Senior lounge in limbo

by Cody Jacobs

Have you been curious about the possibility of a closed campus, dreaming and hoping it will never happen? Well, unfortunately the possibilities are endless. Dr. Leonardi is exploring all the ideas with her colleagues. In the future Huntington High School might work with a Pizza or Chinese restaurant for bulk orders of takeout for the seniors.

This would require a great deal of student involvement and commitment. In the event that the campus is closed, the smaller cafeteria will be turned into a senior lounge. Many options have been considered for the student lounge, including possible computer access, takeout orders, and comfortable seating. Eventually another lounge would be built outside near the garage. Both lounges would require a large amount of fundraising, especially the outside one. The student government is already raising money for the possible student lounges with The Brick Project. For those of you thinking that a closed campus means there will be a replacement senior privilege, you’re out of luck.

As this issue of The Dispatch came to print, no set agreements or time tables seem to have been made on the closure of the open campus. The first time anyone mentioned the closed campus option was two years ago by Dr. Leonardi. She sent a letter to Mr. Finello, the superintendent, mid last year expressing her concerns about the open campus. When contacted at his district office, Mr. Finello said that no action has yet been taken and he did not know when it would be. Mr. Finello was a man of few words. Nothing can be done until Mr. Finello announces his position. Everything seems to be a mystery, and no one can be sure of what 2009/2010’s future might hold. However, some things are known. If the closed campus petition becomes a reality, there will be a combination of effort from the students and staff on a senior student lounge. If any meetings are going to be held about the closed campus situation parents, teachers, and staff will be informed. To be ready for a possible closed campus in the fall of 2009, an approval before the budget LOUNGE on page 2

‘Kids Funding Kids’ in Africa

by Amanda Goldstein

The children of St. Justin’s School, in Ghana, Africa, live in extreme poverty under squallid conditions. Many of their families are stricken with AIDS and our assistance is greatly needed. I am involved in an organization called, Kids Funding Kids, which supports the St. Justin’s School in Africa. We provide assistance by sending children’s books, which they value a great deal. In September of 2005 we started working with Jenny Coley, an African missionary for the Anglican-Episcopal Dioceses of Accra, Ghana. She helps us by transporting the books and money to the school. In addition to raising money and sending books we have also created a pen-pal system, so that the children at the school feel really connected to where and whom their support is coming from. These letters truly make an impact on the children of St. Justin’s school. We have received many letters back, in which they express great gratitude for what we have done for them.

With the help of Jenny Coley, and both the students and faculty at Huntington High School, a difference in the lives of the students at St. Justin’s School can be made. You can help get involved by raising money, writing a letter or donating gently used children’s books. These children are in desperate need of any aid that they can get and would appreciate your help. When they receive either a letter, a book or money for treatments they are encouraged not to give up. If you are interested in helping in anyway please contact Amanda Goldstein for more information.
Homecoming split due to poor weather

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

As every student attending Huntington High School knows, this year’s homecoming festivities were split into two weekends due to an unfortunate spell of rain during the weekend of September 26th. Originally, Homecoming weekend was to consist of float night on the night of Friday, September 26th, the homecoming football game during the afternoon of Saturday, September 27th, and the homecoming dance during the evening after the football game. However, as the clouds rolled in and the skies darkened, everything changed.

Once the rain began, Dr. Leonardi called the members of the student council as well as school personnel in for a meeting to discuss the fate of homecoming weekend. The consensus was that all indoor activities were to be held as scheduled, but the outdoor activities were to be postponed until the weekend of October 3rd and 4th. Thus, the pep rally and dance remained as planned, but float night, the football game, and the parade were postponed.

Some students were disappointed by the decision to create a split homecoming, but others were thrilled about it. Kelsey Iwanski commented, “Homecoming seemed different than in the past. Neither game was filled with as much spirit as I expected from my experience at previous homecomings.”

On September 1, 2006, the school has saved millions of dollars by switching to low energy light fixtures called T8. We went from using 32 watt bulbs to 30 watt bulbs.” Motion activated lights also help lessen the amount of energy consumed.

Mr. Rispoli and Mr. Giani, the assistant superintendent, are also seeking alternative energy sources, such as solar and wind energy. If the district opts for solar energy, it would take approximately 18 months for construction to begin. One drawback to wind energy is that the only useable location is the high school.

It is no secret that every school seems to be hopping on the idea of recycling. “environmental consciousness,” as Dr. Leonardi recollects what lead her to become so concerned about Huntington High School’s open campus. She remembers reading various articles about student ca- sualties and accidents during an open campus lunch period, especially an account about six years ago that ended with a fatal accident after school at Huntington High School. In other school dis- tricts, where there have been tragic- edies during a senior lunch peri- od, the open campuses have been closed. Dr. Leonardi sympathizes with the students, and realizes that lunch is a time of relaxation and socialization for seniors. Dr. Leonardi says her only concern is that of the safety of the student body. She stated that, students aged 17-18 have proven to be the more daring and, dangerous drivers, with the highest percentile of fatalities. Adding that to students being in a hurry with only 45 minutes for lunch is a hazardous combination. “You can’t predict the future and limits have to be established somewhere,” as Dr. Leonardi put it.

If the campus is closed, fund raising for a student lounge will be started. Both sides of the argument have strong support. While some of the faculty believes that the closure of the campus is essential, most of the student body disagrees. Although it seems that the decision is weighted heav- ily on the closing of the cam- pus, there is still a possibility that it will remain open. Maybe the student body will agree that safety is more important than the open campus senior privilege, or maybe a compromise will be agreed to address safety, while maintaining the privileges of the past.

Join The Dispatch!
Be part of the “beacon of truth”

New members always welcome!

Meetings after school on Tuesdays, Room 242.
ATTACK OF THE COCKROACHES

by LAUREN CAMPBELL

Imagine this; you’re a freshman and you’re opening your locker for the first time. After a few turns of a Master lock, your locker pops open. You look down, and there’s a huge cockroach crawling out at you. Could it only happen in a movie? No. This very incident happened to Shelby Clarke, a junior, at the beginning of her high school career. Shelby swears she has never used any locks since.

