



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 2, Volume 39

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

February 2012



PHOTO: ARI MOSKOWITZ

»news in short

Juli Coraor strikes again!

Juli advances on in the science world as an Intel Science Talent Search finalist. She's in the running for a scholarship worth \$100,000 over four years. She's one of very few finalists in the country. Congrats Juli!

Huntington welcomes exchange students from China

Ten students from Tianjin High School Number One will be spending one week in Huntington. They're here to learn about our culture, and we hope to someday be able to go to their country and learn about theirs.

K Factor is around the corner

Be sure to support Huntington alum, Kaila Harlan and her battle with leukemia. Be at the high school February, 10th at 7pm. See you there!

Diversity: The Fabric of HHS

HHS's Diverse student body is a rarity on LI

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

You can't miss it. You can't avoid it. You can't ignore it. It's around every corner of the school and it's one of Huntington High School's most notable factors. It's in the faculty, it's in the students; it's in the town. It's what makes Huntington different, but does it really? Some call it a problem, others love and embrace it, everyone acknowledges it. In some ways it's new, yet it can trace its origins to Huntington's roots. What is it? Diversity.

Is Huntington High School really that diverse? Whether our families have been in Huntington for ten generations or we just moved here from Dix Hills, Alaska, or El Salvador does it really make a difference? Everyone wakes up in the morning and attempts to get to school on time, many of us play the same sports, and take the same classes. So what

is diversity and how does it affect Huntington?

One of the most diverse states in the United States, New York, contains within it one of the most segregated places in America, Long Island. How is it possible that Wyandanch, which is 65% black, borders the 75% white Deer Park, which sits next to the 65% Hispanic Brentwood? How is it possible that Huntington station is 46% non-white, yet Huntington



PHOTO: JACOB RODAY

Bay Village is 95% white?

Surprisingly, even though so many Long Island school districts are racially homogeneous,

see **Diversity** on page 2

Spotlighting Music and Art

Exceptional Opportunities offered by Art Department

by MOLLY PREP

Huntington High School has always been known to shine in its arts department. Programs range from painting and drawing to theater arts and music, and include computer graphics and photography. Huntington also offers students AP levels of many of these classes. But aside from learning some skill or bringing a piece of artwork home with you, what do these classes really have to offer? It turns out, quite a lot.

High school nowadays can be rough. Course loads are demanding. Sports require dedication and focus. After school clubs can lessen a student's free time. With all of this stress, art and music programs give students a break from their academic workday and let their creativity run free. Within these classes, students may find themselves with others who they would normally not have classes with.

Art and music programs often allow students of varying grades, academic ability, and elective interests to come together in an inspirational environment. Joan Fretz, Huntington School District's director of art/music, says, "I'm really excited about the successful way all types of students are excelling in these courses.

Music, art, and the dramatic productions provide a wonderful way for special needs students and students whose native language is not English to feel a part of a program, and cultivate their talents. The arts have a language all their own, and provide a way for everyone to find their voice and experience success in school." Photography teacher Ms. Piffard feels that art classes are able to offer self expression where many others can't. "In an art course, you're able to come up with your own opinions instead of being told what to do. You're able to achieve personal growth, creative growth, and strengthen self value."

Students enjoy these art and music classes while they're in them, and they go on to do well outside the school. According to Ms. Fretz, "Each year, there are many students who go on to major in an arts area and career.

I'm very proud of the acceptances at competitive colleges. We hear good things about the preparation of our arts students in all areas. More importantly, many of our students go on to use their arts skills in other fields as well as in leisure activities. Many computer graphic, video, and photography students go on to advertising and

marketing jobs. Fine arts students have become medical illustrators, and lots of music students tend to enter science professions."

She also stresses that, "Businesses today are



looking for creative, 'think out of the box' problem solvers who know how to work well with others. Arts programs help students develop those types of skills."

Within this year alone, Andrew Ku, Collin Richardson, and Jeffrey Sun have displayed their musical talents at the All-State music conference, and Roxana Moreira was named a Long Island Arts Alliance scholar-artist. With such a supportive community, the arts are kept alive and well. In fact, many would go so far as to say that the availability of art programs offered within the Huntington district, specifically in the high school, are far superior to those offered elsewhere. Ms. Piffard is proud to say, "Huntington offers many different options. There are general classes as well as specialized classes, including AP art/music, which a student could go on to study in college. The

see **Arts** on page 2



GRAPHIC: ROXANA MOREIRA

INSIDE FEATURES



Poll Page

What did you say p. 4

OP-ED



OB, Always in our Hearts

Op-Ed p. 7

ENTERTAINMENT



DRIVING TIPS FOR THE SNOW

Top 10 Tips p. 8

INDEX

features.....3-5
entertainment.....8-10
sports.....11-12

Chinese Exchange Program Gets Underway

by VICTOR TELLEZ

Hello, or in Chinese, ni hao! This year, a club known as the International Sister School Initiative, or I.S.S.I., will be participating in a foreign exchange program. Of the many new clubs that have started this year, the I.S.S.I. has very high aspirations. Gaining support quickly, it soon evolved specifically into the Tianjin-Huntington Exchange, or T.H.E. The club endeavors to help students gain understanding of cultures through foreign exchange. During these past months, Huntington High School students have had the opportunity to communicate with students from Tianjin No.

1 High School through email, learning what life is like there. This is a great start, the students from Tianjin will be able to come and interact with members of the T.H.E. and the Huntington community. The club plans on having about eleven

Mr. Gould and Mr. Leavy, as well as its members, are always working hard at making the initiative a success. The trip will require a tremendous amount of planning, but it is still doable. This would not be the first time that there was an exchange program. Years ago, Huntington had an exchange activity with students from Italy. This previous exchange was very comfortable for the I.S.S.I. The club holds meetings every Friday in Mr. Gould's room, where its members are working diligently to hold events and pitch ideas for the coming exchange.



PHOTO: MOLLY PREP
I.S.S.I.'s supervisors, Mr. Leavy and Mr. Gould, along with club president, Frank Yeh, look forward to the exchange students' long awaited arrival

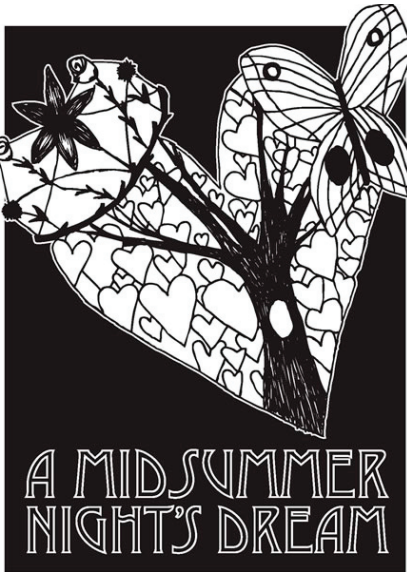
students from China travel to Huntington, and explore the area for two weeks. Frank Yeh, who is president of the club, feels very excited but does admit that much work lies ahead. The club's supervisors,

Spotlighting Music and Art

Arts from front page

support of the community, as well as that of the Huntington Foundation for Excellence in Education, let us flourish." The support of parents, students, and the community as a whole is a major factor in propelling the arts programs forward and keeping them as options for any and all students to try.

If you've never taken an art class, they come highly recommended by students and teachers alike.



"The more the merrier!" Ms. Piffard says happily. Even if you're not interested in contributing to the art you see displayed at the art show, the music that you hear in the concerts, or the plays/musicals performed by your fellow students, attending these events will keep the

arts, and your spirits, up and running! What students take away from these activities in the arts are mentally rewarding.



PHOTO: MOLLY PREP

Diversity from front page

Huntington isn't. The Huntington High School student body is 56% White, 28% Hispanic, 12% Black, 3% Asian and 1% multiracial.

One of the most diverse places in Huntington High School is the library. No matter what ethnicity, religion or race you associate with, during at least one point in the year you will visit the library. Mrs. Pat Dillon, Huntington High School's head librarian, said that "We are truly blessed... I don't even think about race. I don't think about who is Jewish or Catholic, why would it matter who is white or black?"

The track and wrestling teams contain people of all races. If you were to peer into any studio-in-art or gym class you would see the same. Coach Anderson, the assistant track coach at Huntington High School says, "The track team is definitely representative of the student body." Sports seems to be the most successful way to break down barriers between races. "Here, we bleed blue and white and are known for our great athletic tradition," said Anderson. Maybe racial divides can be crossed.

Though it may be true that track is ethnically diverse, most of the teams are homogeneous. The boys soccer team is largely Hispanic and the football team is predominantly Black and Caucasian. But even on these teams people mix. Jonathan Ceide, a second generation Haitian senior said that "most of the people [he] hang[s] out with are Hispanic because [he] like[s] to play soccer." Ceide said that he enjoys hanging out with a culture outside of his own, but he never thought of it that way. "I hang out with people who like the things I like and play the sports I play."

