



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 3, Volume 39

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

MAY 2012



PHOTO: ARI MOSKOWITZ

»news in short

Huntington Sings True
Congratulations to Joshua Stickell for winning this year's Music Idol.

Relay For Life Builds
The American Cancer Society's fundraiser, this year to be held June 9th-10th at our high school, is steadily gaining support. Thank you to all those involved.

Speaking of Shorts...
Warm weather means an enforced dress code. Watch the length ladies and gents.

HHS Media Madnes
Media arts students bring home an abundance of awards and recognition from the recent Long Island Media Arts Show.

True Team Spirit
This year's Special Olympics went wonderfully. Great job everyone!

INSIDE FASHION



New section! p. 10

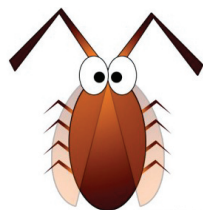
ENTERTAINMENT

LEO



Which Leo will win? p. 8

ENTERTAINMENT



COCKROACH TAKEOVER

Should we worry? p. 9

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HHS Students Have Talent and Heart

Key Club fundraiser is an overwhelming success!

by ROSEY GRUNBLATT

The town of Huntington has proved once again that when it concerns one of our own, we will go above and beyond to help in any way that we possible. Friday, February 10th, the Key Club held the K-Factor talent show after working tirelessly to ensure its success- and it certainly did succeed. This particular event was organized in order to raise money for Huntington alum Kaila Harlan, who is battling leukemia. Leukemia is cancer of the blood cells and is a horrible disease for anyone to have. Kaila has remained admirably strong throughout her diagnosis and treatments, but the medications and procedures needed to save her life were left uncovered by her medical insurance. During

her years as a student in Huntington High School, Kaila was a very active member of the Huntington Key Club. With this, a district resident brought her story to the attention of our very own English teacher, Mrs. Kelly Krycinski, who also happens to serve as Key Club's faculty advisor. The Key Club is an organization meant to do volunteer work and activities to better our town and the world, so it's no surprise that when the tragic story was brought to the club, they jumped at the chance to help and organize a fund raising event. Quickly after this development, the birth of the talent show and all the hard work that went along with it was put into motion. The show went off without a hitch thanks to all the effort of the Key Club. Their work was paid off



PHOTO: MOLLY PREP

↓ Kaila thanks all those who showed their support by being involved with K-Factor before the acts begin

many times over, in both the amount of money raised and the enjoyment of every person in attendance.

The show began with a heartwarming speech from Kaila herself, as she expressed how lucky she felt thanks to all of her friends and the support she was receiving in her experience with cancer. The first act to kick off the night was a wonderful performance by the step team, who demonstrated all of their hard work with their synchronized moves and empowering performance. The crowd loved the multiple acts that followed, clapping, cheering, and snapping the night away. The morose mood was lightened by a fun, joyous performance of music from the Mario Brothers, many people enjoyed hearing the familiar tunes. The crowd was then blown away by Kristin Berner's jazz style music; her fantastic singing voice sealed the win for her later in the night. Throughout the evening, the crowd was enamored by the astounding acts of talent

shown by the see **K-Factor** on page 2

Juli Coraor: Scientist Extraordinaire!

Valedictorian and an Intel finalist, what isn't she capable of?

by BRIAN J. McCONNELL

Recently, I had the privilege of an interview with Juli Coraor, who has been honored as a finalist in the Intel Science Talent Search. After being declared one of 300 semifinalists, out of 1,838 entrants, and winning a cash prize of \$1,000, Ms. Coraor has been named as a one of 40 finalists, five of which are from Long Island. This prestigious achievement has impressed both members of the school community and members of the national science community.

Ms. Coraor's project is The impact of compressive misfit strain on improper ferroelectricity in lead titanate/strontium titanate superlattices. I asked Juli if she could explain her project to those who are not as adept in physics as she is. Juli was very easily accommodated as she explained that she worked with ferroelectrics, which are materials with special electrical properties. The purpose of Juli's project was to see if strain would affect the properties of these materials. The result was that compressive strain does diminish the specific type of ferroelectricity, improper ferroelectricity, in the lead titanate/strontium titanate superlattices. Juli explained that the main purpose of this competition is not only to see how knowledgeable a student

is in areas of science but also to see how his or her project can be applied in the modern technology. Juli revealed to me that these kinds of materials can be used in capacitors, such as in electric motors and cell phones. Juli also explained that improper ferroelectricity is independent of temperature, therefore not affecting the efficiency. Juli wanted to see if using strain to modify improper ferroelectricity would increase its efficiency. Basically, Juli was trying to see if she could improve our cell phones, which many of us are so dependent upon.

To do all of this complicated work, Juli was required to be well above the bar in science, and to have special lab time. During her junior year, Juli took classes at Stony Brook, the Freshman Honors Physics Sequence, above AP level, in the fall and spring semesters. She did research with her professor, and became interested in how ferroelectricity related to crystallography. Juli loves patterns, which lead to her affinity for crystallography, which involves many patterns and designs. After succeeding at the top of her class in both semesters, Juli's professor agreed to do research with her. Juli applied to the Simons program at Stony Brook, which is a program that enables high school students to do research in legitimate laboratories, and received \$1,000 for her research. The research was carried out in the lab during the summer between Juli's junior and senior year, and she was then able to enter the Intel competition.



PHOTO: HJFSD

↓ Juli has made Huntington proud with her extraordinary research in science

This competition requires the entrant to write a 20 page paper and answer plenty of essay questions about why he/she enjoys research, what he/she wants to do as an occupation, and how heavy his/her own input was on the research.

From March 8th to March 14th, Juli traveled to Washington, DC and competed for the grand prize. For this competition Juli made two posters, presented to a panel of judges, and answered questions about her total scientific knowledge. However, the main purpose of this competition was to find future leaders in science, so the judges were also searching for leadership traits as well. On March 13th, a Gala was held for the contestants to display their projects to guests and leaders of the national science community. Also, prizes were awarded at this gala, with 30 out of the 40 finalists earning \$7,500, and the other 10 earning greater amounts, the most allotting \$100,000.

All together, Juli has not only been recognized as one of the brightest young science minds of our nation, but she has also earned at least a \$9,500 scholarship for her work on this project. Juli received \$1,000 from both the Simons research program and her semifinalist achievement in the Intel Science Talent Search. This, added to the \$7,500 she earned at the finalist competition, produced a considerably large scholarship.

Due to Juli also being named valedictorian of the Class of 2012, it appeared necessary to request tips for other students to succeed. Juli recommends that we always ask teachers for help, as well as talk with other students who understand the material well, in order to

see **Juli** on page 2

Spotlighting a Science Star

Juli from front page

learn better. Also, Juli encourages students to arrange with honor societies for tutoring, which can further progress understanding. The most useful tips were to do with Juli's study habits. Juli suggests allotting a specific time for study each night or even the night before the test, during which you should focus on nothing but your notes or textbook. Juli recommends the nighttime because sleeping allows the information to remain subconsciously in the brain.

This nomination is clearly a prestigious accomplishment. I asked Juli how she felt about everything that has happened to her as a result of this project. Juli says

that it is just awesome. She is really excited, as she didn't expect to even be a semifinalist. There hasn't been a finalist from Huntington in many years, which is additionally very exciting. Juli is also excited for the finalist competition, where she will have the opportunity to hear about other projects, due to her interest great in science. Although Juli does want to win, she is prepared for any outcome, as she is up against 39 other equally brilliant students. Further, Juli may even meet the president, which is another reason she is simply glad that she has been able to be involved in this "great experience".

K-Factor from front page

Huntington residents. Whether feeling relaxed by Ryan Ackerman's guitar playing, clapping along to Liz Roman's powerful singing, loving Nick Freiman's voice, or even admiring the interesting dance and powerful tribal music Monica Casabona brought to the show, everyone had a great time throughout the first act.

The second act kicked off with a wonderful selection from the musical, Barnum, performed by the Cold Spring Harbor kids. Their performance was a wonderful display of friendship; it featured an extraordinary juggling clown that everyone truly enjoyed. The violinist was also especially talented along with all the other great participants. Josh Stickell was the next to rouse the crowd with his beautiful and self written song "Down". His music was very meaningful and touched the hearts of everyone, and he accompanied it with his fantastic piano playing. The crowd loved the singing

and dancing duo of Shanice and Destiny, next Junior's beat boxing skills wowed the crowd... even inspiring Mr. Shwen-

demen to try his hand at beat boxing! Kristin Berner per-

formed another song which was just as widely admired as it was in the first. Kristin's haunting and emotional singing touched every one's, hearts further confirming her as the obvious choice for first place. Following the song was the fun Irish step dance performed by Connor Byrne, which the audience thought was a great addition to the fun-filled night. Soon after came the event everyone had been anticipating; it was

time for the teachers' act. The funny comedy showed a hilarious Britney Spears spoof and how students feel about learning. One

of the most amazing acts of the night was the performance by Kristina Casale, Kevin Apt and John Bosco. Their song was amazing and everyone loved KCA, the crowd spent the whole song cheering, clapping, and snapping.

All the acts were fabulous and the people that performed in them were fantastically talented. The final act was performed by Mr. Schwendemann, Ms. Desiderio, and Ms. Lombardi, their rendition of "Don't Stop Believing" loved by all. The talent show was a huge success, raising approximately \$9000 for Kaila. Thanks Huntington!



