

The Matador Online

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June 2007

Smithtown H.S. East

Class of 2007 begins new East legacy *SHS East's first graduating class says farewell*



Senior destinations for East and West

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The Matador
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Director's Cut takes the stage

Senior drama competition begins new tradition

Bar Mitzvah Fever

Opening *Director's Cut* to a modest crowd, the cast of *Bar Mitzvah Fever* took the stage to bring the semi-autobiographical play of seniors Eric Deutsch and Jonathan Jacobs to life.

Directed by senior Catie Zimmerman and starring Anthony Izzo as the socially-awkward Jewish teenager Jeremy, *Bar Mitzvah Fever* told the story of Jeremy, a 16-year old who missed out on his bar mitzvah when his mother, Estelle (junior Kenzi Locks), opted to attend a once-in-a-lifetime Barbara Streisand concert instead. With the help of his friend Lionel (junior Sean Leigh), Jeremy makes it onto MTV's *My Super Sweet 16*, and all the typical, dramatic, and hilarious events of that show ensue.

Deutsch and Jacobs' play went over quite well with audience members, though some jokes sailed over the heads of the crowd. The biggest response was received when references were made to everyday students and events here at Smithtown East.

At the opening of the show, Jacobs got onto the loudspeaker to make the mock morning announcements. Announcements included one for a seminar by senior Leah Rotella entitled "Community Service: a Beginner's Guide," a reference to Rotella's extensive involvement in all things community service. There was also a jab at the NY State DECA Treasurer senior Sameer Iyer. Both jokes went over well with the audience, and so the play got off to a fantastic start.

Izzo played the role of Jeremy with a great deal of accuracy considering he describes himself as "extremely Catholic." When asked how he got into the role, Izzo shrugged and joked, "Ask Catie Zimmerman!" The hardest part of playing Jeremy, said Izzo, was saying the bar mitzvah. Fortunately, he previously sang a Hebrew song in chamber choir, so he spoke the lyrics to the song for his on-stage bar mitzvah.

The play was the SHS East stage debut of seniors Deutsch, Jacobs, Diana Bilello, and Stephanie DeSimone. Deutsch even had his first ever on-stage role as Jeremy's Prince-loving Rabbi, who frequently quoted Prince songs in a dramatic tone. DeSimone and Bilello's characters each brought a new level of quirkiness to *Bar Mitzvah Fever*, and they each played their respective roles of Grandma and Joan Rivers with obvious enthusiasm. Of her role, DeSimone said in dramatic fashion, "Once I put on that bright blue eyeshadow and that shawl and that sequined dress, the spirit of Joan Rivers came to me."

In addition to the newbie performers, several veteran actors were part of the cast of *Bar Mitzvah Fever*. Seniors Kevin Barnett and Sarah Neibuhr played MTV's dynamic production duo, Harvey and Donna, to perfection, and Leigh pulled off a "ghetto" persona for the part of Jeremy's best friend, Lionel. Cameo appearances were made by students such as seniors Sara Bradshaw and Dan Selli, as well as Mr. Nadramia, who was a crowd favorite.

Though *Bar Mitzvah Fever* was the

longest of the three shows at *Director's Cut*, the humor was dispersed well throughout the show, and the audience was anything but bored. The actors clearly enjoyed working together, and their chemistry pervaded every aspect of the show. Izzo was quick to say that the "amazing cast, director, and writers" were what made working on *Bar Mitzvah Fever* so enjoyable for him.

In addition to writing the play, Deutsch and Jacobs actively attended rehearsals. Said Jacobs of the experience, "As someone who always wanted to be involved in

comes walking in screaming at him for being late.

Then in the midst of the couple's fight, Lindsey's friend Kelsey, played by Senior, Matt Christy, comes in to talk to Leslie. Kelsey tries to encourage Leslie to change his views, and bursts out into dance, keeping the audiences in stitches. The flamboyant character, Kelsey was portrayed well by Christy.

-by Kevin Perry

The Ever After

Director's Cut comically closed the night with a table-featuring talk show. Starring Snow White, Cinderella and others, the show, directed by Kim Caracciolo, exemplified how the televised talk show has embedded itself in popular culture. Since the popular fantasy stories born generations ago are loaded with moral conflict (especially within the family), what better way to approach such problems than the infamous Jerry Springer method?

The plot opens with the two "beauty impaired" sisters that plagued the life of well-known princess Cinderella. The classic role of the host, played by Alex Wagner, proceeded to aid the rift created by the famous slipper fiasco. Alongside the sisterly trio were Snow White, in her traditional (if not outdated) costume, and her overly self-conscious Stepmother. These age-old conflicts may not have been resolved, but the attempt made provided good entertainment, which seems to be the priority of the

family-oriented programs this play satirizes.

Throughout the skit, the actors/actresses were able to add a modern touch to these age-old characters. "I really liked the kid who had the frog problem," says senior Liz Mancuso, referring to the prince frog who had still yet to be kissed, contrary to popular belief, "but I feel like this could have been done before." Although this might not have been the most original play, it made for a pleasing twist on traditional storybook.

Another factor that aided the modern feel to the play was the aging of these "eternal" characters. The commercials played throughout the play also provided for a comical reflection of modern society. Over-the-top commercials fill up our television viewing time as a constant reminder of the extent to which marketing can stupefy.

The characters seemed to fit their mold as the story progressed. "There were very few characters I said 'Oh my god, wow, you're this character' to right away," said director Caracciolo. The casting of these characters, such as Danielle Greco as Snow White, or Mike Hirsch as the un-kissed frog, seemed to fit perfectly into the famous images shown to us as children. As the play developed, these personas were able to remain original in the unusual setting in which they were placed.

The clever blending of modern popular culture and timeless classic characters allowed for a comically happy ending (disregarding the fate Jiminy Cricket), leaving the audience with a smile.

-by Eduardo Segura

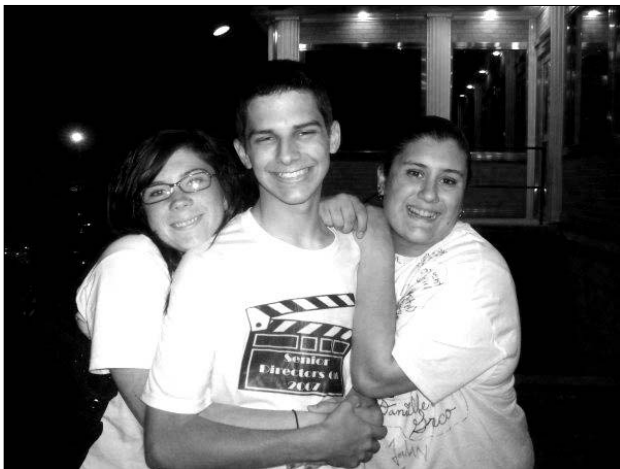


Photo Courtesy of Kim Caracciolo

Seniors Catie Zimmerman, Anthony Pingerra, and Kim Caracciolo were chosen to direct their plays at this year's Director's Cut.

drama productions but never had the time, this has been an exciting opportunity for me." Of his work on *Bar Mitzvah Fever*, Deutsch said, "It was so gratifying to see Jon's and my creative vision come to life...I valued every minute of it."

-by Lauren Weiss

Leslie's Lament

The second play of *Director's Cut* on Wednesday, May 23, was *Leslie's Lament*. The play was both written and directed by Anthony Pingerra, as was very clear to see. "Anyone who knows Anthony, would say that it really shows his personality," said senior Lauren Weiss, who watched the three plays that night.

The play was about a man named Leslie (junior Nick Miceli) who was a feminist. The play was very intelligently put together and was written very well. Although the play was much shorter than the first play, it got the point across. Performed with mainly six actors; junior Andrew Fraser, Nick Miceli, junior Michelle Zecchine, junior Tara Nudelman, senior Matt Christy, and junior Sarah Kerper.

The actors did a great job of keeping the audiences interest, and also threw in a few jokes here and there. The opening scene took place in Washington Square Park, NY where Leslie is interrupted by two feminists and is told to get away. After ignoring their comment he meets Scott, and later his wife Lindsey. Scott is on his way to work when he sees Leslie. Scott begins to ask what he is doing and gets into a chat when his wife

NEWS

Global Awareness Committee *Educators help students think to outside the box*

by Brittany Conzone

Despite some international views and media portrayal, our youth is not filled with uneducated, self-focused people. Many of today's teens are simply not aware, due to the great influence that the fictional world created by video games, TV shows and the internet has on them. The Smithtown School District has decided to change this by creating a Global Education Committee.

Jennifer Bradshaw, the Director of Curriculum, holds monthly meetings in the New York Avenue District Building to discuss ways in which the committee can encourage awareness in students. The issues that hold the most weight are global awareness and connections, 21st Century workforce preparedness, and peace and human rights.

The biggest plan underway is a Smithtown-Mbulu Clean Water Project, which will connect Smithtown students with the students of Mbulu, Tanzania who have no access to clean water. The committee plans to raise \$3,000 to drill a well in Mbulu by the end of the school year. The money raised will be sent directly to the Mbulu District of Tanzania, where it will be used for the well and not taken advantage of for any other purposes. This plan will not only

help the community, but it will also give Smithtown students awareness of the everyday lives of less fortunate people.

The committee's other five plans encompass school calendar revision, ePals, language projects, OPLITE/CEWiT Partnership, and iEarn.

The group wants to eventually add global dates to the school calendar to encourage regular discussion of international affairs in the classroom.

ePals will facilitate safe e-mailing with teens around the globe, and students who converse with others in this manner will expand their knowledge of different lifestyles.

Language projects intend to take greater advantage of programs provided in Smithtown, such as FLES (Foreign Language in the Elementary Schools) and SCOPE (before and after school programs) as early as kindergarten.

