Evaluating the Common Core

The verdict on Huntington's controversial new program

By Charles Beers

The newly implemented Common Core program has become one of the most controversial aspects of this school year at Huntington. While many students have heard of the new system, and attribute the rise in stress levels they have experienced over the first few months of school to it, most of the student body is unaware of the actual implications of the state's new education philosophy. According to its website, the Common Core State Standard Initiative states that its standards are "designed to be robust and relevant to the real world, reflecting the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers." In simplest terms, the program is preparing for the future, designed so that high school students will make a seamless transition from high school to college and, finally, to the rest of their lives. In addition, the Common Core also promotes critical thinking. Many critics argue that American students are struggling educationally in comparison to countries abroad, and need a jolt to catch up with the rest of the world. Other experts suggest the true aim is to expose students to a wide range of communications in many forms. As technology advances daily students must become more familiar with this technological terminology in order to compete in global economics. The Common Core is a hard program to define, as it encompasses so many parts of the high school student's journey towards a successful future. Despite New York State's admirable goals, students unanimously associate the Common Core with an increase in exams and graded assignments, and, therefore, criticize the system at every possible opportunity. This begs the question to both students and teachers alike: Is the Common Core program an effective method of increasing educational proficiency?

While most students have already condemned the program for its newfound rigor, it is the reaction from the teachers that is most surprising. The majority of school officials are in agreement that, despite the programs' good intentions, Common Core hasn't been implemented effectively and detracts from the educational experience. For instance, one teacher expressed her frustration by stating, "Common Core promoted a narrow but deeper understanding of concepts by reducing the number of standards to follow. However, I am disappointed, because it takes the creativity out of teaching by telling us what to teach and how to teach it." By stressing rigid lesson plans, the teacher's unique style is constricted and the information is set up on a conveyor belt, never letting students try and deviate from the predetermined path. Other instructors cite the new workload as a problem for students, believing that the amount of tests and in-class assignments has been drastically increased for the 2013-14 school year. With the added pressures of standardized testing and the analysis of student growth over the course of the year, it becomes difficult to truly enjoy the classes themselves. One of Huntington's teachers had his own opinions on the Common Core program. He supported many of its ideas, and genuine appreciation for the creative process. Despite New York's grade of its own, while its reception has been mixed to negative from both students and teachers, it is clear that only time will tell whether or not the program deserves to stay in Huntington. Until then, students can only imagine that perfect educational system that constantly eludes them. Huntington needs a system that increases the critical thinking of its students, but not at the expense of their creativity and genuine appreciation for learning. Huntington needs to stress new material for the changing social climate and prepare kids for the futures outside of high school, but not when this matter becomes monotonous and overshadows traditional fiction. What Huntington really needs is a balance: an educational equilibrium that combines all of the right elements to make the perfect four-year experience.

What Huntington really needs is a balance: an educational equilibrium that combines all of the right elements to make the perfect four-year experience.
In the Spotlight With Declan Byrne
The Huntington Star Weighs in on his Sensational Off-Broadway Debut

By Katie Duval

One of Huntington High School’s star performers is demonstrating his acting talents beyond the high school stage.

Declan Byrne was part of the Off-Broadway play McDermott’s Thread over the summer. The junior, whose family is of Irish descent, is a part of the ensemble cast of Irish Step dancers and singers.

The play centers around the O’Reilly family who have just moved from Ireland to an apartment in the Bronx. Magee, the only daughter, is a talented Irish Step dancer who wants to pursue the craft for her career.

Along the way, though, she must learn about her own family and how the sacrifices they made for her one another bring them closer together in the end. To have a better understanding of the play and the Huntington High School student involved in it, Declan agreed to be interviewed for The Dispatch.

DB: I’m not really sure if it is. I think it might be a hobby or I might choose to pursue it. I keep my own projects open but it’s something I’m interested in. I’m not entirely sure where I’m going but theater is definitely something I’m considering.

DB: I’ve been doing Irish dancing for the majority of my life, maybe since 6 or 8. It’s part of my heritage and helps me keep in touch with who I am.

DB: I do. There are some stories that you just don’t know about your heritage, but I don’t think I have any big stories.

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Donovan’s Declassified School Survival Guide
By Donovan Richardson

The mythical “Freshman Friday” is now long past, and the first Homecoming for the class of 2017 at HHS is finished. Now it’s time for the freshmen to look ahead to the coming four years with one month under their belt. But thirty-nine months of school still await you, who like all the other students, will find that success in school can be difficult if not rewarding.

“Theres no escaping it: high school is difficult... But don’t let your challenges discourage you from success.”

DB: There are some stories that you just don’t know about your heritage… It’s really important for people to know… where they come from.

DB: I definitely do. There’s one flashback scene to Ireland and I got really in character for it and had a lot of fun doing it.

DB: Most of the other people in the play of Irish heritage as well?

DB: Yeah I do. I feel like a lot of people aren’t in touch with their heritage. It’s really important for people to know their heritage and where they come from.