PHOTO: HUFSD

✦ Juli with her Science Research teacher and mentor, Ms. Lori Kenny

Spelling Bee Goes M-A-G-N-I-F-I-C-E-N-T-L-Y

by EMILY MCGOLDRICK

A low murmur of excitement fills the auditorium, clusters of students gradually filing in while others take their places on stage. At the swell of music from the speakers, the crowd roars with excitement as Ms. Guarino takes the podium. This is no pep rally or motivational speaker hoping to inspire students - it is a spelling bee.

Starting with a ten-word quiz distributed to all English classes throughout Huntington High School, the highest scoring student in each class, whether freshman or senior, Regents or Advanced Placement, was chosen to compete on stage February 17th. The result was over forty competitors fidgeting and talking with friends as they waited to show off their skills to their classmates, a few even dressed up for the special occasion. The prize for the top three included gift cards to Book Revue, but the real pull of the event was the anticipation of who would be crowned champion.

After a wildly successful spelling bee last year hosted by the National English Honor Society, its advisors, English teachers Ms. Guarino and Mrs. Antorino, could not wait to continue what promised to be a unifying tradition. "It was so popular last year", said the duo, and as they wisely pointed out,

"they always had volleyball before winter break, so we thought it would be nice." And so it was.

The biggest topic of discussion leading up to the event was the victorious champion of last year's spelling bee, Donovan Richardson. Spelling each word to perfection, he won the competition as only a freshman, earning much cheering and applause from the invigorated crowd. Plenty of comments before the event this year indicated support for Donovan, and it was clear that he was a favorite again as the crowd yelled and the stage crew put on a track of music just for him. Some students were even inclined to give a standing ovation. Signs, one stating "Donovan is Queen Bee," another with his face surrounded by hearts, as well as a banner spelling out his name, displayed school pride in this star student.

After the welcome, N.E.H.S. President Brent Fillipini addressed the students, identifying the judges as school board member Liz Black, school board president Emily Rogan, and to plenty of applause, Donovan's Kindergarten teacher, Kristin Thatcher. Among the other educators and school officials present were English teachers Mrs. Krycinski and Mr. Schwendemann, Humanities Director Mr. Leavy, And Superintendent Mr. Polansky. Then, it was time for the big event to start. One by one, competitors approached the podium, some acknowledging the noise from the audience with a nod or raised fist. Honor Society members flanked the stage, each with their own signs telling the audience "quiet" or "applause." The first round knocked out almost half of the group on stage, and the tension was clearly intense as the bell rang and students groaned at the prospect of going back to class.

Eighth period continued the thrilling event as only fifteen students remained by the end of round two. The decisive moment came, however, in round

three, as the difficulty in words increased, stumping former champion Donovan Richardson. An ear-deafening scream of "NOOOO" erupted from students, forcing teachers to discipline their pupils until



they were quiet again. Advisors Ms. Guarino and Mrs. Antorino expressed afterwards that they were "rooting him on, but it was a tough competition this year."

✦ Jeff Sun was crowned this year's spelling champ

Period nine was even higher in intensity as only five students remained and the auditorium became packed. Susie Petryk, Jeffrey Sun, Emal Wafajow, Brandon May, and Mark Jobanak faced off in round four. Rounds five and six left only Jeffrey, Emal, and Brandon, facing off twice due to the commotion and noise during round five making it difficult to hear. The last round between Jeff and Emal led to Jeff's victory as he was literally crowned by Donovan in a gesture of passing on his torch.

From the sounds of an auditorium jazzed for their winter break, it is clear that the National English Honor Society should start prepping for their Third Annual Spelling Bee next year.

PHOTO: HUFSD

PHOTO: HUFSD

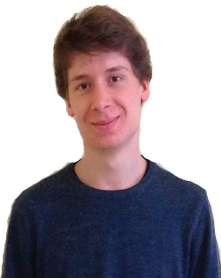
WORD ON THE STREET

What’s one thing you wish you knew before you entered high school?



Melanie Grossman, Junior

“I wish I knew how strict the school was with the bell scedule and how bad the hallways smell.”



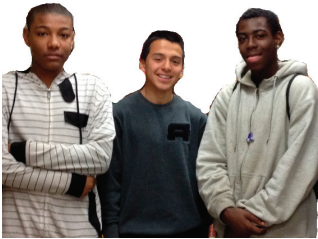
Nicolas Maiarelli, Senior

“I wish I had known that not everything is so serious. I took stuff too seriously as a freshman.”



Justin LoTurco, Freshman

“I wish I knew that you did not have to tap the toilet to make it flush.”



Michael Maben, Freshman
Oscar Rivas, Sophomore
Tilek Walker, Freshman

“We wish we knew we weren’t able to text during lunch so that our phones weren’t taken away on the first day.”



Mr. Keith Mattis

“Nothing. I knew everything before I got to high school.”

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.

Peru: A Trip To Remember

Venturing to South America proves to be exciting and enriching

by MIKE STAFFORD

During the February break, thirty-six students and six chaperones from Huntington High School embarked on an exciting and remarkable trip to Peru. Peru is a South American country that is rich culture, beauty and history. The students and chaperones were fortunate enough to take advantage of all this country had to offer with an outside company, EF tours, which is an educational student travel organization. They went to extraordinary places including Machu Pichu, Cuzco, Pisac, and Puerto Maladonado. Ms. Tedeschi, one of the chaperones and the group leader for the tour, expressed how incredible the trip to Peru was when she said, “This year’s trip to Peru was the greatest trip. We had an amazing group of chaperones, amazing group of students, and an amazing destination. The students who travelled to Peru were adventurous, courageous and unforgettable. Traveling to Peru is an indescribable journey and a most memorable one.”

The adventure to Peru was an eight-day, six flight trip over February break. The group visited many different places, including Machu Pichu. Machu Pichu is an abandoned city from the Incan nation. Machu Pichu was one of the most memorable sites for the students and chaperones, as they toured the actual ruins of the city. After visiting Machu Pichu, the tourists took a six-mile hike in order to reach the sun gate, which is a site on the Incan trail. The view from sun gate was breath taking, making the long hike towards the gate worthwhile. The

tour also visited Cuzco, which was an administrative, religious, and ceremonial center of the Incan empire. At Cuzco the team of students and chaperones toured important historical sites, including the center of Cuzco that used to have temples and markets. Also at Cuzco people ate traditional Peruvian foods, like guinea pig and alpaca. Another major highlight of the trip was Pisac, which is a traditional market town where students enjoyed shopping and buying Peruvian jewelry and attire. The adventure’s final destination was Puerto Maladonado. Located in the Amazon Rainforest, the group stayed at a camp style accommodation in huts in the rainforest

in which there was only three hours of electricity a day. The students went on a boat ride to Monkey Island in which students were able to feed monkeys bananas in their environment. The group took another boat trip at night in which they many of the stars and constellations in the atmosphere.

There were also many different experiences that Peru offered the students. The people in Peru were extremely kind and caring about the student’s time in Peru that attempted to help the student’s if needed. The students and chaperones saw their fair share of wildlife and animals, including many alpacas. Vine swinging was also another favorite of the

students. Marie Coneys, a senior that went to Peru, had this to say, “I’m really lucky to have been given the chance to travel with my friends and teachers these past three years. Peru was an incredible experience, I felt entirely immersed in the culture and it was like nothing I’ve ever seen before. My favorite part was being able to sleep in huts in the Amazon Rainforest, I got to see cool animals and every constellation in the sky, something that I would never experience on Long Island.”

The Peru trip was made possible by many different people working cohesively to create a stellar experience for the travelers. Ms. Tedeschi and Ms. Piffard planned and organized most of the trip. The two decided which sites would be seen and where the group of people would go each day. Finally the six chaperones, Ms. Tedeschi, Ms. Piffard, Mr. Crugnale, Mr. Bruckbauer, Ms. D. Piffard and Ms. Gambino accompanied the students to each site and attempted to keep things running smoothly and safely. Without the help of these people, the trip wouldn’t have been as fantastic as it was.

Peru will be a long lasting and a wonderful memory for all of those who went this February break. Throughout the time that the students and chaperones where there, new friends were made as they bonded over the many sights in Peru. Hopefully, the rewards of going to Peru and experiencing a Peruvian culture will impact all those on the trip positively as they look back at the incredible time they had.



PHOTO: LAURA IROMAN



PHOTO: LAURA IROMAN

Students part of the Peru trip went to Machu Pichu, Cuzco, and even the middle of a rainforset!