Many people on the soccer team say that there is a stronger sense of unity on the team because most people on the team have similar backgrounds. It is easier to become friends with

new ninth grade vs. tenth/eleventh grade cafeteria, self selecting segregation is ubiquitous.

This definitely does not create a very easy environ-

“I don't think about who's Jewish or Catholic, why would it matter who is white or black?”

ment for those who would like to move into a more academic class, but are reluctant to because they will not have any friends in those classes. Karen Parada, an El Salvadorian senior at Huntington High School, said, "I was in an honors class and I was the only Spanish kid in the class and I felt really out of place." Segregation creates limitations. Is it possible to stop this or prevent it in the future?

Is self segregation inevitable? Maybe it's just friends sitting with friends; friends are in the same classes as friends;

“I hang out with the people who like the things I like and play the sports I play”

friends play the same sports as their friends. That's why they are friends in the first place. That could be the cause behind the segregation in our school. Why would a person want to take a class in which he has no friends? You want to take classes with your friends, play on sports teams with your friends and sit with your friends at lunch. There is no problem with that. It just so happens to be that if someone were to observe the lunchroom for a period, he would clearly be able to see the divisions separating the friend groups. But in reality, what makes modern Huntington any different from the Huntington of old? Three generations ago Huntington was just as ethnically diverse, but instead of being a conglomeration of Blacks, Whites and His-

“Regardless of race, color, or religion, Blue Devils bleed blue and white forever.”

”

people who share common interests with you, and people often gravitate towards people they feel are like them. Just like the self-segregation in the cafeteria is really about who you're friends with, so is playing on a sports team. It's about doing what you love with people who love it as much as you do.

Though statistically our school seems diverse, 71% of Huntington High School students said that their classes are moderately diverse or composed primarily of students of the same race. Up until this year, the school cafeteria was literally split down the middle race-wise, and even now, in the

Fields High School. "He was going on about how he wanted to go to a college with diversity because he wanted to experience other cultures, and all I

could think about was how I live that everyday... He was asking me 'I heard you have knife fights in your school everyday' and I explained to

him, 'It's not like that at all. This is something I live with every day,' and he just didn't get that." Huntington High school is identified by its racial make up. Whether it is a positive or negative identification is not always clear. "It depends on the prejudices and open mindedness of the people judging," said Dr. Leonardi, the principal of Huntington High School, on the topic. Huntington High School is as close to the real world as it gets.

Many others would agree with this statement made by Kenneth Krummenacker, an

English teacher at Huntington High. He loves the contrast between his homogeneous town, Smithtown, and the greatly diverse Huntington, where he works. He said, "Diversity in a high school is the closest students come to the 'Real World.' You may never need to apply scientific theories, factor for X, analyze a poem or remember the terms of the Treaty of Ghent. But without question, you will need to know how to co-operate and live beside people who are different from you."

But it's not only the faculty who see the strengths of Huntington's diversity. Emaad Khwaja, a Pakistani eleventh grader at the high school, said, "Racial diversity in Huntington High School builds racial tolerance and...affirms a sense of equality. Students from less diverse [high] schools are typically not used to the multiethnic environments they find themselves in in college and in their future careers. Diversity in Huntington teaches students to look past differences." Greta Farrell could not agree more. The Caucasian tenth grader who transferred to Huntington High School from a small, predominantly white private school stated that it is "refreshing to know that I am part of a diverse student body where unique, and diverse teens can put their differences aside, interact and form lasting friendships."

Huntington High School is, and hopefully always will be, identified by its diverse student body. In Huntington we pride ourselves on our diversity and our unity as a school. Regardless of race, color, or religion, Blue Devils bleed blue and white forever.

WORD ON THE STREET

I have a dream...



Frank Yeh, Junior

“That there would be no such thing as prejudice or discrimination anymore”



Gabrielle Goodridge, Freshman

“That everyone will be equal and they won’t be judged by their clothes, their opinions or their money.”



Lizzy Saltman, Senior

“That one day I’ll feel confident without wearing a bow in my hair.”



Jason Chisolm, Senior

“That one day I won’t fall asleep in physics.”



Mr. Wilson, Dean

“That one day all these young people will have their hind parts in class on time.”

PHOTOS: ARI MOSKOWITZ

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

Diversidad en Nuestra Escuela

Hay un problema o un regalo

by JOSE HERNANDEZ

En Huntington High School, la variedad de estudiantes de diferentes culturas es muy común. Es decir que esto le da un notable toque de diferencia comparado con otras. Esta es una buena característica para la escuela en su totalidad, además de que es importante el destacar la ventaja que la misma le da a los varios estudiantes de distintas culturas y razas para que tengan la capacidad de recibir una buena educación, a la vez que también intercambian sus conocimientos y métodos de aprendizaje con los otros estudiantes. Así, la diversidad brinda consecuencias beneficiosas para todos, pues la escuela está compuesta de una gran variedad de estudiantes que pueden interactuar entre si y aprender mas del uno al otro; también es reconocible que la escuela brinda sus servicios y da oportunidades a todos para que puedan seguir adelante.

Por su parte, la presencia de diferentes estudiantes provenientes de distintas culturas y razas da sus aportes a la escuela en general, puesto que la hace más dinámica

para los distintos estudiantes que la atienden, a la vez que contribuye a la educación, así como también al progreso de los estudiantes que no pertenecen a la cultura americaná. Otro aporte es la habilidad de los estudiantes para interactuar con representantes de otros países o razas, de manera que pueden aprender y compartir sus conocimientos en las áreas de estudio y sus culturas del uno al otro. Además,

“ Esta escuela ofrece buenas oportunidades a la gran variedad de estudiantes que posee ”

esto permite que los estudiantes en general aprendan a ser sociables entre si.

Por otra parte, esta escuela ofrece buenas oportunidades a la gran variedad de estudiantes que posee. Es posible notar que todas etnicidades reciben una educación

y oportunidad es a muchos estudiantes que, aunque no son nativos del país, pueden encontrar su camino hacia delante y obtener lo que buscan. Por ejemplo, los Hispánicos, quienes forman una gran parte de la escuela, pueden beneficiar del apoyo que la escuela brinda mediante sus profesores para que avancen y lograr sus propósitos. De la misma manera, los que no dominan el lenguaje son fomentados a aprovecharse de las oportunidades que la escuela ofrece.

Como resultado, la diversidad de culturas que se pueden encontrar en Huntington High School es algo de valor, y contribuye al desarrollo de amistades entre los estudiantes, al igual que aporta para que sean capaces de interactuar el uno con el otro. También, la diversidad existente en la escuela implica un importante aspecto en la vida social de hoy. De esta manera, no solo los estudiantes recibir una educación, sino que también pueden aprender de los otros, y compartir ideas. Por lo tanto, la diversidad es de mucho valor.

A Dream Come True: Meeting Steven Spielberg

by CHARLES BEERS

Being a reporter is not an easy profession. You can spend weeks preparing to ask a celebrity a question or two and end up being ignored. Or you could get your chance and end up blowing it and forgetting the lines you rehearsed. But once you get the opportunity to meet a celebrity, go up to him, and ask him a question that makes him laugh or smile, or even give a good response to, you can never forget it.

I had the opportunity to attend the advanced screening of the movie in New York City, where Mr. Spielberg made a appearance. Thankfully, both the press conference and the red carpet premiere were two experiences that I can’t possibly forget.

The conference seemed easy enough: I’d stand up, look Mr. Spielberg straight in the eye, and ask him a question I had memorized for days. I was nervous before the meeting, but once the actual panel came in, with Mr. Spielberg in the center, I almost lost it. The wait for the start of the conference was a long hour that seemed to drag on forever, but after the stars came inside, time seemed to change its mind and make up for the slow

start. Then, before I knew it, the lady with the mic was heading my way. The stage was all mine. It’s funny how the presence of just one person is even more stressful than being in front of a whole school of people I know. I got jumbled midway through my question but ended up adjusting it so that it made sense. Mr. Spielberg imme-



PHOTO: CHARLES BEERS

Charles was ecstatic to meet his long time idol, Steven Spielberg

diately smiled at me and started his response, which was one of the longest of the whole meeting!

After that moment I thought the day couldn’t have gone any better. I had just held my ground in a room full of dozens of reporters and one of the most accomplished film directors of all time. However, I was wrong. Once I arrived at the red carpet I received an official press pass and a reserved spot alongside the railing near the car-

pet. After an hour wait, Mr. Spielberg was back again. The minute he saw me on line he recognized me from the conference, which was by far the best moment of the night. A lot of celebrities seem nice and compassionate on screen and television but are not the same way in real life. I’m happy to say that Mr. Spielberg is one of the nicest celebrities you’ll ever meet and an absolute thrill to talk to. After I had talked with him one last time, took a quick picture, and got an autograph for proof, I was happy enough to leave then. However, the carpet began to flood with other incredible celebrities, including Kathleen Kennedy, a producer who was responsible for classics like E.T. and Back to the Future; Nick Frost, who is by far one of the funniest actors alive; and even a surprise appearance by George Lucas! Overall, the day was unforgettable. The amount of time and attention Mr. Spielberg gave to me on the red carpet and in the press room was the pinnacle of my day. After that, I can officially say that Mr. Spielberg is one of the kindest and most generous film directors out there, and I will support his movies for years and years to come.

