less about the color of the sticker. Many feel that "...it's a parking sticker; what are you going to do? You have to have it." Although many seniors may feel uncomfortable with the sticker, they deal with it and realize that "it's just a parking sticker that says I can park at the school." And nothing could be closer to the truth. One teacher, and the advisor of the school's Gay/Straight Alliance, had this to say, "This is ridiculous; it's just a parking sticker, and it's definitely not a gay pride sticker. The gay pride sticker has specific bold stripes of color. When I look at it, all I think is tie-dye."

Even though plenty of students firmly believe that the parking sticker calls to mind the symbol of gay pride, the school could not and would not force students to put gay pride stickers on their cars. So the sticker is, in fact, just a brightly colored parking sticker; it says nothing more than, "I'm allowed to park here." The response that



Some students have defaced their parking stickers to cover up the tie-dye pattern.

its blend of colors has evoked, however, speaks volumes. Perhaps it says that despite our tendency to embrace diversity, there are some colors that we are not yet ready to accept.

Sincerely,

Joey Adelman

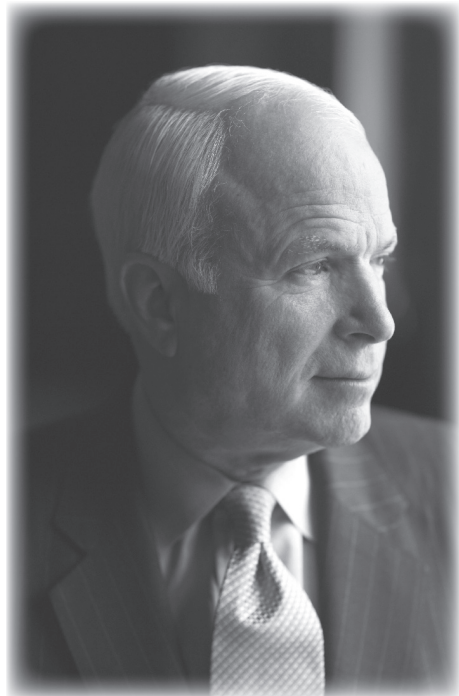
Mr. Adelman is President of the high school's Gay/Straight Alliance.

Siding with the lesser of two evils

by MIKE MCCOURT
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The upcoming presidential election has been said by many to be the most important decision of our time, and indeed it is. On November 4, Americans will be faced with a difficult question: *who will mess up our country less?*

Given the candidates' stances on the issues at hand, it seems improbable that ei-



ther would bring any sort of prosperity or stability to the Union.

The problems this country faces cannot be solved by concepts as simple as hope and change as Senator Obama suggests, and contrary to the arguments of Senator McCain, being a leader takes more than having the ability to "reach across the aisle."

Despite his shortcomings, John McCain offers the American people significantly less national damage than Barack Obama.

The primary concern of voters is the nation's economic state, and naturally, they have turned to the government to blame for and fix their fiscal problems.

Both McCain and Obama have tried to appeal to the American people by demanding more economic oversight and chastising the lenders and Wall Street for their supposed greed.

It is important to understand that the meltdown of such companies as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac was not caused by corporate gluttony, but excessive government oversight and control of these companies. In light of this, it would make very little sense to trust the government to get us out of a hole it dug itself.

With both major candidates supporting more government oversight, the economic state in this country can only get worse.

However, our nation's economy would be far worse off under the leadership of Senator Obama. His repeated proposals to "redistribute wealth" and argument that the Constitution was constructed with a "fundamental flaw" that does not require the government to assist with such redistribution threaten the very foundation of our capitalist society. Obama wishes to play the role of Robin Hood, stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. This echoes the Marxist concept of "from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs."

Senator Obama has proposed tax hikes for citizens earning more than \$250,000 a year. Obama's tax plan also includes raising taxes for corporations, which could cripple the very economic class he is trying to help. By raising corporate taxes, he will in effect raise the prices of the goods these corporations produce, making them less accessible to the middle and lower classes.

Obama also proposes increasing taxes on gas companies, falsely believing that by *increasing* gas taxes, gas prices will *decrease*. Both he and McCain have scolded the gas companies for making record profits in the past year, ignoring the fact that the average oil company made about 10% profit last year. As a comparison, Apple Computer made 14% profit this past year, but has not been charged with price gou-

ing or being overly greedy by either candidate.

Senator Obama's universal health care plan may offer coverage to every American citizen, but will compromise the quality of care for those who are currently insured. Obama promises the same coverage that government employees receive, but giving that caliber of coverage to each and every American is overly ambitious and impractical. Nations with socialized medicine have shown to have a significantly low number of doctors and an unsatisfactory level of overall care. Rather than decrease the quality of health care, John McCain proposes a \$5,000 tax deductible to any citizen who wishes to make their health care more affordable.

McCain also understands the importance of using an "all of the above" solution to the nation's energy problems. He has proposed using renewable energies such as wind and solar power, while drilling offshore and in Alaska to decrease America's dependency on foreign oil.

Senator John McCain may not be the ideal candidate for the presidency, but he is undoubtedly the least threatening.

Note: the views expressed in this article are separate from those of the adjacent editorial, and do not represent the views of The Dispatch's editorial board as a whole.

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

Tenure protects the unworthy

by MIKE MCCOURT

In New York State, a public school teacher can receive tenure after three years of experience, a series of classroom observations, and recommendations from the department chair, principal and district superintendent. Under this current system, tenure is much too easily achieved and maintained.

