



Shoreham-Wading River High School Wildcat Pause

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Shoreham-Wading River High School

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Community values: athletics over academics?

CALI LAVEY
STAFF WRITER

Conversation about financial situations or course cut-backs is generally spoken between a few concerned parents and community members.

However, the Feb. 15 Board of Education meeting attracted a crowd of more than 300 community members, versus the 48 who attended the March 15 meeting about secondary school budgeting.

The attendance boost was in response to the focus of the beginning of the meeting, whether Mr. Rotanz would be reinstated as varsity lacrosse coach. As the debate came to a close, the crowd was cut in half within minutes as both adults and students filed out of the library.

The number of students attending the earlier part of this meeting was higher than any other this year. Senior Connor Drost, who has been a part of the lacrosse program "since [he's] been walking" and is playing his fourth year on the

"I'm surprised they [board members] didn't charge admission to get in,"

-Matt Kneisel

varsity team, explained that the purpose for the majority of the attending was to support the lacrosse program as a whole.

"I've been to board meetings before the lacrosse one, but I think more people attended the last one to find out what the current situation concerning the coaching was," said Drost. "As far as student attendance goes, it seems like who's coaching lacrosse will have a greater direct impact on the students than something like the budget, so they care more."

While the majority of the students were either members of the boys' lacrosse team or the lacrosse program who wanted to show their support or speak on behalf of Coach Rotanz, several students who had no connection to lacrosse attended simply to witness the "drama" that had been circulating throughout the district since earlier this year.

"Even though I'm on the baseball team, I felt like I was supporting Coach Rotanz with my presence. I also wanted to see the arguments and intense environment. I'm surprised they [board members] didn't charge admission to get in," said senior Matt Kneisel.

When asked about the lack of students attending board meetings regularly, most students responded with the opinion that the meetings are "boring," "uninteresting," or "didn't concern them."

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Photo by A. Vicari

Sophomore Christopher Zeccola and friend "bust a move" at the Best Buddies Prom Sat., March 5. This year SWR was chosen to host the annual prom and it was a great success. According to Mrs. Rogers, head of the SWR Best Buddies chapter, the turnout was one of the best ever.

Filthy floors, who's at fault?

ASHLYN VICARI
A&E EDITOR

So the locker rooms don't smell "Fabreeze fresh," there are a couple of wrappers scattered around the cafeteria, and the restrooms could use a bit of tidying up or maybe... this is an understatement. The janitorial and kitchen staffs seem to be doing their jobs, but there's a possibility students aren't doing theirs.

According to members of the student body, SWR isn't the most hygienic high school on the island. For example, the cafeteria isn't exactly spotless.

Junior Isabelle Marcellin agreed. "There's garbage everywhere. There's garbage on the floors and on the tables when we come down. Not to mention, when it starts to get warm there are fruit flies everywhere. Isabelle Marcellin eats lunch period 6.

"We try to get down there every period," said Mr. Anthony Marcellino, chief custodian. "At 10:20 we go down there [the cafeteria] and sweep and clean. We use a neutral cleaner to disinfect the tables, and the mops we use to wash the floors are changed every couple of weeks."

Yet students don't always see the time and effort the custodians put into managing cafeteria cleanliness.

The cafeteria is spotless when students arrive for period 4 lunch, but when junior Lauren Grillo gets there period six,

"the lunch table is never clean. It's always dirty and sticky."

Although there are complaints about the cafeteria, students like junior Alex Acuna are more concerned about what goes on the kitchen.

"They should wear gloves while handling food. It's disgusting if they don't," said junior Alex Acuna.

Kitchen staff member Linda Chatterton said, "We wash our hands when we move from station to station, and we are told to wear gloves and either a hat or hairnet at all times."

Kitchen manager Ms. Sara Pizzinger said that although the staff wears gloves, "anything can be handled with your bare hands as long as it's cooked over a certain temperature because [the high temperature] kills any type of bacteria that might be in it."

According to part 14-1 of the food service establishment guidelines under the NYS Department of Health, food is to be prepared and served with no bare hand contact unless the food will be subsequently heated to at least the minimum temperature of 165 degrees Fahrenheit (73.9 degrees Celsius) or greater for foods that are being heated for a second or subsequent time.

"We follow the same guidelines restaurants have to follow," Ms. Pizzinger said.

When asked about complaints from students, Mrs. Chatterton replied, "We never get complaints. The only time

we get complaints is when we run out of muffins."

Overall, Mr. Robert Woolsey, plant facilities administrator, is pleased with the cleanliness of the school.

"We probably clean more than we need to and do as much as we can all the time," he said. "We have to follow the Department of Health. They come in and inspect quite often, and we have to follow their rules and regulations."

According to Mr. Woolsey, the 26 district custodians use "environmentally preferred" cleaning products from "Green Seal Certified" disinfectants to steam machines. Steam machines are new appliances to SWR that use less water and electricity to clean and disinfect surfaces without using chemicals.

Another hygiene issue lies within the school bathrooms. Some students are displeased with the "disgusting" odors and lack of toilet paper and maintenance.

"The bathrooms are pretty disgusting," said Isabelle Marcellin. "Sometimes there's gum and hair clogging the sinks."

When asked how often custodians clean school bathrooms, Mr. Marcellino replied, "We clean them [the bathrooms] every day after school and whenever we get called down."

Students also aren't fans of the locker rooms, especially

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New stress relief: cheating

BREANNA BAICHAN
STAFF WRITER

Cheating, plagiarizing and copying have become a common occurrence in high school. It's so simple to carry out, according to many students, that they come to think of it as no big deal.

According to SWR's Code of Conduct, students who engage in any form of academic misconducts such as plagiarism, cheating, copying, altering records, buying or selling schoolwork or assisting another student in any of the said actions are subject to punishment. Punishment including suspension.

At many colleges cheating has become alarming, and statistics from an Educational Testing Service/Advertising Council campaign show that 75 to 95 percent of college students surveyed each year admit to having cheated in high school.

Why has cheating become such a problem?

"I think with the advances in technology it makes it easier," said LOTE teacher Mrs. Fuchs. "For me cheating involves the online translator. If you're copying entire passages with it, that's cheating."

Students justify cheating in several ways. There is the common, "I was stressed," or "I didn't get to study."

According to Educational Testing Service/Advertising Council campaign, cheating increases due to pressure for high grades.

An SWR sophomore student making Honor Roll claimed, "I don't cheat that much. It's always when I'm super-super scared for a test. I usually just look at someone else's paper. I would probably feel guilty if I was caught."

Another Honor Roll student claims he cheated because he was "too lazy to study" or "wasn't doing great in that class."

Many students feel as though teachers are expecting too much of them and feel they are put into a position where cheating is the only option.

According to a sophomore making Principals List, "I cheat because it gets really stressful, and if I don't make Principal's List I get grounded."

With so much pressure on teens' shoulders, the 'art' of cheating comes in many different forms. While many students simply cut and paste, or look on someone else's paper, there are more creative forms of cheating.

"Sometimes I help my boyfriend cheat because it gets really stressful, so we have little hand codes," said a sophomore student making Principal's List. "I don't really feel guilty because I feel it's the right thing to do."

Another sophomore said she cheats "here and there," and performs it either by looking on other people's papers or using Cha Cha. "I have actually been caught once, but nothing happened," she said.

A senior student making Honor Roll claims that she knows it's wrong and would "take the consequences."

Although some teachers ignore students deceiving actions, others take it more seriously.

"My first response is always a warning, and then I would invalidate the exam," said math teacher Mrs. Carol Giordano. According to Educational Testing Service/The Advertising Council campaign, math and science are the courses where cheating most



Waiting for colleges hard to accept

KYLE REINHARDT
STAFF WRITER

Dear (insert name here),

We thank you for your interest in (insert dream school here). After extensive review of your life's academic work, athletic endeavors, thousands of hours of community service and all the attempt to gain our acceptance, we must inform you that we are completely and undoubtedly undecided. Therefore, you will have to painstakingly trudge to your mailbox for an undetermined number of days. Your loss of weight, deprivation of sleep and nail biting nervousness will undoubtedly continue during this period. Thank you for patience, as if we really care.

Sincerely, Your Dream School

They may not be as blunt about it, but colleges make sure that their applicants know who's in charge. After you send out all of your transcripts, applications, personal statements and letters of recommendation, the ball is no longer in your court. The colleges from then on have the control.

Many people would argue that the hardest part of the college application process is the waiting.

"All I have been doing for the last two months is waiting, waiting, waiting and did I mention waiting?" said senior Evan Fellrath.

Others would say the most difficult part is the extensive hours they put into applications, personal statements and standardized tests.

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Sports focus packs meeting

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Senior Corinne Kelly stated, "no one [students] really pays attention to the board meetings because they focus on financial things which everyone thinks is their parents' jobs."

Similarly, senior Dan Beacon said, "most topics don't pertain to students."

An increase in the number of students, however, was not the only change in turnout. Dozens more parents than usual attended the meeting as well.

"Parents involved in the program wanted to support Coach Rotanz, hoping he'd be rehired so their children would have the opportunity to be coached by him," said Drost.

Principal Dan Holtzman also took note of the overwhelming audience. His interpretation of the turnout is based on understanding the ties between students and their families and extracurriculars.

"If there are courses that are going to be cut or staff reductions to be made, I think people can eventually adjust to that in their minds. They'll know that the school day will continue, and their children will still be educated and attend classes. While those class choices may be more limited, there are still offerings.

When you talk about something very black and white like cocurriculars and athletics, there's the possibility they may not exist. While we always say 'isn't the most important part of school academics?' Of course it is, but it doesn't nullify the importance that cocurriculars and athletics have. So when there's nothing, then what are those students supposed to do now? [When speaking about athletics we're] not necessarily dealing with scholarships or playing in college, but what are the students going to do at 2:05 if they don't have a sport to play or a club to go to?"

Like Mr. Holtzman, school psychologist intern Danielle O'Brien sees the situation as a matter of relevance.

"I see it as the more relevant an issue is to someone's life, the more likely they will be to get involved."

Does this drastic change in board meeting attendance display anything about the community's priorities?

With the shift of focus of board meetings now centered on the district budget, Mr. Holtzman hopes to see passion similar to that demonstrated at the lacrosse board meeting, regardless the individual's stance on the budget.

"In my opinion, I think it's good for the community in this district, or in any district for that matter, to be intimately involved in the goings on of the budget cycle. I think the more informed people are, the better equipped they are to make decisions. It's important that in order to make the decision, whether it be yes or no, that you have as much information as possible, and I think the only real way to get it is to hear it first hand."

So what is it that attracts such a large crowd to certain meetings over others?

School psychiatrist Dr. Pete D'Elena believes it all lies in the values of certain institutions of society as a whole.

"If you look at society, and you try to figure out what the people value, if you look at the amounts of money that people get paid for certain professions, what we see in this world is that entertainment is what people get most excited about. We pay our sports stars lots of money, we pay our actors lots of money because that's what people are passionate about in our country--sports and entertainment. I think the reason that so many people showed up to those board meetings [concerning sports/cocurriculars] is because it replicates what people are excited about in society, sports. The real question is, how do we make people passionate about coming out to the meetings that aren't about things the majority of society's passionate about?"

often occurs.

"I feel ultimately that cheating is hurting the cheater. And at this point in high school I would hope students are mature enough to realize this," said Mrs. Giordano. "I feel that they get what they deserve because you either know it or you don't."

Freshman Jessica Fox and junior Jackie Godfrey said they do not cheat.

"It's stupid. If you don't know it, you don't know it," said Godfrey.

Fox believes "If you want a good grade you should work for it."

Student, staff cooperation can solve maintenance issues

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Students also aren't fans of the locker rooms, especially the guys'.

"The floors are disgusting and it smells so gross," said junior Ryan West.

Junior Justin Lano added, "There's urine and chewing tobacco spit on the floors."

"We clean them [the locker rooms] every day after school," said Mr. Marcellino. "The girls' locker room is actually pretty good. I've never had a problem. The boys' locker room... is so muddy [after teams practice outside]." In terms of students keeping the area clean, Mr. Marcellino said, "The boys locker room is just as bad as the cafeteria."

Mr. Woolsey said students also have to take responsibility toward maintaining a clean high school.

"There's a line between the custodians not working to their full potential and students completely depending on them. It would be nice if students could do a little more," said Mr. Woolsey. "You go through the hallway at the end of the day, it doesn't take a lot of effort to take whatever fell out of their locker or whatever they were done eating and throw it in the reciprocal."

When it all comes down to it, students and staff as a whole contribute to the cleanliness of SWR.

"It's the building you're in almost as much as your home. It does get a little tough when you're cleaning the hallway and somebody's just throwing garbage on the floor right in front of you," Mr. Woolsey said.

Soap Statistics

According to experiments conducted by several members of the *Wildcat Pause* staff, students tend not to wash their hands after using school facilities. Four members of the *Wildcat Pause* voluntarily watched students during period six in both A and B wing bathrooms in late February: 30 girls and 19 boys were observed. Students were more likely to wash their hands in the A wing bathroom than the B wing.

Girls

Washed hands (with soap): 30%
Rinsed with water (no soap): 46%
Didn't wash hands: 20%



Boys

Washed hands: 58%
Didn't wash hands: 42%



Organization changes lives in Kenya and America

SAMANTHA LACOVARA
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

“How was Africa?” and “do you miss it?” are not valid questions to ask any member of the Hope Children’s Fund who has traveled to the Jerusha Mwiraria Hope Children’s Home in Meru, Kenya. The trip is an experience that defies lingual, cultural and geographic boundaries and cannot be summed up in a coherent or condensed response.