Bad Dawgs

Buy One Bad Dawg
and
Get One Bad Dawg
Free!

www.BadDawgsLI.com
(631) 923-1201

The Baddest Dawgs On The Planet!

Gourmet Hot Dogs and More...

Are You Doing Community Service in Huntington?

by MICHAEL STAFFORD

The Key Club took part in the Sears Shopping Tour this December, one of the many forms of community service that clubs, honor societies, and other service activities at Huntington High School participates in. Since colleges look favorably upon community service, more people should attempt to get involved with as many community service projects as they can. Students can easily do this by joining one of the many clubs in Huntington High School, including Habitat for Humanity, The Environmental Club, and Grandfriends. Students can both ease problems for the underprivileged and benefit the community. There are also easily accessible opportunities to do charitable work outside of the high school, which include working at St. Hugh's soup kitchens and at Huntington Hospital for hours without pay. Most high school students find community service both enjoyable and rewarding, causing them to be a part of these activities throughout their high school careers.

This past December, our school's Key Club participated in a major event called the Sears Shopping Tour. In this event, members get into groups of three to four, and take an underprivileged child on a shopping spree. In this shopping spree, the groups of students help

their child to decide on different pants, shirts, coats and shoes that each child will need for the upcoming winter. This is a collective decision involving different factors, including the size, the use of the apparel, and if the child desires that particular piece of clothing. After picking all required attire for the upcoming winter, the members of Key Club usually allow the child to obtain one or two toys as gifts. As the students tirelessly help out each child, they must also keep in mind the one hundred and fifty dollar budget being placed on them to spend. But students do not fret when they go over this amount, many students will end up paying out of their pocket in order to get their child most of the things they desire. After finishing with the actual shopping, students then work behind the scenes, away from their child, in order to wrap each item and then put it in their child's respective bags, to be given to the child for Christmas. To end their day, the members of Key Club encounter the kids once more as they have lunch, to say their farewells and to make sure that each child is having a pleasant lunch. This concludes the club members' day, and they leave the facility to do other activities with smiles on their faces. This year's Shopping Tour went especially well, with

the members participating in the event numbering over fifty people, and each member of the club felt special to be a part of it. What the members realized was that doing a little can go a long way.

Besides Key Club, there are many clubs in which the sole focus of the club is helping others. One club that is based off of community service is Habitat for Humanity. In this club, members raise enough money to help build housing in impoverished areas in both Long Island and other parts of the United States. If Habitat for Humanity raises enough revenue this year, they will be building a house in our hometown of Huntington. Another club that does charitable acts for others is The Environmental Club. Supervised by Mr. McKee, this club recycles objects in the school, and attempts to promote recycling throughout the high school. Like Habitat for Humanity, The Envi-

ronmental Club will be attempting to have major out-of-school community service projects to benefit Huntington further. Finally,

are involved in at Huntington High School. In this program, members attempt to brighten the day of an elderly person by creating a more comfortable environment for senior citizens. In the spring, Grandfriends will be attempting to host their annual Senior-Senior Prom in the cafeteria in our high school.

In honor societies at Huntington High School, students can help perform charitable acts in fields of study that they are most comfortable in. To first get into many of the honor societies at Huntington High School, one must obtain certain amounts of community service in order to show leadership and potential in that honor society. Once inducted into that particular honor society, one can participate in many different forms and acts of community service including tutoring others in a particular field in order to help them achieve higher grades. There are also community service acts for each specific field, in which the Tri-M



↓ Samantha Bindirm, a Key Club member, helping a child to find a new pair of shoes

PHOTO: HUNSD.EDU

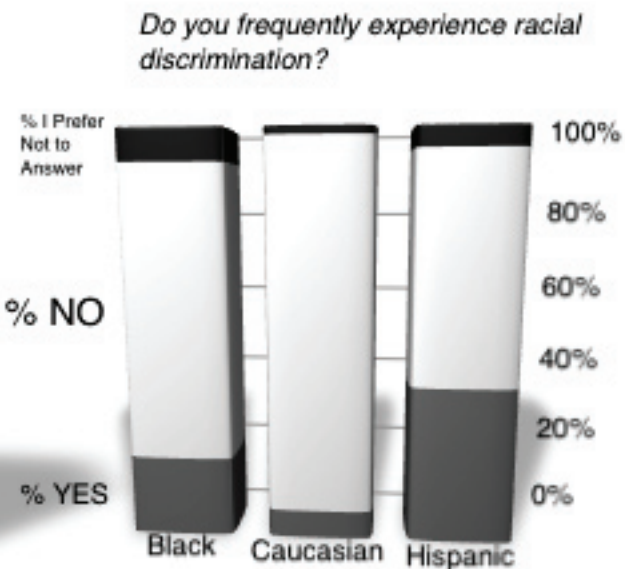
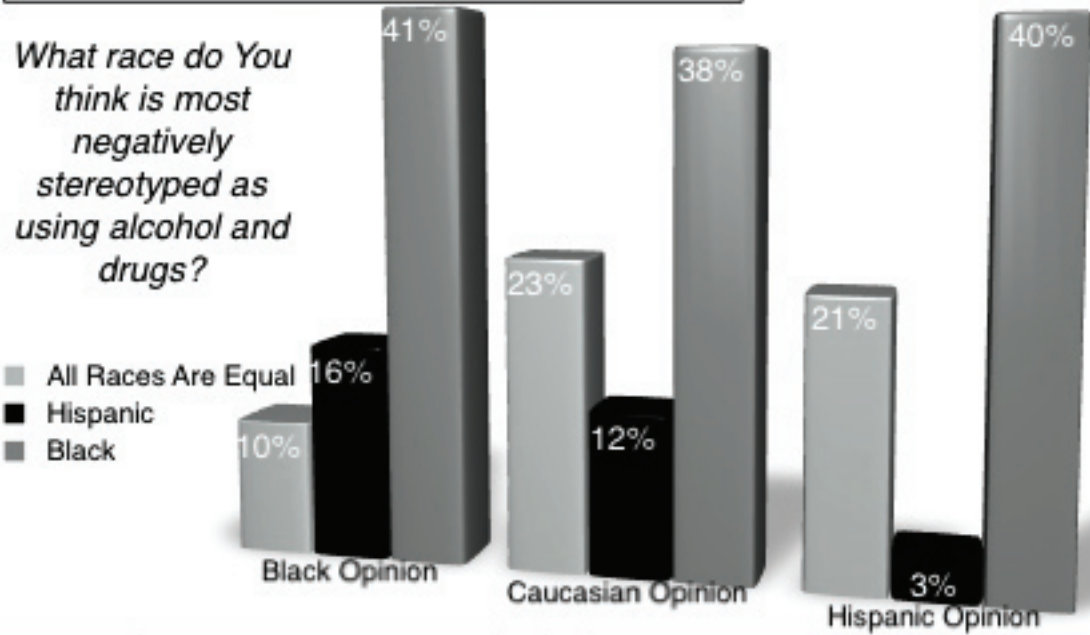
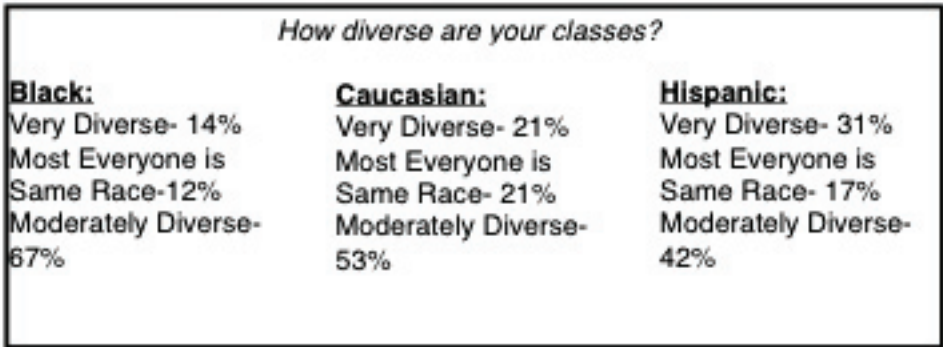
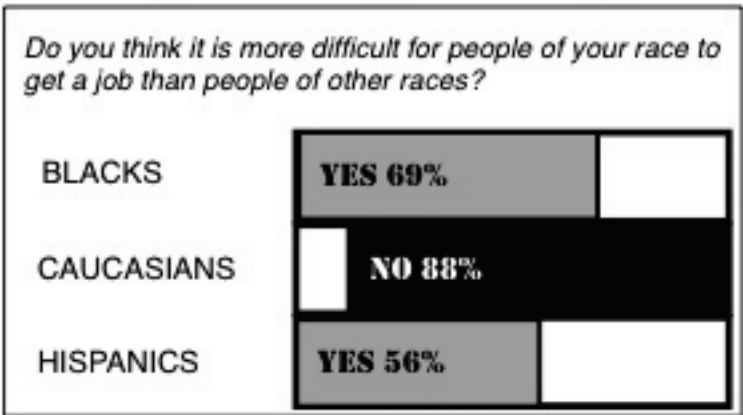
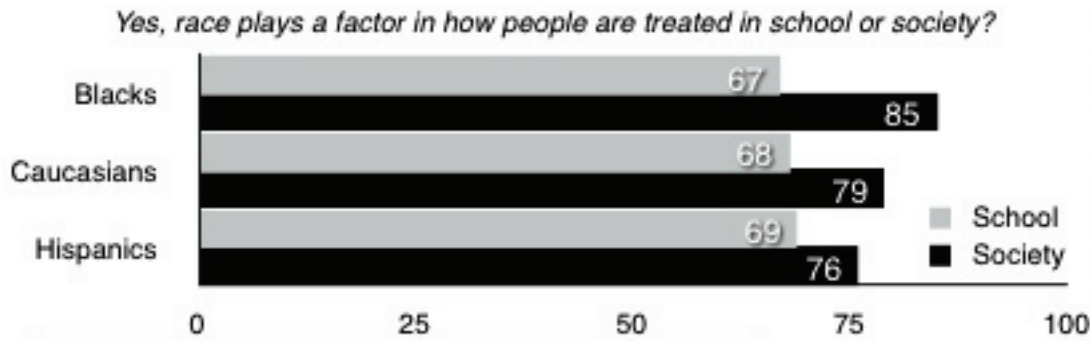
Grandfriends is another great community service group that people