Huntington High School seems to be a paradise for cockroaches, despite measures that have been taken to exterminate them. Locker rooms and the basement seem to be hot spots to encounter our school “pets.” When asked about his encounters with roaches, Jack Russo stated, “Cockroaches? I practically live with them! In the football locker room, a day doesn’t go by without some kind of encounter of the unwanted kind.” Sammy Saint-hill adds, “Last year at the boy’s locker room there was a huge, deep cockroach and everybody freaked out.”

The music wing also has a large population of roaches. According to Katie Levittan, “In my sophomore year, I saw two in a matter of ten seconds in the music hallway… one by the stairs and one by the chorus room.” If you’re in any music classes, I advise checking for roaches. For any of our little friends to avoid an unwanted crunchey afternoon snack. Also, you may want to watch your back in the music wing, as Jake Fleisig exclaims, “A cockroach ate my family… by the band room.”

Will Jenne also had a musical encounter with cockroaches and says, “Freshman year, when I was in band, a roach crawled on this kid’s shoe so we all took turns beating it with old music stands.” Well, at least the roaches provide a source of entertainment and humor.

“Cockroaches eat my family… by the band room.”

However, you know it has gone too far when cockroaches fall from the ceiling. Last year in Mrs. Casazza’s Spanish class, a cockroach crawled out of the ceiling and fell straight to the floor. A similar incidence happened this year during Mr. Aguello’s health class. According to Rebecca Laver and Angela Becso, “A cockroach decided to crawl out and hang out (literally) on the ceiling above the student’s heads, so our class had to wait for the bell to ring in the hallway in case it decided to let go of the ceiling and end up on someone’s head. Later, it jumped down and crawled behind something.”

Cockroaches detract from learning in the classroom and when spotted, disrupt classes. Something greater than the previous extermination attempts needs to be done. Cockroaches are unsanitary and can carry diseases such as dysentery, typhoid and poliomyelitis, as well as gastro-enteritis. They can also live in virtually any condition, so any places cockroaches may have are quickly spread. Cockroach horror stories may seem fun and amusing on the surface, but deep down there is a risk of disease.

WORD ON THE STREET

If you could nominate one person for the presidency who is not currently in the race, who would it be and why?

“50 Cent, because he’s a smart person. And because he had a hard life. And he got shot nine times.”

Rerrick Boller, Sophomore

“If Tim Russert was still alive, I would nominate him. He was a very bright man who was diligent in every aspect and knew his politics.”

Caitlin Etri, Junior

“Alec Baldwin—because he’s good with the kids.”

Marc Acvedo, Freshman

“Grandpa Phil from “Hey Arnold!” He’s got good stories, an eating title under his belt, and a solid laugh.”

Joe D’Esposito, Sophomore

“Jesus. He’s old school, good at avoiding fights, invincible, magical, forever young, and grizzly.”

Ken Holden, Senior

The Dispatch’s staff, nor the HUFSD School Board or any affiliated.

HHS builds two new science labs

by CARRIE FANTE

Over the summer in the social studies wing of Huntington High School, two brand new chemistry labs replaced three former social studies and ESL classrooms. These new classrooms now hold the Regents and AP chemistry classes and are used nearly every period. They have been outfitted with better technology and provide more space, which makes it easier for chemistry students to conduct labs. They also give teachers more flexibility with which labs they are able to do.

The Huntington Science Program has always been excellent and students have always done extremely well on science Regents and AP exams. These new chemistry labs are a big improvement in every aspect and knew his politics.”

The students are happier in the new labs involving ice much easier. Finally, both of these classrooms and teachers that do. Relocating labs replaced three former so-

nels are very useful. The extra fumes out of the lab. It is clear that the new chemistry labs are a big improvement to the school’s science department. The students are happier in brand new classrooms with new equipment, and the teachers are happier with more space, better technology and resources to help them with demonstrations and labs. The new classrooms are the largest of several recent improvements to science classrooms (including work on some of the Earth science and biology labs), and while not all of the chemistry classes get to use them, they make a big difference to the many classes and teachers that do.

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

PHOTOS: MIKE MCCOURT

Features: 06/07 Yearbook
The forgotten elections: 

NY’s Second Congressional District

Steve Israel (D)

by Nick Maiarelli

In the excitement surrounding the presidential elections, many people have overlooked the fact that this November, the people of each state will have to elect a representative to serve in the House of Representatives. Every state is divided into districts based on population. New York state is made up of twenty-nine Congressional Districts. Long Island includes a total of sixteen Congressional Districts. Huntington is in the Second Congressional District.

This year, voters who reside in Huntington will have a choice of two candidates that they can elect for this position: Steve Israel (Democrat), or Frank J. Stalzer (Republican). Steve Israel (D) has served four terms, and is running for a fifth term. He supports alternative energy, and for years has been working on an initiative that would limit greenhouse emissions, decrease American dependence on foreign oil and support the growth of renewable energies. He also supports a bill that would give middle class families with an income of less than $200,000 a $5,000 credit towards college. Steve Israel supports bills that would protect the environment, and is working to raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur.

The candidate running against Steve Israel is Frank J. Stalzer (R). The son of immigrant parents, Frank Stalzer grew up in Valley Stream, NY. After graduating from high school, he attended NYIT and graduated with a B.S. degree in Public Administration. He supports offshore drilling and nuclear energy. He also supports reducing capital gains tax from 15% to 10%, and reducing the corporate tax rate from 35% to 25%. In addition, he supports making the tax cuts made under the Bush Administration permanent for all Americans. Stalzer believes in keeping American troops in Iraq until Iraqi forces can defend their own country. He promises to support efforts that will empower the Department of Homeland Security. Stalzer is pro-life, and believes that the amount of terms a congressman can serve should be limited to 6 terms. Stalzer has experience as a business manager, but will be serving for the first time if he is elected to the House of Representatives.

NY’s Tenth Assembly District

James Conte (R)

by Mike McCourt

Republican James Conte will seek an eleventh term representing the 10th District of the State Assembly against Demo- crat Jeffrey Stark on Tuesday’s election.