One of the most important professions of our age is that of a secondary school teacher. Due to their importance, high school teachers are put under a tremendous amount of pressure to help students achieve success. This pressure causes many teachers to feel that their performance may not

satisfy students, parents and administrators, leading them to seek a certain amount of job security. They find comfort in tenure, a title that was once a distinction reserved for teachers that have consistently displayed educational excellence but has evolved into a life raft for mediocre educators who would be much better suited for other fields of work.

The intention of tenure should be to distinguish teachers who have worked in an establishment for an extensive period of time in which they have displayed a su-

see **TENURE** on page 10

Teachers in need of job security

by EMILY FELDMAN

When students think of the term academic tenure, different opinions come to mind, one being a positive opinion.

Many teachers in Huntington High School have tenure and look at it as a blessing. When a teacher is given tenure, that teacher is granted job security and a steady position for as many years as he or she wishes to work in the school district. This is beneficial to many teachers, because it prevents teachers from constantly having to look for teaching positions every few years. With tenure, it is difficult for a teacher to be let go from his or her position. This helps a teacher because the only

way the teacher can lose his or her job, is if the teacher resigns or conducts an inexcusable act. Tenure also allows a teacher academic freedom, meaning that the teacher can freely express emotions and opinions through teaching, without being questioned by authority. With academic tenure, a teacher is able to show more personality in lectures, without infringement by higher authorities.

Overall, academic tenure ensures that a teacher has the right to teach in nearly any style he or she chooses, and that he or she will not get fired from their job as easily as a teacher without tenure.

the Dispatch examines . . .

What's Hot



1. Hope and change- the high school's recent poll has shown Barack Obama light-years ahead of his opponent, and national polls predict a similar outcome in the national election.

2. Producing- more and more students are making their own hip-hop beats on ACID Pro, FL Studio, or Garageband.

3. Tina Fey- this SNL star can do a Sarah Palin better than Sarah Palin.

4. Northern Thrift- The rush to find Halloween costumes at a reasonable price led to a sharp increase in the profits of this New York Avenue thrift store.

5. The Texas Longhorns- the #1 team in college football has pummeled all of its opponents, even those within its own conference, which is widely considered the best in the nation.



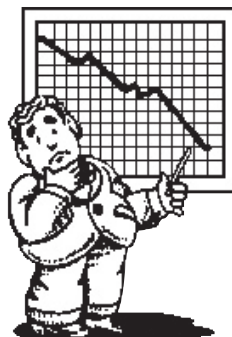
What's Not

album have left fans wondering: what happened to the rap?



1. The Stock Market - Wall Street seems to be in a nosedive, with no turn around in sight.

2. Kanye West- recent singles off Yeezy's upcoming



3. "W." - Oliver Stone's biopic of President George W. Bush flopped at the box office, and failed to make a significant impact on the election as Stone had hoped.

4. Brett Favre - even when the guy wins, he's under fire. The Jets changed their entire team to accommodate him, but have still played mediocre football.

5. The College Board - the same company that administers the SAT has created a new test for eighth graders. Because it's never too early to create college application angst.

ENTERTAINMENT

Tour de Delicatessens

by MIKE McCOURT
AND MAX SENDER



It's noon, and you're hungry. You haven't eaten yet today, so you want to have some breakfast, but society and its unfair standards are pressuring you to have lunch at this time of day.

What do you do? You have brunch.

Where do you get this "brunch"? That's easy: the delicatessen.

Any deli would be more than happy to provide you with a combination of breakfast and lunch foods at a reasonable price. Only here can eggs, meat, cheese, and hash browns live together under one bun in a kind of harmony that would make John Lennon proud.

So let's discover the world of delicatessens together. And expect to share, because in the true Lennon/Lenin spirit, there are no possessions when it comes to food like this.

Bay Deli

Huntingtonians cling to their

Bay Deli like conservatives cling to guns and religion. This deli has been on New York Avenue in Halesite for more than 20 years, making it our most established establishment.

Many people consider the Bay Deli to be not just an eatery, but a "way of life."

If these people truly do live to Bay Deli and Bay Deli to live, then they are missing out on a much more satisfying existence from other delis.

The Bay Deli had a most delectable egg sandwich, but was lacking in the lunch sandwich department.

Rating: (1/2 sandwich)



Rob Roy

This Park Avenue place is

another Huntington classic.

Just one look around this deli would tell you that this like stays classy. A wonderful copy of "The Kramer" hangs proudly in the corner.

This deli managed to provide us with an overall satisfactory experience, but in this review, satisfaction doesn't cut it.

Rob Roy's food is like John Mayer's girlfriends: we know they could do better.

Rating: (1/4 sandwich)



Park Avenue Deli

First off, Park Ave was the only place to provide indoor seating in which to enjoy your meal. Extra points right off the bat.

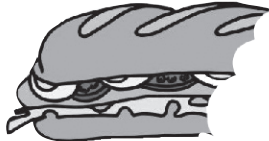
We sampled the deli's famous Buffalo Soldier, which con-

tains fried chicken breast dipped in buffalo sauce and smothered in bleu cheese dressing. Don't take it lightly; when they say it's hot, they mean it. The Buffalo Soldier is a good choice for any customer who finds that don't have enough perspiration or indigestion in their life.

Park Ave's egg sandwich was the best we had on our tour.

Overall, the place was great, but not quite what were looking for.

