For the past several years, students, teachers and parents of the Huntington school district have rallied behind the team full force. The group that came to be known as "Ready, Step" has been going strong ever since. Although Youlanda serves as the team's advisor, the team is truly run by the students. "Because of my military background, I can tell the kids if they are getting the steps wrong, but they make up the routines," said Youlanda. The routines are predominantly created by the captains but "whoevers knows a step teaches it," explained Destiny Brown, a member of the team.

In 2004, a group of students from Huntington High School had the idea for the Huntington step team, which went to Ms. Youlanda and asked her to help them start a step team. The group that came to be known as "Ready, Step" has been going strong ever since. Although Youlanda serves as the team's advisor, the team is truly run by the students. "Because of my military background, I can tell the kids if they are getting the steps wrong, but they make up the routines," said Youlanda. The routines are predominantly created by the captains but "whoevers knows a step teaches it," explained Destiny Brown, a member of the team.

Brown described practices as "a game you would like to play," while some of her other teammates spoke of the challenges and triumphs they face during the week to learn steps.

The team is chosen by walk-ons, meaning that anyone is able to join. However, if a member is unable to learn a step in time for the team, they will not be allowed to perform. No prior experience is necessary as the team gives new members a chance to learn how to step. Thus, it is a very inclusive environment that helps student Riccia Renee "get over [my] shyness."

This year the team will soon be returning to the competition scene. They have to add more trophies to the collection in the main hallway. The school is providing significant financial support to send the Huntington step team to such competitions. Both the art and athletics departments have rallied behind the team full force.

At these competitions Ready, Step will compete against schools in the area. Youlanda fondly recalls one of the last competitions the team attended at which they beat Walt Whitman, the then number one team. She hopes this year's team will have a similar success story to bring home. To prepare for these competitions, the team must choreograph a four minute routine of strict stepping, no dancing. In addition to competitions, the team performed at the Homecoming pep rally. Their performance at the pep rally combined their usual stepping moves with dance routines to make it more exciting for the students. The crowd went wild for this year's performance. Senior Olivia Weiler commented, "What they do is so cool and in January, yet it took easy!" Sophomore Anna
Inside the GSA
HHS Gay/Straight Alliance growing in membership

There are certain clubs and honor societies that are very well-known to the student body. There are some, however, that seem to fly under the radar. The Gay/Straight Alliance (GSA), despite almost ten years of operation in relative obscurity, has been picking up new members, fresh interest, and momentum this school year.

The GSA at HHS was first organized by an art teacher around 2000, with the intent to provide a safe emotional outlet for students harassed because of their sexual orientation. Meetings were held in a nondescript room in the basement, and attendance was only by request – one had to speak with the advisor to find out how to join. Membership lists were kept secret, for fear of inviting aggression. Even so, membership totaled around thirty people, with twenty showing up on average at each meeting.

English teacher Mr. Roy Dumar, who is the club’s current advisor, joined the GSA in 2002, and was a part of the push to make meetings more public. Finally, in 2005 the GSA opened its doors and publicly announced meeting times and locations, as well as hung up advertisement posters urging students to join. This corresponded with a change in objective; where before the club’s aim had been to help those being harassed, the GSA now focused on awareness programs and workshops.

“We’ve made efforts to be more visible as a group in the school, and perhaps that visibility has led to our growth and inertia.”

STEP TEAM (continued from front page)

Schiffmacher said, “They are a very talented group of individuals who want to showcase their skill and bravery to people who love watching their performances.”

The step team prides themselves on trying hard and not giving up. Whether the team members love it “because of the attention and performances” like Destiny Brown or because they want to “have fun and do something” like Mickaia Memeh, the members of Huntington High School’s Step Team have worked well together to prepare for their upcoming competition, and are ready to stomp their way to victory.

BRING AVEGGIE (continued from pg. 3)

for veggies including King Kullen, Fairway, and Trader Joe’s. “My family and I shop at Fairway, which is awesome! Best samples ever,” added Jacobs.

Even at school there are vegetarian options such as pizza, wraps and sometimes pasta. For those who do want meat-like choices offered, they tend to pack their own lunches. “In our school, people are very diverse and there are other vegetarians, so being one is very easy,” commented junior Eric LaPorte.

