



The Dispatch

"A beacon of truth."

■ Issue 3, Volume 38

Huntington High School

Oakwood and McKay Roads Huntington, NY 11743

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PHOTO: DAVID STILLMAN

BUDGETS, TAX CAPS AND CUTS, OH MY

by CARRIE FANTE and
NATASHA STOLLMACK

» news in short

Jodi Picoult to visit HHS

On Friday, March 4th, best-selling author Jodi Picoult will visit HHS to talk about and sign her new novel, *Sing You Home*

Spring musical in progress

The HHS Drama Club has begun rehearsals for the 2011 spring musical, *Carousel*. Senior Jonah Kramer and freshman Chelsea Holmes star as the leads.

New AP course for seniors

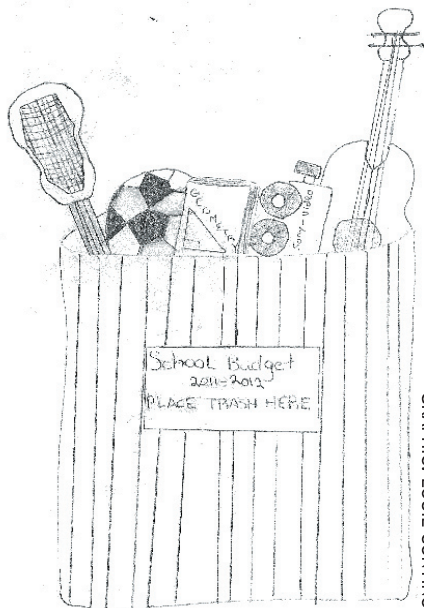
Advanced Placement (AP) Environmental Science has been approved and added to the 2011-2012 curriculum.

For the past several years, students, teachers and parents of the Huntington school district have lost sleep during the week of the budget vote, praying that it would pass so additional cuts would not come into play. The district has certainly experienced loss despite approved budgets; ranging from teachers to classes to extracurricular programs. While the district has been able to cope with such changes in the past, the school budget for the 2011-2012 scholastic year may very well be the most difficult hurdle that Huntington has ever had to jump.

It is no surprise that the budget faces serious obstacles for next year; because of inflation, it technically costs more each year to maintain the current budget without adding anything new. In order to maintain this year's budget, the school board would need to ask Huntington taxpayers to agree to a 7% increase in their taxes. Many residents of District Three are supportive of funding education, however a 7% increase could put many residents in an unmanageable financial situation.

In addition to inflation, Governor Cuomo has proposed a 2% tax cap, meaning that districts would not be allowed to ask taxpayers for anything more than a 2% increase. As of right now, the district is allowed to present the taxpayers with a budget that exceeds a 2% increase. Residents of Huntington would then have the option of either passing the budget or rejecting it. Unfortunately, if approved, the tax cap would legally prevent the school board from even inquiring as to whether or not taxpayers would consider a budget over 2%. Another proposal was a "super majority"

vote, which would require 60% of voters to approve the budget as opposed to the usual 50%. At the school board meeting on January 24th, Board Trustee Emily Rogan expressed her opposition to the tax cap. She explained how there is "already a checks and balances system," and that the taxpayers have the ability to "vote it [the budget] down twice" if they are not satisfied with the numbers.



GRAPHIC: LOUIE CONTINO

In addition to the potential tax cap, property values in Huntington are largely decreasing. Property values are determined by an assessment; if the assessment causes a decrease in property value, this leads to lower taxes. A percentage of revenue from property taxes pays for education; the lower taxes are, the less revenue the school will be able to receive.

All of these factors could mean horrify-

ing things for the Huntington schools. At the February 7th board meeting, it was announced that 91 staff positions districtwide could be in jeopardy of being cut next year. All clubs, sports, and other extracurricular activities are in jeopardy as well. With the potential reduction of aid from the state if the tax cap is approved, the state government is required only to fund public schools the bare minimum amount they need to function. "Function" in this sense does not mean maintain the current curriculum and programs. This aid would cover the least amount of teachers and classes in order for Huntington schools to function during school hours. Most high school students cannot imagine a typical school day without their daily activities offered through the athletic, music and art departments, or perhaps the other clubs and honor societies they participate in.

