

THUNDERBIRD

HIGH SCHOOL EAST NEWSPAPER

Half Hollow Hills High School East

Issue 1 Fall 2009

Art Honor Society & Football Team Up

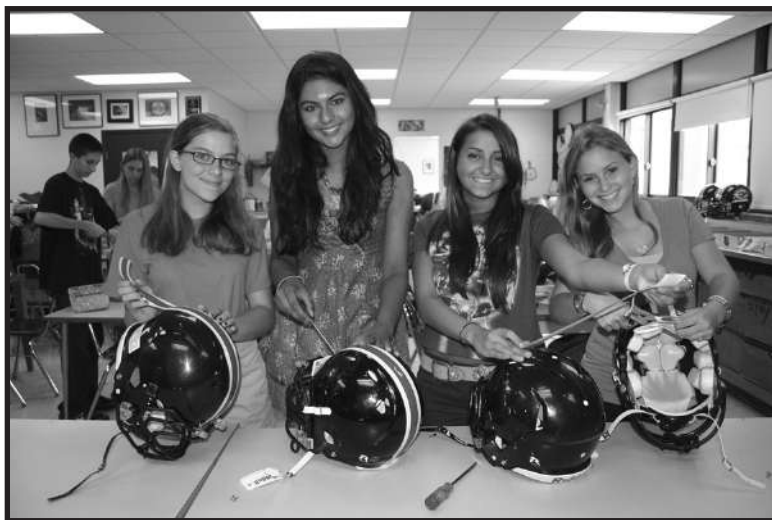
Elliot Greenfield

School News Editor

This year, both the art department and the athletic department came together at High School East for a common cause. The new helmets were developed for the football team. When it came time to choose the teachers who would design this logo, it was obvious. When football Coach Kevin Hill asked art teacher, Denise Corazon to design a new football helmet logo for our school's team, she couldn't have been happier. Ms. Corazon stated, "Believe it or not, it's something I've wanted to do. I was a cheerleader in high school and a huge football fan my whole life." When it came down to the idea for the logo, Coach Hill said an "E" might work perfectly. Ms. Corazon agreed with Hill and knew exactly the design she wanted to create. "I wanted to design a logo that was simple, yet powerful, and something that looked like a professional team logo,"

said Ms. Corazon. Denise Corazon then approached fellow art teacher, Allyson Uttendorfer, to contribute to this fantastic idea. "We are a great art team. As co-advisers of the National Art Honor Society, we have created many projects together," said Ms. Corazon. The ability and skill that one must have to transform a drawing into a graphic image for reproduction is an involved process. "The measurements on the files had to be perfect. We researched the actual sizes of NFL helmet logos so our design would meet professional specs," said Ms. Uttendorfer. Many National Art Honor

Society members wanted to get involved in this awesome project. During the first week of school, N.A.H.S. members assembled the new logos on all the Varsity and Junior Varsity football helmets in preparation for the opening game. Principal Dr. Jeffrey Woodberry stated, "The new helmets are NFL worthy," to Ms. Corazon. In addition, Coach Kevin Hill presented flowers to Ms. Corazon and Mrs. Uttendorfer at the Homecoming Pep Rally to show his appreciation. The new football helmets are fantastic and give the team a much more professional look.



What's Going On in Our Community Library?

Kevin O'Reilly & Monika Haebich

Editors-In-Chief

The dictionary definition of a library is, "A place set apart to contain books, periodicals and other reading material for read-

and again is free to library card holders.

The library has a *Code of Conduct*, and of recent, some of our HSE students have complained that this code has been breached. There have been complaints of an increased number of students who loiter at the library, with no



ing, viewing, listening, study or reference as a room, set of rooms or building where books may be borrowed." The Dix Hills Library is this and so much more.

The library, under the direction of, Library Director, Michelle Laure-Bader, offers several study programs and events for the community. The library offers numerous volunteer activities that allow students seeking Honor Society hours an opportunity to fulfill their requirements. The *Homework Help Program* enables teens to help elementary school students with their homework on Mondays and Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm. The *Gingerbread House Workshop* is another library supported activity. Here you can help younger members of the Dix Hills community construct memorable holiday treats. The library supports an online tutor, free to any library card holder, for assistance with math, English, social studies or science. This is available to students, kindergarten through twelfth grades, from 2pm through 11pm. Students are connected to a live tutor, who is knowledgeable in the topic. The student types questions via the type box or virtual whiteboard. This remarkable help is available for aid with these subjects,

educational or research aim in mind. This "hang out" increase has resulted in the removal by the library of the bench outside the library, we think, to reduce the congestion caused by the loitering in this area. Audrey Devarajan, a senior at HSE, goes to the library often to study. She says that she has noticed, of recent, a change in the noisy atmosphere inside the library. Her complaint: "They are pretty annoying. I don't understand why they come if they get kicked out later. All high school kids then get blamed for being rowdy, when in reality, the majority of us want to do work." HSE senior, Teron Coleman has also observed a change. "They do not want high school students there. They removed the bench that the students would sit on, so that they would not sit outside of the library. Some librarians are nice, but others just kick students out who are doing their homework just because they don't want the high school students to come to the library after school. Some librarians do petty things, such as come over to five students who are doing homework quietly and make one person go sit alone because they only want four people to a table."

Director Laurer-Bader in-

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An Interview with Dr. Woodberry

Monika Haebich & Kevin O'Reilly

Editors-in-Chief

Outside of school Dr. Woodberry may seem like your average guy; he loves the summer time, he has tripped on the school stairs, he wishes he could teleport, and he enjoys listening to rap and R&B. Even so, there is more to this man than what we see. Dr. Woodberry is hardworking and dedicated to his job and to his students. Never has this school seen such a tenacious and caring principal. Dr. Woodberry's motto, "Respect, Responsibility, and Excellence," is reflected in the various changes that he has brought to this school. In the past three years that Dr.

Woodberry has been principal, he has made our school safer, drug-free, and ideal for excellence. Dr. Woodberry takes pride in his leadership skills, which he values as the most important quality a principal should have. He stressed that, "A principal should be able to inspire and motivate others- that is faculty, staff, and students. A principal should have a vision as a leader and know what direction he wants the organization to go. He should also have perseverance with leadership to stick to the vision." Dr. Woodberry has followed this message and has been adamant in creating a safe and studious learning environment. His goal for this school is for it to remain the top academic institution that it is and

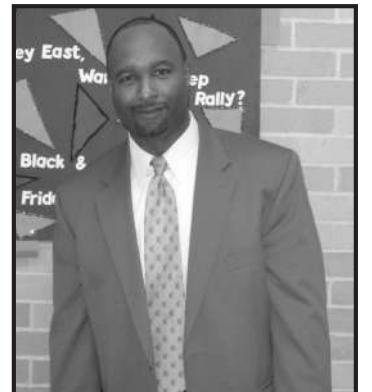
for its students to learn and appreciate the value of respect, responsibility, and excellence.

We were fascinated to learn of Dr. Woodberry's goals and future prospects for the school; however, we were anxious to learn of his top-secret life outside of school. Where does he go on vacations? What does he do for fun? Dr. Woodberry was born here on Long Island in Amityville. His extensive training in various institutions, which include SUNY Buffalo, CW Post, Stony Brook, and Hofstra, prepared him well for the twelve years he spent in the Half Hollow Hills School District. Along with taking care of this school, he cares for a rottweiler and a cat. When asked who he would want to meet if

he could encounter one person from the past or present, Dr. Woodberry chose Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as Dr. King's inspirational speeches had the immense power to move and exhilarate all who watched and listened. Our principal is a true connoisseur of the Caribbean, and his favorite destinations are Cancun and the Dominican Republic.

Dr. Woodberry has devoted himself to the betterment of this school. Many of the students, whether they have known him for years or months, can see his dedication and commitment to this school, and for

that, we are grateful. If all students could learn to follow this exceptional man's lead and understand "respect, responsibility, and excellence" this school and this world would be much better off.



Feed the Models

Michelle Ambrosio

Staff Writer

Body image is an incredibly tough issue in high school. There is so much pressure on young people to look perfect, and to have perfect bodies. Unfortunately it has caused so many people to have a highly disturbed sense of body image. On September 20, 2009, Christine Grosso and I put together a charity fashion show to celebrate normal, healthy bodies and to show that there is no weight limit or requirement for beauty. After reviewing our options, we decided that the charity that would benefit most and promote our body image ideals would be one for eating disorder awareness. We chose to donate our proceeds to NEDA-LI, a non-profit organization dedicated to the study, treatment and prevention of eating disorders. They provide support, resources and referrals to sufferers and their families, and education and consultation to professionals in the field.

In the beginning, our fashion show was only an idea. We sent out bulk emails to our favorite local stores and boutiques to see if anyone would be interested in aiding our cause. Immediately we received a response from *Nikki's Dressing Room*, a fabulous dress boutique on Route 110. The owner, Pat, kindly let us feature nine dresses in our show, donated a \$300 prom dress to raffle off and gave Christine and me dresses. I can truly say that we couldn't have done this show without

her amazing cooperation and incredible generosity. Over time, other stores such as *Love My Shoes*, *Lester's*, *Kenny's Menswear*, and *Special Sauce* became involved in the fashion show as well, to showcase their clothing. The fittings were the best part of the *creating-the-show* process. We used models from each grade level in our school, had two St. Anthony's students, and even some High School East alumni came home from college for the weekend to model. The stores were very flexible with what we were looking for so that our models could be comfortable and feel good in what they were wearing.

Once we realized that this was really happening, we wanted to do more than just a show. We decided that having raffles baskets that people could win would be a good way to raise money and keep the show fun. Stores such as *Panera Bread*, *Snow-Haus*, *Tropical Smoothie* and so many more joined us in our efforts by donating gift cards and certificates to be raffled off, in return for advertisement in our program. We even raffled off a plasma-screen television! Christine and I created a display for our show, which was placed at the top of the runway where the models started their walk (Thank-you Dr. Grosso) We took everyday mirrors and

covered them in masking tape to distort the image reflected and used pictures of different words and pictures that made us think of one of today's greatest issues: body image. Pictures of stick thin models, measuring tape and words like fat and beautiful were placed onto these mirrors. We believe we created a reflection of one of today's greatest fears in our society.

After holding a ticket selling pool party to sell our tickets (\$8 in advance, \$10 at the door) we had sold over 100 tickets before the show date had even come. The show was a success; the clothes and models looked beautiful and we raised over \$1700 for our cause. On October 10 2009, we attended the NEDA-LI luncheon and conference where they honored us with their *Outstanding Volunteer Service Award*. Attending these meetings and being involved with this organization is truly rewarding. We're hoping to start a club within our school that will work directly with this amazing organization, in addition to our second annual (yes, we can say that now) *Feed The Models* charity fashion show next year.



Supermac 18: YouTube Sensation

Ricki Siegel

Staff Writer

"Telemarketing is a method of direct marketing in which a salesperson solicits to prospective customers to buy products or services, either over the phone or through a subsequent face to face or Web conferencing appointment scheduled during the call." (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Telemarketing>) When ordinary people get those annoying phone calls from telemarketers, usually it is about a two-minute or less phone call and that's it. However, there is one person who is able to spend 30 minutes on the phone, with a complete stranger, and have an interesting conversation with someone who told that person that he won a free trip. *Supermac18* is a fourteen-year-old boy from Long Island who, in his spare time, makes exciting and fun videos that he posts on *YouTube*. In case you were wondering, *Supermac18* is just his *YouTube* name, but he really goes by Mac Guttenberg. Mac spends his time thinking of creative things to do that he can post onto his *YouTube* account. Mac's favorite kinds of videos to add are crazy dance party videos where he can be himself and dance around for fun. *Supermac18* loves to bring his video camera wherever he is going in order to make a video and later edit and upload. Mac Guttenberg has such a

great personality that he can make any moment into a great *YouTube* video that his fans will love. *Supermac18's* most viewed video is called "The Song Movie", which currently has 3,773,000 views. In this video Mac takes word clips from various songs and incorporates the words into what he is doing or is wanting to say. "Getting Noticed", is another video that gets many views, where Mac is talking about how everywhere he goes he gets noticed and also says whatever comes to mind. "Road Trip", is a video in which Mac and his family are on a road trip and Mac is recording them as they continue on their drive. "Do The Pencil" is another well known video on *YouTube* of Mac doing a dance that he created for fun, which has now become a huge hit on the Internet. When Mac runs into his fans or meets them at *YouTube* gatherings, not only do they want his autograph and a picture with him, but also they want a video with him doing "The Pencil" together.