Most vegetarians are comfortable and accustomed to this particular taste choice, and many have been doing it for years. Blatt said, “Over the years, it’s become a part of my life. I don’t think about it anymore.”
For some, being a vegetarian may just come down to having a weak stomach. Once people have seen it, it can be hard to put the horrors of the meat industry out of their minds.

At least that is the case for one Huntington High School student who when asked why they became a vegetarian simply responded with the name of a Youtube video. “Cruelty at New York’s largest Dairy Farm” began with a cult getting its horns burned off, and gets worse from there. It is very important to some vegetarians not to support the meat industry. “Factory farming is a massive industry in America, where practically every meal involves some type of meat. Since the demand of meat in America is so high, factories do as much as they can to produce the most meat at the lowest possible cost” said senior Shayne Larkin, who does not eat meat so as not to add to the demand for inhumanely produced meat products. Most vegetarians at Huntington chose this lifestyle for themselves, although some are influenced by their family or friends. For example, sophomore Aaron Zimmerman said, “It was a self choice, although I was slightly influenced by my brother, Jake, to become a vegetarian.”

Once a person decides to become a vegetarian they have to figure out how to maintain that choice. Many non-vegetarians cite the loss of protein as a reason that vegetarianism is bad, but “most Americans already eat more protein than their bodies need, and eating too much protein can increase health risks,” according to the American Heart Association. “Many people ask me where I get my protein from. All vegetables, nuts, beans, seeds, and grains contain some protein. This is how I substitute for my lack of meat. I also find it interesting that in countries where the traditional diet contains a low amount of protein, there is a lower rate of cancer” said junior Hnelle Blatt. Some vegetarians also deal with any missed nutrients by adding vitamin supplements to their daily consumption.

“Nutrition aside, vegetarians also have to deal with what to eat in place of meat, especially when they have friends and family who are carnivores.” “There have been many times when I have eaten at a friend’s house and I couldn’t eat what everyone else was eating because it had meat,” said senior Cody Jacobs. However, most vegetarians are good at finding alternatives. “For lunch I make salad. I make great salads. I put lots of veggies in them like nuts, cheeses, dried fruit such as craisins and avocado to make them exciting,” said Larkin.

Many restaurants in town are vegetarian-friendly. Indian and Thai eateries always seem to offer many different vegetarian options and most vegetarians don’t really find themselves limited in town. Many local supermarkets are also hot-spots (continued on pg. 2)
BLAST FROM THE PAST: POKÉMON
by STEVEN CORRELL AND MIKE O’CONNOR

Everyone had fantasies of what they wanted to be when they grew up. For many of us, those fantasies entailed boundless adventures capturing and training Pokémon and the aspiration of becoming a true Pokémon master. Upon hearing the phrase, “Gotta Catch ’em All,” many of us were instantly sent on a nostalgic trip back to our childhoods. "Gotta Catch ‘em All" is the phrase, many of us are instantly sent on a nostalgic trip back to our childhoods. The phrase, “Gotta Catch ‘em All,” is the phrase, "Gotta Catch ‘em All."听见这个短语, 许多人被带到一个充满童年的怀旧旅程。"Gotta Catch ‘em All," 是这个短语，许多人被带到一个充满童年的怀旧旅程。「Gotta Catch ‘em All」是这个短语，"Gotta Catch ‘em All"。Meanwhile, students opposed to school uniforms are concerned that they eliminate independence and self-expression. It subtractions students from feeling distinctive or unique. Uniforms take away children’s identity and the diversity of the school as a whole. Another disadvantage of school uniforms is that it denies the children the ability to wear what they feel, which therefore contributes to the disregard for uniform guidelines.

No matter what they stood on the issue, fashion students had a chance to create both male and female garments that portrayed a fashionable yet practical solution to the issue of dressing inspiration from uniforms around the world. Richard Gray, a fashion III student, and the author (note: author Marissa Goldstein is a fashion III student and fashion intern for Ms. Amy Worth), worked together in creating a cohesive mini collection of a male and female uniform.

The real world, this probably would not be acceptable, but we stepped outside the box and provided an interesting twist to the standard school uniforms you usually see. Chloe Drace, a fashion III student, designed a set of garments that stuck to the normality of uniforms, but gave them a more high-fashion and likeable appeal. Each student was able to incorporate their personal fashion sense into the garments they designed and the final creations were in fact really impressive. These designs can be viewed in the art hallway across from the main office.