A Cappella Sings Sweetly

by LAURA ZENZEROVICH

This is the third year Huntington High School has entertained an a cappella program, and already this unique group has gained momentum and popularity among the student body. A cappella denotes music that is sung without any kind of instrumental accompaniment, and the high school currently has two separate choirs, an all-girls group known as Treble Makers, and a mixed group known as Choral Fixation. The two groups not only intend to perform at a concert on April 25th, but also prepare their music for whatever events might need their services, such as the recent Jodi Picoult book signing and

the upcoming Relay for Life. An interesting aspect of a cappella here at Huntington is that the groups perform mostly pop music. They feature the kinds of songs students already know and love, including works from artists like Billy Joel, Coldplay and Lady Gaga, as well as songs featured in Disney and Glee. These pieces have a much broader appeal than those that one would traditionally associate with a school choir, and so the groups have attracted a large interest base. Such choirs truly encourage students to appreciate the hard work behind the songs they listen to, as well as appreci-

ate the skill necessary for vocal performances as a whole. Unlike many of the other extracurriculars offered by the school, a cappella is a heavily student run ensemble. Choir members work individually as well as with their peers to learn complicated music in an efficient manner. The groups meet for two hours once a week, with only half that time devoted to learning with Mrs. Mainville, and the other half of the time spent teaching and practicing with each other. “It’s interesting to be taught by a student, Instead of being taught by an adult all the time.” said senior Robert Folan, one of two

student musical directors for Choral Fixation. The students who are a part of the group are truly motivated to get things done, and even look over their music in their free time to master some of the more difficult parts. Students of all grades are welcome to audition for a Cappella, which meets every Wednesday and will begin again next year in January. The only requirement to audition is current enrollment in another music ensemble, such as band, orchestra, or chorus, to ensure that a prospective member has some experience in the realm of music.

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The Show Must Go On!

by DONOVAN RICHARDSON

As the opening Huntington High School's drama Little Women was close upon us, and the efforts of months of practice culminates, one must wonder: how did this even come about? The first preparations begin early, about four months before the show went up. Every production, of course, has its ups and downs, its successes and mishaps. This year's musical encountered an extraordinarily strange and disruptive complication three months ago. But any effects of this situation will not be seen, thanks to the efforts of all the people involved in the Drama Club's production.

This "situation" started at the end of December, when Mr. Schwendemann, the director of the Drama Club began to make modifications to the Cinderella script. There soon was buzz within the Drama Club about who would get which part. Sophomore Chelsea Holmes already had her, "monologue and audition song picked out," for the Cinderella auditions. Of course, Cinderella is not the musical our school performed. The cause of this, Schwendemann says, is that the Drama Club needed to apply for the rights to perform Cinderella. This application, however, was

denied on January 1. Looking back on this, Schwendemann believes that there were two main reasons for the denial. Firstly, Cinderella



PHOTO: YEARBOOK

✚ The "four sisters" practice a scene from the musical

is to open at the Engemann Theater only a month after the Drama Club's production. However, the much more important reason is that Cinderella is expected to open this year on Broadway. This situation called for quick thinking by Mr. Schwendemann and the three other faculty members — Ms. Mainville, Mr. Stellato, and Mr. Gilbert — who jointly manage the school productions.

It was decided in early January to put on Little Women instead of Cinderella. Meanwhile Mr. Schwendemann was back at the drawing board, and all the planning for Cinderella had to

be scrapped. Ms. Holmes, who found out that the Drama Club would not perform Cinderella on the same day that Mr. Schwendemann did, said, "I had to throw away everything I had started working on." On the other hand, the scripts and music for Little Women had to be ordered very quickly to be in time for the first

practices and rehearsals. The first pit orchestra rehearsal was January 11th, so when the music arrived the weekend before, Mr. Stellato, the conductor of the pit orchestra had to get a large amount of help to copy all the music on time for the first Wednesday rehearsal. "Each book had to be copied, and some books are larger than others," Mr. Stellato said. Copying music for all of the members of the pit orchestra became even more complicated, because the

paper of the book is larger than the 8 1/2" by 11" size of standard paper. Mr. Schwendemann also decided, as always, that he needed to make changes to the musical. A priority for him and the cast was making sure that the musical is as good as the Louisa May Alcott novel that it's based on, also titled Little Women. He addressed the confusing flashbacks by adding lines and stage direction to allow the plot to flow better. Mr. Stellato believes that the music of Little Women is more difficult than that of Cinderella, because it is more contemporary than Cinderella's classic and traditional score.

saying that it is, "More advanced, more challenging." She also felt that because of this, the music is higher quality. Although early planning was rushed, the Drama Club certainly had prepared as to ensure that the delay of the first rehearsals didn't affect the quality of the production.

The preparation that goes into each of the performances that the Drama Club puts on is enormous. At the end of each show, it seems that the only way to know how the cast got from the first rehearsal to their last bow is if one sat in on all of the rehearsals. The success of the performances is no wonder, though,

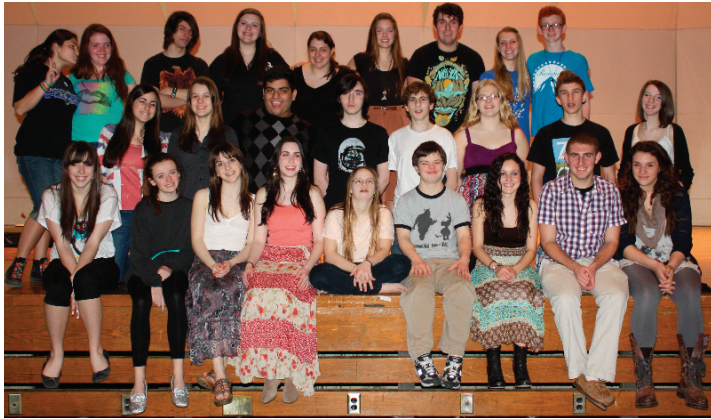


PHOTO: YEARBOOK

✚ The cast of Little Women

Ms. Holmes, who played Jo in the musical, also expressed her preference for the music of Little Women over that of Cinderella,

To the cast, crew, and all those involved in the musical: Great work!

Does Cell Phone Use Meet Its Potential?

by VICTOR TELLEZ

Cell phones have become common among teenagers all over the nation. Most students buy a phone when they enter middle school in order to communicate with their parents, yet today the use for them has been broadened. When they were first made, cell phones were relatively big and were only used to make calls. However, now they can be used to call, text, listen to music, take pictures and even browse the web. In Huntington High School, for one,

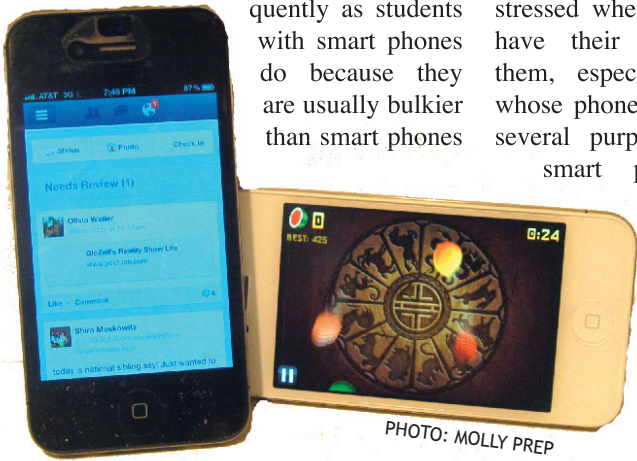


PHOTO: MOLLY PREP

the most popular choice of phone is the iPhone because of how conveniently sized it is and how many tasks it can perform. They are not permitted during school hours due to the distraction of all the things that they can do. Yet many students don't really use all the possible applications that their phones can do.

Most students use their phones frequently for tasks such as texting and call-

ing. Cell phones are often split into two categories: regular phones and smart phones. Smart phones were once uncommon, but in past years they have been more frequent in the student population. Student with regular phones do not use them nearly as frequently as students with smart phones do because they are usually bulkier than smart phones

and can only be used for texting and calling. This means that students will most likely not take their phones out during school hours because they are harder to hide. But students with smart phones frequently use their phones in school. Despite all of the applications making it hard not to use smart phones, most students don't use them all. The majority of students have 12 to 50 apps downloaded into their smart

phones, but they only end up using an average of 5 to 9 apps a day. This means that they don't really have time to use the other ones. Most of these apps are games, making the smart phone commonly used for texting, calling and playing games. Most students feel stressed when they do not have their phones with them, especially students whose phones are used for several purposes such as smart phones. This shows how much students care about their phones, most likely because their phones help them communicate with their friends and family in an instant. Cell phones are one of the most commonly used items by students today and this will most likely not change. The only possibility of change is the amount of things that a cell phone will be able to do in the future.

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Politics In the High School

by ANNABEL SMITH

Democratic, republican, rainbow party? What do they mean to you? It's typical for teens to take a disinterest in politics, considering they are neither allowed nor required to take part. However, what will the students of Huntington High School do when it becomes their time to vote?

In case you aren't aware, elections for the next President of the United States are coming up this November. The seniors of Huntington High School should be getting prepared to decide which political path that they are going to follow. Probably, most teens won't put watching presidential debates on their top To-Do list, so is 18 years old really old and mature enough to vote? Senior Taylor Hamilton

says so. "[I feel] as though being 18 is the proper age to maturely make a decision for the country." If you're feeling unprepared and want the political 411, reading the New York Times or watching debates on TV will prove reliable sources to find information about what's going on in the world. Now, the choice between current President Barack

Obama and the unknown Republican candidate can be a hard choice to make, so paying attention to what's going on could not only benefit yourself, but it could also benefit the well-being of the country.



PHOTO: CNN.COM

It's always important to keep in mind that your vote counts! Many young voters neglect the opportunity that they have to vote because they feel that their vote doesn't matter for anything. But perhaps your vote could be the one that breaks the tie between candidates. Ignoring the chance to vote could not only take balance away from the country, but it would also be neglecting the fact that our country is blessed to have the ability to vote at all. As such, it's recommended that all students vote in the November elections for the next President, so be a good citizen and take pride and care in your vote during the elections.