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There are some stories that you just don’t know about your heritage… It’s really important for people to know… where they come from.
El Mes de la Herencia Hispana

By Lily Morris

El Mes de la Herencia Hispana se inició en 1968 y ha sido parte de la historia de los Estados Unidos desde entonces. En manos de las presidentes Lyndon Johnson y Ronald Reagan, el Mes de la Herencia Hispana se ha convertido en una de las leyes públicas de los Estados Unidos. Se celebra cada año el quince de septiembre hasta el inicio de octubre. Se inicia con el fin de septiembre porque este día se conmemora la independencia de muchos países como El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica y Guatemala. El propósito del Mes de la Herencia Hispana es celebrar las contribuciones que los miembros de la cultura hispana han dado a América. Los artistas, músicos, escritores y políticos son recordados y celebrados durante todo el mes. La cultura hispana se celebra con una variedad de maneras diferentes que usted puede celebrar el Mes de la Herencia Hispana. Aquí hay algunas ideas:

1. Educar - Investigar sobre figuras importantes que son hispanas y aprender sobre las cosas que ellos han hecho a América.
2. Come comida nueva - La cultura hispana ha traído muchas comidas deliciosas a América, no se pierde nada con probar algunas.
3. Examine la identidad hispana - Piense en lo que significa ser hispánico. Eche un vistazo a la cultura y tradiciones para entender realmente por qué se celebra esta cultura.

4. Lee literatura - Podría ser una buena idea recoger un libro escrito por un autor hispanoamericano. Le puede enseñar mucho sobre la cultura!
5. Escuche música - Tantos músicos hispanos han hecho música popular en los Estados Unidos y han dejado su marca en la industria de la música. Empiece a escuchar nueva música!
6. Sigue estudiando - Continúe su interés en cómo los latinos están afectando y contribuyendo a la vida en Estados Unidos.

Una Vida Española en los Estados Unidos

By Lenni Joya

Do you speak English? ¡Hablás Inglés? No hay una sola persona en este país que no le hayan preguntado esta fea- mosa pregunta, somos muchos los que vivimos en los Estados Unidos como inmigrantes que hemos venido de un país distinto en el cual no hablamos inglés, sí se practica o aprende, por esa razón son muchos los cuales no hablan este idioma, inglés.

Entonces la pregunta que se te hacen muchas veces son muy grandes hasta de contestar- las, de tal forma si algún alguien te pregunta dicha pregunta no te sorprenderás que no sepas que decir porque tú no eres el primero, ni el último en no decí- nada. Muchas veces hay casos distintos en los cuales tu pregun- tas esto pero recuerda que no te debes burlar de ella si no te puede responder por que son muchas las personas que no saben inglés, porque nunca han tenido la oportunidad de aprenderlo. Recuerda que no todos hemos tenido la misma vida o la misma historia, por eso el respeto y comprensión a las demás persona mantiene la paz en una sociedad.

La vida en los Esta- dos Unidos no es un trabajo fácil, como muchas personas dicen. Tú tienes que interactuar con muchas personas para muchas cosas, por ejemplo si tú quieres pagar el alquiler de tu casa a la persona que tienes que dársele a alguien que habla inglés.

Entonces tú tienes que saber su idioma porque ellos no van a aprender el tuyo solo por comunicarse contigo. También los Estados Unidos es un país en donde muchas personas para muchas cosas para tu vida, y no pongas la excu- sa de que no sabes porque todos sabemos lo que queremos o porque dándote. Y si no lo sabes que no tienes a maravil- losas personas a tu alrededor que te puedan ayudar, los profesores. Ellos son como muchas otras armas que nos ayudaran a superar en nuestro futuro, y si no tienes con- fidencia con ellos hay muchas per- sonas de tu edad que te pueden ayudar también.

Yo me pongo como ejemplo a mi mismo, mis profe- sores y muchos compañeros me han ayudado también. Entonces la excusa de que no tienes a nadie que te ayude ya está barrida. Todos nosotros nos quisieramos ver en una posición grande y mejor que nuestro padres, pero eso necesita de mucho trabajo y sufrimiento. Porque no hay que te darías cuenta de que en cada momento. Recuerda que vida solo es una y si no la aprove- chas a lo máximo sería para bien en tu mismo, en el futuro cuando estés orgulloso de ser alguien que hizo cosas importantes que son hispanas.

Piense en lo que significa ser hispánico, la vida, la cultura, las tradiciones para entender realmente por qué se celebra esta cultura. Por eso tú tienes que tomar el rumbo de tu vida y concentrarte en eso. No pienses que sólo porque tú amas esta escuela a ti tampoco te gustará, las personas son de distintos pensamientos y vistas de la vida, pero si tó eres el único que decide que quieres para ti mismo. Si tu no quieres que en el futuro a la vuelta de la esquina hallar alguien que te pregunte, Do you speak English? Y tú no sepas que decir o no poder contestar esto, que re- cordarás la escuela, y si tú la aban- donaste solo por la razón de que no te gustaba y sabrás el dolor de no saber que decir o quedar en vergüenza. Pero muchas veces los lamentos lo único que hace es sentirte culpable por lo malo o tonto que hayas cometido. Si tu estudiante que sigues en la escuela, no quieres ser uno de esos muchos no dejas la escuela porque entre más aprendes y te educas quien se hace el beneficio es tu mismo y no a tus amigos, aquellos amigos los cuales no estarán contigo toda tu vida o en cada momento. Recuerda que vida sola es una y si no la aprove- chas a lo máximo sería para bien en tu mismo, en el futuro cuando

