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HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Huntington High School

APRIL 08

CLOSED CAMPUS FOR 2010

by JENN SZILAGY

Recent discussion of whether or not senior privileges will be taken away at Huntington High School has caused strong controversy amongst its students and staff, particularly with the Class of 2010.

Because of fatal accidents that continue to occur on Long Island by teen drivers (the most recent of which killed one and injured two students on April 10th in West Hempstead), administrators feel it may be necessary to close the campus completely. This decision has produced varied opinions throughout the building.

“I hope underclassmen can see this initiative for what it truly is, an act out of concern for their safety, not just as an arbitrary revoking of privileges,” explains Huntington High School President Megan Doyle. “I know it seems unfair to close campus, especially since going out for lunch is a senior privilege underclassmen can’t wait to have, but student safety is the administration’s first priority.”

Surprisingly to some facility, many students agree with Doyle’s statement. “I don’t think it would be wise for the school to wait for something tragic to happen before taking action to insure our safety,” said one student.

The sophomore class has the most to say about the possible withdrawal of privileges, because their senior year is the one currently threatened. “We need more privileges,” states Kirsten Freiman, an active member of the class of 2010. “We might as well close campus now before more kids are injured or killed, but someone has to come up with a good solution.” Dayna Reyes, a second associate of the sophomore class also expresses her questions. “Shouldn’t our parents decide whether or not we are allowed to go out? We need a good compromise; the lunchroom is already crowded as it is.”

The biggest concern among upperclassmen is not whether or not they’ll be allowed to leave the school campus for lunch, but whether they will gain another privilege in exchange for this one. Most of the other schools on Long Island, including Kings Park, will gain another privilege in the spring. “We might as well close campus now before more kids are injured or killed, but someone has to come up with a good solution.”

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News in Brief
National History Day
In March, several HHS students distinguished themselves in the National History Day competition. Five students who went to the Long Island Regional History Day contest will be moving on to the state competition.

Caitlin Eri, Kirsten Freiman, Rebecca Silverman, Colleen Teubner, Jeffrey Bishop, Aliyah Cohen and Mia Rienzo will take their projects the the New York History Day competition.

Poetry from the HART
Seniors Mia Parziale and Jordan Castle were two of 15 winners in a Huntington poetry contest. Their winning pieces will be featured on Huntington Area Rapid Transit (HART) busing that runs through the town. Mia’s poem is called “Sleep” and Jordan’s is called “Terminals.”

Huntsville's current system is that it is near impossible to be free. “A beacon resists; as the open-source geek motto goes ‘FTP is but a pipe dream. ’”

Fortunately for the administration, the Internet takes a Herculean effort. Huntington High School uses an automated system to ensure that any Internet browsing bears on education. Unfortunately for the administration, the Internet resists: as the open-source geek motto goes -- “information wants to be free.”

The question of what to censor is a hard one, especially considering the Internet’s ever-changing nature. Most institutions have decided to err on the side of caution. Huntington’s censoring software, the St. Bernard Web Filter, blocks things for a number of reasons ranging from lascivious content to science, politics, news, and technology.

This hits the Forensics classes especially hard laments Edward Florea, a teacher of Forensics. While acknowledging the system’s benefits and the ability to “block specific images, while allowing others,” he wishes temporary privileges could be bestowed for particular sites. Most of the year, crimelibrary.com fails to fulfill the requirements for approval, but it proves a fantastic resource when researching serial killers, a relevant topic in the class.

As Ms. Decanio, the school librarian, attests, a system through which sites could be temporarily unblocked would be beneficial for many student research projects, though any system of this variety would be ripe for abuse. A system of similar stock was used in Huntington prior to 2005, through which different users could log into the same computer, with their respective clearances. This helped teachers dole out data as they saw fit. Unfortunately it was sometimes being unauthorized students started finding out passwords and abusing reduced restrictions.

One of the major problems with Huntington’s current system is that it is near impossible for blacklisted sites to regain membership in the ranks of the permitted. Ms. Decanio admitted to knowing of no process for amending erroneous censorship. Mr. Cracken, speaking for the technology department, said that one had to go through Dr. Leonardi to get a site approved.

According to the policy found at the front of Huntington High School agenda books, students and teachers have access to general Internet tools including, but not limited to electronic mail (e-mail); List-servs; UseNet News; File Transfer Proto-col (FTP); Telnet; Gopher and the World Wide Web. “Since the policy e-mail services are still blocked -- independently of St. Bernard’s Web Filter program, the science research classrooms are granted access to e-mail, and even then only after numerous requests. Despite the schools alleged policy, to this day the e-mail service, access to FTP is but a pipe dream.
Playfest 2008:
Science Fiction theme inspires senior class to seek redemption

by Timothy O’Grady

Huntington High’s annual Playfest was held on February 2nd, 2008. Each grade had to create a student-run play that followed this year’s theme, “Science Fiction.” The event was hosted by Sophomores Ian Coneys and Jake Fleisig who joked about breaking the precedent of having the event hosted by a senior.

The night started off with the Freshmen’s Sci-Fi Musical. The play involved an evil scientist that created some sort of lethal poison that was soon to wreck havoc in the world. The dances (including The Time Warp) and constant movement on stage made for a successful first attempt by the Freshmen.

Next came the Sophomore’s play “Spaceplay” that was directed by Fleisig and Coneys. The production mocked the infectious Staphylococcus aureus bacteria that threatened Huntington High School earlier in the school year. The play was block full of the underclassmen and a rather steamy love interest between Space Cowboy and Steven Glänsberg. Judged by this year’s Sophomore, the Sophomores have made themselves a force to be reckoned with in the upcoming years.

The third play of the night titled “High School Stories, Scandal, Pranks and Controversies,” was put on by the Class of 2009.

Basically anything that doesn’t make the people nearby uncomfortable is alright. Says Blumberg, “Holding hands in the hallway is okay; a little kiss before parting ways is absolutely fine.”

To be fair to those couples who are guilty of being too passionate when others are around, it can sometimes be hard to restrain all affection, even if people are in the vicinity. When she does something adorable, she just has to give her a little kiss. When he’s looking particularly good one day, because that blue shirt makes him even hotter, she has to wrap her arms around him. It’s the nature of being in love.

When it comes down to it, though, PDA’s are usually more of a nuisance than anything else, especially in schools. There are too many people milling about in between periods getting things out of their lockers, and trying to get to class to be held up by the antics of couples. 

"It’s the most emotional activity that doesn’t involve any story. It makes you think. It’s a very real thing that even a good looking couple can’t make look good.”

Many students have come to the realization that the amount of PDA’s, especially anything that too much is comforting. To the unknowing onlooker, kissing and beyond is something best left in the bedroom (with the door open of course). As senior Josh Blumberg bluntly says, “those couples need to get over themselves, no one wants to see that.” English teacher, Mr. Dumar, is of a like mind. “I think people’s tongues in people’s mouths and people’s hands on people’s backsides does not belong anywhere in public.”

Couples often don’t or can’t differentiate between showing proper and improper PDA’s and it can get to the point where it’s degrading for the people partaking in it. As Mr. Dumar so astutely put it, “Young ladies should have a little more respect for themselves and demand that their men take them somewhere a little more romantic and clean than the school hallway.”