With the many different opinions and views pertaining to the controversy of school uniforms, I asked a few students where they stood on the topic. Up until last year, senior Jackie Waldron had always attended private school. “It makes things a lot easier not having to pick a different outfit everyday of the week,” she said. “It also eliminates competition between students and it is a huge money saver, but they do it.” However, having worn uniforms throughout most of her education, Waldron says that she would not mind if Huntington High School began enforcing them. Alie Wieland, a fashion III student and fashion intern, admitted, “People wouldn’t think that I’d be for school uniforms, but to be honest, deciding what to wear everyday is such a pain. I’d wear one as long as I was allowed to spice it up a bit.” On his experience attending a private school, senior Matt Carley commented, “Uniforms made me feel uncomfortable because I lacked the ability to express myself through my clothing. There is literally nothing beneficial about uniforms. They are a fashion catastrophe.”

Even though school uniforms will most likely never be a part of District Three, it still makes one wonder what Huntington High School would be like if everyone was forced to wear school uniforms?
by AMY EISEN and DAVID STILLMAN

There seems to be a new craze in our town: Frozen Yogurt. And we are not complain-
ing. Even though it’s winter and the snow keeps coming, we will happily eat this tasty treat year round. There are four main yogurt vendors in town – Ben and Jerry’s, Red Mango, The Late Choice, and Yogurt Crazy. We gladly would have added TLC to the list, but they apparently don’t think we can handle eating a cold treat with cold hands, as they do not serve their soft serve in the winter. But we will all soon disregard the snow and eat an ice cold frozen yogurt.

Ben and Jerry’s

Ben and Jerry’s. More famous for its ice cream than for its healthy alternatives, but you’d be surprised to learn that they have four flavors that look and taste like ice cream, without all of the extra fat. The choices are Half Baked, Chocolate Fudge Brownie, Van-
nilla, and Black Raspberry. While they are super sweet and creamy, they lack the au-
thenticity of true frozen yogurt. We are not in love with the flavor selection, but the Half Baked is our favorite. If you’re in the mood for ice cream, Ben and Jerry’s is the place to go, but if you’re jonesing for fro-yo, we suggest elsewhere. We give Ben and Jerry’s two and a half cups out of four.

Red Mango

The arrival of Red Mango in the village was one of excitement and anticipation. People love the taste, variety, and style, and so do we. An interesting twist was its use of self-service, allowing customers to mix and match flavors and toppings. We, however, discovered some possible sanitary issues from this tour, as little kids may be stick-

ing their fingers in the wrong places. That aside, Red Mango has the most exotic flavors, with all four of our thumbs going up to Irish Cream and Hibiscus. Their seasonal flavor changes are also delightful, as their winter Green Tea yogurt is both steamy and freezy. We do sincerely notice their lack of a cocoa flavor. The modern and fun décor makes spending hours inside enjoyable. Also, their selection of fruit toppings is the best in town. We give Red Mango three exotic cups out of four.

The Late Choice (TLC)

Huntington’s history has shown that 293 Main Street has been a curse for ice cream stores, as Hershey’s and Tasty Delight have both come and gone, but The Late Choice hopes to reverse the curse. TLC prides itself on its super healthiness, and we mean it’s SUPER healthy. It’s 100% natural, organic, without artificial flavors or additives. They can make any flavor any time, with a huge variety of over 70 flavors. While it’s technically not frozen yogurt, as it has no cultures, it lacks the fat to be considered real ice cream. Well, whatever it is, it is a delicious healthy alternative. We do miss the excitement of bright pinks and deep chocolate brown, as every flavor, from Dark Chocolate Truffles to Mango, is off white. They have a couple frozen yogurt selections, although we recom-

mend sticking with the soft serve. We give TLC three healthy cups out of four.

Yogurt Crazy

Everyone is nuts for Yogurt Crazy, no pun intended. Although the Chocolate Peanut Butter swirl is heavenly and exactly like a frozen Reese’s. This was our favorite destin-

ation, as it’s the original self-serve frozen yogurt place in town. We, still, however question its hygiene, but we’ll put our faith in their workers to clean and clean if it means we can continue to indulge. If you’re looking for a tart, clean tasting original frozen yogurt, we highly recommend Yogurt Crazy. The other classic flavors have a nice creamy texture, but are both delightfully sweet and delightfully tart. We give Yogurt Crazy a whopping four cups out of four.