Una Noticia

Aproximadamente hace una semana, uno de los mejores profesores de lengua ex- tranjera de Huntington no se encontraba en la escuela. Durante días, los estu- diantes de la señora Medina, ahora conocida como la señora Mammone, pregun- taba lo que había sucedido a su maestro. ¡A partir de ahora, se ha confirmado que la señora Medina ha ido en trabajo de parto y un bebé está en camino! Aunque no ha habido muchas noticias sobre la próxima adición a la familia de Huntington, la Sra. Medina está muy emocionada. Ellas espera que el bebé es un niño y será probablemente hacia fuera para que los próximos meses cuenta de su hijo. ¡Le mantendrémos al día en todas las últimas noticias sobre el bebé de la señora Medina y le deseamos buena suerte!

La PAGINA en ESPANOL

The Dispatch

NOVEMBER 13

El Pier de la Vida Española
Shedding Light on the STEM
What’s So Different About the New School Program?

By Jean Abecassis

The STEM school program, which was newly initiated this school year, has been enigmatic and on many peoples’ minds. New information from interviews as well as other school-based sources have shed new light on the situation. Interviews from two students, one who participated in the STEM school system, and one who had not, as well as Mr. Walsh, a Phys. Ed. Teacher, were completed to determine the nature of the STEM school system.

Nadi, a student who had opted out of a STEM school, had this to say regarding the differences in the schools. “It seems to be the same, except STEM schools use mostly technology.” The reason Sahar had chosen to not go was because “she has a lot of friends in the old school,” and she wouldn’t like a school without them.

C.R. Pulizotto, a student who had received the chance to enter a STEM school, had stated that “So far, our work seems to have been the same, except that there is a lot more technology. Every class has a Smart Board, but we still learn everything else normally.”

Huntington Students Weigh in on the New Update

Only a little more than a month since its inception, the new iOS7 update has divided the Huntington student body. Its style and new design choices have both satisfied and angered Apple users.

Many of its critics cite that, while the new phone is more sleek and simplistic, it also takes away from the ability to use it. Sophomore Kelly Palladino explained, “I’m not too fond of this update. I like the old way better. It’s more user-friendly.”

Even teachers have their own opinions on the new design. English teacher Ms. Antonio said, “I’m neutral. I don’t hate it and I don’t love it. I love the new pastel effect but it takes away from the professionalism of the iPhone.”

While there is no denying that Huntington is divided over the new update, one cannot underestimate the improvements that the new update provides. In the end, despite one’s taste in the styled new approach to the iPhone, the iOS7 takes the Apple experience to a whole new level.

The Sleek and Sexy iOS 7
By Ben Nikodem

The month of September is characterized by the beginning of school, the end of summer, and of course, the release of the new iPhone models. Non-Apple users proceed with caution; this article is devoted to the spawn of the late Steve Jobs.

This year, our appetite for the next generation of Apple devices was appeased with not one, but two new phones: the sleek and near button-less iPhone 5s, and the colorful and cheaper iPhone 5c.

Those who have not yet rushed to the Apple store to get the new iPhone models. Non-Apple users proceed with caution; this article is devoted to the spawn of the late Steve Jobs. The new iPhone models to reinvent the Apple experience on mobiles.

“The iOS 7 update has been released with the new iPhone models to reinvent the Apple experience on mobiles.”

Once you cease your ogling of the new lock screen and finally access your home screen, your applications zip into place in a cinematic fashion, making it seem like they were having some cautious party until you came along and forced them back into their static positions.

And wait, what’s that? All your basic apps (suns photos and game center, which have morphed into strange color wheels and bubbles respectively) have new icons that are similar to the old ones, but favor a simpler yet sensual look. Perhaps the best new addition is that of moving backgrounds. Not only are there backgrounds that actually move, but also if you have a picture for a background and move your device…the background moves! Absolutely amazing.

But enough about the designs, what new stuff can be done? Does the weather app finally have animations? The answers to these questions are often, and thankfully, yes. Double tap the home button to access the improved multitasking menu. Swipe up from the bottom of the screen to use the control center and you can pause your access airplane mode and turn on the flashlight. Swipe down from the top to see the notification center, where you can see stocks, events and missed texts. Siri has been updated as well and can search Wikipedia (which won’t help your English research paper), and unfortunately she still won’t agree to marry me.

The camera can do panoramas and it now has filters like “noir” and “chrome” for all you artsy folk. Photos now can be sorted into collections, and shared via the Almighty Cloud. Safari has a new favorites page and an annoying new menu for multiple windows.

There is now an iTunes Radio, and for those who can operate a vehicle, the operating system can be connected to the car.

The iOS 7 update has been released with the new iPhone models to reinvent the Apple experience on mobiles. There are a plethora of new designs, functions and applications to tickle everyone’s fancies. Now we wait until next year for the novel iOS 8. If you have any questions, go to Apple.com, it has more info on the subject.

By C.R. Pullizotto, a student in the old school, “and she wouldn’t like a school without them.”
Mr. Donovan
1987, July 20th, to be specific. I was born in Oceanside, New York.