Some forms of PDA’s are acceptable, even to be adored. These are the little innocent things: the flirtations, the touching in completely appropriate places.

"It is honestly a Hell on Earth. There are piles of rotting garbage everywhere, and there is a burning smell in the air because they set each pile on fire after picking through them. It is extremely dangerous because... explosions can occur if the pile is lit on fire and contains aerosol cans. The people of the dump range in age anywhere from toddlers who can barely walk to women who look so gaunt that they look like their bones will snap in two any minute. There are horror stories about children dying because they accidentally ate rat poison from the piles thinking it was candy." The volunteers also form strong connections with many of the townpeople by teaching them how to use the dump, and generally mingling with the friendly people. Laura found the most rewarding part of the trip to be interacting with the residents, especially with the children with whom they “play games, paint faces, sing songs, dance and play sports.”

"Best Play" was given to “The Class of 0’Hate: Journey to Redemption.” This year’s play, the Sophomores’ disastrous performance many wondered if the attempt to execute their plan, they failed, Flans.

Last year’s “Class of 0’Hate: Journey to Redemption.” The play mocked the Sophomores’ disastrous performance last year and attempted to explain why they were so unprepared.

People rarely want to see PDA’s, especially anything that too much is comforting. To the unknowing onlooker, kissing and beyond is something best left in the bedroom (with the door open of course). As senior Josh Blumberg bluntly says, “those couples need to get over themselves, no one wants to see that.” English teacher, Mr. Dumar, is of a like mind. “I think people’s tongues in people’s mouths and people’s hands on people’s backsides does not belong anywhere in public.”

Generally, though, the worst that is seen in Huntington High is a couple making-out in between periods, their amorous play. This can range from modest hand-holding to things of a more boisterous. This can range from modest hand-holding to things of a more boisterous.

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People rarely want to see
Students threatened by social networking habits

By GREG JAMES

Nearly all of the 1200 students at Huntington High School possess a Facebook account, and why not? Facebook is a great place to network and keep in touch with friends locally and globally. But behind this seemingly harmless and at times addicitive website lurks a hidden danger that puts many students at risk.

What many students forget is that when pictures are posted on Facebook, nearly anyone in the world can see them, including college admissions offices and future employers. Pictures featuring underage drinking are not unusual on Facebook. All too often, what students post pictures of themselves and their friends playing beer-pong or taking shots. However amusing or fun these photos may be, they jeopardize any of the achievements students have worked for in their high school careers. Just one hard-line administrator stumbling upon these less than flattering pictures can make their honor society or college dreams disappear.

However teenagers decide to spend their weekends, posting pictures of illegal activities puts their futures at risk. Those who are "tagged" in such photos can be subject to punishment, and an abundance of cases in which students are punished for their Internet habits can lead to a petition demanding Facebook to be shut down.

According to CollegeRe-cruiter.com, "There has recently been considerable attention in the media to instances of employers rejecting candidates or firing employees based on information obtained from social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook.

Many students may think that they are safe when they set their profiles to "private," so only their friends can see their photos in what is known as a "limited profile." However unlikely, an online friend could easily offer information on your profile to anyone seeking it.

In addition, often times senior students become friends with students and professors in their future colleges after they have been already been accepted, and it is not unlikely for a particular institution to revoke an offer of admission based upon poor ethic exhibited on Facebook.

Experimental course takes different approach, puzzles students

By SAM GORDON

Before the start of this school year, the University of Chicago confronted Huntington High School with the idea for a pilot class known to students as the "Experimental Pre-Calculus Class."

This class however, is not quite an experiment. Two editions of the curriculum have already been published, and this class will help improve on the third edition. The goals of this course are made evident by the math department which stated that it wanted to "continue updating the mathematics curriculum by using applications and technologies." Furthermore, they wish to increase the number of students that take math beyond Algebra and Geometry, encourage independent study, such as reading and learning with regards to math."

"It is not necessarily for advanced students...but for those who have shown they can handle rigorous math courses, and are disciplined readers," said Mr. Edwards, Math Director.

Some students and parents feel that the course is too difficult, while others believe its unique and centered approach will better prepare students for the college environment.

Senior Colin Morrell disagrees. "I haven't really learned anything," he says, "and what I have has corrupted what I've learned in previous years."

The University of Chicago does recognize the rigor of the course and recommends a significant grading scale making an 85-100 an A, a 72-84 a B, and a 60-74 a C. Each test grade is individually curved as to not be detrimental to report card grades.

There are thirteen other schools that are participating in the pilot course, but Huntington High School was the only school in New York to be selected for involvement.

Dr. Leonardi, HHS's principal, welcomes the innovation in the math curriculum, as she feels it will "better prepare the students for college level work and higher intensity math."

One challenge students face with this class lies within the different means of learning. In addition to class lectures and assignments, students are encouraged to read from their provided textbook, a prac- tice atypical of mathcal education.

Students next year who are scheduled to take Pre-Calculus will be enrolled in a similar experimental course developed by Harvard University.

The Math Department assures that "this pilot class gives us the opportunity to develop different learning styles in math classes."

Where do snowdays come from?

By ANNABEL JOUARD

"Attention seniors, due to inclement weather..." This all-to-common phrase, as most students know, is our school anthem. Its history, however, is lesser-known, but unfortunately just as innocuous; its almost artistic redundancies are only coincidentally recited verbatim by Mr. Angelo Noce or Mr. Jarret Stein.

Suspending senior privileges, however, happens to be the most minimal preventative measure established by the school.

The next level is, of course, the coveted two-hour delay (where rushed, hungary mornings go to die), which is determined anywhere from 4 to 11PM on the night before based on reports from the highway department. The best and brightest of opportuni- ties, however, lies within the ethereal Snow Day. Suspended a day of school, though mostly due to excessive storms, we have just thoroughly enjoyed this past Easter break.
College tuition soars to unfair heights

There is no question that the cost of higher education is growing to unprecedented heights. The average American family made approximately $48,450 in 2007, yet a four-year private university cost about $32,300. Many middle-class families that do not qualify for financial aid find it difficult to send their children to private institutions and still have enough money to live comfortably. The rapidly increasing cost of college is an issue that concerns students of all grades. As teens and their families start to research universities their primary concern will be about how school’s annual tuition, not its acceptance rate. America’s wealthiest universities should take greater measures to ensure that those who need financial assistance paying for college receive it.

The rising tuition of American universities has prompted concern from The Senate Finance Committee. The committee is requiring 136 of the nation’s wealthiest institutions to provide documentation on how they increased tuition over the past decade, distributed financial aid and spent their endowments.

The Senate is now insisting that universities spend at least 5% of their endowments, just as all tax-exempt foundations are required to do. Forcing universities to spend this reserved money will expand financial aid and make it possible for middle-class families to reap its benefits. Increased spending would benefit students additionally by adding new facilities and improving equipment. Many institutions such as Grinnell College in Iowa claim that endowments ensure financial stability for a university and should remain untouched. Others claim that endowments are not guaranteed to grow; therefore allotting so much money towards financial aid will be detrimental.

