

# Husky Herald

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## Obama! Historic 2008 Victory

Dominique Cuce

Co-Editor-in-Chief

All of America waited anxiously on November 4th, eager to see who would win the race to be America's 44th president. Would McCain and Palin manage to come from behind and grab the needed electoral votes? Would Obama win the popular vote, yet lose the electoral vote, as Gore had done in 2000?

Polls began closing at seven in states such as Vermont and Kentucky. (Vermont went to Obama, while Kentucky was for McCain.) The crucial "swing states" that would decide the electoral votes were Ohio, Pennsylvania, Florida and Indiana. These states had played an integral part in the previous two elections, and would surely determine the ultimate outcome in 2008. As these states were too close for media pundits to call, it promised to be a long night. Finally, as a large percentage of Ohio's votes were counted, the networks predicted that the state would go to Obama. Never before in our country's history had a Republican candidate been elected without first securing the state of Ohio.

With Ohio presumed to be safely in the blue Obama column, it soon became clear that there was no realistic way for McCain to obtain the necessary 270 electoral votes needed for election. Winning Ohio helped the Obama/Biden ticket, and Obama followed by taking Virginia, a state that had been firmly in the red "Republican" column for many years. At 11 p.m., Eastern Standard Time, when polls had closed in several West Coast states, networks began predicting the win for Senator Barack Obama.

By the next day, the final numbers were in. After months and months of campaigning and hours of waiting, Senator Barack Obama was declared the winner, with a total of 349 electoral votes, and with 52% of the popular vote. Senator John McCain accrued 163 electoral votes in a losing effort, but still managed to get 46% of the popular vote.

This election is historic in many ways. Not only is it the first time America has elected an African-American candidate for its highest office, but it also was the largest turnout of voters ever. On Election Day 2008, 136.6

million voters cast their ballots, approximately 10 million more than had done so in 2004, which had broken all previous records. With an African-American in office, many who had taken part in the long struggle for civil rights were visibly moved. The world now sees that America truly is ready

my respect for his ability and perseverance," McCain said to a crowd of about 7,000. He also urged America to come together and support the new president. McCain acknowledged the significance of the election, adding, "America today is a world away from the cruel and frightful bigotry of that

Winfrey and the Reverend Jesse Jackson). He started out his speech saying, "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer." Obama also talked about how America has challenges to overcome, but, he added, "We may not get there in one year or even one term, but America - I have never been more hopeful than I am tonight that we will get there. I promise you - we as a people will get there." The speech ended with cheers from the crowd, and Vice President-Elect Biden coming out to greet the crowd.

How did Harrison High School students react to the election results?

Senior Tom Blake was nervous about the outcome. He said, "Barack Obama and I disagree on many fronts, not the least being his tax and health care policies. But I don't think he's the biggest problem. The fact that Democrats gained large majorities in both the House and the Senate is cause for alarm. We have already seen the result of having no challenge from an opposing voice during the first two-thirds of the Bush Administration." Blake is worried that the U.S. may be walking into the same extremism that dominated the Bush era, only with the parties reversed.

Junior Samantha Breslin was joyous about the election. "I couldn't have been happier with the way the results turned out," she said. "It was truly amazing and inspiring to see how far our country has come since the 1960s when Martin Luther King, Jr. was marching on Washington. Barack Obama is the perfect candidate, and he is truly what our country needs to dig us out of this isolated hole George Bush has put us in for the past eight years."

Barack Obama will become the 44th President of the United States on January 20, 2009. He currently is assembling his staff. As Americans, we may not all agree upon who makes the best President, but we can all agree upon the greatness of living in a land where the freedom to choose is every citizen's privilege and right.



President-elect Barack Obama greets supporters at Grant Park.

Courtesy of Daniel Acker, Daily News

for change, and that anyone, no matter what race, can become President of the United States.

At around 11:15 (EST), McCain gave his concession speech in Phoenix, Arizona. McCain congratulated Obama on his win. "In a contest as long and difficult as this campaign has been, his success alone commands

time. There is no better evidence of this than the election of an African-American to the presidency of the United States."

Back in Chicago, shortly after 11:30 (EST), President-Elect Barack Obama gave his victory speech in Chicago's Grant Park in front of about 125,000 people (including Oprah

# Get to Know Your Assistant Principals

Mr. Larry Mastrota



Mr. Mastrota stands proudly in front of the master scheduling board.

Jessica Pena

Music Editor

Every year, Harrison High School presents a plan to secure the safety of its students from any harm. *The Husky Herald* took the time to get to know the man behind this plan. Mr. Larry Mastrota, better known as one of our Assistant Principals at Harrison High School, has been here for quite some time and, believe it or not, he was once your typical high school teen. The proof follows:

**HH:** Have you always wanted to be an Assistant Principal?

**LM:** No, I had never planned to be an Assistant Principal. It was just an opportunity that came by.

**HH:** Did you always imagine yourself working with teenagers?

**LM:** No, I had no idea. I did a bit of soul searching first.

**HH:** What's your position in the school?

**LM:** I over see the facility, as well as the safety and security of the students. I also build master schedules.

**HH:** What are your hobbies outside of school?

**LM:** I golf and I read. My favorite book is *WiseGuy* by Nicholas Pileggi. Also I have two children to worry about.

**HH:** Are you married?

**LM:** Yes, I have been married for 11 years.

**HH:** Do you any kids?

**LM:** Yes, I have two kids. One is Alex who is three years old, and the other is Elizabeth, who is only 14 months old.

**HH:** What were you like in high school?

**LM:** I was your typical high school athlete who did okay in class. I really enjoyed my high school experience.

**HH:** Where did you grow up?

**LM:** I grew up in Roslyn Harbor, Long Island, which wasn't too different from Harrison.

## HHS Welcomes New Librarian

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

The school library has always been a place to relax, meet friends, and catch up on homework. This year it has become more of a place for serious work, thanks to the policies of the new HHS librarian, Mrs. Catherine Johnson.

Mrs. Johnson grew up outside of Washington, D.C. Even when growing up, she knew she wanted to be a teacher. Mrs. Johnson recalls memories from a young age of labeling her books while growing up, and keeping them in an orderly fashion. While growing up, Mrs. Johnson also loved acting and drama. This is how Mrs. Johnson discovered her love for literature, leading her to a job at The Folger Shakespeare Library, a "rare book" library in Washington, D.C., where she worked for four years. After that, Mrs. Johnson worked first in the Byram Hills School District and then

was in charge of the library at the Parsons School.

In her brief tenure at the high school, Mrs. Johnson has had a wonderful time. She is very excited about being here, but does realize that the students will have to adjust to the new rules and regulations of the library. An example of a new rule that has been put into action is the "need a pass" policy. In order to enter the library, students need a pass from a teacher. This ensures that the library remains a place for learning, rather than somewhere to spend free time. Mrs. Johnson is eager to make the library a place for doing productive work, and she is eager to share her ideas for improving the library with students and faculty alike. She would love to hear ideas from students on how to make the library a place that accommodates all student needs.

Ms. Kathy Barbagallo



Ms. Barbagallo goes to the files to retrieve important information. Photos courtesy of Emma Glass

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

Ms. Kathy Barbagallo may not be the most visible administrator in the high school, but her actions have contributed to the success of the high school's sense of community and pursuit for knowledge. You may have seen her walking in the halls or at a school assembly, but you may not know that she enjoys scuba-diving and horseback-riding. Read on to get to know Ms. Barbagallo better.

**HH:** How many years have you been an Assistant Principal in Harrison High School?

**KB:** Six years.

**HH:** Have you worked elsewhere? Or at a different position in the Harrison Central School District?

**KB:** I previously worked in Eastchester High School as an Assistant Principal and a teacher. I taught high school English.

**HH:** What encouraged you to become an Assistant Principal?

**KB:** I really enjoy working with kids and with teachers. I guess that is what prompted me to move out of a classroom and into a "larger classroom".

**HH:** What, specifically, are you in charge of in the high school?

**KB:** [Laughs] It is probably easier to say what I'm not in charge of. In this day and age, Assistant Principals are in charge of running everything. Most importantly, I work with the kids, helping them get through difficulties with peers, grades, and families...high school stuff.

**HH:** What do you enjoy doing in your free time?

**KB:** I enjoy being with my husband, knitting, being with friends and family.

**HH:** Wow, knitting. I have tried

so many times to knit but I just can't get it.

**KB:** Well, if you bring in some yarn and needles I could show how to do it.

**HH:** I'll remember that. Do you have any specific hobbies?

**KB:** I enjoy scuba-diving, horseback riding, hiking and camping.

**HH:** Where did you grow up? What college(s) did you attend?

**KB:** I grew up in Emerson, NJ, and received a bachelor's degree in English from the University of Wyoming. I also received my master's degree from SUNY New Paltz and attended the College of New Rochelle, working in administration.

**HH:** What were you like in high school?

**KB:** I was very quiet, and a member of the National Thespians [acting]. I worked behind the stage with lighting, sets, and costumes, all of it.

**HH:** What was the most outrageous job you aspired to when you were younger?

**KB:** I wanted to be a veterinarian. I love animals and I love science.

**HH:** What is your favorite movie or your favorite book?

**KB:** My favorite book is *A Tale of Two Cities*, by Charles Dickens. And my favorite movie is probably *Star Wars*. The first one.

**HH:** What is your favorite aspect about the Harrison community?

**KB:** The students -- I really like working with the students. The teachers are also very professional and the parents are very supportive.

**HH:** What, if anything, would you like to improve in the future about Harrison High School?

**KB:** I guess I'd like to see us offer a larger variety of courses.

**HH:** Anything specific?

**KB:** Maybe anthropology, sociology, and philosophy.

**HH:** Is there anything else that you would like to say to the students as a whole?

**KB:** Enjoy these four years of high school and take advantage of all the opportunities Harrison has to offer. And remember, my door is always open.



Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo

# New Teacher Feature: *Ms. Epstein*

Emma Glass

Managing Editor

At some point in our lives, we have endured a boring history class. The teacher stands at the front of the room, flicking through PowerPoint slides, reading from a dusty old textbook, recalling dates and names. We pass, we fail, and maybe we even learn a little bit about ourselves or our culture, but very rarely are we inspired to do greater things with our knowledge.

If you happen to be a junior and taking AP U.S. History, there is no need to worry because there is a new teacher at HHS. Her name is Ms. Erica Epstein and she promises that history can be fun. In fact, she decided to become a history teacher in order to make it fun. In an interview on September 12, she recalls teachers who only taught the traditional way, sticking solely to the books without incorporating a real-life connection or bigger meaning. Whether or not you enjoy Social Studies, there is something to be learned from the discussions and essays in a history class and it can be done in an effective but interesting way.

Ms. Epstein attended White Plains High School and went to Ithaca College. Before joining the Harrison High School faculty, she taught at two high schools in the Bronx. One was a large, traditionally taught high school, and the other a smaller, more hands-on and project based high school. Working

at two very different high schools prepared her for all sorts of environments and she incorporates values from the two high schools in her teaching. So far she is enjoying her time at the high school and she especially appreciates the fact that anyone can take an AP class.

Ms. Epstein knew she would be a teacher since she was little. Her father is a professor, and her mother and two of her aunts are teachers. Although, what would she teach? The answer came in high school where she inspired by great teachers and by some who were boring. Her enthusiasm for history came as a result of her goal to make history fun and interesting, to separate the real story from dates and names in a textbook or on a piece of paper.

Two of her favorite teachers were Ms. Gordan who incorporated novelties such as *The Simpsons* in her teaching to elaborate on labor unions. She was also inspired by Ms. Latari, a world religions teacher, whose teaching was supplemented by interesting books and who was very concerned with encouraging a student's voice.

Her two favorite presidents are George Washington and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Washington, because he stepped down after his term, modeled his own ideas and encouraged democracy. She likes Roosevelt



Ms. Epstein smiles for the camera.

Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo

because he was able to get the country back on track during a difficult time in American history.

You might be surprised to find that a teacher's life is not always about the subject he or she teaches. In her free time, Ms. Epstein enjoys running, which she has been doing it for two years. She sews and most recently made a colored shirt. She also snowboards, loves seeing movies and reading (history

books included). Cooking is also a big part of her life. (She even wrote a cookbook!)

Ms. Epstein may not be your teacher this year but her goal to prove to students that history can be interesting may affect you in some way. Even if school is not your cup of tea, get to know your teachers. You may find that they have something (or many things!) in common with you.

## Ms. Gregory Raises The Bar For Dance

Sarah Sachse

Staff Writer

This is the second year Harrison High School is offering a dance program. The classes are held on the stage located in the auditorium. Mirrors line both sides of the instructional space and ballet bars stand ready for class. The classes are taught by the energetic and positive Ms. Jacqueline Gregory, who is in her second year at HHS.

Ms. Gregory has been dancing for 23 years and has taught at multiple dance studios in Westchester County. She has participated in dance competitions, and has been part of dance teams and modern dance companies.

"I think dance is important for students because it encourages physical fitness and is an outlet for artistic expression," said Gregory.

Similar to physical education, the students have about four minutes to change into dance-appropriate clothing. The class consists of stretching warm-ups and learning combinations and across-the-floor exercises. Dancers of all abilities are welcome to the class. Gregory adjusts the class work to meet the skill level of her students.

"I differentiate the moves and make alterations depending on the level of the dancer," Gregory explained.

Students now have a choice of what style of dance they wish to study. First semester consists of ballet and contemporary dance, while the sec-

ond semester offers hip-hop and jazz. Dancers can choose to take either one or two semesters.

When asked what her plans are for the future of the dance program, Gregory said, "I hope to expand the program, bring dance into the community, involve all students and faculty, and increase the number of performances."



Ms. Gregory in action.

Courtesy of Marissa DeCarlo

### The Husky Herald Staff 2008 - 2009

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Our mission is to be the voice of Harrison High School by professionally representing and informing our school with an accurate and entertaining newspaper.

*The Husky Herald* is published by the journalism classes at Harrison High School. Editorial content of *The Husky Herald* reflects the opinions of the editors and staff, not necessarily that of the Harrison High School faculty and administration. The staff of *The Husky Herald* encourages students to get involved and have their opinions heard. If you have any questions, comments, or would like to respond to an article, please write to us. Letters containing the writer's name (and that are in good taste) will be printed.



Atka visits the HPAC.  
Courtesy Marissa DeCarlo

# HHS Cries Wolf

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

On December 2, 2008, Ms. Cain's Environmental Science classes spent some time with Atka, a beautiful six-year old Arctic gray wolf. Atka was visiting along with Ms. Maggie Howell, official manager of the Wolf Conservation Center in South Salem. The visit was made possible through the generous funding of the Harrison Educational Foundation.

The Husky Herald (HH) interviewed Atka, and Ms. Howell (MH) helped translate his answers:

**HH:** Describe a typical day in the life of a wolf.

**MH:** Generally, wolves have a pretty normal daily routine. They eat, sleep, and hunt for their prey.

**HH:** What does a wolf eat?

**MH:** They typically eat smaller mammals and different types of fresh water fish.

**HH:** What is the wolf population like in this area?

**MH:** The wolf population is very scarce. There is no major population of any type of wolf in the local area.

**HH:** Are wolves in any way becoming an endangered species?

**MH:** Yes they are, and we can help to protect them by keeping the environment clean and through promoting biodiversity.

**HH:** If you ever come encounter a rabid wolf, what should you do?

**MH:** You would probably want to get to a safe enclosure, and get as far away from the wolf as possible.

**HH:** Is it possible to breed a werewolf?

**MH:** No.

**HH:** Are you sure?

**MH:** Yes, absolutely sure.

**HH:** Generally, how fast can wolves run?

**MH:** They can run up to 35 miles per hour.

**HH:** Are wolves very friendly?

**MH:** No they are not, as they are frightened by the presence of humans.

**HH:** Are wolves beneficial to our environment and if so, how?

**MH:** Wolves are a keystone species, therefore they keep other populations of animals in check and help to maintain a balance in the quantity of elk, deer, sheep, and other small animals.

**HH:** Are wolves heavily hunted?

**MH:** No, they are not. Since the Endangered Species Act they have been highly protected and the punishment for killing a wolf is a felony.

**HH:** Do wolves make good pets?

**MH:** No, they do not. They are not by any means a pet.

**HH:** Who would win in a race, the wolf or Emily Singer?

**MH:** The wolf would, easily.

# Not into the SAT? Try the



Dominique Cuce

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Courtesy of www.act.org

For juniors and seniors, college application time is either here or right around the corner. Nothing is more frustrating, nerve-racking, and exciting than choosing what colleges to apply to, as well as the eventual waiting to learn about acceptances. Yet many students dread taking the infamous "SAT."

For those students who want an alternative to the SAT, the ACT might be right for you. ACT stands for American College Testing and it is approximately a three and a half hour test that contains four multiple choice sections in English, Math, Reading, and Science.

The English section consists of 75 questions about writing, and must be completed within 45 minutes. This section is similar to the SAT, but this section has more to do with editing whole passages (there are five given in this section.) Sometimes, the questions will be about whether or not to add a sentence to a passage, or if the writer accomplished the right goal in his or her essay.

The math section is one hour,

and it contains 60 questions. Unlike the English section, the math section offers a choice of five choices for each question. There are 14 pre-algebra, ten elementary algebra, nine intermediate algebra, 14 plane geometry, nine coordinate geometry, and four elementary trigonometry questions. The questions tend to go from easier to more difficult as the test section continues.

The third section is a test about reading. Each student has 35 minutes to answer 40 questions, spread out among four passages. There is a prose passage, a social science passage, a humanities passage, and a natural science passage. The possible advantage to taking the ACT Reading section, as opposed to that section of the SAT, is that there are no vocabulary questions.

The last section of the ACT is the Science section. For students who tend to do well in Science, this section will be perfect for you. This is also a 40 question test, with a time limit of 35 minutes. There are seven separate passages in this section that involve reading data and understanding it, as

well as assessing mastery of other science aspects.

Another addition to the ACT is the Writing section. This section is optional, and it includes an essay question that involves answering an essay question. The highest score you can receive is a 12.

The ACT scores differently than the SAT. Unlike the SAT, the ACT grades on a scale of 1 through 36 for each section. The final score is an average of all the sections. So, for example, if your English score was a 26, your Math score a 26, your Reading score a 24, and your Science score a 34, your final score would be a 25.

Another advantage to taking the ACT is that there is no penalty for guessing and getting wrong answers. Technically one could guess at every single answer, and still manage to get a perfect score.

For more information about taking the ACT or the exam itself, please talk to your guidance counselor or log onto [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

## Homecoming Dance Debuts

Sarah Sachse and Lindsey Tannenbaum  
Staff Writers

On October 18, 2008, Harrison High School held their first ever Homecoming dance. Ms. Morrissey and Ms. Mackarzuk helped the student government in planning the event. Because of the big turnout, the dance was relocated from the small gym to the large gym. Students and faculty arrived early in order to decorate the gym.

Prior to the dance, Homecoming Princes and Princesses for each grade were elected by the students. The Senior King and Queen were Joey Hender and Jessica Chester.

When asked about the dance, Ida Tsutsumi spoke positively and said, "I thought the dance was very lively and upbeat. I liked the idea of a Homecom-

ing King and Queen, and I am eager to see the tradition continue at Harrison High School."

Because it was the first Homecoming dance at Harrison High School, there were high expectations. The decorations gave the ordinary school gym a club-like ambiance. Thinking outside the box, the tickets were VIP bracelets. Lighting was provided by former Harrison High School student DJ Bacio as he supplied the dance with lasers and fog machines to further improve the exciting atmosphere. The general feedback from the dance was positive. Since this debut was a success, it is likely the tradition will continue.



All Photos Courtesy of Ms. Laryca Mackarzuk



## REEF Report

Danny Piero

Staff Writer

In the wake of global warming, it seems that everyone wants to take action to ensure a better environment for future generations.

The Rescuing Earths Environment Future (REEF) club at Harrison High School is run by various students who are taking charge by collaborating their ideas once a week in D-112 in hopes of making a cleaner environment. The members of REEF focus on making people aware of the decisions they make that can possibly harm the environment we live in.

To recruit more members into REEF while being environmentally friendly, members have made posters out of paper used in the recent class elections and flyers from other clubs. REEF members have high hopes for expanding their club.

"In the near future, we plan on bake sales, adding more recycling bins throughout the high school, counting the amount of energy the school uses and many other projects with the use of recycled goods," according to Adrian DiFazio, 10<sup>th</sup> grade class president. By making more eco-friendly products and more green choices, we all are one step closer to living in a cleaner world.

# Kids For World Health: A Lost Boy Comes To Harrison

Jessica Pena, Kayana Jean-Phillipe, and Irene Pilarinos  
Staff Writers

A few months ago, the LMK middle school opened its doors to host a movie night for student involved with Kids for World Health (KFWH), including both LMK and Harrison High School members. The movie was a documentary entitled, "God Grew Tired of Us," co-directed by Christopher Dillon Quinn and Tommy Walker. The 2006 documentary, narrated by Nicole Kidman, follows the lives of three of the Lost Boys of Sudan as they take a dangerous journey to reach the United States for a better life and future.

When Sudan's Muslim government



John Bul Dau towers over the Harrison students. Photos courtesy of Ms. Blunt

pronounced death to all males in the Christian south in 1987, some 27,000 boys fled to Ethiopia on foot. In 1991, they were forced to flee to Kenya; an estimated 12,000 survived to live in a U.N. camp in Kakuma. Part of this documentary contains archival footage of this 1,000-mile journey, as well as of life in the camp. Three young men go on to find jobs in the U.S.

After watching the movie, Dan Lichtenauer, co-president of Harrison High School's KFWH club, said, "It made me think of how lucky we are to live in the U.S. This movie provides a sense of the community that develops when going through the kind of hardships faced in Sudan. You don't see that in the U.S. because of the privileges we have."

One of the three young Lost Boys of Sudan who repatriated to the United States in the film was John Bul Dau. He went to Syracuse, and by the film's end, became a spokesperson for the Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan. He visited Harrison on November 18, following a four-hour flight from Syracuse that landed around midnight the

night before. Bul Dau came to relate his story as a former lost boy and to reveal what's next on his busy agenda. He was the guest of honor at a dinner party hosted by the student members of Kids for World Health.

"It's exciting," said Ms. Blunt, a science teacher at LMK and one of the advisors for KFWH events in the middle school.

Many described the excitement of the event. LMK Principal Mr. Scott Fried agreed, addressing how John Bul Dau inspires you to help the community. "His story grips you," Principal Fried said. "It allows us to look outside of the small box that we live in."

Some of the students were equally affected as well.

"He was able to come from a foreign country and adapt to American traditions," noted Sasha Tharani, one of the co-presidents of the high school's chapter of KFWH. "He made the best of what he had and gained from it. It inspires me to contribute to my community."

John Bul Dau's welcoming lasted for two days. The following day he was invited to speak to the classes of LMK, where he gladly took the time to answer any and all of the questions the students had for him.

"He said it's better to give than receive," said junior Vanessa Torres, who gave a presentation to some classes about the documentary.

Considering all the strife he has gone



John Bul Dau, happy to be with the Kids For World Health. through, John Bul Dau's future looks very bright. He welcomes the opportunity to be such a strong, positive influence amongst young people. He answered some questions for us, as reported below:

**Jessica Pena:** What did you do with your life after the movie in Sudan?

**JBD:** I built a clinic which has 13 rooms, and has treated over 10,000 people. There currently are seven doctors, and 154 children being treated at the clinic.