The problem is clear- no one knows where the financial support our district needs is going to come from. The school board is not out to take away teachers, classes and extracurriculars from the district; several of the trustees have students in the district who benefit from them. Luckily, the tax cap has not yet been approved and no specific programs have been officially cut for next year. The best thing that Huntington students can do is keep themselves updated on developments in both the budget and the state. Superintendent John J. Finello said at the January 24th board meeting, "There is going to be a lot of pain and suffering to get to the budget we want to get to."

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"Ready, Step" going strong Huntington step team in seventh year of competitive performance

by SHIRA MOSKOWITZ

In 2004, a group of students from Huntington High School went to Ms. Youlanda and asked her to help them start a step team. The group that came to be known as "Ready, Step" has been going strong ever since.

Although Youlanda serves as the team's advisor, the team is truly run by the students. "Because of my military background, I can tell the kids if they are getting the steps wrong, but they make up the routines," said Youlanda. The routines are predominantly created by the captains but "whoever knows a step teaches it," explained Destiny Brown, a member of the team.

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

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

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

At these competitions Ready, Step will compete against schools

in the area. Youlanda fondly recalled one of the last competitions the team attended at which they beat Walt Whitman, the then number one team. She hopes this year's team will have a similar success story to bring home. To prepare for these competitions, the team must choreograph a four minute routine of strictly stepping, no dancing.

In addition to competitions, the Step Team performed at the Homecoming pep rally.

Their performance at the pep rally combine their usual stepping moves with dance routines to make it more exciting for the students. The crowds went wild for this year's performance. Senior Olivia Weller commented, "What they do is so cool and difficult, yet they make it look easy!" Sophomore Anna



GRAPHIC: MELISSA ROSENBERG

↓ A member of "Ready, Step"

see STEP TEAM on pg. 2

College prep in less than a page

by ANDREW KU

For many high school students, preparing for college is an incredibly time-consuming and important process. With the right guidance for each year of high school, students can pace themselves correctly and alleviate themselves of any cramming or stress (for the most part).

FRESHMAN YEAR

Though most people would prefer to think otherwise, college preparation begins as far back as ninth and tenth grade. In ninth grade, students should start to pay attention to their course selections and their grades for the classes. While it is good to feel comfortable in one's chosen courses and get good grades, it's equally important to make sure one is challenged. In other words, don't get too comfortable. Colleges like to see their applicants take the most rigorous and challenging courses they can take. Never overlook the importance of course selections. Also, start to look around, and consider joining some of the after school activities and clubs our school has to offer. Grades are not everything in a college application; colleges want to see your extracurricular activities as well.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

As a tenth grader, one should reflect upon his/her grades from the previous year, and try anew. Taking the PSAT is the first major step towards college, and it is most important as an indicator of where you stand score-wise on the SAT. Assess your strong points and weak points once you get the test results back. From this point on, you have a year's time to get ready for the PSAT test that counts - the one you need to take in your junior year. You should also begin asking yourselves questions such as, *"What kind of a student*

am I?" Are you an athlete? A scholar? A musician? These questions help you decide what path to college you want to take. Put more energy into making your strong points stronger. Meanwhile, keep working hard in the courses, keep the grades up, and think about your junior year course selection.

The College Office has also decided to give sophomores an early heads-up on the College admissions process with Sophomore-Parent Night. Tenth-graders can and should get involved in the real process, and they are always welcome to ask for guidance from Mrs. Walsh, their counselors, and the College Office.

SUMMERTIME

The summers are just as important as school time. I know, you've had a stressful, work-filled year, and summer vacation is your chance to sleep twelve hours a day, and play video games the rest of the time. There's nothing wrong with a little recuperation, but summers are also your chance to contribute to the community and personify yourself! Sounds like the same old boring advice, doesn't it? But it's true. Rack up those community service hours while you can. You can think of it as investing in a rapidly growing company. Put in the time and effort now and you will reap benefits multiplied many times over - both for your resume and your character.

It's also never too early to start searching for colleges. Huntington High School hosts several college fairs throughout the year, and even more can be found at other locations. Visiting a college fair doesn't take long, and allows you to speak face-to-face with representatives from various colleges. Don't be intimidated - fake your confidence if you have to. Communication is key in the college admissions

process, and most admission officers don't appreciate lack of enthusiasm and assertiveness in prospective students.