OPLITE/CEWiT partnership will collaborate with Stony Brook University's Center of Excellence in Wireless and Internet Technology to provide students with the proper preparation for America's workforce in the future.

The last of their plans for now is iEarn, which intends to fuse students who wish to make a difference, globally

network their ideas, and put them into action.

Ms. Miller and Mr. Kelly – both SHSE English teachers – are two of the thirty educators giving flight to these new plans. They both agree that this committee is one of the most important things they have been involved in since teaching in Smithtown. “We want students to be more open-minded and think critically about how they fit into the world. This program is allowing students to network with people not exactly like them, breaking the bubble,” Ms. Miller said. Added Mr. Kelly enthusiastically, “No exaggeration, I believe this is the path to world peace.”

This new Global Education Committee will help our generation do what we are truly meant to do. Today's youth can and will prove to our society the difference education can have not only on our community, but on the globe. Global Awareness is simply enhancing an already caring generation that needs the education to spark change.

Students who wish to become involved in the Global Education Committee should send an e-mail to Jennifer Bradshaw at jbradshaw@smithtown.k12.ny.us.

Into the backstage experience *An inside look on the production of Into the Woods*

by Brittany Almeida

From many different perspectives, this year's musical, *Into the Woods* was an amazing event. It was heartfelt and difficult, portraying love, hate, family, and deception. *Into the Woods* a play that takes place as what is supposed to be a “happily ever after” tale. When given the opportunity to be a part of *Into the Woods*, everyone was excited and overwhelmed.

According to junior Sam Marsh, who played Rapunzel, “It's a beautiful story with a brilliant moral. The whole experience of being in a production such as this is the most amazing feeling. Being a part of a play like that becomes your life.”

For the students in the play, a large portion of the time is spent backstage or in the auditorium seats. They have a great time making jokes, goofing off, and getting ready to transform themselves into the

character they have to portray. They have



Photo: L. McCabe

Contrary to popular belief, the cast of *Into the Woods* spent most of their time preparing offstage rather than onstage. The final production was the result of hard work and focusing on getting into character.

to fill themselves with so much emotion and feeling and to be ready to be happy,

sad, serious, and excited. To them, aside from being in the play, being backstage is a huge part of the fun-filled and unforgettable memories. “I love it and would never give up spending time with all my friends and fellow cast members,” said Marsh. Another cast member, junior Anthony Pino, said, “Plays like this one require every ounce of determination and patience, too.” As he said this, many students in the play were running around screaming and asking, “Get my stuff!” and “Did you see that?”

In the end, all of the cast members feel that being a part of an event like this is worth the experience. Even though being backstage can be very exciting, and sometimes very stressful, the on-stage experience is where everyone is working together to create a great production and the real magic happens.

Über Poetry Nacht sehr wunder- Students and teachers unite for a "nacht" of poetry readings

by Lyndsay McCabe

"What is poetry?" Mrs. Sundberg asked, opening up the floor at Smithtown High School East's 2nd annual poetry night, "Über Poetry Nacht." The room was silent. "[Poetry is] the art of using words, the act of discovery... it opens doors of communication and gives everyone a voice," said Sundberg, advisor of the Drama Club. The event was a partnership of Smithtown High School East's literary magazine, Solstice, and the Drama Club, where students and teachers alike took to the Little Theatre stage to read poems written by themselves or others.

Some famous poets were read by their avid fans, such as senior Lauren Weiss, who admitted her "obsession" with E. E. Cummings poetry. Senior Caitlyn Witkowski recited several Robert Frost poems, including "Nothing Gold Can

Stay," a classic poem many students were familiar with from S.E. Hinton's novel, *The Outsiders*.

A few students and teachers recited their own original poetry, which proved to be a far more personally difficult task than reciting someone else's work. Still, every poem was positively received by the audience.

Ms. Miller provided an interesting performance to convince the audience that anyone can write poetry by taking the stage, grabbing her hair, and screaming. This abstract view grabbed everyone's attention and loosened up the crowd. Freshman Lucas Spangher showed a similar view when he stood behind the microphone peering out into the audience for several long moments before saying, "silence is just as powerful as words."



Photo: L. Weiss
Senior Sarah Niebuhr (pictured above) was the main coordinator for Über Poetry Nacht.

Mr. Hersh took a different approach from the other performers and read poems written by students who won his poetry contest, where students were asked to send him their poetry of "teen angst." The first poem read was one by junior Christopher Rodriguez, and the second one by junior Ravina Chawla. For Chawla's poem, he asked the audience to slap their knees whenever a line ended with a word that ended in the letter S. This became a test of coordination, as, on occasion, the audience accidentally clapped at inappropriate parts and would then erupt into laughter.

Throughout the course of the "nacht," it became obvious to the audience which performers were involved in the drama program at East, especially after watching such theatrical performances as those by Anthony Pinggera and Mike Hirsch. It was clear that they had been taught well, as Sundberg gave an incredibly enthusiastic performance of a poem written from the point of view of a child feigning illness to avoid going to school.

Juniors walk the red carpet Junior prom takes students to Hollywood for a night

by Brittany Almeida

In the days leading up to the Junior Prom, there was so much hassle. Who didn't have their hair or nail appointment yet? Who didn't have a dress or a tuxedo? Or worse, who didn't have a date? Getting ready for junior prom was probably half the fun, between planning what everyone was going to do afterwards and who everyone was going with.

Aside from being excited and nervous for prom, a big deliberation was between having the prom at the school or outside the school, such as at a hotel. Of course the majority of the juniors got what they wanted and got to have it outside of the school at the Sheraton Hotel. However, before they got their way, there was a dilemma. Many of the seniors, and even some juniors, felt that it was unfair and unwise. The seniors, like most schools and previous graduating classes, had to have junior prom at the school. The current juniors got to have the luxu-

ry of having it at an elegant hotel, when even Smithtown High School West had their prom at their school.

In addition to the conflict of where the prom was going to be, there was the issue of planning it. For example, the DJ, the party favors, the decorations, the food, the pictures, and everything else that's part of the package had to be organized. Where the money was going to come from was a huge part of the problem. Fundraising wasn't much of a success and, part of the prom ticket money goes towards funding senior events. One would be surprised how things add up, such as the expense of something so little as a party favor or

centerpiece.

Everyone always dreams about partying in Hollywood, and with this prom, juniors had the chance. The party favors were picture key chains with film strips to create the movie like theme. There was a red carpet, and movie clap boards for centerpieces.

The dresses were gorgeous. Most of them were lengthy and were snug fitted. The guys looked pretty snazzy as well, nice and clean cut. It was a night that made every girl feel like she was a movie star and every guy feel like they were the leading man. Whether one was with their friends or a girlfriend, it was a good time.

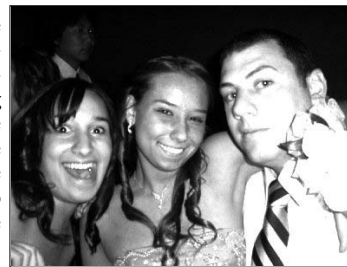


Photo courtesy of Emily Knox
Juniors Stephanie Militello, Shannon Fleming, and Andrew Antretter (see above) pose for shot on the dance floor at junior prom.

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L.I. Press awards *The Matador* staff

Staffers take five first-place awards at competition

by Lauren Weiss and Lyndsay McCabe



Photo: L. Weiss

Pictured above, *The Matador* advisor Mr. Hersh stands with the two Editors-in-Chief of *The Matador*, senior Lauren Weiss and junior Lyndsay McCabe. Both editors earned first-place awards at the L.I. Press High School Journalism Awards for their writing.

On June 4, the *Long Island Press* held its third annual High School Journalism Awards night at Hofstra University. *The Matador* staffers left the ceremony with a total of five first-place awards between the three winning staff members: seniors Lauren Weiss and Enrico Purita, and junior Lyndsay McCabe.

Students from schools across Long Island were at the ceremony, which featured a catered dinner beforehand. Awards were handed out following dinner and several speeches were made by sponsors of the event, including President of Hofstra University, Stuart Rabinowitz.

Weiss garnered three first place awards: Best Humorous Feature for "Fighting negativity one ISS at a time," Best Informational Feature for "Myspace - know your rights," and the Aura Diaz Award for Best First Person Article for "Not just peanuts." McCabe earned first place for Best Social Commentary for "Be the Change' promotes stereotypes," and Purita won first place for Best Review for his review of *Modern Times*.

Nominations for awards in various categories of journalism were sent out in May, and in late May the staff was notified as to which people had won awards, but not which awards they won or how many had been won. This is the second time the staff of *The Matador* has been recognized by the *Long Island Press* for their continued excellence in their journalism program.