The Dispatch examines . . .

What’s Hot

1. “Born This Way” by Lady Gaga
   - Gaga’s new hit single is streaming on the radio, YouTube and Facebook like crazy. A fun song with a powerful message, “Born This Way” will definitely reach billboard status. Her new album with the same title is to be released on May 23.

2. Never Say Never
   - As much as we hate to admit it, Justin Bieber’s documentary film raked in $12.4 million on its opening day. If you resort to paying $10 to see it, do yourself a favor and bring some Advil – 95% of the audience is known to consist of obnoxious girls screaming their heads off the entire time.

3. Green Bay Packers
   - New Yorkers couldn’t back in the glory of seeing their Jets claim the title this year, but we respectfully cheered on the victorious Green Bay Packers in Super Bowl XLV.

4. Winter workouts
   - Even though summer’s presence seems hopeless right now, many are hitting the gym or their basement treadmills to get fit and fab for the warm weather.

5. Facebook banners
   - Some Facebookers have taken advantage of the new layout that shows their five most recent tagged pics by putting a banner there instead.

What’s Not

1. Mubarak – Eighteen days after the protests in Egypt began, President Hosni Mubarak finally agreed to resign.

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

The Editorial Board is the newspaper’s decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. The Dispatch staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2010-2011 school year.

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

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

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the Dispatch, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

The Dispatch’s goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, The Dispatch will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

The Dispatch accepts advertisements from local businesses and student organizations. The basic rate for advertisements is $2.50 per column inch. Requests for specific pricing, and examples of past advertising may be requested via e-mail through dispatch@hufsd.edu. The Editorial Board reserves the right to refuse any advertisement deemed inappropriate, specifically those that reference illegal or controlled substances, products, services and/or paraphernalia.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

As you know, I was interviewed for an article about AP a few weeks ago and what went to print was a little misleading. It should have said that colleges expect that students who have the opportunity to take an AP class and the ability to be successful in that AP class, enroll in it. Students won’t necessarily be penalized in the college admission process if their high school doesn’t offer AP, but if the high school does, and the student’s prior year grades demonstrate potential success in an AP curriculum, the college expects enrollment. Colleges expect students to enroll in the most demanding course load possible, commensurate with the student’s ability.

Thanks,
Mrs. Walsh

Dear Editors,

For the last issue of The Dispatch I was interviewed for the article “Is AP for Me?” My quote was taken out of context, and therefore was misleading. What the article should have said was that students who sign up for AP classes need to be prepared to work hard. The reality of meeting the challenges of an AP class sometimes comes as a surprise to students, despite having been told that the course would be demanding. My advice to all who sign up for AP classes in the future is to make sure that you are up to the challenge in terms of ability, motivation, and work ethic.

Sincerely, 
Mrs. Beck

A Forced Farewell

It’s hard to talk about and plan school activities for next year, such as The Dispatch, when we don’t know if The Dispatch will still be around. This year every club has to wonder if it will be around next year. Students don’t know what will happen to their club sizes or what courses will be available. Many teachers are unsure which classes they will teach, and even more seriously whether they will still teach at this school. Many seniors count themselves lucky to be avoiding the issue, but for underclassmen cuts in next year’s budget pose a serious threat to the high school as we know it.

The biggest influence on the school budget comes from the school board as they are the ones who must approve it, as well as David Grazer the assistant superintendent for finance and management services, and John Finello, the superintendent as they are the ones who make the budget. However, it is also largely impacted by the funding we receive from the state. The school board voted to create a budget that would not raise taxes by more than 2%, but there is a proposal for the state budget that will likely come into effect the following year for a mandatory 2% cap on taxes, which would mean the school board could not increase taxes more even if they wanted to. As estimated at the last board meeting, 2% means cutting the equivalent of 91 teachers.

Any tax cap from the state is a bad idea and could be detrimental for our district. Huntington is considered by the state to be a wealthy district despite also having large mandated expenses by the state. The state should not dictate a tax cap because they cannot possibly know what is best for individual districts. We know legislators are trying to look out for their constituents who do not want to see property taxes go up. However, there are also many people who do not want to see public education suffer and would be willing to pay a little more to see their kids get the best education possible. It is also possible that they firmly don’t want to see taxes go up, but either way it should be left to the individual districts.