The history of the Home is a remarkable one, to say the least. Retired Port Jefferson teacher Larry Hohler and his wife, Yvette taught at Gikumene Harambee Secondary School in Meru in the late 1970s, which is where they met Joeseph Kirima Rwito. He was a student of Larry’s and went on to become a primary school headmaster in Meru; in the late 1990s he started a program in his school to help feed local homeless children.

Kirima Rwito sold his pick-up truck and traveled to America to pitch the idea of starting a Home for orphans to the Hohlers and SWR Global Awareness Club advisor Mr. Kevin Mann. Once they both agreed to be on the board of directors, Kirima Rwito went back to Kenya and partnered with Finance Minister David Mwiraria, whose late wife the Home was named after. By 2005, there were 18 children under HCF’s care and it has since grown to support 72 HIV/AIDS affected youth ages four to 18.

Set on Tungi Hill, the Hope Children’s Home is just a mile from Kirima Rwito’s alma mater, Gikumene. While many of



HOPECHILDRENSFUND.ORG



Photo by Mike Harrold

Photo courtesy of hopechildrensfund.org

past primary school (8th grade). That’s why those who travelled with HCF in 2009 built the Technical Training Center.

According to three-time traveler, senior Meghan Spillane, “building the Technical Training Center was a very rewarding experience because it showed us how much of an impact we were truly having on the community.”

At this center children who can’t advance on to secondary school will learn a trade from a recently employed carver or tailor.

Another asset of the Fund is the land purchased for the Home to utilize for food supply.

“The goal is to make the Home self-sufficient,” Mr. Mann explained. If the Home could sustain itself, it could spread what excess wealth it has to other needy neighboring organizations. One of the best things about HCF is the willingness of all of its members to give—even when they have such little to offer.

Many of the kids have lost their parents to the AIDS epidemic, and a few are infected themselves. Senior and two-time traveler Kyle Reinhardt said, “for kids who have had virtually everything taken away from them, they are so joyous... and it’s contagious.”

For some of the children, their mentors are the closest things they have to parents, and the American youth travelers are the closest things they have to siblings.

“My wife and I have been mentoring Risper Mwendwa Mann since 2007,” Mr. Mann said. “She is a joy in our lives and we consider her our sixth child!” He added that “while we could never replace, nor would we want to, her birth parents... she will always be a part of our lives as any birth child would be.”

The Global Awareness Club promotes HCF in more inclusive ways than the February trip. Hand-carved crafts are brought back from Kenya every year and sold in the U.S.; all of the proceeds are then sent back to the Home.

Global Awareness Club also hosts the annual Bi-Continental Run. This fundraiser is a 5K race that Kenyans and Americans run at the same time in their respective countries. Both of these events were conceptualized and are advertized and facilitated by Global Awareness Club members.

Jack Licitra, of the Long Island-based folk band Jack’s Waterfall, has also been of great help to HCF. He holds benefit concerts with the music students he teaches and is currently working on his second song about the Fund, the first of which was inspired by the poetry of one of the orphans, Risper.

Aaron Lehmann, a filmmaker from Aquebogue, travelled with Hope Children’s Fund in 2009 and 2010, documenting the success of the Home, but also the tribulations of the homeless. His documentary, *Children of Kenya*, features Mr. Mann, seniors Spillane and Lily Vail, and alumni Natalie Pagano.

If you have questions about the trip or HCF, these travelers have the answers:

Alumni: Natalie Pagano, Danielle Garafola, Casey Vail, Zara Browne and Lauren and Chris Bellafiore

Seniors: Meghan Spillane, Kyle Reinhardt, Lily Vail and Emma DelliCarpini

Juniors: Samantha Lacovara and Patrick Pitts

Sophomores: Anya Uzo and Leighanne Reinhardt

Freshman: Julie Lindell

the students at Gikumene are poverty stricken, the students from the Home return to a roof over their heads every night, never go hungry and even have indoor plumbing—a luxury few get to enjoy. In the classroom setting, our children are role models to their peers. Their dedication to

their education is unlike anything I’ve ever seen. As seven-year-old Yvonne recites, “education is the key... the key to many things.”

School fees are paid for by mentors of the children. The mentorship program matches an American mentor with one child to whom he or she will give \$1 a day. In return, the child will correspond through mail with his or her mentor, and if the American chooses to visit the Home, he or she will reap the ultimate benefit—meeting the child and building an unbreakable bond by spending time with one another.

However, not all of the children have high enough marks to continue their education



Meghan Spillane snaps a shot of posing students while Anya Uzo returns their peace signs. For American travelers, visiting schools and donating supplies was almost a daily occurrence while in Kenya.



Young students play with Kyle Reinhardt’s blonde locks, a sight they are certainly not accustomed to seeing. Many American travelers were gawked, laughed and probed at by students for having physical appearances so different from theirs.



Emma DelliCarpini and Julie Lindell grew very fond of eight-year-old Vincent Matuma. He is blind and spent hours enjoying the sounds and movements of our cameras.

Selflessness apparent on both ends of HCF

“*Tsamina mina, eh eh. Waka waka, eh, eh. Tsamina mina, zangalewa... This time for Africa.*”

Singing is a huge part of Kenyan culture. Kenyans sing in church, in school and at home; music conveys their faith in religion, their dedication to education and their pride in their country.

Shakira’s song, “Waka Waka (This Time For Africa)” is a remake of the Cameroonian makoosa hit song “Zangalewa.” It was the official song for the 2010 FIFA World Cup held in South Africa, and its popularity is likely how the children at the Hope Children’s Home were exposed to it. However, it became the unofficial song for the 2011 HCF visit when one day, the American travelers began to sing it.

“Aaaahhhh!” the children excitedly squealed, dancing toward us, surprised to hear the familiar tune. As they joined us in singing the chorus, shivers coursed through my veins and goosebumps ran up my arms.

“This time really is for Africa,” I thought to myself. As I glanced at my peers, who were smiling and dancing with the children, I knew they were thinking the same.

I first travelled to the Home as a sophomore in February 2010 and my only regret is that I hadn’t gone earlier in my high school career. My first introductions to the children will be forever clear in my mind; they were

the beginning of lifelong friendship and devotion.

But some of the most vivid memories I have, aside from each of the 72 children’s smiles, are images of what the children’s lives would consist of if not for the home: starvation, despondency and glue. Glue is the drug of choice for the poverty-stricken youth of Africa. It is cheap, easily accessible and sniffing it is an escape from all of their sorrows. I can honestly say that there is nothing more disturbing than seeing the hopelessness in the glassy eyes of Kenyan “street kids.”

Outside of the hotel we stay at during our two week trip, (which is, in American terms, a gas station with rooms above it,) in the heart of Meru town, reside the “living dead.” They are the homeless, ages two through adult. Their glazed eyes expose unimaginable distress, their outgrown clothes are torn and filthy, their mouths agape with glue bottles hanging from their lips. Once on the street, these children have a life expectancy of about six months.

Our children could have been these zombies, sleeping under billboards, begging for money outside of schools, their only goal to obtain another bottle of glue. But they’re not... they are the future of Kenya. They are kind, caring, intelligent, and ambitious. They will grow up to be doctors, lawyers, teachers and politicians, and they will be respon-

sible for the changes that need to occur in order for the country to prosper.

HCF is saving as many youth as possible. We are taking children off the street and helping them piece together broken lives. We are putting them through school and promoting their involvement in bettering not only their

own lives, but the lives of their neighbors. Little do they know, they have given me more than I could ever give to them, and they have taught me more than I could ever teach. I can only hope to spread the insight they have shared with me and further enlighten the world with the lessons that live in me through their stories.



Photos courtesy of S. Lacovara, A. Uzo and M. Spillane

Four-year-old Betty Ghaki poses in Anya Uzo’s sunglasses, which were passed around to many of the HCF children during the two-week trip.



Spring out of seasonal depression

HOLLY MAILLARD
STAFF WRITER

Along with the seasonal changes, mood and motivational changes occur. On a cold winter evening one may get the urge to stay home and watch movies while eating a whole bag of chips, but on a beautiful spring day one may feel more motivated to go for a nice stroll with friends.

Now that we've gained an extra hour of sunlight, there's more opportunity to soak up the sun and start enjoying the warm weather.

When sunlight hits the optic nerve, the brain cuts down on the release of a hormone that controls sleep called melatonin. It causes an increase in the production of serotonin, a neurotransmitter tied to feeling happy and being more active. The more sunlight the body receives, the more serotonin the brain produces. The body also creates vitamin D from the sun's ultra-violet rays. High levels of vitamin D help maintain high levels of



serotonin. Having normal serotonin levels reduces pain and appetite, aids in sleep regulation, and generally calms you down and improves your mood.

When asked about what his favorite part of the warm weather sophomore Neil Costa said, "Those days when it's 60 degrees out; those first couple warm days are the best surprise."

During the winter you receive less sunlight which can cause Seasonal Depression. Between 4 and 6 percent of the United States experiences SAD. According to the Web MD webpage, SAD affects a person during the same season every year. If the feeling of depression occurs during the winter but this feeling is released during the spring or summer time, then that could be symptoms of seasonal depression.

Junior Alyssa Stalzer said, "The summers are more fun, so everybody is happier."

SAD is more common in women

"The summers more fun, so everybody is happier."

- Alyssa Stalzer

and with people who live in areas with short winter days due to the lack of sunlight and those between the ages of 15 and 55.

A lack of sunlight can cause problems with a brain chemical called serotonin that affects mood. The symptoms are feeling sad, grumpy or anxious, losing interest in usual activities, weight gain and a drowsy feeling during the day.

Some ways of curing or helping someone who has SAD are antidepressants, counseling, regular exercise and most often prescribe light therapy. The two types of light therapy are bright light treatment and dawn stimulation. Bright light treatment is a process of sitting in front of a light box for at least an hour in the morning. Dawn simulation is when a light goes on in the morning while you sleep and get brighter over time to simulate a sunrise. Sunlight triggers sleep-wake cycles.

More people enjoy the summer mostly due to the fact that they can do more activities outdoors without being too cold and uneasy.

Senior Eric Udvadia said, "I like that I can go out driving and go to the beach, and I can be more active instead of being limited inside. Going to the beach, exercising outdoors and even just being able to relax in your backyard come with the new warm weather."

"It's bathing suit season, so I need to get fit," said sophomore Erica Hoffman.

On Fri., March 18, the temperature was more than 70 degrees, and for senior Ben Delecki that was good news.

He said, "It brought back all the happy emotions of summer."

Illustration by S. Rose

Waiting game

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"The whole process of filling out all of my applications and forms has been so annoying and tedious. They seem never-ending" said senior Andrew Bentivegna.

After all the work put in students will receive one of two outcomes. Acceptance, or rejection. For most the latter is a tad bit harder to swallow. "When I didn't get into UNC Chapel Hill I was so disappointed and let down. I wasn't surprised though, it's just hard to deal with," said Bentivegna

For some, however, getting accepted isn't always easier. "Sometimes when a student is accepted into multiple schools it may become quite stressful because they then must choose just one" said Sal Rosato, a guidance counselor who helps students throughout the college process.

Bentivegna, on the other hand, found it "relieving." "It was nice when I got accepted by my first school, at that moment I knew I was getting away and it was like the weight of the world was off my shoulders."

Mr. Rosato also pointed out that although this process may be long and strenuous, it can also be very satisfying. "It can be a lot of fun for the students, they enjoy exploring and are excited to move on to the big world and meet new people."

Senior Lily Vail agreed. "I've had a blast with the whole process, I love visiting all the schools and talking to new people."

The process is not only agonizing on the students; it can also be very stressful on their parents. "The toughest part for the parents is finding that second home that both they and their child feel comfortable and safe at," said guidance counselor Alicia Mirabella. "It was stressful on parents because they wanted to make sure I completed everything on time, but they wanted to make sure they weren't babying me either" said Vail.

"This whole process was long, boring and tedious but in the end it's oh so wonderful, because I know I'm moving on to bigger and better things," said Fellrath.

Fuel runs low for helicopter parents

LYDIA KIM
STAFF WRITER

Parents often provide too much parental control, paving the way to a bad relationship with teens.

The term "helicopter parent" refers to parents who are constantly hovering over their teen, trying to micromanage their child's life. Some teens feel burdened if a parent is continuously attempting to control his or her life, but parents might not realize that their teen does not feel "free" to do what he or she desires.

Parents want what is best for their teens, but it is understandable if a teen sometimes wishes for less parental control. When parents tend to be too overprotective the relationship with their child dramatically changes.

"If my parents became more protective over me, I would definitely become more distant from them, and our relationship would weaken," said senior Meghan Spillane.

Several adolescents agreed that their lives would significantly change if their parents were to continuously disturb their privacy.

"If my parents followed me around everywhere and were controlling my every move, I would feel violated. I need some privacy [with my daily life]," said senior Nicole Caligiuri.

Some students don't seem to mind occasional control from parents.

"Teens need a role model, and their parents should be responsible for that. I think [parents] should let [teens] make their own decisions but try to guide them in the right way," said Caligiuri. "A parent is there to guide and instruct, not run our lives. If [teenagers] have problems, we should feel comfortable enough to ask for [parents'] help."

But there should be a limit to how much protection a parent gives.

"There has to be a happy medium. Too much control won't help the teen in the long run and neither will a lack of control," said junior Loren Keith.

She is not the only student who thinks parental protection is some-

times necessary and appropriate.

"All parents attempt to protect their teens; however, parents should know that we [teens] need to make mistakes. Sometimes that is the only way we can learn those fundamental life lessons," said senior Christina Sutherland.