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A Few Words of Advice From a Senior to a Junior

by LAURA ZENZEROVICH

Many seniors of Huntington High School deserve some praise for passing one of the greatest milestones in their lives so far, college applications. It was a difficult process, the culmination of years of keeping up with schoolwork, friends and extracurricular activities, neatly packaged into the common app. They sent their achievements adrift in a sea of thousands of others applications, all of equally hopeful students searching for an acceptance letter. Now the work is over. As more and more seniors start hearing back from their top schools, the torch will soon pass to the current juniors who will take their place in a whirlwind of anxiety and deadlines. Things don't have to be so bad, though. There are just a few things to keep in mind before the madness begins that will make everything just a

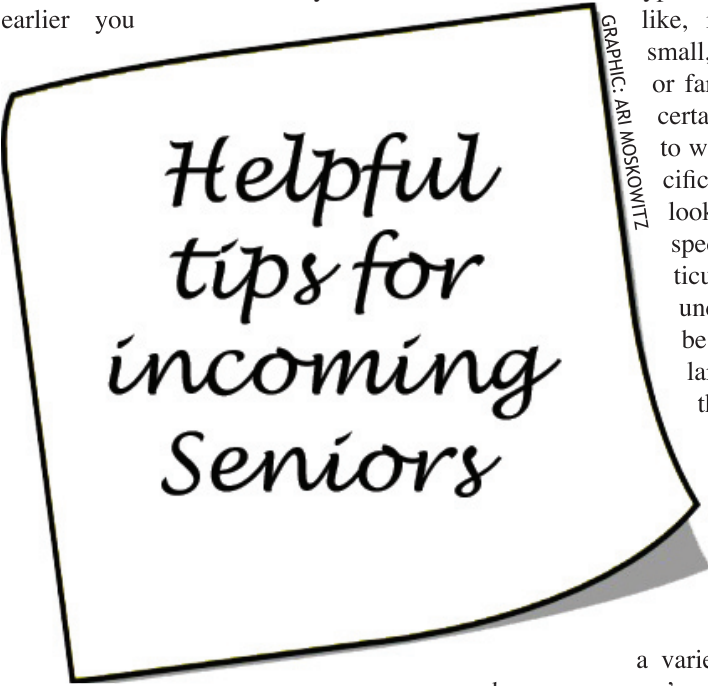
bit easier and, hopefully, more fruitful. It may seem like the time for college applications is in the very distant future, but it's really right around the corner. The earlier you

you'll have to make some good decisions. It isn't as difficult as it seems; you can start just by googling the names of some schools you've heard of. Even if you

on collegeboard.com and start some research from scratch. Think about what you're interested in, and how to fulfill those interests. Think about what type of schools you may like, if they're big or small, close to home or far away. If you are certain that you want to work towards a specific career, you can look for schools that specialize in that particular area. If you're undecided, it might be better to look for larger universities that give you more opportunities to change your mind. No matter what your preference may be, plan on applying to a variety of schools, so you're not restricted if you suddenly have a change of heart about a particular location or field of study.

Parents aren't necessarily going to be holding your hand through this process, so when the time comes to do the research, you might have to take the initiative yourself. Make an effort to tour the campus. Try to get a sense of the environment and the community. Ask people you know attending the university how they feel about it. There you might find some vital information about a school that could ultimately define whether or not you'd love it or hate it. Since you are going to be spending the next four years of your life on the campus of your choice, it might be best to avoid applying somewhere that gives you a bad vibe. No matter what your future goals may be, the closer you get to the end of your high school career, the more responsibility you have to prepare to

take on your shoulders. Deciding where you want to go to school may be the first step of that process, of growing into a new role. It doesn't have to be all that hard; it just takes a little bit of initiative and a little bit of planning. If you keep that in mind, and stay focused on what's important, things will go smoothly.



have absolutely no clue what places you might be interested in, you can go start thinking about your options, the more time

La Vida Despues de la Secundaria

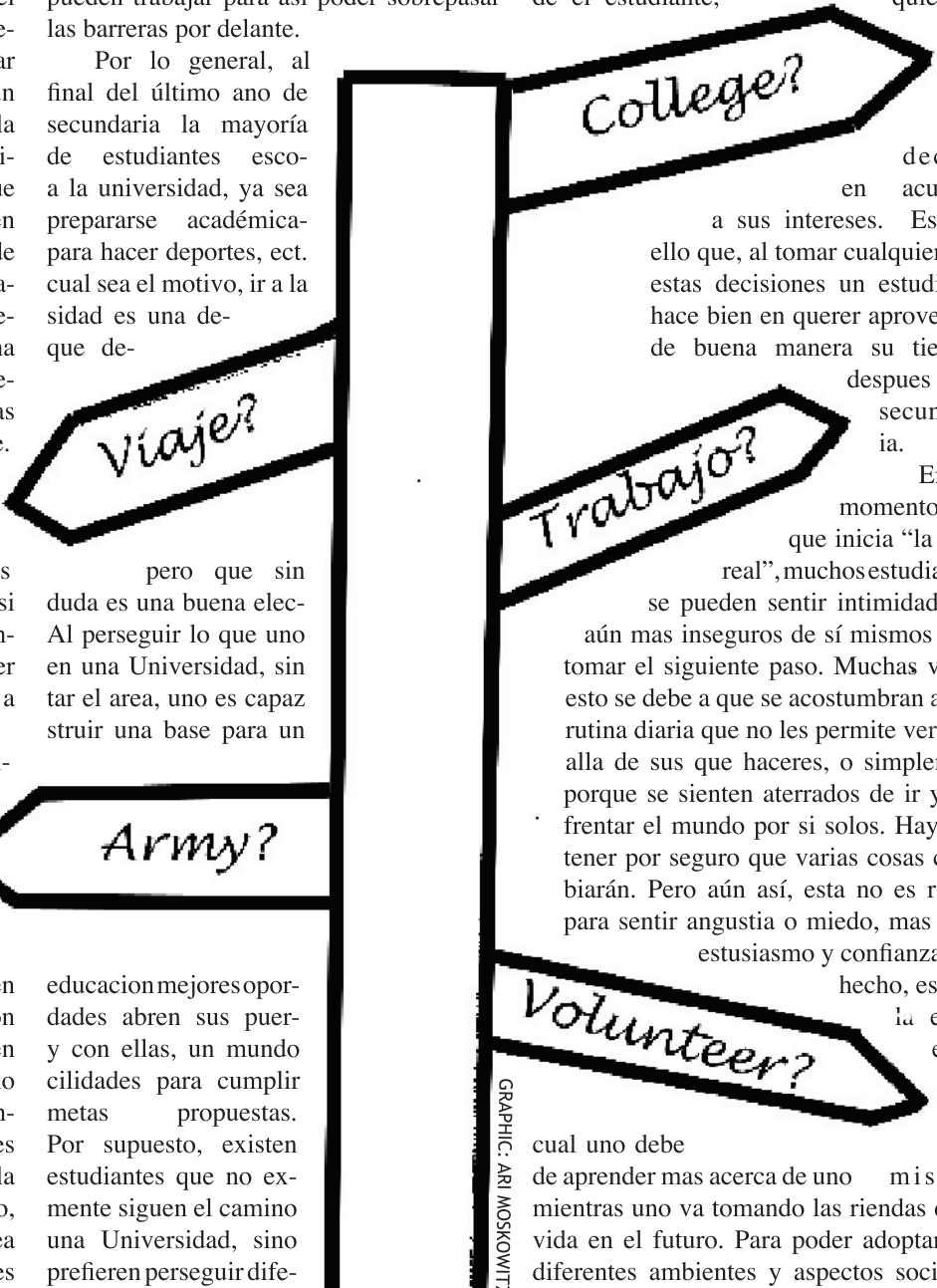
by JOSE HERNANDEZ

¿Crees estar listo para la vida después de que gradúas de la secundaria? ¿Qué tan preparado estás? Bueno, ya es tiempo de iniciar a darle forma a la respuesta, a crear metas concretas para ser completadas en el futuro. Una vez que uno se gradúa de la secundaria, hay muchas cosas que continuar haciendo, ya que sin duda alguna este es un período en el que empieza otra etapa de la vida que uno debe de aprovechar al máximo. ¿Y qué mejor manera de hacerlo que seguir adquiriendo nuevas experiencias en nuevos ambientes de aprendizaje donde uno puede prepararse para una carrera académica o alguna otra área de interés? Definitivamente, no existe una mejor forma de invertir el tiempo que dedicarlo a aprender nuevas cosas, y a desarrollar aún mas los talentos y habilidades que uno posee. Graduarse de la preparatoria es un paso muy significativo en la vida de un estudiante, ya que necesitará enfocarse en organizar y perseguir las metas u objetivos a ser perseguidos en el futuro, decidir si quiere ir o no a la universidad para completar estudios superiores, además de tener que enfrentar los cambios que luego van a reemplazar las costumbres usuales. Aún antes de haber terminado el último año de clases en la secundaria, los estudiantes tienden a pensar en que va a pasar después. Muchos están seguros acerca de que quieren hacer en el futuro, pero de la misma manera hay otros que no lo están. Esos que ya tienen una meta en particular tienen la capacidad de visualizar bien cuales son sus propósitos y metas en la vida y también como las van a alcanzar. Mas esos que no tienen una meta definida usualmente enfrentan mas tensión en cuanto a lo que es el cambio de la escuela secundaria hacia la vida como un joven adulto. Sin embargo, esta no es razón para abandonar la idea de progresar en el mañana porque solo es