The state tax cap has not been approved yet, however, the school board has recommended to keep the budget to a 2% increase this year. The idea is that people are suffering from property taxes, the economy is bad, and putting off cuts this year will only make things much worse next year. This all makes sense, although cutting the cost of 91 teachers seems a bit extreme. We do not yet know exactly what cuts will take place, but as students we are convinced that larger class sizes and no extracurricular activities would strongly and negatively impact our education. We know a 7% increase would be extremely high, but it seems like more of a compromise could be reached.

This month the course catalog was sent home to every student who will be in the high school next year. It includes new courses such as AP Environmental Science, and courses that have not yet been run such as Military History. It can be really confusing to students when we hear about budget cuts, and then see new classes being added. It is even more confusing because we have heard threats of budget cuts for the past several years and though we have seen changes such as some larger classes, and one or two electives that didn’t run this year, nearly all of our clubs, sports, other extra-curriculars, classes and teachers have been left alone. However, as of right now the threat of budget cuts is real, and will have a major impact.

The best thing for students to do is to stay informed. Go to the board meetings and stay involved so that the board sees that we are the ones being affected and we care about the decisions they our making. While it may not change the reality of budget cuts, it will at least keep our wishes on their minds.
How safe is Huntington High School?

Our school is safe

by EMILY MUGOLDRICK

When fights are constantly breaking out and violence is running amok outside of school grounds, it is easy to conclude that Huntington High School is an unsafe learning environment for students. In spite of this, many disregard the measures the administration has taken, especially within the last couple of years, to ensure that HHS students are able to have the best learning experience possible.

The most recent change in school safety procedures is the new ID policy, by which students must visibly carry their ID cards or risk lunch detention and in the case of seniors, loss of their privileges. When these consequences are enforced, the majority of students wear their IDs and can easily be differentiated from disruptive outsiders. These standards aid in the recognition of possible intruders within the building in the case of an emergency and the regulation of all activities that may endanger students.

The security booth located at the front entrance of the building plays an important role in overseeing the comings and goings of students, teachers and parents. During most of the school day, there is a guard at the podium whose responsibility is to supervise who enters and exits the building, whether it is seniors going out to lunch, Wilson Tech students preparing to leave at mid-day, or parents arriving for meetings with teachers.

Security at Huntington High School continues to be crucial to the safety of students in further ways. It is a common known fact that security guards are frequently patrolling the hallways to check student IDs and urge kids to move on to their next class, while also clearing passages between classrooms four years ago, since their establishment of video surveillance ensures that illegal activity does not occur in these out-of-sight locations.

Moreover, many benefits have come with the establishment of video surveillance in corridors four years ago, since their records are crucial in discovering any unwanted activity that may occur while pupils are studying in class. The purpose of these cameras range from distinguishing trespassers to moderating student actions to documenting the causes of incidents within the school, even when hallways are crammed with students in between periods.

While some argue that one of the most recent changes in school safety procedures is the new ID policy, by which students must visibly carry their ID cards while also clearing passages between classrooms so quickly as possible. And, of course, security repeatedly breaks up fights among students and discourages brawls from happening in the first place. In addition to security guards, HHS is fortunate enough to have the advantage of the presence of Officer Drew who is frequently stationed in the school.

The role of teachers in providing a safe educational atmosphere plays a significant part in maintaining school safety as well. Most notably among their actions is positioning of faculty members outside of the doorways of restrooms throughout the building; this allows teachers to monitor who goes in and out of the bathroom rooms. This practice also ensures that illegal activity does not occur in these out-of-sight locations.

“Many disregard the measures the administration has taken to ensure that HHS are able to have the best learning experience possible.”

Students face daily threats

by ARI MUSKOWITZ

Whether we like it or not, fights are prevalent at Huntington High School. You can never control where you are at what time. Fights at schools are unavoidable; it is inevitable that teenagers will fight. The issue is larger than insignificant skirmishes, the problem is safety. Is Huntington High School a safe place? Some may respond yes, Huntington High School is safe, but that is because they have grown up in this environment since they were young. A safe place is a place in which everyone is comfortable and no one is scared. Most people think that being unsafe is witnessing gang fight daily, but that is also false because what make a place unsafe is the subtle harassment that happens under the radar.