**Kayana Jean-Phillipe:** What other contributions have you made in the past?

**JBD:** I have helped people in Kenya. I have saved two other Lost Boys, sent books, and formed a Lost Boys' organization.

**Irene Pilarinos:** Looking back at your journey to America, was it a painful or an enjoyable experience?

**JBD:** Both. It was painful because it was far away from my home, I didn't know anybody, and it was a different lifestyle and weather. It was joyful because it gave a lot of opportunities, such as work and school, also having nice clothes and shoes. I

## The Lockdown Lowdown

Emma Glass  
Managing Editor

The room is dark and students and a teacher huddle in the corner. People hide under desks, shielding themselves from the people outside the thin wooden door. Suddenly, there's a loud crash as the door rattles on its hinges. A masked man appears in the window and peers in. Every feature on his face is covered except for his eyes, which search for faces in the room. The lock prevents him from entering the room, so he moves on, eventually to be followed by... Mr. Fusco?

The above scene was not the culmination of a horror movie, but a semi-typical day on the grounds of Harrison High School. On Thursday, December 4, Harrison High School had its annual lockdown drill. The drill was a simulation of an armed intruder entering the high school in order to

practice taking the precautions necessary to protect the students.

The drill began with Dr. Ruck announcing, over the loudspeaker, that the drill was about to start. The teachers were then required to lower the shades and lock any doors leading to a hallway. They were also instructed to turn off the lights and have students hide in a corner so they were not visible through the window in the door. Cell phones were turned off and the students remained quiet.

After about an hour, Dr. Ruck came on the loudspeaker again and announced that the drill was over. It was halfway into fourth period.

Some teachers, though, did not have the benefit of a locked door. They were surprised to find that the masked man was

able to open a door that they thought had been locked. Mrs. O'Neil was one of these teachers.

"I was very proud of my sophomore class who behaved with great maturity during an experience that included an intruder and his posse entering the room," she said.

In recent years, there have been several incidents of violence in schools, which necessitate the practice of such lockdown drills. Columbine, the most famous attack at a school, occurred in 1999, where two students, Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold, massacred 12 students and a teacher and injured 23 others before committing suicide. The massacre at Virginia Tech in 2005 remains the deadliest shooting committed by a single gunman in United States history.

Thirty-two people were killed that day.

Recently, at Fox Lane High School, a girl was found with a loaded semiautomatic handgun on school property. An administrator who had been investigating a loud sound in the room had found the gun, as it was never brandished. She maintained that she was holding onto the gun for a friend. The girl, whose name is not being released, has been charged with second degree criminal possession of a weapon.

Our recent lockdown drill was deemed a success. Should any such tragedy occur at Harrison High School, it is good to know that we are prepared to work in cooperation with the Harrison Police Department to ensure the safety of all students, teachers, administrators and building personnel.

## HHS Students Win Award In Moot Court Competition

Emma Glass  
Managing Editor

On November 6, Alison Nathanson, Harry Reibman, Jenna Grippo and Alexandra White competed in the Donald N. Silverman Moot Court Competition. The competition was sponsored by the Westchester County Human Rights Commission, and was in honor of Donald L. Silverman, a jurist and former chair of the Westchester Human Rights Commission. Mr. Silverman was a leader in helping to fight for civil rights.

The purpose of the competition, which is in its second year, is to study human rights and social justice issues.

To enter the competition, students were required to prepare a legal brief. The briefs were submitted on October 31 and, prior to the actual oral arguments, were exchanged with the other schools

partaking in the competition. The respondents are written as actual legal briefs and usually involve the violation of a human rights issue or constitutional law.

The four students participated in the oral argument on November 6 and unfortunately lost that competition, but Alison Nathanson and Harry Reibman won the award for "best respondent." Jenna Grippo edited the respondent.

This particular case involved the violation of the First Amendment, includ-

ing both freedom of religion and freedom of speech. The first issue concerned the plaintiff, Stanley Devout, and his feelings that his first amendment rights were violated because he was forced to take a

health class that included material that conflicted with his religion. He and his father were suing the school district.

In the second issue, Stanley Devout felt his freedom of speech was being violated because he wanted to start a religious club, but the school wouldn't approve the club saying

it violated the separation of church and state. Harry and Alison represented the respondent, the school district, in both cases.

Moot court is different from the court cases that most of us are familiar with from watching television. If there is a mistake in the regular trial court, the decision will go to a higher court. In moot court, the defendant appeals to a three-judge panel and the judges decide whether the decision of the previous court cases was valid.

"I am really proud of our team," Mrs. Garner said. "They did extremely well in this competition and we were really pleased to take part in a competition that emphasizes the importance of human rights."



Courtesy of eBay



Courtesy of Vogue

# Media, Citizens Question Sarah's Shopping Spree

Allie Citarella  
Staff Writer

Alaskan Governor and former Republican Vice Presidential Candidate Sarah Palin grew up without the benefits of having brand name stores and high ticketed designers labels. So when the Republican Party gave her \$150,000 to spend on a shopping spree, she was more than happy. That's nearly twice what the average American household makes per year. The American people

didn't feel the same way. Red flags were raised all over the country, questioning the party's decision to spend such a large sum of money on clothing during these tough economic times.

This is not the first situation where a politician has spent an obscene amount of money on fashion. This past year it was reported that John Edwards spent \$400 on a single haircut and that John McCain spent over \$500 on a pair of shoes. These incidents upset many American citizens, but not as much as when they found out that Palin paid over \$5,000 for a quick hair trim and a touch of makeup.

Palin's ability to aggressively charge things on credit cards reflects the way she practices politics. After

people insisted she was too young to run for Governor, Palin surprised people by winning, becoming the youngest and first female Governor of Alaska. During her tenure as Governor, Palin has contributed much for her state. For instance, she fought big oil companies and corporations only interested in capitalizing upon and/or destroying her homeland. What upset many people the most was that she did all of this work while still wearing clothes from Wal-Mart. Why then did she need to go high-end retail in pursuing the Vice Presidency? After the election, Palin claimed that most of the new wardrobe was returned or donated to charity,

## Palin Backs Aerial Hunting

Judy Florio

Staff Writer

The former Republican Vice Presidential candidate, Governor Sarah Palin, has many hobbies. She likes to play with her kids and enjoys outdoor activities like hiking and fishing. What you may not know is that she also enjoys hunting from low-flying helicopters, shooting dozens of wolves and caribou.

Aerial hunting is the shooting of wildlife, especially wolves, from a low flying aircraft. Sarah Palin apparently thinks this practice is wonderful, as she approved an Alaskan initiative that offered 150 dollars to any person hunting wolves who would kill a wolf, then cut off its left foreleg as proof of the kill to be presented for payment.

A state judge quickly halted this initiative, as Palin didn't have the authority to offer such payments. According to Palin, "Wolves are stealing food from our tables, and deserve to be killed, as a part of "predator control."

Palin also is eager to spread awareness of aerial hunting to the children of Alaska. In 2007, she approved a \$400,000 budget to help educate those in Alaskan public schools about the glory and success of shooting wolves and bears from the air.

Scientists around the country are absolutely disgusted with Palin and her ways. Last year, 172 renowned scientists signed a letter addressed to Sarah Palin, expressing in a civil manner their concern about the state's wildlife killing operation. But the scientists could do little more than plead with Palin to consider saving and conserving the population of bears and wolves, emphasizing that killing them at an advanced rate

would not only affect their livelihood now, but the long term health for both bear and wolf populations as well. Unfortunately, this letter had no impact on Alaska's aerial hunting practices.



Another victim of aerial hunting.

Courtesy of Defenders.org

## Pregnant Bristol Palin To Wed

Angelica Catalano

Fashion Editor

Teenagers everywhere are maturing, learning how, over time, to make the right decisions. Learning from such mistakes and becoming wiser moving forward is part of growing up. Mistakes occur in every child's life, and although one might feel alone and unsure, many teens make mistakes, even famous teens.

Besieged by blog rumors about her 17-year-old daughter, Sarah Palin released a statement saying her daughter Bristol, who is pregnant, plans to marry the father. This fact has been spread in the news and media tabloids, voicing the words of Bristol Palin herself, telling her story, and how her loving family stands by her.

When the news of Bristol's pregnancy became public knowledge, it shocked many, especially since Governor Palin has been a proud advocate of waiting until marriage to have children. Another rumor, early in the campaign, speculated that Palin's fifth child, born this past spring, was actually her daughter's. This was proven to be untrue.

Palin and her husband Todd kept their cool while explaining to the media their views on Bristol's be-

ing pregnant. When this controversy was addressed in an interview with CNN, Sarah Palin and her husband stated the following: "We have been blessed with five wonderful children who we love with all our heart and mean everything to us. Our beautiful daughter Bristol came to us with news that, as parents, we knew would make her grow up faster than we had ever planned. We're proud of Bristol's decision to have her baby and even prouder to become grandparents. As Bristol faces the responsibilities of adulthood, she knows she has our unconditional love and support."

Palin continued, "Bristol and the young man she will marry are going to realize very quickly the difficulties of raising a child, which is why they will have the love and support of our entire family. We ask the media to respect our daughter and Levi's privacy as has always been the tradition of children of candidates."

Bristol's decision, displayed to the world and to teens everywhere, shows that in times of unexpected mistakes, it is essential to have strong family support.



Todd Palin and the five Palin children.

Courtesy of The Washington Post



Josh Brolin as George W. Bush  
Courtesy of Lions Gate Entertainment

## Legacy of W. Caught on Film

Lindsay Tannenbaum and Sarah Sachse  
Staff Writers

"W" an Oliver Stone film about George W. Bush premiered in theatres on October 17. The movie depicted the controversial presidency of our forty-third president of The United States.

Josh Brolin, who starred in academy award winning film, "No Country for Old Men" portrays the character of George W. Bush. Brolin is also currently producing a documentary with Chris Moore based on the popular novel *The People Speak*. Elizabeth Banks who plays Laura Bush, the president's wife, is also the founder of Brown Stone productions, and recently starred in the comedies "Meet Dave" and "Definitely Maybe". Richard Dreyfuss completes this all star cast as he takes on the role of Vice President Dick Cheney. Dreyfuss is an avid supporter of political and social activism, the main idea expressed in the movie "W".

The movie is a biography of George W. Bush's interesting background and his rise to presidency. The film starts off with Bush's childhood. He was born in New Haven, Connecticut on July sixth, 1946. He was the oldest of four siblings and attended Yale University where he received a bachelor's degree in history. After college, Bush went off to participate in the Texas Air National Guard where he was later discharged in October of 1973 to attend Harvard University. In 1976 Bush was charged with a DUI, his license was then suspended for two years after he pleaded guilty. A few years later George married Laura Welch and together they had twin daughters, Barbara and Jenna. The birth of his two daughters was a big event in his life. After pleading with wife Laura, he finally realized it was time to put down the bottle and focus more on his family.

In the summer of 1999 Bush announced that he would run for President of The United States. This decision was viewed as risky considering his alcohol related arrest in 1976. In the fall of 2000 he won the election against democrat Al Gore. Bush's presidency has been one of the most controversial terms ever. Critics have continually scrutinized his decision to invade the Middle East and his inability to keep the economy stable.

Whether you're a fan of the president or not, this movie is sure to keep you on the edge of your seat as Josh Brolin, Elizabeth Banks and Richard Dreyfuss all put forth stellar performances.

# Bee Book To Bee Big Screen

Marissa DeCarlo  
Staff Writer

Gina Prince-Blythewood has adapted Sue Monk Kidd's NY Times bestselling novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*, into a movie. The novel is set in South Carolina in 1964. It is the tale of Lily Owens (Dakota Fanning), a 14 year-old girl, who is haunted by the memory of her late mother, Deborah Owens (Hilarie Burton). To escape her lonely life and troubled relationship with her father, T.Ray Owens (Paul Bettany), she flees with Rosaleen (Jennifer Hudson), her caregiver and only friend, to a South Carolina town called Tiburon that holds the secret to her mother's past. Taken in by the intelligent and independent Boatwright sisters (Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo and Alicia Keys), Lily finds comfort in their thrilling world of beekeeping.