cuestión de tiempo. En cualquier caso, ni el que esta seguro ni el que no lo esta debe de enfocarse en los obstáculos, sino en lo que pueden hacer para vencerlos, en como pueden trabajar para así poder sobrepasar las barreras por delante. Por lo general, al final del último año de secundaria la mayoría de estudiantes escogen a la universidad, ya sea prepararse académica- para hacer deportes, ect. cual sea el motivo, ir a la sidad es una de- que de- pero que sin duda es una buena elec- Al perseguir lo que uno en una Universidad, sin tar el area, uno es capaz struir una base para un educacion mejores opor- dades abren sus puer- y con ellas, un mundo cildades para cumplir metas propuestas. Por supuesto, existen estudiantes que no ex- mamente siguen el camino una Universidad, sino prefieren perseguir dife-

carreras o areas que no necesitan un certi- ficado o preparación univesitaria pero de otro tipo. Por igual, esa es una decisión que depende totalmente en los gustos y planes de el estudiante, quien es el que decide en acuerdo a sus intereses. Es por ello que, al tomar cualquiera de estas decisiones un estudiante hace bien en querer aprovechar de buena manera su tiempo despues de la secundar- ia. En el momento en que inicia “la vida real”, muchos estudiantes se pueden sentir intimidados y aún mas inseguros de sí mismos para tomar el siguiente paso. Muchas veces esto se debe a que se acostumbran a una rutina diaria que no les permite ver más alla de sus que haceres, o simplemete porque se sienten aterrados de ir y en- frentar el mundo por sí solos. Hay que tener por seguro que varias cosas cam- biarán. Pero aún así, esta no es razon para sentir angustia o miedo, mas bien entusiasmo y confianza. De hecho, esta es la etapa en la cual uno debe de aprender mas acerca de uno mismo, mientras uno va tomando las riendas de la vida en el futuro. Para poder adoptarse a diferentes ambientes y aspectos sociales,

es indispensable tomar la postura correcta, una actitud que demuestra ineteres en ir ad- elante. Pues lo mismo deben de hacer los estudiantes despues de terminar sus estu- dios secundarios, introducirse a la socie- dad de lleno e iniciar a ver la vida de una manera diferente. Hacienda esto, su tiempo sera utilizado de buena manera para buscar más y más avance. Es muy importante el poder ver la vida despues de la secundaria desde una perspectiva realística y madura, que pueda revelar una idea general de las diferencias que existen entre la vida como estudiante de secundaria y como estudiante universitario. Después de que el cuarto año de la prepara- toria esta completo, las cosas se ven desde un angulo diferente; es el momento en que uno debe de comenzar a entender lo que en realidad significa ser independiente y ser responsable. Esto porque muchas puertas se abren al final de último año escolar y es necesario tomar importante decisiones para aprovecharlas. Es por eso que es de mucha ayuda tener planes en avanzado para el fi- nal de la preparatoria, de manera que uno se sienta listo para seguir un rumbo propio. Entonces, la vida despues de la secundaria demuestra ser de gran importancia para los jovenes que se graduan de la escuela, ade- mas de tener una influencia directa en sus futuros, por lo que deben de hacer un buen uso de esta etapa de la vida.



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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.

The Next Step

Deciding what to do once high school ends

Many students dread the end of high school, because it signifies a plunge into new and uncharted territory. What's next? Few will openly admit their angst, but the feeling is universal. There are, however, a multitude of opportunities waiting eagerly for each high school graduate. Some of these options include: going to a university, going to a trade school, going to the army, taking a gap year, or pursuing your dreams in Hollywood. Though these are but a glimpse of the endless possibilities after high school, they represent some of the most common choices for HHS alumni.

All these options can be placed into two major categories of; those that further an individual's education, and those that do not. A university or trade school best represent a good post-high school decision, as they help individuals to become more knowledgeable and learn how to successfully fulfill his/her passion.

The reason education-oriented options are better than others is fairly simple; they help one to become a stronger member in society. By furthering one's education, one is able to be a more productive member of society, and can enrich society as a whole. Refined skills and expanded knowledge

are plainly better overall. Still, some of the other options may seem more noble or realistic. However, it is a possibility for many to join the army, work, and/or travel while still furthering one's education.

ROTC, work/study programs, and the option to study abroad include elements from both of the categories mentioned earlier. ROTC is a program that

“ We live in a society that puts a lot of stress on college and life after high school, often too much. Still, education will play a large roll in life no matter which paths one takes further down the line. ”

allows students to go to college and, at the same time, participate in basic army training. This could be the ideal solution for someone who wants to both study and serve his/her country. The Air Force Academy, Merchant Marine Academy, and West Point include similar options, though the selective nature of these schools must be put into consideration when sorting through options.

Work/study programs include opportunities that allow students to go to college through working off their tuition fee. For many, college may seem unrealistic due to its often ridiculous price. To combat this, colleges have put more

and more work/study programs into place. This is a great option to those really dedicated to learning but might not be able to afford all the fees and prices involved.

As fun as taking a gap year may seem, one should first consider studying abroad through a college or university. Studying abroad allows one to experience a new country, along with its culture, customs, and environment, while still including a formal education.

We live in a society that puts a lot of stress on college and life after high school, often too much. Still, education will play a large roll in life no matter which paths one takes further down the line. At least attempting to continue learning can prove beneficial. Though this subject has been talked about in abundance, a degree often increases the chances to get, and hold on to, a job. With the large demand for jobs as is, it's worth considering how an education could provide more options in the future. Still, in the long run, each individual will have to decide what works best for him/her.

E-mail hhsdispatch@gmail.com

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POINT / COUNTERPOINT

DvD InSaNiTy?

by MOLLY PREP

Remember VHS? Not as many people do... Sure they didn't have bonus features, but videos didn't freeze up on you at the best part, let alone get ruined by a scratch or two. Yet, around the time most of us were in elementary school, commercials transitioned from "Coming soon to VHS!" to "Coming soon to VHS and DVD!" then "Yours to own on DVD and VHS" until the fatal day it was announced "Now available on DVD!" No mention of our beloved VHS. It was a move so gradual that many didn't notice until it was too late. Nowadays how many people have a VHS player in their home? With DVDs as the only thing sold soon after, people were forced to accept flaws and welcome DVDs into their lives.

The change from DVD to Blu-ray is no different. Just as everyone adjusted to the DVD takeover, Blu-rays pop into the picture. Sure they have some nice features; you have enhanced quality and sound (always a plus), and interactive-ness is taken to a whole new level. Still, one can't help but be wary when suddenly your movie experience has become more about the behind-the-scenes features than the film itself. I don't know that I want Internet capabilities on another system, when I already have my phone, laptop, desktop, and iPod doing the exact same thing. Does every one of my electronics need to keep me linked in at all times?

With its current heightened cost, Blu-ray has made the claim that it will be cheaper in the long run, as the pickup of interest and demand will eventually lead to a drop in charge. In order for this to happen, though, many people need to be willing to pay the higher price. This is a sacrifice many aren't willing to make, despite the fact that Blu-rays are being encouraged.



aged and sold more and more each day. To what point will people allow the systems they've purchased to simply be improved, rather than entirely outdated and replaced?

Don't be fooled by claims of new features and enticing quality. Blu-ray will only last so long, and getting caught up in the craze won't help. Ask yourself this: What will come next?

Blu-Ray is here to stay!

by DANIEL MOYA

When deciding whether Blu-ray or DVD provides a better picture, one may be quick to answer "DVD! That's what we have lived with for years", and "Blu-ray costs more money. It's not worth it!" Most of these people have never seen a Blu-ray movie on a 1080p television that it was equipped for, and therefore can't make an informed decision. Anyone that has seen it, however, will be a convert for life; one look at the depth and

it may look "weird," as I've heard it said, to someone who is not used to it. Once you realize all that's "weird" is how every single bead of sweat, strand of hair, tear, piece of rubble, and ripple of clothing are as defined as they would be if you were seeing them in person, you'll be convinced and it'll be hard to go back. Regular updates are available (for free) to continue optimizing the performance as well. Having been a Blu-ray convert myself for almost a year now, I sometimes go back and watch a DVD just to see if I've been convinced by all the ads that Blu-ray is spectacular and haven't really decided for myself. After viewing a DVD, and then either that same movie or a different one in Blu-ray I realize the ads, for once, tell nothing but the truth. Buying Blu-ray now is worth it also because it is a rapidly expanding market. Movie retailers, movie rental places, and libraries are stocking and expanding their Blu-ray collections. Studios are releasing old classics in the restored high-definition, such as The Godfather, Jaws, 2001: A Space Odyssey, Pulp Fiction, and Casablanca, along with way too many others to name. All new films are released in both mediums. When considering the small price difference, expanding market and picture/sound that are quantum leaps ahead of DVD, it's a crystal clear comparison; Blu-ray is more than worth it.