Rating: (3/4 sandwich)



Porco's

We've got it.

Porco's, located on Milldam Road, is the Juliet to our Romeo. It's the jelly to our peanut butter. It's the Ashley to our Mary Kate.

Let us first say that Porco's had by far the most helpful and personable staff. They weren't afraid to ask us how school was or talk about the weather. Customer interaction leads to customer satisfaction.

Porco's provides picnic tables outside so that customers can enjoy the view of the harbor. This time of year, eating outside is less than desirable, but when the weather's nice, there's no better place to eat a meal.

Now don't think we forgot about the food. The egg sandwich, while not quite as good as that of Park Ave, was still delicious. And "The Huntington," with roast beef, russian dressing and cheese on a garlic roll, was the best sandwich we've had during our review.

Rating: (1 full sandwich)



MUSIC: Album Review Radin connects with *Simple Times*

by CAT TACOPINA

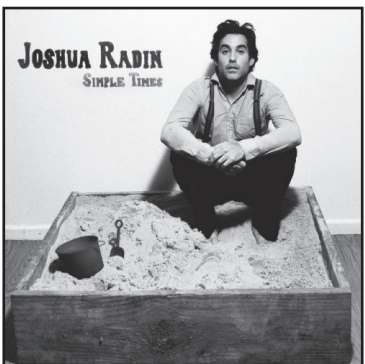
ARTIST: Joshua Radin
ALBUM: *Simple Times*

You may not know the name but if you are interested in television shows such as "Scrubs" and "Grey's Anatomy," you definitely know the music. You see, Joshua Radin has a folk rock acoustic style which is very popular for such television shows to play at the end of their episodes (You know what I mean, the soft song which they play when the show's finally reached a resolution. At least for one episode anyway.). Being a fan of Joshua Radin since his first studio album entitled "We Were Here," I highly anticipated the release of this album. While I did find the songs on the album absolutely lovely and pleasant, I was also pleasantly surprised.

I've found that when it comes to artists such as Joshua Radin, it

seems that they have a hard time developing and continue to put out the same songs with different lyrics. Not Joshua Radin though! While Radin still maintains the pleasant calming songs that can put a smile on your face during the early hours of the morning, he has also made his songs a bit more upbeat. Instead of just having only acoustic guitar and random percussion instruments such as the triangle and glockenspiel, he has now added in elements of electric guitar and drum set. These instruments, also including piano, add depth to the music, making it more interesting than his previous album. True, Joshua Radin is taking his time to develop into a much more developed musician, but the baby steps he's taking are more than enough for the audience.

I believe Joshua Radin's best gift as a musical artist is his ability to understand what a person wants. Ever notice that music artists say what you're feeling and state they know how you feel? All



musicians share that power, but Joshua Radin takes it a step further. When listening to his music you can almost feel that he's sitting right by, doing his hardest to sing away your troubles and put an "Everything will be alright" smile on your face. He's not just saying "I know how you feel," he's also helping you to push through.

In short, I obviously recommend this album to everyone. Joshua Radin's music is exactly what you should listen to when you need a good cry and when you realize you're so helplessly angry and just need to calm down. The songs on "Simple Times" such as "I'd Rather Be With You" and "Brand New Day" will make you smile and feel a bit better about a day that could have, quite possibly, been miserable.

Congratulations, Mr. Radin.



MOVIES: *Equilibrium* (2002)

by ANDY BENE

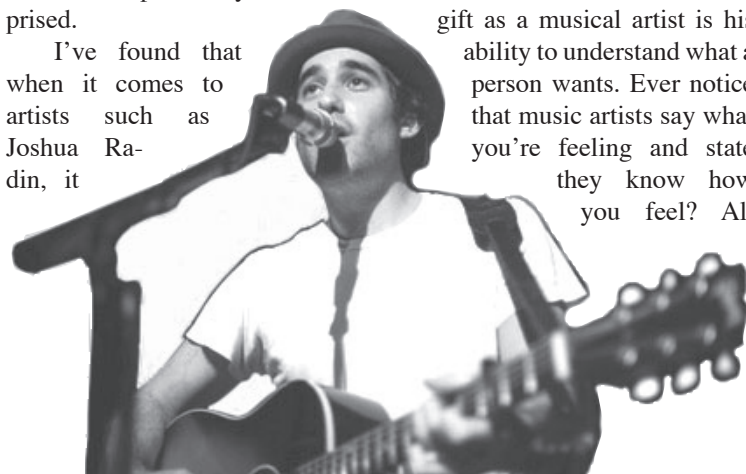
Equilibrium is an interesting movie to say the least. It follows the story of Grammaton Cleric First Class John Preston in a dystopian future where an apocalyptic Third World War caused the city-state of Libria to enforce strict polices to make there inhabitants have no emotion with a combination an emotional sedative called Prozum and banning all old-world artifacts that are rated "E-10" and could cause an emotional reaction, like music or pictures. John is part of an elite police force who capture and kill "Seance offenders", or people who do not take Prozum and experience emotion. John is the top Cleric until one day he accidentally breaks his vile of Prozum and begins to experience emotion. Soon he begins taking trinkets from raids, like books, and keeping them, just as his old partner used to do. He eventually meets with a resistance force called "The Underground", who plot to kill "Father" the head of the state and center of the propaganda machine used to control citizens. He confronts "Father", kills him, and destroys the propaganda machine.