The notorious Mac Guttenberg doing his thing.

Health Care Bill Gains Approval In The House

Andrew Ou
Staff Writer

Earlier this month, the House of Representatives passed the highly controversial Health Care Bill with a vote of 220 to 215. This surpassed the majority vote of 218 needed to pass the bill in the House of Representatives. The Health Care Bill is a \$1.2 trillion legislation. Most of the House of Representatives are controlled by Democrats; however, the Health Care Bill was met with opposition from almost all of the Republicans in the House of Representatives. Also, 39 Democrats opposed the Health Care Bill. Two hundred nineteen Democrats and one Republican (Representative Joseph Cao) voted for the Health Care Bill while 176 Republicans and 39 Democrats voted against the bill in the House of Representatives (www.huffingtonpost.com).

What are the benefits of the Health Care Bill? According to many Democrats, many people in America will benefit from this Health Care Bill. The Health Care Bill will provide millions of people health care that they normally could not afford and will impose harsh restrictions on the medical insurance industry. The bill would give 36 million people without health insurance health coverage. As a result, 96% of all Americans will have medical coverage

and will be given a sense of health security (www.abcnews.com). Representative John Dingell believes that everyone will have a peace of mind from being given access to affordable health care anytime they need health care (www.huffingtonpost.com). The Health Care Bill would also prevent health insurance companies from excluding people with previous medical history or people of a certain gender from getting medical coverage. Health insurance companies would also be prevented from denying coverage based on the cost of the health care. The Health Care Bill would also allow people to gain medical coverage from their parents until they turn 27 years old. The Health Care Bill is also estimated to improve the US economy by reducing federal deficits by about \$104 billion over a decade (www.huffingtonpost.com).

However, there are also negatives to the Health Care Bill. For a start, the Health Care Bill does not favor the upper class of America. To pay for the expensive \$1.2 trillion legislation, there would be a 5.4% extra charge tax on incomes over \$500,000 for individuals and \$1 million for families (www.abcnews.com). Although people who would have to pay an extra tax make up a relatively small percentage of America, top 1%(http://www.taxpolicycenter.org), the Health Care Bill

goes against the idea of capitalism. Also, medical providers would have to pay fees to contribute to the aforementioned government subsidies that would be given to low and middle income families to pay for medical insurance (www.politicsdaily). Medicare’s projected spending would also be cut by more than \$400 billion over a decade. The Health Care Bill might also increase job employment since many health insurance companies would be bankrupt and those people holding jobs in the Health Insurance companies would lose their jobs. Representative Candice Miller, R-Mich, describes the bill as jobs-killing, tax-hiking, and deficit-exploding (www.abcnews.com).

Even though the Health Care Bill was passed in the House of Representatives, the bill must also stand the test of the Senate. The bill will be signed by the President if it is passed in the Senate. An amendment was also passed by Rep. Bart Stupak preventing the use of federal subsidies to give coverage for abortions, except for life threatening situations for the mother. The amendment was passed on a vote of 240 to 192. Reflecting on the victory of the Democrats in the House of Representatives, President Obama is confident that the Health Care Bill will be passed in the Senate and believes the bill will be signed into law by the end of the year.

How Sure are you About Early Dismissal?

Teron Coleman
Staff Writer

Seniors, I know that once you find out all your classes are done, you’re ready to leave school early. Leaving school early isn’t always a good idea. On September 8, 2005 four high school students were injured in a nearly fatal accident. The teens consisted of three females and one male. All four students attended Half Hollow Hills High School East in Dix Hills, New York. They attempted to leave school early as they were privileged to do so, but not one of the students knew the fate that was ahead for them. The three females, Ka’Sandra Goodman, Amber

Davis, and Kiyanna Wells all piled in one vehicle with Ishmael Latif, who was the boy friend of one of the girls. Ishmael was the driver of the car. Amber Davis, who had a few minor bruises and a knee injury, explained the details of how the incident occurred. Ishmael was upset with Ka’Sandra about a phone call she had received from another boy, and while he was screaming at her, he was looking at the phone. As a result, he crashed into the back of a parked truck on the side of the road. Davis then called everyone’s name. She got out of the car and ran back towards the school to get help. Kiyanna had the most injuries because she went through the windshield

of the vehicle. Ka’Sandra was a little confused and Ishmael fractured his spleen. The mother of Ishmael Latif didn’t know he had the vehicle and he was not authorized to drive the car that day. Kiyanna had a fractured neck, severe nerve damages in her head, and a fractured skull.

Although the school doesn’t have a policy concerning passengers, Dr.Woodberry feels that it’s the parents’ responsibility to inform their kids about the risks of driving with passengers. Dr.Woodberry also stated that the school provides the seniors with the privilege to park on campus and that the school does not have control over what students do once they leave the campus.

Hate Crimes

Alana Shor
Staff Writer

Hate crimes have been present in the United States since the American Civil War. The first grouping of the Ku Klux Klan was incorporated in Tennessee, in May of 1866. Most of the people in the Ku Klux Klan were former Confederate soldiers. For the next few years, these men dressed in masks, cardboard hats and cloaked themselves in white sheets when they went out to severely beat newly freed black Americans and whites who sympathized with the blacks. At first, the main objective of the KKK was just to stop blacks from voting. Later, the crimes became much worse until bombings were taking place and lynching became a norm. [Spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk] In 2007, it was reported that 4,724 hate crime offenses were influenced by race. Of those 4,724 crimes, 69.3 percent were against African Americans. African Americans are not the only victims of hate crimes.

Assaults have been made on homosexuals as well.

There has been controversy regarding sexual orientation for many years. Of the 1,460 hate crimes committed based on sexual orientation, in 2007, 59.2 percent were assaults on homosexual males, 12.6 of the total amount were due to a bias against female homosexuals. [FBI.gov] Matthew Shepard was a gay college student who was kidnapped, robbed and severely beaten, then tied to a fence and left to die on a ranch in Wyoming. Though he was rescued, he died five days later. He became a symbol for fighting against crimes against homosexuals. Also well known is the story of Harvey Milk. Harvey Milk was a San Francisco city supervisor and the first openly gay official in the history of the city. He was shot and killed by Dan White, an earlier supervisor. Milk became one of the most well known symbols of the gay rights movement in the US.

Currently, hate crimes that are considered federal are specified as those driven by the national origin, religion, or race of the victim. On Thurs-

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The Truth About TEXTING

Grace Segers

Staff Writer

To the average high school student, texting is just a cheap way to connect with friends. "I text everyone I know about everything I know," says ninth grader Zakiya Williams-Wells. "It's faster than just calling someone, and less expensive than calling someone with a different cell phone

network," agrees her friend Sabrina Banjo. But the text trend sweeping across the country is much more complex than just a fast way to send information.

Texting has become a part of everyday life. Not only do teens use it to interact with each other, but also millions of people a year use texting as a tool to vote for their favorite American Idol contestant or enter a

sweepstakes sponsored by a radio network. Even President Obama used it to announce his choice of a running mate.

"The act of texting automatically removes 10 I.Q. points," said Paul Saffo, a technology trend forecaster in Silicon Valley. "The truth of the matter is, there are hobbies that are incompatible...We have all seen people walk into parking meters or walk into



traffic and seem startled by oncoming cars." A survey taken also proved this true for the younger generation. Of 40 students polled, 31 admitted to texting in class. An anonymous student said it best: "If the class is boring or your friend has to tell you something really important, there's nothing else to do." Both sources, one a technology professional and one a local student, show the

same thing: when texting, one can only concentrate on that.

However, every story has two sides, and texting during school may even be justified. "If I really need to tell my parents to pick me up after school instead of me taking the bus home, then I'll text them during lunch or something," a student said. "I mean, it's not like we're learning anything in lunch, so I don't get why we have to hide it."

"It's just way easier," explains eleventh grader Rebecca Russomonte. "Is it really so bad talking to your friends and parents? If you're not driving or whatever, it's not bad at all." Although Mr. Saffo might disagree, the student body of High School East seems to have the same opinion as the students interviewed. One thing is for sure: our generation quickly picked up texting, and it doesn't show any signs of slowing down.

As the Economy Drops, College Prices Increase

Sachi Patil

Staff Writer

Have you heard people complain about college costs? Are you or anyone you know applying for financial aid? For current juniors and seniors, paying for college has become a major priority.

Lafayette College, a college located between New York City and Philadelphia, is an excellent test case. *Lafayette* and other popular private colleges cost more than \$50,000.

Daniel H. Weiss, who worked as a management consultant at *Booz Allen Hamilton: A Strategy and Technology Consulting Firm*, states that tuition prices have only increased during his career. "I genuinely believe that we are at a crossroads here in higher education," he said. "I think we have reached a ceiling that we're beginning to bump into."

Mr. Weiss has not had to make any drastic budget cuts so far. He has frozen salaries and cut a few hours in the student dining halls. "In some ways, higher education is more like a political environment than the management of a private corporation," Mr. Weiss said.

Here are some reasons why it is so hard to make big cuts to a college's budget and reduce tuition in turn.

Cutting departments is one of the methods a college can take to reduce costs. Although this seems to be a simple and an obvious choice to make, political challenges with faculty make it pretty hard. These cuts are inevitable for programs that have fewer students "Piano tutoring is

pretty much one on one in a room with a piano. Pianos are expensive". The English students, however, are profit centers. Although these students pay for science labs and research, very few actually reap the benefits.

Another aspect is faculty productivity. Colleges such as *Lafayette* could increase productivity by demanding that the faculty perform less research and teach more classes. But for now, each professor teaches five classes over two semesters, and works on research with their students.

One of the largest contributors to budget overload is administrative overload. Colleges spend more money on non-faculty salaries than the actual teachers. "If *Lafayette* did not create a rigorous support system, he noted, its graduates would be competing with students from other colleges and universities that had done so. Therefore, we have invested scientifically in new administrative staff"

Possibly the biggest cost-saving measure would be to allow students to pay the same price per year but graduate in three years instead of four. "Although without sounding in any way defensive, we also do offer time for personal development and that is what college is supposed to be. Not only to learn stuff but to have your life changed" Franklin Goodman, a social advisor, said in an interview at *Hofstra*.

College is supposed to be a fun and educational experience. It is a time when you achieve independence and increase responsibility. Are you ready to pay for it?

School Starts A Little Too Early

Max Gevitz

Staff Writer

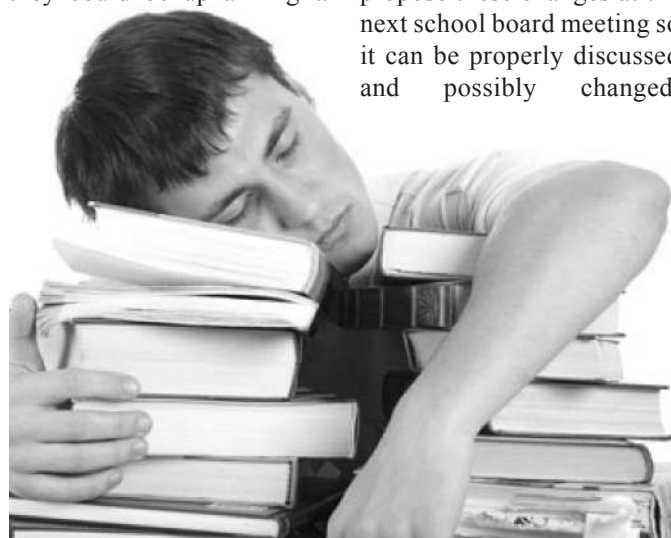
Both students and teachers in the Half Hollow Hills School District are aware that we need to get up very early for school. Everyday students and teachers awake early in order to begin the school day at 7:20 AM. Whether being driven to school, or taking the bus, most people probably need to get up even earlier. Students need to be up about an hour to half an hour before school starts. While, waking up at 6:30 AM is tolerable once in a while, doing it everyday becomes extremely exhausting. Students, in the beginning of the day, walk around in a daze, which makes it pointless to begin class this early. Students would profit and function much better in class if they had more time to sleep and were able to begin the day a little bit later. Another hour of sleep would go a long way. With the amount of work some students receive, along with different clubs and sports, it is likely that they could be up all night.