Teens are often told by their parents to act appropriately. "My parents control how much I go out during the week and how much time I spend on things such as homework," said junior Kristin Torres.

Even though teens think that they are fully capable of living their lives with little supervision, they should have protection from their parents if they are about to do something risky.

"Teens should be supervised; parents and [teens] should talk about important things, like not drinking and doing drugs," said fresh-

man Frank Seabrook.

Despite the fact that parents always want the best for their teens, various students think that too much parental control is not necessary.

"Teens should be able to express themselves in different ways," said freshman Taylor Burgess.

Several students agree that teens should be supervised by a parent when they encounter risky situations. "[Teens] should be supervised. Someone who is trained is more competent than a novice," said Sutherland.

However, teens feel as if their privacy is invaded when parents are too overprotective. "I would feel like I would have no privacy and basically have no life," said junior

Zak Mullen, who does not think his parents are overprotective.

Yet, some teens are able to live their lives with the fact that parents hover around them. "Parents should hover in moderation because if they notice something is wrong, then they can try to help you," said Torres.



Illustration by S. Rose



Religion:

A budding force in the modern teens' lives

NICOLE SMITH
NEWS EDITOR

School, sports practice, community service, college applications: these are things that take up the majority of high school students' days. The little free time left is spent with friends trying to relieve the stress of the past week.

But one aspect not included in the list above is religion. As society has changed, it seems that the importance of religion has decreased.

A 2005 MSNBC study by Dr. Christian Smith, the lead sociology professor at the University of Notre Dame, shows that the previous assumption may not be the case. History shows that American teens are very involved in religious practices. About 82 percent of the 3,637 English and Spanish-speaking American teenagers ages 13-17 interviewed said that they are part of a local congregation, and 61 percent believed in divine miracles from God.

A survey was conducted on March 11 with students in Ms. Christensen's, Ms. Nazer's and Ms. Branna's classes. While the *Wildcat Pause's* results also showed that more than half of the students surveyed considered themselves religious, the percentage was 59 compared to Smith's 82, and 55.8 percent who did consider themselves to be religious circled "never" or "occasionally" when answering how often they attended a religious service.

One wrote, "I am Roman Catholic, but I don't go to church or pray ever."

Junior Julia Rubin said, "I think I'm religious but I don't go to services regularly. I feel that spiritually I am [religious]."

Junior Kim Giacalone agreed that religion isn't solely based on service attendance.

"I consider myself to be religious," she said. "I believe I practice the morals of Christianity or try my best to. And I do attend church on a regular basis, not that that makes you religious or not."

On the opposite side of the spectrum, there were 19 percent of students who circled that they attended religious services regularly, but did not consider themselves religious.

"I am agnostic, but I attend church for my mom," someone wrote.

After reading such comments on multiple surveys, I realized that some may consider themselves religious as long as they celebrate the holidays affiliated with such religion.

"I believe I practice the morals of Christianity or try my best to. And I do attend church on a regular basis, not that that makes you religious or not."

- Kim Giacalone

How does one practice a certain religion if the only time said religion is acknowledged is around a major holiday?

Senior Richard Thalman described having faith as "not only attending services on Sundays and other times during the week. I believe in the best I can."

Thalman, a Senior Soldier in the Salvation Army, attends service every Sunday and religious classes throughout the week. The Salvationist religion is a Protestant denomination of the Christian Church.

"My mom teaches the children's Sunday School. Sometimes my sister and I take over. We also attend classes with a different teacher."

In addition, Thalman and other Salvationists collect money at grocery stores around holidays which goes to

feed the homeless and poor. They also work at their soup kitchen on Saturdays and participate in various youth programs throughout the week.

"Our motto is: Heart to God, Hand to Man. That is a major part of what we do," said Thalman.

Their generosity doesn't only affect locals. "As far as I know, we have had emergency disaster people working in Japan to help people with food and shelter after the tsunami," he said.

Smith's data also showed that "their [the teens surveyed] religious knowledge is remarkably shallow, and [teenagers] have a tough time expressing the difference that faith makes in their lives."

While no concrete reason for the "shallow knowledge" was given, Smith noticed that this "trend reflects tendencies among teens' Baby Boomer parents. Poor educational and youth programs, and competition for teens' time from school, sports, friends and entertainment, are also part of the picture."

While religion is a family affair for both Giacalone, who has a "big Italian family that meets in a circle and prays" and Thalman, who conducts the brass band at his church in which every member of his family is a participant, Rubin fell upon her religion on her own.

"When I was in fifth grade, I became interested in the history part of religion. Through that I got interested in the synagogue and started to go to services," she said. "Through that I got my parents into it [Judaism], and I convinced them to go to Israel to experience the culture and religion."

Although Rubin isn't the only teenager readily involved in their religion, not all teens are as immersed in their religion. About six people surveyed marked that they attended religious service until a certain point, such as a bat or bar mitzvah or confirmation, and ceased to attend after that.

In the name of the father, the son and who?

NICOLE SMITH
NEWS EDITOR

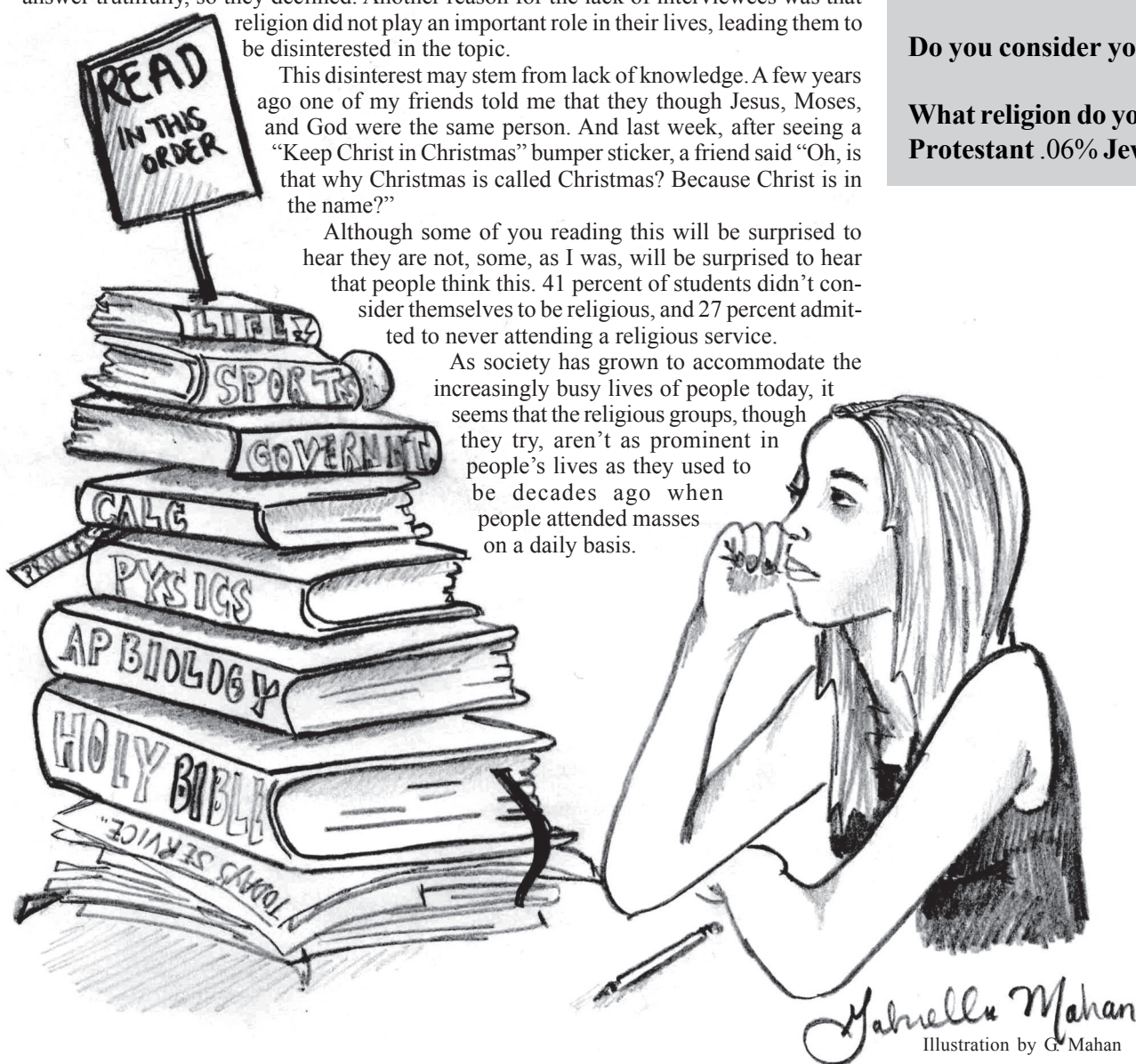
In preparing for this article, multiple interviews with students were necessary to validate the information. When looking for people to interview, many asked weren't too enthusiastic about the topic of religion and declined to be interviewed.

This led me to two conclusions. One was that teenagers today are embarrassed about their religious affiliation and because of this were unable to talk about it in front of their peers. Smith's survey was conducted over the phone and the paper's in class, so it was easier for a student to secretly answer with correct information, whereas being confronted about religious affiliation at a lunch table with friends made them too uncomfortable to answer truthfully, so they declined. Another reason for the lack of interviewees was that religion did not play an important role in their lives, leading them to be disinterested in the topic.

This disinterest may stem from lack of knowledge. A few years ago one of my friends told me that they thought Jesus, Moses, and God were the same person. And last week, after seeing a "Keep Christ in Christmas" bumper sticker, a friend said "Oh, is that why Christmas is called Christmas? Because Christ is in the name?"

Although some of you reading this will be surprised to hear they are not, some, as I was, will be surprised to hear that people think this. 41 percent of students didn't consider themselves to be religious, and 27 percent admitted to never attending a religious service.

As society has grown to accommodate the increasingly busy lives of people today, it seems that the religious groups, though they try, aren't as prominent in people's lives as they used to be decades ago when people attended masses on a daily basis.



Religion and its prevalence in SWR

On March 11, 2011 the *Wildcat Pause* conducted a survey in Ms. Branna's, Ms. Nazer's and Ms. Christensen's classes, asking students the following questions. Out of all 197 students who responded, these were the results.

Grade: 9th 42.4% 10th 3.5% 11th 27.3% 12th 27.3%

Gender: Male 34.4% Female 65.6%

Do you consider yourself religious? Yes 58.9% No 41.1%

What religion do you practice? Christian 29.5% Catholic 55% Protestant .06% Jewish 4.7% Muslim 0% Hindu 2.7% Other 7.4%

How often do you attend religious service? Once a month 4% Twice a month 9% Once a week 15.6% More than once a week 3% Holidays 13.1% Never 27.1% Occasionally 28.6%

How do you celebrate holidays? Religious 5.1% Social 36.7% Neither 1.5% Both 56.6%

Do your parents follow the same religion? Same 77.5% Different 20.9% I don't know 1.6%

Who's religion do you follow? Mother's 35.7% Father's 21.4% Neither 38.1% Both 4.8%

Has religion played a part in your college search? Yes 8.2% No 91.8%

Gabriella Mahan
Illustration by G. Mahan



Facebook: what's not to like?

Wall Info Photos Video Notes +

Update Status Share Link Add Photos Add Video Write Note

What are you doing right now?

Post



ROXANE VAN DER LELIE
STAFF WRITER

Poke, request, inbox, comment, wall post, like and chat: the basics of communication.

There is no denying that social network sites, especially Facebook, have revolutionized the way we interact with each

other.

The rise of Facebook has led to many disputes about whether it is beneficial or harmful in terms of forming and maintaining relationships. Although there is no refuting that the average teenager spends an excessive amount of time on the social networking site, the question remains whether these are truly wasted hours.

I would answer no to the question above.

If you forget a homework assignment, where is the first place you turn in order to contact a classmate to get the work?

Facebook.

If you want to know whether the new kid in school is in a relationship, where do you go to find this out without notifying the rest of the school that you might be interested?

Facebook.

And once you do find out he is single how do you start a conversation?

Poke him on Facebook.

It can be used to not only form new relationships, but also to rekindle old ones. Let's say you are flipping through an old album

with pictures of you in elementary school, and you see a photograph of you and your best friend from second grade who happened to have moved to North Carolina when you entered middle school. You suddenly feel the urge to reconnect with him. These days, it would be strange if you attempted to call him or even e-mail him. The easiest way to solve your dilemma would be to send a friend request on Facebook.

Facebook is part of our culture. It allows us to maintain bonds even though we might be miles apart. You can share pictures and update family members on how your life is going without the hassle of traveling miles to see them. By no means do I think that Facebook should replace seeing people in person, but it is a tool to preserve bonds when you are unable to do so any other way.

Those heading to college even use the site to chat with their future roommate. Not only does this give you a hint of whether the two of you will get along, but it also gives you the opportunity to establish rules for the room.

Once you are at college, Facebook ap-

pears to be the go-to tool to keep in touch and find out how your friends are doing now that they are out of high school. The photo albums and profile pictures your friends choose to upload also give you an indication of their personal life without having them e-mail or send you pictures.

If being "creeped on" by strangers, grandma, your ex-boyfriend, that random guy from a party you went to, or even possibly a pedophile is something you fear, the solution to this problem is simple. Don't accept friend requests from people you don't

know, and set your Facebook profile to private. You can even block people from seeing your statuses, pictures and wall while remaining friends with them on the site by changing your privacy settings.

Facebook is made so that each person can individualize it until he or she feels comfortable with who can and cannot view per-

sonal information.

If used correctly and in moderation, Facebook can only help keep you in contact with others and in the loop with the latest news.