Senior class leaves its mark

Class Council lets seniors put handprints on wall

by Lauren Weiss

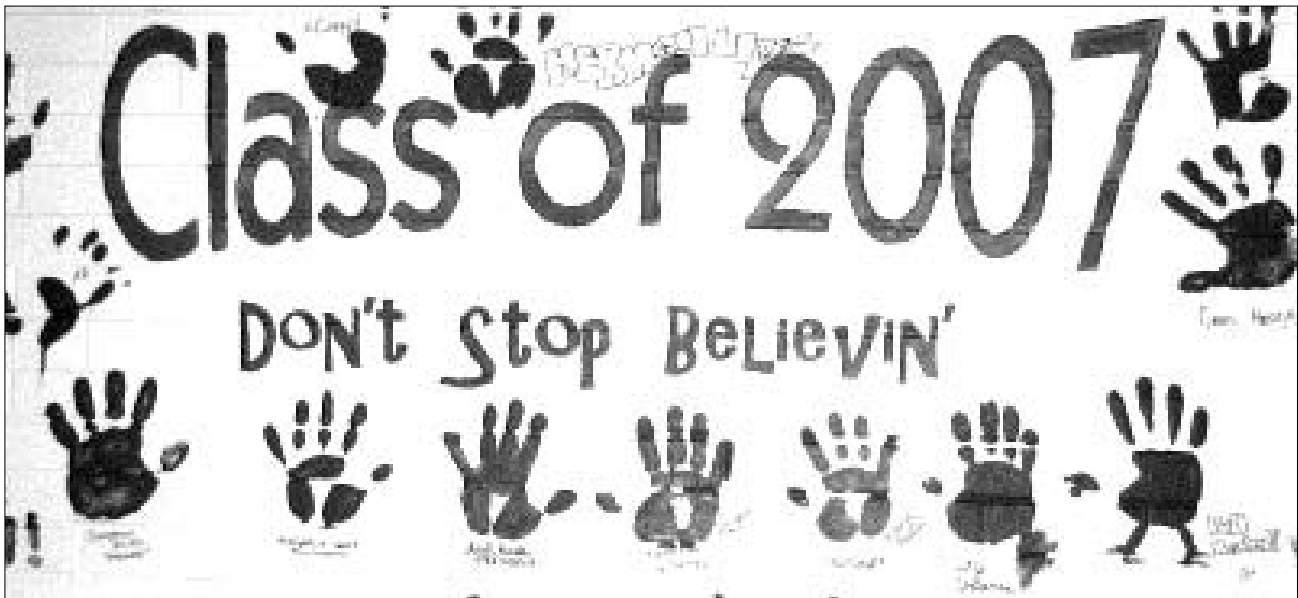


Photo: E. Mancuso

Students in the Class of 2007 were able to literally leave their mark on the walls of Smithtown High School East this year.

Sponsored by the Senior Class Student Council, the mural fundraiser let students put a paint handprint and their signature on the hall leading to the Commons along the auditorium wall.

Initially, seniors paid \$3 to dip one of their hands in paint and leave a

handprint on the wall. However, after a few weeks Class President Leah Rotella decided to allow seniors to put a print on the wall for free on June 6. Students clamored to add their handprint and signature to the wall for the low price of free as they walked by after school.

In order to differentiate and create a more colorful mural, girls left red handprints and boys left blue handprints. Once they left the print, seniors got to

sign their names with a Sharpie marker on the wall. Several students decided to turn their handprints into turkeys or sign with nicknames.

Now, students from the class of 2007 can someday return to find their handprint on the wall, surrounded by the handprints and signatures of classmates and good friends thanks to the allowed graffiti.

Head to head

Smithtown gets into a jam at robotics competition

by James Brierton

1,000 students made up the more than 40 teams that came out to Hofstra University for the Long Island Regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Teams came together from across Long Island and upstate New York, and were also accompanied by a team from Indianapolis.

It started during the early morning hours of Friday, March 30, as Smithtown's Team 810, a combination of East and West students, began the qualifying matches with the final matches taking place in the next day. Smithtown finished Friday 2-6. "We didn't do that great because we had a lot of problems," said East senior Matt Quigley, Smithtown Robotics team president. "Something always seems to go wrong."

At 8 AM the following morning, work on the robot continued in Smithtown's pit. Smithtown dealt with their matches and "hopes for nationals" throughout the morning. In an interview before their 11 AM match, Quigley explained that their best bet to convince the district to allow them to go to the FIRST national competition in Atlanta would be by winning the regional competition. "This is our only

shot at [the national] competition." For the past year, the team has been fundraising \$15,000 for the regional competition, and would need to raise another \$10,000 if they decided to go to

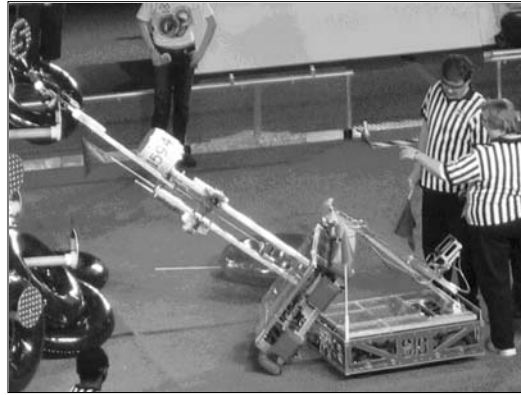


Photo: J. Brierton

The robot built by Smithtown's Robotic Team, one of 41 teams that competed in the FIRST competition at Hofstra, became jammed underneath another robot during a final round of the competition.

nationals.

Unannounced to East junior Pete Gibbons, the robot's driver during the 11 AM match Saturday morning,

Smithtown's luck was about to turn for the worst. During the match, six schools, allied in groups of three, fought to score points by picking up pool tubes and placing them on nearby hooks. At the same time, schools like Smithtown focus on defensive maneuvers. "We can push people around with ease," Quigley explained. However, no robot is a match for an unplugged radio receptor cable. During a kind move by Smithtown to free another robot that had become stuck, the wire from the radio receiver to the mainframe in Smithtown's robot came loose. For the remaining moments of the match, Smithtown was jammed beneath a fellow robot that was pinned on the cage holding the hooks for the tubes.

Smithtown would not leave Saturday without creating a name for themselves. During an early morning match, Smithtown accidentally split another robot in half. Smithtown was penalized for the destruction of another robot.

Smithtown's Team 810 can be found online at SmithtownRobotics.com. All are welcome to join.

Nuclear energy issue resurfaces

Indian Point applies for new license

by Jonathan Jacobs

It's located thirty-five miles north of New York City and is, more than likely, the most hotly contested and most talked about nuclear installation in the nation. It is the Indian Point Energy Center, a nuclear power plant located in Buchanan, New York.

Entergy Nuclear, the company which runs Indian Point, has just applied to extend the plant's licenses through to 2033 for one reactor and 2035 for another. The first reactor was first put online in August of 1974 with a license expiring in 2013 and the second was turned on in August of 1976 with a license expiring in 2015.

The facility produces approximately 1,955 megawatts of electricity and provides nearly a quarter of the electricity used by New York City and Westchester County. This, along with the fact that few new power plants are being built as demand continues to soar for power, makes it unlikely that the plant would be closed.

Should the plant be closed, it would be the first time the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission would do so. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's (NRC) regional administrator, Samuel Collins, said that Indian Point's performance

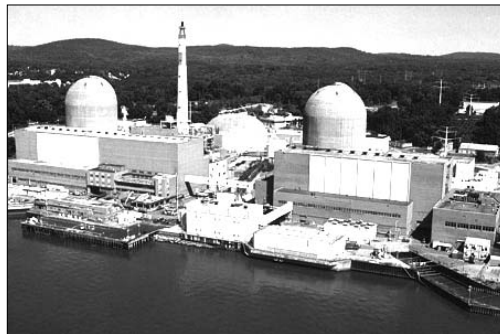


Photo: www.aaenvironment.com

Indian Point Energy Center hopes to renew its two operating licenses to 2033 and 2035 as its current ones are expiring in 2013 and 2015, respectively.

problems would not result in a denial of the license.

However, many New York politi-

cians have already spoken out against the facility. Chief among them is Senator Hillary Clinton (D). "Just about every week we pick up the local newspaper and find some other problem at Indian Point," said Clinton.

Those problems have included nine unplanned shutdowns since 2005, failures of the siren alert system and leaks of radioactive tritium and strontium-90 from pools of spent fuel. The spent fuel rods are easily the most dangerous aspect of nuclear plants, as there is little one can do to properly dispose of them.

Senator Clinton has put forth a bill that would make nuclear plant relicensing conditional based on the review of an Independent Safety Assessment. The ISA is rarely used, as it is expensive and time-consuming. Senator Charles Schumer (D.-N.Y.) has also stepped up to support the bill. A similar bill has been put forth in the House by Rep. John Hall (D), the Congressman for the district that houses Indian Point.

VIEWPOINTS

A series of fatal errors

Virginia Tech shooting could have been prevented

by Lauren Weiss

Over two hours elapsed. For over two hours, life went on without interruption for the approximately 25,000 students attending Virginia Polytechnic Institute. After an unknown gunman killed two people at 7:15 a.m. in one of the college's dormitories, the only response was to send out an email urging students to take caution. There was no lock-down. Classes, which did not begin until 8:00 a.m., were not cancelled. At approximately 9:45 a.m. on April 16, Cho Seung-Hui carried out the deadliest school shooting in United States history, killing 32 people before taking his own life.

Whether the fault be placed on one person or many, it is clear something went wrong between 7:15 a.m. and 9:45 a.m., and that very well may have been a matter of life or death for the 32 people murdered. Granted, one can never predict something this catastrophic will occur, the first shooting should have been a clear signal for the administration of Virginia Tech to take action. Instead, they neglected to err on the side of caution; instead, they chose to take a gamble and assume the incident was contained to just that one dormitory. Chalking it up to domestic dispute, the administra-

tors and security sent out nothing more than an email notifying students of the occurrence.

First of all, e-mail is the least expedient form of communication that could have been used in this day and age – especially at a university. Not only are college students mostly asleep so early in the morning, any students awake at the time the e-mail was sent were likely getting ready for class, eating breakfast, et

“...the first shooting should have been a clear signal for the administration of Virginia Tech to take action.”

cetera, not refreshing their inboxes. Administrators may as well have sent up smoke signals – that actually may have drawn more attention. As one security expert said on CNN, a system of text messaging could have been set up at the school, since it is a much more reliable method of communicating news quickly. If not text messaging, then phone calls to professors and students or at least to RAs in the dorms – anything would have been more efficient than e-mail.

Second of all, an immediate lock-down should have been put into place, and classes should have been cancelled for the day. Administrators were unwise

in their choice to continue the day as usual. Even if they had no reason to believe another shooting would occur – which was not the case, as the gunman was still at large – the memory of the two students killed in the dorm should have been honored. Students should have been allowed to grieve. Now, instead of grieving for two lost friends, they must grieve for 32.