I am going to go with a cultural answer, and say The Beatles.

If you could have free, front-row concert tickets to any artist, alive or dead, who would you choose?

Miranda Sings. She is a beautiful singer, she wears red lipstick, and I encourage you to look her up.

When and where were you born?

When you were a kid, what did you want to be when you were a kid?

I want to be myself, but if I wanted to be another person…I don’t know, Harry Potter?

What do you want to do when you are older/what did you want to do when you were a kid?

Study or teach language. Or learn about classic Roman culture. But that’s more of a major…I don’t know what I want to be.

In a battle between Justin Timberlake and Kim Jong Un, who would win?

Justin Timberlake because dance moves beat nuclear weapons. I don’t know what moves Kim Jong Un has.

I would want it to be…May. That’s not a season.

City, rural, or in between?

Not rural.

Where is your dream vacation?

I went to Mexico a few years ago, so maybe there again. Anywhere with good food, sun, and a nice room.

Do you consider eyebrows facial hair?

I don’t know. But they are. Because it’s on your face.

I’d like to know what it is like to be president, and I’d like to be alive during the 1800s, so Abraham Lincoln. But not on April 14th.

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Vapid.

One school appropriate word to describe Miley Cyrus.

Beautimous (beautiful and fabulous at the same time)

Fall, because I like to layer and wear sport coats.

If the whole year was one season, what season would you want it to be?

I would want it to be…May. That’s not a season. Late spring. May can be Memorial Day/beach day or it can be wet.

Comparison
Donovan vs. Donovan

Donovan Richardson

Good Samaritan Hospital in Islip in 1996. I don’t want to give out my birthday.

Why? Miranda Sings. She is a beautiful singer, she wears red lipstick, and I encourage you to look her up.

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Top Fall Trends
By Bridget Walsh

In the News
1) Monochrome White
2) Dark Emeralds and Hunter Greens
3) Tweed Coats, Pants and Skirts
4) Color Block
5) Tartan EVERYTHING

Top 10 Fall Fashion Trends at HHS
1) Maxi Skirts
2) Sperrys
3) Skater Skirts
4) Combat Boots
5) Green Army Jackets & Vests
6) Cross-Body Bags
7) Anything High-Waisted
8) Denim Vests
9) Traditional RayBan Club-masters & Wayfarers
And of course...
10) A lanyard with car key coming out of one's pocket

The Dispatch examines . . .

What’s Hot
1) The X-Factor- “It’s a yes from me.”
2) Pumpkin Spice Lattes- They’re so hot, you’ll burn your tongue!
3) Miley Cyrus- We Can’t Stop listening to her new album!
4) Ankle boots- They’ll knock your socks off!
5) Apple Products- For the creative.
6) Rainbow Looms- They’ll brighten up your day!
7) Grand Theft Auto 5- What a steal!

What’s Not
1) American Idol- You’re not going to Hollywood!
2) Cowboy boots- Yipee-ki-NO!
3) Yolo- More like ‘yoNO’!
4) New York Giants- They’re only halfway through the season but the Giants are already feeling blue.
5) Backpacks with Speakers- A school supply that’s a little too loud and proud.

Huntington Trendsetters Share Their Secrets

By Bridget Walsh

Fashion-forward seniors Anthony Puca and Gabby Mandrota light up the halls of Huntington High School with their bold outfit choices and individual styles. The Dispatch sat down with the two trend-setters and spoke to them about what fuels their interest in fashion and why they wear what they wear.

We started with Mr. Puca.

Who or what gives you inspiration for what you wear and why?

AP: My clothing style has been inspired from a variety of places. Growing up I was taught to always look presentable. I was brought up looking at my older brother and other older relatives who dress the way I do. As a kid, seeing what they wore every day just made me believe that’s how all old people dress. I have always been a fan of long sleeved shirts and pants no matter what the weather is like. This is also another influence for what I wear. Being that all my long sleeved t-shirts (and short sleeved ones for that matter) all have either holes in the armpit or the permanent smell of the wrestling room my only option for shirts are the ones I wear. I also avoid being called the worst possible insult because of my outfit…”A Bum”.

What is your favorite piece of clothing you own?

AP: My favorite article of clothing has to be one of my Donald Trump Shirts. It’s Rosewood colored with a white collar and cuffs. It is my favorite because I love shirts with the white collars/ cuffs and it has a nice contrast with the darker color. In fact, I like the shirt so much I have yet to wear it. I’m just waiting for the perfect opportunity.

What is one trend (or any recent trend) that you like?

AP: Although not a fall trend, floral shirts are definitely my favorite trend and were a big trend for the past summer. I have always loved floral shirts and have many of them in my closet. They are pretty to look at and almost have a relaxing effect. Whenever I wear them, one of my friends always makes a joke and asks if I’m going to Hawaii. Floral shirts are a trend that will never go out of style.

What is one trend that you dislike?

AP: I wouldn’t say there is a trend that I strongly dislike, but there is one that I wouldn’t call my favorite. This trend is the highly popular colored pants. Although I own a couple pairs myself, I am still not a huge fan of the trend. I feel that they add too much to the outfit which subsequently take away from it. However, they can look nice if worn with the right shirt (and if the shirt is tucked away from it). However, they can also be too much to the outfit which subsequently take away from it.