Not all schools work this way, and function on the same time schedule. Jericho High School begins almost two hours after us. They seem to have a productive sports program, as well as productive students. If Jericho can adjust their schedule, then why can't Half Hollow Hills? A major argument against this is that student athletes will not benefit from this and it will hurt the sport's programs. The sports programs will be forced to cut the possible practice time due to the decreased time after school. Many athletes also don't want to be kept after school too late, preventing them from finishing their work. However, if it will benefit the majority of the school, why are we catering to the minority? Changing the school hours could help students greatly. Beginning the school day later would also prevent students from being forced to wait for the bus in the dark and cold before school. Those who agree, may wish to talk to the school president, or possibly propose these changes at the next school board meeting so it can be properly discussed and possibly changed.

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sists that there has not been an increase in grievances. We requested to interview the security guards, but Ms. Laurer-Bader denied our request for this interview. Ms. Laurer-Bader stated that she, the director, is "the only representative of the library."

The Dix Hills Library spends a lot of money and Ms. Laurer-Bader expends a lot of effort to create a place where community members can go to seek information, help or take part in community events. This generosity is extended to all the community members and students. However, students should respect the library, just as they respect their homes. Parents and residents alike, pay taxes that support the library and the programs. A higher level of respect is necessary. Cursing and harassment and public displays of affection should not be tolerated in or around the library. Disruptive individuals should be removed and the loitering and disrespectful students and teens should be escorted from the property by the Suffolk County Police, if necessary, to restore the educational and intellectual atmosphere that is the library. It should be noted that surveillance cameras keep a watchful eye both inside and outside and may be used to enforce any violation of the library's Code of Conduct.



Yes He Did?

A Fact-Check on President Obama, One Year Later

Nobel Peace Prize Starts a Fight

Steven Saltz

Staff Writer

On January 20th 2009, almost 2 million people listened to Barack Obama make his encouraging inauguration speech, an optimistic view on what was to come when he was president. Obama had made countless speeches, having been involved in an almost two year campaign. Obama promised a new face of government and a change in the way it worked for every day citizens. Now, just about a year later, it is time to hold President Obama to his promises and check up on his progress.

In the presidential campaign, Barack Obama promised to close Guantanamo Bay, a prison for convicted and suspected terrorists. Two days after Obama took office, he signed an executive order to close Guantanamo within a year. However, with no place to put the prisoners, Obama has stalled on closing the prison until further notice. This is one mission

that cannot be delayed. Barack Obama also promised to bring home troops from Iraq. From the beginning, Obama voiced opposition to the war in Iraq, and he swore to bring home soldiers. While Obama has set up a deadline for the last troops to be removed (Aug 31), he has yet to truly end the *War on Terror* in the Middle East, even encouraging more troops to go to Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Barack Obama had a big problem with the tax cuts for the rich. During the Bush Administration, those making over \$250,000 received a tax cut. Obama was committed to repealing these cuts. However, to this day, there has been no repeal of the cuts. President Obama has, however, forecasted an increase on taxes to the rich. Like many of his other projects, Obama is slowly working on it.

It is important to hold elected politicians to their promises. The President still has time to follow through on his guarantees to the American people. With time, hopefully, we will truly see the change.

Monika Haebich

Editor-in-Chief

On Friday, October 9, 2009 the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the latest recipients of the revered Nobel Peace Prize. President Barack Obama, less than nine months into his presidency, was honored as the Nobel Peace Prize laureate for “his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and co-operation between peoples”. The decision to bestow upon President Obama this tremendous prize has invoked a variety of reactions, some applauded and some were nonplussed by the decision. Of the 205 nominees for this year’s Peace Prize, the Norwegian Nobel Committee nominated President Obama for his vision and efforts to purge the world of nuclear weapons.

According to the Norwegian Nobel Committee, the select group of five individuals involved in the selection of the Nobel laureate, President Obama has “created a new climate in international politics”. The foundation also stressed Obama’s hope for a multilateral diplomacy, a more critical role for the United Nations and other international organizations,

more peaceful means of negotiation, and a more constructive role for the United States in regard to the climatic problems facing the world. The committee justified their controversial nomination of President Obama saying, “Only very rarely has a person to the same extent as Obama captured the world’s attention and given its people hope for a better future. His diplomacy is founded in the concept that those who are to lead the world must do so on the basis of values and attitudes that are shared by the majority of the world’s population.”

Although this award serves as a significant stride for America and is symbolic of America’s position as a global power, many were surprised with the committee’s choice of Obama. Skeptics argued that his international influence on peace, so far, has been minimal. Many were also shocked as the nomination deadline of February 1 came only two weeks after Obama’s inauguration and as concrete achievements in peacemaking have yet to have been made. Lech Walesa, former Polish president and Nobel Peace Prize laureate of 1983, questioned the winner saying, “So soon? Too early. He has no contribution so

far.” Many Republicans and right-wing conservatives also denounced the validity of the award even going as far as inculpating Obama’s image as a “celebrity” president. Rush Limbaugh, a US right-wing commentator, proclaimed, “This fully exposes the illusion that is Barack Obama.”

In the past, the Nobel Peace Prize has been known for its difficulty to predict. The award was given to Obama not for his accomplishments but for his visions and goals. In the past, only two other US Presidents have been awarded the prize while still in office. Theodore Roosevelt was honored as laureate “for his successful mediation to end the Russo- Japanese War and for his interest in arbitration, having provided the Hague Arbitration Court with its very first case.” Woodrow Wilson was also granted this honor for his foundation of the League of Nations. Within the last 30 years, however, Nobel scholars have noted what they call a growing aspirational trend; the Nobel foundation has increasingly been giving out awards in support of what is being supported.

Obama intends to donate the \$1.4 million cash prize to charity. “Let me be clear: I do not view it as a recognition of my own accomplishments, but rather as an affirmation of American leadership on behalf of aspirations held by people in all nations,” he said at the White House. “To be honest, I do not feel that I deserve to be in the company of so many of the transformative figures who’ve been honored by this prize.” Alfred Nobel, in his will, specified that the Peace Prize should be awarded “to the person who shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between the nations and the abolition or reduction of standing armies and the formation and spreading of peace congresses.” Although all may not agree with the decision to honor President Barack Obama with the Nobel Peace Prize, the global community can only hope that the achievement will further peace-making efforts throughout the world. Congratulations to Barack Obama for this unprecedented achievement. Let this image and message of hope and universal peace inspire all.

The Seriousness of Swine Flu

Max Gevartz

Staff Writer

The recent buzz about Swine Flu has everybody talking. Although there has been no evidence to support that this Swine Flu will be deadlier than the normal flu, there is still no cure and that’s what makes the H1N1 virus scarier than ever. There are always rumors and predictions about a killer flu that will kill many more people in the average flu season. The Swine Flu or the H1N1 Flu is most common among pigs, however, the danger is when the virus potentially mutates and transfers to humans who have no immunity to it. The Swine Flu may be much more difficult to deal with than the average seasonal flu. Some complications that come along with the flu include pneumonia, respiratory failure and death. Symptoms of the H1N1 flu infection in humans are similar to classic flu-like symptoms, which might include:

* Fever above 100.4 °F	* Cough	* Sore throat	* Headache
* Chills	* Muscle aches	* Diarrhea	* Vomiting

Recently, there has been good news with the Global Flu fight, as the newly developed vaccine looks strong enough to protect adults with only one dose. The shot potentially protects 75%-96%, which is just as strong as the normal flu vaccine. Most people with Swine Flu will recover before needing any medical attention. However, those at high risk with pre existing medical conditions should see a doctor immediately. The CDC recommends doctors to prescribe Zanamivir (Relenza) or Osteltamivir (Tamiflu) for those diagnosed with Swine Flu. All around the country, the sight of Purell bottles has become common as people are doing anything and everything they can to prevent getting this potentially gruesome virus.

Steps you should include in prevention include:

- * Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw the tissue away after using it.
- * Wash your hands often with soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. You may also use alcohol-based hand cleaners.
- * Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, to avoid getting infected by germs.
- * Avoid close contact with sick people.
- * If you do get sick, stay home from work or school.

Swine Flu should be taken seriously, as we are still unsure of just how much of a problem it can escalate into. Swine Flu has been declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The WHO’s official definition of a Phase 6 pandemic -- the highest stage of its pandemic alert system -- is community spread of a new disease in at least two regions of the world.

Iranians Protest Around the World Against Their Current President

Maryam Motazedi

Staff Writer

Thousands of Iranians in exile traveled to New York from cities across the U.S. and Canada to take part in demonstrations against the Iranian government and to protest its alleged human-rights abuses following disputed presidential elections in June. On Wednesday, September 24th, when Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad was scheduled to address the U.N., hundreds of Iranian protesters marched across the Brooklyn Bridge carrying a mile-long green banner to show their solidarity with demonstrators in Iran and to show the world that they are against the violent crackdown on protesters in their home country. Many Jews were seen demonstrating with Iranians.



Poster of Neda held by a protester

Most of the protesters were holding posters of Neda, a young woman who got killed by Basij (Malitia) in the streets of Tehran. They were chanting: "What do we want? – Freedom When do we want it? – Now" and "hey hey ho ho, Ahmadinejad has to go". Many in attendance were wary of giving interviews or being photographed, and would not give their names for fear of reprisals. "The regime uses underhanded tactics," one woman explained. "I had a friend in Los Angeles whose family members were jailed after she spoke out at a protest there.

On September 18th, after two months of almost peace, protests in Iran started again. On Qods Day, the day that every Iranian who blames Israel's actions in Palestine, goes on the streets and chants against Israel, millions of people went on the streets as they go every year, but this year they were

chanting: "No to Gaza, No to Lebanon, I die for Iran."

The Green movement leaders, Mr. Mousavi and Mr. Karoobi were seen among the people. Speakers were chanting from the official tribunes: "Death to Israel." People would chant back: "Death to Russia." Police forces were deployed, but they were standing and doing nothing. They just tried twice to stop the crowd from moving further, but there were many people. The police did not beat them and people could continue moving forward. But Ahmadinejad's supporters and Basij(Malitia) began beating up people who were in the front line and using tear gas, and, as expected, this day also turned violent. The important issue was that officials kept saying that the Green movement has died out and there are no more protests.

They also say that the "Allah A k b a r" chants at night have decreased b u t millions of people went on the streets on the Qods Day. They didn't care about the

Revolutionary Guards warning that it will confront anyone who creates discord. From the beginning, they called on the government to resign. They demonstrated, despite the p u b l i c revelations about rape in prisons, torture, and forced confessions.

I r a n i a n bloggers and opposition Web sites posted video and photographs of a student protest on M o n d a y , September 28th at Tehran University. The Iranian student Web site, Advar News reported that hundreds of University

students chanted slogans against Iran's president, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, including "Death to dictator!" and "Ahmadi, Ahmadi; this is the last message, the green movement is ready for uprising!" Mr. Ahmadinejad was scheduled to appear at Tehran University but did not show up. Authorities had voiced concerns about student protests at universities as the new school year began and had warned students to refrain from political activities. The following day, September 29th was students of the Sharif University's turn to protest. Protesters carried green balloons and ribbons, a symbol of the protest movement since the disputed June 12 presidential election, and banners that read "The university is still alive,". They protested the visit by Mohammad-Javad Larijani, a deputy chief of mullahs' judiciary. As Larijani entered the university hall to deliver his speech he was booed and students started chanting anti-government slogans; "Death to the dictator," and "For as long as Ahmadinejad is around, protests will go on," and then walked out of the hall and continued chanting "The coup d'état government, resign, resign," and "Student will die but not humiliated." Hearing students protest, Larijani was rushed into his bullet proof car and left the scene.