Despite these concerns, universities should be required to spend at least 5% of their endowments in order to ensure equal opportunities for all admitted students. In today’s competitive world, getting accepted into reputable institutions is difficult enough, and therefore competent students should be able to matriculate to any institution without worrying about whether they can pay tuition.

Increased endowment spending will encourage the issuance of grants, instead of student loans, which will only be economically beneficial and also much more convenient. Not having to pick out an outfit everyday would be much easier and might even allow me to sleep for an extra fifteen minutes in the morning!

Sincerely,

Laura O’Brian
Senior

Have something to say?
Send your letters to dispatch@hufsd.edu
Closed campus can’t make driving safer

By Lauren Narine

The first day of school is notorious for several reasons: new supplies, nametags, nerves. When it comes to seniors at Huntington High School, it’s ID card. Students in twelfth grade will wait in line that snakes the perimeter of the cafeteria to obtain a card with their picture and information on it, despite empty stomachs or tired legs. This small piece of plastic is their “get out of jail free” card; their only line of defense against construc- ting walls of high school.

Open-campus is a practice that Huntington High School has assembled. Seniors are granted the freedom to leave the building during their lunch period and spend forty-two precious minutes exploring HHS at their leisure. Seniors usually linger on the fields or in the cafeteria, long as they leave their ID’s at the front desk. The system is effective as it places responsi- bility upon the seniors to return in time for class, or they face the removal of their privileges. But due to a relatively frequent accident in Smithtown where two students died while speeding back to school in time for class, the open-campus policy is now under ques- tion at Huntington High. The key factor in the open-campus policy is seniors. Seniors are old enough to realize the conse- quences that will result if they are not taking their privileges seriously. They will not be per- mitted out during lunch if they are late repeatedly, and learn to manage their time wisely to avoid tardiness.

Seniors are also equipped with three years experience of living in a high school cafeteria. “The food’s bad and it’s always too crowded,” Senior Ashley Dell said when discussing the state of the Huntington High School cafeteria. “You wait about a half hour to buy one meal.” It’s not surprising that this situation at Hun- tington High that the cafeteria could use some extreme alterna- tions. Now that there are fewer lunch period for all grades but twelfth, the cafeteria is packed with a great number of students. Students who walk across the table, throw food, and POP their paper bags. If the open-campus policy is discontinued, the cafeteria will not be adequate to fit the number of students comfort- ably. In addition, seniors expect some socializing, so even the provided cafeteria food. The fact that every student knows the poor condition of the cafeteria and food makes the open-campus privilege even more valuable, causing the seniors to be extremely cautious.

Huntington High graduate of the class of 2003 provided de- tails of the previous open-campus policy and how it has changed over the years. The privilege of open-campus was extended to juniors as well, according to this source. Obvi- ously, this is an incentive for seniors to endure the long year of school. The popular phrase “senioritis” best explains the tired obligation several seniors feel to last through one more year of high school. “That’s the best thing about being a senior! My days go by so fast. Open-campus breaks the day into two days— I have two mini days. It’s fan- tastic!” Greta Johnson, a senior and student of Huntington High that has long awaited her senior privileges comments. This policy also teaches students responsibil- ity. Open-campus is a privilege of prestige, spotlighting the students who have followed it ‘experienced’ and ‘relieved.’

As for the accident, teen- age driving is not likely going to change with the retraction of open-campus. Insurance rates and statistics show that teenag- ers have been for past generations. Conformity can also be dis- tensive. Opposing forces are often very cut off from each other, having little in common. It’s true that the day after Challenge Day one can’t help but be familar with the idea. The Dispatch

Closed campus can’t make driving safer

Challenge Day Creates Change

by Lena Freed

How many faces in the crowds at school are true to who they belong to? Honestly, not many. Mostly, in school, superficiality is common because it’s an easy tool to utilize. Once a year, a week of time is left. Challenge Day comes around, and for those that participate in it, the masks are off and verity is revealed. Challenge Day provides the oppor- tunity for both children and teachers to really talk about things greater than the homework, or what happened over the weekend. There’s a chance for them to really find out who the other truly is.

Whenever Challenge Day is brought up in conversation, people outside of school, it has only been re- garded as a positive aspect of school. Challenge Day, have their eyes in seeing that people really are not as naive as you think they are, and that feeling fades and life goes back to normal, the information learned is not forgotten. From the experience of Challenge Day you take with you so many more things on the world and the people inside of it.” said Theresa Spohrer, a sophomore who participated in the program last year.

It’s true that the immediate after- math of Challenge Day may be short lived, but the long-term effects have a lasting impact on the participants. The goal of Challenge Day is to “open your eyes” to bring you to terms with the world that you are not alone in many of the feelings and experiences that you have. Though it is wished and hoped for by the hosts of the program to maintain their freedom even so, the rest of your life, well that’s immensely improbable. In reality we will always be the same people that we have been since we were 5, and even the greatest eye-openers couldn’t change that.

Not only do the students open up during Challenge Day, but they also teach the hosts on as well. It can be unnerving to find yourself partnered with a teacher for the exercises because most of us don’t really see them as hav- ing a separate life that we don’t know about other than what they show to us in school. The feeling of connecting with an adult turns out to be incredibly rewarding because while we are in the midst of our adolescence, of the years of drama and knowledge that high school holds for us, they have lived through it and they hold the weight of the future and whatever emotions coincide with what will inevitably happen to us.

The hosts also usually have an anomalous life which they naturally share with everyone. They are the first to really open up with their personal stories of grief and growth and set up a comfortable environment for the stu- dents (and staff).

Challenge Day, the day-long pro- gram that is directed, not to reconcile strangers, but to bring about the under- standing that everyone, even those who you don’t know, goes through similar emotions and despondent stages of life.

Even though people can be duplic- ous, the truth to who they are is truly under the surface and this once-a-week course can reveal that truth. To those that are able to participate it is truly a rewarding experience and it is earnestly recommended to all students.

You may not find the immediate ef- fects of Challenge Day. However, it will be visibly evident in the majority of the high school a month after the program, but you will find people a year later who still talk of its greatness.

Every April for the past couple of years, a few hundred Huntington High School stu- dents participate in Challenge Day, a day-long program intended to unite students and encourage us to “be the change you wish to see in the world”. The organizers of Chal- lenge Day attempt to make students more caring and proactive in a six-hour period. However, no single hour program, no matter how intense or well structured, can permanently change one’s views and ac- tions. The program’s goals are certainly im- portant, and goals that every school should strive towards, but Challenge Day is not an effective means for reaching those ends.

At the end of the day, many partici- pants take Challenge Day’s challenge to heart. They swear to be more accepting of fellow students, and help those in need. And indeed, the next day, students can be seen reaching out and helping those with whom they normally wouldn’t socialize; but the day after that, those promises are often forgotten when the pressures of school and academics become real again. A much more rigorous program than six hours once a year is needed to foster the ideals of compassion and initiative among students. Administrators, teachers, and students need to work together to make the effects of Challenge Day last.

If each Challenge Day “family” (a group of about six students plus a teacher) were to hold regular meetings after Challenge Day, the goals of the program could become real. The meetings would likely be attended by both students and teachers of the ide- als they’re supposed to be living up to, and encourage them to continue the behaviors they exhibited on the day after Challenge Day. The facilitators should also return to the school and meet with the original group to check on them, and see how they’ve changed attitudes and actions.