see [Community Service](#) on page 5

POLL PAGE

You Spoke...And This is what You said

This survey was conducted on 800 students, who attend Huntington High School and who self-associated in terms of race, gender and grade



POINT / COUNTERPOINT

To Facebook... Or Not To Facebook...

by LAURA ZENZEROVICH

An incredibly huge assignment is due tomorrow. You were given a week to do it, but procrastination and laziness tempted you and you're starting the whole thing today. You're clearly in for a long night. But don't despair; you are by no means alone in your suffering, as there is a whole world of people out there who feel your pain! And where are all these people who can help you out? Why, nowhere but the hit Internet sensation Facebook of course.

Facebook can be an incredibly effective study tool if used correctly. It is one of the best ways to communicate with a large group of people at any given time, making it the ideal place to get some important information, not to mention an easy way to collaborate on typed projects or share useful websites. It could even provide the numbers for homework that was not copied down, the due date for that assignment, or even help with a weird math problem. No matter what it is, there has to be someone online who has a bit of insight.

Studying or doing homework with Facebook is a lot like forming a study group. Ideally, it's the opportunity to get together with people who work well together in an effort to better understand the material, to help and be helped by others, and hopefully lead everyone to a bit more knowledge than they had originally. This is the ideal situation, but it doesn't always work this way. Study groups are also

potentially a waste of time, especially if people get together and end up socializing more than working. It happens, but it's totally avoidable if everyone remembers to focus. This obviously happens on Facebook as well, as people get distracted by all the potential conversations and browsing. Even so, neither study groups nor Facebook are completely unproductive in and of themselves. The outcome is entirely dependent on how much people take advantage of it.

To those who are so quick to blame the internet for their bad grades: stop and think for a moment. If Facebook wasn't around, what would you be doing? It is definitely not the only distraction in the life of a teenager; there are so many other things that compete for your attention, be it another website, an interesting text message, or even your favorite TV show. Getting rid of Facebook isn't going to help anyone stay more focused when there's another outlet for that procrastination a click away.

Although new technologies like Facebook and cell phones have made it easier to be distracted while studying, they have more potential to help the average student than they have the potential to hurt. Facebook isn't giving anyone any less self-control, its only human nature to procrastinate, with or without social networking. Facebook's purpose is just to aid in communication, for better or for worse.

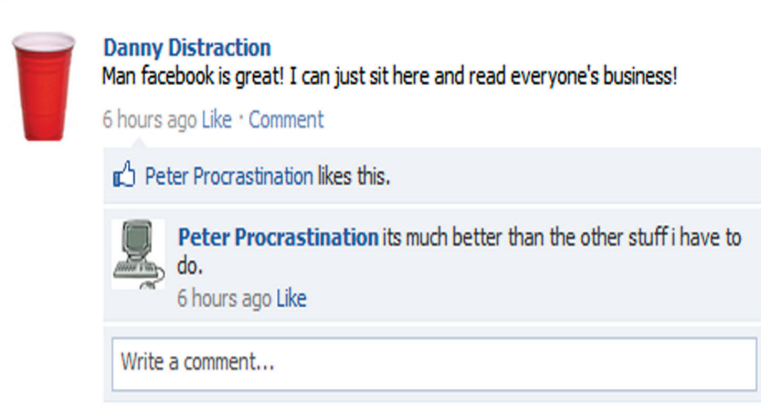


RECENT ACTIVITY
Hannah Helpful attended Study group. Like · Comment



RECENT ACTIVITY
Hannah Helpful is now friends with Danny Distraction. Like · Comment

RECENT ACTIVITY
Peter Procrastination likes Doing nothin'.



RECENT ACTIVITY
Sandy Study likes Textbooks!.

by ANGELA TOME-RADIGAN

Facebook is one of the most popular social networking sites there is. There are more than 800 million active users on Facebook! With so much to do, how could there possibly not be so much activity? Posting your thoughts and ideas, sharing videos and music, chatting with friends, creating groups, playing games, and poking are just a few of the many nuances offered from the social networking site. People of all age groups are using Facebook. Many of these individuals are students. They spend much of their time interacting with Facebook; if not on the computer, then on their phones. Sure, it's a great way to keep in touch with friends, and most everyone loves it; but could it be distracting you from your work? Quite possibly, yes.

With so much to do

more distracting than both TV and videogames. Students aren't getting their work done because they are wasting too much time on the computer. Of course, students want to talk with friends and relax from a long day of school. No one wants to do homework, but it's a must if you want to get good grades.

Facebook can provide an escape from school. Even if they're not on their computers, many students can access Facebook from their phones, getting automatic updates and statuses from friends. There is no escaping the fact that Facebook is everywhere nowadays, becoming a national epidemic.

Not all students forget about their homework, though. Several kids can still manage to get the work done and spend time chatting with friends. So say you do get your work done, even with the distraction of social network-



“...Kids can still manage to get their work done and spend time chatting with their friends.”

on Facebook, what's stopping you from ignoring what needs to be done to go catch up on what everyone else is doing? People are on the site all the time. There's always someone online, and many of these people are students. So what's so bad about this? Students are being pulled from their schoolwork to spend time on Facebook. Studies have shown that Facebook has become

ing. That's good, but there's still trouble to come with this. Many students say it takes them longer to study and do homework because of the temptation of checking statuses and updates. In short, Facebook is prodigiously impacting students' study time.

Community Service from page four

(music honor society) plays at different nursing homes to raise the spirits of those that are living there, and the English National Honor Society who does poetry cafes to share poetry with others. These are some of the many things that honor societies due to provide community service outside of school. Some people also enjoy participating in community service outside of the high school. One of these places where one could find many Huntington High School students is at Huntington Hospital. At Huntington Hospital, students usually work a two hour shift

“ There are many ways in which different people can get involved in their communities ”

as Junior Floor Aides. This job involves providing for patients by giving water to patients, doing their linens, getting dinner trays, and sometimes even solacing patients. Once a certain amount of hours are achieved, a person's position as a Junior Floor Aide elevates into higher and more responsible positions. Another way people participate in community service outside of the high school is waking up early on weekends to serve at local soup kitchens like St. Hugh's. In this job, students make sandwiches and prepare other food items with the cooks for the hun-

gry. These are held weekly and many clubs attempt to have events to work at St. Hugh's and help the cooks out. There are many ways people can get involved in their community. Some ways are from clubs, honor societies, and other activities, but there are many more opportunities. To find these opportunities, one must look and find them, because there are many other community service projects being left untouched. A person may even find the next big event like the Sear's Shopping Tour.

The Dispatch

2011-2012 Staff

Editors-in-Chief

Ari Moskowitz

Molly Prep

Contributing Staff

News Editor

Emal Wafajow

Entertainment Editor

Emily McGoldrick

Features Editor

Laura Zenzerovich

Media Editor

Jacob Roday

Copy Editor

Jeffrey Sun

Charles Beers, Diamond Cabrera, Todd Colvin, Anna Garfinkel, Jose Hernandez, Natalie Lanzisero, David Levin, Gavin Li, Brian J. McConnell, Josh Morris, Asar Nadi, Matthew Petryk, Donovan Richardson, Angelica Tome-Radigan, Stephanie Shea, Annabel Smith, Mike Stafford, Victor Tellez, Bridget Walsh

Advisors

Mr. James A. Graber and Mrs. Aimee Antorino

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

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2011-2012 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.