JUNIOR YEAR

Juniors must shoulder all of these responsibilities, and also start thinking about scholarship opportunities. Among the most notable is the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (NMQST), which students qualify themselves for by taking the PSAT. Juniors must also begin taking SATs and ACTs, which play key roles in the admissions process.

HHS senior Joe D'Esposito says, "Collegeboard.com is a very valuable resource for researching schools if you have questions about the process of applying. The college office staff is rad and will always be helpful no matter how many questions you have. Also, don't knock a school off your list just by what you read from a blogger in Kentucky; if you are interested in a school, visit it, that can completely change your view of a school and show what it really has to offer. Find a friend who goes to the school and spend a day and stay overnight; this will show you the school from a student's point of view which you will be experiencing at the school."

The college admissions process continues with Junior Parent Night in early spring. At this point, juniors may begin to have individual appointments with Mrs. Walsh. They must fill out a self-appraisal packet and return it to the College Office.

SENIOR YEAR (by Adam Cerini)

You can start off your college search by looking at lists and Google searches over the summer. But, just because someone ranks a college high or low, this doesn't mean it is a good or bad college for you.

Do your own research; look for specific things that you want, like a club, sport, facility, or major.

There are two important things to remember when doing college applications. First, do them early, not only so as not to procrastinate, but also to meet the deadline for scholarships. For example, a university may require the main application by January, but the College Office may require it to be in as early as November. Plus, applying "Early Action," meaning before the final deadline, often gives applicants a leg-up in the admissions process because it says to the college, "Hey, I'm serious enough about your school to have completed my app a few months early."

Second, pour your heart into the essays and short responses. Don't just spill words onto the page, organize your thoughts, but most importantly write with passion and details. For example, if you want to talk about a science competition, don't hesitate to explain why your project is so fascinating, and go ahead and talk about how your teacher got you ice cream afterwards! Avoid procrastination and avoid vague robotic summaries.

The college admissions process may seem daunting and overwhelming, but with a steady pace, constant questions and little organization, you have a great chance of being accepted to your top choice colleges and universities.

Special thanks to
Ms. Klein, Ms.
Baglivi, Adam
Cerini and Joseph
D'Esposito.

Inside the GSA

HHS' Gay/Straight Alliance growing in membership

by MATTHEW PETRYK

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

The GSA at HHS was first organized by an art teacher around 2000, with the intent to provide a safe emotional outlet for students harassed because of their sexual orientation. Meetings were held in a nondescript room in the basement, and admittance was only by request - one had to speak with the advisor to find out how to join. Membership lists were kept secret, for fear of invoking aggression. Even so, membership

totaled around thirty people, with twenty showing up on average at each meeting.

English teacher Mr. Roy Dumar, who is the club's current advisor, joined the GSA in 2002, and was a part of the push to

fortunately, this also corresponded with a dramatic drop in membership over the next couple years, from thirty down to about five. In recent months, however, that number has once again started to grow. The reasons behind the

GSA's apparent fluxes are not entirely clear. Mr. Dumar said, "We've made efforts to be more visible

as a group in the school, and perhaps that visibility has led to our growth and inertia."

Perhaps society's strides in the acceptance and support of gays and lesbians are a contributing factor to the increase in membership. One thing is certain - in its current role as an advocacy group, the GSA is enjoying more momentum than ever before.

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

make meetings more public.

Finally, in 2005 the GSA opened its doors and publicly announced meeting times and locations, as well as hung up advertisement posters urging students to join. This corresponded with a change in objective; where before the club's aim had been to help those being harassed, the GSA now focused on awareness programs and workshops. Unfor-

STEP TEAM (continued from front page)

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

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

BEING A VEGGIE (continued from pg. 3)

for veggies including King Kullen, Fairway, and Trader Joes. "My family and I shop at Fairway, which is awesome! Best samples ever," added Jacobs.

Even at school there are vegetarian options such as pizza, wraps and sometimes pasta. For those who do not like the choices offered, they tend to pack their own lunches. "In our school, people are very diverse and there are other vegetarians, so being one is very easy," commented junior Erin LaSorsa.

Most vegetarians are comfortable and accustomed to this particular life choice, and many have been doing it for years. Blatt said, "Over the years, it's become a part of my life. I don't think about it anymore."