Equilibrium's plot seems pretty generic at first. Our hero is in a dystopian future where a tyrannical dictator controls every-



one through some crazy means and he (or she) must rise up and free the people whop-de-do. But the movie presents it in a very interesting way. See our hero, John Preston, went through his whole life without emotion (even the capture and execution of his wife didn't spark anything). There are some scenes that illustrate this, like when he is staring out a window covered in with paper, which is presumably there to keep people from seeing the outside city, he suddenly rips off the paper and stares amazed at what he sees, or when he rearranges the things on his desk, demonstrating a need for non-comformality. That is, a city of white. No color, no traffic, no noise, no emotion. Though

see MOVIE on page 10



Teacher Feature: Ms. Mellon on the election, Vietnam, and Tweety Bird

by DIYA KAPUR

Q: If you could have lunch with any one person, dead or alive, who would it be?

A: Tony Blair. He is my political guru. Second only to Queen Elizabeth I. She's the first one to really show what a powerful woman can do.

Q: What song do you like to sing in the shower?

A: If I had to sing a song in the shower, it would probably be God Bless America. But I tend not to sing because even in the shower I sound pretty bad.

Q: If you were a super hero, what would your power be?

A: To be able to make any woman who wants to be thin, thin. I would be called The Queen.

Q: What is your most embarrassing moment?

A: When I failed "skipping" (in gym class) on my report card.

Q: What time is your alarm clock set for during the week?

A: 5 a.m. I have to read both the New York Times and Newsday cover-to-cover, and go to the BBC news site. Sometimes I'll have CNN and a Euro-news station on TV in the morning too.

Q: Do you prefer regular milk or chocolate milk?

A: Neither. I hate milk. I only use it in tea.

Q: Who are you rooting for

in this election?

A: Let me put it this way. I don't like the new McCain because of his social issues, like religion and abortion. I don't like Obama because of his lack of experience.

Q: Who is your favorite cartoon character?

A: Tweety Bird. I had a student once who drew me a picture of Tweety Bird holding a world history textbook.

Q: What band t-shirts are stored away in your closet right now?

A: The Beatles, the Stranglers, and Bruce Springsteen. Oh, and the Moody Blues. I love the Moody Blues.

Q: What was your job in high school?

A: In high school I was a sales girl at Macy's.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?

A: Currently, its Boston Legal. My all-time favorite is West Wing.

Q: If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing that you would buy?

A: Well, I'd have to go to a Chanel store and decide that when I get there. I could spend a whole day at Chanel.

Q :

Have you ever participated in a protest?

A: Absolutely. A Vietnam anti-war protest. I was a student at Huntington and the whole student body walked out of class. (Begins reciting "Hell No! We Won't Go!")

Q: What movie do you know every line to?

A: Oh God, there's a lot of them. 101 Dalmatians (the original cartoon ver-

sion), The Godfather (I), and Casino Royal.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher in high school?

A: A man by the name of Mr. Ambrosino. He was a social studies teacher. He was very enthusiastic and nice, always caught my attention.

Q: Do you believe that there is life on other planets?

A: There has to be. I don't believe we're the only people in the universe. There's got to be others.

Q: What do you want to know about the future?

A: I guess I'd want to know if America will still have the same values. I'd like to know that the Great Experiment was still going on.

PHOTO: MR. BARON



fashion spotlight

by MORGAN CORLEY

Ms. Medina Foreign Language

1. Who do you consider to be your fashion icon?

Lauren Conrad from "The Hills."

2. What would you say is a key accessory to own for the fall?

Scarves.

3. What do you consider a fashion DON'T?

Wearing ugly shoes that don't match your outfit.

4. List your top 3 favorite designers.

Gucci, BCBG and Victor Victoria.

5. What would you call your style?

Colorful and fun.

6. What is your favorite new trend?

Riding boots.

7. Where is the best place to shop on discount?

Express.

8. UGGs: in or out?

In, I love them!

Marissa Benedetto Senior

1. Who do you consider to be your fashion icon?

Mary Kate Olsen.

2. What would you say is a key accessory to own for the fall?

A leather jacket.

3. What do you consider a fashion DON'T?

Head to toe juicy couture.

4. List your top 3 favorite designers.

YSL, Betsey Johnson and Burberry.

5. What would you call your style?

Fun and fashionable.

6. What is your favorite new trend?

Statement jewelry.

7. Where is the best place to shop on discount?

Forever 21.

8. UGGs: in or out?

Out, but I can't stop wearing them.

by JASON CHISOLM

This summer I purchased a 16-gigabyte iPhone 3g. There are many things about the new iPhone that I love however there are some things that can become very irritating. The iPhone is very adaptable due to the wide range of applications available. The most notable change is the new plastic backing (previously the backing was made of aluminum.)

My favorite thing about my iPhone is how easy it is to use. One of the coolest things about it is the touch screen. In fact, the new iPhone has one of the most advanced touch screens. Anyone who is familiar with the multitouch gestures on a Mac book can use an iPhone without any problems. The new iPhone is slightly rounder than the old version which makes holding it in your hand feel more natural. The iPhone's 3g is 4.8 times faster than the iPhone on the edge network. The headphone jack isn't recessed, which allows you to use any type of headphones you want. I really like being able to check my email from anywhere I can receive cell phone service.