Revealing one’s hardships and listen- ing to the hardships of peers is a central part of Challenge Day. The output of emo- tion that follows is incredible. Many stu- dents cry and hug everyone they see (even people they’ve never talked to). However, the program doesn’t give participants a way to deal with their emotions, nor does it sug- gest effective outlets; a necessary step since the emotions experienced on Challenge Day are often the strongest participants have ever felt. Regular “family” meetings could also address this shortcoming of the program by helping participants cope with their emotions.

Challenge Day also encourages partici- pants to come to terms with the people who have caused difficulty in their lives. How- ever, the program does not provide enough tools for students to confront negative situation or person. Challenge Day participants should distribute materials and initiate role- playing situations to teach participants the appropriate setting and manner to confront difficult situations. Confrontations can also be di- cussed in the “family” meetings, and stu- dents can be given suggestions about how to deal with an aggressor.

Challenge Day strives to create a more proactive and caring student body. However, six hours once a year can go for far too long. Teachers, teachers, and students need to pick up where Challenge Day leaves off to continue its positive effects.
HHS Students at the Polls:

by Mike McCourt

Barack Obama’s recent success in his Presidential bid hasn’t excluded Huntington High School. In a January poll conducted by the Dispatch, students chose him as their favorite presidential candidate, giving the Illinois Senator exactly 50% of their vote. New York’s own Hillary Clinton finished in a distant second with a mere 20%.

Although the high school won’t be a pivotal spot in the November election, these numbers tell us several important things. This convincing victory for Obama mirrors the widespread theory that he attracts young voters. This attraction is the result of, among other things, his often laid-back look, charisma, inspirational and optimistic speeches, strong opposition to the war in Iraq, and Facebook page with over 660,000 friends.

Obama makes the youth demographic feel important and powerful. “Let’s bring a new generation of leadership to this country,” Obama said during a campaign stop at the University of South Carolina.

When asked for a reason for their support of Obama, students said they looked forward to the change promised by his campaign. “He is commanding and I believe we need a fresh mind… to have a fresh start,” said one student. “Change is necessary, and plus, where have ‘experienced’ candidates gotten us in the past? They got us into Iraq.”

Another admitted that although Obama is “the obvious choice for an African American, I feel as though he will represent my community and my feelings toward politics.”

The poll taken by students asked them to distinguish themselves based on social class, race, residency area, and gender. Obama was victorious in all of the categories with the exception of ties in the upper class (Obama 43%, McCain 43%) and the lower class (Obama 40%, Clinton 40%). His largest margin of victory was with working class students, who gave him 67% of their vote.

Black students did not offer as much support for Senator Obama as one might have assumed, as 43% of those who classified themselves as such cast their ballot for him. Senator Clinton came in a close second, receiving 39% of the black vote.

Clinton enjoyed a fair amount of votes from students. Those who supported her were attracted to her experience in the Senate and her plans for the future.

Said one student, “Hillary Clinton’s plan for insurance stands out the most against those of the other candidates. She seems to be the only candidate with a pre-mediated plan.”

The greatest amount of disap-proval for the New York Senator came from male voters. Clinton was given just 11% of their vote, compared to 31% of the female vote.

Clinton also failed to receive many votes from Hispanics, who have given her much greater sup-port on the national level. She received nearly 66% of the Latino vote on Super Tuesday, but the派 20% of the Hispanic vote from her home state.

Huntington students as a whole came out in overwhelming support of the Democratic party. 74% of students polled said they supported a Democratic candidate.

This lack of success on the part of the Republican party is somewhat surprising on Long Is-land, but the bigger surprise is in the failure of GOP frontrunners to attract student votes. Candidates such as John McCain, Mike Huckabee, and Mitt Romney in particular scored very poorly among HHS students. Former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who dropped out of the presiden-tial race just two short weeks after the poll was distributed, won the greatest support of any of the Re-publican candidates.

The responses given by our students say a lot about their val-ues and preferences, but could also bring them into question. One might inquire whether the overwhelming support of Barack Obama is due to a sincere trust in and alliance with him or due to the fact that he is undoubtedly a trendy and fresh candidate.

Whatever the reason, a Demo-cratic ticket headlining Obama would be a safe choice with the consideration of young voters (especially those of Huntington High School).

Note: These results were obtained from a survey that was given out to 11th grade and 12th grade social studies classes. At the time the survey was distrib-uted, all of the candidates dis-played were on the primary bal-lots. Since then, some candidates have dropped out from the race.

A primer on presidential hopefuls

by Kay Lodge

- Fully supports No Child Left Behind. Believes parents should be given a choice of public schools to which to send their children.
- “The best schools in my state [Arizona] happen to be charter schools.”

Barack Obama

- Supports testing reforms to No Child Left Behind, plans to expand access to Pre-K, and increase teacher training and pay.
- “It’s time to treat teaching like the profession that it is. It’s time to pay our teachers what they deserve. Pay them more money.”

Hillary Clinton

- Proposes universal Pre-K and doubling the college tax credit.
- “No Child Left Be-hind has been a terrible imposition on teachers, school districts & families & students.”

John McCain

- Supports testing reforms to No Child Left Behind, plans to expand access to Pre-K, and increase teacher training and pay.
- “It’s time to treat teaching like the profession that it is. It’s time to pay our teachers what they deserve. Pay them more money.”

- Supports federal-sponsored health care. Wants to make health care more affordable.
- “The solution,” my friend’s, isn’t a one-size-fits-all big government takeover of health care.”

- Plans to establish a federal program to give coverage to those who don’t already have it.
- “I am absolutely determined that by the end of the first term of the next president, we should have universal health care in this country.”

- Plans to curb terrorism activities by continuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and encouraging free trade in the Middle East.
- “They [foreign policy experts] say, if you set a date for withdrawal then the consequences are catastrophic.”

- Supports tougher border security, an easier citizenship process, and a crackdown on businesses hiring illegal immigrants.
- “Millions of undocumented immigrants live and work here without our knowing their iden-tity or their background. We need to strike a work-able bargain with them.”

- Plans to end the wars in Iraq, and rebuild alliances.
- “It carefully and responsi-bly.”

- Supports tougher border security, an easier citizenship process, and a crackdown on businesses hiring illegal immigrants.
- “I believe we have to, as part of comprehen-sive immigration reform, create a path to earned legalization…”

- Plans to reduce greenhouse gas and cut fore森 and oil imports.
- “We can create mil-lions of new jobs if we go toward renewable energy. Those are not jobs that will be outsourced.”

- Plans to curb ter-orist activities by con-tinuing the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and encour-aging free trade in the Middle East.
- “They [foreign policy experts] say, if you set a date for withdrawal then the consequences are catastrophic.”

- Plans to improve energy sources, plans on raising the minimum MPG rating, and estab-lishing a cap for major corporations.
- “I believe it is go-ing to be technology that gets us through this very difficult period as green-house gas emissions con-tinue to increase.”

- Plans to increase fuel standards each year, increase tax credits for hybrids, and increase federal spending on re-newable energy.
- “The fossil fuels we burn are setting off a chain of dangerous weather patterns that could con-duct future generations to global catastrophe.”