On the same day, hundreds of protesters gathered in Paris to show their disapproval of the actions that were taking place in Iran.



A Tehran Univ. student covering his face while protesting so the Basij doesn't recognize him.

Garbage Dump or Garbage Patch?

Sophia Ahmad

Staff Writer

Imagine you're on a boat, fishing with your friends, talking, laughing, and relaxing. Out of the corner of your eye, you see something white floating, like a jellyfish on the surface of the water. As you get closer to the white

it. This is so because trash coats of continents, such as China and America, all dump their trash into the ocean. The currents sweep up the trash and brings it into the middle; therefore, it's sort of like a vortex of water and garbage is there, swirling in the middle of the ocean. Other than the water being



spot, you begin to notice a couple more white spots. You grab a net, and fish it out. A wet plastic bag is what lies in your net. You look at the bag, thinking to yourself, What the heck is a plastic bag doing in the middle of the ocean? Then your friend suddenly calls you over to the other side of the boat and you look out at the ocean. However, ocean would not be the correct term to cover what you see. Garbage, littered everywhere, is what you see. You can barely tell where the water is. This, reader, is the *garbage patch*. What you have read above is exactly what happened to Charles Moore, a regular guy who just happened to find the patch. However, Moore and Curtis Ebbesmeyer, an oceanographer, didn't exactly describe it as a patch. A patch was probably nothing compared to what Moore and Curtis had seen. They had seen debris, roughly twice the size of Texas. "It seemed unbelievable, but I never found a clear spot. In the week it took to cross the subtropical high, no matter what time of day I looked, plastic debris was floating everywhere: bottles, bottle caps, wrappers, fragments," Moore says. The gyre is composed of trash, mainly, plastic, aluminum, bottle caps, wrappers and more. Aluminum was found in little bits of the gyre, crushed because of all the pressure in

polluted, the gyre is hurting animals. Animals may mistake the bright colored wrappers or caps for food and eat them. Other animals, mostly birds, get their heads caught in soda can holders and more. Different kinds of microorganisms are adapting to the disgusting water. Birds also get food poisoning from eating the remains of a wrapper.

What we can do to stop it is very simple, yet the majority of the population lacks the energy to do so: *Recycle*. There are tons of things you can do to recycle. For instance, when you go to the grocery store and get all your groceries in a bag, bring your own bag. They are also sold in the same grocery stores. Plastic bags are also recyclable, but you can reuse them for other things, such as lining a wastebasket, wrapping up foods when going somewhere, and of course, people with dogs can use them as waste bags. Glass, plastic and paper are all recyclable. Did you know that the plastic bag you probably threw out a couple of months ago is possibly a clothing garment? Plastic has a factor in it, and when combined with a special type of fabric, it gives it the spandex type of feeling. You see, there are unlimited ways to reuse and recycle. If we can all do this together, we can save our oceans, our animals, and our planet.

What’s Happening to the Honey Bees?

Alana Shor
Staff Writer

In the past few years, scientists have been struggling with a biological mystery: the disappearance of honeybees all over the world. According to ‘Vanishing of the Bees,’ a new documentary, which will be released in Britain next month, the newest generation of pesticides is the biggest problem. This particular pesticide is called neonicotinoids. Technically, neonicotinoids should not affect the bees. George Langworthy and Maryam Herein, who

worked on the film, believe that even the smallest of doses may be causing a big problem. Langworthy and Herein are not the first to point a finger at these particular pesticides, along with one of their main producers, Bayer. This is not the only theory about the mystifying vanishing of the honeybees. Colony Collapse Disorder or CCD for short, is the expression that has been originated to describe the new phenomenon. The problem isn’t just that 20 percent of bee colonies are dying off every

year, but that it’s an additional 20 percent of bee colonies. This is an addition to all other pests, illnesses, and problems that torment honeybees today. Bees are dying so fast that losses have totaled, so far to more than a third of the total honeybee population in the United States, and every year we are losing almost eight percent more. Albert Einstein once said, ”If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live.” Is he being proven correct? Only time will tell.



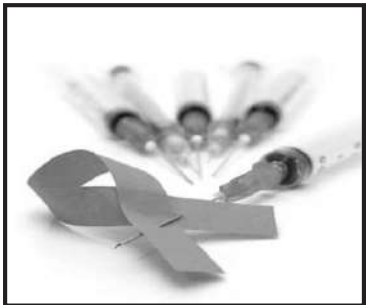
A New Step in the Fight Against HIV

Max Gevartz
Staff Writer

A historic milestone is being made in the fight against HIV and AIDS. AIDS is the disease caused by HIV (human immunodeficiency virus). HIV progressively reduces the effectiveness of the immune system, eventually leaving the body susceptible to other possible deadly illnesses. AIDS is classified as a pandemic and it is estimated that up to 33.2 million people live with the disease worldwide. HIV and AIDS have been especially gruesome in Africa, as up to one in three people in the Sub-Saharan region are infected. There has been recent news of a vaccine that has cut the risk of infection by 31%. This is an extraordinary amount of progress, as scientists previously believed that a vaccine would never be possible with the overwhelming amount of failure in the past.

The largest world trial on AIDS was conducted with more than 16,000 volunteers in Thailand. Although, it might be long before a cure for AIDS is created, this

is the largest step we’ve made in the fight against the disease. The spreading of this disease is still a major problem as 7,500 people are newly infected everyday. The U.N. agency also predicted 2 million deaths in 2007. Although, the accuracy of this trial is truly unknown, this is the first time we have something to hope for. The vaccine, called RV144, is a combination of two older vaccines that had each proved unsuccessful in previous tests: ALVAC, from Sanofi Pasteur, the vaccine division of French drugmaker Sanofi-Aventis; and AIDSVAX, originally developed by VaxGen Inc. and now held by the nonprofit Global Solutions for Infectious Diseases. We’ve only made a small step, but it’s the first of many in the long struggle against this terrible and deadly disease.



More Cases of Autism Emerge

Teron Coleman
Staff Writer

On Monday October 5th, there was a study published by the Journal of Pediatrics which indicates that about one percent of children ages 3 to 17 have autism or a related disorder. This study showed an increase over estimates made in the past. The deputy director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dr. Ileana Arias states, “This is a significant issue that needs immediate attention, a concerned effort and substantial national response is warranted.” Data from the federal

government’s 2007 national survey of children’s health was used in the study. The Health Resources and Services Administration surveyed the parents, with the help of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Results in the study were based on a national survey that took place over the phone. Over 78,000 parents of children ages 3 to 17 were surveyed. Parents were asked whether a health care provider had ever told them their child had an autism spectrum disorder. Autism spectrum disorder, also known as ASD, is a group of brain disorders compromising autism and

two less severe disorders. The other two disorders are Asperger’s disorder a pervasive developmental disorder. The children who suffer from ASD often display a repetitive behavior and show impairment in social interaction and in their ability to communicate. Studies show that there is an estimate of 673,000 children who have been diagnosed in the United States. Children need to be checked out for autism yearly and that if a child was wrongly diagnosed with autism, that the diagnosis be changed. Autism is a disability that needs to be recognized in children early on.

The World Leaders Meet

Josh Rosenberg
Staff Writer

The month of September had been filled with much political and economic drama, both on the home front and in the international community. Our nation is faced with numerous struggles including the healthcare system, rising inflation and increasing unemployment. Yet, while all of this was taking place, the United Nations hosted its General Assembly, where diplomatic leaders from around the world gathered in hope of easing global conflicts. President Obama was one of the first to address the Assembly and was highly criticized by the American media for failing to acknowledge certain issues. Mr. Obama addressed nuclear proliferation, climate change, the global economy, and peace in the Middle East. Although all of these are troubling

the global community, the President’s decision not to address the conflict in Afghanistan irritated many. As of now, the nation is faced with a tough decision, whether to send more troops to the region and continue to fight terror, or drawback and try to persuade other Middle Eastern countries, such as Pakistan, to take care of the situation. On a more positive note, Mr. Obama made enormous progress in persuading other nations to place their own sanctions against Iran, and stated, “If the governments of Iran and North Korea choose to ignore international standards; if they put the pursuit of nuclear weapons ahead of regional stability and the security and opportunity of their own people; if they are oblivious to the dangers of escalating nuclear arms races in both East Asia and the

Middle East — then they must be held accountable.” Iran has been highly controversial lately due to their assumed construction of nuclear weapons that will threaten many nations around the world including the United States and Israel. According to White House sources, President Dmitri Medvedev of Russia is sounding a bit more receptive towards Obama’s objective. This is a major breakthrough. A lot of convincing is still needed to persuade China, Iran’s number one trading partner, to enact trading embargos. However, Iran’s contentious president, Mr. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has insisted that his nation will “warmly shake all those hands which are honestly extended to us.” After Mr. Obama delivered his address, Colonel Muammar al-Qaddafi, leader of Libya, was introduced to

the assembly. It was Qaddafi’s first appearance at the UN despite his forty years in power. Qaddafi shattered protocol by executing a rambling speech that stretched for ninety minutes, instead of the allotted fifteen. Throughout the speech, he suggested many things that

Palestinians, and discharging the Taliban for wanting to create an Islamic Emirate. Many prominent diplomatic leaders were outraged by Qaddafi’s behavior and his misinterpreted view of politics. Within the next upcoming months, the Obama



Diplomatic Leaders at the General Assembly

should be changed or enforced, such as, moving the UN headquarters to his homeland of Libya, creating a state called Isratine for both the Israelis and

Administration hopes to finalize a plan for the war in Afghanistan, and move on with its domestic and international agenda.

HSE's Students Show Their Spirit

**Debbie Fiore &
Erica Kasan**

Staff Writers

High School East's 2009 Pep Rally was a great way to begin the 2009-2010 school year. It was a day when all of the student body, teachers, and staff came together to celebrate a new school year, all the fall sports, and to get excited about the big Homecoming game against Whitman High School. The spirit and the atmosphere of the West Gym was undeniable. Each grade decorated its section of the gym according to the theme chosen for their homecoming skit and float. The Freshman kicked off their first year at High School East with the theme of "Frosh Posh". The Sophomore's tuned into television for inspiration for their skit, and chose "Sopohmore Night Live". The Juniors turned to the wild side of school and chose the theme for "Juniors of the Jungle". The Seniors couldn't decide on a movie theme, so they picked a general movie theme, "Senior Studios". The band played magnificently in

the gym. Your Hills East Cheerleaders kicked off Pep Rally with beautiful performances from both junior and senior varsity. Both received great feedback from the student body about their performances. Great job girls! The Long Island champions, The Dixettes, gave an amazing performance for the students. As always, they were great. Junior Jonathan Casanova performed a great rap for the students which they loved. This was just the start of Pep Rally. Then, all the fall sports teams came out and took team pictures. The Boys Varsity Football came out and were more than ready for the big game the next day! Finally, the princes, princesses, and their escorts paraded in the gym wearing their costumes. Some were celebrities, some were fairy tale/video game characters, even mustard and ketchup, with one of the princesses being a hotdog, walked around! Very creative! The Seniors of the Homecoming Court definitely put on a fun show. It was a great way to end Pep Rally! Pep Rally 2009 was a great success.