As much as I like the email application on the iPhone it can still be annoying because in or-

der to setup the email, you have to have Optimum Boost, which is a special online service from Optimum. I also don't like how short the battery life is. The battery life decreases depending on what you are doing. If you are playing a game with 3d graphics, then the battery life will last for approximately four and a half hours. Many companies are making battery packs for the iPhone. The iPhone commercials say that the price is only two or three hundred dollars, however, these prices are only true if you are eligible for an upgrade, and if you are not eligible then you will have to pay three or four hundred dollars.

One of the most outstanding

things about the iPhone has to be the application store. I have a lot of applications on my iPhone, and my favorite one is probably the New York Times because I like to keep up on world news and politics. I also like it because it is free. Another great free app that can provide some entertainment if you're bored is MotionX Dice, which is just a dice-rolling simulator with 3d effects. Another fun game is Bi-iBall because it uses the built in accelerometer for controlling the ball.

I love owning an iPhone because I can make a phone call, listen to music, and play a game all in one device. Normally I would have to have an iPod, a cell phone, and a portable gaming system of some kind, but with an iPhone I can do it all on one device- plus I can surf the internet! I would definitely give the iPhone a nine out of ten.



PHOTOS: MORGAN CORLEY

Tile Arts:

HHS art students featured in
Garden City company lobby

by DAN MCGALE

Huntington High School students Johanna Clifford, Ryan Loscalzo, Daniel Rabinowitz, Brian Riggs and Marissa Rosenfeld are all talented artists and advanced computer graphics students that were given an opportunity of a lifetime this past year.

The students were asked to create original digital media images for a major worldwide transportation consulting company in Garden City called McQuilling headquarters. “The project was ideal for the students” stated Joan Fretts, Huntingtons director of fine and performing arts, “students were able to work collaboratively with an organization outside of the school to solve a real-life problem and have an authentic work experience”. The students were asked by David Saginaw, a Huntington School District resident and director of McQuilling headquarters, to produce the images, which are somewhat abstract in nature while hinting at the design and appearance of oil tankers and oil production facilities.

The students used Photoshop and Illustrator computer software programs to produce five pieces of work that were then printed on eight-foot square canvases and installed in the office complex. The project could not have been done without the help of Huntington High School computer graphics and photo teacher, Ms. Mohanty, who helped guide the students with their long term projects, keeping in close contact with Mr.



PHOTO: MS. MOHANTY

■ Junior Johanna Clifford poses with her piece on display in Garden City.

Saginaw and making arrangements to have the work printed and installed. Mr. Saginaw gave the team a budget of \$5,000 for the project. After expenses, the remaining \$3,000 was given as a donation to the Huntington High School art honor society in appreciation for the work.

The funds “will be used to purchase supplies and cameras for the computer graphics and

photography programs at the high school” stated Mrs. Fretts. The office staff was so impressed with the students’ work they requested extra prints of the art work.

“I believe that the atrium project was a great experience” says Ryan LoScalzo “and I was very happy to have been chosen to work on it.”

MOVIE from page 8

not all the scenes work, like the slightly comical scene where a puppy runs away from a man executing his kin right into the hands of Preston, who runs off claiming the dog needs to be tested for disease.

The real crux of Equilibrium is the action scenes, which feature what may be the most awesome fictional martial arts technique ever. Called Gun Kata in the movie it is explained as “Through analysis of thousands of recorded gunfights, the Cleric has determined that the geometric distribution of antagonists in any gun battle is a statistically-predictable element. The Gun Kata treats the gun as a total weapon, each fluid position representing a maximum kill zone, inflicting maximum damage on the maximum number of opponents, while keeping the defender clear of the statistically-traditional trajectories of return fire. By the rote mastery of this art, your firing efficiency will rise by no less than 120%. The difference of a 63% increased lethal proficiency makes the master of the Gun Katas an adversary not to

be taken lightly.” In other words, it involves going into positions that reflect where enemy bullets will most likely go, while firing where enemy’s will most likely be. It also apparently involves Pistol whipping and sword combat because Preston shows himself to be proficient in both. The style does sound silly at first, but on film its simply amazing. Three scenes stand out in my mind. One, at the very beginning of the movie, has John breaking into a base full of seance offenders. Him and his team manage to corner them in a room and shut the lights off. You can hear them whispering to each other in the darkness, when suddenly John starts firing. All that can be seen when his guns flash are people falling with no time to react. The lights come back on to reveal him standing in the middle of the room with dozens of bodies strewn about him. The other two moments happen in the last scene. First, “Fathers” body guard throws John a sword so they can duel (the guard having a sword himself) and as he is starting to attack, John runs up, does three slices, and THE GUYS FACE FALLS OFF. Soon after him and

Father fight, Father being a fellow master of Gun Kata, they attempt to aim at each other and fire while simultaneously parrying the opponents gun away from their face. John eventually gets the better of Father and kills him.

Despite what the last paragraph implys the movie actually isn’t very violent. Really the most graphic thing that happens in the movie was the aforementioned face slice (which was incredibly awesome). When people are shot, they just fall down in what I call the “Rambo syndrome”, even that (awesome) face slice doesn’t have much blood in it. Than again the movies body count (236!) probably discredits my point.

Frankly Equilibrium is a very solid action film with an interesting plot and a fresh style. If you can forgive a slightly generic setting than I heartily recommend it.

(Oh, I am also aware of the movies spiritual successor Ultra Violet, which I recommend you stay as far away from as humanly possible.)