In a world where technology is part of almost every day-to-day activity we take part in, we should choose to embrace Facebook rather than fear it. The fears that people air

If you want to know whether the new kid in school is in a relationship, where do you go to find this out without notifying the rest of the school that you might be interested?

about Facebook were once applied to the telephone, yet in time we became accustomed to the new technology.

In this day and age, Facebook is not only useful but often necessary to keep up with the ever-changing world. Its usefulness can't be contested whether you like Facebook or not.

Technology kills communication skills

Wall Info Photos Video Notes +

Update Status Share Link Add Photos Add Video Write Note

What are you doing right now?

Post



KYLE STUART
STAFF WRITER

"Text me." We find ourselves saying it involuntarily to avoid a conversation until it's convenient for us. Our lazy generation is lacking in effort to reach out and talk with others. An article off Cracked.com discussed that if we didn't have Facebook,

we would be communicating through morse code and smoke signals. This is clear exaggeration of the truth, but it puts Facebook into perspective.

My direction is not to be hypocritical, considering I (and many others) use the social utility Facebook. It's convenient, it's useful, and it does just about everything. With all the gadgets and abilities of Facebook, what's the point of phone calls? Facebook is used to upload and share info and videos with friends in quick succession. The new age way of thought is a never-ending search for new technology that will satisfy our needs.

Why should you have to take a break from your technological life to hold a telephone against your face for 20 minutes? The truth is that technology is corrupting and taking away from face to face communication, as well as phone conversations. People have become profiles, conversations have become abbreviated small talk, and friends have become any stranger that can hit the "send request" button.

Facebook users may be putting themselves in danger without knowing it. If someone posts too much information, it makes stalking become a likely situation to occur for that person. If Facebook is going to be used, more people

should take advantage of their privacy settings in order to protect themselves.

Freshman Chris Klotz says "Facebook is alright, but knowing that anyone I accepted could be examining my profile without me knowing is a frightening thought". When kids begin getting into the habit of using Facebook for hours and hours of the day, it becomes a dangerous addiction to technology. Relying solely on cell phones and social network updates is an isolated way of communicating. When the primary method of communication for someone becomes gluing themselves to the computer screen, there is a serious social problem.

People seem to be able to say things on the internet that they would never say face to face with one of their friends, which tends to lead into dramatic fights and the loss of friends. This can add loads of stress onto the already hectic lives of teenagers. There is already too much to deal with as a teenager, so little weekly cyber fights are no help.

These levels of stress can drive kids out of their minds.

Another downside of the technological age is the upcoming extinction of movie stores such as blockbuster and other video stores. These franchising businesses are being replaced with movie watching websites and the extremely

popular Netflix, which allows users to view thousands of movies on demand for eight dollars a month. Americans are losing their jobs to the growing technological world. Our generation marks the dawn of a new age.

Cell phones have given many excuses to not sit down and get to know others. The ever-increasing isolation of communities is a constant reminder that technology is bringing us to a restricted means of communication. As technology evolves, we must face the anti-social affects that come along with it. The fast-acting advances made every day are dragging each and every person into a new way of living. As teens hear about these new advances, they act as hundreds of salesmen, advertising new items everywhere they go.

Over all I can say that technology started out giving an easier means of getting tasks done, but now has become a gateway to inactive, antisocial ways of living out life. People should be cautious of their technological uses, as to not become completely dependent on it. None of us can deny we are being swept into the social network cyclone that is Facebook.



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Note to SWR: Let's get over ourselves

I wish I had a dollar for every time I have heard "This place is so boring" or "This place [enter explicit]" or "The people here are fake and liars," because guess what? I would have a lot of dollars.

Editorial

And do you know what I would do with that money? I'd give it to the next person who said how growing up in SWR is so terrible, and tell them to leave this town and buy a house and go to school somewhere else. And after they had failed miserably at making it somewhere other than here, I would impart this piece of advice unto them: open your eyes.

Too many people here take for granted the simple things that SWR offers us. We live in a safe, relatively quiet community with little violence or crime. We can walk down the street without worrying about being mugged or beaten up. We can go to school and not have our education hindered by other's hatred of our ethnicity or sexuality or social standings. We can join clubs and play sports.

Many of you are reading this and saying, so? And this "so?" that you are undoubtedly posing is the problem.

Many people seem to think that what SWR offers us is the minimum every teenager experiences and is entitled to, only we, of course, have it a lot worse, 'cause like, SWR, like, is so boring and like, full of dumb people, like, you know...

But the fact of the matter is that not everyone lives in a safe and family oriented community like the one inside our SWR bubble. Imagine being a student in Africa, where you would be praying for the type of school materials we have at our disposal every day.

Or what about in Afghanistan; I'm sure the last thing on your mind is not having any place to party as you walk to class wondering if you're about to step on a landmine.

Or what about in South Korea, where your freedom to learn and after-school activities are dictated by a man who doesn't care that you want to be a lawyer or doctor when you grow up?

But wait. We live in America, so it's totally okay to complain about how badly we have it compared to everyone else.

Well, no, actually it's not. Instead of focusing on the negative all the time, how about we appreciate the little things, like not having to walk through metal

detectors or have police patrolling our hallways. Or having half of our student body addicted to some sort of narcotic. Or how about the ability to take classes and partake in activities that we express interest in, instead of having to settle with a Spanish teacher teaching a biology class with a chemistry textbook from the 1950's. There are thousands of inner city and extremely rural schools where students need to fight for a good education every day while we are handed one.

But this doesn't seem to be enough. Few teenagers care about education or being safe from harm's way. They care about hanging out with their friends and having fun. "There's nothing to do here," and "This town is boring" are typical statuses found on Facebook on any given weekend.

Instead of sitting at home sulking with your friends that our town doesn't throw parties, maybe you should get a more pro-

ductive hobby. Go to the movies, bowling or to the mall. Or maybe throw a party yourself if it's that important to you.

Instead of sitting at home sulking with your friends that our town doesn't throw parties, maybe you should get a more productive hobby.

But do not complain that every other town is better than ours, when the only difference

you are speaking of is the fact that they have empty houses full of alcohol, and we do not.

The fact of the matter is that no one is happy with where they live as a kid; life is just so tough, and everyone else is always having more fun and is a lot happier than you are.

When you think about, this place isn't that bad. Be grateful for what SWR is and take it with a grain of salt. The constant excessive complaining is not going to help the situation. Go home, give your parents a hug for putting a roof over your head in a town that has given you a safe place to grow up, and realize that the grass isn't always greener on the other side.

Don't take island away from Islanders



RYAN BUCKLEY
SPORTS EDITOR

My uncle actually named his cat Ozzy after Osgood, who was his favorite player.

Watching the excitement of that series, which went to a game seven, was unbelievable. It was the Islanders' first playoff series since the 1993-94 season. The Islanders went on to lose the series; however, they won every home game and that atmosphere at the Nassau Coliseum was unreal. Every game was loud and every game was intense. I remember when Shawn Bates was tripped by former Islander player Bryan McCabe and was given a penalty shot in the third period of a tied 3-3 game. Bates scored the goal and the Islanders won the game 4-3 and both at the Coliseum and my home celebration ensued. I would follow this team for the rest of my life and they became my new favorite team.

The New York Islanders of today can be defined as a promising young team with a promising near future. Kyle Okposo, John Tavares, Josh Bailey, Michael Grabner and many other young stars are starting to mesh and play as expected, creating a positive, energetic atmosphere in a team with a rich history.

In the 70's, there was Gillies, Nystrom, Smith, Bossy and other greats. Now Okposo, Tavares, Bailey, Streit and others may one day share that same success. This tradition must be kept on Long Island.

I have been an Islanders fan for more than half my life, and all of my family members have been involved in hockey. All my uncles and my father played at one point and still love to play the game. When I was very young, I used to get up at three in the morning on weekends and watch my dad play in a league. This was fun to do and made me appreciate the sport of hockey from a very young age. Without the presence of a team like the Islanders, some young kids, teens or even adults may not have a passion (as my father did) to play in a league.

The Islanders have a tremendous fan base. Even though attendance has been very low the past two seasons, it's growing. Coincidentally, the team has been playing the traditional hockey and this has resulted in a string of wins and a late-season run. As a result, more people are willing to spend money to watch a game, especially with promotions such as \$20 tickets. The big issue at hand is the lack of seating and the need for a new stadium. The benefits of reconstructing the Coliseum would be more players wanting to come to New York to play and more income from people coming to watch the game, so the team can spend

As a young boy in 2002, I was glued to my television with my family as we watched the 2002 New York Islanders and Toronto Maple Leafs playoff series. Before the 2001-2002 season I had never followed hockey closely, yet at the end of the season, Michael Peca, Mark Parrish, Alexei Yashin, Kenny Jonsson, Steve Webb, Adrian Aucoin, Roman Hamrlik and Chris Osgood became household names.

The Islanders are unique in that on Long Island, they are the only major sports team besides the New York Mets.

money. Put together a successful team and a new stadium, and people will watch a good product in an exciting environment.

While some states or areas have multiple sports teams, the Islanders are unique in that on Long Island, they are the only major sports team besides the New York Mets. This means from the end of the baseball season to the beginning of baseball season there is only hockey on Long Island. To deprive this major metropolitan area of a major sports team means telling a population of around 7.5 million people that they will be unable to watch their team.

Another thing to think about is the influence this has on younger kids. To expose children to a sport at a very young age can easily make them fall in love with it. Hockey is a sport where they must start at a particularly early age due to the technique and all of the different things you must master to keep moving on to the next level. For example, skating backwards, stick checking, hitting, positioning, deflections and many others need to be worked on for kids to move up the ranks. Taking the Islanders off Long Island is taking away that opportunity for a father-son bonding experience. This could mean there would be no future Rob Scuderi, Mike Komisarek or Christopher Higgins, all born and raised on Long Island and all NHL players.

Finally, the potential. This word is used so often and, in many cases, fans hate it because it means another year of waiting.

However, every team in every sport goes through the "rebuilding process." A perfect example is the Chicago Blackhawks. The year after the lockout, the 2005-2006 season, the Blackhawks finished second to last in the Western Conference. In the 2006 NHL Entry Draft, they selected Jonathon Toews, both a captain and an All-Star. In 2006-2007, they moved up one position and finished third to last in the West. With the first overall pick in the 2007 draft, the Blackhawks selected Patrick Kane, another All-Star and player who got the game-winning OT goal in the Stanley Cup final. In 2007-2008, they finish three points out of the playoffs behind the 8th seed Nashville and tied with Edmonton for the first spot out. In 2008-2009, they finished fourth in the West with 104 points and lost to Detroit in the Western Conference Finals 4-1 in games. And finally, in the 2009-2010 season, the Chicago Blackhawks won the Stanley Cup. After getting their rebuilding process started, it took the Blackhawks four years to once again reach the playoffs.

Compare this to the Islanders and their recent draft selections. John Tavares is drafted in 2009 as the first overall pick, much like Kane in 2007. The previous year, the Islanders selected Josh Bailey in the first round, as the Blackhawks' had done with Jonathon Toews. In 08-09 the Islanders finished last in the East; however, in 09-10, the Islanders moved up two positions and finished third to last.

The Blackhawks' rebuilding process and the Islanders' rebuilding process have an uncanny resemblance. The two p's, patience and potential, cannot be stressed enough. If the fans stay patient and the team has this potential, maybe in four to five years the Islanders will not only make the playoffs but win it all.

Let's bring Lord Stanley back home to a place with rich tradition and history: Long Island, New York.

Industrialization causes agitation



SEAN LOGAN
STAFF WRITER

The Riverhead Planning Board collectively opposed a call for a study of the impacts of two large commercial developments proposed for Route 25A.

If the expansion of Wading River goes unwatched, the cozy town can be permanently blemished. In addition, the increase in traffic will jam up Route 25A's two-lane road.

Another shopping center is being proposed for Route 25A in Wading River. The proposal, called Knightland, seeks to build 24 small stores at the Route 25A Sound Avenue triangle, where the Village Beverage currently sits.

The aspirant, Mr. Ken Barra, who also owns the East Wind Caterers, is proposing another shopping center in Reeves Park.

Mr. Barra's Knightland buildings will be no larger than 1,500 square feet and owned by nearby families, but Mr. Barra's building will not be alone on Route 25A. Mr. William Zoumas is proposing a 56,272 square foot shopping center called the Central Square just east of the CVS pharmacy.

Mr. Zoumas build calls for a 4,000 square foot bank, a 31,000 square foot medical office and a 16,272 square foot two-story office building.

Even though these buildings will bring tax revenue into the SWR community and schools, these buildings will drive

They are now threatening legal action if Riverhead Town doesn't stop several proposed commercial development projects.

Wading River out of its warm, small-town feel. Instead of seeing a mostly residential town when coming to Wading River, we would see an extension of suburbia: office buildings, medical offices and a mall.

The need for the buildings and their effect on 25A are issues that must be studied. The new buildings could funnel traffic and congest the two-lane road jamming up the intersection of Wading River Manor Rd. and 25A.

A civic group is launching a "Save Wading River" campaign to fight off these new building proposals. They are now threatening legal action if Riverhead Town doesn't stop several proposed commercial development projects.

If the Riverhead planning board allows an unrestricted build up of Wading River, the town won't be the same. The more we add to this small town, the more it will become like 25A west of Rocky Point, and once you pass Rocky Point it's a different world. The only way to save Wading River is to stop the building of both complexes.



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Breanna Bachmann

Dan Devito

Kristen Suarez

Pat Steinbrecher

Susanne Bjelke

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Share: Status Photo Link Video

What's on your mind?