BEING A VEGGIE

by JOE STRAUB and EMAL WAFAJOW

For some, being a vegetarian may just come down to having a weak stomach. Once people have seen it, it can be hard to put the horrors of the meat industry out of their minds.

At least that is the case for one Huntington High School student who when asked why they became a vegetarian simply responded with the name of a Youtube video. “Cruelty at New York’s largest Dairy Farm” begins with a calf getting its horns burned off, and gets worse from there.

It is very important to some vegetarians not to support the meat industry. “Factory farming is a massive industry in America, where practically every meal involves some type of meat. Since the demand of meat in America is so high, factories do as much as they can to produce the most meat at the lowest possible cost” said senior Shayne Larkin, who does not eat meat so as not to add to the demand for inhumanely produced meat products. Most vegetarians at Huntington chose this lifestyle for themselves, although some are influenced by their family or friends. For example, sophomore Aaron Zimmerman said, “It was a self choice, although I was slightly influenced by my brother, Jake, to become a vegetarian.”

Once a person decides to become a vegetarian they have to figure out how to maintain that choice. Many non-vegetarians cite the loss of protein as a reason that vegetarianism is bad, but “most Americans already eat more protein than their bodies need, and eating too much protein can

increase health risks,” according to the American Heart Association. “Many people ask me where I get my protein from. All vegetables, nuts, beans, seeds, and grains contain some protein. This is how I substitute for my lack of meat. I also find it interesting that in countries where the traditional diet contains a low amount of protein, there is a lower rate of cancer” said junior Brielle Blatt. Some vegetarians also deal with any missed nutrients by adding vitamin supplements to their daily consumption.

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

Many restaurants in town are vegetarian-friendly. Indian and Thai eateries always seem to offer many different vegetarian options and most vegetarians don’t really find themselves limited in town. Many local supermarkets are also hot-spots **(continued on pg. 2)**



Senior and vegetarian Cody Jacobs stares with disgust at a chicken lunch

GRAPHIC: DYLAN FERBER

Eco-friendly efforts

by LAURA ZENZEROVICH

Recycling is an afterthought at Huntington High School. It’s understandably hard for students to “think green” when teachers are telling them to think only about classroom material. There are, however, environmentally conscientious students that are taking a stand against the excessive waste.

The duties of the recycling program are split between the school’s environmental club, Youth Environmental Advocates of Huntington High School (Y.E.A.H.H.S), and the Science Honor Society. Both of these clubs are new additions to our school; the Science Honor Society began two years ago, and Y.E.A.H.H.S began just this year. “I was so surprised we didn’t have it (a recycling program).” said senior Amy Eisen, president of the Science Honor Society. “It’s stupid not to recycle because it’s very easy.”

Science teacher and Y.E.A.H.H.S advisor Mr. McKee said that this wasn’t the first time students at Huntington had advocated recycling, but the previous initiative from years ago “never really started.” Science Honor Society members are regularly sent to empty the containers for bottles and cans in the lobby, lunch room, and gym so

they can be sorted. Members of Y.E.A.H.H.S go through the seven paper bins in the science rooms on a regular basis, sort them into bags, and get them to the recycling center. “I love it; it’s a really great addition to Huntington High School,” said junior Erin LaSorsa of Y.E.A.H.H.S.

The clubs have collaboratively amassed dozens of bags of paper, and over 900 bottles and cans since the beginning of the year. Despite these achievements, there have been some setbacks in gaining student awareness of these initiatives. Junior Rian Cruz looked shocked when asked for his opinion about recycling in school, and said, “We have a recycling program here!?” Indeed, many students who would make the effort to recycle have hardly heard of such programs in the school at all. Based on the initial success of the program, it’s clear that there is a desire among the student body to see their impact on the environment lessened.

Recycling at our school can reach new heights and would greatly benefit from a large body of students willing to do just a little more to help out. It’s just as simple as tossing the scrap paper into the blue bin instead of the gray one.

WORD ON THE STREET

What’s your worst Valentine’s Day experience?