Dispatch votes change

OBAMA from page 6

leaving the choice of abortion up to the woman and the people she chooses to include in her decision. Comparatively, John McCain is anti-abortion, even in cases of rape. The idea that a woman would be forced to give birth to the result of her sexual assault is sickening and unethical. It would ruin the lives of both the mother and the child. Though Obama is pro-choice, he is still supporting ways to prevent unnecessary abortions. In 2005 he voted in favor of paying 100 million dol-

lars in order to reduce teen pregnancies by increasing education about contraceptives.

With Barack Obama as president, this country will undergo the change it needs to get us out of the difficult times we are in. As someone who is not an insider in Washington, Obama has the fresh perspective and the best policies to put this country on a better track. As president Obama will look out for the economy, the middle class, the environment, and the troops in Iraq. He has the right priorities and skills to change this country for the better.

Tenure too lenient

TENURE from page 7

perior knowledge of their subject, improved test grades and knowledge of students, and established themselves as revered educators. It often does serve that purpose, but it occasionally protects some teachers who scrape through three years of teaching, managing to satisfy the district and students with a watered-down curriculum.

A tenured teacher cannot be let go unless his or her behavior is seen to be harmful or destructive, and even then the process of firing that teacher is long and costly. Attorneys must be hired for both parties if a tenured teacher is to be ousted, so most schools choose to avoid conflict altogether.

The system should be revised so that only teachers who maintain an exemplary (and not just satisfactory) record are given tenure after five years of experience. From that point on, they should be observed once a year and evaluated at the end of each five-year period after receiving tenure. If the school board, principal and department chair find them to be still productive, they can continue working under the umbrella of tenure for another five years. If their performance is considered unsatisfactory, they would be stripped of tenure and be reconsidered in another five years (if their performance satisfies the district enough to keep

them employed).

The concept of tenure as it is currently implemented seems to stem from the faulty premise that people, regardless of their talents or abilities, have a right to work in any field they so choose. The amount of job security given to teachers is unheard of in other professions. Most workers create their own security by doing thorough work day in and day out. Those who do not satisfy their employers are let go. Something as important or delicate as a secondary school education must not be compromised by our sympathies for hopeful teachers who do not make the grade and would be much more successful in other occupations.

An abundance of mediocre teachers could drastically decrease the productivity of a school. A satisfactory teacher who has been granted tenure inhibits the hiring of a new and much better teacher to fill his or her place.

There are many teachers here at Huntington High School that have gone above and beyond to give a lasting educational experience to students, and they have been rewarded accordingly. My concern is with those teachers who manage to achieve the bare minimum and camp out under the umbrella of tenure, which protects them from the demands to justly and effectively educate.

Goodbye to Shea

SHEA from back page

former players appear through the right field and left field bullpens, all entering the stadium to immense ovations. An appropriate way to end an era concluded with players from all different Met teams walking down to touch home-plate one last time, and then Tom Seaver delivering the final ever pitch in the ballpark to #31 Mike Piazza. It was a fantastic experience to have attended and I will always remember my last ever game at the ballpark I have grown to love and cherish.

Although the Mets’ demise was not the ideal ending to a hopeful season, there is still much

to look forward to as the Mets will begin the 2009 season in Citi Field on April 13th. In honor of the great baseball legend, Jackie Robinson, there will be a rotunda built of his number (42) in honor of his accomplishments of breaking the color barrier and changing the game to what it is today.

Most importantly, though, Citi Field will be a place where fans’ memories of Shea Stadium can remain. The physical structure of the former ballpark will be taken apart and may be forgotten, but what has occurred in the 45 year history of Shea Stadium will always be remembered. Welcome Citi Field, but never Shea goodbye.

Boys' and Girls' V-ball struggle through season

by JOE DEMARCO

The 2008 boys' volleyball season contrasts greatly with last year's season, in which the team made it to the playoffs. However, the dedicated team is still practicing hard everyday under coach Contopolous, and is ready to turn its season around.

Starting right side, junior Ryan Greenhill, explained that "the team shows a lot of promise; some guys have never set foot on a volleyball court before and the team leaders are teaching the new players how to play the game."

With key players like senior Matt Duffy (outside hitter), junior Max Smoller (setter), and senior Teddy Calligeros (middle hitter), the team has lots of skill and hopes for a better result each time they set foot on the court. The team also says that it would like to see more student support

at home games. This can help get the team more energized for each game and inspire them to try their best to come out on top.

Although the Blue Devils are not doing as well as they hoped, there is still time to improve, with many games left in the season. The team hopes to rally and go on a winning streak to finish its season on a strong note.

Similarly, girls varsity volleyball is off to a rough start. The team did win their first non-league game, but lost its season opener. The team also won its second game of the season by beating Comse-

wogue, but then lost three games in a row. The members of the team know that they have room to improve and truly feel that they can do better. The team's starting middle hitter, junior Lauren Visbal said, "We are a hard working team with a lot of talent, although our record doesn't show it. This year is different. We have come very close to winning all the games but



■ Middle hitter Lauren Visbal spikes the ball through the arms of her Sayville opponent.

came up just short. I know we can win games." The members of this year's team possess a lot of talent, with senior captains Jenna Feraco and Sarah Paar. Coach Riley and the team would also love to see more fan support from students at the team's home games. If this

team can improve even a little it would lead to more wins.

The athletes on varsity volleyball are dedicated hard working individuals with positive attitudes. Both teams strongly believe that they have lots of talent and potential to improve a lot.