Conte, who is also running under the Independent, Conservative and Working Families parties, has vowed to continue his efforts to better the district he serves. “I still have the fire in the belly to go to Albany and do what we need,” he said. Conte has stated that his main priority will be to lower property taxes for residents of the tenth district. He has supported a statewide property tax cap and the Taxpayers Protection Act, which shifts tax burdens from the local to state government. He has also pushed to rid of the state gas tax to reduce the price of gasoline.

His opponent, Stark, argues that Conte has failed to bring “effective, meaningful change” during his service in the Assembly. Stark has proposed tax breaks for towns and counties that take environmentally friendly initiatives. “That would send the message that we are serious about reducing our dependence on foreign oil and would jump-start an industry that is slow growing,” he said. “If you put the effort in, the market will take off.”

Both candidates have emphasized increasing funding for education, lowering taxes, and keeping the Huntington area environmentally clean. The race should prove to be very close, as there are only 1,000 more registered Republicans than Democrats in the area.

Conte and Stark have done door to door campaigning, hoping to appeal to as many residents as possible.

NY’s Ninth Assembly District

Jeffrey Stark (D)

by Mike McCourt

On the other side of town (east of Park Avenue), Republican As- semblyman Andrew Raia will face two other candidates in his bid for reelection.

Karen Kerr-Ozimek of the Demo- cratic party and Michele Mastrangelo of the Working Families party are also in the race.

Raia has said he is fully committed to the State Assembly, working as a “full- time legislator.” He says he often works late nights six days a week to better his district.

He has worked hard during his six years in the Assembly to provide for senior citizens and keep the area environmentally clean and safe from sexual predators.

Kerr-Ozimek, on the other hand, claims that Raia’s commitment to the as- sembly keeps him out of touch with the concerns of the normal citizens of the district.

She says that as a parent and business owner, she can better represent the inter- ests of the average Huntington resident.

Kerr-Ozimek hopes to use her 18 years of prosecuting experience to work with other legislators and judges in Albany. “I’ve spent years negotiating with judges and lawyers, dealing with victims and people who are accused of committing crimes,” she said. “Each of those negoti- ating skills requires a different technique. These negotiating and advisory skills will serve me well in Albany.”

Mastrangelo decided to throw her hat into the race because she felt neither candidate would benefit the working class citizens in the area.

NY’s Fifth Senate District

Andrew Raia (R)

by Mike McCourt

In the excitement surrounding the presidential elections, many people have overlooked the fact that this November, the people of each state will have to elect a representative to serve in the House of Representatives. Every state is divided into districts based on population. New York state is made up of twenty-nine Congressional Districts. Long Island includes a total of sixteen Congressional Districts. Huntington is in the Second Congressional District.

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This November, Democrat Matthew Meng will challenge the incumbent Re- publican Carl Marcellino. Marcellino cur- rently represents the 5th district of the New York Senate, encompassing everything between Fort Salonga, Commack, Bethpage and Glenwood Landing.

Marcellino (who grew up in Syosset) is running on his environmental record, citing the 114 laws he has written towards clean air, fuel and roads since his first term in 1995. “It is imperative that Congress de- velop a far reaching energy program that will fund alternative fuels and vehicles and those who create these technologies,” said the senator. He also commented on how the Senate will have to work so as not to burden the New York tax payer even more during this financial crisis, explaining his experience would give him the ability to do so: “We need to focus on job creation and stability. We need to focus on reducing the tax burden for both young and old. We need to slash government spending and keep the money where it belongs, in the口袋的taxpayer’s pocket.”

Matthew Meng (from East Nor- wich), Senator Marcellino’s opponent, is trying to connect more with the voters based on his business experience running Little Garage, which fixes specialty cars, for 28 years. “I’ve been fixing a lot of problems all my life and I think I can solve a lot of dysfunction in government,” Meng reasons. He also is committed to en- vironmentalist legislation, saying, “I think we need to aggressively set new standards to get better gas mileage. When it is done across the board it is easier for all car com- panies to compete.” American ingenuity, he argues, is the answer and will survive through the financial crisis, concluding “...the most important issue in the state today is in one word: the economy. That and how to as painlessly as possible close the defi- cit gap in Albany... There were warnings out there for a long time that the economy was overleverage and now we all have to pay the penalty unfortunately. And now, everything has to be reviewed and on the table.”
HHS Students mock the vote
Vote on presidential, congressional and local elections

by MR. JOSEPH LEA VY

On Tuesday, October 28 through Thursday October 30, all social studies teachers brought their classes to the main lobby to vote not only for national and state elective offices, but also for an important referendum, asking students how they would like to have the student-faculty forum, which was shared by the principal, the superintendent alternate to in-school suspension, and the social studies faculty.

The question read, “Are you in favor of a six hour community service alternate to in-school suspension? The question was originally proposed by Mr. Kerr-Ozimak. Jeffrey Stark and Raia faces Karl Marcellino (Republican) representing them, or in district 9 or 10. Students learned that depending on where they live, they may be in either the 9th Assembly district, which has Andrew Raia (Republican) representing them, or in the 10th, which is represented by James Conte (Republican). Each student was able to vote based on their residency between these incumbents and their challengers. Conte is up against the Democrat Jeffrey Stark and Raia faces Karl Marcellino (Republican).

The Huntington High School building is not in perfect condition. There is no air conditioning, it’s always cold in the winter, and the turf may cause cancer. In addition, there are hundreds of cockroaches roaming the halls along with the students. And that’s just above ground. Below ground, in the basement, is a different story. The Transition Room, located in a slightly concealed hallway in the basement, is a model example. Not only are there cockroaches, but frogs and mosquitoes.

Due to lack of efficient drainage system, water overflows by one of the windows, and with it comes mold and puddles, which make it a home for creatures to live and reproduce. The Transition program is a project to help students gain the academic skills needed for success in high school and the future. The program is restricted to ninth graders, and is currently in its second year. English and social studies are the only two courses taught in the Transition Room. English is taught by Ms. Guarino, and social studies by Mr. Bisogno. Before the room was used for the Transition program, it was used for a Turnaround program. Both courses are extremely alike, only Turnaround was for students in tenth grade, while Transition is for students in ninth.

Despite Ms. Guarino’s successful attempts in improving the room, by redecorating the walls, rearranging the desks, and adding color and light, the room still suffers irreversible damage.