What is your favorite place to shop?

GM: I draw inspiration from everything and anything that makes me happy! Since a lot of vintage-y things make me happy, I love to wear vintage styles and I love bright, fun colors and different novelty prints. For example, flowers and polka dots make me happy, so naturally I have lots of pieces that show it!

What is your favorite thing to wear?

GM: My vintage daisy pin is my favorite thing of all and I cherish it with all my heart.

What is one fall trend (or any recent trend) that you like?

GM: I can’t get enough of the circle skirt trend! Circle skirts in longer lengths were all the rage in the 50’s and I love how stores like American Apparel and Urban Outfitters have shortened them to make them more young and modern looking. I find them to be so comfy and easy to wear. They go with practically everything!

What decade do you draw the most inspiration from and why?

GM: I draw the most inspiration from the 50’s, but I do adore retro 60’s apparel too! I like these decades and their styles because of the positive sides of the popular culture during these times and the upbeat nature of many things produced during these eras. I love to twirl around in skirts that fall below my knees and dresses with quirky retro bits make me smile. I believe clothes were made so much better back in these decades and the clothes from back then are just so much fun to wear! I like wearing skirts and dresses from the 50’s and mod, fun retro looks from the 60’s but I change it up all the time and I do love modern styles too!

Where are your favorite places to shop?

GM: I have too many favorite places to pick up new goodies for my closet, but some of my favorite places to shop are vintage apparel shops in NYC (Vintage Thrift Shop on 3rd Ave is a favorite!), Modcloth.com, H&M, Beacon’s Closet, and C. Wonder.

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Huntington Blue Devil Marching Band

By Hanae Wada

On October 6th 2013, the Huntington High School’s Blue Devil Marching band hosted a band competition on their own home field. Only two years after the HBDMB hosts their own “home show” which allows bands from long island and beyond to compete against each other. The Sachem Marching Band scored a 77.95 and the Walt Whitman Marching Band scored a 73.50. The seniors and juniors of the HBDMB had not expected their last home show to be rainy and foggy. Rain and fog occurred during the show but this had not stopped anyone from having a great performance. Senior and Field Major Michael Stafford replied, “Performing at my last home show was sobering, but it has been an intense time and couldn’t have asked for a better performance.” There were 24 seniors and 28 juniors that were recognized for their participation in the marching band. The HBDMB had raised about $15,000 that will go to the marching band’s funds for new equipment and other accessories. Tickets were sold at the gate for $6 each and each food ticket was sold for 50 cents each. “The food was delicious! The band parent association was fully prepared and all of the students and staff couldn’t thank them enough for their great work,” stated Michael Stafford. Come support the HBDMB at all their future performances!

The Evolution of Hip-Hop

From block parties to one of America’s most popular genres

By Natalie Lanzisero

Hip-Hop culture began at block parties in the Bronx, New York during the 1970’s. DJ’s enjoyed the crowds’ reaction to popular songs that they played and began to extend the songs by using turntables. They lengthened the instrumental breaks of the song through techniques such as scratching and beat mixing and matching. Sometimes the DJ would speak small verses such as “yes” and “y’all” during these instrumental breaks in order to keep the crowd going.

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Eventually, rappers, also know as MC’s, would begin speaking lyrically or with rhymes about the hardships of life. Hip-hop artists also began to use the beats of funk music genre at the time, disco, referring to it as “watered-down, Europe-anized music that permeated the airways...”
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However, some rappers were influenced by the music and used the beats as backdrops to their verses. Many were also inspired by popular African American jazz poetry and used a call and response technique which is defined as “spontaneous verbal and non-verbal interaction between speaker and listener.” To begin this rap movement, DJ Kool Herc and Coke La Rock delivered verbal raps and poetry verses over funk music beats. These DJ’s were two of the few rappers to gain recognition in New York City during the ‘70s. Initially, most rappers who gained recognition were part of groups. It wasn’t until the 1980’s that the number of solo hip-hop artists began to grow. Artists of the old school hip hop generation include Public Enemy, Average Joe, Boogie Down Productions, Eric B. & Rakim, De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, and Gang Starr.

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In 1990’s the East vs West rivalry intensified. The West coast was represented by Tupac Shakur, Snoop Dogg, Jurassic 5, and People Under the Stairs. The East Coast was dominated by artists including De La Soul, A Tribe Called Quest, Wu-Tang Clan, Nas, and Notorious B.I.G. and as of the late 1990’s the Wu-Tang Clan dominated the hip-hop charts.
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Hip-Hop of 2000-2010 includes much music produced by Dr. Dre including albums by Eminem and 50 Cent. In recent years alternative hip-hop has been wildly popular. Alternative rap refers to hip hop groups that refuse to conform to any of the traditional stereotypes of rap, such as gangsta, hardcore, pop, and party rap.
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Instead, they blur genres - drawing equally from funk and rock, as well as jazz, soul, reggae, country, and electronic.
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Kanye West, OutKast, Gnarls Barkley, and Jay-Z are artists who have been placed in this genre. Today, new artists such as Wale, J. Cole, Lupe Fiasco, and Jay Electronica have continued the ‘90s rappers as their sole inspirations.
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The Dispatch

Hidden in the Shadows

Why the Homecoming Half-Time Show Has to Change

Class officers were devastated at halftime of the Homecoming Day football game on September 28, when the announcement of their parade floats was lost over the roar of the crowd. Despite being one of the staples of the day’s colorful festivities, the floats and their creators were not fully recognized for their weeks of intense preparation.