Exploring Diversity

Stepping out of your comfort zone to break down social barriers

Diversity: It's definitely an intriguing topic for students of Huntington High School. With a wide variety of cultures and people, the high school truly boasts an academic melting pot. It's easy to understand why many would be apprehensive about diversity, however. Sometimes, the ideas and cultures of other people can seem totally alien. Individuals do not often agree or understand the values and differences in others. Despite this, that diverse nature is what allows people to come out of their comfort zones and learn to cope with society.

Since many young teenagers are exposed to it at a young age in our school, they gain more experience. There is a good probability that in the work force or even college, you will encounter many different types of people with varying backgrounds and personalities. Unfortunately, sometimes diversity can be taken for granted in school. Diversity is not a common thing, and should be appreciated. If people cannot learn to accept others, they will never learn how to cope with society in the future.

Diversity can result in a mutual understanding, in which one can develop how to empathize with others better

and shape their own minds. However, this mutual understanding is not always established. Regardless of prejudice, the lunchroom cafeterias are somewhat segregated. This is due to the fact that people would rather be around others who are more similar to them. Noth-

“ If people cannot learn to accept others, they will never learn how to cope with society in the future. ”

ing makes a pain or obstacle worse than the fact that you are facing it alone. Nobody wants to be in this position and it's the totally natural thing to do. But when you finally step out of your comfort zone and take a risk, you may learn something new. Stepping out of your comfort zone discourages the formation of racist and bigoted opinions towards one different group of people. Maybe that person does have similarities to you or shares your perspective on something. Even better, it's possible that their view or differences can make you challenge your own.

Diversity is like a Venn diagram. Some people choose to only inter-

act with their own group while others associate with other groups or even all groups. These groups aren't just "blacks" or "whites" though. They are clubs, sports, religious affiliations, electives, and neighbors, which all result in forming a community. Without one of these, that society is lopsided in some way. Every person has unique or special characteristics which they can offer. It is precisely this that makes Huntington High School such a great place to be.

Unlike private schools, our curriculum is much more vibrant and open. In setting restrictions such as no music or physical education classes, kids are limited to a certain way of thinking.

Many people might say or would like to think that an environment with a great amount of diversity is a positive thing, but they aren't always the ones making the effort to implement these thoughts. It's very possible that you could be one of the few people who take the first step in getting to know others, and you won't regret it. Once you do that, there's a whole new uncharted territory waiting for you to explore that you might've never thought existed.

E-mail hhsdispatch@gmail.com

SUPPORT YOUR SCHOOL!

Join The Dispatch

WRITE!

TAKE PICTURES!

Contact Mr. Graber, Ms. Antorino, or one of *The Dispatch*'s editors if you wish to place an ad in the paper.

Courtney O'Bryan

1993-2011



PHOTO: HHS-SD.EDU

by TODD COLVIN

Few incidents have touched so deeply into the hearts of the student body at Huntington High School than the tragic passing of Courtney O' Bryan on December 2nd. It was the greatest shock that most Huntington students have ever known, and collectively brought us to a previously unknown level of sadness. Out of all of the sadness, however, there came hope. Slowly but surely we realized the impact that Courtney had on us as we became closer as a school and as a community. Instead of focusing on how bad it was that Courtney passed, we chose to focus on how good it was that she lived and we had the privilege of attending the same school as her. We were all lucky to have known Courtney, and that in itself is reason enough to celebrate.

Courtney really was as great as everyone says. A common refrain at the candlelight vigil and in conversations with her friends was that she had no enemies in the school; she was loved by everyone she met. To those who knew Courtney, this is not surprising; she was the friendliest girl that most people, including myself, have ever met. Nobody who knew her could ever

forget that smile that lit up the room. She had this rare quality hidden in the twinkle of her eye and the way that she smiled that instantly lifted the mood of anyone that laid eyes on her. When you were talking to Courtney O' Bryan, you felt special.

There were many well-attended events to honor Courtney's memory, including student support in the Heritage Room, a candlelight vigil, the wake, the meeting of the students at the Rock after the wake, and the funeral. To call these times of grieving, however, would be to miss the point. These times were not so much to grieve the death of Courtney as it was to celebrate her life. Over the sounds of choked-back tears and unanswerable questions, we still laughed and smiled as we reminisced about the good times we had with Courtney. Whether it was memories of her in the senior pranks last year (yes, she was one of the people who ran around the hallway half-naked to show how ridiculous the school got with the dress code), or teammates talking about how she single-handedly made the team fun, or her friends talking about normal conversations they had with her, Courtney gave us so much

to smile about.

Courtney O' Bryan had a tremendous impact on this school. We faced the greatest tragedy most of us have ever known, and we got through it together. When so few of us had strength, we found it in our neighbors. In some mysterious way, the comfort level the whole provided was greater than the sum of its parts. It is tragic that it took a death to realize our strength, but it showed that we can join together even in the darkest hour. People can complain or put up all the angry Facebook statuses they want, but we go to school in a special place and we live in a special town where we can rely on each other when the going gets rough, and Courtney proved that.

The lesson that we could take away from Courtney and the events after everyone heard the news is love. Courtney was so special because of the love that radiated out from her and surrounded anyone she came in contact with. After the accident, we learned that this love was so strong that it could not even be conquered by death. You only live life once, but if you lived a life like Courtney O' Bryan's, once is enough.

ENTERTAINMENT

Winter Driving Tips: How to Survive the Snow

by ANNABEL SMITH

Whether it's too rainy, snowy, icy, or even windy, every senior dreads the announcement that arrives sometime before fifth period: "Due to the weather, seniors will not be able to go out for lunch today." Mr. Noce, the assistant principal, is notorious for his announcements declaring an in-school lunch for the seniors. But, believe it or not, he doesn't cancel the senior's lunch privileges for no reason. Regardless of how the seniors perceive him, Mr. Noce's main goal is to keep all students safe, in and out of the school. "Safety is our business," he states. He would much rather cancel lunch when necessary than have students in danger. He recalled that a few years ago, there were requests to cancel senior lunch privileges completely, but fortunately he didn't let that happen. Our assistant principal understands that in a young driving environment, there are often friends, talking, and music in the car, which can all be distracting, especially in risky weather. There is also the dilemma that slippery roads take extra time to drive on, and considering there is a very small time frame for lunch, it would be unreasonable for the school to have so many students rushing to get back in time.

Mr. Noce makes certain that the roads

are too dangerous before declaring a canceled lunch. He will sometimes even have security guards check them before lunchtime, to ensure that it would be unsafe for students to travel on them. In general, Mr. Noce doesn't enjoy canceling lunch, but if that's what it takes to keep teens in this school from being in danger, then that's what has to be done.

To reduce your risk of getting in an ac-

cident, try some of these driving tips for the winter.

1. Take your time while driving, especially in unpredictable weather. Getting somewhere on time isn't worth damaging your car or yourself.

2. When it's icy or snowy, make sure you leave a little extra room between your car and the one in front of you; you never

know when your brakes could fail you.

3. When stopping at a red light, stop sign, etc., slow down gradually and make sure you don't stop short.

Roads that could tend to freeze over quickly (i.e. bridges, overpasses, and infrequently used roads) need extra care and attention when driving on them.

4. Before you take off, make sure ALL your windows and mirrors are cleared, not just the front and back windshields.

5. Check to make sure the brake pedal, accelerator, and other parts of the car are completely working, and they aren't frozen, before you travel.

Cautious driving is important and just one car accident could be detrimental to yourself or others, so make sure you take care in driving, especially during the winter. Driving safety may seem miniscule compared to everything else on your mind (homework, that party last Saturday, your plans after school) but it is extremely important that all young drivers use extra caution, because, like many other skills, driving is one that takes time to master. Though you may not realize it, many young drivers don't have the practice that they should, which makes careful driving all the more important.


PHOTO: Emily McGoddick



The Dispatch examines . . .

What's
Hot

1) **The weather-**

Are we ever going to get a snow day?!?! 

2) **Blue Ivy-**

Some are named after fruit, some after famous cities, this one

was named after a crayon

3) **Siri-** She knows you better than you know yourself



4) **Instagram-** Am I artsy yet?

5) **Boots and Fur-** Apparently the lack of snow isn't stopping these seasonal trends

What's
Not

1) **Jersey Shore-** Finally those orange tans are fading

2) **Midterms-** WHEN DID WE LEARN THAT!?