With our support and with the hard work from the players, both the boys and the girls varsity volleyball teams have the ability to consistently win. If everything goes right, coach Contopolous and coach Riley hope to turn their 2008 seasons around.

Favre robs G-men of attention

by ALEX LAU

After a dismal 4-12 season, the New York Jets decided it was time to make a few changes. During the last off-season they bulked up their offensive line with the additions of veterans Alan Faneca and Damien Woody, and their defense with the signing of a 350 pound defensive tackle in Kris Jenkins and a versatile linebacker in Calvin Pace. But clearly, the most exciting signing of the off-season had to be that of Brett Favre, the strong armed, all-time leader in passing touchdowns and passing yards. With these numerous free agent signings, the Jets were looking like a playoff team, and the season had not even started.

With all of these acquisitions by the Jets, everyone quickly forgot about the other New York football team. Remember the team that had that improbable run to the Super Bowl, where they were victorious over the then undefeated Patriots? Well, it seems as if the Giants are old news, as Brett Favre has basically taken New York by storm, leaving the Giants quarterback and Super Bowl champion, Eli Manning, in the dust.

Even though they may be forgotten, the Giants seem to have carried over last year's momentum into this year, as they once again look to make the playoffs despite a tough NFC East that includes themselves, the Super Bowl favorite Dallas Cowboys, the Washington Redskins and the Philadelphia Eagles, and despite the loss of the team's top two defensive players, in Michael Strahan (retirement) and Osi Umenyiora (season-ending knee injury). Even with these losses, the Giants

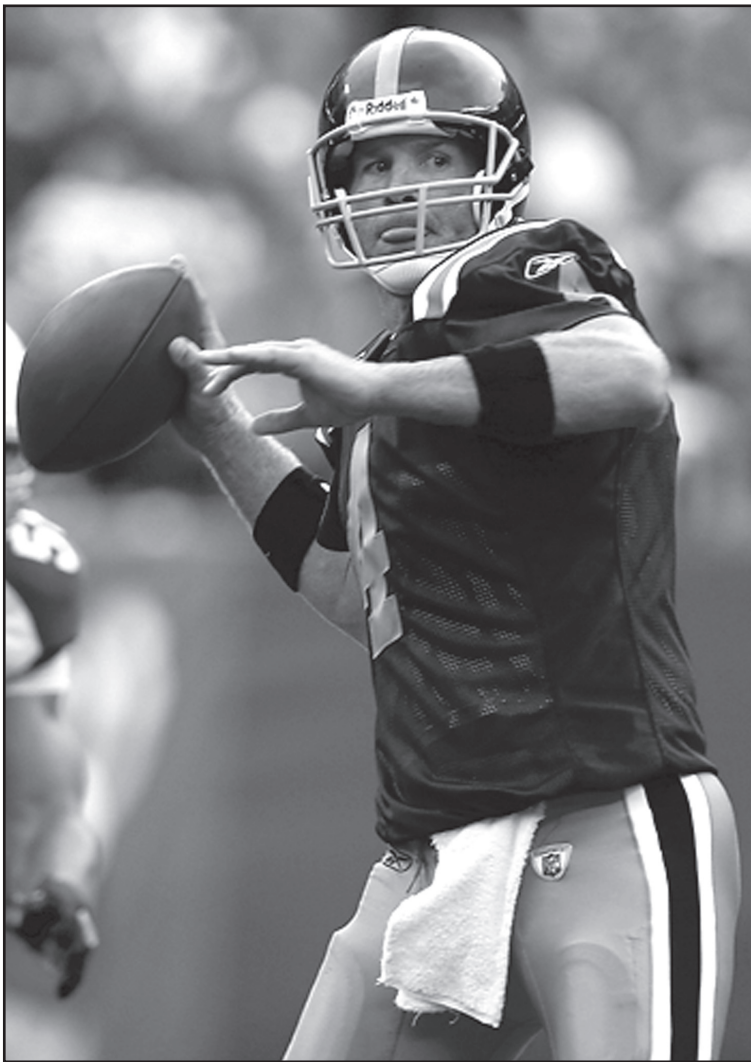


PHOTO: NYTIMES.COM

■ The Jets' acquisition of Brett Favre has distracted football fans from the reigning Super Bowl Champion Giants.

look like a solid team as their easy schedule early in the season, should give them the momentum they need to make the playoffs.

Despite the pre-season hype, the Jets, could have trouble if Brett Favre cannot adapt to the Jets' system and learn the playbook quickly. Even with the Patriots' loss of its star quarterback Tom Brady, the Jets could still have some trouble making the playoffs if their offense and defense do not get their acts together.

Even though the Jets may

have been the more popular team in New York during the off-season, the Giants are definitely doing their best to refresh everyone's memory about their success from last year. And, if the Jets do not get on the right track soon, it seems that they will be refreshing people's memories too; only they will not be good memories, but bad ones.

Girls' Soccer narrowly misses playoff spot



PHOTO: HUFSD.EDU

■ Junior Angela Bosco clears the ball during an early season match against Eastport/South Manor.

by MATT DUFFY

The Girls' Varsity Soccer Season was unexpectedly cut short this fall when the team failed to make the playoffs for the first time in recent memory.

This year's team was full of talented, veteran players, including Seniors Matte Scully, Olivia Hayes-Hurley and Emily Laurie.