Unlike years before, when the floats received their own time slot during the half time show, this year’s audience struggled to squeeze in the descriptions of the floats in between plays. The transitions were poorly executed and the final announcement of the junior class’ victory was drowned out by the cheers following a successful defensive stop by the Blue Devil football squad.

Both teachers and students alike, most of whom spent long hours over many weekends crafting flowers and constructing wooden structures, were dissatisfied by how the announcements panned out. “It was disappointing,” said one class advisor, “It was disjointed and difficult to catch.”

So the question remains: What measures must be taken to properly recognize both the winners of the competition and the Huntington student government as a whole? The answer is simple: Cut back. The Hightsteppers, the Color Guard, and the presentation of the Homecoming King and Queen all had plenty of time to carry out their respective routines to completion. Only five minutes would be needed to bring the officers onto the field, read off the descriptions of the individual floats, and properly announce the winners without the distraction of the actual game.

As Ms. Dillon, the junior class advisor and school librarian, stated, “I think all the kids deserve credit and our class in particular. We broke the tradition of winning two years in a row as underclassmen.” Clearly, in order to fully recognize the accomplishments of Huntington’s stars off the field, a change in the half time show is a must.
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Critic’s Corner

Mister Death’s Blue Eyed Girls Review

By Asar Nadi

Have you ever thought about revenge? Not the TV show, but something similar. Would you consider yourself a rule-breaker and love the thrill of never been caught? Do you enjoy watching those TV shows about detectives from the 1920s or the 1950s? Have you ever wondered what it would ever feel like if two of your friends were found murdered in the park? Have you ever thought about what it would be like to be smarter than the police like some serial killers? Have you ever wondered what the nice kid might do on a warm, dark summer night?

Some may wonder about these questions, but may not have answers. Well, Mary Downing Hahn’s novel practically answers all of these questions and brings them to life by using the details of a true crime. Mister Death’s Blue-Eyed Girls, a novel taking place during the 1950s, shows the point of view of different characters, one of whom is the killer. The different point of views really capture Hahn’s mind about death and what life would be like for others if they ever lost a loved one.

The imagery she creates allows the reader to stream themselves into the novel, making the readers believe they were there while it all happened. She also takes the minds of teenagers and uses their moods to create the setting even more. By creating each teenager with different minds and different goals, Hahn is able to keep the story going no matter the consequences.

By adding secrets, especially murder, Hahn still writes about teenagers’ everyday life and what they go through naturally. She adds the love-triangle, the break-up, the obsession of a girl, problems between parents and, of course, the double homicide.

The novel itself is a bit predictable, but not over-the-top. Although trying to keep the plot twisting, Hahn’s way of foreshadowing really captures the mind of the killer. By leaving all other characters’ very predictable, Hahn allows the killer to remain unpredictable. In order to get into the mind of the killer, one must think like a killer and be able to predict their next move. One downside of this novel is the cliché love-triangle. This boy likes that girl, but this girl doesn’t feel the same way even though they kissed and she can’t stop thinking about it.

Typical love-scenarios where the girl likes the jock, but makes out with her friend. Nothing more and nothing special or dramatic about it. If you’re the type to watch cop shows like Rizzoli & Isles, Criminal Minds, Motive, or even Hannibal, then try reading Mister Death’s Blue-Eyed Girls for a mystery that is captivating and interesting to follow.

The Dispatch Playlist

By Leah Butz and Olivia Liepa

In the mood for some new tunes? Well, we have the playlist for you! Today we bring you covers! While many hard-core fans may dislike their favorite song being recreated by a different band, us here at the Dispatch are more open minded. Here are our top ten, in no particular order:

1. Fall Out Boy – “Beat It” (Michael Jackson cover)
2. Daughter – “Get Lucky” (Daft Punk cover)
3. Bayside – “Wild Night” (Van Morrison cover)
4. Pentatonix – “Don’t You Worry Child” (Swedish House Mafia cover)
5. Ellie Goulding – “Your Song” (Elton John cover)
6. Koji – “The Longer I Lay Here” (Pedro the Lion cover)
7. Mumford & Sons – “England” (The National cover)
8. Rise Against – “Anyway You Want It” (Journey cover)
10. Of Monsters and Men – “Skeletons” (Yeah Yeah Yeahs cover)

How Our QR Tag System Works

Originally created for the auto industry by Toyota, Quick Response (QR) codes were used to track progress and part movement around the manufacturing plant.

But, recently QR Codes (Tags) have become more ubiquitous in magazines, catalogs, and advertisements. QR codes are also beginning to appear more frequently on campus print and digital signage to bridge the physical world with the online world. Note that QR codes can be used to share any alphanumeric information and function similar to the common barcodes on merchandise.