“I’ve never had a valentine.”
Jeffrey Sun- Junior



“I saw the movie ‘Valentine’s Day.’”
Anne Scott- Senior



“I accidentally dropped the ring that my boyfriend gave me in the toilet.”
Gisselle Martinez- Sophomore



“I worked really hard on prepping these really cute iCarly valentines for my friends, and every one of my guy friends drew pictures on Miranda Cosgrove’s face. I worked hard! I’m a good person.”
Richard Gray- Senior

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

GRAPHICS: CARRIE FANTE

Putting the “U” in Uniform

Huntington fashion students contemplate school life with uniforms

by MARISSA GOLDSTEIN

The use of school uniforms has been a searing controversial issue for many years. In our modern society, children have become more mindful of their clothing and appearance aiding in the establishment of contemporary ideals and attentiveness to what they wear. Schools with-



✦ School uniform sketch by Senior Chloe Drace

out uniforms allow the kids to become much keener with clothes and fashion trends.

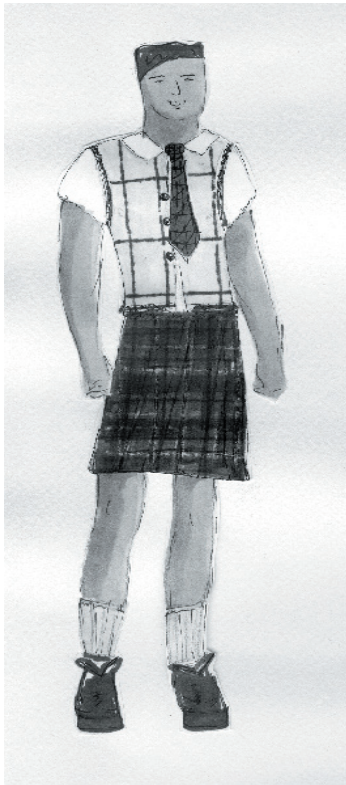
Recently, in the Fashion II and III classes, students were given the opportunity to research schools around the globe and learn what countries are wearing uniforms, such as China and Iran, and what countries aren't. First, students considered the benefits and disadvantages of wearing uniforms and then were given the opportunity to design their own.

Among the many benefits stands the view of equality. Wearing the same outfits as the student sitting next to you in class eliminates the perception of a socioeconomic gap, and the temptation to judge others based on their clothes. Uniforms believe it or not also help to decrease violence and obedience trouble within the schools. A benefit to the students, a uniform guides them into high academic achievement. Students focus more on their education rather than on deciding what to wear every morning, often causing them to take school more seriously. One of the biggest advantages of having schools uniforms is that they are extremely cost efficient and ease parents from the trouble of purchasing trendy and costly clothing for their

children.

Students opposed to school uniforms are concerned that they eliminate independence and self-expression. It subtracts students from feeling distinctive or unique. Uniforms take away children's identity and the diversity of the school as a whole. Another disadvantage of school uniforms is that it denies the children the ability to wear what they feel, which therefore contributes to the disregard to uniform guidelines.

No matter where they stood on the issue, fashion students had a chance to create both male and female garments that portrayed a fashionable yet practical solution to the issue snatching inspiration from uniforms around the world. Richard Gray, a fashion III student, and the author (note:



✦ School uniform sketch by Senior Marissa Goldstein

author Marissa Goldstein is a fashion III student and fashion intern for Ms. Amy Worth), worked together in creating a cohesive mini collection of a male and female uniform. We decided to switch up the roles giving the woman a chance to wear slacks as opposed to a skirt. The male model sported a kilt, as opposed to dress pants. In the real world, this probably would not be acceptable, but we stepped outside the box and provided an interesting twist to the standard school uniforms you usually see. Chloe Drace, a fashion III student, designed a set of garments that stuck to the normality of uniforms, but gave them a more high fashion and likeable appeal. Each student

was able to incorporate their personal fashion sense into the garments they designed and the final creations were in fact really impressive. These designs can be viewed in the

art hallway across from the main office.

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

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



✦ School uniform sketch by Junior Nitika Shah

GRAPHICS COURTESY OF FASHION III STUDENTS

BLAST FROM THE PAST: POKÉMON

by STEVEN CORRELL AND MIKE O'CONNOR

Everyone had fantasies of what they wanted to be when they grew up. For many of us, those fantasies entailed boundless adventures capturing and training Pokémon and the aspiration of becoming a true Pokémon master. Upon hearing the phrase, "Gotta Catch 'em All," many of us are instantly sent on a nostalgic trip back to our childhoods of sitting on a couch or in a car for hours with our Gameboys, drawn into this new and exciting world.