GRAPHIC: MOLLY PREP
clarity Blu-ray brings makes it hard to go back. Yes, it requires a separate player or a PlayStation 3 console, and yes the movies themselves cost about \$5 more than DVD's. These are small costs, however, for the picture and experience that accompany the film. The sound is remastered on Blu-ray as well, so it not only looks but sounds better than anything ever seen on a home television before. The picture is so clear,

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LEO VS. LEO: Which one has it all?

by JOSH MORRIS

Since the very beginning of time, it has been debated and finally, The Dispatch is here to answer the question: Who is the better Leonardi, Dr. or Ms.?! We asked them a variety of hard-hitting questions that are sure to help you make the final decision. Ms. Leo said, “I’m the REAL Leonardi, after all it’s my maiden name!” Dr. Leo, on the other hand, does have a PhD, giving her some solid credibility. So, what’s your take?



PHOTO: ARI MOSKOWITZ

Dr .

1. One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest
2. Queens College, Graduate Center, Hofstra University.
3. Homemade lasagna (my grandmother’s recipe)
4. The students and the energy and drive that they put into learning and exploring their interests. I also admire the students’ support for the adults that care about them.
5. Growing up I wanted to be a nun since they were my first teachers.
6. Crest
7. Both Ellen and Oprah
8. If not dark chocolate then...sour
9. Chocolate all the way!
10. Pizza!!!

VS

The questions:

1. What is your favorite movie?
2. What colleges did you attend?
3. What is your favorite food?
4. What is your favorite part of Huntington High School?
5. If you weren’t an educator what would you be?
6. What kind of toothpaste do you use?
7. Ellen Degeneres or Oprah Winfrey?
8. Sweet or sour?
9. Chocolate or vanilla?
10. What is your favorite ethnic food?



PHOTO: MOLLY PREP

Ms.

1. MOONSTRUCK
2. SUNY POTSDAM (CRANE SCHOOL OF MUSIC) AND SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY
3. HOMEMADE MACARONI AND CHEESE
4. TRULY, I SO ENJOY MY ORCHESTRA STUDENTS! BUT, IF I HAD TO PICK A SECOND FAVORITE THING ABOUT HHS IT WOULD HUNTINGTON IDOL!
5. A CHEF AND A SALVAGE ARTIST. I WOULD HAVE TO MAKE MONEY AND BE CREATIVE, NO MATTER WHAT.
6. ARM AND HAMMER WITH BAKING SODA AND PEROXIDE. WHY, DO I HAVE BAD BREATH?
7. DEFINITELY OPRAH WINFREY
8. NEITHER. SAVORY IS MY THING. AND SPICY TOO!
9. CHOCOLATE
10. WELL, I LOVE ITALIAN OF COURSE BUT I ALSO LOVE THAI CUISINE.

Critic’s Corner

“Dead Connection” Catches the Attention of the Living

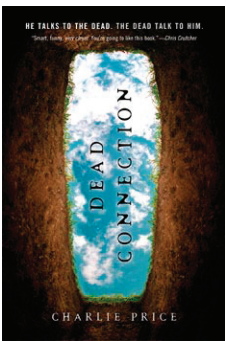
by ASAR NADI

If you had to choose a super power, what would it be? Flight? Super strength? What about a sixth sense? Knowing when people are approaching you? Seeing dead people? Would you like to be psychic? Have people think you’re just plain crazy when you’re not? What about being able to have a conversation with the dead? Charlie Price’s first novel, *Dead Connection*, is about just that. One boy loves his new “friends”, which aren’t people from his school. His newly found friends are the ones that kept him from having any real friends. It’s not their fault. He’s the one that chooses to talk to the dead instead of the ones around him in school. As he talks to the ones that comfort him better than the ones at school, the

cemetery begins to change in ways he’ll never be able to forget. More and more people would like to know what he does in the cemetery. Nobody realizes what they have gotten themselves into as they get more into detail of what he does in there. As questions are beginning to be asked, he gets more worried if they’ll ever find out what he does. Will they consider him a freak more than ever before? Will he ever be able to trust anyone? The ones he loves the most? The ones he had just met but in a way trusts them? He is able to only trust the ones who comfort him most and know him better than anyone that has never known him at all. More and more people begin to get closer to him even if he doesn’t want

them to be closer. The style of writing that Price uses begins to make sense once thought has been put into it. He creates the hero to be somebody whom everyone has a strong hatred for instead of a superhero that has a disguise or everyone knows is a superhero. He doesn’t make a hero that has a lair or goes somewhere secretive. Price creates the hero in the book to spend time in a place where everyone can see him and have everyone make him feel as if he was never born. Try *Dead Connection* if you’re the type of person who likes mystery, suspense, and the one who would have a sixth sense as a superpower.

★★★★★



WZRD is a Hit

by NATALIE LANZISERO

Many of you know Kid Cudi as just a rapper, but he’s looking to change that. He announced in an interview with MTV that he was done with rapping and was moving on to bigger and better things. Cudi paired up with producer Dot Da Genius to form the alternative-rock band duo known as WZRD.

This is seriously a great album. What makes it so good is that it is innovative and new, not only for Kid Cudi himself but

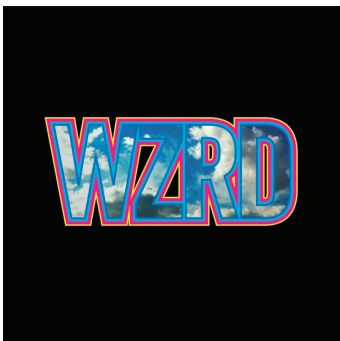
for the music industry in general. Other artists have attempted to go from rap to rock, but did not succeed. Cudi has broken the barrier between rap and rock and did a fantastic job at that. He’s made a new name for himself; not a rapper, a musician.

There’s a little something for everyone, and if you enjoyed his previous album *MOTM II: Legend of Mr. Rager*, you will love this. In all honesty, it is sad to see Kid Cudi stop

rapping because that’s what we all know him for. But in this case, change is great. It’s hard to pick but “High off Life” and “Upper Room” are two great songs off of the album. All over, *WZRD* is a fantastic album that I highly recommend everyone check out. 5 stars!

Happy Listening!

★★★★★

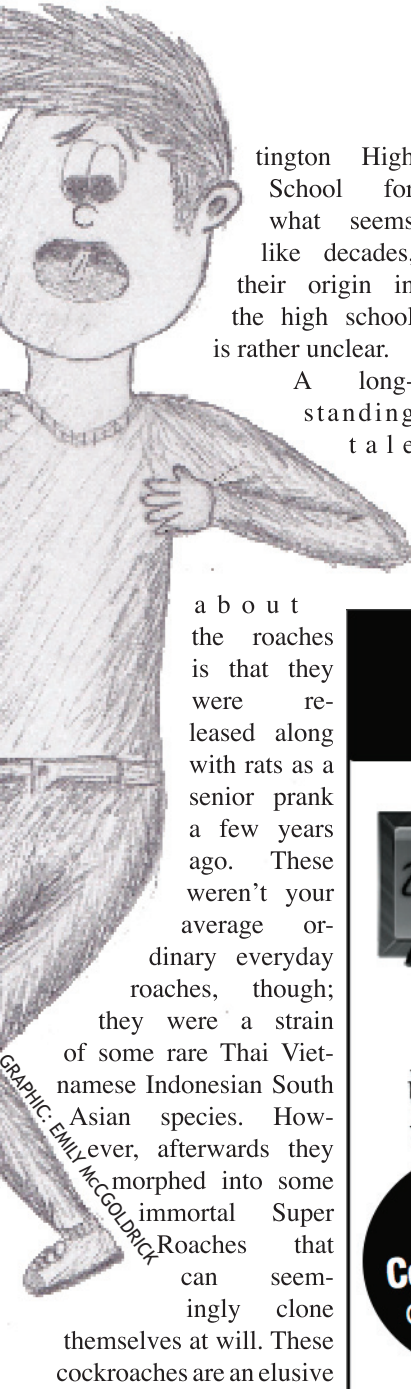


Cockroaches Persist

by HOLDEN KATA

Cockroaches. You may have seen them here, or you may have not seen them. Some of the older students here have had some interesting experiences with these multi-

legged creatures. Ask any one of the seniors, and they will likely say they have seen at least one cockroach during their high school career. It has been said that cockroaches can be found in nearly every corner of Huntington High School. They’ve been found in hallways, in the bathrooms, behind cabinets, in classrooms, in the basement, behind cabinets in classrooms in the basement. Yet, while they’ve been a staple of Hun-



tington High School for what seems like decades, their origin in the high school is rather unclear.

A long-standing tale

about the roaches is that they were released along with rats as a senior prank a few years ago. These weren’t your average ordinary everyday roaches, though; they were a strain of some rare Thai Vietnamese Indonesian South Asian species. However, afterwards they morphed into some immortal Super Roaches that can seemingly clone themselves at will. These cockroaches are an elusive

bunch whose presence attracts great attention. When one is spotted, one of two things may happen: hoards of people may swarm around it like magnets to a refrigerator, or hoards of people may scream and run away like magnets to...other magnets. However, what is most frightening about these critters is that they can’t be killed by stepping on them. It has been said if you squash one, you will pick up its eggs on your shoe and spread them around the

school.