Director Gina Prince-Blythewood had big shoes to fill due to Sue Monk Kidd's amazing demonstration of emotion in the novel. This one hour and forty nine minute film keeps you on the edge of your seat from the first minute, starting with a scene of horrific domestic violence, including child abuse, a racially motivated beating, suicide and the threat of a lynching. But the movie finishes with a happy ending as Lily finally finds a place where she really belongs. What also keeps you

wanting more is the balance between terror and sorrow with warm and healing storyline.

Actors Dakota Fanning, Hilarie Burton, Paul Bettany, Jennifer Hudson, Queen Latifah, Sophie Okonedo, Alicia Keys and others really make the emotions jump off the screen, bringing tears to people's eyes and laughter to their hearts. You really feel the pain and aggravation of the different problems African Americans had to face with in the 1960's.



Dakota Fanning and Jennifer Hudson.  
Courtesy of buzzsugar.com

Prince-Blythewood did a great job of incorporating the themes of the novel; redemption, tolerance, love and healing while also sticking to the book's plot accurately.

Overall, the movie received a five star rating and made \$10,527,799 opening weekend, and played in 1,591 theaters. You can still go to see it in your nearest theater or even buy a copy of the book at your local book store. You may just learn an important lesson from both, anyone is capable of accomplishing anything just as long as you put your mind and heart into it.



Courtesy of Summit Entertainment

## Twilight: The Film

Jessica Pena  
Music Editor

Stephanie Meyer is a mother of three kids, and a lovely wife. She was born in Hartford, Connecticut to parents Stephen and Candy Morgan. She grew up in Phoenix, Arizona where she met her husband of over a decade. Within that decade she attended and graduated from Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah where she participated often in church life. But what separates her from other people, such as moms, other church goers, and the people she went to school with? Well, she just happens to be one of the best-selling authors in America today.

Twilight, the popular series of vampire based fantasy/romance/horror novels has become a huge sensation amongst teens everywhere. It has been nominated for "Best Book of the Year" by Publishers Weekly, "Top Ten books for Young Adults" by the American Library Association, and New York Times Best seller, with 50 million copies sold worldwide. Not only that, but the series has been translated in over 20 different languages. For some of you who don't know the series here's a short description:

Twilight tells the story Isabella "Bella" Swan, a teenage girl who moves to Forks, Washington with her mother and her new father. Bella who is the protagonist of the novel, is originally described having a low self esteem, but finds herself changed as her life is turned upside down when she meets Edward Cullen, a vampire. Edward is a unique kind of vampire, as he is part of a coven that only feeds on animal blood instead of human. Together the two find love and the courage to defeat the odds against their different life styles.

Teens all over have enjoyed the series, and now they can enjoy the movie as well.

Twilight hit theatres on November 21. Fans lined up for hours to get tickets to the first showing. The anticipation to see the movie was so big viewers expected nothing less than spectacular. Many readers who have seen the movie have commented that the film does a great job of depicting the setting, but feel the actors chosen for the film do not accurately portray the characters described in the series. Kristen Stewart (*Catch That Kid-2004*) and Robert Pattinson (*Harry Potter: The Goblet of Fire-2005*) who play Bella and Edward, the lovely-odd couple, have told press that they've tried their hardest to recreate Meyer's characters on the big screen despite criticism they don't look the part.

Junior Marissa DeCarlo says, "The movie did a very good job of demonstrating the main idea that Stephanie Meyer tried to portray in the novel and left you waiting for a sequel."

## Twilight: The Soundtrack

Jessica Pena and Sarah Sachse  
Staff Writers

Being the most anticipated movie in America, the producers of the *Twilight* needed something to hold off fans until the movie premiered. What they came up with was *Twilight: The Original Motion Soundtrack*. The soundtrack that came out in early November presents songs that correspond to each significant moment in the movie, such as the unexplained occurrences, the fight scenes between vampires, and the love struggle between Bella and Edward.

The album has already sold over 165,000 copies, making it number one on the Billboard charts. This was the third movie album this year to hit number one on the Billboard charts, the other two being *Juno* and *Mamma Mia!* It is also the second soundtrack ever to reach number one prior to its movie's release, the first being *8 Mile* (2002).

The album includes songs from artists such as Paramore. When asked about being on the soundtrack, Paramore's lead singer Hayley Williams confessed that she was a huge *Twilight* fan and that being featured on the soundtrack was a huge honor. Two new songs from Paramore were written especially for the movie. In an interview for MTV, Hayley said "There

are a few references [to the novel]; they might be a little vague, but I think the people who read the books will get it." Linkin Park as well as Collective Soul are featured on the album. Also on the soundtrack is Rob Pattinson, who plays vampire Edward Cullen.

The general feedback from *Twilight* fans around the world has been extremely encouraging. On a blog post on [www.twilightthesoundtrack.com](http://www.twilightthesoundtrack.com) Dominique415 said in response to the *Twilight* soundtrack being number one in the United States, "The soundtrack is awesome. I've read the books two times and on my third round. With a soundtrack like this, I am eagerly anticipating the movie."

On December 9, *Twilight: The Score Soundtrack* by Carter Burwell (*No Country for Old Men*) was released as a second edition to original *Twilight* soundtrack. The new album includes other themes to the movie, such as the romance that plays throughout the story, and Edward's vampire nature. Listeners are highly anticipating the soundtrack because it has been said to hold a great bass-line, stellar drum beat and distorted guitar sounds along with a melody to set the mood of the moment.

# Britney Spears: For the Record

Lindsey Tannenbaum  
Staff Writer

Starting the day of the MTV Video Music Awards, Britney Spears let the cameras roll for sixty days as she reflected on her past years and how she's coping. The results of the VMA's proved that Britney still has the talent to remain in the industry and with her new album *Circus* released December second, she's at the height of her career. In her documentary titled *Britney: For the Record*, she made time in between her busy schedule to reveal her thoughts and left no question unanswered.

In the documentary, Britney explains that her breakup with Justin Timberlake left her feeling alone and abandoned. She goes on to say that after a certain point, she eventually let her guard down and was immediately taken advantage of. When Britney married Kevin Federline, it was for all the wrong reasons so she left him. Britney's split from Kevin hurt her more deeply than that of Justin because they had two children together, Sean Preston

and Jayden James. Although most people would doubt her love for her babies, Britney explains they are her life.

Britney tells her audience that they overreacted in response to her coping mechanisms. "Everybody shaves their head," she explains. "Do I know my life is weird? It's all I've ever known. I don't see it as being weird . . . I'm kind of stuck in this place and I'm like, how do you deal? I just cope with it every day...its better not to feel anything at all and have hope than to feel the other way . . . It's bad. I'm sad."



Courtesy of The Daily News



Courtesy of britney.com

Britney's favorite way to let out her emotions is through dance. The choreography in her music videos never fail to impress viewers. At the auditions for her womanizer video, Britney claims that even if the dancers do every step the right way mechanically, if they don't dance with passion and fire, then the dance will not work for. Britney loves what she does. Performing and putting on a show never stopped being satisfying for her and she counts

on it staying that way.

*Circus*, Britney's sixth album, is full of upbeat catchy songs and it coincides with her twenty seventh birthday. Britney's first single on the album *Womanizer*, was her first number one song since 'Hit Me Baby One More Time'. Her next single *Circus* seems promising to top the charts as well. The album sold 200,000 copies on just the first day, and many more throughout the rest of the week.

The last step of her unbelievable comeback will conclude with an album tour. Tickets went on presale on December second with the password "iheartbrit" and sold out in all locations within one day. Regular sale tickets went on sale Saturday December, 6 and many shows were added because tickets sold out so quickly. With twenty seven shows in the near future, Britney Spears is making her way back into the spotlight.

# Eminem Resurfaces Again

Jessica Pena  
Music Editor

Famous for his role in *8 Mile* and his rapping talent, which has won him several Grammys, Marshall Bruce Mathers III is one of the best of his time. You might know him better as Eminem.

With his albums sky-rocketing through the roofs on billboard charts, his music once created a sensation among teens everywhere. At one point, it was hard to imagine life without him and his music. Sadly, his long absence seems to have thinned out his following.



Courtesy of eminem.com

Eminem's last appearance as a performer was in 2004, when his fourth album *Encore* hit stores and once again topped music industry charts. It also landed on the radar of the government. One song entitled,

"We as Americans" was thought to possibly endanger the safety of President George W. Bush, as the blatantly inappropriate lyrics spoke against many of his policies. Other songs spoke out offensively against Michael Jackson and the allegations surrounding him at the time.

Now after four years of hiding, Eminem is back again. This time he's not rapping his way back into the hearts of fans, instead he's reading it loud and clear. Eminem will assume a new identity this time around – that of an author – with his next work, "The Way I Am," a memoir of his life.

According to his manager, Paul Rosenberg, "Eminem is very re-energized and refocused. He wants everyone to know the real story of his life." Apparently, Eminem lets readers know the following in his tell-all memoir: "I'm really just a normal guy. You can ask my neighbors. I ride a bike. I walk the dog. I mow the lawn."

Eminem wants to set the record straight not only about his personality – he also wants to talk about his skills as a parent. Accused by many of being a bad father, Eminem plans to answer back with the telling truth. He is a father of three girls: Hailie—his daughter with his ex-wife Kim, Alaina—his niece, and Whitney—Kim's daughter from a previous relationship. Raising three girls is not an easy job for someone constantly in the public eye.

"Being a dad makes me feel powerful in a way that I hadn't known before, and it's a kind of power I don't want to abuse," Eminem says.

Originally intended to be a scrapbook for his fans, Eminem turned

the project into a memoir because it included huge chunks of his life and first-person narratives. One of Eminem's most personal passages in the memoir details his emotions when his good friend Proof died. He writes, "After he passed, it was a year before I could really do anything normally again. It was tough for me to even get out of bed, and I had days when I couldn't walk, let alone write a rhyme. When I tried to put my thoughts together — well, I wasn't making sense when I spoke, so everyone was trying to keep me off TV and away from the press."

Now ready to make his way back into the music industry, Eminem also plans to release a new album that is scheduled to drop sometime by the end of this year. Eminem's writing inspiration comes from all around, and it's the one place he feels comfortable. Eminem says, "Rap is one big Fantasy Island. It's a place that I always retreat to when thing get too hectic in real time."



Courtesy of Soulful Vibes



Courtesy of HBO

## True Blood

Dominique Cuce  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Are you a fan of the *Twilight* Series? Do you love vampires, mystery and romance? Then *True Blood*, a new HBO original show, is right for you. *True Blood*, based on the book series, *The Southern Vampire Mysteries*, is an intense drama that takes place in Bon Temps, Louisiana. Filled with every type of theme imaginable, *True Blood* is a rollercoaster ride that isn't hard to follow. The show's plot is based on the premise that the Japanese have developed a new synthetic blood (*True Blood*), and that vampires are now able to become citizens because of the new blood. The series follows the up-and-down romance of Sookie Stackhouse (Anna Paquin), and blood sucking vampire Bill Compton (Stephen Moyer). As the season continues, viewers get to see how life would be like if the dead walked among us.

The all-star cast includes Sam Trammell, Ryan Kwanten (who starred in the thriller *Dead Silence*), Rutina Wesley (seen in *How She Move*) and many more talented actors and actresses. Series creator Alan Ball also worked on *Six Feet Under*. *True Blood* is also about to become HBO's third-most watched series, trailing behind *Sex and the City* and *The Sopranos*. The series' first season just ended, and season two begins early summer 2009. To catch episodes of this new hit show, either tune into HBO for reruns, HBO On Demand or visit the official website, <http://www.hbo.com/trueblood/>.