While many may have forgotten, the Pokémon craze cannot simply be dismissed as a fad for it was much more than that. Fans in Huntington had lined up and waited outside the Lowes Cinema in anticipation of the first showing of "Mewtwo Strikes Back," the first Pokémon movie. Enticed by the incentive of receiving a limited edition Pokémon card, fans crowded the theater for several days. Even today, as new Pokémon games are released, lines can be seen outside stores like BestBuy as fans anxiously await getting their hands on the new game. It can clearly be seen that the fervor for Pokémon has not subsided over the years.

Many people nowadays overlook the longevity and brilliance that is the Pokémon television show. Currently in its 14th season, the show encompasses over 650 episodes as it follows Ash Ketchum on his quest to become a Pokémon master. While many of us had gradually stopped watching as we got older, younger generations continued to watch the show as the seasons progressed over the years. Senior Jimmy Oliva said, "I used to get so excited watching it as a kid and even now if I see that it's on I'll watch an episode or two." Receiving air time for over 13 years, the show has successfully influenced the lives of several generations, instilling the same values in countless children. One needs only to walk down the halls of Huntington High



Pokémon, one of the greatest influences of our generation

School humming the Pokémon theme song and watch as freshmen and seniors alike begin to sing along.

The series of Pokémon games for the Gameboy is less overlooked by the population of Huntington High School as compared to the show. With four generations of games already released and a fifth on the way, a considerable amount of the student body still enjoys virtually training Pokémon and collecting badges. When Pokémon Heart Gold and Soul Silver were released last year, it was not uncommon to see students walking excessively around the halls or tapping their feet during class as they were wearing Pokéwalkers, a new accessory included with the game.



God help the next generation...

These Pokéwalkers allowed players to train their Pokémon during throughout the day while acting as pedometers in an effort to battle childhood obesity.

Pokémon was an addiction for many of us as children and even now there are some who would still consider themselves Pokéfans. Remembering the days of watching Ash on his quest to become a Pokémon master is a thought that fills most with precious memories. While many would consider this to be a faraway childhood memory, Pokémon has never been too distant, with the show still playing regularly, the movies for rent in any video store, and the cards still sold right next baseball cards.

TOUR DE...FRO-YO

by AMY EISEN and DAVID STILLMAN

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

Ben and Jerry's

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



Red Mango

The arrival of Red Mango in the village was one of excitement and anticipation. People love the taste, variety, and style, and so do we. An interesting twist was its use of self-service, allowing customers to mix and match flavors and toppings. We, have, however, discovered some possible sanitary issues from this tour, as little kids may be sticking their fingers in the wrong places. That aside, Red Mango has the most exotic flavors, with all four of our thumbs going up to Irish Cream and Hibiscus. Their seasonal flavor changes are also delightful, as their winter Green Tea yogurt is both steamy and freezy. We do sincerely notice their lack of a cocoa flavor. The modern and fun décor makes spending hours inside enjoyable. Also, their selection of fruit toppings is the best in town. We give Red Mango three exotic cups out of four.



The Lite Choice (TLC)

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



Yogurt Crazy

Everyone is nuts for Yogurt Crazy, no pun intended. Although the Chocolate Peanut Butter swirl is heavenly and exactly like a frozen Reese's. This was our favorite destination, as it's the original self-serve frozen yogurt place in town. We, still, however question its hygiene, but we'll put our faith in their workers to clean and clean if it means we can continue to indulge. If you're looking for a tart, clean tasting original frozen yogurt, we highly recommend Yogurt Crazy. The other classic flavors have a nice creamy texture, but are both delightfully sweet and delightfully tart. We give Yogurt Crazy a whopping four cups out of four.



The Dispatch examines . . .



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

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

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

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

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



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



2. Ronnie and Sam- This disastrous duo from the hit TV show *Jersey Shore* has not only taken over, but taken away from the show with their continuous relationship drama. A sprinkle of trashy Ron and Sam fighting here and there was once accepted by fans, but now has us cheering that Sammi finally packed her bags and left.

3. Bladder control- The new science experiment that the HHS administration is testing on students by keeping the bathrooms locked for the majority of the school day.