“Ventilation can be a problem.” Mr. Bisogno says. “Poor ventilation and lack of exposure to fresh air cause further problems during times of humidity. The room becomes damp and musty.”

Despite the mounting list of problems, “The room has great potential to be a model classroom for the future,” Mr. Bisogno adds optimistically. He hopes for computers to line the wall, and smart-boards and projectors to be readily available. The room’s large size is also a helpful factor. The Transition Room can be a great location for students to learn, only if, however, they are not distracted by frequent visits from cockroaches, mosquitoes, and frogs.

After the Dispatch’s investigation of the issue, the problems of the Transition Room were quickly cleaned up and resolved.

The Huntington High School Drama Club presents
Auntie Mame
Come support your friends!

November 14 & 15 @ 8PM
General Admission: $10
Students and Staff: $5

FEATURES
The Dispatch endorsing change with Obama

Over the past eight years this country has been led by a Republi- can administration. Now, at the end of George Bush’s final term, this country is facing many serious problems. The decisions and leadership that have got- ten the country to this point have not been beneficial. The country is now in what is the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, in a war it can’t seem to get out of, leaving millions of people without healthcare, more dependent on foreign oil than ever, in trillions of dollars of increasing debt, and putting an excessive amount of financial burden on the middle class. With this coming election comes an opportunity for change.

Senator Barack Obama represents the nation’s best chance for change and for dealing with these problems. HAV- ing Senator John McCain as president would only be a continuation of the bad decisions of the past eight years. As a man who has voted alongside George Bush ninety percent of the time, John McCain would only lead this country further into crisis.

The Iraq War is one of the major causes of this country’s increasing debt and is costing us the lives of many soldiers. Barack Obama is the candi- date who knows that we never should have been in Iraq in the first place and has a timetable for getting us out. He has voted against the Iraq war from the start. He is the candidate who real- izes that the real threat from 9/11 came from Afghanistan and that is where our military efforts should have been fo- cused. The country was sidetracked by Iraq, which now needs to get out. McCain refuses to say when he would get the troops out of Iraq, while Obama plans to remove the troops from Iraq within sixteen months.

Barack Obama’s plan for health- care is more efficient than John McCain’s in many aspects. First off Obama plans to lower the cost of healthcare by at least $2,500 per year, whereas McCain’s intentions will lead to a rise in costs to $5,000 per fam- ily for each year. Also Obama will be looking to help the middle class to be able to obtain affordable health insur- ance regardless of their health record by setting up social health-insurance, where employers cover the costs of the health insurance of employees. Mc- Cain does not plan on doing this.

Obama and McCain also vary in their tax-cutting policies. Though they both intend on cutting taxes, Obama plans to tax the lower class very little in contrast to the wealthier class who will be taxed more, whereas McCain plans to cut the taxes for large corpo- rations and the upper class. Obama’s plan makes the most sense because the upper class has the greatest amount of money, and so when they have to pay the greatest taxes the wealth can be more evenly distributed. Both Obama’s health-care system and tax plan will help relieve some of the fi- nancial burden on the middle class.

Other examples of Obama’s poli- cies that make him a better choice than McCain are his policies on renewable energy and abortion. Though the Unit- ed States is one of the world’s largest consumers of oil, we only hold three percent of the world’s oil. While Mc- Cain proposes offshore drilling as a so- lution to the United States dependency on foreign oil, Obama recognizes that offshore drilling is harmful to the en- vironment and will not eliminate our dependency. He proposes investing in renewable energy such as solar and wind energy that would be better for the environment as well as making the US less dependent on the Middle East. Barack Obama also supports offshore drilling as a sol- ution to the United States dependency on foreign oil, Obama recognizes that offshore drilling is harmful to the en- vironment and will not eliminate our dependency. He proposes investing in renewable energy such as solar and wind energy that would be better for the environment as well as making the US less dependent on the Middle East. Barack Obama also supports offshore drilling as a sol-}

Letter to the Editor

Ordinarily, a parking sticker is ex- actly that: a parking sticker. This year’s parking sticker, how- ever, has created some controversy and been taken on a significance that was never intended. Although the bright, multi- colored stickers were chosen to make spotting them easy, some seniors have begun to confuse the multicolored stickers with the symbol of gay pride. Because of this confusion and the highly homophobic nature of certain students, some seniors have received the wonderful surprise of finding their cars covered in homophobia graffiti. Others have been made fun of, called “gay,” called “a fag,” and other derog- ary terms - all because of a simple sticker.

Some of the seniors dislike the color of the sticker, going as far to say that “rainbow stickers are for rainbow guys,” and “It’s a symbol of gay pride; it’s unfair to make us advertise it.”

In response to this rainbow-col- ored sticker and the harassment that re- sults, a number of seniors have colored it over with a Sharpie, leaving only the number showing. The school, howev- er, prohibits this and forces those that deface the sticker to put on a new one. If a student continues to deface the sticker, they will lose their parking privileges.

Meanwhile, most seniors couldn’t care less about the color of the sticker. Many feel that “…it’s a parking sticker; what are you going to do? You have to have it.” Although many se- niors may feel uncomfortable with the sticker, they deal with it and realize that “it’s just a parking sticker that says I can park at the school.” And noth- ing could be closer to the truth. One teacher, and the advisor of the school’s Gay/Straight Alliance, had this to say, “This is ridiculous; it’s just a parking sticker, and it’s definitely not a gay pride sticker. The gay pride sticker has specific bold stripes of color. When I look at it, all I think is tie-dye.”

Even though plenty of students firmly believe that the parking sticker calls to mind the symbol of gay pride, the school could not and would not force students to put gay pride stickers on their cars. So the sticker is, in fact, just a brightly colored parking sticker; it says nothing more than, “I’m al- lowed to park here.” The response that
The upcoming presidential election has been said by many to be the most important decision of our time, and indeed it is. On November 4, Americans will be faced with a difficult question: who will mess up our country less? Given the candidates’ stances on the issues at hand, it seems improbable that either would bring any sort of prosperity or stability to the Union.

The problems this country faces cannot be solved by concepts as simple as hope and change as Senator Obama suggests, and contrary to the arguments of Senator McCain, being a leader takes more than having the ability to “reach across the aisle.”