A presentation addressing the dangerous environment of HHS was given earlier this year by Joshua Stickell, Hannah Rice and Erika Negrete Cruz. The presentation was entitled “The First Step,” and demonstrated that bullying is an enormous issue at our school, in New York State and throughout the entire country. If asked, all three students would agree that Huntington is not a safe community. Everyday, people get bullied at school and has a friend at Huntington, and they don’t like you, one day they could walk into school together to beat you up and then leave. This scenario seems unlikely, but as an instigator or bystander for your own inhabitants it is necessary that the school take all precautionary measures to avoid any problems.

But, as stated by the aforementioned example, IDs only protect the school from external threats. According to “The First Step” presentation, our school’s problems are internal.

The final questions for the school are to analyze what the largest safety issues are. With problems both internal and external, one wonders if it is simply impossible to ever achieve total security at Huntington High School.

Leave your journalistic mark on Huntington High School before it’s too late.

Join

Dispatch

Catering for all occasions
35 West Shore Rd.
Huntington, NY 11743
P: 631-549-0282
F: 631-549-1110

"Student Special" with every sandwich, a free 32 oz. iced tea with a student ID

Porco’s Surfside Deli
Boy’s Track

The Huntington boys’ winter track and field team may be the latest Blue Devil sport on the rise. After what Coach Ron Wilson called a “rebuidling year,” the team expects to pose as a challenge to other teams across the state. A mix of strong leadership by the veterans and intense energy and talent amongst the underclassmen will undoubtedly lead the team to achieve this goal.

“We hope to be one of the most elite teams,” Coach Wilson said. After a rather disappointing winter last year, the team will work toward this aspiration with the help of devoted captains and plenty of seniors willing to lead the team on the comeback trail. With the departure of just two seniors from last year, the team chemistry won’t be severely altered or damaged. “The seniors helped out last year, but we were there with them. I’m not too worried about this year,” Captain Irayvon Toney explained. Coming off a winter where he earned all-league honors, Toney will continue his success in the shot put alongside dominant fixtures Richie Fernandez and Dante Allen. The consistently strong performances by the veteran throwers are expected to mirror the strength of the freshman class.

The freshman members of the track team have caught more than a few eyes. In the early season, “This freshman class is stacked with a lot of talent,” Coach Wilson remarked. This talent is already making a huge contribution to the team’s success. Freshmen including Y’Majesty Allen, Josh Watkins, and Matt Whitcher, are regarded as the future of the program.

With a strong core of freshmen and dedicated veterans contributing to the team, the winter track and field team will certainly prove to be one of the most competitive Blue Devils’ programs this season.

Bad calls or bias?

In sports there are referees, officials, umpires, linesmen, time keepers and others who are paid to keep the order and administer the rulings in a sporting event. Many, if not all student athletes, including those at Huntington High School, believe that refs often have a bias during games.

Huntington District Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics Mrs. Georgia McCarthy does not doubt that referees can develop a bias as the game progresses, but she believes that “coming into a game, refs do not hold a bias towards one team.”

Coach John Walsh, the girls’ varsity softball and soccer coach said that there are rules in place that prevent biased officiating. “Umpires who have any association with a certain town to officiate in a game involving that town,” he explained. This may be seen an all-smiles attempt to avoid bias among the refs because there are other larger issues regarding the officials that effect the game more.

The umpires that officiate high school sporting events are not always the highest quality refs to the most important games. Even though they may be rated the best, they still sometimes make mistakes which often makes players think that they are unfair.

Of course, in the heat of the moment many players and coaches become combative with the ref and argue with them, Girton Moreira, a varsity soccer star, said that it is “normal to argue with the ref. It happens all the time regardless of the sport.” Nicholas Lupi, a two sport varsity athlete, recounted the story of a teammate of his that “flipped out” at an official at a wrestling tournament. “The competitor was ejected, losing the game because of his argument with the official.”

Coach Walsh strongly believes that “it is important for a coach to keep calm because if a coach loses control his players will as well.” He added, “I know most of the officials out of the game and so I try to keep my cool when discussing a call with a ref.”

The ref’s job is to enforce and interpret the rules of a game. This can be a daunting and difficult task with athletes yelling and screaming at them. Hopefully in the end, the good and bad calls will even other out and the best team will triumph, but regardless the official has the final say, and that’s that.