This has not been proven or disproven, but given the ecological success of the roaches, there is a strong possibility this is true.

Now, to all of you freshmen and/or parents reading this column, don’t be alarmed! (Most of) this article is just an exaggeration. Huntington High School is actually a very clean place, no lies. If you ever get the chance, try walking through the hallways at night, when the janitors are clean-

ing the floors. The hallways are shiny and sparkly, and the floors smell like a field of fresh lemon – lemon soap, that is. Many efforts have been taken to eradicate the critters, but they don’t appear to have been very successful. Perhaps they have, but the roaches are just multiplying at too rapid of a pace.

Who knows? Perhaps one day we can tame them and command them to do our bidding.

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Fashion Forward

by TAYLOR CHOY AND JULIE GRAY

Every season, not only does the weather change but also the fashion trends. This year's Spring 2012 fashion trends are bringing back elements from all decades from the 60's to the 00's.

This season, girls don't want to look like girls. In fact, girls want to look more like guys. Designers are incorporating men's wear into their women's collections. Items, such as blazers can be paired with dresses, skirts, skinny jeans; they're almost interchangeable and can complete the perfect outfit. For a more drastic approach to this trend, try adding a bow tie to a collared shirt or loafers. For a more romantic look, try adding a patterned chiffon shirt with tapered trousers. There are many ways to create a tomboy look chic. So go into your dad's closet and steal those oversized sweaters and denim shirts.

If men's wear doesn't suit your style, you can stick to the forward romantic look. Items such as asymmetrical dresses and skirts can be paired with crochet tops that really show the true essence of the spring season. Pastels are a color palette that really conveys that romantic look. Try a pair of light colored jeans with a layered sweater. With any romantic look, a pair of nude shoes is a staple. They also make your legs

look longer.

If there is one trend to look out for this spring, it would have to be patterns. Tribal, plaid, polka dots, stripes, nautical, tropical; name the pattern and you'll see it on the runway. In particular, tribal patterns are very in this season. When it comes to the genre of tribal patterns, there are so many different colors and prints. You will find that many people wear plaid due to their versatility and unisex wear. For spring, try wearing a lighter or brighter color in the plaid pattern. Many would agree that polka dots aren't a great pattern because they're unflattering. But if you put your mind to a good outfit, they could become very useful. The most popular pattern for not only spring, but year round, would be stripes. Stripes that are horizontal, vertical, or diagonal add visual dimension and length to your outfit. The most desired pattern for spring would have to be floral patterns. The use of this pattern is very diverse. To make the pattern edgy, add a leather jacket and boots. To maintain the feminine style, pair them with pastel colored pieces.

Fabric is another key component to fashion and spring 2012 can't get enough of denim. The most popular forms of denim are shirts, dresses, and shorts. Denim usual-

ly makes a look more casual, such as wearing a denim shirt over a dress. You also can't go wrong with a simple pair of jeans. A more on trend use of jeans is boyfriend

the front of the piece is short while the back is long. This cut of clothing draws attention to the legs and the front part of outfit. When wearing high-low dresses and skirts, always

pair them with a nice pair of shoes that you want people to notice. This season's shirts are also shaped in a more structured way by using strong shoulders and boxier tops.

For spring 2012, the trends are versatile for any style and very functional

for the warmer weather. In developing your own style, try mixing these trends of patterns, fabrics, and more. But always remember to have confidence in what you wear because nothing looks better on you than confidence.



jeans, which add a more loose fit and rugged structure to an outfit. For the warmer weather, try high-waisted denim shorts. They also draw more attention to the legs by making them longer.

Another key component to this spring's trend is cut and structure. Dresses and shirts are now shaped in a high-low style, where

Allison Wieland: At FIT and Loving Every Minute Catching up with HHS graduate Allison Wieland

by TAYLOR CHOY AND JULIE GRAY

1. What area of fashion are you majoring in?
"I'm a fashion design student."

2. How did the Huntington High School fashion program help you achieve your goals to get accepted into FIT?

"Huntington helped a great deal, if it wasn't for the fabulous fashion program I most likely wouldn't be where I am today. The fashion program is amazing as well as the teachers. I learned the basics of drawing a croqui, learned how to read a pattern and basic sewing skills. The teachers helped advance my skills, pushed me, opened my eyes to different techniques and assisted with my portfolio. I can't thank them enough for all that they did for me!"

3. Do you suggest taking any extra steps in order to pursue a fashion career?

"If you're looking to pursue a career in fashion design, I would highly recommend taking the pre-college draping class. Draping is a huge part of design and very difficult. Taking the pre college class will not only give you a good preview of the major but also looks good in applying to the school. Also taking a

fashion art class to increase your art skills for your portfolio would be a good idea too."

4. What are some things that you wish you knew before going to college? (Particularly to FIT or any art school)

"I wish I took the pre college class for draping and drawing, I had never draped before and a lot of kids in my classes already knew what to do. Time management is VERY important, I have become very good at it, I have watched some friends fall in to ditch with a huge pile of work. It's not fun pulling all nighters! Trust me I would know!"

5. How did you adapt to New York City and being away from home?

"I love living in the city, it's so much fun and (there's) so much to do, everything is walking distance. I will admit the first semester was hard for me, I have never been away from home and I got a little home sick. Being independent is responsibility and eye opening. No mommy to clean up after you, wash your cloths, cook, but I adapted, I shrunk a few things, but I learned! Now in my second semester I'm fine and loving every minute of it! (I also) got accepted to study abroad in Florence, Italy next year, I can't wait!"

6. Is your work time consuming?

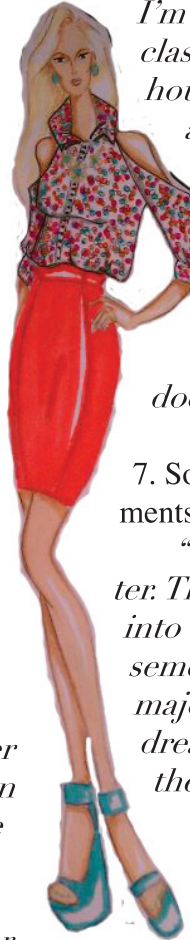
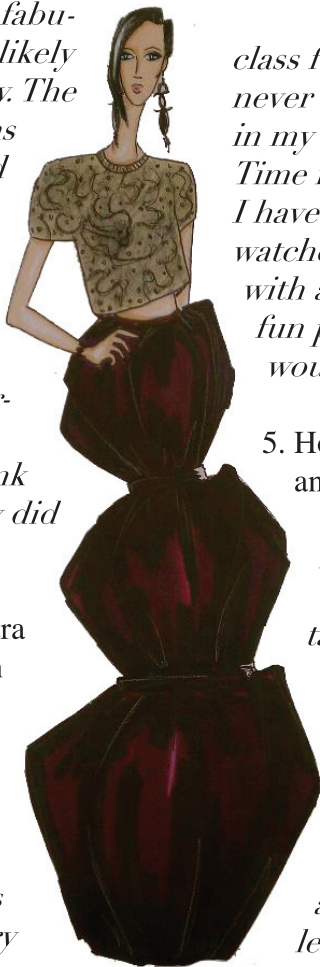
"Some people may think because I go into an art school it's easy and all I do is draw all day. That is not the case at all; I'm required to take six main fashion classes all ranging from three to four hours long. Then I have my liberal arts classes as of right now I'm taking 9 classes. The work load is never ending and quite tedious. So yes my time is basically filled with work, but I wouldn't want to be doing anything else! I love what I'm doing so the work doesn't really seem like work."

7. So far, what are some of your achievements and experiences?

"Well, this is only my second semester. The biggest achievement was getting into the school and surviving the first semester! I watched a quarter of my major drop out. I have come to learn dreams are hard work if they weren't, then why dream?"

8. What are your plans for the future?

"For my future I will be studying abroad in Italy for fourth semester; graduate and get my associates' (degree). Then move on to my Bachelors' and a few internships as well. After graduating I want to work under a big company. Get experience and then see where life takes me!"



The Madness Reviewed

Back in March, Charles made some predictions, was he right?

by CHARLES BEERS

The only thing predictable about this year's college basketball season has been its unpredictability. Ranging from thrilling upsets that even the most educated sports analyst couldn't believe, to last-second buzzer beaters that changed the fate of a game, and perhaps a season, the 2011-2012 regular season has not disappointed. However, March seems to be the time of year that really matters. It's during March that fans have their brackets set out and are desperately praying that their champion still remains in the running. However, those who aren't college basketball experts may have trouble filling out their brackets, especially later on in the tournament when games really start getting down to the wire. To assist those in need of personal advice, here are three bold predictions that might have made you alter your brackets (but please don't blame me if anyone feels misled by the following tips because, when it comes to March Madness, you never can tell what's right and wrong).

1. The Syracuse Orange Will Be Black and Blue by the Sweet Sixteen

The Syracuse Orange was a dominant team throughout the regular season. They successfully earned a number one seed, possess a great offensive attack, and constantly have a winning strategy. However, they can't rebound or hit three-pointers. As a team, Syracuse barely shoots over 33% from beyond the arc and their rebounding margin for the regular season was a -1.3. If Syracuse allows their opponents to beat them with the three-ball and on the boards, especially since Fab Melo, one of their only successful rebounders, has been declared ineligible, the Orange are doomed. In the Sweet Sixteen this year, I expected Syracuse to be blown away by the Badgers of Wisconsin, a team that

can create new possessions with better rebounding.