Had a lock-down been put in place and authorities been put on alert, it is quite possible the events of April 16 would never have occurred. Parents would not be mourning the loss of their children; students would not be mourning the loss of their many friends; professors would not be mourning the loss of their colleagues. Of course, hindsight is 20/20.

Doubtlessly, no one will feel greater regret at the events of April 16 than those who made the security-related decisions. The regret they will live with for the rest of their lives is more punishment than any criticism or outright hatred they could ever receive in the days to come. Hopefully, April 16 will cause university security nation-wide to be increased so another tragedy of this magnitude will never occur again.

Don Imus was wrongfully fired by CBS

by Jonathan Jacobs

I am in no way trying to justify the words of Don Imus. I agree that what he said was tasteless and stepped over an innumerable number of lines. However, I do not believe firing Imus was the right thing to do.

Imus made a highly insensitive remark about a group of African-American women he barely knew. He was promptly suspended by his network for two weeks. I believed that this was not enough time. The suspension should have been at least a month long; however, before CBS had the opportunity to reflect on the moment and consider changing their position, Al Sharpton and Jesse Jackson decided to hop onto the issue and champion their opinions.

Let us not forget that this is the same Jesse Jackson who referred to New York City as “Hymietown,” and the same Al Sharpton who called for the immediate prosecution of the accused Duke rapists, a case where the players were recently exonerated.

It is important to note that a majority of Imus's corporate sponsors didn't leave the show until after Sharpton

and Jackson, two men who had no position in this affair, got involved. It was then, after the seven sponsors left the show, that Imus was fired.



Photo: MSNBC.com

Pictured above is former radio host Don Imus going on one of his famed rants. Imus was recently let go from his contract after making controversial remarks about the Rutgers women's basketball team.

To recap, CBS suspended Imus for two weeks. Sharpton and Jackson put their two cents in, sponsors left, and finally Imus was fired. It is clear to me

that had these two “leaders” kept to themselves and allowed the issue to settle itself, Imus would never have been fired, as it should have been.

In all honesty, what does the firing of Imus achieve? It isn't a lesson for anyone; people who would make racist remarks and tasteless jokes still will. It teaches no one anything. All it equates to is a slap on the wrist for someone whose life it won't really change anyway.

Had we let Imus return to the radio, his show more than likely would have died a slow death. People would slowly stop listening, the ratings would crash, and Imus would ride off into the sunset on his horse. There might have been a lesson there, the lesson being that sometimes one can cross the line, and people need to be careful of that; that someone can call another person a name or make stereotypes, but when he did that he didn't just offend that person, but everyone. There can be power of the people – it doesn't take name-calling and hatred to make a change, but simply switching the radio station.

POINT COUNTERPOINT

Marvel Comics vs. DC Comics

Many people know who Spiderman, the Incredible Hulk, and Wolverine are. However, Marvel Comics is more than that. It has an entire universe of characters, races, locales, and side stories. According to Marvel.com, there are actually over 5,000 characters total. Most of the characters' fame comes from the comic books, but they're also featured as videogames, movies, action figures, and numerous consumer products. However, there are many competitors, such as DC Comics, so why should one choose Marvel over the others?

There are many reasons why Marvel is a better company, but the most obvious reason is that it is simply more entertaining. Marvel comics are usually about people with super-human abilities. Some examples include having the abilities of different animals, super strength, and the ability to fly. Nobody wants to read a comic that imitates real life, because that would be boring; people read comics to escape the drudges of each day and jump into an extraordinary world of fantasy and adventure. Marvel excels in this with varied characters and exciting action. It uses many colors to enhance the scenes, and also has different kinds of text bubbles. The writers use many different fonts and word effects along with different styles of panel design and layout. The variety of the characters is vast, and includes mutants, dark heroes, light heroes, heroes that control fire, ice, lightning, and magnets, psychic characters, and almost anything imaginable. DC Comics does not have as much variety, and the characters do not strike as much awe from the readers.

Just before the beginning of World War II, before the name Marvel came about, the company was called Timely Comics. This is when characters such as the Sub-Mariner

and the Human Torch first appeared, followed shortly by Captain America. Not long after, the many well-known characters of today began appearing in the comics. This led to a boom in sales and kick-started the comic industry into what it has become today. Because of the initial creativity behind this first group of characters, Marvel developed into a powerhouse of comic entertainment.

One of the most notable writers of many Marvel comics is Stan "The Man" Lee.



Photo: Google Images

He started working for the company at age 19, 65 years ago. Lee is still famous today, writing new comics and creating new characters. He has created some original movies and even has his own TV show, *Who wants to be a Superhero?* Lee's characters and ideas have sky-rocketed the industry and delighted many readers.

Some of the most famous characters even have their own film and video game

adaptations. Movies that have the Marvel license include *Spiderman 1, 2, and 3*, *X-Men 1, 2, and 3*, *Daredevil*, *The Fantastic 4* and its sequel, *Elektra*, *The Hulk*, *Blade*, and recently, *Ghost Rider*. There have also been some animated movies using Marvel characters, such as *The Avengers 1 and 2*, which use many characters who fight as a team, and also *Iron Man*, which tells the tale of how that superhero became what he is. These further enhance the storylines of its characters, and it gives the viewer more material to connect with. They're full of action and suspense to make it just like the comics they're about.

There are also many Marvel videogames besides the ones created along with the movie releases. Most of the live-action movies have game adaptations, but there are also some side-story games that tell a different view. *Spiderman: Battle For New York*, *The Incredible Hulk: Ultimate Destruction*, and *X-Men Legends* are all games about the characters, but not the movies they are depicted in. Marvel even has some broader games, such as *Marvel Ultimate Alliance*, *Marvel Trading Card Game*, and *Marvel vs. Capcom 2*. These games are fun because they let you play as the characters you read about. DC doesn't have as many games that let you do this, so another point goes to Marvel.

With all the choices of media to use to join the Marvel universe, there's no reason not to hop aboard and start having some fun. All the characters, plot twists, and action greatly surpass DC's inferior comics. Just pick up a comic book and you will become hooked, exploring a vast universe of fun and excitement. Read away, worthy newcomers, and "Excelsior!"

DC ↓ by Eduardo Segura

Since the birth of comic books, DC heroes have been the icons of the progressive ideals that define the United States' identity. These classic heroes have been entrenched in popular culture, diversified into graphic novels, television, and modern cinema. The rivaling set of comic book heroes are Marvel veterans, each with a different moral motivation. The outcasts of Marvel's characters were born from social discrimination, and their stories were based around conflicts between the different characters' opinions and isolated events. However, the original concept of the hero lies with DC, which is the more elaborate and sophisticated comic book line.

The original Superman, the forefather of DC Comics, has become the archetype for the comic book hero. A fashioned costume, traditional moral values, and an array of special abilities were attributed to fellow heroes thereafter. The heroes of comic books were designed to protect the common citizen and defeat the usual criminals within society, as well as trademark villains famous for their creative style and ability to escape justice itself. However, their rival heroes in Marvel have a different vendetta. The characters in Marvel were often wrapped up in their own affairs, staying isolated from human

↑ Marvel by Bill Portoghese

society. Mutants often hide from the public and remain misunderstood, contrary to the exemplary heroes of DC Comics.

Ingenious complexity in comic books is something DC writers have been notorious for. As storylines began to evolve and contradict each other, writers needed a creative way to revamp the confusion in the different stories taking place in the DC Universe. The concept of the multi-verse, introduced by DC pioneer "The Flash," opened many new doors for creative storyline possibilities.

It was revealed that multiple Earths existed, and different versions of each character exist on different planes of dimensional existence. Many else-world storylines, not considered part of the official storyline, were created as creative shoot-offs of the theory. Classic graphic novels, such as *Red Son*, written by Marv Wolfman, which depicts the great American Icon Superman as a Soviet Hero, and *Kingdom Come*, by Mark Wait and Alex Ross, which attaches apocalyptic, biblical prophecies to catastrophic happenings, have been born from the opportunities created by the else-world theory. Most notable is the landmark series called *Crisis on Infinite Earths* as well as its sequel *Infinite Crisis* written by Geoff Johns and various artists, forever changing the fate of our longtime

heroes.

The character development seen within the pages of DC's comic books is the real catalyst for these great works of graphic literature. Many aspects of these characters compel the reader to relate to them and piece the puzzles together as internal conflict questions the very morality on which these heroes thrive. The isolated, secluded mind of the anti-hero Batman and Superman's desire to be the perfect role model for society both embody the parallels within each hero's consciousness. Other recurring themes, such as governmental restraints constantly put on these super-powered crime fighters, reflect society's growing friction between government and the public, and the interpretation of North American ideals.

As Superman said in *Infinite Crisis*, "It's not about where you were born. Or what powers you have. Or what you wear on your chest. It's about what you do...it's about action." Nobody actualizes this mentality better than the heroes of DC. Yes, Marvel has variety, vivid realism, a strong sense of originality, and a wide spectrum of mutant heroes. It does not compare, however, when analyzing the pages of perfectly-crafted stories about the world's finest heroes.

Making false assumptions

Security shouldn't search based on stereotypes

by Matt Cerami

Once again, Smithtown has been forced to endure gun threats and lockdowns. It's become a tradition that I believe many students hold dear. It has become an excuse to come in late due to back-up at the bag check or to simply miss school entirely. It seems that a year at Smithtown would not be complete without this ritual.

I was beginning to wonder myself about when it would happen – when the stereotypical teenager would see a blank space on the wall and become irresistibly tempted. Apparently finding it funny that 33 people died at Virginia Tech, one student decided to scrawl a threat on a bathroom wall following the Virginia Tech shooting. With nearly 15 school threats nation-wide after the events of Virginia Tech, it seems he or she wasn't the only one.