The increasing use of QR codes has benefited from the growing popularity of smartphones and handheld devices with built-in cameras that can be used to read the QR codes. To turn your smartphone into a QR code reader, it is necessary to download an app such as Qrafter or QR Reader, many of which are free from the various app stores.

In this issue of The Dispatch and all further issue we will be posting these QR tags throughout our paper to link you to more information regarding the article. This could be a link to a song that is being reviewed, a link to a video, a photo slide show, a document etc.

Please download one of the above mentioned apps, scan the included QR Codes and enjoy!
NFL Midseason Preview
Which Teams Have Guaranteed Their Super Bowl Tickets?

By Will Harris

A new season of NFL football is finally upon us. Football fans have been waiting five very long months since the Super Bowl for the excitement to begin. Many of the teams have big changes to their rosters from last year, especially the defending Super Bowl champs the Baltimore Ravens. The Ravens have lost some key players like Ray Lewis, who has officially retired from the NFL after 17 Hall of Fame caliber seasons. Also, Ed Reed, a 9-time Pro Bowl safety and another future Hall of Famer has signed with the Houston Texans. Other teams have also experienced changes like the New York Jets, who drafted quarterback Geno Smith out of West Virginia University. Smith and his rookie counterpart Eli Manu, who the Buffalo Bills drafted from Florida State University, will be the starting quarterbacks this season due to the injury to Mark Sanchez on the Jets and the departure of Ryan Fitzpatrick in Buffalo.

These rookies will have their hands full this season with their teammates counting on them to make the playoffs. The team to watch this year is the Denver Broncos with their newly acquired wide receiver from the New England Patriots, Wes Welker. This star addition led the NFL in receptions last year. He’ll give Peyton Manning another great target along with Demaryius Thomas and Eric Decker.

My projections for the AFC East division are the New England Patriots winning the division by finishing the season at 11-5 and getting a first round bye in the playoffs. The Patriots will win because they still have one of the best quarterbacks in the league called Tom Brady who will make any receiver on his team look great because of his natural quarterbacking talent. The AFC East winner will be the New England Patriots.

In the AFC South division, the AFC East winner will be the Dallas Cowboys who will finish at 9-7 because of Pro Bowl wide receiver Dez Bryant and their defense led by Demarcus Ware.

The NFC East winner will be the Philadelphia Eagles as they will be the defending champions of the NFC East along with their defense led by defensive end Michael Bennett.

The NFC North winner will be the Denver Broncos. The two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games.

The Super Bowl will pit the New Orleans Saints against the Denver Broncos. Two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games.

The AFC South will have the Houston Texans, who are the pick to win the division by finishing 11-5 by winning the tiebreaker in the AFC South.

The NFC North winner will be the Detroit Lions. The NFC West winner will be the Dallas Cowboys who will finish at 12-4 and receive a first round bye in the playoffs.

The AFC West winner will be the San Francisco 49ers and the AFC South winner will be the Houston Texans. The two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games.

The AFC South will have the Houston Texans, who are the pick to win the division by finishing 11-5 by winning the tiebreaker in the AFC South.

The NFC North winner will be the Detroit Lions. The NFC West winner will be the Dallas Cowboys who will finish at 12-4 and receive a first round bye in the playoffs.

The AFC West winner will be the San Francisco 49ers and the NFC West winner will be the Seattle Seahawks.

For the playoffs, the Denver Broncos and the Indianapolis Colts will take on the New England Patriots. The two offensive powerhouses will overwhelm their opponents in the conference championship games.

Huntington Strikes Back Against Cancer
How Girls Varsity Soccer Made Their Mark on the Homecoming Parade

By Megan Healy

The parade is more than just an annual fun homecoming event where main events gather together to show school spirit. It is an opportunity to help those who are experiencing one of the most traumatic diseases in today’s society—cancer.

Members of Huntington’s Girls Varsity Soccer team marched the parade through Huntington Village, collecting small donations from the crowd and supporting Huntington’s homecoming festivities. All together, the team raised over seven hundred dollars in just an hour and a half.

In preparation for the march, the girls gathered pink bags and made posters illustrating their goal for the parade. In pairs, they held their posters high and bags open, shouting to the crowd to donate to Kicks for Cancer. “There were a lot of people to support Huntington High School and, better yet, donate to HGVS and our Kicks for Cancer game,” says Emily Saltman, a proud member of the girls’ soccer team.

The crowd was very supportive of the team. Not even the team itself could have predicted the staggering amount of money they achieved by the end of the day. Another member of the team, junior Katy Laurie, claims, “People are really great and giving.” Freshman Camille Stafford said that “if it wasn’t for the generous crowd attending the parade, we would not have the opportunity to raise the amount of money that we did.”

The team unanimously credited this monstrous achievement to the numerous people that came out to support Huntington on its big day. Every penny earned by this wonderful group of girls was raised for their Kicks for Cancer game. One game out of the season is selected for the team to wear pink jerseys representing their support for the fight against cancer. Kicks for Cancer originated in Hauppauge, a small town when a junior, Courtney Tomkin was diagnosed with brain cancer. The money is then donated to the organization that helped Tomkin. Tomkin passed away in December of 2008 at the age of seventeen. Ever since, Hauppauge and schools all over the island, including Huntington, have participated in the Kicks for Cancer fundraiser to help support those who have been diagnosed with cancer.