4. The snow mounds at HHS- We're convinced they'll still be there for graduation.

5. Patriotic slip-ups- Ouch, Christina, that one's gotta sting...



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The Dispatch is Huntington High School’s official student publication. Written for over 1200 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

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

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

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

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

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

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

EDITORIAL

A Forced Farewell

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

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

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

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

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

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

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

Dear Editors,

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

Thanks,
Mrs. Walsh

Dear Editors,

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

Sincerely,
Mrs. Beck

POINT / COUNTERPOINT

How safe is Huntington High School?

Our school is safe

by EMILY MCGOLDRICK

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

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

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

Security at Huntington High School continues to be crucial to the safety of students in further ways. It is a common known fact that security guards are frequently patrolling the hallways to check student IDs and urge kids to move on to their next class, which puts into effect the use of ID cards while also clearing passages between classes as quickly as possible. And, of course,

security repeatedly breaks up fights among students and discourages brawls from happening in the first place. In addition to security guards, HHS is fortunate enough to have the advantage of the presence of Officer Drew who is frequently stationed in the school.

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

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

While some argue that one of the downfalls of Huntington High School is its lack of safety, few take into consideration the lengths the administration takes to makes students' years at HHS as positive as possible. Looking around at the occasional outbreaks of violence throughout the year, it is simple to assume that students are consistently at peril, but in the realization that the district does as much as humanly possible to fix these problems, it can be honestly said that Huntington High School is a safe place to learn and grow.

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

Students face daily threats

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

Whether we like it or not fights are prevalent at Huntington High School. You can never control where you are at what time. Fights at schools are unavoidable; it is inevitable that teenagers will fight. The issue is larger than insignificant skirmishes, the problem is safety. Is Huntington High School a safe place?

Some may respond yes, Huntington High School is safe, but that is because they have grown up in this environment since they were young. A safe place is a place in which everyone is comfortable and no one is scared. Most people think that being unsafe is witnessing gang fight daily, but that is also false because what make a place unsafe is the subtle harassment that happens under the radar.

A presentation addressing the dangerous environment of HHS was given earlier this year by Joshua Stickell, Hannah Rice and Erika-Negrete Cruz. The presentation was entitled “The First Step,” and demonstrated that bullying is an enormous issue at our school, in New York State and throughout the entire country. If asked, all three students would agree that Huntington is not a safe community. Everyday people get bullied at our school because they are different.

This program did show us that the school is trying to reform and make our school environment safer. This along with the town survey and the new ID

card policies show the schools attempt at progress. Regardless, I do not think that when a student at Huntington is asked if he thinks that his school is a safe place that his initial response would be “Yes, Huntington High School has a safe environment where I do not have to worry about spontaneous fights or being bullied.”

With this in mind, one can clearly see the need for the new ID system. IDs prevent students from other schools to enter our school. Mr. Gilmor’s famous example is if a student goes to Whitman and has a friend at Huntington, and they don’t like you, one day they could walk into school together to beat you up and then leave. This scenario seems unlikely, but as

“A safe place is a place in which everyone is comfortable and no one is scared.”

an institution with the responsibility for its young inhabitants it is necessary that the school take all precautionary measures to avoid any problems.

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

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

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mark on Huntington High
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SPORTS

EN GARDE!

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

Fencing was first played in Ancient Egypt and Rome and has transformed over the years to become what we now call fencing. The sport is followed with great pride here at Huntington High School. HHS has both a strong boy's team that is enjoying its best season in years, and a dominant girl's team that coveted second place in counties.

The sport of fencing has three major divisions based on the three different weapons. They are the foil, the epee and the sabre.

The light weight foil is a weapon that is used to hit the opponent only in the torso area. Touches can only be made using the tip of the foil. A point is earned when a player touches his or her opponent in the chest area. That does not include the arms or the helmet. In foil competitions, a metal jacket called a lame (pronounced la-may) is worn over the torso area. When the tip of the foil connects with the metal an electrical current is sent through the weapon to a series of wires in the body outfit and out through the body cord which is plugged into the floor mat that is connected to the judging table.

The epee (pronounced ep-ay) and sabre (pronounced say-ber) are similar to the foil. The epee is heavier and during epee

competition no metal jacket is worn because in epee a player may hit any part of the opponent's body using the tip of the weapon.