3) **Non-stop 2012 election coverage-** The election isn't until November no need to interrupt scheduled programming please



4) **"Truth is..."-** Truth is you're clogging up my news feed so STOP

5) **UGGS-** It's about time to retire those shoes from 6th grade

Journalist Sandra Peddie Shares Her Passion With HHS Students

by LAURA ZENZEROVICH

The life of an investigative journalist is truly exciting. There's the secrecy of anonymous sources and codenames, the hunt for evidence, and the thrill of pursuing corrupt people and illegal actions. It is certainly a path fraught with danger and intrigue, but more importantly with discovery and revelations, saying what needs to be heard and reporting on what needs to be known. Sandra Peddie, an acclaimed investigative journalist from Newsday visited the High School on Friday, January 13th. She spoke to Mrs. Antorino's journalism class on the amazing nature of her occupation and the stories she has covered while working at Newsday for over twenty years.

Ms. Peddie has reported on numerous incidents right here on Long Island, including the investigation of the women found murdered on Gilgo beach and armed robberies in local pharmacies over prescription medication. Her reporting also helped expose numerous scandals, prompting an investigation of Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, incriminating public servants like police and firefighters who had faked injuries to receive disability insurance. She also exposed a theater in Jones Beach with an un-

stable balcony, which potentially might have injured an entire audience prompting a half million dollar repair. "There is so much corruption and so little time," said Ms. Peddie. "People want a watchdog. It's hugely important, trying to help them see where the problems are."

Ms. Peddie has always enjoyed human interest stories, features on the ordinary individual, and after pursuing journalism as a career in college she never looked back. Before com-

sources, and the stealthy methods she utilized to take pictures, interview contacts, and acquire important records to put together and back up a story. Yet even after incriminating individuals, Ms. Peddie still takes the time to approach them to get their own opinion, and make for truly unbiased reporting. "People want to have their side heard," she said, "You want to tell their stories."

Ms. Peddie has received over two dozen journalism awards for her exemplary work

in her field, and will no doubt receive more as she continues reporting. Despite the many people that are very appreciative of her work, she still has a few enemies, and has even received a few threats. "You do make people mad," she said, but that doesn't stop her in the slightest.

She implores those who are interested in pursuing journalism to go for it, as it's truly a great life. For someone who is at all curious or loves to ask questions, the job is very rewarding. "This generation will transform journalism." Ms. Peddie said, "The people who go in now are the people who really care."



PHOTO: Laura Zenzovich

ing to Newsday, Ms. Peddie worked for papers in St. Paul, Minnesota and in San Jose, Costa Rica. Investigative journalism specifically posed a unique challenge, as the stories were long term, requiring tedious research, and unpredictable days. "You never know when you walk in the door what you're going to do," Ms. Peddie said. She spoke of her numerous anonymous

Critic's Corner

"Tintin" 3D

by CHARLES BEERS

Steven Spielberg and Peter Jackson have accomplished a lot in their movie careers. From E.T. to Lord of the Rings to Indiana Jones, these two movie icons have had great successes in a wide range of genres. However, before

it takes a while to get to the real chain of action-packed events, the journey is breath-taking as a whole. That isn't even including the Moroccan city sequence, which was probably the most incredible scene that I've seen in theaters for a long time. However,

there are a few downsides to Tintin that don't take away from the experience but will hopefully be fixed in the sequel. For example, the inclusion of some characters doesn't make much sense: The pickpocket pops up now and again but his purpose is never explained.



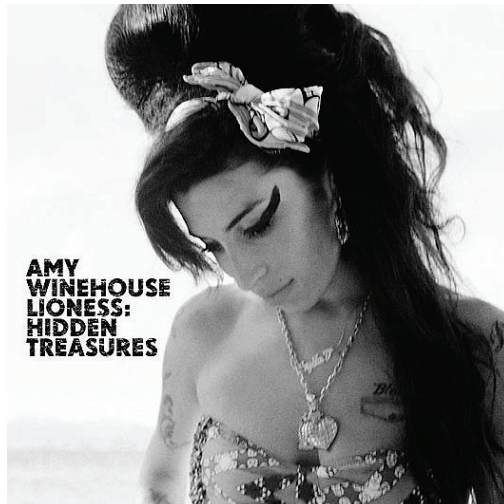
Tintin, they had never produced a film together. I'm happy to say that their first collaboration is a huge success that will appeal to anyone who loved the adventures of Indiana Jones or the mysteries involving Sherlock Holmes.

Saying that The Adventures of Tintin is a beautiful movie is selling it short. It is arguably the most artistically detailed animated feature ever produced, and probably the film that used the 3-D glasses the wisest. However, Mr. Spielberg was right. It is a whole different experience once you get past the beauty of it all. Although

Also, the movie's cliffhanger is lackluster; considering how dramatic and exciting the adventure was, the ending doesn't carry that same feeling of exhilaration. Nonetheless, Tintin is a breath-taking animated feature that dazzles with its charming characters and detailed chase sequences. This movie will keep ages 10 and up glued to the screen for the whole two hour journey and desperately anticipating the sequel (Add a half-star if you have the patience to wait.)

★★★★☆

"Lioness"



by DIAMOND CABRERA

The late pop singer Amy Winehouse came out with a new album in mid December called "Lioness". It was Winehouse's very last album. She died due to a drug overdose. She had a very

The album is full of songs that were thrown together that Amy had. While some of her songs have a jazzy sound others have a soft mellow one. The album includes a song with her friend and rapper Nas. The album has songs that tell about how

bright future and she was one of the most amazing pop/jazz singers. Her voice was very unique. It had a different sound than most other singers, and she was able to sing many different genres of music. Her death was trending all over Twitter by many celebrities and upset fans.

Amy feels and different things that she goes through, but at the same time most of the songs on it can relate to what someone else is going through or an experience they've had. The album received many mixed reviews. Some gave it bad ratings and some say it was her best piece of work to date. The New York Times says that "had she survived, Winehouse might have had new insights into private turmoil, and a voice with eloquent scars. 'Lioness' is just the scraps of what might have been." All of the songs on the album have many different emotions, but it's a good album and everyone should listen to it!

★★★★☆

"Mac and Devin Go to High School"

by Natalie Lanzisero



Wiz Khalifa and Snoop Dogg teamed up to create an album titled "Mac and Devin Go To High School." This album was released on December 13,

2011 and, rumor has it, there are plans of creating a movie to go along with the album in the future. The two also released a single together called "Young, Wild & Free" featuring Bruno Mars on October 11, 2011, and this song was number 10 in the US for 4 weeks. Some popular tracks off of the rap/hip hop album include "Smokin' On," "Young, Wild & Free," "OG," and "That Good." Wiz Khalifa has said that Snoop Dogg is his "mentor" and that he is honored to work with him on the album and get to know him. The songs were made to remind the artists and listeners of high school. Although some songs are enjoyable, others are just repetitive and boring. Personally, I was expecting something new and fresh from the duo, but instead it is just the same old music that Wiz Khalifa and Snoop Dogg have always made. To give this a rating out of 5 stars, I would give this album a 2.5. Overall, this is not particularly an album worth listening to, and I would not recommend it.

★★★★☆

"Vixen: The Series"

by Asar Nadi



If you had to choose to go back in time, what year would you choose? 100 years ago? 80 years ago? Any year wouldn't be full to handle. Except the 1920s. "Young. Wealthy. Defiant. Beautiful. Dangerous. Its 1923... And anything goes." The Flappers series, written by Jillian Larkin, is best decrypted by the first book of the series, Vixen. Vixen is a unique book that isn't like what has been seen on television or taught in class. Each poor girl wishes to be

one thing and wishes to have everything that they could dream of. Their wishes are nothing of what they dreamed to be like. Once their dreams come true, they are not able to take their title back that they have gotten. Unless, they hide it away from everyone and trust no one. Even the ones they love the most cannot be trusted. The plot twisting in each chapter makes the book even better and better! The

1920s slang that Larkin uses makes the book even more realistic than it already is, and her descriptions bring the imagery even more alive! If the type of book or series that is enjoyable is drama, try Vixen..

Whatever happens to a Vixen, sticks to the Vixen...

★★★★★

Need A Tutor?

Club Z! 1-On-1 Tutoring In Your Home!

- All Subjects • PreK-Adult
- English • Reading • Writing • Math • Science
- **SAT/ACT Prep** • Regents Prep
- Study Skills Program
- Affordable Rates • Qualified Tutors
- Flexible Schedules



FREE In-Home Consultation!
Call for details.



Call to Reserve Your Tutor Today!

631-266-CLUB

www.clubz.com

Bulldozing Down the Halls

A Quick and Easy way to Clear Huntington's Most Clogged Hallways

by JACOB RODAY

Huntington High School's hallways are more congested than the average American's arteries. But you already know that. Every day you scramble to class hoping, praying, that you won't be late. But it's always something, rather someone, that stops you. That awkward push to get through a group of sophomors in theThat quick slide past a gaggle of freshmen in the language hall. Every day is a constant and bitter struggle to get to class.

Students and teachers are equally guilty. Do you have to stop in the middle of the hall to hand each other papers after 6th period?