Varsity Cheerleaders



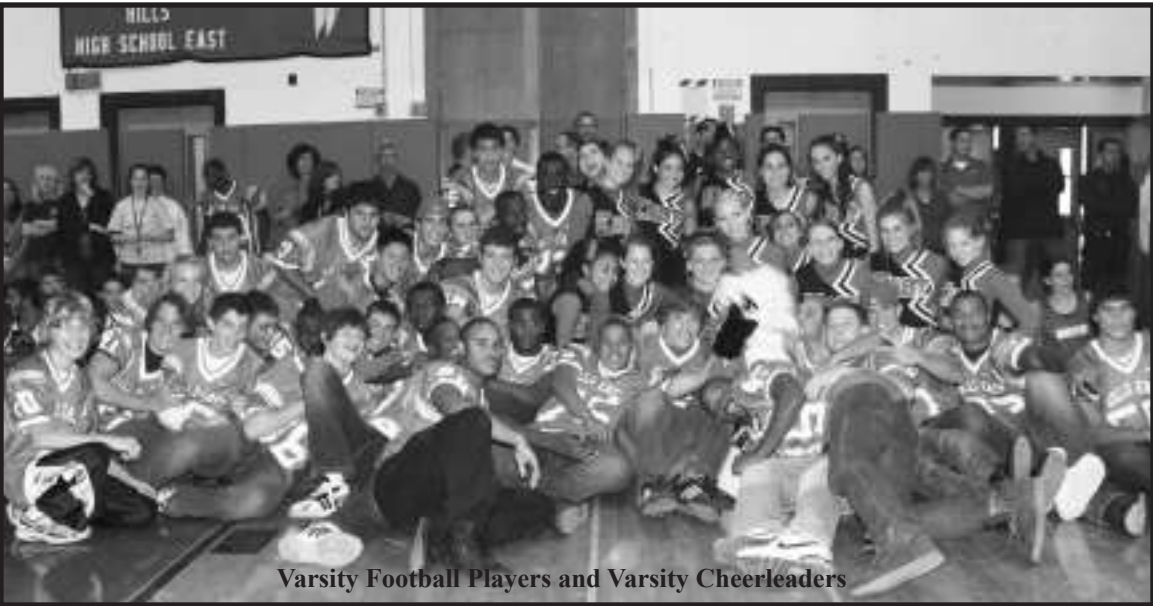
Dixettes



High School East Band



Homecoming Court



Varsity Football Players and Varsity Cheerleaders



A Senior Moment

Hills East Homecoming 2009

Rebecca Harris
Managing Editor

Saturday October 3rd, 2009, was a true Half Hollow Hills East Homecoming to remember. The festivities began with performances by the JV cheerleaders. They were phenomenal, starting the morning off in high spirits. Next, the Varsity cheerleaders put on a flawless and exciting routine, which certainly wowed the crowd. Then, each grade presented its float, skit, and dance. The Freshman theme “Frosh Posh” and the Sophomore theme “Sophomore Night Live” were very creative. It was obvious that the students had put immense efforts into their skits. The “Juniors of the Jungle” theme was a real hit with the crowd, and the float design was incredible. Particularly hilarious was the “Senior Studios” skit, which grabbed the attention of everyone in the stands. The Seniors did an amazing job with their dance, incorporating the perfect balance of humorous and fun choreography.

Now, it was time for the Homecoming Court to strut down the runway of the West Gym. The Homecoming Princesses included Ashley Bennett , Camille Persia, Carly Emmer, Denise Marte, Gina Amico, Gabriela San Roman, Jacqueline Chen, Jaclyn Ruggero, Joo Tae, and Sahel Sra. The princes were Andre Doughty, Cameron Markarian, Christopher Didier, Greer Kaye, Jacob Golan, Jake Bresky, Maxx

Meyer, Ryan Kober, Suraj Chopra, and Teron Coleman. They all looked very elegant in their lovely gowns and formal wear.

By 1:30pm, the highly anticipated football game had begun. There is no doubt that Hills East played an amazing game, and were no match for Whitman. Right from the start, the T-Birds dominated the game. The Varsity cheerleaders, along with the very enthusiastic crowd, cheered the team on every step of the way. When halftime came, the HSE marching band and Dixettes gave a fantastic show that kept fans pumped for the rest of the game, and showed their support for the T-birds. Star players such as Jared Higgins, Justin Teufel, Shawn Charles, and Rob Merckling led the team throughout the game. By the end of the fourth quarter, the fans were on their feet, soaking wet, and doing the “T-Bird Rumble” while filled with joy. The Hills East Varsity Football team had won the game 21-7! The victory was embraced by everyone at HSE. Congratulations to the entire football team for an amazing win!

That evening, Hills East students celebrated at the Homecoming Dance. There, the winners of Homecoming King and Queen were revealed. Congratulations to Andre Doughty and Gabriela San Roman! Special thanks to everyone involved for making Hills East Homecoming 2009 such a success!



Homecoming Princes and Homecoming Princesses



The Dixettes with the HSE band



A great job by the HSE Varsity Football Team



Our administrators enjoying the football game

Fall 2009 Trend Guide

Alexandra Gaspard
Fashion Editor

This past *Fashion Week*, designers showed off their best work. The creations presented on the runways of New York City were innovative, fun, and wearable. From Marchesa to Marc Jacobs, new trends were displayed that are sure to be on every fashionista's must-buy list. Here are the hottest trends for this fall:

Biker Chic

This trend had its beginnings last fall, and this fall it has been continuously garnering more popularity. The idea behind the look is simple: instead of frilly and girly pieces, why not toughen it up? Leather jackets and vests paired with slinky skinny pants or an edgy skirt were hot on and off the runways this fashion week. To tone this trend down for a school-appropriate look, try throwing on a leather jacket over your favorite tee shirts, tunics, and dresses. This simple addition elevates an ordinary piece from your closet into something extremely cool and fashion-forward. Likewise, additions such as quirky zipper details, studded accents, and other biker elements will completely change your current look.

Sheer Genius

For fall, sheer accents are making a big statement. From *Louis Vuitton's* sheer and lacy bralettes to the sheer, molded corsets at the *Fendi* show, sheer clothing is making a comeback, and it's looking better than ever. This look is quite a difficult one to pull off, but anyone can make it his/her own with a few adjustments to the extreme runway styles. *American Apparel* has a fully sheer dress for the statement-making dresser, as well as many sheer paneled pieces for a universally wearable look. A sheer paneled top with a high waist skirt is a great look for a party, and layering a lacy top over a camisole or bandeau is perfect for going out.

Thriller Nights

Lovers of the late Michael Jackson will love the revival of "Prince of Pop" inspired ensembles that paraded down this year's runways. From sharp shoulder pads to sequined and bejeweled

blazers, Michael Jackson would have loved many of the collections designers showcased this season. At the *Balmain* show, models were glowing in sequined, structured military jackets, complete with epaulets and angular shoulders.

Gucci's glamorous separates were extremely reminiscent of MJ's glory days. To make the trend your own, emulate the styles shown on the runway in a subtle way. Many stores are stocking up on sharp-shouldered blazers, sequined leggings, and cool fedoras for the Jackson fashion fiends worldwide. This fall, it's easy to pay homage to the *Prince of Pop*. The key to these fall trends is moderation.

The best fashion tip is to know what looks good on you, and stick with that. Good luck getting dressed!



Futuristic Fashionista: Lady Gaga

Jackie Ferro
Fashion Editor

Lady Gaga, fashion icon or disaster? Lady Gaga stepped onto the music scene in 2008, her single "Just Dance" quickly reached number one on the *Billboard* Hot 100. Her debut album "The Fame" went platinum in the U.S. Her first performance wowed me when I first saw her extravagant attire, a glowing crystallized microphone, and her television screen glasses. It was the first time I ever watched her perform and I, as millions of other people wondered, "Who is Lady Gaga?" Since that performance, her songs reached the top of the charts, and was played on radios around the world. Many people do not understand her style and the way she presents herself. She thinks of herself and her music as art. Lady Gaga is known to shop at a boutique called Opening Ceremony. She boldly proclaimed, "Fash-

ion is my life." The 23-year-old won three of this year's MTV Video Music Awards with 'Best New Artist', 'Best Art Direction', and 'Best Special Effects' for her *Paparazzi* music video.

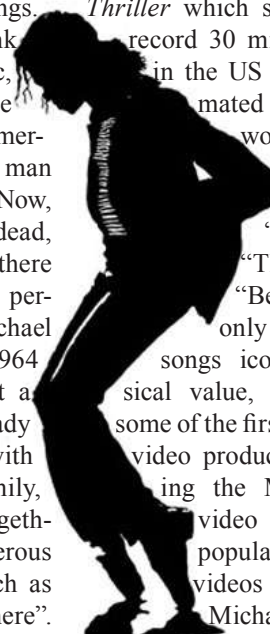
Lady Gaga likes to wear lots of graphics, futuristic, and New York inspired fashion. In a summer interview with *Thread.com*, Lady Gaga strutted around one of her favorite boutiques in Los Angeles. Opening Ceremony. Clad in black sunglasses, a blonde bob and a black leotard she explained what she looks for in the perfect outfit. In the small boutique she picked up the most outrageous clothing in the store, black leather skin-tight dress with sharp hourglass hips. Gaga predicts this season's trends will include lavender including pants,

The King Is Dead: Remembering Michael Jackson

Nathaniel Schwartz
Staff Writer

When most people think of Michael Jackson they probably think of a pale faced, odd-looking celebrity who's done some weird things. What people don't think of is the timeless music, an unprecedented dance moves and impact on American culture that this man had during his lifetime. Now, with the "King of Pop" dead, a question arises-will there ever be a musician and performer quite like Michael Jackson again? In 1964 when Michael was just a young boy he was already a celebrity, starring with members of his own family, *The Jackson Five*. Together they released numerous number one singles such as "ABC" and "I'll Be There". He then went on to record his own music, and in 1979 released "Off The Wall", which had a record four top ten singles on the US charts and sold 20 million copies worldwide. Not only was Michael on the top of the pop

world with melodious ballads such as "Rock With You" and uptempo grooves "Don't Stop 'Till You Get Enough", but he also began to mesmerize fans with his flamboyant dance moves. Then, in 1982 came *Thriller* which sold a world record 30 million copies in the US and an estimated 110 Million worldwide, and contained hits such as "Billie Jean", "Thriller" and "Beat It." Not only were these songs iconic in musical value, but became some of the first ever music video productions, starting the MTV music video culture and popularizing music videos in general. Michael's 14 minute long feature length music video for *Thriller* set the standard for the industry, and incorporated a theatrical plot, costumes, props and highly choreographed dancing. In addition, Michael Jackson became the first African American to be on MTV, and during the 1983 MTV awards, electrified the dance world with the debut of the moonwalk. After a five year break, the hit album "Bad" was released which went on to have a record five number one hits on the *Billboard* 100, combining pop and funk with rock music. Michael Jackson may be remembered by some for his personal oddities and lifestyle, but his unprecedented success and impact on the pop culture and musical world will always last. There may never be an artist again who can sing, perform, dance, and influence the world like Michael Jackson.



Advances of 3D

Jackie Ferro
Fashion Editor

3D technology has taken over the movie screens this year. From horror movies to family movies, 3D brings viewers closer to the movie. In the movie *My Bloody Valentine*, shown in theaters earlier this year, audiences were brought into the movie with such things as an axe appearing as if it was being thrown out into the audience. Other movies such as Pixar's *Up* and *Monsters Vs. Aliens* were

also brought to life by 3D animation. Along with the innovation of high definition, 3D seems even more realistic. This year, 3D movies have brought a more increasing amount of ticket buyers in recent years. However, some people think there are some health risks. Daniel Engber of *Slate.com* thinks that in earlier times of 3D it has caused some viewers problems such as eyestrain, headaches, and nausea. 3D isn't a new invention. The first 3D projection was in 1983

and it caused the colors to look washed out and made people nauseous. One clarification of these effects is when something flies out of the screen in the theater, "our eyeballs rotate inward to follow it, as they would in the real world. Reflexively, our eyes want to make a corresponding change in shape, to shift their plane of focus. If that happened, though, we'd be focusing our eyes somewhere in front of the screen, and the movie itself (which is, after all, projected on the screen) would go a little blurry. Therefore, we end up making one eye movement but not the other; the illusion forces our eyes to converge without accommodating," Daniel Engber explains.