MICHELLE GOSTIC
STAFF WRITER

In a matter of seconds, you can poke a crush, end a relationship and ask someone to be your friend from the comfort of your computer chair.

Facebook, the popular social networking site, is changing the way people communicate. Students log into Facebook to find out about the latest drama, fights and relationships. The site also facilitates the "creeping" of friends' pictures and videos.

According to senior Nicole Garcia, "It helps you get out there and meet new people."

Junior Dan Devito said, "[Facebook] helps you become better friends with people you don't see on an everyday basis." It's easy to keep in touch with people you don't see during the school day or even people who attend different schools on a daily basis via Facebook by sending someone a wall post, an inbox or a chat IM.

Someone's wall posts, comments, statuses and information on their Facebook page say a lot about that person's personality, sense of humor and interests. Scanning someone's profile is comparable to an introduction.

The networking site has also drastically changed the way relationships are composed. Junior Pat Steinbrecher explained, "A relationship isn't serious or legitimate until it's on Facebook...FBO."

"FBO" or "Facebook Official" refers to a change of relationship status on a profile from "single" to "in a relationship." The general consensus is that a relationship is only valid and accepted if it is made FBO. After changing one's relationship status, the entire social network is notified instantly of the new relationship or the harsh break-up.

Since more people communicate online rather than in person or on the phone, relationships are often conducted via Facebook. Junior Breanna Bachmann said, "Nobody really talks face-to-face anymore. It's easier to just say something over the computer."

With so many people relying so heavily on Facebook to communicate, younger generations aren't forced to speak to people on the phone or in person as often, thus aren't developing the same social skills.

Devito said "I don't actually have to talk to people in person because I can just chat them on Facebook, so I've lost my ability to talk to people in real life."

Before Facebook, relationships began with a phone call or asking someone out on a date. Now, relationships start with the liking of someone's status or a poke. Maybe even an inbox. When you post on each others' wall or chat each other, then things get serious. But often, people who communicate regularly on Facebook don't recognize each others' existence in school.

Facebook serves as a catalyst for drama, facilitating fights and breaking down privacy barriers. Bachmann deleted her Facebook temporarily because of her frustration.

"There's so much drama. It was annoying because everyone's on it, so you write one thing and everyone sees it...news travels fast," said Bachmann.

Junior Susanne Bjelke explained, "[Facebook] gives people a reason to start problems. When people have nothing to do they sit there and find things that are wrong with other people."

A common source of drama on Facebook is the infamous "Facebook fight." One faulty comment or wall post becomes a disaster when people enter an argument they wouldn't normally be involved in. When people are up in each others' business it's a recipe for disaster. Steinbrecher said, "Fights that are normally private become public, so it makes them 10 times worse."

It's safe to say that anyone with a Facebook is guilty of "creeping" or following someone's life by searching his Facebook updates. Though creeping is an inherent part of having a Facebook, the level at which people creep ranges from curious exploration to intense stalking.

Junior Anthony Naso said, "With Facebook you can poke people...it's like a creepy way of saying 'hey.'"

While most creeping involves innocently scrolling through random pictures or exploring people's profiles, sometimes Facebook stalking goes too far.

Junior Kristen Suarez was a victim of extreme Facebook creeping. "People made fake Facebooks to inbox me very inappropriate things."

Bjelke had to delete her Facebook because of excessive creeping. As she explained, "I was being stalked. Someone made a fake Facebook to try to talk to me."

Bjelke started using Facebook again after about a month because "people always talked about things on Facebook. I felt disconnected from my peers."

Bachman, who also deleted her Facebook, started up again because she felt "out of the loop."

Despite some peoples' feelings of isolation without Facebook, others don't feel the need to have them. Junior Carolyn Rzewinski, who is not allowed to have a Facebook, said, "[people with Facebook] may have more social opportunities, but if you just talk to people, you can get the same results."

Though some believe that having a Facebook is a social advantage, most agree on its adverse affect on school work. Sophomore Lauren Lustgarten, who spends approximately three hours a day on Facebook, said "I'd get more schoolwork done and pass more tests without Facebook."

Steinbrecher said, "[Facebook] destroys my schoolwork. It's so hard to study when I have to go on the computer because I can't not be on Facebook. The thing about it is you can spend hours on it, and when you get off you don't know what you just did."

Both Bjelke and Bachman said that the negative effect that Facebook had on their schoolwork contributed to their decisions to temporarily disable them. Bachman said, "when I deleted it, I had so much more time on my hands."

Conversely, some students think Facebook enhances their education because it acts as a portal for information. Devito said, "It actually helps me because if I need help on a weekly graded homework in AP Physics, I can ask somebody on Facebook."

By giving people the power to share, we're making the world more transparent.

-Mark Zuckerberg



Books be gone, just press 'on'

JUDITHGOLDFARB
STAFF WRITER

With the use of eReaders devices and programs like Netflix and iO On Demand comes the downfall of businesses such as Borders and Blockbuster.

On Wednesday, Feb. 16, Borders filed for bankruptcy. According to *the New York Times*, the bookstore, which reportedly operated for 40 years, is now \$1.29 billion in debt.

This is upsetting for some. Junior Kenny Rottkamp noticed the shift from traditional books to digital ones. While Rottkamp prefers the actual feel of a book, others use the ever-improving eReaders. Student aide Mrs. Debra Diguissepe is an avid user of the Nook. She uses hers every night, and explained that there is a wide variety of books, magazines and newspapers offered on the device.

"It's quick access to obtaining a good book," she said. The Nook allows for an immediate download of any book shown in the designated Nook bookstore. The store also offers better deals than a store normally would. There are best seller books for only \$10 where they might normally be more expensive. Mrs. Diguissepe likes that there is no driving involved in order to obtain these books. All you have to do is search and "in a matter of seconds the book comes up," said Diguissepe.

Junior Shannon McDonnell received a Kindle as a birthday present. Prior to this her main source for getting books was to purchase them from Borders. Now McDonnell only goes there if she needs a book for school. "It's actually not that weird," McDonnell said in response to the difference between reading an actual book or the Kindle.

Students can find teachers like music teacher Mr. Creighton and band teacher Mr. David Minelli using their gadgets on hall duty.

Band conductor Mr. Minelli said, "I love reading but I hate carrying around books." The light and slim Kindle is convenient for traveling and allows him to carry around hundreds of books at a time. What is upsetting to Mr. Minelli, however, is the new technology that has come out since first purchasing his Kindle.

"The Kindle lacks," he said, comparing it to the new Barnes and Noble Nook, which is in color, and the iPad. Like McDonnell, Mr. Minelli used to go to Borders to get books, but now he rarely goes. He said he was never a big library book borrower and that pattern has not changed. He recommends the Kindle for recreational reading.

"There is no substitute for the Kindle," he said, if one chooses to read a book for fun. The Kindle also allows for highlighting but is more difficult to find a location than it is

in a book.

The convenience of eReaders is obvious but the desire to experience the selection process in a bookstore still lingers. Rottkamp continues to shop at Borders and finds this time "valuable" and "meaningful".

Sophomore Paul Oliviera uses the iO On Demand feature "a lot." In his household, there are five TVs that have iO. About a year ago, Oliviera used Blockbuster but now doesn't go. He finds On Demand to be more convenient. Sophomore Christian Perricone said, "You turn your TV on and its [movies] there."

The local Blockbuster in Rocky Point has recently closed. Only a few years ago the Blockbuster in Middle Island went out of business and before that the store in Riverhead. The Hollywood Videos which was located in Rocky Point closed a few years back as well.

Junior Erin Kelly is upset by this. She had no other source to getting movies other than Blockbuster. Now she said she'll set up Netflix on the Xbox. "Blockbuster was really convenient for me; the movie we wanted was always there."

Bonding goes beyond sitting around a TV and watching – choosing what to watch is also an experience. Kelly will miss going to Blockbuster with her older sister.

It has become appallingly obvious that our technology has exceeded our humanity.

-Albert Einstein

What is Watson?

IBM supercomputer opens new possibilities for future technologies

CJ HIGGINS
STAFF WRITER

"Choose your category, Watson."

How about, 'Technological Advancements: Understanding Natural Language,' for 1000?

Watson – a supercomputer created by International Business Machines (IBM) – competed on the TV game-show *Jeopardy!* on Feb. 14, 15, and 16 against Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter – the two most all-time winning *Jeopardy!* champions. The computer operates on Power 750™ computers (ten racks holding 90 servers totaling 2880 processor cores, all of which run DeepQA software and storage), according to an article by Christopher J. Nay, research communica-

tions professional at IBM and Watson's social network manager.

Nay interviewed David Ferucci, the chief investigator in the development of Watson, and Ferucci said, "The goal is to build a computer that can be more effective in understanding and interacting in natural language, but not necessarily the same way humans do it."

Natural language within the computer field is a combination of computer science and language regarding the relations between humans and computers. Nay described how Watson was able to break down each question, analyze possible answers and choose the one it thought to be the best. A set of algorithms – any particular procedure for solving a certain type of

problem – are programmed into Watson to examine the question at hand. A different set of algorithms ranks the possible answers based on the amount of sufficient information Watson was able to find in its databases.

Watson's databases include the *World Book Encyclopedia*, Wikipedia, Project Gutenberg, and other sources that allow replication of content. Once a question is inputted into Watson, it takes the computer an average time of three seconds to analyze the question, find an answer within its databases and buzz in to answer the question – with 70 percent efficiency according to recent statistics produced by IBM.

Three seconds? Google can do that, but the difference between Watson and Google is immense. Google, a common search engine, highlights keywords, finds those words on the internet and generates pages where the searcher can find the answer while Watson analyzes the question despite the wistful *Jeopardy!* reparatee.

For example, Watson was able to beat the humans in answering, "Wanted for stealing a loaf of bread in '*Les Miserables*'; really, really wanted, for other thefts too," with an answer of Jean Valjean.

However, when Google was inputted the same clue, it produced many pages of possible search results which then required the searcher to read multiple articles with no level of certainty if the

searcher would find the correct answer.

Plans have been discussed for Watson's use in medical diagnosis and aiding doctors in decision making. John Kelly, operator of

IBM research, is looking to create something that every industry is able to use.

The question becomes, how close are we to creating a computer that thinks for itself?

Students opinionated,

technologically stimulated

Teachers and students alike have seen benefits of the advances in technology. Mr. Tomaszewski, physics teacher and lead science teacher, discussed how he saw improvements upon pre-existing technology such as the miniaturization of the cell phone. Mr. Tomaszewski described miniaturization as "the ability to store and process information faster with smaller devices."

He explained the main factors include physical size and the ability to transfer signals and energy. As the ability of objects to process information becomes faster, the necessary length of wire decreases, thus the object's size decreases.

Mr. Tomaszewski explained how if he had the resources to improve any technology, he would research ways to improve the efficiency of solar-powered panels. Currently solar panels operate with only 30 percent efficiency and the cost of electricity is very little because of how much energy the panels generate. He wants to improve the efficiency to save electricity as well as protect the environment.

Students like seniors Dan Clark and Mike Sanders have also taken notice of recent improvements in technology.

"The speed of technology has improved tremendously, like 4G," said Clark. "It allows people to remain in touch with one another wherever."

"Technological advancements in medicine benefit people in that there are more treatment options and more accurate diagnoses," said Sanders. "Robots perform more precise surgeries to prevent mistakes caused by human error."

Even younger students realize the benefits created by newer technology and hope to improve it.

Some students have dreams of computers that wake them up in the morning and help them go through the usual routine of getting ready.

Sophomore Chelsea Hawks stated, "I want a computer that assists me in my homework."

"I would want to improve the efficiency of genetic engineering and cloning," sophomore Cal Strack said. "We would be able to create artificial organs for those people who were suffering from terminal diseases like heart or liver failure."

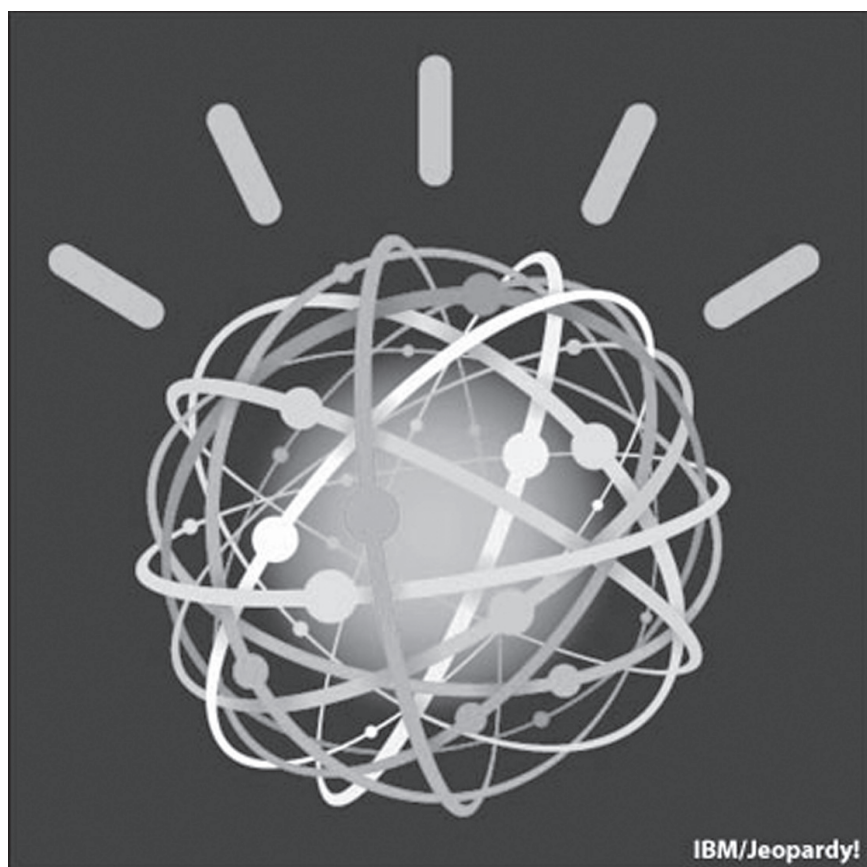


Photo courtesy of uwgmedia.blogspot.com



Students march to their own beat

Off-Beat



“He [Drake] talks about what happens in his life and he basically talks about the truth, some rappers don’t really talk about that. He’s not like everyone else.”