Do you really need to hook-up in the stairwell, blocking two dozen people from getting to math? Do you and your friends have to block my locker, EVERY MORNING? Do you have to go on the left side of the hall

when etiquette clearly says keep to the right!? The amount of ridiculousness is well, frankly ridiculous! Some days it

seems that the only way to get to class is to push and shove everyone in front of you.

It is impossibly hard to push and shove your way to class without violating some

complain about a nudge. Then you can build up to pushing, then shoving, and when you feel ready for it, just going all out and

So, let's try to lay some ground rules so nobody has to get hurt. You can't just stop in the middle of the have to get to class. Always walk on the right side of the hall and the stairs. No one is going to move for you just because you forgot your manners at home. And let's keep the pace brisk. Every day there is someone who is talking with a friend, daydreaming or just texting. People who walk slow, you know who you are. Nobody likes this, just stop. These people have no problem with being late to class. When you get stuck behind a mob of them, you're done. All you can do is hope your teacher will understand.

Huntington's halls are extremely difficult to get through, every period, every day. So please, from those of us who like to get to class on time, just go with the flow. No stops in the hall, maintain a brisk walking speed, and try to walk on the right side of the hall way. Besides, you can talk to friends online, where no one can be late to class.

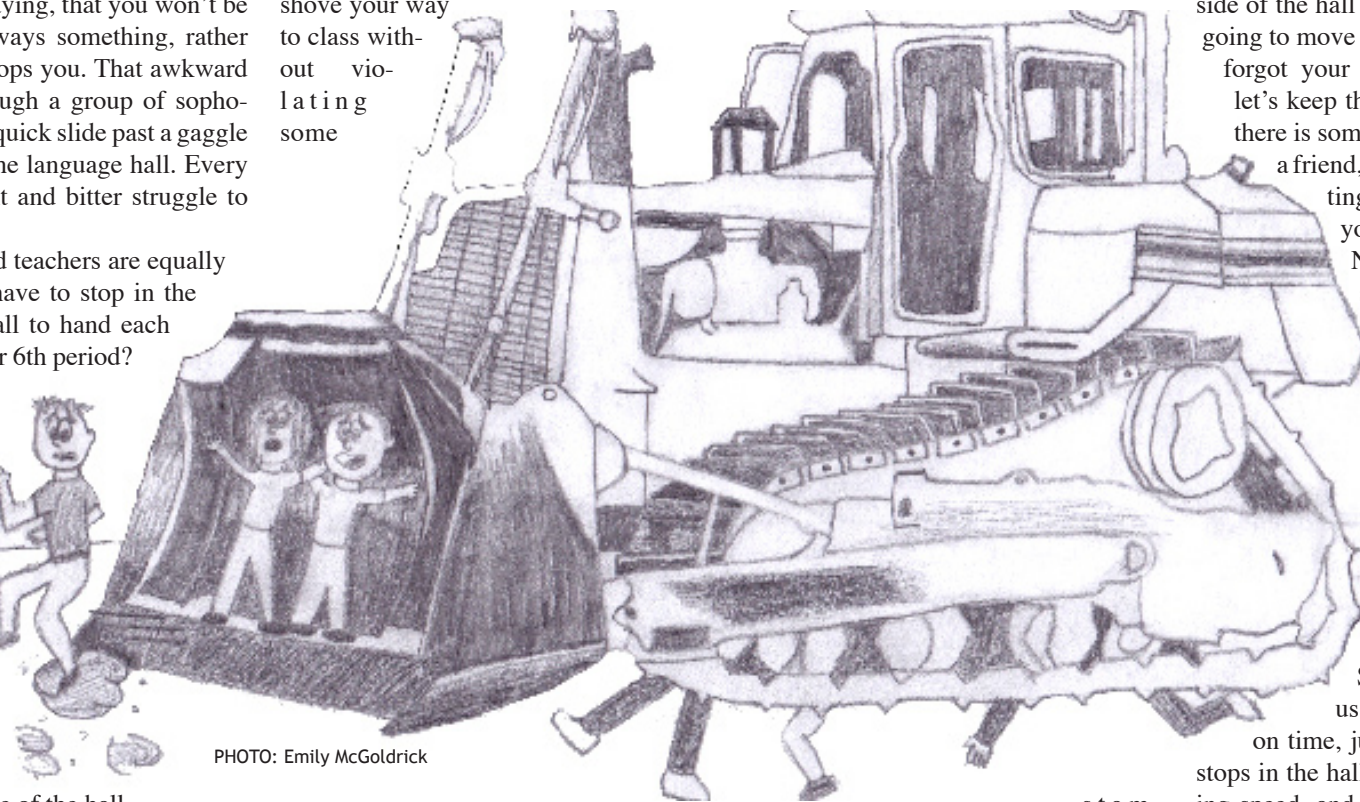


PHOTO: Emily McGoldrick

school rule. But sometimes we have to bend rules for educational purposes! You can start with a nudge, a stranger won't

st a m - peding to class. The slow walkers in the halls stand no match for an angry junior.

The Impending Doom We Face

by MATT PETRYK

It's that time of year again when the world's due to end. According to a calendar drawn up by ancient Mayan astronomers and priests, the current Great Cycle of 5,130 years comes to a close in December 2012, ending the world in an massive flood.

From the first century BC, Mayan dates were set down relative to the Long Count, which began in August 3114 BC. The Long Count was said to contain thirteen "centuries" of just less than 400 years each, called baktuns. Every day had a special significance, and that significance was amplified when it corresponded with the end of a 360-, 7,200-, or 144,000-day period. For example, the end of 7,200-day katun 8 Ahau marked the ousting of the Mayan Itzá tribe from their traditional homeland. The next time katun 8 came around, they were driven from their homes again, and the katun 8 after that saw their conquering at the hands of the Spanish.

The 13th and final baktun is to end in December 2012. What of the flood that Mayan tradition says will end the world? It is important to remember that, historically, enemies of the Maya have taken advantage of the calendar's prophesies. During the katun 8 that marked the fall of the Itzá, Spanish authorities sent missionaries to convert the tribe to Christianity, then, when they failed, sent soldiers to conquer their city. It is likely the Spanish recognized the impact katun 8 would have on the morale of the Itzá, and took the opportunity to strike. Similarly, when the calendar indicated a time of war and upheaval, many Mayan kings fought longer and harder to appease

the gods. The calendar did cause misfortunes, but merely by suggesting they should occur, rather than through any mystical power.

This effect persists to the present day. The 2012 phenomenon, the widespread belief in a 2012 apocalypse, is the most well-known catastrophe theory of modern times. Despite the Mayan flood prediction, however, many people believe the cause of the apocalypse will be extraterrestrial. Over 5,000 questions have been submitted to NASA's public question-and-answer site since 2007 about various astronomical incidents and how they relate to the end of the world. Just as in Mayan times, the simple prediction of disaster, and the panic associated with it, may cause more harm than any disaster itself.

How is the High

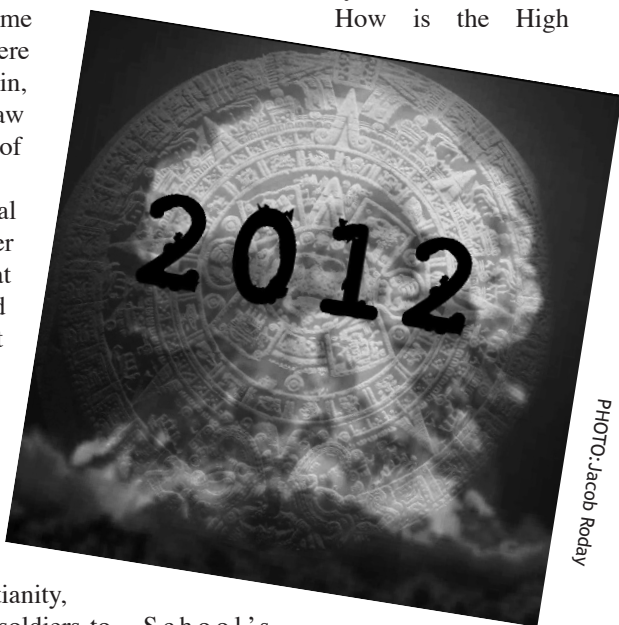


PHOTO: Jacob Roday

School's community preparing for the end of the world? Mostly by going about their daily lives. "If you think the world is going to end in 2012, then give me all your stuff," says science teacher Mr. McKee. As of yet, no one has accepted the proposal.

The Bad New Year's Resolutions

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

For as far back as I can remember, it has been considered "Hip" and "Trendy" to make resolutions for the new year that are about getting in better shape, joining a gym, or learning how to cook. I'm here to tell you that your plans of making a sports team or becoming a master chef are bound to fail. Here are four New

Year's resolutions that should not be made:

1. To Eat Healthier

You've always told yourself that next year you'll eat healthier and next year you'll stop eating junk food. So now, you're going to tell me that when you open up your freezer and see an unopened pint of mint chocolate chip ice cream, you will instead eat a banana? Don't kid yourself. Humans, by nature, cannot resist the temptations of all that chocolatey, saturated fat. Give up, eat it.