This year, 3D movies have brought an increasing amount of ticket buyers in recent years. 3D isn't a new invention, as it seems to be. The first 3D projection was in 1983 and it caused the colors to look washed out and made people nauseous. One clarification of these effects is when something flies out of the screen in the theater, "our eyeballs rotate inward to follow it, as they would in the real world. Reflexively, our eyes want to make a corresponding change in shape, to shift their plane of focus. If that happened, though, we'd be focusing our eyes somewhere in front of the screen, and the movie itself (which is, after all, projected on the screen) would go a little blurry. So we end up making one eye movement but not the other; the illusion forces our eyes to converge without accommodating," Daniel Engber explains.

2009 is now known in the technology world as The Year of 3D because of its huge success at the box office. Even though there may be some difficulties of the 3D experience for some, researchers and animators are still working to make the 3D experience. This new revolution of watching movies has definitely brought a lot more people to their local theaters.



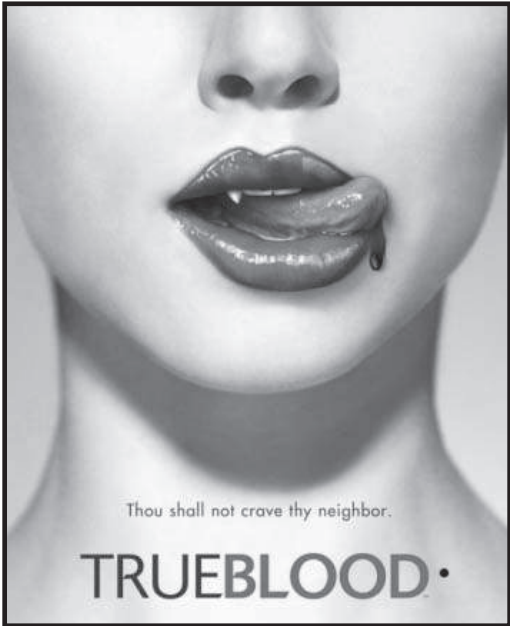
Teron Coleman
Staff Writer

The hit show, *True Blood* is currently airing its second season on HBO. *True blood* is a drama series that is loosely based on a series of novels called *The Southern Vampire Mysteries* by Charlaine Harris. *True Blood* takes place in a small town in Louisiana called Bon Temps. The show begins when the Japanese make a synthetic blood formula that can replace human blood. Once true blood is circulated around the world, the vampires "come out of the coffin". Some people are content with the vampires because they are so curious to interact with a new, unknown species, whereas, others hate them because they feel that the vampires aren't "god's creation." The cast consists of Anna Paquin, Sam Trammell, Rutina Wesley, and Stephen Moyer, as well as many others. The new series has won 10 awards so far and has 25 nominations, 3 of which are Emmy award nominations.

The pilot of *True Blood* debuted at 1.44 million viewers, compared to the network's past drama premieres such as *Big Love* which premiered at 4.56 mil-

lion, and John from Cincinnati which debuted at 3.4 million (MetaCritic). However, by late November 2008, 6.8 million a week were watching: this figure included repeat and on-demand viewings (LA Times). The season finale showed that a amazing 2.4 million viewers tuned in. "True Blood" has reportedly become HBO's most popular series since "The Sopranos" and "Sex and the City" (NY Times).

True Blood is a very interesting show. The second season just ended, which means that there will be lots of reruns for any newcomers. This show can be watched on HBO at 9pm on Sunday nights. If you have cablevision, it will be on channel 82. Although *True Blood* is an amazing show, this series is not for kids. Viewers will be intrigued by the vampires of *True Blood* as they take their breath away in the hit show.



Healthy Italian Recipes

Nicole Losquadro
Staff Writer

Bruschetta:
Low-fat, tomato based bruschetta spread with ripe tomatoes
To make 36 appetizer servings the ingredients are:
3 tablespoons olive oil
1 tablespoon snipped fresh chives
1 tablespoon snipped fresh basil
1 tablespoon lemon juice
1 clove garlic, minced
2 cups seeded and chopped plum and/or yellow tomatoes
1/2 cup finely chopped red onion
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper
1 8-ounce loaf baguette-style French bread
Fresh basil (optional)

Directions:
1. In a medium bowl stir together 1 tablespoon of the olive oil, the chives, basil, lemon juice, and garlic. Add tomatoes and onion; toss to coat. Season to taste with salt and pepper. Set aside.
2. Cut the bread into 36 slices.



Arrange bread slices on 2 large baking sheets. Lightly brush one side of each slice with some of the remaining 2 tablespoons olive oil. Broil bread, one pan at a time, 3 to 4 inches from heat for 2 to 3 minutes or until toasted. Turn bread and broil other side for 1 to 2 minutes or until toasted*.
3. To serve, with a slotted spoon, spoon tomato mixture onto the oiled side of each toast slice. If desired, garnish with fresh basil. Serve within 30 minutes.
*Note: Bread slices may be toasted up to 1 day ahead. Store in an airtight container at room temperature. To make seafood bruschetta: Prepare as above, except decrease tomatoes to 1 cup. Add 6 ounces lump crabmeat or 6 ounces peeled, deveined, cooked shrimp, coarsely chopped; and 1 tablespoon snipped fresh dillweed to the tomato mixture.

Archie Marries Veronica vs. Archie Marries Betty

Melena Mayer
Staff Writer

Surprising many fans of *Archie Comics* that has been around since 1939, the small-town teenage redhead from Riverdale is finally making his decision: who he wants to spend the rest of his life with. The comic is filled with drama, heartbreak, and jokes. The much-anticipated six-part comic is expected to come out in November. The wedding is a way of celebrating the 600th comic. Since 1939, Archie has had it easy, having Betty and Veronica, but finally he has to decide. Will he pick Betty or Veronica? Betty and Veronica have been having this fight over Archie since the comic first came out; they both got to share him but now he picked Veronica to be his wife.

The first issue is called "Archie marries Veronica" and the 603rd issue is "Archie Marries Betty". Archie finds himself going down memory

lane. He sees himself married to Veronica with twins and working for her father. In the next issue, Archie sees himself in Riverdale High School, imagining his life with Betty. "It still boils down to the girl-next-door Betty versus the rich-and-worldly Veronica," says George Gene Gustines, New York Times. Archie's online profile says "He does things on the spur of the moment, which almost always gives him a very keen cause for regret."



Long Island Music Scene

Taylor Berke

Staff Writer

Long Island claims to have the most diverse and successful music scene in the entire world. With genres ranging from Indie to Rap, and Punk to Classical, anyone can find a musical artist that interests him or her. Many successful bands hail from this tiny little island, including: *Brand New*, *Taking Back Sunday*, *Run-DMC* and *Dream Theatre*. With many up and coming bands forming in the area, the future for music is bright for Long Islanders and fans of music everywhere.

The music scene is not without its faults. "Pay to play" is running bands into the ground and not offering chances to talented artists that cant afford it. "Pay to play" is simple. A band needs to buy the tickets from the venue and sell them to make the money back. For example, the *Crazy Donkey* will sell an unknown band around 40 tickets at \$10 each. Not many bands can afford this, and therefore, are not given the opportunity to play and get their name out there. The now defunct "Downtown", which was situated in Farmingdale, allowed many bands to play for free, and thus improved the music scene as a whole. However, with the closing of many of these types of venues on Long Island, the most talented of bands cannot play the music they love simply because of money issues and the greed of the venues.

The scene on Long Island

also has a strong brotherhood. When the tour bus of Indie/Punk Band *Bayside* crashed, their drummer John "Beatz" Holohan, was killed. Many bands and fans of the band or just the genre as a whole got "Beatz" tattoos and wrote songs specifically in his memory. The most famous and powerful of these songs is the track "Winter", which was released on an acoustic album by his former band, *Bayside*. The album, which was recorded in just two days, peaked at number 200 on the Billboard 200.

Many bands in the scene are familiar with each other and try to support one another by going to other shows. Many times a band's whole crowd is just other bands who watch them for support. Some bands enjoy playing together as well, but many club owners do not allow it. What these club owners don't understand is that they're hurting the bands and themselves. If bands were allowed to play together, the amount of people attending would increase, making everyone happy. But until then, bands will have to deal with playing with unfamiliar people and in front of small crowds.

While its current state is not exactly perfect, Long Island boasts one of the most popular and successful music scenes in the entire world. Young and old bands from the small island are constantly playing in shows and feeding the starving music fans. The future in music is bright for this tiny island.

The People or the Gun CD Review

Taylor Berke

Staff Writer

Anti-flag is one of the most influential "punk rock" groups of our generation. *Anti-Flag* is known for their fast, in your face style that makes it impossible not to move your body. No other bands are willing to truly work for change in the government, in addition to change the way we are treated. Despite being controversial, the band is known for having positive influences. All members of the band are "straight-edge", meaning they abstain from alcohol, drugs and meat. They are able to relate to and touch the

lives of the teenagers their music is aimed towards. They are not just a band, they are a community. They are able to bond thousands of kids despite race, skin color or gender. With a discography spanning nearly two decades and counting, they are a band to keep an eye on.

Their newest release, entitled, "The People or The Gun", is arguably their best effort yet. Following the very different "Bright lights of America," this album proves that they are

returning to their roots.

The album includes eleven tracks, with four bonus songs depending on where it is purchased. As usual, the songs criticize much of what the world's governments are doing. Guitarist and lead singer Justin Sane has stated that "By being our own producers, we are able to get the record out quicker and sing

catchy guitar riffs and solos. Lastly, drummer Pat Thetic is able to keep a beat and play fast, which is really all that is required. Pat really shows his talent by being able to blend into the song without being a distraction to the other instruments.

Anti-Flag toured this summer on the *Warped Tour* playing their first single "When All The Lights Go Out" during some sets. This fall and winter they are touring Europe in support of their latest album. Fans have had very positive feedback to the latest live shows. I was able to witness them live very recently and can honestly say they are the best live



about more current problems plaguing our country." This is proven to be true with the tracks, "The Economy Is Suffering...Let It Die," and "The Great Depression."

Chris #2 proves, once again, that he is the most skilled bassist in the "punk rock" genre. His bass lines are extremely fast and powerful. He really shows that he doesn't just take the easy way out, like most others who play in similar bands. Guitarists Justin Sane and Chris Head also display their talents with

band in the business. Despite many fans being unfamiliar with many of the new songs in the set, they didn't fail to get fans to mosh and run around.

Proving that they still have it after 20 years, *Anti-Flag* is a band that doesn't fail to stay with the times. The latest effort "The People or The Gun", is a truly amazing album. With songs that are able to be modern and current, the songs feel fresh and exciting. This is a record that any fan of punk rock has no excuse to not pick up.

2012 Tesla Model S

Tre Mitchell

Staff Writer

The 2012 Tesla is only the second model for the car company from Silicon Valley. It's fast, luxurious and definitely an eye catcher. At the same time, it is very good for the environment because it's a hybrid. Unlike other hybrid vehicles, it's a midsize luxury sedan (about the size of a BMW 5-Series Wagon) that can carry five to seven passengers at least 160 miles on a charge. The Tesla Model S will go 0-60 mph in a about 5.6 seconds and charges within

45 minutes. It has a similar front end to the Maserati Quattroporte and the back of it looks like the Jaguar XF. This is all very impressive. The steep price of \$56,400 may change a number of people's minds, even though a \$7500 "green car" federal tax credit brings it down to \$49,900. When looking for a car like this however, the amount of special features that the car contains, may justify the price. Owners may use 120-, 240-, or 420- volt outlets to charge the Tesla S. Production for the Tesla should be expected sometime in 2011.



Technology May Terminate a Beloved Tradition

Allison Wooster
Staff Writer

Those who are fond of the scent of an old book will have to rely on memory in the future. New technology, once again, will make it possible to transfer novels and other pieces of literature onto the Internet. Already, many high schools throughout the country have dropped their textbooks and opened up their laptops. Many educators believe that the Internet will override a textbook's use in upcoming years. It is also a belief that the creation of E-books will contribute to the conclusion of textbook literature. A child in the future will most likely not be able to hold his/her first book but instead will have to scroll down the page of a computer in order to find the meaning of a story.