Name: Denzel Bryant
Favorite Genre: Hip Hop
Favorite Artist: Drake



Name: Jackie Buhler
Favorite Genre: Alternative
Favorite Artist: Crime & Stereo



Name: Brian Geraci
Favorite Genre: Rap
Favorite Artist: Wiz Khalifa

“He [Wiz Khalifa] speaks to me in regard to recreational activities.”



“It [Rock and Roll] makes me feel good, it gets me pumped up.”

Name: Jimmy Strack
Favorite Genre: Rock and Roll
Favorite Artist: AC/DC

“I like them because they’re weird and different.”



Name: Hank LeDeoux
Favorite Genre: Alternative
Favorite Artist: Driftless Pony Club



Name: Ali D
Favorite Genre: Rap
Favorite Artist: Notorious B.I.G.



Name: Renee Dunn
Favorite Genre: Pop
Favorite Artist: Lady Gaga, Ke\$ha

“Lots of the time pop has meaningful lyrics and they are catchy.”



“Hip Hop is just dumb, repetitive and frankly disgusting.”

Name: Nicky Pirozzi
Favorite Genre: Rock
Favorite Artist: Red Hot Chili Peppers



Name: Craig Schmitt
Favorite Genre: Rap
Favorite Artist: Eminem



Name: Joe Whelen
Favorite Genre: Country
Favorite Artist: Rascal Flatts



SCMEA experience hits high note

KELSEY HAGGERTY
STAFF WRITER

The music student walks into a room with knots in her stomach while a teacher sits in front of her with a pencil in hand. She is worried about the score she will get on her NYSSMA and what the teacher will think of her performance. She takes a deep breath and begins her audition. Success means an invitation to SCMEA.

There were a total of 19 SWR students who participated in the Suffolk County musical festival for band, chorus and orchestra this year. The SCMEA (Suffolk County Music Educators' Association) Division III Music Festival was held

work," said Lindell. "I was sixth chair out of 19 second violins."

Flute player Laura Logan has been participating in the program for four years.

"What I love about being part of it is playing with different people at the same level," said Logan.

"SCMEA has been going on for 55 years," said Mr. David Minelli, band conductor. "SCMEA holds three rehearsals plus a concert.

The school provides buses to bring the students to and from rehearsals," said Minelli.

NYSSMA is an audition for students who are looking to get into SCMEA. SCMEA is based on teacher recommendation and a strong NYSSMA score. NYSSMA stands for New York State School Music Association. The mission is to "advocate for and improve music education across New

York State by promoting and producing appropriate activities and programs for its membership and students in member school music programs," according to its website. The NYSSMA program encourages students' commitment to music, talent in music education and growth as a musician.

"Music teachers fill out applications and select students to be part of this musical group," said Mr. Steven Fayette, orchestra conductor. "SCMEA has been

"SCMEA is special because you work so hard to get a good score in NYSSMA so you can get picked."

-Sophomore Sarah Pluta

held here at SWR before."

Chorus student Sarah Pluta said, "SCMEA is special because you work so hard to get a good score in NYSSMA so you

could get picked. When you have a high score you get in, and you meet everyone. People from different schools sit in your section, and you get to talk to them." Pluta has been involved in SCMEA for three years. "I went mostly in middle school and I didn't make it in 9th grade, but now I made it in 10th grade," she said.

"NYSSMA is looking for high score and level and teacher recommendations," said Mr. Dennis Creighton, chorus teacher. "The students from chorus who are nominated show strong interest as soloists, give up time to practice and try to see me," he said.

Each year, students who are involved in a music program at their school do their NYSSMA audition and cross their fingers to get into SCMEA. They prepare for NYSSMA with their private teacher during their private lessons. Many who don't make SCMEA that first year keep trying until they get in.



Photo by K. Haggerty

Students from SCMEA stand in wait for the bus to go to rehearsal. There were 19 in all who went.

at Ward Melville High School in Setauket on March 19. Three rehearsals were held at Connetquot High School.

Orchestra student Julie Lindell has been participating in SCMEA for three years.

"I wasn't really nervous on my first day of SCMEA. I felt like I should've practiced and prepared myself a little more than I did, but the music wasn't that difficult, and I was happy with how I did on my seating audition considering I was in Kenya for two weeks and then catching up with

Students who participated in SCMEA

Chorus:

Taylor Burgess - Alto
Kevin Callagy - Tenor
Richie Lacovara - Bass
Nicole Lambert - Alto
Laura Lee - Soprano
Sarah Pluta - Soprano
Eric Steiger - Tenor

Band:

Kaden Badalian - Trumpet/Cornet
Joe Caligiuri - Bb Clarinet
Tim Haggerty - Clarinet
Laura Logan - Flute
Lizzy Stiezele - Alto Sax

Orchestra:

Sean Callagy - Viola
Julie Lindell - Violin
Claire Shanklin - Violin
Laura Shanklin - Violin
Rosario Terracina - Cello
Sarah Uzzi - Violin
Christian Wern - Double Bass

Does the fuse of music defuse the industry?

KYLE BARR
STAFF WRITER

Music is completely universal to every culture and language. But now all these collective genres collide, merge, duplicate and expand until the question arises: Why has this decentralization and fragmentation of music genres happened, and is it good for music at the industry level and for the day-to-day connoisseurs?

When asked about how many current music genres and styles they think are out there, 28 out of 30 students surveyed gave a rough estimate ranging from 10 to 50.

In fact, one internet source notes there are closer to 1628 music genres and styles listened to around the world. Most of these genres have branched off from larger ideas or "umbrella categories" of rock or rap and range from Afrobeat, a music style popular among African Americans in the 1970s, all the way to Zydeco, Louisiana Creole music. This staggering number is in direct contrast to what most people believe.

But think about the impact current technologies have on the industry and the affect that decades of constant expansion has had on established genres. It continues to affect the amount of genres and close the gap in the musical differences between them.

"It is only a matter of time before something like rap will start to have a woman singing the chorus," said Mr. Dennis Creighton,

Music Lab teacher and chorus conductor.

He said that in the 1960s there were only a few genres ranging from rock to soul and they were pretty much the only music genres that were well known enough to be heard in forms other than live on stage. But those genres ballooned with new influences and experiments, such as orchestra accompaniments within rock or rap songs, like rap artist Xzibit with his song Paparazzi.

But the greatest influence on the fragmentation of music is due to internet and globalization. Before the internet, offbeat genres were incredibly hard to find in either vinyl or the radio, where more popular music usually reigns supreme.

Now the internet allows people to hone in on one specific genre or band. Sites like Pandora.com, an online radio that selects music by personal preference based on a specific band, and even Youtube grants quicker access to those songs people find are to their specific tastes, allowing more exposure to genres most never even heard of. This is good for people with a particular appetite that only certain bands can fulfill.

Junior Chiraq Raparia believes there is a distinct sound for him only certain bands can supply, and the music of today is

"really rich" with "a lot of substance," which enables a better grasp of the music he truly wants.

But at the same time, the decentralization and fragmentation makes sticking to one single genre at a time almost necessary for many bands. Mr. Creighton said that he doesn't think music companies want "genre bouncing," -the act of playing music across multiple genres- because companies don't know how to market the music.

Another reason for fragmentation is that fans of specific bands get sensitive about the type of music "their" bands play, and if the artist decides to change direction, it can easily irritate or even alienate fans. An example is of the famous soul musician Ray Charles. When he became popular and switched record labels to start making big money, he tried experimenting by adding orchestral background music.

The fans considered this "selling out" and generally felt disdain at the attempts.

This difficulty in producing music outside of the original genres seems like it can make branching out to a larger audience even harder as a band.

"I think it's really hard to be different in an over flooded field," said senior Nick Pirozzi.

At the same time, the difficulty in

standing out might make bands that can do it right become very successful.

"I don't know how [pop star Justin Bieber] does [become so successful], but it seems he's doing something right," said Mr. Creighton.

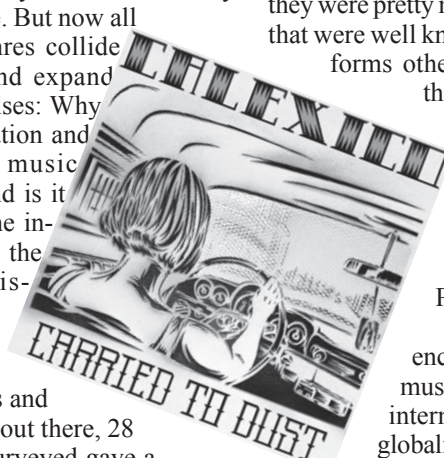
The music genres listened to by students and teachers end up incredibly diverse and the reasons behind liking or disliking such music is just as varied.

Sophomore Christian Perricone likes many different types of rock, from classic to punk and alternative, and believes his music is "definitely mainstream." He enjoys songs mostly because of the lyrics, beat and the guitar playing.

Sophomore Tom Stridiron said he likes to listen to music that is "heavy" in beat and style with lyrics that "actually mean something." He also said that he won't listen to popular rock that is "played on pop stations."

Health teacher Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Mitchell listens to any music that comes on the radio "as long as they aren't screaming," as in the Screamo style of music.

Diversity permeates every follicle of anything relating in any way to music. The one definite idea that can be assured in an age of music that is so differentiated and separated is that it will never end, only change. There will always be a fresh supply, no matter which way it is categorized.





Actors happy to play 12 angry men

DANIELLE OPATOVSKY
STAFF WRITER

Music stands rattled as the cast of *12 Angry Men* simultaneously flipped the pages of their script in the midst of rehearsal. Director Mary Hygom interrupted the dialogue to give some input on how senior Richard Thalman should move about his cast members during his lines. Rehearsal has been progressing as opening night approaches on April 28.

The production is a take on the 1957 Sidney Lumet film *12 Angry Men*. The story depicts a court-case scenario in which 12 jurors unanimously decide "guilty" or "not guilty" for a man accused of murder. The twist that sets it off from other productions the school has performed before is the continuity of the scene: one room with 12 men (and women in this case), and no scene changes, that's it. Senior Julie Mazzone is interested in this play for that reason, along with the set up of the characters. In *12 Angry Men*, the characters are simply labeled 1 through 12; however, each juror and their distinct personality unfold throughout the play.

"My character is very shy and nervous, but also excited because it's the first time she's served on a jury," said Mazzone.

Mazzone spent a while preparing her character. While outlining her character's outside life, Mazzone copied down some notes to help her remember, as she explained that she plays an easily swayed, constantly coughing and sneezing librarian.

Senior Maryanne Agius, playing juror number 12, also outlined her character. "My name is Claire Davis. I work at an ad agency and I'm currently working on an ad for breakfast cereal," she said.

Mrs. Hygom believes each of the cast members will represent their character appropriately. "I think all the actors are well suited for the roles," she said. Although the parts are traditionally played by men, Mrs. Hygom had no problem casting women for these roles.

"There's nothing to say you can or can't," she said. Because the jurors are simply characterized by personality, the casting for this production was not based on looks, Mrs. Hygom explained. Casting this play was "an interesting project," she said.

While the cast is having fun embracing their characters, the production itself is very serious.

The 1957 movie, nominated for three Oscars, reflects its title. Twelve angry men file into a congested room in mid-summer and debate the overwhelming evidence that points the fate of a boy toward guilty. Juror number 8, played by senior Emma DelliCarpini, refuses to vote guilty, which would immediately send the accused teenage boy to the electric chair.

The mood of the play is an adjustment for some of the cast members as most are used to musicals or comedies. "It's different from anything I've ever done," said Agius.

For a few, however, this will be their first production. Junior Kristen Suarez is enjoying this new atmosphere.

"I tried out on a whim and I made it," she said. Although she only has two lines she explained, "I have a really small role, but I'm excited to experience something new."



Photos by D. Opatovsky

Cast members chuckle as Mrs. Mary Hygom gives direction to senior actor Richard Thalman. Opening night is Thurs., April 28.

Senior Billy Vasquez embraces this particular group of people. "[The cast] is really diverse, it's not just focused on seniors, and we have people from all grades."

"I'm glad because it's a small cast, but I would rather my last show be a comedy," said Mazzone. As Mazzone takes on her most serious role she will also be gearing up to say goodbye to her theatre friends.

"I like the cast a lot," she also said, "we're really close." Agius will also be saying goodbye after this production. "We've all kind of grown up together," she said.

As the senior class leaves the theatre, those involved in the productions will be gearing up to take on the roles they leave behind. The theatre will continue to develop, as Mrs. Hygom explained, as the underclassmen will continue to improve their acting skills. "It always works itself out," she said. "It's very cyclical."

As opening night approaches, the senior actors expect the upcoming stress.

"There's always a struggle to get it all together, but that makes it better in the end," said Vasquez. "The night before [Fiddler] we were terrible, and then opening night we were amazing," he said.

Some of the cast members are feeling the pressure of

balancing school work and the show, which is strenuous in itself.