The sabre is lighter than the epee, but heavier than the foil. The sabre differs most from the other two weapons because it is a slashing weapon as opposed to a poking weapon. Sabre competitors can only hit their opponent from the waist up, which includes the arms and the head.



GRAPHIC: MELISSA ROSENBERG

Olivia Weller, a senior epee fencer who has twice won the Suffolk County women's epee competition and placed tenth at summer Nationals, just fenced on the women's epee relay team. They won first place in the meet. The team consisted of Weller, and Seniors Mia Rienzo and Rebecca Deegan.

In a typical fencing competition there are nine competitors from each team (usually two teams which is called a dual meet, but sometimes there is a tri-meet or tour-

namment where more than two teams compete). The first sabre fencer competes in his bout, once that is completed the next sabre fencer fights, followed by the third sabre

bout. Next are the three foil fencers, one at a time and finally the epee competitors fight. That is one round. There are three rounds in a meet, therefore there are twenty-seven bouts. Each time a bout is won your team receives one point the first team to reach fourteen points wins the meet.

"Everyone has to be on their game for the team to win," said Brent Filippini, a sophomore sabre fencer in his second year on the Huntington team. Joey Tuozzo, also sophomore on the team, said that fencing probably compares most closely to swimming because of its individual competitiveness as well as its team orientation.

Weller said that she enjoys the "focus and work ethic it (fencing) teaches" as well as the rewards received that are a direct product of the amount of hard work each competitor puts into the sport. She is in her fifth season of fencing and has won many award through the years.

She has been one of the leaders of the strong Huntington girls squad that has a 9-4 record this season and is going into counties looking very sharp. The boys are also looking very strong this year, led by Joe Rizzi fencing foil, John Ferraiolo, epee and Dante Corrocher, sabre. "We are the best we've been in a while" said Filippini.

Boy's Track

by MIKE VALENTE

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

"We hope to be one of the most elite teams," Coach Wilson said. After a rather disappointing winter last year, the team will work toward this aspiration with the help of devoted captains and plenty of seniors willing to lead the team on the comeback trail. With the departure of just two seniors from last year, the team chemistry won't be severely altered or damaged. "The seniors helped out last year, but we were there with them. I'm not too worried about this year," Captain Trayvon Toney explained. Coming off a winter where he earned

all-league honors, Toney will continue his success in the shot put alongside dominant fixtures Richie Fernandez and Dante Allen. The consistently strong performances by the veteran throwers are expected to mirror the strength of the freshman class.

The freshman members of the track team have caught more than a few eyes

in the early season. "This freshman class is stacked with a lot of talent," Coach Wilson remarked. This talent is already making a huge contribution to the team's success. Freshmen including Y'Majesty Allen, Josh Watkins, and Matt Witcher, are regarded as the future of the program.

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



GRAPHIC: DYLAN FERBER

◆ Sophomore Tyler Wolfe, Coach Wilson and Senior Rich Fernandez.

Bad calls or bias?

by ARI MOSKOWITZ

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

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

Coach John Walsh, the girl's varsity softball and soccer coach said that there are rules in place that prevent biased officiating. "Umpires who have any association with a certain town to officiate in a game involving that town," he explained. This may be seen as a flimsy attempt to avoid a bias among the refs because there are other larger issues regarding the officials that effect the game more.

The umpires that officiate high school sporting events are not always of the caliber they should be. Refs begin officiating at middle school events and then move through the ranks according to evaluations given by the coaches. To move up a rank, the officials must officiate at the lower levels for a minimum of two years per level. Because of the small pool of refs to choose from, sometimes JV quality refs are needed

to officiate at varsity level games. Section IX, the region in which Huntington competes athletically in, tries to send the highest quality refs to the most important games. Even though they may be rated the best, they still sometimes make mistakes which often makes players think that they are unfair.

Of course, in the heat of the moment many players and coaches become infuriated at the ref and argue with them. Grixon Moreira, a varsity soccer star, said that it is "normal to argue with the ref. It happens all the time regardless of the sport." Nicholas Lupi, a two sport varsity athlete, recounted the story of a teammate of his that "flipped out" at an official at a wrestling tournament. "The competitor was ejected, losing points for the team and ultimately making Huntington place second instead of first."

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

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