However, gun threats aren't the problem here. Smithtown students have all but welcomed the prospect of a school shooter, not being fazed by threats in any way, shape, or form. When the news of graffiti was announced over the P.A. system, it was the topic of conversation for about two minutes. After that, it was dismissed as a joke.

The problem that comes of such threats is the ever-popular "lockdown," a term that makes most students cringe. It's a term that keeps me awake the night before, as I await the horrors of the next day. (Hopefully, the weather will be nice.) Now, we've all experienced these procedures – there's no need to go into any amount of detail. However, in light of recent events I've come to discover a new problem that needs to be addressed.

It is no secret that security has a template of what a criminal should – and most likely will – look like. Stereotypes are running through the minds of us all, whether we'd like to admit it or not. I'm talking about profiling: racial profiling, ethnic profiling, and, in this case, social profiling.

Smithtown is no different from an airport. While the teeny-bopper fifteen-year old in front of me gets a glance over and a smile, I get my bag torn apart to the

*"Some people hold up the lines for twenty minutes, and others just get to walk right by."
– Junior Tom Matura*

point of looking for guns in my salami sandwich. Of course, it all starts with the suspicious looks I receive before I even make it to the table – that's always a fun experience in itself.

I don't know if it's my flaming skull t-shirts, my full beard, or my noticeably apathetic demeanor. Whatever the case, something is attracting more attention than is rightfully deserved. Last time I checked, I don't have a criminal record. I've never been suspended, and I've only been in trouble once in my high school career. I think that would be considered a clean record.

So, why all the attention? Why the suspicious looks and the bag ravaging? I don't recall any of these school shooters sporting a Metallica shirt and an

iPod blasting Machine Head. However, the fact that heavy metal music is often associated with criminals, rebellious teenagers, and violence, well, that appears to be reason enough. In fact, the Columbine shootings were blamed partly on heavy metal – Marilyn Manson, in particular. And why? Stereotypes: that's why.

Have you ever heard of a teenage girl executing such violent acts as shooting up a school? Probably not. So what's the result of this common knowledge? The result is that most girls aren't even asked to open their backpacks, let alone their pocket books. Maybe a simple tap on this side, a tap on that side, or maybe they're asked to open the small little pouch in the front, then a smile and they are free to go. It is simply assumed that a girl wouldn't ever shoot up the school.

Meanwhile, on the other side, anyone wearing black clothing, chains, spikes, band t-shirts, or beards are being searched rigorously – and by rigorously, I mean every pouch open, hands completely down to the bottom of the bag, and maybe a peak at what's for lunch.

"Some people hold up the lines for twenty minutes, and others just get to walk right by," said junior Tom Matura. "The extent to which the security guards look at kids differently is comical. It's a joke."

Whether done on purpose or not, the evidence of social profiling is right in front of our eyes. Every day we're fed images and standards, guidelines for society. To end with a little cliché, "don't judge a book by its cover." It's as simple as that.

Facebook trumps MySpace in online network-

by Lauren Weiss

At first, I was incredulous as to the value of Facebook. It appeared to be nothing more than another MySpace where people would share terrible pictures of themselves and post annoying "plz comment on mah pics" bulletins every five seconds. However, once I got into college I discovered Facebook is quite possibly one of the greatest tools on the Internet.

For those not in the know, Facebook is comprised of social networks spanning the globe. Much like MySpace, users "friend" each other, share photos, and leave each other comments. Communication primarily takes place through message boards and "The Wall," which is the space on users' profiles where people can leave comments. Users can also keep tabs on their friends by watching the "News Feed," which shows what the user's friends have been doing on Facebook.

Facebook is great for students

newly accepted to college because it allows them to connect with other members of their class and get an idea of who they'll encounter at college in the fall. Within a month or two of being accepted, 860 out of the approximately 1600 students in my class had joined the Facebook community for our class. Students can even discover potential roommates or meet up with future classmates by planning area events. After meeting up with about 20 of my future classmates through Facebook for bowling and Mexican food in New York City, I abandoned my cynical outlook on Facebook.

In addition to its many merits as a social network, Facebook also gives user the ability to "tag" other users in photos. If one posts a photo of a fellow Facebook user and tags it, that photo shows up in the friend's profile. This creates an endless web of shared photos and information between people, but photos

and information can be hidden by users in order to maintain privacy.

A big thing Facebook has that MySpace lacks is security. In order to join Facebook, one must be identified by someone already on Facebook as being part of a certain network, i.e. Smithtown High School East. Of course, people may lie about knowing someone, but this attempt at screening new users is something MySpace doesn't have.

MySpace does, however, have an entire musical side to it that Facebook lacks. The music scene can still be found in communities on Facebook, but recordings like those by artists on MySpace are not available.

Overall, Facebook is a much cleaner, nicer approach to online social networking, especially for pre-"frosh" and college students wishing to meet up with other members of their class.

SENIOR FAREWELLS

What I wish I knew

by Elizabeth Mancuso

I guess I'm supposed to say that I've grown up and learned oodles of good things about life and academics for the past four years of my life. Well, you're right on the academic part. I can recite the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet* and calculate the final velocity of a frictionless object traveling for five seconds with an initial velocity of 0m/s and an acceleration of 3m/s^2 .

I can't really preach to you about life, though, since I've only been on this planet about 17 years, which isn't even a dent in time. If anything, I've learned how to deal with the pre-college experience of leaving friends, and that chilling at Cool Beanz with a Mocha Beanaccino with these soon-to-be-lost friends is a good way to forget about it.

The classes of '07 and '08 have dealt with being the cutoff years for the school split, which impacted me significantly. My best friends all went to West, and coming here to East forced me to make new friends, which turned out to

be awesome. I've met new people from all grades and kept my social life with my old friends at West, while somehow maintaining a 4.0 GPA in school. Hopefully,



Photo: L. McCabe

this is what college will be like, except on a much larger scale.

College is about pursuing your individual interests and finding your niche in the real world. I am about to leave my comfort zone of high school for

good, but I have been greatly prepared for this moment. If I were to make any suggestions to the underclassmen, they are as follows:

Get a job, but not at Waldbaum's. Don't fail your road test multiple times.

If you do fail your road test multiple times, don't take advantage of your friends who do have enough common sense to know how to drive.

Don't take your social life too seriously – you won't see most people in your class for the rest of your life, anyway.

Be nice to your teachers. (You have to devise a plan to get them to write letters of recommendation somehow, and this is probably the best way.)

Lastly, in between all the college applications, FAFSA forms, letters of recommendation, scholarship applications, transcript request forms, and fights with the College Board for them to send out your SAT scores on time, find some time to breathe.

Good luck!

Growing old with Smithtown

by Jonathan Jacobs

I'm getting too old for this. Too many times people have told me that I act old for my age. When I was organizing the DECA golf outing this year and people spoke with me on the phone, they assumed I was in my mid-40s before I explained I was from high school. In addition, my aged personality has led to my status as the unofficial "DECA Father." There, I am working through a tumultuous marriage with three children.

As further proof of my agedness, I need look no further than a recent exchange with a female cashier in Disney World. While purchasing a bottle of Diet Pepsi and a King-Size Snickers bar, one of my more intellectually disadvantaged children asked the cashier how old I looked. Her response was that I was probably in my mid to late 20s. WHOA! Given that I hadn't shaved for about a week, I could understand maybe saying that I was 19 or so, but LATE 20s?!

To further my case, I attended a performance of *Les Miserables* in December with four friends. Whilst there, a man sitting behind me tapped

me on the shoulder and inquired if my *wife* would be willing to give him her ticket stub. Besides the sheer ridiculousness of his query, I was floored that he thought



Photo courtesy of Leah Rotella

I was actually married. For God's sake, I was wearing a jacket that said Smithtown High School East on it!

So, as I sit here wondering how I got to be this blazer-wearing, old-speaking, fatherly teen, I find it only logical to conclude that my agedness is a result of my years here at Smithtown High School.

This institution has provided me with the tools necessary to evolve from a nerd who roamed the hallways in too-short pants with a novel in one hand and some sort of food in the other, into a fashionable nerd who can interact with mainstream society. While it may seem corny, it is the honest truth. Sometimes we don't want to give it credit, but this school has had its own way of influencing each and every one of us to develop and mature into different people, and I couldn't be grateful enough for that.

Thus, as I spend my last nostalgia-ridden days walking the hallways of our school, I find myself unable to say "farewell." I can't simply wave goodbye to four years of my life, as opposed to the hours of my life I waved goodbye to when I watched *The Spongebob Movie*. The truth is that we can never say goodbye, because what happened within these walls will stay with us forever. I will continue walking these halls for the last of my days, soaking in the last bits of enjoyment that I can, and will walk away giving thanks for what I take away: a new me.

I hate goodbyes, so this isn't good-

by Enrico Purita

I've never been good with goodbyes. Correction: I'm terrible with goodbyes. As a matter of fact, the signing of yearbooks at the end of the year is something that I am dreading. I'm not even looking forward to graduation - I've just never thought anything should be that definitive. After all, it's never really goodbye until one keels over and dies, and if you're Buddhist even then it's more like "see you later in the next life." So even though this article is about how I can't wait to leave, I refuse to say goodbye.

There are many negative things that I could say about the school - especially the administration - but this isn't the forum to dwell on details that are left for the rest of the student body to cynically discuss.

Instead, after four years of high school, I feel like a better, well-rounded individual. As a matter of fact, even our strict administration and some of the policies here that I enjoy least have helped me in figuring out more about myself. Often times, differences in opinion cause us to strengthen

our identity.

I am going to Bard College in the fall. Bard is a small, competitive liberal arts college known for its lenient admin-



Photo courtesy of Elise Fariello

istration and a president who gives students optimal creative freedom. So while I still feel that a stronghold over the student body is not the proper way to run a high school that is supposed to prepare students for the real world, I am still con-

tent with what I have taken from the experience.