In high schools such as

Empire High School and Cienega High School in Arizona, the Internet is already a replacement for textbooks. Teachers give their students pod-casts in order to hear the lessons; students can also register for digital sections to learn about many of their courses. The district also encourages an idea called "Beyond Textbooks," which encourages teachers to teach their lessons digitally. Dr. Abshire, an officer for the Calcasieu Parish School System in California, agrees with this plan because she thinks children will receive more information from the Internet about these topics

posted by the New York Times. Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger also supported this idea in one of his announcements this past summer. Although Schwarzenegger thinks this idea will lighten the load of a student's backpack, it will also be un-affordable for many districts with a low budget. William M. Habermehl, a Superintendent of Orange County schools, believes that "The majority of students will be using digital textbooks".

The "Kindle" is a new revolution of a book. It is much thinner and saves much more paper, as advertised on Amazon.com and is easier on the eyes. Many have already been using this device since 2007 and its new upgrade will now attract more buyers. President Barack Obama supports this idea in his proposal regarding online courses. Although this new way of reading conserves trees, it takes away the beloved tradition of opening a book and reading the story. Traditionalists believe that a reader won't grasp the true meaning or feel a connection to a story if he/she is not holding it between his/her fingers.

rather than a textbook as stated in the article, "In a Digital Future, Textbooks Are History"

Gossip Girl: Censorship Controversy

Arielle Dollinger
Staff Writer

According to the *New Oxford American Dictionary* **censorship** is the practice of officially examining books, movies, etc., and suppressing unacceptable parts an issue that has been debated for as long as the media has existed, and will forever be unresolved. After all, who is to decide what the public deserves to know, and what it does not?

Fox News recently featured a story detailing parental concern about an episode of *Gossip Girl* that had yet to air. The episode was said to suggest (and quite possibly illustrate) a threesome. According to the article, parents were concerned because of the show's target audience, which consists predominantly of young girls, many of the middle school age. Attempts by parents to dissuade the network from airing the episode failed, as the episode did in fact air. This, of course, only served to fuel the complaint cannon, being that three of the show's main characters end up in bed together. In addition, it is implied that threesomes are something that are not uncommon in a college setting, which can definitely send the wrong message to the very impressionable middle school audience. Future episodes will depict the potential ramifications of such a

situation, thereby continuing to shine a light on a very sensitive topic, one, which parents do not want to find themselves discussing with their young children.

With the volatility and insecurity of the issue of censorship in mind, I decided to ask some of my fellow classmates whether or not they think that the episode should have been aired. Should the network have been more cautious, keeping the show's audience in mind? Or, are parents too sensitive? Is this simply an example of one of the many negative aspects of the world from which parents would ideally shield the innocent eyes of their children? But the next question that comes to my mind is: whose responsibility is it to protect those innocent eyes? Is it the responsibility of the network to know its audience and to only air appropriate material, or is it the responsibility of parents to control the television programming that airs in their own individual households? "I think it's the parent's responsibility [to censor the televisions in their own households] if they don't want their kids watching it," says Elissa Warmbrand, a senior at East.

Jackie Chen, fellow senior, agreed. "There have been many things that [parents] would deem inappropriate that have already happened on the show, and it's up to parental supervision to limit [and influence] what the children make of what they see." And so, when asked whether the network was wrong to air the episode despite parental complaints, she replied, "Well speaking from a business point of view, no I don't because that's how you make money. You get more viewers that way; you try to appeal to your population. You can't make everyone happy, and maybe this show was not designed for middle schoolers."

According to senior Suraj Chopra, "For shows that are specifically made to cater to the young audience, producers should be more prudent [when it comes to the content of] their shows. But, at the same time, parents should know what their kids are watching and, if they have a problem, do their part to stop their kids from watching it." It is clear that there is never a concrete answer in matters of censorship. A simple change in perspective can change one's entire view of the situation. But, as far as the media is concerned, censorship only creates barriers, which must be broken in order to keep the public informed and aware - something that is extremely important in today's world.

Hate Crimes Continued from Page 3

day, October 8th, the House of Representatives voted on whether or not to expand the definition of "hate crime" to include the crimes committed because of the victim's gender, gender identity, disability or sexual orientation. The most recent vote resulted in a majority of proponents for this including the new definitions in the law. There were not enough votes, however, to confirm the motion. If the law pertaining to hate crimes was made official, it would show the capability of Democrats to move difficult measures with their escalated numbers in Congress. Other hate crime provisions have been passed in both the House of Representatives and the Senate, but have not been able to get all the way to the end. The hate crimes law would give the federal government the ability to take legal action against vio-

lent crimes of anti - homosexual bias when local authorities neglect to do so. It would also set aside 5 million dollars a year for the Justice Department to give help to local communities when they investigate hate crimes which can sometimes take a toll on police resources. Senator Carl Levin of Michigan says, "The hate crimes act will hopefully deter people from being targeted for violent attacks because of the color of their skin or their religion, their disability, their gender or their sexual orientation, regardless of where the crime takes place." Democrats believe that the bill will distinctly inhibit prosecution based on one's expression of political, religious, racial, or other beliefs. The law also says that nowhere in the legislation can the rights under the First Amendment of the Constitution be declined. [NYTimes.com] Also, in California, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger recently signed a bill recognizing Harvey Milk for his activism in the gay rights

movement. The new law states that May 22, Milk's birthday, is a day of "special significance" and prompts schools to show recognition and appreciation for the day. [NYTimes.com] The greatest amount of hate crimes are committed against African Americans. This affects not only the black communities, but also everyone around them because of the history they have with brutality and racism. The hate crimes perpetrated against African Americans are included in the Hate Crime Prevention Act, which currently restricts interference by force, with the indulgence of the federal right on the foundation of race, color, religion, or national origin. [Adl.org] Action should also be taken in the law enforcement department. Many incidents of police brutality towards African Americans have taken place in recent years. People who commit these assaults against blacks aren't prosecuted harshly enough, even if the attack resulted in the death

of the victim. If fiercer measures are taken to aid African Americans, there might be an increase in the willingness of blacks to cooperate with police and other white officials. Hate crimes are committed in the United States much too often and few measures are being taken to stop them. In order to help homosexuals, the House of Representatives voted to expand the hate crime bill to include sexual orientation, sexual identity and other things. More things, though, could be done to help African Americans. Action should be taken in the law enforcement department as well as in the communities. Schools should take these matters a lot more seriously and address them directly. If more preventative measures are taken throughout the country, crime against these groups would most likely recede and the country will be more at peace.

High Expectations for the New Stadiums: Citifield and the New Yankee Stadium

**Josh Rosenberg
& Matt Rosenberg**
Staff Writers

The baseball season began with high expectations as the New York Yankees and the New York Mets opened the doors to their new stadiums. Fans and athletes alike could not wait to see how these teams would perform. During the pre-season, the buzz was that both the Mets and the Yankees had a shot at bringing home the World Series Trophy.

On paper, the Mets looked unbeatable. They had a team put together with strengths at every position. Their solid infield was back, led by David Wright, Jose Reyes and Carlos Delgado. Carlos Beltran was also ready to go in center field. Most importantly, the Mets finally looked as though they had their pitching staff in order. The Mets were looking very strong with their starting pitchers. These pitchers were Johan Santana, John Maine, Oliver Perez and Mike Pelfry.

There were also high hopes for the newly signed closer, Francisco Rodriguez (a.k.a. “K-Rod”). The Mets were ready to bring many victories to their new ballpark.

As for the Yankees, they were as solid as ever backed by their shortstop, Derek Jeter. They certainly looked like they had the players to make it all the way. How could they not be successful with a lineup that included Alex Rodriguez, Johnny Damon, Mark Teixeira, Jorge Posada, Hideki Matsui and Robinson Cano?

As the season openers arrived, the excitement in the new Citifield and Yankee Stadium was great. The question on everyone’s mind was which of these two teams would become this year’s champions? It was then that the injuries began. First, Yankee third basemen, Alex Rodriguez tore his right hip labrum. He tried to play through the pain, but in the end, he needed surgery and

was out for weeks recovering. Catcher, Jorge Posada, ended up on the 15 day disabled list in May with a right hamstring pull. Also, after that Chien-Ming Wang required shoulder surgery. The Yankee fans could not believe their bad luck. Would these injuries destroy the high hopes for the Yankees and their fans this season? As everyone is aware, injuries to key players can turn what was expected to be a successful season into a disaster. The big question was, will these great players become healthy soon enough to keep this season alive for the Yankees? This question was soon answered as the players returned and the Yankees began to do what they do best, WIN!

It was not long before the injuries also hit the Mets. Unfortunately for them, these injuries had a devastating effect. In March the Met’s pitcher, Billy Wagner required elbow surgery and was out for the season. In April,

catcher, Brian Schneider was placed on the disabled list with a strained back and first baseman, Carlos Delgado began having hip problems, which took him out for the season by May. In May, the Mets also lost their pitcher J.J. Putz, who needed elbow surgery as well as shortstop, Jose Reyes, who had right calf tightness. By June, the Met’s center fielder, Carlos Beltran was placed on the disabled list with a bone bruise in his knee, along with the designated hitter, Gary Sheffield, who also had knee problems. The final hit came in August when the Mets lost their last two starting pitchers for the season. Johan Santana was out with bone chips in his elbow and Oliver Perez was out with right patellar tendonitis. Player after player fell, until this great team was nothing more than a Triple A Farm Team. Players had to be brought up who were not ready for the big leagues, and this led to loss after loss for

the Mets. What started off as a season of high hopes, turned into a disaster. Unfortunately, injuries got the best of the Mets and any hopes for the post season or for even a winning season were over. The Mets organization was forced to regroup, get their players healthy, and come back strong for the 2010 season.

As the regular season has come to an end and post-season has come and gone it is clear that the expectations of one great N.Y. team have been met as the other team fell far short. The injuries suffered by most of the Mets starting players put their dreams of post season play to rest, and they will have to wait until their 2nd season in Citifield to bring success to this new stadium. The N.Y. Yankees brought home the World Series trophy in their first year playing at the New Yankee Stadium? Congratulations to the New York Yankees on their World Series win!

Home Plate Takes a Step Forward at Citi Field

Joshua Rosenberg
Staff Writer

What a year it has been for the Mets! The inaugural season of Citi Field has been disastrous for one of New York’s favorite teams. Doubts have been raised and many have questioned the validity and structure of the new \$900 million ballpark, including the size of its field.

The Met’s former ballpark, Shea Stadium, gave up the ninth-most home runs of any park in the major leagues in 2008, while Citi Field has only given up the sixth fewest in 2009. In addition, the Mets have the fewest home runs of any team in Major League Baseball, which has easily been proven due to their many losses and humiliation.

David Wright, the team’s franchise player, had struggled to hit home runs at home during the 2009 season. Thus, some key figures in the MLB are proposing that home plate be moved 10 feet forward in

order to shorten Citi Field’s dimensions, without having to knock down any walls. Unleashing bulldozers on the outfield walls and rearranging seats would cost the team a fortune, which is the perfect reason why moving home base is the easiest and cheapest way to benefit the team. However, this would strongly affect those who had paid thousands of dollars for a seat behind home plate because they would now be 10 feet farther from the batter’s box.

The Met’s possible decision of shifting home base forward will most certainly not be the first in the MLB. Many ballparks, including those of the Orioles, White Sox, and Dodgers have all altered the dimension of their fields numerous times in order to accommodate their players.

As of now, the Met’s Association has pledged that home plate will not be relocated any time soon, at least not until after the 2010 season.