# AMAs

Jessica Pena

Music Editor

On November 23, the fifth annual American Music Awards (AMA) was held, hosted by Brooklyn native and late night talk show host Jimmy Kimmel.

"The AMAs reflect pop culture through music, while at the same time celebrating the fans and audiences," said Orly Adelson, president of Dick Clark productions. "

The ceremony started with a stellar performance by Christina Aguilera, singing "Keeps Getting Better" with a combination of her previous song such as "I'm A Genie in a Bottle." This proves that she is still rock-

ing out after the birth of her son, Max Liron Bratman. Other performances include the now married Beyonce, The Pussycat Dolls, the reunion performance of New Kids on the Block, The Fray, and other artists.

Along with each grand performance came lists of nominees who either won or lost, but still had people talking. Winners included Chris Brown for "Artist of the Year," Alicia

Keys for "Favorite Album," Rihanna for "Favorite Female Artist," and Kanye West for "Favorite Male Artist." The most surprising winner was the Alvin and The Chipmunks Soundtrack, beating out the Juno Soundtrack, and the Mamma Mia! Soundtrack. Another surprise winner was the Jonas Brothers as "Breakout Artist," even though they've been around for over three years now.



Courtesy of dailylife.com

The artists that lost that night were shocked. Coldplay, nominated four times, left the awards empty-handed, even with their great hit song, "Viva La Vida." Other

non-winners included Paramore, Flo Rida, and the Eagles, another band that had been nominated four times over. Colbie Caillat lost for "Breakout Artist," even having worked with Taylor Swift on her album *Fearless*. The Latino singer Juanes performed a duet with John Mayer (they will be touring together this summer). Overall, the awards were entertaining.

## Taylor Swift's Fearless Ride to Fame

Jessica Pena

Music Editor



Courtesy of taylorswift.com

Writing and singing about love and heartache may sound cheesy, but if you can win CMT awards and be nominated for a Grammy, then do it. Taylor Swift has skyrocketed to the top of the music industry unlike anyone else, with songs that manage to touch the hearts of every teenage girl in America.

Her first album, entitled *Taylor Swift*, was released on October 24, 2006. It received grand reviews and hit number one on the country album charts and number five on the Billboard Charts of 200. That debut album brought Swift five consecutive top 10 singles from Billboard's Hot Country Songs chart, making her the first female solo artist to do so.

Now after two years, Taylor Swift isn't slowing down just yet. Her second album, entitled *Fearless*, is in stores now. It has garnered great reviews, such as this one from Rolling Stone Magazine: "Her music mixes an almost impersonal professionalism - it's so rigorously crafted it sounds like it has been scientifically engineered in a hit

factory - with squirming confessions that are intimate and true."

Her first single from the new album, "Love Story," has gotten good reviews as well. The song became Taylor's fifth single in Billboard's Hot 100 chart, alongside the singles "Change," "Fearless," "You're Not Sorry," and "You Belong With Me." Her other single "White Horse" placed number one on iTunes' Top Song List.

Still, many critics want to know of this will be the end of the praise and glory surrounding her meteoric rise in the industry. With her first album selling 3,483,655 copies in the U.S. alone, the Taylor phenomenon is far from over. Many fans flocked to her side after what Joe Jonas (*her ex-boyfriend*) of the Jonas Brothers had done (*he broke up with her in a 27-second call*).

With her *Fearless* album selling over 217,000 copies in its first week of sale, it broke records as the best-selling country album ever. Only time will tell if this young country singer can continue her great success, but right now she's on top of the musical world.

# AAVE: A Unique Summer Experience

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

It is not uncommon for children between the ages of 7 and 16 to spend their summers being shipped off to camp. Boys and girls of these ages love returning to camp each year. Between cheering in the mess hall and playing tons of sports, camp is certainly viewed as a child's second home. For many, the countdown until next summer's exciting camp experience begins with school in September. Others believe that camp is just the same old, same old. Some kids are tired of returning to the same group of people for year after year. As each succeeding summer passes by, they lose interest in camp and the routine activities repeated day after summer day. If you're one of those who is tired of that same old camp routine, the folks at AAVE adventure camp are eager to hear from you. They promise their offerings will spice up any summer.

AAVE is the acronym for All About Visiting Earth, a teen adventure company that allows kids between the



Ice climbing on the Matanuska Glacier. Courtesy of aave.com

ages of 11 and 18 to broaden their horizons by traveling to different destinations across the globe. The company was founded in 1976 in the hopes of offering teenagers a new, exciting, summer experience. The programs are now directed by its current owner, Abbott Wallis.

Unlike your average summer camp, AAVE offers programs in every continent excluding Antarctica. Trips are led in places that even one's parents have yet to visit in their lifetime. AAVE offers programs for a minimum of two weeks and a maximum of four. Most trips leave for their destinations on July 1 or July 23. There are some exceptions for the shorter programs, in which special dates are scheduled for departure.

AAVE offers several different programs depending on one's interests and goals. The trips can be divided into three major groups—community service, adventure and language.

The majority of trips include at least some community service in their itinerary. Yet some specific trips such as Costa Rica Clasica and Africa shape their entire activities around the hopes of helping others and improving their communities. When in Costa Rica two years ago, the group constructed different community service projects in the city of San Jose, including the pavement of sidewalks and the painting of murals in schools of poverty. One key highlight from the entire experience was teaching an English class to third graders. By interacting and having fun with children in need, it truly makes one feel good. With such AAVE experiences, you know you did something beneficial that helped others.

If you're looking for more of an adventurous program, trips such as Ultimate Alaska and Bold West are more than exceptional. What teen-

ager wouldn't dream of going white water rafting on the Colorado River or glacial ice climbing in the Chugach Mountains? Some trips take it a step further, including camping in their itineraries. By doing so, teenagers get a real feel for living in the wilderness and the fun a group can have when doing so. Kids learn how to pitch a tent, cook their own food, and most importantly, clean up before a mountain animal hits their campsite!

What's most interesting about AAVE is its language and cultural immersion programs. For trips such as Espana Clasica or Costa Rica Intensive, teenagers attend school five hours a day for Spanish. This allows students to expand their knowledge of Spanish writing, grammar and vocabulary. During this time when attending school, teenagers are also given the privilege and opportunity to stay with a host family.

Regardless of the program, AAVE alumni view the host family stay as one of the highlights of their trip. Staying with a host family is completely safe through AAVE, for interviews and meetings with the families are always scheduled prior to the trips. By staying with a host family, teenagers are able to be immersed in the culture through day-to-day observations and experiences. Most importantly, no English is spoken, allowing all to improve with language and conversation. And the food cooked by host families is absolutely delicious!

From arroz con pollo to tasty galletas, you'll never want to leave your host family.

What about the Trip Leaders? Are they reliable? These are the kind of concerns most parents have. Rest assured that all AAVE Trip Leaders are interviewed several months before the summer kicks off. If chosen to lead a trip, trip leaders are required to attend the one-week orientation in Colorado or Belgium. This orientation allows the trip leaders to mingle with others and have fun. At the same time, the leaders become educated in the programs which they're leading. Trip leaders are usually in the 21-35 age range.



Jumping in the deserts of Africa. Courtesy of aave.com

What AAVE most cares about is making sure that everyone has a great time. My experiences the past two years have been entirely fun. This past year introduced me to friends all the way from California to the U.K. In spite of how it sounds, three weeks feels incredibly short when you're on an AAVE program. These programs are recommended to teens of all ages, and are bound to give you the summer of a lifetime!

# Local Pizza Hot Spots

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

Pizza is a food that everyone loves, and New York City is known for making it better than any other city. Just because you can't always be in the city, doesn't mean you can't eat fantastic pizza. Several towns in Westchester have great restaurants and pizzerias that serve exceptional pizza and Italian cuisine. Here are the top 5 picks for the hottest Pizza parlors near you:

## Sunrise Pizza

Located in Rye, Sunrise is well-known for its Sicilian and regular slices. Each slice is kneaded and heated to perfection. Sunrise is also known for its delicious side dishes. One can never go wrong with their chicken parmigiana or chicken bolognese. To top off the meal, Sunrise makes mouth-watering



Courtesy of [www.Ryerecord.com](http://www.Ryerecord.com)

zeppoles. If the day is hot, order an Italian ice.

## Sal's Pizza

Sal's is located in downtown Mamaroneck. The parlor is packed on weekends and usually there is a line extending outside. There is no problem finding a seat because Sal's is divided into two spacious rooms. Although their pizza is thin and decent, Sal's is better known for its salads and pastas. After a satisfying dinner, try their authentic Italian Gelato or pastries.

## Slices

Slices, one of Hastings-on-Hudson's hotspots, serves up delicious Italian food. Slices has great appetizers such as mozzarella sticks and garlic knots. You can also never go wrong

with their Pasta Fagioli and Minestrone. Although the town is a 25 minute drive from Harrison, the trip is definitely worth the meal.



Photo courtesy of [www.Hungrytravel.com](http://www.Hungrytravel.com)

a restaurant favorite, as well as their chicken parmigiana with risotto. You can either order to go, or you sit down and have a quality dinner with your family and friends.

## Nicky's

If you're in Larchmont, drop by this pizzeria. Customers have raved about their interested dishes such as the baked ziti and lasagna pizza. Besides pizza, you

can get soups, salads, sandwiches. Nicky's is usually packed with tons of teenagers so make sure you're aware of their busy hours. Adriana Difazio, a frequent customer, remarked, "Nicky's is like my second home. I can eat their pizza probably for breakfast, lunch and dinner if I were able to."



Courtesy of [www.44thavenue.com](http://www.44thavenue.com)

## The Iron Tomato

Located on Mamaroneck Avenue, The Iron Tomato has a varied selection of Italian cuisine that can be either purchased or eaten at the restaurant. The Italian restaurant has several different stations such as the pizza, sandwich, hot-entrée and dessert counters. The margherita pizza is

# YO! Company Fishes in New Waters: Sushi

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

YO! Sushi is the ultimate dream for a lover of Japanese food. YO! Sushi is a restaurant chain found in several locations, specifically London. The chain was started by British Entrepreneur Simon Woodroffe ten years ago, instantly becoming a part of the YO! Company.

YO! Sushi's food is delicious, freshly prepared by some of the most prestigious Japanese cooks in London. The concept for the chain is very unique and exciting, considering you can eat whatever you want in a hip setting. Colors illuminate the room, giving off a lively feeling and warm presence. The restaurants usually contain a full house, due to being an important tourist sight in parts of London.

YO! Sushi brought forth the concept of a conveyor belt for their restaurant chain. Conveyor belts are commonly used in Japan as a way of distributing food. It trails around the entire room, allowing customers to pick whatever they want from the device. YO! Sushi possesses the same exact concept in a cool environment. Such an idea is not common in the United States, or in many other countries. First time visits for tourists and foreigners are always exciting, since nothing like this has been heard or seen outside of London and Japan.



Photo courtesy of [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

The conveyor belt allows customers to choose whatever they want, whenever they want. When taking your seat on the extended table, you are given a menu and offered drinks by your waiter. From there, there is no need to bother the waiter for main courses and appetizers. By skimming the menu, YO! Sushi will give you a list of specific dishes and orders that you can eat. All of the following listed will appear on the conveyor belt immediately when you take your seat. In some of their restaurants, you must let the chef know what you want when you've made your decision. This is in order for them to know how much of a certain food to cook. In other cases,

their attention is not needed. Simply sit down, and be the "food-pig" you've always wanted to be!

YO! Sushi has a unique, yet interesting pricing system. Each dish



Photo of YO! Sushi courtesy of [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

is placed in a specific color plate, depending on its price. There are usually five colors, representing five different prices for the course. Rather than eat whatever you want but be cautious of the price, consumers are aware of the cost before they grab the dish from the conveyor belt and eat it.