2. To Join a Gym

After you suddenly

realize that eating healthier is a foolish goal, you quickly join the gym. That's a very selfish and impulsive decision on your part, because now all the people who have

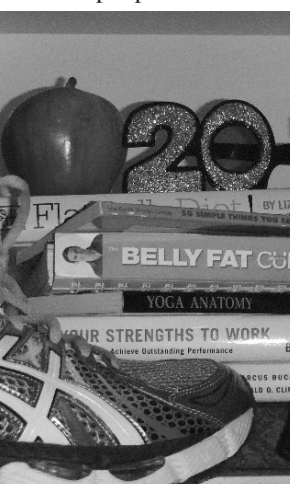


PHOTO: Ari Moskowitz

been members of the gym for years are limited to only using the free weights. Granted, this is not entirely your fault. There were three-hundred other people who joined the gym thinking the same thing you did. "Hey, I'm gonna go join one of de'm jim things and hog all the machines and pretend like I know how to use 'em." Don't be that guy. Don't join the gym.

3. To Learn How to do Something Cool

Being that 2012 is the last year of the Earth's existence, you feel the urge to learn how to do

something cool before the world ends. Perhaps learn how to snowboard, or learn how to cook, or maybe even learn how to unicycle while carrying a bear. Those urges are normal. However, you don't always have to act on your urges. If you did, think about how many more people

would jump off a building to see if they could fly. Besides, if the world's going to end anyway...what's the point?

4. To Do Better in School

I don't know who told you this, but rarely does a student come back from winter break more motivated to do their work than they were before. Chances are you will actually be less motivated, and long more for February vacation (when you get to lose that 'motivation' even more).

Lacrosse Practice Already in Full Swing

by MICHAEL STAFFORD

Even though the season does not start until months from now, the boy’s lacrosse team is already working so they can be ready for when it does. Huntington High School lacrosse players are going to the gym to get into top physical shape, participating in practices and games, all to prepare for the upcoming season. They hope and believe that this regimen will result in a fantastic year. Hopefully, all of the time spent preparing for the season will translate into a year to remember for our boy’s lacrosse team.

Lacrosse players (or “Lax bros”) prepare daily for this upcoming season in many different but effective ways. By training and conditioning themselves in the weight room after school, our lacrosse players become stronger and more ready to take on the physical and mental challenge of the sport. On Monday nights, the team usually has a practice inside the gym in order to work on their skills. These early practices create an intense mindset that will be carried throughout the year.

Even over the weekends, the “Lax” players do not rest and the dedication continues. They scrimmage against a different team, which helps Huntington Lacrosse become better. They get to play with their teammates so they can become accustomed to each

other’s style of play. The games also give them an opportunity to see the strengths and weaknesses of their opponents for the upcoming weeks. These early training sessions of games, practices and workouts will hopefully allow the team to bond and become one unit or team, which ultimately leads to success at any level of a team-oriented sport.

Billy Martin, a Varsity lacrosse player and a sophomore at Huntington High School, feels strongly about these workouts and practices. When asked about how he feels about preparing so early for the league games he replied, “I feel great. We did the same workouts last year and it paid off; we went to the county championships. Hopefully this year, we can have the same success.” Mr. Martin speaks for many of the lacrosse players who are with him in the gym and giving the same effort.

If the team prepares in the preseason and strives to be better with every new practice, then Huntington High School’s boy’s lacrosse team may as well be in the county championships once again.



📍 Boy’s Varsity Lacrosse players, participating in a Fall Tournament

PHOTO: Billy Martin

I ❤️ Panini - I ❤️ Salads

La Bottega of Huntington

631-271-3540

9 Wall Street

Dine In ~ Takeout ~ Delivery ~ Pickup

I



Panini ~ Pasta ~ Salads ~ Soups ~ Gluten Free Menu

SPORTS

Wrestling Team has High Hopes

Todd Colvin: Which wrestlers do you think will do well in counties and possibly go to the states?

Coach Mock: This year, we have Johnny Arceri (8th grade) wrestling at 99 pounds, sophomore Cory Jamison wrestling at 113 pounds, junior Nick Lupi (220), and sophomore Anthony Puca (285).

TC: Historically, how has the wrestling program been Huntington High School's most successful program? Do you feel pressure to continue the success of the program after Coach Giani retired?

CM: The Huntington program stresses conditioning, dedication, and discipline. Coach Giani being around for the past 36 years has created high expectations to continue the Huntington wrestling tradition. However, I only put pressure on myself to get the best out of the wrestlers.

TC: What teams are you concerned about in the upcoming year?



✦ Nick Lupi dominating in his weight class

CM: Islip and East South Manor are both quality teams.

TC: How will Sayville and Hauppauge exiting affect the

league?

CM: Their exit makes our league competition not quite as strong, but we still need to be

prepared to see them in counties.

TC: What are the big story lines for the season this year?

CM: This year, there was a terrible injury to John Mallouk,

who wrestles at 145 pounds. He was the hardest worker in the room. We also have a young team with many 8th and 9th graders, but they are picking up the Huntington way of wrestling very well.

TC: Tell about the new rule changes and the new weight classes. Who does this help and hurt?

CM: The rules change every year, so it hurts no one because everyone has to adapt. The new weight classes hurt a lot of New York teams, especially the young ones. Wrestling is the one sport where smaller kids should have a chance, and the new weight classes take that away.

TC: How does the future look for the Huntington wrestling program? Are there a lot of productive underclassmen in the lineup this year?

CM: I believe 13 of the 15 starters are underclassmen. Our future depends on them setting goals for the future and staying with the sport.

PHOTO: Nick Lupi

Young Team Unites After Difficult Loss

by DONOVAN RICHARDSON

How many people are so special to us that we would call them family? Our families, of course, but then who? Some girls have the whole girls' basketball team for a family.

This year, seven new freshmen joined the family on the varsity team, which is very unusual. The amount of freshmen on the team, says coach Mike Kaplan, makes this year's team special, and "different than any other group." Because of all the fresh talent, he says, there is "only room for success." Next year, because of only two graduating seniors and seven freshmen this year, there is a high amount of talented players that are available for next season. Senior and four-season member of the team Colleen Wright says that she is "optimistic about the program." If all of the current freshmen are on the team for the 2014-2015 season, there will be seven extremely talented players, and a strong foundation for the team. It seems that there really is a bright future for girls' basketball.

The family of girls' basketball doesn't disappear after graduation. On the day of my interview with the coach and the two seniors, a class of 2011 graduate named Shea Scully came to visit her old team. This is not a

strange occurrence. Colleen Wright says that "They're always coming back." A few days after Thanksgiving, for example, graduate Courtney O'Bryan came to a practice during her time home from Penn State University. But a few days later on December 2, as the whole

High School community knows, while on her way to a charity event in Buffalo, NY, she was involved in a car accident and died that night.

As Shea and I were talking, a teammate told her about the bracelets being sold for the charity that Courtney was involved in, THON, an organization which raises money for the fight against pediatric cancer. The fact that Courtney was not just part of a team, but part of a family, must have made it harder when she passed. However, by her death, the team has been inspired to honor her this year. In fact, says, senior Laurelle Byrne-Cody, this season is "completely for Courtney." When the team looks back on this season in a few years, they can be sure that Courtney never disappeared from the girls' basketball family.

The new freshmen might not have known about the family they entered when they made the varsity team. They might not have known that they would be sisters as well as teammates. But by next year they will be prepared for a whole new cycle of meeting new sisters, reconnecting with old ones when they visit, and there will be another season with the special basketball family.



PHOTO: HUSD.EDU

✦ Raynisha Witherspoon getting physical for some points in the paint

Winter Track Competes While Preparing Athletes for Spring Sports

by GAVIN LI

Track and field has always been one of the major sports for the winter season. It has been one of the most popular high school sports around and is very competitive. Whether you are trying to keep in shape after football season or trying to get into shape in time for lacrosse season or baseball, it is a great way for multi-sport

put. People who participate in this do not run as much as runners, instead they mostly work on strength by lifting weights. Freshman shot put participant, Alex Velasquez, says, "Our practices vary from day to day. Sometimes we work on mostly strength and conditioning by lifting weights, other days we hardly lift and mostly just practice



PHOTO: Molly Prep

athletes to get into shape. A majority of the participants in winter track and field partake in other sports. Athletes that can run distance run a lot to improve their endurance and also learn how to pace themselves throughout the race. On the other hand, sprinters don't need to pace themselves and conserve energy, they let it all out in a short span of time. Track and field is not just about running, athletes that do not run often shot

throwing preparing for a meet." Alex is also planning on participating in baseball in the spring, a prime example of a multi sport athlete who is participating in track and field to get into shape for another sport. Track and field is still a major sport during the winter season, but now it has become a great way for people to get into shape for another sport during the spring or stay in shape when the fall season comes around.