Scully and company are leaving the program in good hands, as Juniors Angela Bosco, Lori Messina, Meredith McCourt and Maya Yakobi seem ready to bring the team back to glory next season.

Sophomores Lauren Gerbavits, Emma Hayes-Hurley and Christina Badalamenti also showed exceptional skill.

Et Cetera

Huntington High School's literary magazine



Meetings after school
Wednesdays, Room 218

SPORTS

A lot to prove: Ruggiero, Bollar lead Blue Devils on the ground

by MATT DUFFY

The Huntington High School football team has had a lot to prove this season following the losses from the Class of 2008.

Last year's senior class had solid contributors such as Eddie Santos, Deshawn Thomas, and Quillan Respass.

The Blue Devils have made themselves playoff contenders under the leadership and performance of quarterback Brian Ruggiero and running backs Damon McQueen and Calvin Bollar.

After several disappointing



■ QB/FB Brian Ruggiero
PHOTO: HUFSD.EDU

losses to Hauppauge, Harbofields, and Deer Park, Bollar, a sophomore, led the team to a 19-17 win over Comsewogue on October 18. He rushed for 224 yards and passed for another 64.

Other key players on the Blue Devil team have been wide receivers Josh Daves and Sean Whitney, fullback Brian Smith, and lineman Joe Brown.

The team's last two games will decide their playoff fate.

Huntington plays at Westhampton Beach on October 24 and closes the season at home against Miller Place on November 1.



■ Sophomore RB Calvin Bollar finds a running lane during the Homecoming Game against Harborfields on October 4.
PHOTO: HUFSD.EDU

A fond farewell to New York's ballparks

The House That Ruth Built *"Never Shea Goodbye"*



by MIKE MCCOURT

At the end of September, baseball fans across the nation said goodbye to America's most historical stadium.

Yankee Stadium was known as The Cathedral of Baseball. It was there that the most successful sports franchise in history played for 85 years, winning 26 World Championships.

Even with the first championship in the city of Philadelphia in 25 years and the improbable rise of the Tampa Bay Rays, the closing of Yankee Stadium was still the biggest story of this baseball season. The Yankees drew more than 4,000,000 fans for the fourth straight season, despite the fact that they didn't even make the playoffs.

I was fortunate enough to see the very last game in The House That Ruth Built, which was an experience I will never forget. I arrived several hours before game time, hoping to step on the field, but was unfortunately denied along with hundreds of other fans. The pregame ceremonies featured such Yankee greats as Yogi Berra, Don Larsen, Paul O'Neil and Bernie Williams. Seeing these players together for one last time brought back memories of

the great moments to happen within the stadium's walls.

The Yankees fittingly one the game, beating the Orioles 5-3. It was the perfect way to cap off the perfect stadium.

It was not fitting, however, to say goodbye to the stadium in a regular season game. The Yankees failed to make the playoffs for the first time since the MLB players' strike in 1994.

Despite the team's disappointment in the stadium's final season, Yankee Stadium still stands as the most memorable and important sports complex in the nation.

Other stadiums may be more attractive or fan-friendly, but Yankee Stadium consistently brought what fans want to most- victories.

Every player and fan who has seen or played in a game in the House That Ruth Built will never forget the experience. The stadium has been home to legends such as Babe Ruth and unexpected heroes like Aaron "Bleepin" Boone. Every moment that takes place there is memorable, because the stadium itself is unforgettable.

Building new experiences in the new stadium will be exciting, but it will be awhile before it matches the mystique of the true Yankee Stadium.



by MICHAEL VALENTE

September 28th, 2008 will always be remembered as the day we waved goodbye to Shea Stadium. During a month overshadowed by the ceremonial closing of Yankee Stadium, Shea Stadium (1964-2008) was put to rest as well, leaving the memories we cherished there as souvenirs. Although it may not be as physically attractive as other stadiums, Shea has been a place where the greatest fans around the world gathered to cheer on one of the greatest teams in the world: the New York Mets.

As I arrived at Shea Stadium from the train, I walked along the boardwalk, taking in all the games and memories I have personally experienced as a die-hard Mets fan. It was 11:00 AM when I made my way to Gate A to look on at the pre-game ceremony, where past Met greats made their way down the red carpet. Former players, coaches, and managers walked along the carpet into the entrance of the stadium. Among these former Mets were Yogi Berra, Tom Seaver, Keith Hernandez, Ron Darling, Edgardo Alfonzo, Todd Zeile, Robin Ventura, Sid Fernandez, Gary Carter, Doc Gooden, and many more. Shades

of Robin Ventura's walkoff "Grand Slam Single" in Game Five of the 1999 NLCS and other amazing memories flashed into my head as I began to realize the magnitude of this game, not only for the Mets to keep their postseason hopes alive, but that the Mets should leave their home in a positive fashion. After all of the cheering and admiring of the Mets legends, it was time for the Mets to begin their 162nd and last game of the season.

The last game at Shea ended up as a complete disappointment, seeing as the Mets failed to win against the Florida Marlins, while the Brewers held on to capture a victory against the Chicago Cubs. The Wild Card race was now finished and for the second straight year, the Mets had failed to enter the postseason on the last day of the season. Experiencing the devastating end to a season firsthand was very overwhelming. It was hard to allow myself to remain at the Stadium for the post-game ceremony. Reluctant at first, I finally told myself that it would be best to stay and experience the last ever event to take place in Shea. Looking back on it now, I am thoroughly happy that I was able to witness

see SHEA on page 11