Ever since its opening, the chain has been successful through reeling in consumers to try out their delicious cuisine and fun atmosphere! Tourists have suggested that the chain expand such an experience into choice cities in the United States — people would no doubt love such a restaurant in New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and/or Los Angeles. Unfortunately for now, people with an interest in experiencing YO! Sushi must travel to specific locations in Europe. Yet no local restaurant provides the kind of satisfaction and fun to be had in eating a good meal

as well as using a conveyor belt to receive one's food.



Photo Courtesy of [www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)

# Charity Water Flows

Sarah Sachse

Staff Writer

Think how much water you waste each day, how many half full bottles of water you throw away. Now think to yourself how this water could save a life, how the water you carelessly throw away is a matter of life or death for some. Now, think how you can help, how you as one person can change the life of thousands.

An organization called Charity Water is beginning to become familiar with many, including those at Harrison High School. This organization has a mission to supply people with a natural right: the right to clean water. According to current statistics, about 1.1 billion, or one sixth of the world's population, do not have clean drinking water. Dangerous water and little sanitation kill more people each year than all forms of violence. As of May 1, 2008, 629 water projects had begun or had been completed. The main areas they supply to are located in Africa, India and Bangladesh.

Many big-name companies have signed on to support Charity Water as well. With help from Sak's Fifth Ave-

nue, \$150,000 was raised in an effort to supply more water throughout Honduras. A total of \$500,000 has been raised in order to build more wells around Africa, India and Honduras. Sak's Fifth Avenue also is selling black wrist bands for five dollars apiece to help support the cause.

In March, the retailer Theory chose to advertise Charity Water in eight of their stores, including the Westchester Mall. You can now view multiple pictures in their stores and purchase shirts supporting Charity Water. One hundred percent of the proceeds are directly donated. With the \$51,000 raised, 12 wells have been built in Ethiopia, supplying more than 5,000 people with pure drinking water. Yet another retailer, Brighton,

has also taken part in this charity. Brighton now sells Love Water for \$20 a bottle.



Courtesy of charitywater.org

You can help by simply buying a \$20 bottle of water. One hundred percent of the money goes toward well drilling projects. Those 20 dollars can provide the equivalent of 20 years of drinking water for someone in Africa. There are also black Livestrong style bracelets that are available for \$5 each. By visiting [www.charitywater.org](http://www.charitywater.org), you can learn about their mission to give everyone the clean water they deserve.

Many students at Harrison High School have become familiar with Charity Water through the efforts of Kate Cioffari. Kate bought a good amount of Charity products, and then re-sold them to people all around Har-

ison. With each item sold, she told the story behind the simple bottle of water and its importance in providing help in a global mission. Thanks to Kate and her promotional efforts, many are now familiar with Charity Water and the amazing benefits it produces.



Courtesy of fashionwindows.com



Courtesy of summerrayne.net



Tavi reads Gatsby.

tavi-thenewgirlintown.blogspot.com

## FASHION'S LATEST MUSE: TEEN BLOGGERS

Emily Singer

News Editor

blogging world has experienced a boom recently, aided by the advent of the fashion blogger-oriented website, Chictopia.

Founded by Californian Lulu Chang, the website allows users to post pictures of their daily outfits, shopping purchases, and favorite runway shows. The website has hundreds of registered users who are searching for style inspiration, outfit help,

and where to buy that skirt that they saw in *Nylon* magazine.

The popular blog host site, Blogger, is also home to hundreds of fashion bloggers. The same goes for Typepad, Wordpress, and the Swedish host site set aside only for fashion and style bloggers, Devote. Many fashion-obsessed bloggers have found fame by posting pictures of their outfits, inspiration, and unrealistic wish lists. They have been featured in magazines and newspapers and have been offered internships and jobs.

The most impressive fashion bloggers (who have also gained relative fame) are the younger ones. Although many bloggers are in the upper-end of high school, college, or even post-college graduates, several stand-out bloggers are in middle school.

In 2006, Lisa Olsson founded her fashion blog. She posted pictures of her daily outfits, celebrity inspirations,

and macro-photographs of her Swedish surroundings. Lisa's blog gained popularity and she became noticed by more prominent bloggers, mainly because at the time she was just 12 years old. True fame came only recently for Lisa, though. In the spring of 2008, she was featured in an advertisement for a Swedish jewelry company. Since then, she has begun to model for various photographers and has been featured in international fashion magazines (such as *Vogue Girl Korea*).

Another young fashion-forward blogger is 12-year-old Tavi G., who hails from the Chicago-area. Unlike Lisa, who started blogging because she wanted to be able to share inspiration with other people who are interested in fashion, Tavi's blog was founded and gained popularity based solely on chance. Tavi's best friend's sister (Stephanie) has a relatively well-known fashion blog. One day, Tavi was at her friend's house and they began to play dress-up with all of Stephanie's vintage clothing. Stephanie turned that dress-up session into a photo shoot and posted the pictures on her blog.

Readers were immediately drawn to the little blonde girl's fashion sense. Soon after the photo shoot was posted, Tavi founded her blog. She offered insight into fashion shows, designers, and posted pictures of her daily outfits and soon received mainstream media attention from The New York Times. Tavi's style is avant-garde and unrestricted, mimicking fashion blog superstar Susie Bubble of StyleBubble. She is also extremely mature for her age, especially in her style of writing

and her ability to spot a future trend. As a result, New York Magazine wrote an article questioning the validity of Tavi's supposed age. She was intimidated by the article and took several weeks off from her once-habitual blogging. Tavi has since resumed blogging and her site is more popular than ever.

The influence of internet fashion bloggers has grown exponentially in the past couple of years. Chictopia founder Lulu Chang recently signed a book deal (the subject matter has yet to be revealed), and 15-year-old Lisa Olsson wrote several online articles for Devote. The recent popularity that younger bloggers have gained will surely give them an unbelievable advantage when they are searching for jobs. The journalistic experience that young bloggers gain from habitual posting will surely provide for a bright future in the fashion industry, whether it leads to designing clothing or writing articles for *Vogue* or even continuing to write on their own blogs. The influence that bloggers such as Lisa, Tavi, Stephanie, and countless others continue to have on the fashion world will certainly not go unnoticed.

### LINKS TO SEVERAL INFLUENTIAL BLOGGERS

Susie Bubble  
([stylebubble.typepad.com](http://stylebubble.typepad.com))  
Lisa Olsson  
([lisaplace.devote.se](http://lisaplace.devote.se))  
Tavi G.  
([tavi-thenewgirlintown.blogspot.com](http://tavi-thenewgirlintown.blogspot.com))  
Chictopia  
([chictopia.com](http://chictopia.com))

Although the internet was created almost 40 years ago, it did not expand and truly commercialize until very recently. With the internet, everything has a place. There are websites for government, television, food lovers, games, and absolutely everything in between. There are even websites for people who want to start their own websites or blogs.

The influence of blogs has grown over the past eight years. People all across the world are now able to express their personal views for everyone to see. Although politics, music, and gossip-related blogs have been in the spotlight for several years, a new form of blog has been gaining momentum among people of all ages – fashion.

Fashion plays a major role in everyone's lives, whether they choose to admit it or not. There are magazines, websites, books, television shows, and now there are blogs. The fashion

# Shawn Johnson: Good Things Come In Small Packages

Joni Cooper

Food Editor

Every time there's a Summer Olympics, people love to watch events that involve gymnastics. This past summer's games in China had it all – from the exceptional show of the opening ceremony to events in those newly constructed stadiums – and China clearly was a favorite to dominate.

Leading the way was China's exceptional gymnastics team. The team consisted of five petite girls, two of which were pulled into the gymnastics world from three years of age. Although they dominated in the team competition, their individual reign was threatened by another competitor. The threat was coming from American gymnast Shawn Johnson, who stands a mere four feet, nine inches.

Shawn Johnson came into the games with bright eyes and bewilderment. The current 16-year-old gymnast comes from an average teen age life. Born and raised in West Des Moines, Iowa, Shawn lives with her parents Doug and Teri.

One would think that an elite gymnast has no free time

because of the time commitment involved in training. Most athletes are homeschooled and some even drop out of school to focus on their training, but not Shawn Johnson. She's totally comfortable with balancing gymnastics, her social life, and a busy academic schedule. According to her web page, Shawn feels it is important to have a life outside of training. Although gymnastics is a huge commitment, she



Shawn Johnson smiles for the judges. Cameron Spencer/Getty Images  
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believes that she should still continue to see her friends and engage in the life of an average teenager.

Every weekday, Shawn attends West Des Moines Public High School, where she thrives in classes such as Math and English. Even with such a busy schedule, Shawn is able to maintain an "A" average, and sets high expectations for the remainder of her academic career.

Immediately following school, Johnson shoots to Chow's Gymnastics and Dance Studio for a four- to-five-hour training session. Unlike other elite gymnasts, Johnson only trains for some 25 hours per week. That stands



Shawn Johnson in mid-leap.

Courtesy of Associated Press

in marked contrast to teammate Nastia Liukin, who trains up to 40 hours per week – almost double the amount that Shawn trains. Despite her relatively "short" practice hours, the gymnast continues to improve and excel.

Chow's Gymnastics and Dance Studio has become Shawn's second home since the age of seven. Her first and current coaches, Liang Quiao and Liwen Zhuang, work and own the studio. The duo spotted Shawn shortly after signing up for classes and knew that there was potential to turn the toddler into an exceptional gymnast.

It's ironic how the 2008 Olympics were held in Beijing, China, as it is the native country of both of Johnson's coaches. Preparing the gymnast for the games in their hometown made the experience even greater. After years and years of preparation, both Shawn and her coaches believed they were ready for what the Olympics had in store.

Months before her arrival in Beijing, Shawn was targeted for Olympic gymnastic gold. After winning the all-around in the 2007 World Championship and Visa National Games, Shawn was coming into the Olympics with confidence. Of course, being a 16 year-old, Shawn was naturally nervous about competing on such a large stage.

The first heat Johnson competed in was the Women's Team Finals. Although her teammates struggled with several events, the U.S. team

managed to pull through with a silver medal. To no one's surprise, those scores came nowhere near China's team performance.

Two days later, Johnson participated in the All-Around competition. Rotation after rotation, the gymnast had very few flaws. Despite her stellar performance, Shawn Johnson placed second, while teammate Nastia Liukin, placed first. Both U.S. gymnasts pushed back China's top competitors, pushing back their best gymnast into a third place ranking.

Shawn looked forward to her last heat. For the individual competition, she was chosen to compete

on the balance beam. Coming into the Olympics, Shawn knew her best event was the one she'd be performing last. Although she already won two silver medals, her ultimate goal was the gold.

Shawn was up first, completing and sticking a solid routine. Johnson set the bar high and hoped it would be difficult for others to beat her score. One after another, gymnasts presented flaws

and errors through various routines – until Nastia Liukin jumped onto the beam. Her body flipped from one end of the beam to the other, making Shawn's current first place position questionable. After a long deliberation with the judges, Johnson beat Liukin by less than two-tenths of a point.

From there, Johnson knew that she'd done it. The gymnast hugged Liang Quiao with all her might, then smiled brightly as she spotted her parents in the audience, tears streaming down her cheeks.

Since the 2008 Summer Olympics, Shawn has been pulled in all directions. She recently starred on the Tonight Show with Jay Leno and The Oprah Winfrey Show with some of her Olympic teammates from Beijing. She already has appeared in several advertisements for different food products. Johnson even appeared in a Cover-Girl Ad with Nastia Liukin and Alicia Sacramone.

One would never believe that Shawn Johnson is 16, considering all she has accomplished. With the Beijing Olympics behind her, the gymnast is back in her hometown and ready to train for future competitions. Spectators should get used to Johnson's luminous smile. For the next few years, Shawn Johnson is not going anywhere – and that's a fact.