2. The Devils Will Be Bedeviled

The Blue Devils had a great year for the most part. Coach Krzyzewski broke the record for



most wins by a coach in Division I basketball history and his team secured a number 2 seed in the tournament. However, this year also was not a stable one for the Blue Devils. Taking a look back at their wins throughout the season, one can see that the Blue

Devils were barely squeaking out victories. By allowing their opponents back into their games, Duke has suffered some significant losses. This mentality will definitely haunt them throughout the tournament. If the Duke-Kentucky matchup that I predict really does happen, Duke really doesn't stand a chance. I expected them to fall apart in the Sweet Sixteen.

3. The Championship Will Feature Tar Heels and Wildcats

Although it's unlucky to pick two number-1 seeds to compete for the national championship, it was hard not to this year. Both the North Carolina Tar Heels and the Kentucky Wildcats seem poised to take the coveted trophy. North Carolina has shown its strength throughout the year with remarkable victories over its longtime rival Duke, and has repeatedly proven that it

has the most electrifying offense in the NCAA with an average of 82 points per game. On the other hand, Kentucky showcased its offensive powerhouse, led by the dynamic duo of Antony Davis and Terrence Jones, and catapulted itself to the front of the pack while maintaining its number-1 overall seed right to the very end of the regular season. Although both teams have the same intensity and offensive fire, I believed that the Tar Heels will be this year's champions and will win on a last-second three-pointer from Harrison Barnes, the centerpiece of the Tar Heels' offensive attack.

This tournament was one of the best brackets the NCAA has ever seen. Although the number-1 and 2 seeds have been dominant all year long, many powerful underdogs were lurking in the shadows, waiting to shock the nation with a thrilling run to the title. It can easily be said that with plenty of thrilling matchups, fans were glued to their TVs right to the final buzzer.

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SPORTS

Huntington Takes the Cake At States

by TODD COLVIN

The Huntington High School winter sports season had one of the most exciting conclusions in recent memory, with multiple athletes showcasing their talent at the state level. Nicholas Lupi and Cory Jamison represented Huntington in the State Wrestling Tournament, Tyriek Johnston reached States in winter indoor track, and Gunther Cassel, Jake Goldstein, and Tom Scott reached states as part of the Huntington Blue Devils swim team. Individual matches can be won by talent alone, but to reach states an athlete has to put in all the hours he or she can and put one hundred and ten percent into the hours. All of these athletes spilled countless gallons of blood, sweat, and tears in long practices and grueling competitions to reach the pinnacle of high school athletics. These athletes made our school and town proud, as well as showed New York State what the Blue Devils are capable of.

The Huntington swimmers took States by storm. All three swimmers had well-earned reputations coming into states that they attained while swimming on year-round teams outside of Huntington.



PHOTO: HUFSD
Tyriek Johnston is in a clear lead during his strongest event; the hurdles

Freshman phenomenon Gunther Cassel, son of West Islip swimming legend Geoff Cassel, gained recognition for his blazingly fast 50 freestyle and 100 breaststroke times at the League and County competitions. Gunther dazzled the State, however, seemingly coming from out of nowhere to set the County record in the 100 Breaststroke en route to taking number one in the state. The win earned him much acclaim; he was even featured in a Newsday article. Junior Tom Scott's hard work paid off when he made States at the last meet of the season against Harborfields. Tom dazzled competitors in the 500 freestyle, a 20-lap event so grueling that times upwards of 3 minutes can separate first and last place. Rarely ever having to watch an opponent from behind during the season, Tom had an extremely impressive showing in States, swimming his

personal best but narrowly missing the final round of the event by fractions of a second. Senior Jake Goldstein, the swimmer who virtually rewrote the record books in every event except diving (despite begging Coach Gil Smith to try it just once to see if he could break those ones too), had the reputation that preceded him. Feared by opponents throughout the state, the universe dealt Jake a bad hand when he came down with a fever days before his race. Although lesser men would have opted out of competition due to the difficulty of swimming under those adverse circumstances, Jake put his head down and powered through it, putting up a remarkable effort with an 8th place in the 100 Breast. Jake is still just as determined as ever.

The Huntington wrestlers also put up a magnificent display at the state level. Nicholas Lupi and Cory Jamison carried on the Huntington Wrestling program that is re-

spected as one of the top high school programs across the nation. Nicholas Lupi had a dominant regular season, amassing an impressive record of 32 and 5 despite a mid-season injury to his shoulder. After earning the Wild Card following a third place finish in counties, Lupi had a gutsy performance at States. Always humble but never content, Lupi said that what he can take away from states is that next year he is going to "Train 10 times harder, wrestle 10 times longer, and never forget what my goals are." Cory Jamison also had a great regular season, with an overall record of 35 and 2. Cory was the 2 seed in states, and he dominated the competition initially but was eked out in his third round for a loss. It seemed to be as cursed a States for some athletes as it was a blessed one for others; Cory could not continue in his path to a state title after he



PHOTO: HUFSD

failed to make weight. The future is bright for the sensational sophomore; there is no doubting that he will be back to States with a vengeance in the future.

Tyriek Johnson is another dominant athlete at Huntington High School. Nobody ever crossed the finish line before Tyriek did in the 55 meter hurdles, and during this season he won every race. He set both the long jump record, at a whopping 22 feet 3 inches, and 55 meter hurdles record, at a blazing 7.51 seconds, at the Long Island Championships. Tyriek was seemingly unbeatable going into States; he was favored by more than .2 seconds, a remarkably large margin in a race that lasts only 8 seconds. Tyriek came out guns blazing in the trials at States, setting his record of 7.51 seconds for the hurdles. Continuing the trend of cursed Huntington athletes, Tyriek pulled his hamstring during the semifinals of the meet and could not run at the finals. This story does not paint the full picture of who Tyriek is as a person, however. Before the race, Tyriek won the sportsmanship award for Section XI. To be that talented, that hard working, and still exhibit that level of sportsmanship are qualities that all Huntington athletes should strive for. "It's a shame he got hurt, I feel he would have won," remarked Coach Ron Wilson. "He is a great kid, a great athlete and I hope he gets back on track in the spring."

These athletes should make us proud, as a school and as a community. They are not merely blessed with talent, they take advantage of their natural gifts and hone them through painstaking hours upon hours of training. Another incredible feature of this year's states is how young all of the athletes are. There is a freshman, a sophomore, two juniors, and two graduating seniors, one of whom will be back for track in the spring. Although we will all miss Jake next year when he goes on to bigger and better things at Yale, we have an exceptional crop of athletes who will continue the success of the well-respected and feared Huntington athletics programs

Tennis Team Triumph

by TIM GRESS

Do you think it would be hard to ref your own match? Well, that's what the boy's tennis team does every time they step on the court. Tennis is the only high school sport where the athletes have to be their own refs. You would think that since the games are being played at the High School level those refs would be added. But refs are not used in high school and even college tennis because of the amount of matches going on at once. If there were 5 matches going on at the same time then there would need to be the same number of refs watching those matches. All of these officials would lead to a crowd of people on the courts, and even some of the games becoming mixed up.

The elimination of referees puts pressure on the players to make the right call. To help with this the United States Tennis Association (USTA) has set up a

code for matches when officials are not present. According to the code "Courtesy is expected, and tennis is a game that requires the cooperation



PHOTO: HUFSD

and courtesy of its athletes." There are 46 principles of the

USTA code. Among these are "Player makes calls on own side of net", "Opponent gets benefit of doubt", and "Ball touching any part of line is good".

Someone might think that making your own calls can cause chaos on the court because there are no line judges in high school or even college tennis. Coach Fishlow, the head varsity coach, says, "It's good that the players make their own calls. They mostly make the right call and aren't into cheating." The players just want to "maintain the integrity of the match, and in the end all of the calls seem to balance out."

This season the boy's tennis team is going strong getting some early season victories and holding its own in its division. The blue devils started 4-0 in league play, jumping to the top of the division. "It's ours to lose," says Coach Fishlow.

Winter Sports Review

by GAVIN LI

Yet another season has ended, and Huntington athletics and varsity athletics flourished this past winter season. The JV boys basketball team were a force in the league, having a winning percentage of .857 finishing with a record of 12-2. The varsity basketball team had a solid season finishing at 5-9. The boys wrestling team finished just one game under .500 at 3-4. A total of six wrestlers qualified for the section XI Division I tournament. Soph-

omore Corey Jamison won 113 lb Suffolk wrestling title. Junior Nick Lupi finished 3rd in the tournament. Lupi went on to go wrestle at the state wrestling tournament and placed 5th and 4th at nationals. Boys fencing had a sub-par season winning five games out of sixteen.

Boys swimming also had a tough season finishing with a 2-6 record. Both the JV and varsity girls basketball team had an emotional sea-

son with the loss of Courtney O' Bryan.



PHOTO: HUFSD

The varsity girls basketball team honored her by retiring her number and having a Courtney O' Bryan night. The JV girls basketball team finished with a solid 6-8 record, while the varsity team finished one game under .500 with a 6-7 record. Congratulations to all varsity and JV teams on a successful winter season.



PHOTO: HUFSD