Despite his shortcomings, John McCain offers the American people significantly less national damage than Barack Obama.

The primary concern of voters is the nation’s economic state, and naturally, they have turned to the government to blame for and fix their fiscal problems. Both McCain and Obama have tried to appeal to the American people by demanding more economic oversight and chastising the lenders and Wall Street for their supposed greed.

It is important to understand that the meltdown of such companies as Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac was not caused by companies going bankrupt, but by excessive government oversight and control of these companies. In light of this, it would make very little sense to trust the government to get us out of a hole it dug itself.

With both major candidates supporting more government oversight, the economic state in this country can only get worse.

However, our nation’s economy would be far worse off under the leadership of Senator Obama. His repeated proposals to “redistribute wealth” and argument that the Constitution was constructed with a “fundamental flaw” that does not require the government to assist with such redistribution threaten the very foundation of our capitalist society. Obama wishes to play the role of Robin Hood, stealing from the rich and giving to the poor. This echoes the Marxist concept of “from each according to his abilities, to each according to his needs.”

Senator Obama has proposed tax hikes for citizens earning more than $250,000 a year. Obama’s tax plan also includes raising taxes for corporations, which could cripple the very economic class he is trying to help. By raising corporate taxes, he will in effect raise the prices of the goods these corporations produce, making them less accessible to the middle and lower classes.

Obama also proposes increasing taxes on gas companies, falsely believing that by increasing gas taxes, gas prices will decrease. Both he and McCain have scolded the gas companies for making record profits in the past year, ignoring the fact that the average oil company made about 10% profit last year. As a comparison, Apple Computer made 14% profit this past year, but has not been charged with price gouging or being overly greedy by either candidate.

Senator Obama’s universal health care plan may offer coverage to every American citizen, but will compromise the quality of care for those who are currently insured. Obama promises the same coverage that government employees receive, but giving that caliber of coverage to each and every American is overly ambitious and impractical. New and more specialized medicine have shown to have a significantly low number of doctors and an unsatisfactory level of overall care. Rather than decrease the quality of health care, John McCain proposes a $5,000 tax deductible to any citizen who wishes to make their health care more affordable.

McCain also understands the importance of using an “all of the above” solution to the nation’s energy problems. He has proposed using renewable energies such as wind and solar power, while drilling off-shore and in Alaska to decrease America’s dependency on foreign oil.

Obama wishes to make their health care more affordable. Senator John McCain may not be the ideal candidate for the presidency, but he is undoubtedly the least threatening.

Point:
The Dispatch’s editorial board as a whole.

Counterpoint:
Note: the views expressed in this article are separate from those of the adjacent editorial, and do not represent the views of The Dispatch’s editorial board as a whole.

Siding with the lesser of two evils

by MIKE MCCOURT

Editor-in-Chief

In New York State, a public school teacher can receive tenure after three years of experience, a series of classroom observations, and recommendations from the department chair, principal and district superintendent. Under this current system, tenure is much too easily achieved and maintained.

One of the most important professions of our age is that of a secondary school teacher. Due to their importance, high school teachers are put under a tremendous amount of pressure to help students achieve success. This pressure causes many teachers to feel that their performance may not satisfy students, parents and administrators, leading them to seek a certain amount of job security. They find comfort in tenure, a title that was once a distinction reserved for teachers that have consistently displayed educational excellence but has evolved into a life raft for mediocre educators who would be much better suited for other fields of work.

The intention of tenure should be to distinguish teachers who have worked in an establishment for an extensive period of time in which they have displayed a superior commitment to students, parents and administrators.

This helps a teacher because the only way the teacher can lose his or her job, is if the teacher resigns or commits an inexcusable act. Tenure also allows a teacher academic freedom, meaning that the teacher can freely express emotions and opinions through teaching, without being questioned by authority. With academic tenure, a teacher is able to show more personality in lectures, without infringement by higher authorities.

Overall, academic tenure ensures that a teacher has the right to teach in nearly any style he or she chooses, and that he or she will not get fired from their job as easily as a teacher without tenure.

The Dispatch examines . . .

What’s Hot

1. Hope and change- the high school’s recent poll has shown Barack Obama light-years ahead of his opponent, and national polls predict a similar outcome in the national election.

2. Producing- more and more students are making their own hip-hop beats on ACID Pro, FL Studio, or Garageband.

3. Tina Fey- this SNL star can do a Sarah Palin better than Sarah Palin.

4. Northern Thrift- The rush to find Halloween costumes at a reasonable price led to a sharp increase in the profits of this New York Avenue thrift store.

5. The Texas Longhorns- the #1 team in college football has pummeled all of its opponents, even those within its own conference, which is widely considered the best in the nation.

What’s Not

1. The Stock Market- Wall Street seems to be in a nosedive, with no turn around in sight.

2. Kanye West- recent singles off Yeezy’s upcoming album have left fans wondering: what happened to the rap?

3. “W”- Oliver Stone’s biopic of President George W. Bush flopped at the box office, and failed to make a significant impact on the election as Stone had hoped.

4. Brett Favre- even when the guy wins, he’s under fire. The Jets changed their entire team to accomodate him, but have still played mediocre football.

5. The College Board- the same company that administers the SAT has created a new test for eighth graders. Because it’s never too early to create college application angst.

Teachers in need of job security

by EMILY FELDMAN

When students think of the term academic tenure, different opinions come to mind, one being a positive opinion.

Many teachers in Huntington High School have tenure and look at it as a blessing. When a teacher is given tenure, that teacher is granted job security and a steady position for as many years as he or she wishes to work in the school district. This is beneficial to many teachers, because it prevents teachers from constantly having to look for teaching positions every few years. With tenure, it is difficult for a teacher to be let go, but his or her position. This helps a teacher because the only
It’s noon, and you’re hungry. You haven’t eaten yet today, so you want to have some breakfast, but society and its unfair standards are pressuring you to have lunch at this time of day.

What do you do? You have brunch. Where do you get this “brunch”? That’s easy: the delicatessens.