After all, we are what our experiences teach us. In these four years, I have had many incredible, defining experiences. Not all of them have been positive, mind you, but they have all had positive effects on my personality. Jimi Hendrix asked, "Are you experienced?" Well, I am.

It's hard to stick out these days in high school. Those who talk a lot and those who remain silent stand out the most - the ones in-between essentially disappear. This has become one of my biggest fears. I don't want my ideas, my persona, and my mark on the earth to disappear. My biggest hope is that I won't disappear, but I shouldn't even worry about this. I've looked out my window and I've seen that my life was turning a tide. I'm content. I'm happy.

This may not be the best senior farewell article you'll read - actually, it's far from it. After all, I said I was bad with goodbyes. So I won't really end this article on a very definitive note. So, there.

Crime and punishment

by Joanna Vergara

Smithtown has been home to me for all of my life. I have gone through all my years of elementary school, middle school, and high school with the same people, and now I am going to graduate with them. Honestly, I never did actually like this place; each year I would dread having to come back and deal with another year of high school, but now that this is my last and final year of high school, I actually almost want to come back.

To leave a place where you have gotten so comfortable, and know better than the back of your hand, and know the people, is one of the largest steps in life. I am going to be going to one of the biggest colleges in the United States, and it is impossible to know even a quarter of the school population.

Being a senior is always fun. You get to know that you're going to graduate, and that you're the oldest in the school, but along with all the fun, it's a lot of stress. The stress of this school, the worries of report cards, and wondering if I will get along with my teachers, or even how many detentions I will be getting - this is exactly what I will miss. It is almost as if those were the

things I looked forward to. I looked forward to how if I got in an argument with a teacher, I would fight back. Of course, I'd most likely get detention, but at least I knew that I stood my ground. Then



Photo courtesy of Lauren Weiss

there were the times I would ask friends if they wanted to ditch school, and then cut through the wood trail in the back at West.

As stupid or ridiculous as it may sound, all those things were what made high school fun. Knowing that anything

I did wrong might get me into trouble, and I would have to get myself out of it was a big part of the experience. If I had problems with a teacher during the year, I reveled in how much fun it would be to mess with them and make the year better for me. All those things made these slow passing years a little bit more bearable.

Even though I know I am going to miss being able to get my mom to call the superintendent of the school and get my F in gym changed to an A, I still look forward to senior count down, getting my last yearbook, senior prom, and my graduation. Of course, I will also miss the place I used to dread with each passing year.

In four months, I will be off to college, studying the major of my choice, and meeting people that I haven't known since elementary school. As I am off learning in a different state, I will look back on my years at Smithtown High School - West and East; I will think of the good and the bad times, and know that those were the times that made me grow and change into the person I am now; those were the best times of my life.