- Plans to end the war in Iraq, and strengthen the fight in Afghanistan, slow nuclear proliferation, and destroy many of America’s nuclear weap-ons.
- “We shouldn’t be sending more troops to Iraq… It’s time to find an end to this war.”

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How much do our students know? The Dispatch’s Political Awareness Quiz puts kids to the test

by MIKE MCCOURT

As high school students near the legal voting age of 18, it becomes increasingly important for them to know the names, processes and issues of politics that exist in this country. In February, 100 Huntington students were given a quiz on their knowledge of current United States politics, the results of which were more than disappointing.

Perhaps the most surprising of these numbers is the apparent indifference to the American government on behalf of students. Just 47% of those polled said they cared about politics.

When asked why, most students who responded as such cited indifference to the American government on behalf of students.

Students also distanced themselves from the issues in their immediate future by forms of media more entertaining than politics. Improper use of television and the internet have made students completely apathetic to urgent issues and problems such as national and social security, the economy, and health care.

Of those who identified themselves as Honors or AP students, 54% said they cared about politics. 38% of Regents students said the same.

This obvious indifference to the American political system explains, but does not quite justify, the rest of the results obtained.

Only 61% of students could name a single Republican candidate for the presidency. Some who could not name a candidate instead responded by expressing their unflattering thoughts about the GOP. “I don’t like Republicans,” said one student, while another questioned the competency of Republican party members.

Students also favored the popularity of Hillary Clinton, as 62% could identify her as a US Senator representing New York. However, a mere 14% of students could name Charles Schumer as the second Senator, although Schumer has held his seat in the Senate for two more years than Clinton.

Yet another disappointing and shocking result of the quiz was the poor knowledge of the origins of Senator Barack Obama. Although Obama received exactly 50% of the high school’s popular vote in January (see “Obama Takes All,” page 6), only 31% of students knew the Senator represented the state of Illinois.

Although students have little or no say in the topics and issues being debated in this election, they will have that right in the near future. Teens have an indisputable responsibility to educate themselves about their American government. These issues are far more important and applicable than such classes as physics, foreign language or calculus.

Note: This quiz was given to students of all grade levels in Regents, Honor and AP courses. It should be noted that the representation of the Honors/AP level students was slightly higher than that of Regents students.

Have a response to our election coverage?

McCAIN

Hillary

Send your letters to: dispatch@hufsd.edu

Do you care about Politics?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No</th>
<th>Yes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>53%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Getting active is easier than you think

by SHANNON LEE CONNORS

“Save Darfur,” “One Million Strong for Barack Obama,” “Students for McCain,” “Stop Global Warming Now.”

These slogans are only a sampling of the hundreds of groups and causes that teenagers are pledging their support to online. Political and social issues have recently garnered unprecedented attention from high school and college students as they sign up for movements in droves on social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook. But what does being politically active actually mean for today’s students?

In a society that is constantly flooded with information and technology, joining a cause on Facebook has become a convenient way to show support for a popular issue. The ease and instant gratification of demonstrating this allegiance to all of one’s friends in a public forum has taken much of the activity out of activism. Gone are the days of sit-ins, protest marches, and petitions; or are they?

Though it’s unlikely that a 2008 high school yearbook will base its theme around political issues, as Huntington did in 1972, students are still embracing traditional activist techniques, with a twenty-first century twist. During this election season in particular, Long Island teenagers are putting their time and energy into the campaigns that they believe in.

Long Island for Barack Obama, which hosts an affiliated group for high school students, has garnered attention from News12 and Newsday for the canvassing that has been done at local supermarkets and festivals. Students from Huntington, Northport, St. Anthony’s, and districts in Nassau County have dedicated time and energy into championing their causes. Long Island students have thrown their support behind social movements as well. Last year, four students in the Half Hollow Hills School District wanted a way to raise awareness about the genocide in the Sudan. They organized a highly successful benefit concert to raise money for the organization Save Darfur, which received the support of Congressman Steve Israel.

Getting involved in a cause or campaign is far less daunting than it may appear. This election cycle political candidates are embracing technology by setting up virtual phone banks. Virtual phone banks take on the role of the traditional “call center” but allow supporters to make phone calls for their candidate in their homes.

Feeling more ambitious? Campaigns thrive on canvassing events, where volunteers pass out pamphlets and raise awareness about key issues. Several hours spent canvassing brings a candidate’s message to dozens of people. Innovative strategies have allowed students to connect in support of their causes unlike ever before. Studentsforhillary.com, a site started and maintained by students, unites young people with other supporters in their area.

The most vital and simplest way to show support for a campaign or issue is to be informed. Starting a conversation, with parents, teachers, or friends, is an opportunity to share your passion with someone else and to build interest. Students across the country are becoming active participants in the conversation about the future of America and the world, and becoming active is easier than you’d think.

Quiz Yourself:

1. Name two Republican Candidates for President.
2. Name both United States Senators from New York.
3. For what state is Barack Obama a Senator?
4. Do you care about politics? Why or why not?

Election 2008

The Dispatch

April

Get Involved!

www.barackobama.com

www.hillaryclinton.com

www.johnmccain.com

www.ronpaul2008.com

www.savedarfur.com

Supporters of Barack Obama rally in Huntington outside of the Walt Whitman mall.
Everyone knows that Chinese food is as much a part of American culture as pizza or British pop-rock. In fact, our culture is basically made up of foreign things or ideas that are adopted and made better by great Americans. Every citizen of this nation hopes to some day make someone else’s idea their own and change the world. This, friends, is the American dream, and no one exemplifies the American dream better than the employees of the Chinese restaurants of these United States.

It would be absolute blasphemy to say that all Chinese food is the same; that no restaurant stands out as the best. People tend to believe that Chinese food itself is so great that it makes no difference how it’s made or where it comes from. This, however, is simply false. We’re here to set the record straight and declare which Huntington Chinese eatery is the true champion.

Ming Star Chinese

Ming Star is tucked away in a small plaza on Park Avenue. This well kept secret of Huntington offers speedy and friendly service as well as some delicious dishes. Their beef to mein was particularly appetizing, but may have had too much sauce. The sesame chicken was impeccable, as were the fried dumplings and won-ton soup.

All in all, Ming Star Chinese made us two very satisfied customers.

Dragon Gate of Huntington Village

This traditional Chinese restaurant on Main Street wins extra points for presentation. The owners went above and beyond to make their place look like the real deal, even including a fish tank in the front. This eatery’s downfall lies in its high prices, which do not exactly match the quality of the food served.

Don’t get us wrong; all of their dishes were ravishing (with the exception of the fried dumplings), but there was an obvious question about the value of your dollar at this place.

Nonetheless, Dragon Gate still managed to win our hearts, and has been rewarded accordingly.

New China Express Restaurant

New China, located in the Big H on New York Avenue, is like the O.A.R. of Chinese places. It’s very popular, and people think they love it, but only because they have no idea that something far superior is out there. New China manages to create what we thought to be impossible: mediocre Chinese food.

The lo mein seemed to be watered down, and had more beef than actual lo mein. The sesame chicken was in one large piece, and the won ton soup was tasteless. Perhaps the only redeeming part of our meal was the Fried Dumplings, which were quite exquisite. The place itself seemed to be closing in on us. The faded signs and obviously unsanitary conditions made us scream Kelly Clarkson’s name in vain.