"We hit a bump in the road," said Mrs. Hygom. "But everyone has seemed to resolve their [academic] issues."

"The hardest thing will be memorization," said Mazzone, as there are no scene changes and no breaks, which puts a lot of strain on the actors.

Sophomore Mariah Brengel, stage manager, explained, "It's an easier play for the stage manager. The props are already on stage. It's probably harder for the actors because they're always on stage."

Mrs. Hygom is confident the show will be well received by the audience, as she believes it's well written and seems to be well liked among cast members. Mazzone also hopes others will be excited about this play.

"I think it'll be successful because a lot of people like the movie, [especially] older people. People our age don't really know about it," she said.

Nevertheless the cast of *12 Angry Men* is enjoying their small rehearsals. Working with the cast and Mrs. Hygom is, "an adventure," said Vasquez.

"I think we'll pull it off," said Agius, "we always do. Mrs. Hygom is a good director."

Meet the men

Julie Mazzone

Juror #1: the Foreman. A high school assistant coach who is easily frustrated



Kyle McElhone

Juror #2: A meek, hesitant, easily swayed bank teller



Richard Thalman

Juror #3: I'll tempered man who is forceful and stubborn



Kyan Pepper

Juror #4: Rational and well educated, however conceited and dispassionate



Kristen Suarez

Juror #5: Frightened and reserved, grew up in an urban Jewish neighborhood and is an Orioles fan



Molly Benincash

Juror #6: The epitome of a working man, unintelligent, a follower



Chris Bogaski

Juror #7: Clownish, flashy dresser, eager to leave to attend a baseball game



Emma Anne DelliCarpini

Juror #8: An architect who is thoughtful of the case, calm, and reasonable



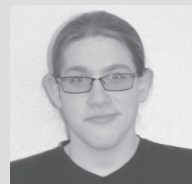
Juror #9: Oldest member of the jury, actually nearing death, soft spoken but intrigued by the case



James Meier

Evan Fellrath

Juror #10: Garage owner, racist, intolerant and manic



Juror #11: Jenn Etienne A recent refugee and immigrant from Germany, demonstrates reverence for the American justice system



Maryanne Agius

Juror #12: Lacks concern for the case, is designing an advertisement for cereal boxes during the debate





Controversy rides the pine; boys ready to shine

MAEGAN HEARNEY
STAFF WRITER

After a tough loss to Hauppauge ended its season last year, the varsity boys' lacrosse team faced an even tougher battle in the off-season: figuring out what coach would lead the team in 2011.



Photo by J.Branna

Coach Rotanz discusses the game plan with players Anthony Naso and Trevor Brosco. Mr. Rotanz was named an assistant coach to the 2012 US Men's National U-19 Team and was Newsday's Coach of the Year in 2007.

Allegations against Coach Tom Rotanz, who has been coaching at SWR since 1994, and the bullying of several boys on the team became public knowledge after several parents brought the matter to the district's attention at board meetings. As these families attempted to replace Mr. Rotanz as the boys' varsity lacrosse coach, other families rallied together to ensure just the opposite.

Two hours of the March 15 board meeting were spent listening to community members speak for and against Coach Rotanz. He was rehired, and the team turned its focus toward the season.

The drama of the last few months bonded the boys and has prepared them for what is expected to be a successful season. Junior Tyler Lutjen said, "It's definitely brought us closer as a team."

The team is looking strong as only six starters will not be returning. A combination of graduating seniors and players transferring to other schools has left several open starting positions to be filled by anxious players.

In goal, after losing both Gerald Logan to Sachus North and Patrick Sullivan to graduation, the Wildcats will look to Lutjen. He waited patiently on the sideline last year as Logan and Sullivan shared time in goal. "I've waited for the opportunity for so long. I'm happy it's finally here," he said.

At attack, senior Connor Drost and sophomore Timmy Rotanz will return. After a combined 54 goals and 33 assists in the 2010 season, this duo will be a force to be reckoned with. As a freshman last year, Rotanz was named an All-County player.

Tom Rotanz, Timmy Dillon, Paul Curran and James Higgins will fight for the last starting spot on the line to replace graduated senior Dan Stern.

In the midfield, a strong group of starting players-seniors Kris Miller, Mike Malave, and junior Trevor Brosco- will be returning. Last year, the Wildcats had two starting midfield lines of equal caliber. Now, after losing Pat Menezes to Comsewogue, Dalton Crossan to Sachus North and Brett Miller to graduation, the powerful team of Brosco and Malave will anchor the midfield for the Wildcats.

Last year, Malave totaled 21 goals and 11 assists and was named an All-League player; he will be playing for Hofstra next year.

Brosco was a sophomore captain last year totaling 23 goals and 9 assists and was named an All-County player.

The Wildcats will again look to Brosco as both a leader and key component of the offense for the 2011 season. As a junior, Brosco was an early recruit and

"We have a shot at winning it all. It's going to be a good season."

- Tyler Lutjen

is verbally committed to play for The University of Notre Dame in 2013.

Players hoping to see time at the midfield include senior Peter Gersbeck (Endicott College), juniors Anthony Naso and Dylan Gorman and freshman Mike Loscalzo.

Senior Brendan Hickey and junior Dylan Bates will share playing time at long stick middle.

Returning at defense are seniors CJ Higgins and Kerry Craig as well as junior Chris Mahoney. Next fall, Higgins will be heading to play lacrosse at Tufts University while Mahoney will be playing for Ohio State University in the 2013 season. Both Higgins and Mahoney were All-County players last year, so another big year is expected from these boys. Fighting for time at defense are seniors Matt Cassella and Brandon Warner as well as junior Mike Savino.

The team is expecting a big season after the off-season has proven to strengthen team unity and dedication. Mahoney said, "The group of kids that are playing together now have been for their whole life, so chemistry isn't a problem."

As the majority of the starting lineup is returning from last year, it is expected that the Wildcats, now a matured team, will have a successful season.

"We have a shot at winning it all. It's going to be a good season," said Lutjen.

The Wildcats are hoping to improve last year's 12-6 record and make a run at the county title.

"The team's looking strong," said senior Connor Drost.

Sports Previews

continued from page 16

Girls' Track

The girls track team has a competitive season ahead of them, moving up one League, but in talking with senior Danielle Opatovsky it doesn't seem like they have much to worry about. The girls lost only a couple of seniors last year, leaving them with 15 returning seniors, not to mention underclassmen junior Shannon McDonnell who placed second in states in the 200 meter and sophomore Laura Lee, who placed 23rd in the nation.

Entering a new league this year should be "very competitive," said Coach Paul Koretski. "Miller Place will be tough, but Sayville will be worse," said Opatovsky. Although the team moved up a league, they have the motivation to do just as well if not better than last year and make it to leagues yet again.

Boys' Track

The boys' track team is looking to keep its success running this spring season. "We want to finish top three in the league and top five in the county," said Coach Bob Syzmanski, who is moving to the assistant coach position. Mr. Paul Anderson is taking the role of head coach for this season.

Coach Syzmanski said a lot of experience is coming from the winter track team. "There are three players from winter track who made the winter track state team; Erik Anderson [senior] for high jump, Ben Canellys [senior] for pole vault, and Kevin Sanders [senior] in the 300 meter run."

Coach Syzmanski added that the toughest competition this season will be Westhampton and Miller Place. "We could win the league, but we will definitely be in the top three. We were champs in the fall and third out of 12 teams in the winter."

The spring team this year is without graduated senior James Hunt, who was an All-State cross country runner. "We got a couple replacements starting with John Lee [junior], who was a cross country champ and also Tyler Keys [junior]," said Coach Syzmanski. "Dan Beacon [senior] is a very versatile guy and another key runner as is Michael McDonnell [freshman], who does the 200 meter, high jump and relay."

Another talented trio is in the weights. Seniors Michael Clancy and Mike Henriques, as well as sophomore Charles DeMaio, are hoping for another good season for discus and shot put.

Henriques said, "My goal for this year is to pass the baton down to the future throwers because the team is losing good throwers and we need to build for the future."

Winter Sports MVPs

- Boys Basketball – Kevin Davis
- Boys Track – Kevin Sanders
- Girls Basketball – no designation
- Girls Track – no designation
- Varsity Wrestling – TJ Fabian



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Juniors score

Chris Mahoney Ohio State University

As an eighth grader on the varsity boys' lacrosse team, Chris Mahoney had the size of juniors and seniors.

This, combined with his athleticism, has been wowing college coaches since his recruiting process began in the summer of his sophomore year. In his most important summer, Mahoney played on the SWR travel team and attended showcase camps such as Peak 200, King of the Hill and the Battle of the Hotbeds. In addition, Mahoney was selected to be a part of the rising junior Team Suffolk in the Suffolk vs. Nassau Long Island Showcase game. Mahoney eagerly awaited the arrival of Sept. 1 of his junior year to get his college decision underway.

After the All-County defenseman woke up to a full mailbox and plenty of e-mails from Division I coaches, Mahoney decided to consider Ohio State, Yale University, the University of Notre Dame, Harvard University, Loyola University and Georgetown University. The junior got the opportunity to visit and meet with the Loyola, Georgetown and Ohio State coaches.

Mahoney said, "At Ohio State I did an overnight visit with the team. While I was there I saw the Ohio State football team play Penn State. It was awesome.

"[When picking a school] It's like a prom dress, don't pick a school because it's pretty, make sure it fits you right."

- Chris Mahoney

Then I went on a tour with the coaches around the campus. I loved it."

Mahoney was looking for a school with a large enrollment to get a different experience from life in a small school. He was also only considering schools with a great athletic tradition and more importantly, a strong focus in academics. Ohio State met all of his criteria.



Upon committing, Mahoney was a bit shocked when he found himself doing just as much work as he had before he committed.

"It's not as much of a relief as everyone thinks. I thought I wouldn't have to do any work, but I still find myself doing just as much. However, there is a little less pressure because I didn't stress over applying to colleges."

Mahoney will continue to keep up his weekly workout routine that he began in ninth grade. Since he still has two years of high school lacrosse to play, he hopes to win the state championship in at least one of those seasons. Mahoney will continue to work hard to be considered a top defenseman in Class B.

MAHONEY'S ADVICE TO RECRUITS:

"To any kid in the recruiting process I would say to try to get yourself out there and be seen as much as possible, but don't try to do too much, and be yourself. [When picking a school] It's like a prom dress, don't pick a school because it's pretty, make sure it fits you right."

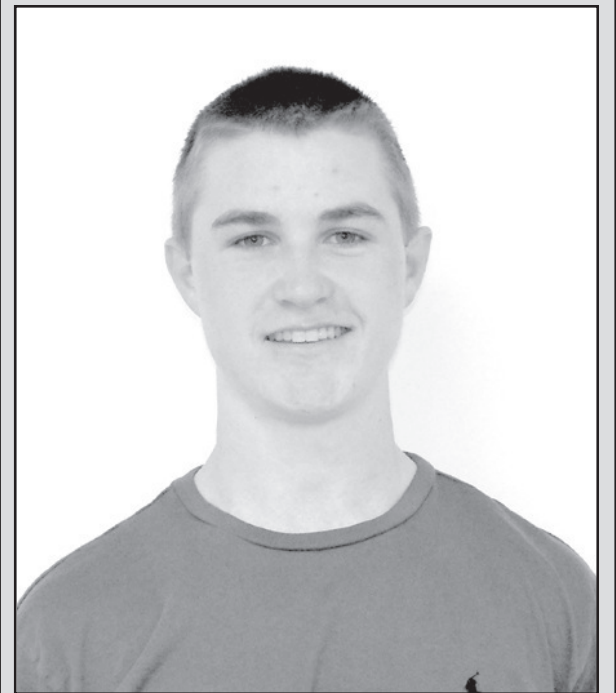
MIKE MALAVE
STAFF WRITER

Choosing a college can be summed up into two words: pressure and stress. The average student selects where to spend the next four years of his or her life in the winter of senior year... imagine having to make that decision one entire year earlier.

Being a premiere athlete comes with great responsibility. SWR's five committed juniors: Katie Boden, Trevor Brosco, Tyler Lutjen, Chris Mahoney and Kari Quinn had already ended their college search before playing their junior season. The juniors have exemplified great maturity, academic success and skill on the field, which granted them the opportunity to verbally commit to the school of their dreams.

Technically, colleges are not allowed to e-mail students until Sept. 1 of their junior year and cannot call athletes until July 1 after completion of their junior year, but when a school is dealing with

Trevor Brosco University of Notre Dame



Ever since the day Trevor Brosco saw the movie *Rudy*, he knew the University of Notre Dame was the school for him. His sister and SWR alum Kait Brosco's decision to attend Notre Dame made his selection process that much easier.

Brosco gained much experience from watching Kait go through the recruiting process and knew to begin notifying coaches as to when and where he would be playing in the fall of his sophomore year.

Brosco played on the SWR travel team as well as with the Junior Lizards and FLG [For the Love of the Game], and he was also a member of the Rising Junior Team Suffolk in the Long Island showcase with Mahoney. Brosco considers Maverik Showtime, an invite-only showcase to be the most important camp he attended because

Tyler Lutjen Siena College



Lutjen also visited Bryant and considered Dartmouth before verbally committing to Siena.

His decision was easy. "I like Siena because the coaches are the nicest I've come across on my entire recruiting journey. Siena is a winning Division I program and wins its conference just about every year. I got the opportunity to watch a practice, and I liked how their practice was not much different than ours. I also like how the school is like ours, small compared to others, and how the class size is about the same as Shoreham's. This will make the adjustment to college life easier."