SHS WEST CLASS OF 2007 DESTINATIONS

Compiled by The Bull's Eye Editor-in-Chief Katie Whelan

Aiello, Jessica	School of Visual Arts	George, Jenna	SUNY Stony Brook	Moriarty, Alissa	Suffolk Community College
Alestra, Angelica	Hofstra University	Giuffre, Heather	UNC Chapel Hill	Morocco, Robert	Suffolk Community College
Anthony-Scaturro, Chris	SUNY Binghamton	Giunta III, John	SUNY Old Westbury	Moschinger, Anthony	Briarcliffe College
Anton Jr., Dominic	University of New Hampshire	Glaser, Harrison	SUNY Stony Brook	Mule, Francis	Rochester Institute of Technology
Apoznanski, Theresa	New York University	Glassberg, Ross	SUNY Oswego	Murphy, Brittany	Dowling College
Audus, Catherine	University of Scranton,	Glick, Michael	SUNY Stony Brook	Nickel, Samantha	Suffolk Community College
Auricchio, Chris	Florida State University	Gluck, Michael	CUNY Hunter College	Niyazov, Aleksandr	Suffolk Community College
Austin, Arielle	SUNY Buffalo	Gordon, Kristen	Villanova University	Nocero, Mary-Ellen	Wake Forest University
Badillo, Andrea	Arizona State University	Graham, Aaron	Cornell University	O'Carroll, Stephanie	SUNY Farmingdale
Barron, Sean	SUNY Albany	Gray, Crystal	Kent State University	O'Connor, Richard	SUNY Purchase
Barry, Liam	Hofstra University	Graziano, Kimberly	Marymount Manhattan College	Oaks, Kaitlyn	SUNY Geneseo
Basaran, Zeynep	Cornell University	Greco, Andrew	Suffolk Community College	Olivieri, Elizabeth	University of Maryland
Bebee, Megan	SUNY Plattsburgh	Grizlo, Michael	Suffolk Community College	Ottosen, Mark	University of North Carolina
Becker, Rachel	SUNY Environmental Science and Forestry	Gros, Alexis	Suffolk Community College	Pagan-Rosas, Eric	Suffolk Community College
Behrens, Kenneth	Gettysburg College	Gurney, Joseph	Suffolk Community College	Page, Samantha	St. Joseph's College
Belfiore, Brett	SUNY Oneonta	Guttman, Benjamin	CUNY Baruch College	Pannell, Robert	Quinnipiac University
Belli III, Richard	Suffolk Community College	Hart, Ryan	Vassar College	Parveez, Bisma	Nassau Community College
Benay, Steven	Cornell University, NY"	Harvey, Seth	SUNY Stony Brook	Paulson, Nicholas	Suffolk Community College
Bennett, Brittany	SUNY New Paltz	Haviland, Brittany	SUNY Farmingdale	Pavacic, Emily	Adelphi University
Bennett, Matthew	Manhattan College	Hayes, Jennifer	Suffolk Community College	Pellegrino, Andrew	SUNY Cortland
Bergman, Michael	SUNY Oneonta	Heimerle, Lisa	Siena College	Penner, Yvette	Cornell University
Berlangero, Lisa	Roanoke College	Hein, Kenneth	York College of Pennsylvania	Pergine, Jesse	SUNY at Buffalo
Berntson, Matthew	SUNY Maritime College	Helfgott, Joshua	SUNY at Binghamton	Perri, Scott	Drexel University
Boll, Robert	SUNY Stony Brook	Henaghan, Pamela	Flagler College	Peshler, James	Hofstra University
Brennan, Matthew	Suffolk Community College	Heuschneider, Kristen	SUNY Cortland	Petrucci, Matthew	SUNY Binghamton
Broome, Jennifer	SUNY New Paltz	Hlinka, Lisa	University of Delaware	Pierce, Danielle	George Washington University
Brown, Christine	SUNY Cortland	Hoffman, Matthew	University of Maryland	Plank, Cassandra	SUNY Purchase
Brown, Matthew	Clarkson University	Holst, Daniel	University of Connecticut	Pollicino, Mary	University of Dayton
Brown-Arkah Jr., J	Suffolk Community College	Hora, Robert	Suffolk Community College	Pope, Jillian	James Madison University
Buonaiuto, Daniel	Suffolk Community College	Hung, Victoria	Harvard College	Pulito, Ashley	University of Delaware
Butindari, Christina	College of St. Rose	Hunsucker, Matthew	Adelphi University	Ramirez, Stephanie	Suffolk Community College
Buttenhoff, Danielle	Suffolk Community College	Ida, Stephanie	SUNY Farmingdale	Re, Ashley	University of Maryland
Camanzo, Geoffrey	SUNY Geneseo	Imbriano, Alicia	Suffolk Community College	Reda, Andrew	Suffolk Community College
Campana, Anthony	Suffolk Community College	India, Melissa	Suffolk Community College	Redman, Nash	SUNY Farmingdale
Cartwright, Kristina	SUNY New Paltz	Jacobs, Casey	SUNY Buffalo	Reinesch, John	Suffolk Community College
Casely, Robert	SUNY Cortland	Janes, Heather	Wentworth Institute of Technology	Riccio, Eddie	Suffolk Community College
Castelli, Steven	SUNY Agriculture and Technology	Jankow, Cory	SUNY Binghamton	Rinaldi, Rocco	Suffolk Community College
Castillo, Eugenia	Suffolk Community College	Jankow, Matthew	University of Vermont	Rinker, Justin	SUNY Purchase
Castillo Jr, Damien	SUNY Farmingdale	Johnis, Christopher	Quinnipiac University	Riportella, Philip	Providence College
Cervo, Kathleen	Villanova University	Jordan, Alison	SUNY Stony Brook	Rizzitano, Seth	C. W. Post University
Champey, Lauren	California State University	Joseph, Daniel	Loyola College	Rogan, Kelly	Alfred University
Charles, Alexis	SUNY Stony Brook	Kamena, Lauren	University of Hartford	Roman, Louis	Nassau Community College
Chen, Michael	New York University	Kane, Danielle	Bucknell University	Romano, Maria	Suffolk Community College
Choonawala, Taha	Nassau Community College	Kasman, Rebecca	University of Delaware	Ruppel, Marissa	University of Vermont
Christenson, John	Suffolk Community College	Kelly, Michael	Coastal Carolina University	Russ, Kristen	Iona College
Cicero, Nina	New York Institute of Technology	Khan, Daanyaal	SUNY Farmingdale	Ryan, Lauren	University of North Carolina
Cimino, Mark	Suffolk Community College	Khan, Hibah	SUNY Farmingdale	Salta, Jennifer	SUNY Purchase
Cipolla, David	Suffolk Community College	Kinnaman, Mary	SUNY Albany	Sangesland, Andrew	SUNY Albany
Citro, Alisa	Dowling College	Kirchner, Dana	King's College	Sartain, Timothy	Suffolk Community College
Coleman, Michael	Coastal Carolina University	Kirdahy, Christopher	Suffolk Community College	Scarlo, Brianna	University of Pittsburgh
Coles, Abby	Towson University	Kirk, Marcus	St. Joseph's College	Schade, Thomas	Suffolk Community College
Cooper, Lindsay	SUNY New Paltz	Komyathy, Danielle	SUNY Oneonta	Schneider, Leeanna	Suffolk Community College
Cosentino, Cristina	University of Delaware	Kremer, Christopher	SUNY Stony Brook	Schulman, Christ	Suffolk Community College
Costidis, Marie	Dowling College	Kurot, Rebecca	SUNY Farmingdale	Schumacher, Justin	University of Rhode Island
Countryman, Sara	SUNY Oneonta	Labella, Nicholas	Suffolk Community College	Scott, Kyle	Cornell University
Culver, Jeffrey	Brandeis University	Lacci, Kayla	University of Delaware	Scully, Sean	SUNY Oneonta
Culver, Robert	Brandeis University	Ladouceur, Kimberly	Marist College	Seder, Nicholas	Suffolk Community College
Curnan, Casey	Barnard College	Lahann, Cory	SUNY Oneonta	Seitz, William	Suffolk Community College
Daniels, Kristen	Suffolk Community College	LaRosa, Danamarie	C. W. Post University	Shapiro, Samantha	Katharine Gibbs School
Dantes, Kishna	Suffolk Community College	LaRossa, Grace	Hofstra University	Sherland, Laura	Bryant College
David, Adam	SUNY Albany	Lawler, Karen	Suffolk Community College	Sibley, Eric	Full Sail Real World Education
Davidson, Brian	Liberty University	Leahy, Conor	SUNY Oneonta	Sickle, Kayla	Suffolk Community College
Davis Jr., William	SUNY Maritime College	Lefkowitz, Shaina	Bentley College	Silver, Amber	SUNY Farmingdale
DeBellis, Christina	Quinnipiac University	Leftenant, Arielle	SUNY Cortland	Silvestri, Britni	East Carolina University
DeLeon, Giovannella	Suffolk Community College	Leon, Christian	Mount Union College	Simone, Amanda	Siena College, NY"
Deletrain, Marina	SUNY Stony Brook	Leslie, Amy	Suffolk Community College	Smith, Carolyn	SUNY New Paltz
DeGiudice, Samantha	SUNY Albany	Lesnoy, Justin	SUNY Albany	Snyder, Christopher	Suffolk Community College
Deluca, Michelle	SUNY Buffalo	Liantonio, Alexa	Suffolk Community College	Sokol, Christopher	C. W. Post University
DeMato, Samantha	Paul Smith's College	Lichtman, Anthony	Suffolk Community College	Spro, Alana	Central Connecticut State University
Desimone, Alexandra	Parsons School of Design	Lipman, Victoria	C. W. Post University	Stefurak, Matthew	University of Delaware
Diehl, Danielle	SUNY Cortland	Lopez, Meredith	SUNY Farmingdale	Stofenberg, Amy	Suffolk Community College
DiFiore, Gina	Suffolk Community College	Lowe, Elizabeth	SUNY Farmingdale	Sung, Yee	Suffolk Community College
DiGiacomo, Travis	Quinnipiac University	Luizzi, Anthony	Suffolk Community College	Superina, Kristen	Towson University
Dimech, Erin	University of New Hampshire	Macaluso, Rachel	Suffolk Community College	Suris, Jamie	Sacred Heart University
Dineiro, Aimee	College of William and Mary	Macker, Christopher	SUNY Stony Brook	Sutera, Laura	University of Delaware
DiRocco, Marisa	Penn State University Park	Macri, Nina	Suffolk Community College	Szybillo, William	Siena College
Ditroia, Nicholas	Nassau Community College	Madarasz, Matthew	C. W. Post University	Tanna, Anand	SUNY at Stony Brook
Doupe, Travis	Suffolk Community College	Madarasz, Michael	SUNY Geneseo	Temkin, Kyle	SUNY at Binghamton
Drwal, Dominic	Eastman School of Music	Maggio, Kristen	Mount St. Mary College	Tenreiro, Lisa	St. Joseph's College
Drwal, Grace	Suffolk Community College	Maiello, Kaitlyn	SUNY Stony Brook	Tepedino, Dana	Suffolk Community College
Duenas, Matthew	Suffolk Community College	Maier, Matthew	Suffolk Community College	Thai, Jennifer	Seton Hall University
Duffy, Megan	Briarcliffe College	Mandemaker, Chris	SUNY Binghamton	Tibett, Max	SUNY Oswego
Dyckman, Danielle	SUNY College at Oneonta	Manuzzi, Alyssa	SUNY Plattsburgh	Tierno, Gunner	Nassau Community College
Eckert, Stefanie	New York Institute of Technology	Manzo, Nicole	SUNY Buffalo	Toben, Cassidy	SUNY Binghamton
Edwards, Bryan	Wake Forest University	Marin, Alison	Suffolk Community College	Torres, Angela	Suffolk Community College
Endera, Nataly	Suffolk Community College	Marley, Rachel	Northeastern University	Toscano, Michelle	University of Notre Dame
Eng, Michael	University of Scranton	Martin, Brendan	Columbia University	Trezza, Francis	Hofstra University
Eits, William	Wagner College	Martinsen, Kathleen	James Madison University	Tringali, Katelyn	SUNY Farmingdale
Falese, Michael	Suffolk Community College	Martone, Patrick	Suffolk Community College	Troy, Katherine	SUNY New Paltz
Falzarano, Michael	CUNY College of Criminal Justice	Marzan, Christina	James Madison University	Tse, Nicole	SUNY Buffalo
Firestone, Elliott	Manhattanville College	Mascia, Nicole	Allegeny College	Tumbiolo, Eric	Virginia Polytechnic Institute
Fitzgerald, Meghan	Touro College	Mathieson, Jaclyn	SUNY Oneonta	Turner, Helen	SUNY Binghamton
Fodera, Leonard	Suffolk Community College	Mccann, Kaitlin	Suffolk Community College	Valentino, Laura	Hofstra University
Fox, Julie	SUNY at Farmingdale	McCann, Sean	Coastal Carolina University	Vaughn, Joseph	Suffolk Community College
Fox, Timothy	Suffolk Community College	McIlwaine, Samantha	Hofstra University	Vezer, Adam	SUNY Oswego
Frederick, Kimberly	Marist College	McKenna, Chris	Boston College	Viera, Marcela	SUNY Farmingdale
Fruauff, Marissa	Fordham University	Messina, Jillian	SUNY Geneseo	Viscoso, Anthony	Suffolk Community College
Fuschetto, Antonio	Suffolk Community College	Miller, Caitlin	University of Hartford	Vizzini, Paul	Pennsylvania College of Technology
Fusco, Kerry	James Madison University	Minerva, Nicholas	Suffolk Community College	Wagenhauser, Emily	SUNY Geneseo
Gardella Jr., Joseph	SUNY Oneonta	Minicozzi, Jaime	Suffolk Community College	Weber, Matthew	SUNY Buffalo
Gargan, Jillian	SUNY Binghamton	Mitchell, Teresa	Western New England College	Weglarz, Kristina	Suffolk Community College

SHS EAST CLASS OF 2007 DESTINATIONS

Compiled by The Matador Editor-in-Chief Lauren Weiss

SHS WEST (CONTINUED)

Weisman, Justin	St. John's University
Weitemeyer, Christyn	Widener University
Wester, Gail	SUNY Agriculture and Technology
Whelan, Katelyn	Loyola College
Wiener, Gabriel	Temple University
Wirth, Stephen	SUNY Oswego
Wisniewski, Kim	Villanova University
Zambrano, Kim	Suffolk Community College
Zhang, John	Suffolk Community College
Zhou, Albert	New York University

SHS EAST

Corey Adwar	University of Delaware
Eissa Ahmed	SUNY Stony Brook
Mujtaba Ali	SUNY Stony Brook
Matthew Alkon	Boston College
Patrick Anglim	Manhattanville College
Blair Apgar	University of Hartford
MaryGrace Apostoli	University of Richmond
Jillian Arato	Suffolk Community College
Domenica Arena	Suffolk Community College
Benjamin Astarita	York College
Amelia Balestrieri	Suffolk Community College
Gregory Azzara	Dowling College
Briana Ballis	Boston University
Heather Barker	SUNY Fredonia
Kevin Barnett	Johns Hopkins University
Dominick Barresi	James Madison University
Andrew Bellini	Embry-Riddle Aeronautical
Diana Bilello	James Madison University
Corey Blake	Suffolk Community College
Alison Boboris	University of Virginia
Timothy Bochicchio	Nassau Community College
Michael Bohenek	Suffolk Community College
Andrew Bohm	SUNY Stony Brook
Timothy Borbet	American University
John Botte	Bryant University
Sara Bradshaw	New York University
Katie Bremen	Lynchburg College
Christy Brendel	Suffolk Community College
Jessica Brett	Hartford School of Art
Gabriella Briffa	Carnegie Mellon University
Thomas Burke	Quinnipiac University
Kevin Butcher	Suffolk Community College
Lauren Calado	University of Delaware
Kimberly Caracciolo	Suffolk Community College
Michael Cardillo	SUNY Albany
John-Paul Carroll	U.S. Marine Corps
Meghan Caulfield	Mary Washington College
Michelle Chartoff	Suffolk Community College
Vincent Chiarelli	Suffolk Community College
Taylor Chianenza	James Madison University
Amanda Chisholm	SUNY Farmingdale
Matthew Christy	Hofstra University
Deborah Ciccarelli	Mercy College
Kathleen Clark	Suffolk Community College
Stephen Clay	Adelphi University
Derek Cleveland	SUNY Stony Brook
Kyle Coffin	Potomac State College
John Colby	School of Visual Arts
Matthew Collins	Cornell University
Brittany Commins	University of Pennsylvania
Christopher Connelly	Northeastern University
Jennifer Contos	Lab. Institute of Merchandising
Allyson Cook	Rider University
Sarahbeth Cook	Marymount Manhattan College
Alexander Coymen	St. Joseph's College
Joseph D'Amelio	St. Joseph's College
Jessica Dante	James Madison University
Bryan Danzi	University of Massachusetts
Arka Das	University of Pittsburgh
Bryant DeFranco	Stevens Institute of Technology
Alyssa Delach	SUNY Geneseo
Christopher DeMarinis	Bentley College
Stephanie DeSimone	SUNY Stony Brook
Eric Deutsch	University of Miami
Kaitlyn DiGangi	James Madison University
Katie DiGennaro	Suffolk Community College
Alyssa Distler	N.Y. School of Interior Design
Lisa Donato	College Misericordia
Brian Donovan	Tufts University
Katelyn Ann Dore	Suffolk Community College
Kevin Doria	Nassau Community College
Mike Dovi	Suffolk Community College
Christine Doyle	Fashion Institute of Technology
Michael Dray	University of Rhode Island
Corinne Dumonceau	North Carolina State University
Kevin Dwyer	U.S. Merchant Marine Academy
Monique Edgar	Long Island Beauty School
Bryan Edwards	SUNY Stony Brook
Paul Elis	SUNY Buffalo
Kara Engert	Suffolk Community College
Mike Evans	SUNY Oswego
Denise Faico	Suffolk Community College
Vincent Falcone	SUNY Geneseo
Elise Fariello	Skidmore College
Crystal Farooqi	Hofstra University
Rachel Feinstein	Monmouth University
Geoffrey Feldman	Four Seas Community College