Any deli would be more than happy to provide you with a combination of breakfast and lunch foods at a reasonable price. Only here can eggs, meat, cheese, and hash browns live together under one bun in a kind of harmony that would make John Lennon proud. So let’s discover the world of delicatessens together. And expect to share, because in the true Lennon/Lenin spirit, there are no possessions when it comes to food like this.

Bay Deli

Huntingtonians cling to their Bay Deli like conservatives cling to guns and religion. This deli has been on New York Avenue in Halesite for more than 20 years, making it our most established establishment.

Many people consider the Bay Deli to be not just an eatery, but a “way of life.” If these people truly do live to Bay Deli and Bay Deli to live, then they are missing out on a much more satisfying existence from other delis. The Bay Deli had a most delicious egg sandwich, but was lacking in the lunch sandwich department.

Ratings: (1/4 sandwich)

Park Avenue Deli

First off, Park Ave was the only place to provide indoor seating in which to enjoy your meal. Extra points right off the bat. We sampled the deli’s famous Buffalo Soldier, which contains fried chicken breast dipped in buffalo sauce and smothered in blue cheese dressing. Don’t take it lightly; when they say it’s hot, they mean it. The Buffalo Soldier is a good choice for any customer who finds that they have enough perspiration or indulgence in their life.

Park Ave’s egg sandwich was the best we had on our tour. Overall, the place was great, but not quite what we were looking for.

Ratings: (3/4 sandwich)

Porco’s

We’ve got it. Porco’s, located on Milldam Road, is the Juliet to our Romeo. It’s the jelly to our peanut butter. It’s the Ashley to our Mary Kate.

Ratings: (1 full sandwich)

Let us first say that Porco’s had by far the most helpful and personable staff. They weren’t afraid to ask us how school was or talk about the weather. Customer interaction leads to customer satisfaction.

Porco’s provides picnic tables outside so that customers can enjoy the view of the harbor. This time of year, eating outside is less than desirable, but when the weather’s nice, there’s no better place to eat a meal.

Now don’t think we forgot about the food. The egg sandwich, while not quite as good as that of Park Ave, was still delicious. And “The Huntington,” with roast beef, russian dressing on a garlic roll, was the best sandwich we’ve had during our review.

Rating: (3/4 sandwich)

Music: Album Review

Radin connects with Simple Times

By CAT TACOPINA

ARTIST: Joshua Radin
ALBUM: Simple Times

You may not know the name but if you are interested in television shows such as “Scrubs” and “Grey’s Anatomy,” you definitely know the music. You see, Joshua Radin has a folk rock acoustic style which is very popular for such television shows to play at the end of their episodes (You know what I mean, the soft song which they play when the show’s finally reached a resolution. At least for one episode anyway). Being a fan of Joshua Radin since his first studio album entitled “We Were Here,” I highly anticipated the release of this album. While I did find the songs on the album absolutely lovely and pleasant, I was also pleasantly surprised. I’ve found that when it comes to artists such as Joshua Radin, it seems that they have a hard time developing and continue to put out the same songs with different lyrics. Not Joshua Radin though! While Radin still maintains the pleasant calming songs that can put a smile on your face during the early hours of the morning, he has also made his songs a bit more upbeat. Instead of just having only acoustic guitar and random percussion instruments such as the triangle and glockenspiel, he has now added in elements of electric guitar and drum set. These instruments, also including piano, add depth to the music, making it more interesting than his previous album. True, Joshua Radin is taking his time to develop into a much more developed musician, but the baby steps he’s taking are more than enough for the audience.

I believe Joshua Radin’s best gift as a musical artist is his ability to understand what a person wants. Ever notice that music artists say what you’re feeling and state they know how you feel? All musicians share that power, but Joshua Radin takes it a step further. When listening to his music you can almost feel that he’s sitting right by doing his hardest to sing away your troubles and put “Everything will be alright” smile on your face. He’s not just saying “I know how you feel,” he’s also helping you to push through.

In short, I obviously recommend this album to everyone. Joshua Radin’s music is exactly what you should listen to when you need a good cry and when you realize you’re so helplessly angry and just need to calm down. The songs on “Simple Times” such as “I’d Rather Be With You” and “Brand New Day” will make you smile and feel a bit better about a day that could have, quite possibly, been miserable.

Congratulations, Mr. Radin.

By ANDY BIENE

Equilibrium (2002)

Equilibrium is an interesting movie to say the least. It follows the story of Grammaton Cleric First Class John Preston in a dystopian future where an apocalyptic Third World War caused the city-state of Libria to enfor...
**Teacher Feature:**

Ms. Mellon on the election, Vietnam, and Tweety Bird

by DIVA KAPUR

Q: If you could have lunch with any one person, dead or alive, who would it be?
A: Tony Blair. He is my political guru. Second only to Queen Elizabeth I. She’s the first one to really show what a powerful woman can do.

Q: What song do you like to sing in the shower?
A: If I had to sing a song in the shower, it would probably be God Bless America. But I tend not to sing because even in the shower I sound pretty bad.

Q: If you were a super hero, what would your power be?
A: To be able to make any woman who wants to be thin, thin. I would be called The Queen.

Q: What is your most embarrassing moment?
A: When I failed “skipping” (in gym class) on my report card.

Q: What time is your alarm clock set for during the week?
A: 5 a.m. I have to read both the New York Times and Newsday cover-to-cover, and go to the BBC news site. Sometimes I’ll have CNN and a Euro-news station on TV in the morning too.

Q: Do you prefer regular milk or chocolate milk?
A: Neither. I hate milk. I only use it in tea.

Q: Who are you rooting for in this election?
A: Let me put it this way. I don’t like the new McCain because of his social issues, like religion and abortion. I don’t like Obama because of his lack of experience.

Q: Who is your favorite cartoon character?
A: Tweety Bird. I had a student once who drew me a picture of Tweety Bird holding a world history textbook.

Q: What brand t-shirts are stored away in your closet right now?
A: The Beatles, the Stranglers, and Bruce Springsteen. Oh, and the Moody Blues. I love the Moody Blues.

Q: What was your job in high school?
A: In high school I was a sales girl at Macy’s.

Q: What is your favorite TV show?
A: Currently, its Boston Legal. My all-time favorite is West Wing.