China King Chinese Restaurant

This is it! China King has undoubtedly won the crown of the best in all the land. This East Main Street restaurant has it all; great food, great service, a great facility, and even a hint of patriotic flare (The chefs show their American pride in their baseball caps sporting bald eagles and the Star-Spangled Banner).

China King is the leader that will take us to the promised land, and has recently expressed interest in a presidential campaign for this November, which the Dispatch would graciously endorse.

China King brings honor and class back to Chinese eateries. It’s a place that Confucius himself would be proud of.

Fortunately “heads, you do it. Tails, you go home.”

Sia’s Youth Shines

by JORDAN CASTLE

ALBUM: Some People Have Real Problems
ARTIST: Sia

Sia Furler, an Australian pop singer most commonly known as Sia, has once again colored the United States with her third album, Some People Have Real Problems, released early this January. Her first album, Healing Is Difficult, was not nearly as good as her second, Colour The Small One, just as the second doesn’t quite compare to her latest and greatest album.

At first glance, Sia’s playful tone and beauty come across as bold, brilliant colors on the cover, a sweet image of the 32-year-old covered in mirror. Her brilliantly youthful spark shines through her more obvious tracks (now made popular by Starbucks locations across the country), like “Academia” and “Little Black Sandals.” With intensely curious lyrics (“Thank you feet, for guiding me / I’m glad somehow I got brains down there, at least.”) and deep, passionate vocals, Sia has made a home for herself among similarly critically acclaimed artists Regina Spektor and Andrew Bird.

My favorite song on the album is “The Girl You Lost to Cocaine,” which tells the ever popular story of love gone awry. It’s evident in this track that Sia is infinitely more than “your crutch, your smell, sight, and touch.” She dissects relationships with precision, an eye for flawed lust rather than imperfect love. It’s a concept that any listener can willingly subscribe to.

Though her taste is bitter, sweet at times, perhaps even a bit contrived, Sia remains an old soul. Her capacity for honesty is refreshing as an artist and as a woman. With intensely curious lyrics (“Thank you feet, for guiding me / I’m glad somehow I got brains down there, at least.”) and deep, passionate vocals, Sia has made a home for herself among similarly critically acclaimed artists Regina

It’s heavy metal- with a plotline

by ANDY BENE

ALBUM: Ziltoid the Omniscient
ARTIST: Devin Townsend

The band Devin Townsend, which is named for its lead singer, is a lesser-known heavy/power metal band. The bands newest album, Ziltoid The Omniscient, follows the story of the mighty commander Ziltoid, who comes to earth seeking the ultimate cup of coffee, black, in the song “ZITO.”

When the humans bring him an unsatisfactory cup (“By You’re Command”), he proceeds to destroy humanity (“Ziltoid Ataxia!!!”).

Only Captain Spectacular and a few surviving humans escape and set out to expose Ziltoid as the nerd he is (“Solar Winds”), only to be destroyed by Ziltoid who catches up with them (“Hyperdrive/N9”).

He then begins a series of strange activities, which include being rejected by the fifth dimensional “Planet Smasher,” and making the creator of the universe (“Omnidimensional Creator”), among other things.

It is then revealed in the last song, “Tall Latte,” that this epic adventure was nothing more than the fleeting daydream of a Starbucks employee.

The music itself is a very good mix of Heavy and Power metal. If you don’t like screaming in your music, then “Heavy Devy” really isn’t for you.

But if you’re into Heavy metal and are looking for a nice laugh, than this is a great album to check out.

Another album to check out by him is Synchresta, which includes the hit Vampira.
**Docents Demand Attention**

Students travel to learn art techniques

**The Orange Box**

The Orange Box is a combination of five video games made by Valve Studios. It features Half-Life 2: Episodes 1 and 2, Portal, and Team Fortress 2.

Valve, which has always been known for their excellent design philosophy and high standards of visual quality and detail, deftly delivered with this game pack. The already great Half-Life 2 and Episode 1 make an appearance, each featuring some amazing storytelling and compelling, physics-based puzzles.

Episode 2 features the same amazing sense of story, all the way to the emotional punch in the face that marks the ending, and expands on the source engine allowing for beautiful in-game moments such as water bursting out of a broken pipe, bridges collapsing, and strikers being blown apart in the games amazing climax.

There’s Portal and Team Fortress 2. In Portal, you go through the Aperture Science test chambers using the Portal Gun, all the while being instructed by a super computer that runs the game, based around first-person puzzles using the portal guns, features not only storytelling that rivals the Half-Life games in the package, but features a level of humor that is unheard of in games.

Team Fortress is a game most Half-Life players will know, as it is a popular modification of the original Half-Life. It’s safe to say that Team Fortress 2, using the Half-Life source engine, definitely delivers a great online experience. From the very fun and well-balanced classes to the zany graphics, everything in the game is made with loving detail and very fun execution.

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**WORD ON THE STREET**

**What’s the worst job you’ve ever had?**

*Joanne’s Pizza. I had to do the most slave work in the kitchen and restaurant.*

*Ben and Jerry’s. They made me work 12 hour shifts with- out even asking me, and I have to work until 1AM sometimes.*

*There was this one kid who I used to babysit named Joey. Both his parents were body builders, so he felt the need to beat me up the entire time.*

*Rite Aid. There is bad management.*

*Josh Daidone, Senior*

*Allie Conlon, Junior*

*Jaime Cutrone, Senior*

*Steve Secular, Junior*

---

**fashion spotlight**

**by Elizabeth Morrelle**

1. **Ms. Irvolino, English**
   - Describe your personal style.
     - “Classic, with a hip flare.”

2. **Who is your favorite designer?**
   - “Ralph Lauren.”

3. **How has your style changed over the years?**
   - “I’ve gotten more conservative with age and I stopped buying trendy items. When I do now it will buy one thing and it will usually just be an accessory.”

4. **What was your style like in High School?**
   - “I was a counterculture and I dressed very preppy.”

5. **What do you predict will be the biggest trend for spring?**
   - “Neutral shades will disappear and bright colors will make a comeback.”

6. **What is your favorite accessory?**
   - “A scarf.”

7. **Favorite store to shop?**
   - “Brooks Brothers.”

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**ARTS by Jill Silverberg**

What is a docent, you might ask? Well, a docent (derived from the Latin word docere, meaning to teach) is officially defined as a professor or university lecturer—but the term has been expanded to designate the corps of volunteer guides who staff many of the museums and other educational institutions in the world.

Here at Huntington High School, the docent program means so much more. In cooperation with the Heckscher Museum, Huntington students have participated in the Docent program for the past several years. Huntington docents have been honored with giving a tour to Senator Hillary Clinton and being featured in Newsday’s “Part Two.” Several docents have had their work exhibited in the Heckscher Museum’s annual Long Island’s Best competition. This year has presented the docents with even more diverse and exciting opportunities due to the Museum’s recent renovation. The docents have been visiting museums and galleries and creating artwork throughout Manhattan and Long Island. Earlier this year, the docents took a trip to New York City and visited the Guggenheim Museum to view the video exhibit “Spiritual America,” created by Richard Prince. Most of the docents had mixed opinions about the exhibit. Their opinions ranged from finding the exhibit strange and complex to inspirational and edgy. This was based on Prince’s use of recycled jokes, photography/collaged images and his idealized simulations of reality.