Since verbally committing, Lutjen feels he will have less pressure on him when he is on the field. Rather than stressing about who is watching and being recruited, he can solely focus on the game.

But Lutjen made it evident that he will continue to work as hard as he has all along. The goalie attends lessons once a week to stay sharp and tries to work out 3-5 days per week to stay toned.

Lutjen said, "Training for a goalie at least once a week in and out of season is very important because you don't want to lose your reaction time."

Lutjen is excited to take the field as a starter in his junior season. The goalie has waited for his opportunity and hopes to make it far into the playoffs in both of his two remaining years at SWR.

LUTJEN'S ADVICE TO RECRUITS:

"The biggest piece of advice I got was to go to camps at the schools you are highly considering. It gives you the opportunity to visit the campus, possibly meet the players to get their opinions on the school and most importantly get to know the coaches and how they coach first hand."

He waited for his chance to start a varsity game for two years as he gained experience behind prior goalies Pat Sullivan and Gerald Logan, yet junior Tyler Lutjen already knew he would be attending Siena College before starting a varsity game.

Lutjen has been in the recruiting process since the summer after his sophomore year, and although he has had to wait his turn to play on the varsity team, Lutjen made a name for himself amongst college coaches.

Lutjen shined in the recruiting tournament spotlight with the SWR travel team and attended select recruiting camps at Hofstra University and Siena, schools he had great interest in. It gave him a better idea of the coaches and a chance to get on campus.



the ultimate goal

the best of the best, it will do anything to get these top student athletes to become one of its own.

The Division I athlete recruiting process is different from the average recruiting process. Division I coaches look to lure athletes they have high interest in to visit campus in the summer after sophomore year.

Following the visit, coaches pressure athletes to commit by the fall of their junior year. Schools expect these exceptional athletes to have taken their SATs in either their sophomore year or fall of their junior year. The SAT must be taken earlier than usual so coaches can get an academic read on the athlete of interest.

Let's look at the long and rigorous road these five juniors endured throughout the recruiting process. From when they began the journey to the conclusion of their college search, they reflect and let us in on the life of a verbally committed junior.

it attracted the most college coaches.

One could only imagine the mailbox and e-mail inbox of this heavily-recruited junior on Sept. 1 of his junior year. After browsing through the names of all of the letters, the sophomore [at the time] captain and All-County selection was ecstatic to see that Notre Dame had contacted him.

But Brosco did not make his decision right on the spot; he first wanted to consider his options: Harvard University, Princeton University, the University of North Carolina, Duke University and the University of Maryland as well as Notre Dame. Brosco took the

"The most important overlooked thing is grades; if they're not in line, it can be a deal breaker for coaches."

-Trevor Brosco

time to visit each of these schools before going on his final visit to Notre Dame.

Brosco said, "The visits were a lot of fun, I got to hang out with the teams and see what it was like to be in college."

Notre Dame stood above them all. He stated, "I like the combination of great academics and athletics. The facilities are second to none, and I loved the atmosphere around campus too."

Brosco made his verbal commitment and was relieved to feel the recruiting pressure lifted. But he still lifts, runs or shoots daily to keep in shape and improve his game in hopes of making a run at a state championship in his junior and/or senior year.

BROSCO'S ADVICE TO RECRUITS:

"My advice would be to call coaches early and let them know where they can watch you. You have to let them know who you are, and when they're there you have to perform well. The most important overlooked thing is grades; if they're not in line, it can be a deal breaker for coaches. The last thing is you have to put in the time. Practicing is the only way to get better, and you can't just go through the motions."

Kari Quinn Syracuse University

Junior Kari Quinn is the lone non-lacrosse commit of the five juniors. The SWR standout is one of 20 junior soccer players on the Island currently committed.

Quinn's recruiting process began in the summer of her freshman year, when she was a member of club teams from Syosset, Sachem, Terryville and Albertson. All of these teams helped Quinn get in front of college coaches and showcase her skills.

The most important showcase tournaments for the junior were the ESPN Disney Showcase in Orlando, FL, where Quinn said more than 500 schools attend to scout players, and the Surf Cup in San Diego, CA.

After training five times per week and having games on the other two days since the ninth grade, it was decision time. On Sept. 1 of her junior year, Quinn began to receive emails from highly interested schools.

Quinn made the decision that she wanted to play at a top Division I school in the Big East or ACC conference. The highly contacted recruit narrowed her choices down to Syracuse University, Rutgers University, the University of Pittsburgh, the University of Connecticut and Virginia Tech, then visited each and met the coaches.

"My visit at Syracuse was my favorite. I had an amazing time with the team. My visits to the other schools were also a lot of fun. So far, it was the hardest decision of my life to choose which school I wanted to go to."

Quinn raved about the sports atmosphere of Syracuse. She added, "Everywhere you look there's someone wearing orange or dressed up as an orange. All the students rush to sports events. Sports are huge up there. I hope there's a crowd for women's soccer games."

Quinn's recruiting finale came in the fall of her junior year when she verbally committed to Syracuse. She considers it the best day of her life due to the great feeling of relief that comes with committing. Now Quinn will remain focused on staying in shape and keeping her skills sharp.



She still works hard to impress Syracuse and reassure them of their decision.

QUINN'S ADVICE TO RECRUITS:

"I'd tell the upcoming recruits to just be patient and visit every single school. Ask a lot of questions to the coaches, players on the team and even random people if they like the school and what their experiences are like at that school. It's so important because it's going to be for the next four years of your life, or more than four—who knows? Choose the school because you like it. Don't let anyone else's opinion influence your decision."

Katie Boden University of Massachusetts



Division I schools and was considering the University of Florida, Sacred Heart University, Quinnipiac University and UMass.

Boden got to visit Quinnipiac and UMass, but it was clear to her right after her visits which school she wanted to attend. Boden attended a Junior Day at UMass in October of her junior year and then returned to the campus in January for an overnight visit with the team. Boden raved about how she fit in so well with the girls on the team after getting to hang out with them for a night, and in the morning Boden and her family were escorted around the "beautiful" campus by the coaching staff.

Boden said, "I like UMass because it is really big and has great academics along with athletics, which is what I was looking for in a school. I got the feeling when I was there that it was the right school for me after meeting the coaches. And the girls on the team are all awesome."

After Boden gave her verbal commitment, she felt a great sigh of relief. "The pressure of recruiting is all gone," she said. "I don't have nearly as much pressure on me while I'm playing and can put all of my focus into playing for the team and helping us win."

Like any dedicated athlete, Boden said she will continue her training schedule. She goes to the gym every week and does Intense Training. She also said she will continue to work on her "wall ball" 3-5 times per week to keep her stick skills up to par all year round.

Boden will give it her best effort to keep the strong tradition of SWR girl's lacrosse alive this year and next year and hopes to continue to have winning seasons in her junior and senior years.

BODEN'S ADVICE TO RECRUITS:

"To any athletes being recruited I would say don't rush into anything. If a coach really wants you [he or she] will wait for you. Even though you have friends or people around you who are committing, you should still go at your own pace. You will know what school you want to go to when the feeling is right, which makes the decision really easy."

Having played a key role on a four-year-straight state championship lacrosse team for three out of four titles made it rather easy for junior Katie Boden to get her name heard around the recruiting world.

Boden has been attending recruiting tournaments with the Yellow Jackets club lacrosse team since her freshman year, and much of the recruiting has come with being a part of such a winning program.

Boden said, "My Yellow Jackets team has girls who are all highly recruited Division I lacrosse players. But the most important looks for me came from in-season games rather than tournaments. I did get a lot of looks from tournaments I have gone to, but a lot of schools do their recruiting at big in-season games and the state championship games, of course."

After having plenty of time played under the supervision of college coaches, Boden began to communicate with many



Spring sports look ahead

RYAN BUCKLEY AND TAYLOR GEISMAR
SPORTS EDITOR AND STAFF WRITER



Senior Brian Cuzzo smashes a serve during a non-league match against Sachem East.

Photo by R. Buckley

Girls' Lacrosse

The girls' lacrosse team is looking to win an unprecedented fifth straight state title. This year they will have to do it with a new coach, new division and new motto. The Wildcats are moving from Coach Bob Vlahakis to former JV Coach Mary Bergmann. Coach Bergmann coached in Europe for one year, then at Miller Place before joining the Wildcats; she is in her seventh year of coaching. The Wildcats are also moving from Class C to a higher Class B. Also, all the new changes brings about a new motto. Last year was "Can't Stop Won't Stop." This year it's "We Will Rock You."

Senior Codi Mullen discussed the adjustment the team has made. "It's different having two different coaches, but it's good for the team," she said. "Coach Bergmann does a lot of things differently than Coach Vlahakis. We are quicker, but it's very different." Mullen is a captain this year along with seniors Demi Lopez and Corinne Wiederkehr.

Coach Bergmann also had to make an adjustment from JV to Varsity. "The transition was smooth," she said. "I know all the girls from coaching JV lacrosse and JV girls soccer and I helped with playoffs for the varsity lacrosse team. It's been a little stressful too."

Why has it been stressful? In her first year of coaching the team, she has lost two players to season-ending injuries and another player is out with a concussion before the team has played its first league match. However, she believes the string of injuries will only encourage the team. "I think it will light a fire. Everyone on the team is talented, and it'll force everyone to pick up the slack. We will also stay positive. I am happy it happened early in the season rather than later," said Coach Bergmann.

She also talked about her new style of play. "This year we are changing around the attack completely. We want all of our seven attack players to be able to score and we want multiple players to have 40 to 50 points." Hoping this transition will fill the hole left by All-American Kait Brosco, Coach Bergmann also had another hole to fill: goalie. Senior Lily Vail returns to the net, competing with an eighth grader for the position. Vail was in Denmark last year, missing the lacrosse season.

"Our goal this year is to make playoffs," said Coach Bergmann. However, the step up in class makes the move a little different. "The level of difficulty is the same. We are playing the same teams, but in the post season we will play some of the teams we played in the regular season. We also have to play a quarterfinal playoff game to start rather than a semi-final game," she said.

According to Coach Bergmann, the toughest teams this year will be Rocky Point, Hauppauge and Eastport-South Manor. The team won its first league game against Miller Place 11-5. The teams first night game is in Hauppauge on April 13 at 7.

Boys' Tennis

The tennis team started the season off a little shaky but is starting to get back into the swing of things. They lost their first match to Sachem East 5-2, but picked up the slack by their second match against Islip winning 4-3. Last year, the team had just moved from League 8 to League 7, which had them playing some of the more experienced and tougher schools, but this year they are prepared for a better season. "Seniors from the more competitive schools in our league graduated last year, making it a little easier on us," said senior Brian Cuzzo.

Losing only one senior, Dan Pellarin, to graduation last year, the team seems to be doing fine. This year the team is loaded with seniors, making strong double teams. Coach Rich Muller said they have a chance for play offs. "500 record, that's what were going for," he said. With a new first doubles team this year, senior Ben Dalecki and Brian Cuzzo's first match was against Sachem East, beating a state doubles team. "I think we will go to leagues and hopefully advance to the second round," said senior Anthony Casa.

Softball

The softball team is hoping to swing its way to the top of the League 6 standings.

"This is the best team I've had at SWR in all my years of coaching here," said Coach Ed Price, who is in his sixth year with the Wildcats and 21st year of coaching softball. "This team has a lot of talent, so our goal is to be League 6 champs."

The team said goodbye to graduates Trista Rivara and Kelly Homan; however, Coach Price said the team has "good replacements" and the team is in "good shape". Some replacements include freshman Brittany Mahan and two eighth graders, Caitlyn Mirabella and Alex Hutchins. They are led by captains and returning seniors Cali Lavey and Christina Pagano.

Coach Price said the biggest strength of the team is that it is strong at all three key components: pitching, defense and hitting. "To win at this level, you need pitching, which we have in Chelsea Hawks [sophomore]; you need to have defense, which we have in Lavey at shortstop and Michelle Gostic [senior] at first; and you need to have hitting which we have with Pagano and Katie Newell [senior]," said Coach Price.

By the third week of March, Coach Price had an idea of what his lineup and rotation would be; however, he was still experimenting. "Hawks will do majority of the pitching and Gostic will be backing her up," he said.

The team has already had practices and a few scrimmages and Pagano is hoping that they will translate into a good season.

"Each practice we are getting better, and it's been really helpful because in scrimmages we see what we have to work on before we play our first game," said Pagano.

Coach Price said the toughest teams this year will be Sayville and East Hampton. The team opened up league play against Sayville and won 8-2. Hawks struck out 20 batters in the win. They play Sayville again on May 11. The team first plays in East Hampton on April 16 and then wraps up the series at home on May 5.



Junior Mike O'Reilly pitches during a scrimmage against Center Moriches.

Photo by T. Geismar

Baseball

The baseball team is looking forward to another winning season behind their good hitting and great fielding. This season, senior Danny Sperruzzi will do the majority of the pitching and freshman Nick Bottari will do the majority of the catching. The team looks as if they have nothing to worry, as last year it compiled a League record of 20-4.

"I've never had this much depth in the batting order," said Coach Sal Mignano. The rest of the lineup includes junior Jono Criscito at first, with seniors Andrew Nicchi, Kevin Davis and Ryan McAlary rounding up the infield. Seniors Chris Frick and Matt Kneisel and junior Steve Schneider are playing outfield. The team lost only three players to graduation and only one starter, Dan Lupens, who was all-county and all-state.

The team so far won against William Floyd and Riverhead in scrimmages, sweeping the score boards and leaving the other team with hardly any room to win. Senior Matt Kneisel feels confident that the team will go far this year as he said "we have no weaknesses. We are top notch."

spring sports continued on page 13