For more information, go to [www.shawnjohnson.net](http://www.shawnjohnson.net) or check out the website at [www.nbcolympics.com](http://www.nbcolympics.com).



Courtesy of bigroncoleman.com

## "Mr. Olympia" Ronnie Coleman

Claudio DelliCarpini

Staff Writer

At 330 pounds in the off-season and a slimmed-down 296 for competition, it sounds like either a defensive tackle for the Jacksonville Jaguars or a world-class sumo wrestler. In point of fact, it's neither. It's eight time "Mr. Olympia," the professional bodybuilder Ronnie Coleman. He's in great shape and his career depends on it. But how does he do it?

Being named "Mr. Olympia" eight times is no small feat. Aside from lifting, Ronnie begins each day with a 45-minute walk on the treadmill as his cardio exercise. Twelve weeks prior to a competition, he doubles his cardio time and plans his diet strictly and accordingly. By eating six meals a day of lean meat and fast burning carbohydrates, Ronnie always drops 40-50 pounds, some three months prior to competition. His eight percent starting body fat is less than half that of the average man, and he always plans to halve that again. He works out three times a day, alternating body parts each day; with a day off for rest on Sunday.

Not only is the quality of food intake imperative for Mr. Coleman's muscle growth, the quantity of what he eats remains equally essential. Due to his almost violent training regimen, Ronnie relies on foods that are high in fat content. That includes loading up on fat-soluble vitamins A, D, E, and K.

If building massive amounts of muscle are in your future plans, Coleman has a warning: "Don't start too soon." According to Mr. Coleman's website, his training regimen is meant for the body of a fully grown man. He is not a fan of underage lifting, and believes that you should absolutely wait until a mature growth has been reached.



Courtesy of bigroncoleman.com

# Life After Pro Football: No Game, Still Pain

Hank Rubenstein

Co-Editor-in-Chief

Curt Marsh wears his Super Bowl ring to an Everett restaurant. He carries mementos from life after football: his scars, and a piece of paper with his surgical history, a full page, single-spaced. Perhaps it was nice while it lasted, but once it's over, it's all downhill for National Football League players. The last entry in Marsh's surgery journal, a right hip replacement in November, makes for a total of 30 surgeries, 22 since the former Washington Husky played his last N.F.L. game in 1986. Doctors have amputated his right leg below the knee, replaced both hips, fixed three hernias, scoped both knees and worked on his back, neck, right arm, left hand, stomach and tonsils.

"It's like I'm the poster child for injured players," Marsh says.

He's not alone. Offensive linemen know the averages. Their pro careers generally last less than four years, almost all in anonymity, and their life expectancy rarely extends past the age of 60, while their salaries rank among the lowest in professional sports. Try talking to 35 offensive linemen, you'll find stories stitched together by surgeries, connected with joint replacements, and marred with pain experienced long after the pads have been put away for good.

According to a story in *The Baltimore Examiner*, by Ron Snyder, the linemen agree on two themes, almost unanimously: that everybody who plays long enough exits pro football with some type of injury, separated only by severity, and that they would

do it all again, even if they knew the consequences. While one is playing in the N.F.L., life is overwhelmed by stardom. During that time, linemen never stop and think what might happen when eventually they leave the game. Rather, most assume that the N.F.L. will take care of them, or that their endorsements will cover them

response the rest of the retired players hear: "We can't give out disability because we don't want to open up the flood gates."

In June Dennis Curran, senior vice president of the N.F.L., testified before Congress that the league's retirement and disability fund totals 1.1 billion dollars. Last year the N.F.L.

lineman for the Buffalo Bills, received a pension that was recently raised to \$600 a month (\$7,200 a year). Four years ago he found safety at the Haggerston Rescue Mission, a Christian homeless shelter for men, where he works as a night receptionist and receives minimum wage.

"I was a little embarrassed at first, because I used to come and speak to the guys, try and get them motivated. Originally I was going to make it only day to day, but eventually it became my permanent home" says Green.

After a pro sports career full of lavish gifts, beautiful women, and a lot of attention, one might expect life after football to be pretty good as well. However, several N.F.L. players are finding out otherwise, experiencing surgery and hardships once they've gone beyond that fourth down.



Conrad Dobler's injured knees.

Courtesy of USA Today

through any tough times. The linemen couldn't be more wrong.

Conrad Dobler, once known as the N.F.L.'s dirtiest player, now sits awaiting his fifth knee surgery. Among those who made up the offensive line that Dobler played for in St. Louis, there have been over 10 joint or ligament replacements, and one death. But that's just four players off one offensive line on one N.F.L. team, and they're all still relatively young, none of them into their sixties. When Dobler asked the N.F.L. disability board for a little help with all his medical trouble, he heard the same

only paid approximately 20 million dollars in disability benefits to 317 former players. There are over 8,000 retired players, and only 4 percent were given help.

Dobler has a solution that might work. Dobler believes that the N.F.L. should just take 10 percent of the gross out of the cap and put it toward the disability fund, so as to provide care for current and retired players.

The N.F.L. isn't just denying players disability coverage, it also is cutting down on player pensions too. Last month Donnie Green, a former



Life after a pro career has been tough for Curt Marsh. Courtesy of Getty Images

## Battered Michael Vick Dogs Given Televised Chance For Better Life

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

Since early September, the National Geographic channel has been airing episodes of a new show entitled *Dogtown: Saving the Michael Vick Dogs*. In April, 2007, the world was shocked when dozens of traumatized pit bulls were discovered on the property of then Atlanta Falcon's star quarterback, Michael Vick. The dogs were kept at Bad Newz Kennels, an illegal dog fighting venture operated by Vick and three other men. During their time at Bad Newz Kennels, poor performing dogs were often executed by means of hanging, drowning, electrocuting and even shooting. When the police discovered the evidence of the illegal dog fighting ring, they seized the property and over 70 surviving dogs, mostly being pit bull terriers that showed signs of past injuries and psychological trauma. Many people believed that these dogs were too physically and mentally damaged for any possible rehabilitation. However, 47 of the dogs were given a chance to live a better life, with 25 put into foster care, and the remaining 22 being sent along to Dogtown.

What began in 2007 as a property search in Surry County, Virginia, revealed a gruesome, multi-state dog fighting operation known as Bad

Newz Kennels, which had allegedly been operating from Vick's property since 2002. For dog fighting events, trainers and dogs traveled from great distances, from South Carolina, North Carolina, Maryland, New York, Texas, and other states.

On May 27, 2007, ESPN reported that a confidential source, who had been involved in dog fighting for over 30 years, claimed that Vick was among the "heavyweights" in the dog fighting world, and that Vick would place large wagers on dog fights, amounts up to \$40,000. Later that year, two of the men involved, Purnell Peace and Quanis "Q" Phillips, pleaded guilty and entered plea agreements with federal prosecutors. Only three days later, Vick's lawyer announced that Vick would plead guilty to the federal felony dog fighting charge.

On August 27, Vick submitted his guilty plea before Judge Henry Hudson, and on December 10, 2007, Michael Vick was sentenced to 23 months in

prison. Vick suffered the heaviest penalty, but Quanis "Q" Phillips received a steep punishment as well, serving 21 months in prison. Two of the others involved, Purnell Peace and Tony Taylor, received 18 months and two months in prison, respectively. Oscar Allen, the only man not sentenced to prison, received three years' probation and a \$500 fine for his involvement in the dog fighting ring.

Television viewers are now able to follow along as the trainers of Dogtown attempt to successfully rehabilitate four of the harmed dogs, giving them a hope for the normal life they deserve. Of the four dogs, Cherry, Meryl, Denzel, and Georgia, only Meryl must permanently remain at Dogtown, as ordered by the court, for being too aggressive towards both people and other dogs.

At first, the Dogtown trainers were unsure if they would be able to help Denzel, as he arrived with a severe

case of anemia, and an underlying disease, a tick-borne parasite that is commonly found with fighting dogs. After months of rehabilitation, Denzel is back on track and is healthy, happy, and energetic daily.

The remaining two dogs, Georgia and Cherry, appeared to have lived two completely opposite lives during their time at Bad Newz Kennels. Cherry was so terrified of people when he arrived at Dogtown, that he simply flattened himself to the ground at first glimpse of a human and refused to be walked on a leash, making trainers believe that he may have been used as bait to train the more aggressive fighters. An example of such an aggressive fighter is Georgia, who arrived with the marks of a once prized fighter, with such scars that come from the gruesome fights. All of her teeth had to be pulled, which the trainers believe could be as a result of forced breeding.

Watch along as these four dogs, along with their four trainers, try to move on to a new and better chapter of their lives, which should result in a new family and home for at least three of these poor mistreated dogs.



Vick dog.

Courtesy of nationalgeographic.com

# Looking Back on the Soccer Season

Hank Rubenstein

Co-Editor-in-Chief

The clock read 14:20. We had just gone down by three goals, and a comeback was now officially out of reach. At that moment it hit me: my time as a Harrison Soccer Player was over. I haven't cried in a while, but now there was nothing that could hold me back. With time still remaining I began to tear up and eventually started to bawl. But now that my tears have been wiped away and the pain of losing has subsided, I can reflect. There's one phrase that sums up our season, and that is "Who can forget?"

Who can forget:

- Preseason.
- Sitting in my bed late at night wondering how we will get knocked off in the Sectional tournament, never once thinking that we wouldn't.
- Being viewed as only a glitch on the radar in early September.
- Beating Port Chester for the first time in school history.
- Taking down powerhouse Lakeland, a game against our own coach's hometown.

-Our first loss of the year to Rye, vowing after the game we'd meet them in Sectionals.

-Falling twice to Keio in overtime.

-Our second win against Port Chester. Even that alone made our season historic.

-Team trips to Buffalo Wild Wings to celebrate wins, not realizing that those meals alone are what helped bring us together.

-Avenging our 2007 playoff loss to Tappan Zee by beating them twice during the season.

-Pedro Vandunem scoring his first varsity goal.

-Etienne "Big E" Ducasse saving a penalty kick.

-Seeing Coach Loughran happy.

-Andre Fonseca curving in a corner kick.

-Bryan Merlos scoring over twenty goals.

-Makoto Sano winning All-State.

-Our ride through the Sectional tournament.

-Playing Lakeland in the first round in pouring rain and whirling winds.

-Beating Rye in the last five minutes of the quarterfinals, a round Harrison hasn't made it past since 1978.

-Watching Gregoire Ducasse pumping up the crowd in the final minutes.

-Going to play Byram Hills the next day, the defending State Champs

who are ranked number one in the state.

-After two overtimes and penalty kicks, handing them their first loss to a Section 1 team in almost fifty games.

-Shutting out Keio Academy in the Sectional Finals, giving Harrison their first ever boys soccer Section 1 championship.

-The Power of the Siete (Team Haircut) giving us strength to battle back against Goshen to advance to the Regional Finals.

-Beating Owego, winning the regional championship and earning a spot up in Oneonta for Championship weekend..

-Taking down Kenmore East, as once again Antonio Britto shuts down their top scorer.

-The State finals against Comsewogue, a name that will be burned into my mind forever.

This season was certainly a memorable one. Our defeat in the state finals wasn't exactly easy to handle, but looking back it was a pretty incredible ride. We took down some really good teams along the way and made some memories that will last us a lifetime. I am proud to say that I played in the State finals, something only a few people can say.

There are over 100 teams in our class and we made it to the final two. I'm upset we weren't able to complete the ride, but happy that I was even given the opportunity. This year our team made history. We did things Harrison soccer had never dreamed of; but most importantly, we gave ourselves a name.



Hank Rubenstein and teammates celebrate victory over Keio.

Courtesy of Stewart Bayer/Journal News

## Hard Work Pays Off For HHS' Cross Country Team

Emily Singer

News Editor

If you like running for 3.1 miles through the woods, up and down muddy hills, and spending your Saturday mornings with a bunch of protein bar-eating, Gatorade-drinking, crazed high school students, you might want to join the HHS Cross Country team.