After spending time in the Guggenheim the docents took to the streets of the Chelsea/SoHo area capturing photos for an upcoming project. The best part of the trip was the discovery of a gallery owned by Jacques Lieberman. Lieberman specializes in colorful modern optical art in dazzling patterns and designs. He gladly welcomed the Docent’s surprise visit and explained the process of making his art and gave away several free post cards and CD’s with his work on them. By the time we returned to Huntington, we were all eager for our next field trip.

In January the docents traveled to the Universal Limited Art Editions (ULAE). The ULAE is a famous fine arts publisher located in Bayshore. The ULAE creates lithography for artists such as Kiki Smith, Jasper Johns, Chuck Close, and Helen Frankenthaler. With the help of Bill Goldberg, the docents learned the process behind lithography and had the special opportunity of creating and printing their own work. It was very exciting watching their own work being printed, and once it was finished they were all amazed at how wonderful it looked.

The most recent jaunt the docents embarked on was to Haven Arts: The Orange Box

PHOTOS: SAM LOBUE

**Ms. Quintilian, Math**

1. Describe your personal style.
   - “Classic and Conservative.”

2. Who is your favorite designer? 
   - “Currently, Roberto Cavalli.”

3. How has your style changed over the years?
   - “It was the 1960’s and the trend was to dress like the Beatles and other pop stars, I stopped buying trendy items. If I do now I will buy one thing and it will usually just be an accessory.”

4. What was your style like in High School?
   - “High waisted shorts, 1950’s style dresses and bathing suits.”

5. What do you predict will be the biggest trend for spring?
   - “Neutral shades will disappear and bright colors will make a comeback.”

6. What is your favorite accessory? 
   - “A pocketbook.”

7. Favorite store to shop?
   - “Saks Fifth Avenue and Anthropology.”

8. Have you ever attempted to make any of your own clothes?
   - “After the Guns ‘N Roses video ‘November Rain,’ I bought velvet and tried to make gloves to match the video. “November Rain,” I bought velvet and tried to make gloves to match the video.”

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**SENSE OF COMMUNITY**

**Ms. Irvolino, English**

- **Assistant Principal Ms. James**
  - Ms. Irvolino, Math
  - Ms. James, English
  - Mrs. Quintilian, Math
  - Mrs. Kean, History
  - Mrs. Tischler, Science
  - Mr. Benner, Music
  - Mr. Secular, Business

**MS. IRVOLINO’S CLASSROOM**

- **Ms. Irvolino, English**
  - Ms. James, English
  - Ms. Kean, History
  - Mrs. Tischler, Science
  - Mr. Benner, Music
  - Mr. Secular, Business

**HUNTINGTON STUDENTS HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE DOCENTS’ PROGRAM FOR THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS. HUNTINGTON DOCENTS HAVE BEEN HONORED WITH GIVING A TOUR TO SENATOR HILLARY CLINTON AND BEING FEATURED IN NEWSDAY’S “PART TWO.”**
Anticipation mounts as NFL Draft draws near

With the NFL Draft quickly approaching (April 26th-27th), most, if not all, teams are still wondering which players can make the biggest impact on their performances. New York’s teams, the Jets and Giants, had completely different seasons and therefore have very different draft picks.

The Jets have an abundance of solid options with their early pick. Because all of the teams ahead of them (with the exception of the Oakland Raiders) do not need running backs, the heralded and talented Darren McFadden of Arkansas could be a viable option for the Jets. McFadden’s speed, agility and power could offer a much-needed boost to their struggling offense.

If McFadden is unavailable, then Jets’ fans can expect their team to draft Ohio State defensive end Vernon Gholston, who had an impressive performance at the NFL Combine.

If both McFadden and Gholston are available when the Jets make their pick, a tough decision could face the team: choose the star (McFadden) that might not satisfy the team’s biggest need but would undeniably bolster their offense, or choose the lesser known player (Gholston) who can effectively fill a position the Jets are in dire need of.

However, there is light at the end of the tunnel for Gang Green: the Jets have already filled gaping holes in their roster by signing offensive linemen Alan Faneca and Damien Woody along with linebacker Calvin Pace.

With free agency already taken care of, a solid draft would increase their chances of success. Thankfully, the New York Giants won’t need to make as many tough decisions at the draft with a late pick and already solid team.

The Giants do seem to have their eye on Penn State linebacker Dan Connor. Connor is a great fit for the Giants who recently lost two linebackers, Kawika Mitchell and Reggie Torbor, to free agency. Connor would make this already formidable defense even more powerful with his instincts and nose for the ball. The G-Men might also want to look at taking speedy Tennessee linebacker Jerod Mayo if he is still available.

No matter what the Giants do, they really cannot go wrong, as nearly every position on the team is covered. Their only holes are in the linebacker and safety spots, both of which can be filled in the later rounds.

The Giants haven’t made too much of a splash in the free agency pool, and why would they? They are the reigning Super Bowl champs, which puts them at the top of the football world.

Although the Jets have a hard road ahead of them, their chances for success could be increased by their pick in the draft. The Giants look ready to ride the momentum of their Super Bowl win to another great season.

Who knows—maybe both New York teams could be looking at winning seasons.
MLB 2008 Season Predictions:

**Mike McCourt’s picks**

**American League Eastern Division:**
1. New York Mets
2. Atlanta Braves
3. Philadelphia Phillies
4. Florida Marlins
5. Washington Nationals

**Central Division:**
1. Chicago Cubs
2. Milwaukee Brewers
3. Houston Astros
4. Cincinnati Reds
5. St. Louis Cardinals
6. Pittsburgh Pirates

**Western Division:**
1. Los Angeles Angels
2. Seattle Mariners
3. Oakland Athletics
4. Texas Rangers

**National League Eastern Division:**
1. New York Yankees
2. Boston Red Sox
3. Toronto Blue Jays
4. Tampa Bay Rays
5. Baltimore Orioles

**Central Division:**
1. Detroit Tigers
2. Cleveland Indians
3. Chicago White Sox
4. Minnesota Twins
5. Kansas City Royals

**Western Division:**
1. Colorado Rockies
2. Los Angeles Dodgers
3. Arizona Diamondbacks
4. San Diego Padres
5. San Francisco Giants

**AL Most Valuable Player:**
Miguel Cabrera, Detroit Tigers

**NL Most Valuable Player:**
Erik Bedard, Seattle Mariners

**AL Cy Young:**
Prince Fielder, Milwaukee Brewers

**NL Cy Young:**
Erik Bedard, Seattle Mariners

**ALDS:**
Tigers d. Yankees
Red Sox d. Mariners
Cubs d. Rockies
Mets d. Diamondbacks

**NLDS:**
Tigers d. Red Sox
Mets d. Cubs

**World Series:**
Detroit Tigers d. New York Mets

**AL Most Valuable Player:**
Miguel Cabrera, Detroit Tigers

**NL Most Valuable Player:**
Erik Bedard, Seattle Mariners

**Playoff Results:**
- Tigers d. Yankees
- Red Sox d. Mariners
- Cubs d. Rockies
- Mets d. Diamondbacks

**Denotes Wild Card Winner**

**Blue Devil athletes going to the next level**

**Casey Scully**
Lacrosse
Iona College

**Leslie O’Brien**
Soccer
Johns Hopkins University

**James Beck**
Baseball
Iona College

**Correction:**
In our December issue, an article entitled “New Kids on the Block” reported that the Harborfields members of the Boys’ Volleyball team did not contribute financially and hindered the play of Huntington players, which Athletic Director Georgia McCarthy has stated to be false. We also inaccurately reported that fitness test scores were announced in physical education classes. Although one student said her scores were announced, it appears to be an abbreviation.