Make sure to continue donating to the girls varsity team in their fundraising efforts, and always remember their cause. While cancer may seem like an unconquerable part of life, we can always stand together and fight back.
Huntington Dominates Suffolk Soccer

Girls Varsity: An Epic Turnaround
By Mike Stafford

The Huntington girls' varsity soccer team has a lot to be cheerful about this season. Led by head coach Mr. Walsh and assistant coach Mr. Tannazzio, the girls have compiled a 7-2-3 record.

While the team looks forward to a successful 2014 season, they can't help but be upset about this year's playoffs. However, despite the tremendous strides the team has made over the course of the season, becoming one of the league's top teams.

The team has a ferocious defense that has been one of their keys to success. Led by center backs, Naomi Medina and Kim Smith, the team's defense has been a testament to their leadership from its senior core.

The team also has strong outside backs, Naomi Medina and Emily Saltman. This "family" atmosphere has pulled Moreno injured, but the girls fought hard and tied the game by a goal by Katie Reilly. The team kept fighting and made incredible plays on defense, which included great saves by Kaithlin Wascher. However, despite many opportunities on offense, they couldn't capitalize and the game ended in a tie after two overtimes. Even though the match was completed later on in the season tied with a 1-1 tie, there is no denying that the varsity season was full of highlights. With large crowds full of spirit and energized play, these games were always memorable for both the fans and the players themselves.

The playoff game was one of the best games they've ever played according to several of the team's players. "While we played our hearts out, we just didn't get the results we wanted," said team captain Megan Healy.

Overall, the girls' varsity team played exceptionally well this season. The team's success cannot be attributed to one player, as it is a team effort and cooperation that has inspired them to become one of Suffolk County's best. If the regular season was any indication, it seems that this spirit and determination will continue in the future and, with the help of their impeccable defense, hopefully secure postseason victories when 2014 comes around.

Boys Varsity: Impossible Season
By Joe Saginaw

Ever since August, on the hot turf field of Blue Devil Stadium, you could find soccer players conditioning and training for the season to come. Most of them could tell you they were awaiting a great season, that they couldn’t wait to start playing and that they were looking forward to getting closer with their fellow teammates.

But none of them could’ve told you that the Huntington Boys Varsity Soccer team would make its fastest run in the playoffs since the 1980's.

Huntington was seeded No. 15 in the county, a less desirable seed than they deserved, but after the way games have recently played out, it has turned into a positive. Last Saturday, in an out bracket game, Huntington defeated Comsewogue by a score of 1-0. This past Tuesday, in a round of 16 game, Huntington defeated Hauppauge by a score of 1-0.

In one of the biggest wins for the Huntington Soccer program, Ricky Velasquez scored the winner with 15 minutes to play. The most recent win was at the home field of one of Huntington’s biggest rivals Hauppauge.

Anfriener’s "Royoce" Lopez scored the only goal of the game in the first half and Huntington held off the hosts to win 1-0.

“Impossible is nothing.”

Black and Blue: Is the Giants' Situation Hopeless?
By Gabe Smith

The New York Giants are one of the proudest and most renowned football teams in the NFL. Despite being the owners of four Lombardi trophies, they have been an utter disaster so far in the 2013 season.

For the boys in blue and red, it’s been an eight games and six losses to date. Not exactly the way that the 2011 Super Bowl champs expected to start off their season. In short, it's been an ugly first half.

Not only have they dropped the first quarter of their schedule but in three of those six defeats they were pummeled 41-23 to the Broncos, 38-0 to the Panthers and 31-7 to the Chiefs. That’s simply embarrassing with their performance so far.

Varsity football assistant coach Ron Wilson says of his favorite team, “First of all it’s depressing to see them open the season with zero wins. The defense isn’t playing well, and when the defense isn’t playing well it’s hard for the offense to find the end zone… This week is a must-win game or else some folks are gonna be fired.”

There are several people to fault for the team's shortcomings. Some of those people can be found in the offensive line. The players that are tasked with protecting Eli Manning have failed miserably. Eli needs some help and key players such as David Baas and Chris Snee have gone down with injuries.

“I don’t think it’s Eli’s fault the offensive line has been awful,” said avid Giants fan and host of this Mr. Agnelo’s “He’s had to force the issue. Just like Peyton, Eli needs time to make decisions. Peyton has always had great offensive lines, which is what Eli needs.”

The ailing offensive line has yielded an alarming number of sacks thus far, a majority of those coming from the Giants’ pounding at the hands of the Carolina Panthers. Eli’s lack of time to make decisions has caused him to throw league-leading numbers of interceptions, making him the king of the quarterbacks exchange.

In 16 games last year Eli threw a total of 15 picks; at his current rate he’ll more than double 2012’s sum.

While the Giants’ situation is certainly pathetic, it is not without hope. Their division is having a very lackluster season as well, with every team in sight. All four teams are struggling to stay over .500, giving the Giants plenty of opportunities to get right back into the playoff race.

If the Giants can put together a string of wins they’ll be right back in the thick of things.