Q: If you won the lottery, what would be the first thing that you would buy?
A: Well, I’d have to go to a Chanel store and decide that when I get there, I could spend a whole day at Chanel.

Q: Have you ever participated in a protest?
A: Absolutely. A Vietnam anti-war protest. I was a student at Huntington and the whole student body walked out of class. (Begin reciting “Hell No! We Won’t Go!”)

Q: What movie do you know every line to?
A: Oh God, there’s a lot of them. 101 Dal-matians (the original cartoon version), The Godfather (I), and Casino Royal.

Q: Who was your favorite teacher in high school?
A: A man by the name of Mr. Ambrosino. He was a social studies teacher. He was very enthusiastic and nice, always caught my attention.

Q: Do you believe that there is life on other planets?
A: There has to be. I don’t believe we’re the only people in the universe. There’s got to be others.

Q: What do you want to know about the future?
A: I guess I’d want to know if America will still have the same values. I’d like to know that the Great Experiment was still going on.

**Ms. Medina Foreign Language**

1. Who do you consider to be your fashion icon? Lauren Conrad from “The Hills.”

2. What would you say is a key accessory to own for the fall?

3. What do you consider a fashion DON’T?

4. List your top 3 favorite designers.

5. What would you call your style?

6. What is your favorite new trend?

7. Riding boots.

8. The best place to shop on discount?

9. Express.

10. UGGs: in or out?

8. Out, but I can’t stop wearing them.

**Marissa Benedetto**

Senior

1. Who do you consider to be your fashion icon?

2. What would you say is a key accessory to own for the fall?

3. What do you consider a fashion DON’T?

4. List your top 3 favorite designers.

5. What would you call your style?

6. Fun and fashionable.

7. What is your favorite new trend?

8. Statement jewelry.

9. Where is the best place to shop on discount?


11. UGGs: in or out?

12. In, I love them!
HHS art students featured in Garden City company lobby

by Dan McGale

Huntington High School students Johanna Clifford, Ryan Loscalzo, Daniel Rabinowitz, Brian Riggs and Marissa Rosenfeld are all talented artists who graduated as advanced computer graphics students that were given an opportunity of a lifetime this past year.

The students were asked to create original digital media images for a major worldwide transportation consulting company in Garden City called McQuilling headquarters. “The project was ideal for the students” stated Joanne Loscalzo, Huntington High School counselor of fine and performing arts, “students were able to work collaboratively with an organization outside of the school to solve a real-life problem and have an authentic work experience.”

The students were asked by David Saginaw, a Huntington School District resident and director of McQuilling headquarters, to take the images, which are somewhat abstract in nature while him designing the appearance of oil tankers and oil production facilities. The students used Photoshop and Illustrator computer software programs to produce five pieces of work that were then printed on eight-foot square canvases and installed in the office complex. The project could not have been done without the help of Huntington High School computer graphics and photo teacher, Ms. Mohanty, who helped guide the students with their long term projects, keeping in close contact with Mr. Saginaw and making arrangements to have the work printed and installed. Mr. Saginaw gave the team a budget of $5,000 for the project. After expenses, the remaining $3,000 was given as a donation to the Huntington High School art honor society in appreciation for the work.

“The funds will be used to purchase supplies and cameras for the computer graphics and photography programs at the high school” stated Mrs. Frett, the office staff was so impressed with the students’ work they requested extra prints of the art work.

“I believe that the atrium project was a great experience” says Ryan LoScalzo “and I was very happy to have been chosen to work on it.”

MOVIE page 8

not all the scenes work, like the slightly comical scene where a puppy runs away from a man executing his right hand into the hands of Preston, who runs off claiming the dog needs to be tested for disease.

The real crux of Equilibrium is the fight scenes, which feature what may be the most awesome fictional martial arts technique ever. Called Gun Kata in the fictional martial arts technique what may be the most awesome is the action scenes, which feature what abstract in nature while him designing the appearance of oil tankers and oil production facilities. The project could not have been done without the help of Huntington High School computer graphics and photo teacher, Ms. Mohanty, who helped guide the students with their long term projects, keeping in close contact with Mr. Saginaw and making arrangements to have the work printed and installed. Mr. Saginaw gave the team a budget of $5,000 for the project. After expenses, the remaining $3,000 was given as a donation to the Huntington High School art honor society in appreciation for the work.

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**Boys’ and Girls’ V-ball struggle through season**

by Joe DeMarco

The 2008 boys’ volleyball season contrasts greatly with last year’s season, in which the team made it to the playoffs. However, the dedicated team is still practicing hard everyday under coach Contopolous, and is ready to turn its season around.

Starting right side, junior Ryan Greenhill, explained that “the team shows a lot of promise; some guys have never set foot on a volleyball court before and the team leaders are teaching the new players how to play the game.”

With key players like senior Matt Duffy (outside hitter), junior Max Smoller (setter), and senior Teddy Calligeros (middle hitter), the team has lots of skill and hopes for a better result each time they set foot on the court. They hope that it would like to see more student support at home games. This can help get the team more energized for each game and inspire them to try their best to come out on top.

Although the Blue Devils are not doing as well as they hoped, there is still time to improve, with many games left in the season. The team hopes to rally and go on a winning streak to finish its season on a strong note.

Similarly, girls varsity volleyball is off to a rough start. The team did win their first non-league game, but lost its season opener. The team also won its second game of the season by beating Comsewogue, but then lost three games in a row. The members of the team know that they have room to improve and truly feel that they can do better. The team’s starting middle hitter, junior Lauren Vishal said, “We are a hard working team with a lot of talent, although our record doesn’t show it. This year is different. We have come very close to winning all the games but came up just short. I know we can win games.” The members of this year’s team possess a lot of talent, with senior captains Jenna Feraco and Sarah Paar. Coach Riley and the team would also love to see more fan support at the team’s home games. If this team can improve even a little it would lead to more wins.

With our support and with the hard work from the players, both the boys and the girls varsity volleyball teams have the ability to consistently win. If everything goes right, coach Contopolous and coach Riley hope to turn their 2008 seasons around.

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**Girls’ Soccer narrowly misses playoff spot**

by Matt Duffy

The Girls’ Varsity Soccer Season was unexpectedly cut short this fall when the team failed to make the playoffs for the first time in recent memory.