Actually it's not that bad.

An average practice for the team is between four and seven miles, either on the roads or on the track. It begins with a mile warm-up, 20 minutes of stretching and plyometric leg drills, and then the workout begins. Workouts are often fast-paced interval sets and, by the end of the workout, everyone's exhausted.

This year's team captains are juniors Mark Neider and Emily Singer. They both agree that while the team is small, it has a lot of potential.

Sophomore Chris Repecki leads the boys' team, with freshman Chris D'Antona close behind, while the girls' team is led by junior Emily Singer (who competed in the State Championship Meet last fall) and senior Maureen McManus.

The team has only three seniors – Maureen McManus, Angelina Pilarinos, and Danny Lauro.

High school math teacher Mr. Oren and elementary school physical education teacher Mr. Bajor coach the team. Bajor coached the team last season, and Oren stepped in during

Spring Track to fill the position left after the retirement of long-time Harrison Track & Field coach, Dennis Fulton.

The team started off their season with the Big Red Invitational at Somers High School, where Emily Singer placed first in the girls' race, and Chris Repecki placed sixth in the boys' race.

The team competes in an average of two meets per week – one dual meet against one other school, and a larger invitational meet on the weekend. Invitationals usually have 15 or so schools in attendance, with over 100 runners per race.

Since the beginning of the season, the school's runners have improved their times as well as their physical fitness. Many of the runners, who at first couldn't finish the warm-up mile without stopping to walk, are now running difficult workouts without even slowing down.

"The team is small, but we definitely have a lot of fun together. It's a great way to meet new people who you wouldn't necessarily talk to," says senior Maureen McManus.

The championship season began with the League II South meet at the famed Van Cortlandt Park in New York City. After that, the team ran at the Westchester County Championship meet, also held at Van Cortlandt Park. Emily Singer finished third,

Kathryn Hoffberg finished at #136, freshman Melissa Goldberg came in #151, and Angelina Pilarinos finished at #190. The boys' team finished #26 in the county, led by Chris Repecki (32), Chris D'Antona (101), and Nick Arpaia (228).

The Section 1 Championship meet is commonly referred to as the State Qualifier meet. State meet competitors are determined by the highest scoring team as well as the next five individuals. This year, the meet was held on Halloween at Bowdoin Park (in Wappingers Falls). Emily Singer finished second in the Class A race and received the chance to run at States. Melissa Goldberg finished at #54, and Kathryn Hoffberg came in # 59.

In the boys' race, Chris Repecki finished #28, Chris D'Antona finished #46, Jason Dowd and Nao Yorihiro finished #74 and #75, respectively. At the State meet, Emily Singer finished in ninth place and received a bid to run at the Federation Championship meet, where she finished #36. The Federation meet combines all runners from public and private schools, regardless of school size.

Overall, the season was a great success. Both the boys' and girls' teams were mainly made up of underclassmen, so the 2009 Cross Country team looks very promising.



Chris Repecki runs for glory.  
Courtesy of Tim Fulton/armorytrack.com



Andre DeFonseca collides with Consewogue opponent in controversial "red card" ruling.

Courtesy of Brian Horey/Journal News

# Huskies Cap Off Dream Season

Joey Loreti

Staff Writer

After a successful finish last year that left the boys' soccer team with a record of 12-4-2, the Huskies came back this year looking to build on that previous success. With nine players returning from last year's roster, the Huskies did improve, ending their regular season with a record of 13-3-2. Leading the way for the Huskies was returning senior Goalkeeper Hank "The Tank" Rubenstein, who was fantastic in the net all year long, allowing only 16 goals during the entire regular season. While Hank provided excellent defense in the net, junior Bryan Merlos led the way on the offensive attack, accruing an impressive tally of 20 goals and eight assists on the year. Merlos led the team in total points. Others leading the offensive attack were junior Andre Fonseca, senior Andres Prieto, and sophomore Ivan Cabrera. Fonseca, whose 12 assists lead the team in that category, also added 14 goals and was an offensive spark all year for the Huskies.

The Huskies began their road into the playoffs with a world of confidence and momentum from having a 9-1-1 record in their final 11 regular season games. Earning the No. 5 seed in the Class A Section 1 playoffs, they hosted No. 12 Lakeland in the opening round. Lakeland had finished their season at 8-9-1. The Huskies came into this matchup with a previous regular season victory over the Hornets, 4-2, in a game held at Lakeland. This time, at home, the Huskies dominated the Hornets 5-2, thanks in part to goals scored by Merlos, Prieto, Gregoire Ducasse, and two goals from Fonseca.

Their next challenge came from arch-rival Rye, who held a 1-0 regular season victory over the Huskies in a previous matchup. However, this time around the Huskies prevailed with a large crowd of its student fans supporting them; the Huskies won a thrilling game over the Garnets 1-0, with Fonseca scoring the deciding goal

in the final minutes of the game. But the Huskies toughest task was yet to come.

Playing as huge underdogs, the Huskies traveled to Byram Hills to play the defending state champions and No. 1 seeded team in the Section 1 playoffs. Regulation and an overtime period were not enough for these two teams to decide a winner, so the game was taken to decision by penalty kicks, where the Huskies had to come from behind to conquer the Bobcats. Andres Prieto scored the deciding penalty kick.

The team then traveled to Arlington to play Keio Academy, who had proven to be a difficult matchup in the regular season, having defeating the Huskies twice. However, with the Section Championship on the line, the Huskies were victorious, winning in decisive fashion, 3-0, and becoming the first team in Harrison Soccer history to win the Sectional title.

A Section title was not enough for these Huskies. After a few off days and a bit of celebrating, the Huskies realized it was time to focus their attention on the Regional title, and their next opponent, Goshen Central. Tied at the half, the Huskies were able to add a second goal in the second period, and hold on to a 2-1 victory, pushing themselves into the Regional finals.

In the Regional championship, Ivan Cabrera and sophomore Andres Duarte each scored goals in the first half. With the help of great defense, the Huskies were able to defeat Owego Free Academy 2-0, becoming one of the final four teams standing in the state.

Finally, at the National Soccer Hall of Fame in Oneonta, the Huskies traveled three hours upstate for the final weekend of their season. A large group of friends and loyal fans made the trip up to Oneonta, and booked hotel rooms just to make sure they would catch all of the weekend action. Hank

"The Tank" Rubenstein and the Huskies did not disappoint the fans, shutting out the Kenmore East Bulldogs by a score of 2-0. Merlos solidified his position as one of the Section's best players, scoring both goals for the Huskies in the state semi-finals.

Although the Huskies were not able to capture the Class A State Championship, they had plenty to be proud of, with their gritting effort and season long team-first mentality. Rising up from being ranked fifth in their section, the Huskies proved to be more than a Cinderella team. Instead they proved a top contender in the State, and came closer to defeating Consewogue, than the 4-0 score indicates.

Playing a man down for more than half the game, the Huskies were without their leader, Andre Fonseca. In a controversial call, Fonseca was awarded a red card seconds before halftime after it was ruled he had kicked his defender at the time of a collision. Consewogue took advantage of this, and the game eventually got out of hand.

Despite having only eight seniors, this year's Huskie squad was able to reach great heights. Overall, this team achieved more than any previous HHS soccer team, finishing the year with a 19-4-3 record, including post-season play. Those seniors were: Hank "the Tank" Rubenstein, Marco Troia, Pedro Van Dunem, Gaetano Casarella, Chris Martinez, Gregoire Ducasse, and Makoto Sano. Juniors on the team were Nicky Pyle, Bryan Merlos, Santiago Bohorquez, Andre Fonseca, Brady Klein, Paul Buonocore, and John Petriello. The sophomores were Etienne Ducasse, Victor Prieto, Jesse Delpriora, Dion Norney, Ivan Cabrera, and Andres Duarte. Contributions were made from all members of the Huskies' team, and while it may not have had the ending all were hoping for, it was a remarkable, memorable, and historic season.

## An Interview With Lucie Dufour

Sam Goldman

Staff Writer

The Husky Herald recently caught up with Girls' Swim Team Captain Lucie Dufour. Here was what she had to say:

**Husky Herald (HH):** At what age did you first start swimming and why did you pursue it?

**Lucie Dufour (LD):** When I was 4 years old, I joined my first swim team and really liked it. Because I learned to swim at such a young age, it became imprinted in my life. I also had my father's encouragement.

**HH:** How did you feel moving up into a bigger, more challenging league this year?

**LD:** We went into the division believing we wouldn't win one meet. Everyone doubted us, but still we were ready to swim and knew how talented we were from last season. After our victory against White Plains, we knew we were going to be contenders.

**HH:** What is the toughest race to swim, and who swims it?

**LD:** That would be the 100m Butterfly. I swim it, as does Haruka Maruo, and Victoria Moscato. It's the race that no one volunteers for.

**HH:** What do you listen to before a meet?

**LD:** I don't listen to one song in particular, but on the bus to the meet, we make the bus driver turn up the radio and we all sing along to whatever is playing.

**HH:** Who on the team can hold their breath the longest underwater?

**LD:** Probably Jessica Chestler; she's pretty much half-dolphin.

**HH:** As a captain, how have you successfully lead your team to two outstanding back-to-back seasons?

**LD:** In practice, when Coach Dearstynie is helping out other swimmers, I help organize our workouts. I reach out to people when they had a race that they weren't proud of and I let them know you can't be perfect every time.

**HH:** How do you feel about your team turning swimming into one of the most competitive athletic teams at Harrison High School?

**LD:** I think we are as dedicated as any other sport and this helps us to compete on the big stage. We also have a lot of spirit and enthusiasm, which has helped us to succeed.

**HH:** Can Mr. Dearstynie beat Haruka in the 100m individual breast stroke?

**LD:** I think he's got her in the 100m free, but Haruka could take him in the 100m breast stroke any day.

**HH:** Describe for the readers what a typical workout and an ordinary day of practice is like.

**LD:** A 500m warm up freestyle, five 100m kicks, ten 100m swim sets, five 200m individual medleys, and 20 25m sprints, with a 500m cool down.



Captain Lucie.

Courtesy of Judy Florio

## Preseason: Varsity Girls Basketball 2008-09 Edition

Chris Cassavecca

Sports Editor

Coach Loughlin, Coach Blanco and the girl's varsity basketball team are looking forward to this season. Last year, the girls' basketball team went 5-15 and they are determined to do better this upcoming season. Tryouts started November 10. The girls are more than prepared for this upcoming season after going to a summer league and conditioning at a running clinic for the past four weeks.

Coach Loughlin said, "The girls

have had a lot of opportunity to work on their game... the girls will need to work hard throughout (the season)."

Former JV coach, Coach Blanco, will be joining Coach Loughlin as an assistant to help the team. This year the JV girls' basketball team has a new coach, Coach Braun. Coach Loughlin feels that Coach Blanco has added a lot to the basketball program so far and that he will continue to do so. As for the team, Coach Loughlin

feels that every girl has something to contribute to the team. Each one of her players has the opportunity to get to the next level.

When asked who some key teams to beat might be, Coach Loughlin responded, "I think we need to show our league we are a competitive team this year. All teams are important to beat, but our league is very competitive."

The addition of Yonkers into the

Huskies' league will require some extra preparation work. Defensively, the girls are prepared to run both man-to-man and zone defenses, depending on their opponents' offensive schemes. If the girls can bring a good defensive attack into every game, this team stands a good chance of putting together a winning season.

# STATE FINALISTS!

Historic Huskies Boys Soccer Team  
Achieves Unprecedented Success!



Photos courtesy of Kim Walker and Stewart Bayer/Journal News and Laryca Makarczuk.

Compiled by Marissa DeCarlo

**Full Stories, Inside Perspective on Pages 14-15**