So You Think You Can *Dance*

Ricki Siegel
Staff Writer

Nick Lazzarini, Benji Schimmer, Sabra Johnson, Joshua Allen, and Jeanine Mason are five talented people who share one huge accomplishment in common. These five people are famous to the world of dance because they were each voted *America’s Favorite Dancer’s* on Fox Five’s hit series, *So You Think You Can Dance*. *So You Think You Can Dance*, also known as SYTYCD, is a reality television show about young dancers performing various types of dance, all competing for the title of America’s Favorite Dancer. The auditions take place in different cities and, after those first auditions, the people who make it through to the next round, go to Las Vegas.

They have a week to prove themselves to the judges because at the end of “Vegas week”, the judges decide on the Top 20 dancers. Once the

dancers are in the top 20, they are randomly paired up and choose different dance styles with all different choreographers in order to perform for the judges and America. When in the top 20, the dancers will be performing styles such as Pop Jazz, Contemporary, Disco, Hip-Hop, Bollywood, Broadway, Samba, Mambo, Argentine Tango, Jive, Waltz, Rumba, Quickstep, Paso Doble, Ballroom, Cha-Cha, Swing, and Foxtrot. There are many choreographers that each dancer gets the opportunity to work with. Usually, the three judges are executive producer, Nigel Lythgoe, Mary Murphy, and then a guest judge, which is sometimes one of the choreographers.

The eliminations begin with America choosing the bottom three couples and the judges deciding which male and which female will have to leave the show. Once

the voting comes down to the top ten, the dancers change partners and it is all in “America’s hands” to choose itys favorite dancer. SYTYCD is not just about technique and training, but it is about style and personality that one brings to the stage. *So You Think You Can Dance* is a phenomenal show that has already had a total of 12 Emmy nominations winning five of them. In addition, there have been five Teen Choice Awards nominations with a total of 2 wins. All of the SYTYCD fans have never been more excited to have another season begin so quickly and they can’t wait to follow along with their favorite dancers. *So You Think You Can Dance* is on Fox Five Tuesday and Wednesday nights.



New York

Yankees:

King of the

AL East

Hills East Wrestling

Cody Lau

Staff Writer

The road to the playoffs began a little shaky for the New York Yankees in their inaugural season at the new stadium. They showed signs of weakness when they trailed in the AL East Division behind the Boston Red Sox and Toronto Blue Jays by 2.5 games. That was at the beginning of May, but at the end of the month, their big bat, Alex Rodriguez, came back from hip surgery. When he returned, the Yankees took control of the division and hardly let that lead go.

By the end of August, with the lead they held, the Yankees, most likely, had no doubt they would clinch the AL East. They held the top spot for seventy consecutive days. Sure enough, on a soggy Sunday on September 27th, 2009 the Bronx Bombers handed the Red Sox another loss that would complete a three-game sweep of Boston. This game also led the Yankees to reach the magic number that would enable them to win the American League East Division title and to clinch a playoff spot. The last American League East Division title for the Yankees came in 2006 which is considered a very long time for the legendary franchise. They also earned themselves home-field advantage for the postseason with their 100th victory of the season and their best record in the MLB. By securing home-field advantage, the Yankees took advantage and did what they haven't accomplished since 2004. The expectations of the Yankees were sky-high, considering they have the largest payroll in the Major Leagues (\$201 Million). Winning their division was just the first achievement of the season, which has been highly judged and brought back another championship to the Big Apple.

Lindsay Sperin

Staff Writer

What does it take to be a wrestler? Like any sport, wrestling requires commitment, motivation, hard work, and goal setting. It also requires that you have some form of year round physical commitment. There is “no substitute for experience”, as Coach Magnani says.

To be a wrestler, you don't necessarily need to be wrestling all year, but you also can't be sitting around just waiting for the season to start. As soon as school starts, many wrestlers par take in pre-season intramurals to get back in shape. In the pre-season, the wrestlers work on developing skills and getting into the best shape they can. Some wrestlers get involved with pre-season tournaments in order to test themselves, gain experience, and set short-term goals. Once the season starts, this year it began on November 18, 2009, practices are everyday, Monday- Friday, for two and a half hours. Practices are hand- to- hand, physical, and very demanding. Blood, sweat, and sometimes even tears are shed.

Many times, when people think of wrestling, they get a wrong impression of the sport because athletes have to make a particular weight class. Wrestlers go through a very serious weight certification designed to make sure that they stay at healthy weights for their age and size.

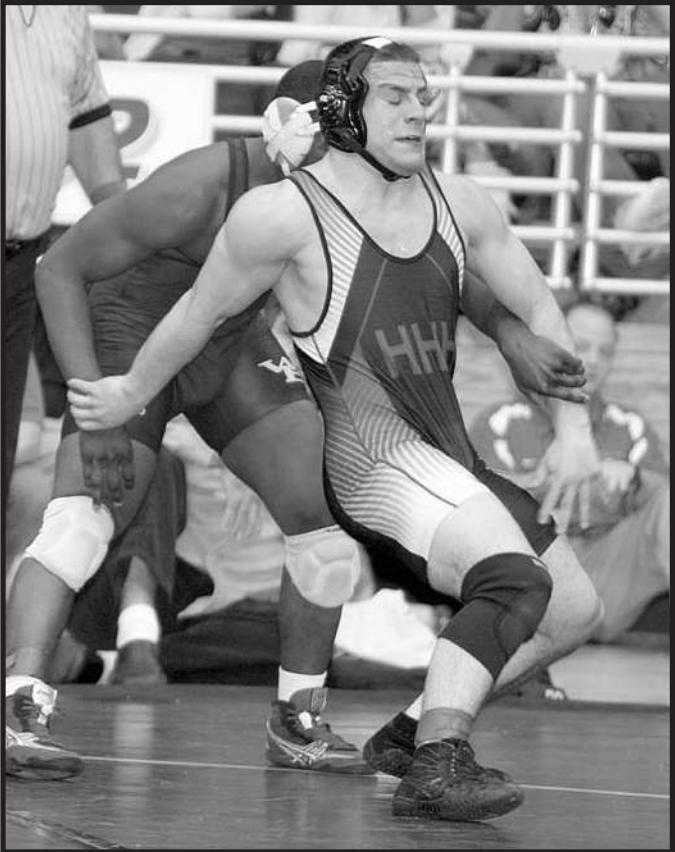
This year, there are six tournaments and eight dual meet competitions. For every tournament that a wrestler is in, it's an all day commitment. Depending on where the tournaments are, wrestlers have to catch a bus at approximately 6am. Weigh-ins are from 7am – 8am. After the wrestlers make weight, they are able to eat up to +3 pounds. Tournaments do not usually end until 8pm – 9pm. Dual meets run very similarly. On days of dual meets the athletes walk into school and get weighed-in downstairs in the wrestling room. After hopefully making weight (if they don't they are unable to wrestle that day), they are allowed to eat up to +3 pounds throughout the day. They then must get weighed-in again with the other team.

After the season is over, there are League Championships and County Champi-

onships. There are also State Championships for those who qualify after Counties. There is also post-season wrestling, freestyle, that many of the wrestlers also participate in.

Coach Magnani says that the team is looking good for the 2009- 2010 season. There are many returning veterans: Dorian America (171), Man-

ny Caballero (152), Corey Jones (112), Deshawn McNeil (140), Rami Saad-el-din (285), Tommy Shair (145), Nick Terzi (130), Armand Touhamy (119), Samir Touhamy (135), and Ryan Delaney (145). There is also a lot of new talent this year too. So, Good Luck Boys!!!! We hope there are many wins this year!



HALF HOLLOW HILLS CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT OF

HUNTINGTON AND BABYLON

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THUNDERBIRD

HILLS EAST SPORTS CORNER

HHH Swimming and Diving Team

Lindsay Sperin

Staff Writer

Who knew High School East had a swim team? Who knew High School West had a swim team? I knew, and the other forty girls on the team knew, but why didn't you?



Some members of the HHH Swimming and Diving Team

Since swimming and diving are "left out" of the high school sports culture, I highly doubt that many students in either of the two high schools would be able to respond with a "yes" to any of the above questions.

Swimming and diving are one of the few sports where the team actually comes together

as a family. Every day, for six days a week, two hours a day, for about three months, girls from both of the high schools come together to become one team. The girls practice to perfect the four different strokes: butterfly, freestyle (also known as front crawl),

backstroke and breaststroke. Every August when the time of pre-season rolls around, approximately sixty girls come together and meet at the High School West Natatorium. The team is a walk-on team. If you can handle the workouts, you become a member of the team! The reason for this is

because we start out with a large number of girls then tend to lose swimmers once school starts. This is because the amount of work we do at one practice is more than what most people would even try to do in a week. Every day we have a warm up; this consists of four one hundreds and a cool down lap, then we take direction from our coach as needed. In case some of you have never seen the High School West pool, it is twenty-five meters long. When a swimmer says that she swam a "one hundred," what is really meant is that she can swim four twenty fives, or four laps. The coach really works us, but in the end, it pays off; last year's record was 9-2! This year we are hoping to do even better than that, and with all the new talent that we have, I doubt that we'd do anything less! Although the team doesn't get much publicity except by word of mouth, I think that everyone should try to come out and support our team!

We're a team that always does our absolute best, especially when we have fans and supporters who come to cheer us on!!!

HSE Cross Country Team

Nathaniel Schwartz

Staff Writer



The Hills East Boys Cross Country Team (distance trail running up to five kilometers) is coached by David Gumbus. The team began the season by attending a cross-country camp where the athletes ran twelve miles a day for six days straight. Junior Greg Perrier, one of the top runners in the County, leads the varsity team. Greg has been the 1st man in all six dual meets and has won three. He is *1st team All-League*. To achieve this status, one needs to be the

top 7 runners of the league out of 42 runners. The team came in 9th place out of 18 teams at the Jim Smith Invitational and 4th place out of 17 teams at the Bob Pratt Invitational. In addition, they came in 2nd place at the Westhampton Invitational. They competed at Brown in Rhode Island and has wins against Central Islip, West Islip and Bayshore. As one can see from their impressive record, they are a hard working team in all practices and in meets



Girls Varsity Soccer

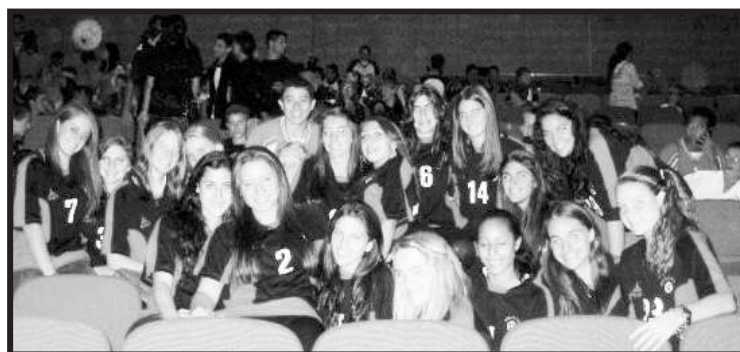
Alexa Teeman

Staff Writer

The Hills East Girls Varsity Soccer Team has worked very hard this season. Leading them are captains: Laura Vavoules, Lexi Geraci, and Danielle Gebhart. These three players are determined to win and

will do whatever it takes to lead their team to victory. When asked their goals for the season, they replied, "to work well as a team, have fun, and win!" However, their most important goal is to make it into playoffs for the second year in a row. This would be a huge accomplishment for the girls and their coaches,

considering they are in an extremely talented league. The coaches this season are our very own Coach Horan and Coach Panzerina. This dynamic duo works hard at making the sport fun for the girls, and, at the same time improving them as a team day by day. They do different drills improving their footwork, stamina, and reflexes. When asked their favorite drill, players agreed to a drill called "Bread and Butter." During this drill, the goalkeeper punts out the ball and two teams battle it out till one scores a goal in one of the two nets. Immediately, the person who scored has to take a ball and restart the drill against a new team. The team that stays on the



Girls Varsity Soccer Team at the Pep Rally

longest wins! This season Neuburger, and Amanda has been rather successful Turturro. Goalie Kelsie Cunningham had 6 saves. The second win was to Riverhead, on our very own turf field. The score was an astonishing 5 to 0. Talk about a victory!