This year’s team was full of talented, veteran players, including Sophomores Lauren Gerbuzzi, Emily Hayes-Hurley and Christina Bicalalenti also showed exceptional skill.

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**Favar robs G-men of attention**

by Alex Lau

After a dismal 4-12 season, the New York Jets decided it was time to make a few changes. During the last off-season they bulked up their offensive line with the additions of veterans Alan Faneca and Damien Woody, and their defense with the signing of a 350 pound defensive tackle in Kris Jenkins and a versatile linebacker in Calvin Pace. But clearly, the most exciting signing of the off-season had to be that of Brett Favre, the strong armed, all-time leader in passing touchdowns and passing yards. With these numerous free agent signings, the Jets were looking like a playoff team, and the season had not even started.

With all of these acquisitions by the Jets, everyone quickly forgot about the other New York football team. Remember the team that had that improbable run to the Super Bowl, where they were victorious over the then undefeated Patriots? Well, it seems as if the Giants are old news, as Brett Favre has basically taken New York by storm, leaving the Giants quarterback and Super Bowl champion, Eli Manning, in the dust.

Even though Favre may be forgotten, the Giants seem to have carried over last year’s momentum into this year, as they once again look to make the playoffs despite a tough NFC East that includes the teams, the Super Bowl favorite Dallas Cowboys, the Washington Redskins and the Philadelphia Eagles, and despite the loss of the team’s two top defensive players, in Michael Strahan (retirement) and Osi Umenyiora (season-ending knee injury). Even with these losses, the Giants look like a solid team as their easy schedule early in the season, should give them more time they need to make the playoffs.

Despite the pre-season hype, the Jets could have trouble if Brett Favre cannot adapt to the Jets’ system and learn the playbook quickly. Even with the Patriots’ loss of its star quarterback, Tom Brady, the Jets could still have some trouble making the playoffs if their offense and defense do not gel as a team.

Even though the Jets may have been the more popular team in New York during the off-season, the Giants are definitely doing their best to refresh everyone’s memory about their success from last year. And, if the Jets do not get on the right track soon, it seems that they will be refreshing people’s memories too; only they will not be good memories, but bad ones.
A fond farewell to New York’s ballparks

The House That Ruth Built

“Never Shea Goodbye”

By Matt Duffy

The Huntington High School football team has had a lot to prove this season following the losses from the Class of 2008. Last year’s senior class had solid contributors such as Eddie Santoc, Donn Thomas, and Quillian Respess.

The Blue Devils have made themselves playoff contenders under the leadership and performance of quarterback Brian Ruggiero and running backs Damon McQueen and Calvin Bollard.

After several disappointing losses to Hauppauge, Harborfields, and Deer Park, Bollard, a sophomore, led the team to a 19-17 win over Comsewogue on October 18. He rushed for 224 yards and passed for another 64.

Other key players on the Blue Devil team have been wide receivers Josh Daves and Sean Whitney, fullback Brian Smith, and lineman Joe Brown.

The team’s last two games will decide their playoff fate.

Huntington plays at Westhampton Beach on October 24 and closes the season at home against Miller Place on November 1.

September 28th, 2008 will always be remembered as the day we waved goodbye to Shea Stadium. During a month overshadowed by the ceremonial closing of Yankee Stadium, Shea Stadium (1964-2008) was put to rest as well, leaving the memories we cherished there as souvenirs.

Although it may not be as physically attractive as other stadiums, Shea has been a home to the greatest teams in the world: the New York Mets. The last game at Shea ended up as a complete disappointment, seeing as the Mets failed to win.

Robin Ventura’s walkoff “Grand Slam Single” in Game Five of the 1999 NLCS and other amazing memories flashed into my head as I began to realize the magnitude of this game, not only for the Mets to keep their postseason hopes alive, but that the Mets should leave their home in a positive fashion.

As I arrived at Shea Stadium from the train, I walked along the boardwalk, taking in all the games and memories I have personally experienced as a die-hard Mets fan. It was 11:00 AM when I made my way to Gate A to look on at the pre-game ceremony, where past Mets greats made their way down the red carpet. Former players, coaches, and managers walked along the carpet into the entrance of the stadium.

Among these former Mets were Yogi Berra, Tom Seaver, Keith Hernandez, Ron Darling, Edgardo Alfonzo, Todd Zeile, Robin Ventura, Sid Fernandez, Gary Carter, Doc Gooden, and many more. Shades of Robin Ventura’s walkoff “Grand Slam Single” in Game Five of the 1999 NLCS and other amazing memories flashed into my head as I began to realize the magnitude of this game, not only for the Mets to keep their postseason hopes alive, but that the Mets should leave their home in a positive fashion. After all of the cheering and admiring of the Mets legends, it was time for the Mets to begin their 162nd and last game of the season.

The last game at Shea ended up as a complete disappointment, seeing as the Mets failed to win against the Florida Marlins, while the Brewers held on to capture a victory against the Chicago Cubs. The Wild Card race was now finished and for the second straight year, the Mets had failed to enter the postseason on the last day of the season. Experiencing the devastating end to a season firsthand was very overwhelming. It was hard to allow myself to remain at the Stadium for the post-game ceremony. Reluctant at first, I finally told myself that it would be best to stay and experience the last ever event to take place in Shea. Looking back on it now, I am thoroughly happy that I was able to witness the great moments to happen within the stadium’s walls.

The Yankees fittingly one the game, beating the Orioles 5-3. It was the perfect way to cap off the perfect stadium.

It was not fitting, however, to say goodbye to the stadium in a regular season game. The Yankees failed to make the playoffs for the first time since the MLB players’ strike in 1994.

Despite the team’s disappointment in the stadium’s final season, Yankee Stadium still stands as the most memorable and important sports complex in the nation.

Other stadiums may be more attractive or fan-friendly, but Yankee Stadium will be exciting, but it will be awhile before it matches the mystique of the true Yankee Stadium.

By Mike McCourt

At the end of September, baseball fans across the nation said goodbye to America’s most historical stadium.

Yankee Stadium was known as The Cathedral of Baseball. It was there that the Blue Devils on the ground

“Never Shea Goodbye”