**Leslie O’Brien:**
by Timothy O’Grady

Leslie O’Brien will be attending Johns Hopkins University this fall and playing for the school’s highly regarded soccer team. This Distinguished Senior has had an admirable four years of high school, both on the field and in the classroom. O’Brien is a member of the Italian, National and Math Honor Societies and has taken a plethora of AP courses. Leslie’s combined academic and athletic success has earned her a Suffolk County Zone Award. She has played on the Girl’s Varsity Soccer team for four years, being awarded All-County three times and All-State once. Leslie also plays soccer for the Sachem Blazers (ranked 30th in the nation in her age group) and previously played for the LI-DSL ODP soccer team. Although soccer is her true passion, she has participated in various sports at Huntington with similar success. Leslie has been on Varsity Winter Track (three time all county), Varsity Spring Track and Varsity Lacrosse. She currently holds the school record for the 55m hurdles, 55m dash, Sprint Medley Relay, and Shuttle Hurdle Relay (winter track).

Leslie was recruited by Johns Hopkins over the summer during soccer showcase tournaments. Leslie also considered attending Lafayette College and William Smith College, but decided to apply Early Decision to Johns Hopkins.

“I have always been participating in one sport or another, so balancing school and sports has just been my way of life for as long as I can remember. I also get bored easily so it’s good to always have a sport to play,” concluded Ms. O’Brien.
SPORTS

Mock and Load: Steve Mock steps up to lead Blue Devil lacrosse

by MIKE McCOURT

When asked who anchors the Boys’ Lacrosse Team, Senior Co-Captain Chris Potter answers without hesitation: “Steve Mock.”

Mock, a Junior and Co-Captain, made a name for himself on last year’s team while playing under the shadow of Rhameel Bratton, Shanem Bratton, and Zach Howell, among others. He has emerged this year as the team’s leading scorer and go-to man.

In March, Mock’s four goals, including the game winning score with two minutes remaining in double overtime, and two assists helped lift the Blue Devils over West Babylon, 13-12.

In a 6-4 win over Bay Port-Blue Point, Mock scored 4 goals and contributed an assist. But despite his obvious talent, Mock seems to name every other player than himself when asked the same question as Potter. “Andy Brobel, Pat Brady, Pat Wright...” he lists.

“Geez, don’t forget yourself, Steve,” teammate Kevin Bilzi chimed in.

Mock credits his success to a motto he refers to as the “Triple-H Factor,” which consists of “Heart, Hustle and Hard work.”

His Co-Captain Potter stresses teamwork. “Our team works together,” he says, “we just take things one game at a time.”

The team is also charitable, looking to give back to those in need. On March 29th, the boys played crosstown rivals Cold Spring Harbor in the second annual “Shooting for a Cure” charity game for Juvenile Diabetes.

Head Coach Paul McDermott’s son, Matthew, was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes in 2006. All proceeds from the game went to find a cure for Juvenile Diabetes. Although Cold Spring Harbor won the game, 9-5, Huntington’s spirits were high after winning over 50% of the Harris-Stowe Foundation’s 30th Annual Juvenile Diabetes charity game.

The Blue Devils fell short of a Long Island Championship in Rochester, 12 points and 11 rebounds per game during the regular season.

Both Hicks and Potter credits the two of them on being exceptional defenders and clutch shooters.

“Of course, we would have liked all of them to win, but, overall, they did a great job,” said assistant Coach Travis Smith.

With this trio, Varsity Coach Lou Giani has now coached 53 All-State wrestlers, the most in New York State history.

These three wrestlers ended what was a very successful year for the Devils, as the team was undefeated in the regular season. The team was anchored by their All-State trio along with Seniors Francisco Pereira and Guillermo Dominguez and Junior Anthony Lupi, who missed last year’s season due to a broken leg suffered playing football.

Lupi says that “desire, determination and discipline” motivated him to have a strong comeback after last year’s injury. Lupi worked hard to regain his strength over this past summer, and his efforts paid off.

Peter Fusco, one of three varsity coaches, credited Lupi on the improvement he made this year.

Fusco also explained that the future is bright for Huntington Wrestling. With McQueen, Lupi, Nigel McNeil, Louie Pucia and TJ Wilson to lead the team, Blue Devil wrestling fans can look forward to many more successful seasons such as this one.

Note: All stats are as of April 10th

INSIDE

Wrestling Trio Goes All-State

by BRIAN VENTURINO

Despite its illustrious history, with 23 State Championships thus far, the Blue Devil Wrestling Team is often overlooked by fans who offer more support to other winter teams such as basketball.

Many students seem to be unaware of the wrestling team’s perfect season this winter and of the three wrestlers who earned All-State honors.

Sophomore Damon McQueen and Seniors Jose Vasquez and Dashawn Thomas all reached the semifinal round before a crowd of 5,000 at the State Championships in Rochester.

“Of course, we would have liked all of them to win, but, overall, they did a great job,” said assistant Coach Travis Smith.

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Blue Devil Athlete Profiles, p. 11

Forster, Hicks All-State

by MIKE McCOURT

Juniors Julie Forster and Kerry Hicks of the Huntington Girl’s Basketball team were named to New York’s All-State team earlier this month.

“There weren’t many Long Island girls on the team, so to be honored like that is pretty cool,” Hicks said of the distinction.

Hicks, a 5’6” point guard, scored her one-thousandth career point in a game in late January. Her leadership and ability to control the game led her teammates to give her the nickname of “Floor General.”

Forster, a 5’11” forward, is valued for her defensive and rebounding abilities. She averaged 12 points and 11 rebounds per game during the regular season.

The announcement comes nearly one month after the Lady Devils fell short of a Long Island title with their overtime loss to Floral Park. A crowd of 1,500 saw the girls lose an 11-point fourth quarter lead and eventually fall, 47-44, with Forster scoring their last 8 points.

Senior Casey Scully and Junior Maria Marascia were also given All-League honors.

Hicks credited the two of them on being exceptional defenders and clutch shooters.

Coach Bradley Reminick was named the Suffolk League V Coach of the Year, leading the Lady Devils to a 17-7 record and a Suffolk County title.

Forster, Hicks All-State

Senior Jose Vasquez, wrestles his Rocky Point opponent during a close-fisted, centered rivalry match in January.

Huntington attack Steve Mock speeds past a Cold Spring Harbor defender during the Blue Devils’ second annual Juvenile Diabetes charity game.

Note: All stats are as of April 10th