Christina Ferington	Wagner College
Jamie Ferri	Wagner College
Paul Foerth	Messiah College
Sam Friedman	Bucknell University
Briana Fusco	Suffolk Community College
Noelle Gajeski	Suffolk Community College
Chris Gallo	SUNY Binghamton
Jacqueline Garguilo	Sacred Heart University
Stephen Garipey	Marist College
Tom Garipey	St. Joseph's College
Stefanie Gelo	St. Joseph's College
Alexandra George	Full Sail University
Bridget Germain	Boston College
Debra Giulietti	Suffolk Community College
Amanda Gliwa	James Madison University
Bernard Goehle	Suffolk Community College
Travis Goehle	Suffolk Community College
Staci Gold	SUNY Albany
Samantha Graw	East Carolina University
Molly Greenblatt	University of Delaware
Kara Greenfield	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Catherine Grillo	New York University
John Guercio	SUNY Oneonta
Michael Gulotta	SUNY Geneseo
Kristin Hall	University of Pennsylvania
Philip Hall	University of Notre Dame
Ethan Hartman	SUNY Geneseo
Robert Hasho	SUNY Stony Brook
Kristen Hattenback	Tomkins-Cortland College
Greg Havranek	Hofstra University
James Heaton	Suffolk Community College
Rich Heaton	Hofstra University
Gregory Hedger	SUNY Binghamton
Chelsea Hoffman	Nassau Community College
Elizabeth Hogan	Marist College
Sean Holeywinski	U.S. Air Force
Ian Holst	Cornell University
Phillip Homberger	Providence College
Matthew Hull	Harvard College
Peter Imbriano	University of Rhode Island
Sameer Iyer	Brown University
Jonathan Jacobs	Georgetown University
Chris Juliano	Suffolk Community College
Annie Kalata	Long Island University
Daniel Kalata	St. John's University
Rebecca Kassay	SUNY New Paltz
Alexander Kielytyka	Boston College
Sara Kirdly	Fairfield University
Laura Knapp	SUNY Oneonta
Christopher Kopiske	Salve Regina University
Kenneth Korb	Suffolk Community College
Eric Kraus	Elon University
Joshua Lalo	Brandeis University
Tom Lauterborn	Northeastern University
Kayla Law	James Madison University
Stephanie Legarda	SUNY Binghamton
Robert Leone	Suffolk Community College
Jordan Licurse	SUNY Purchase
Lauren Lopreste	Fordham University
Matthew MacDonald	Binghamton University
Brian MacDougall	West Virginia University
Sara Makowski	College of St. Rose
Stephanie Makowski	SUNY Farmingdale
Robert Majuk	Suffolk Community College
Elizabeth Mancuso	SUNY Stony Brook
Kaitlyn Mannino	Cedar Crest College
Samantha Marcario	Boston University
Julianne Margiotta	Fashion Institute of Technology
Laura Marchese	Wagner College
Cassandra Mariotti	Suffolk Community College
Danielle Marsh	University of Texas at Austin
Matthew Martin	University of Connecticut
Eric Martinson	James Madison University
Kyle Martin	Monmouth University
Kimberly Marz	Dowling College
Anthony Marziano	ITT Technical Institute
Jessica Massaro	Suffolk Community College
Shayna McCready	Richmond University
Nicole McGann	University of South Florida
Matthew McGuire	Suffolk Community College
Lindsay McKenna	Johns Hopkins University
Morgan McLaren	SUNY Oneonta
Samantha McLaughlin	SUNY Cortland
Laura Jean McNeerney	Iona College
Carin McNiff	Siena College
Stephanie Merry	Savannah College of Art and Design
Alexander Mendolia	SUNY Farmingdale
Jackie Messina	Suffolk Community College
Shaun Mille	Suffolk Community College
Vito Minerva	C.W. Post University
Alison Minyard	Iona College
Jenna Modica	SUNY New Paltz
Julienne Mohammed	N.Y. Institute of Technology
Marc Monroe	SUNY Geneseo
Michael Moore	East Carolina University
Scott Murrah	Temple University
Deanna Onufrak	SUNY Farmingdale
Daniel Oriano	St. Joseph's College
Vincent Pagan	SUNY New Paltz
John Pagano	Five Towns College
Kelly Palmer	University of the Arts

Cassandra Panasuk	C.W. Post University
Abby Patterson	New York University
Amanda Pellechi	East Carolina University
Dale Pennington	SUNY Buffalo
Jessica Petrone	St. Joseph's College
Nicole Petrucci	SUNY Binghamton
Francis Piccirillo	Northeastern University
Anthony Pingerra	Vassar College
Alexis Pisano	SUNY College of Technology
Catherine Pizzano	Fordham University
Michael Porcelli	Hofstra University
Michael Pottetti	St. John's University
Stephanie Powell	University of Arizona
Nikolaos Prakas	SUNY Stony Brook
Joey Puleio	Five Towns College
Enrico Purita	Bard College
Paul Purrazzello	Suffolk Community College
Matthew Quigley	SUNY Stony Brook
Tania Maria Quinci	SUNY Stony Brook
John Rabal	St. Joseph's College
Jacqueline Ranft	Suffolk Community College
Allison Rapp	SUNY Binghamton
Rich Rapp	Boston College
David Reed	SUNY Albany
Amanda Rego	St. Joseph's College
Nicholas Rehfeldt	Suffolk Community College
Daniel Reinhardt	N.Y. Institute of Technology
William Reinhardt	SUNY Oswego
Stephanie Reinke	Philadelphia University
Maryann Ricci	SUNY Stony Brook
Michael Rodriguez	SUNY Albany
Leah Rotella	SUNY Albany
Kyle Rowe	St. Joseph's College
Jillian Rudman	University of Miami
Jason Rudy-Messiano	Suffolk Community College
Nicole Ruiz	Dowling College
Danielle Saggese	Towson University
Steven Saladino	Marist College
Joe Santosus	University of Delaware
Lauren Sawyer	St. Joseph's University
Meghan Scannell	St. Rose College
Christie Schenker	St. Joseph's College
Leni Schimpf	University of Maryland
Gregory Schmid	SUNY Binghamton
Kara Schoenig	Suffolk Community College
Meredith Schraner	Monmouth University
Erica Scodes	Fordham University
Daniel Selli	Cornell University
Justin Severini	York College
Meghan Shea	Williams College
Stephanie Sheridan	Suffolk Community College
Robert Simeti	Fairfield University
Brittany Smith	Suffolk Community College
Harrison Sokoloff	Hartwick College
Daniel Sollazzo	SUNY Oneonta
Dan Summerfield	Suffolk Community College
Jenna Spates	George Mason University
Teresa Spicciatie	SUNY Stony Brook
Michael Spofford	Hofstra University
Vincent Stilletti	University of Rochester
Amanda Strafer	SUNY Albany
Allison Stumper	Villanova University
Asim Syed	SUNY Binghamton
Tony Tariq	Suffolk Community College
Maria Tartaro	St. Joseph's College
Jessica Thorowski	SUNY Binghamton
Douglas Tienken	SUNY Albany
Gina Tomitz	School of Visual Arts
Bryan Valentine	Suffolk Community College
Amanda Varrone	Suffolk Community College
Nitin Varughese	SUNY Stony Brook
Richard Vazquez	SUNY Oswego
Cole Verderber	C. W. Post University
Joanna Vergara	Penn State University
Michael Videtto	University of Delaware
Laryn Vingiglio	SUNY Farmingdale
Courtney Vittoria	Arizona State University
James Wallmuller	Suffolk Community Honors
John Ryan Walsh	SUNY Binghamton
Lauren Weiss	Columbia University
Malora Winship	University of Delaware
Shane Wiszowaty	Suffolk Community College
Caitlyn Witkowski	Bryant University
Stephanie Wovk	Parsons School of Design
Thomas Yllanes	SUNY Stony Brook
John Young	Suffolk Community College
Elizabeth Zampogna	Suffolk Community College
Daniel Zeltmann	Slippery Rock University
Ping Zhu	SUNY Stony Brook
Gregory Zielinski	University of Delaware
Catherine Zimmerman	SUNY Buffalo
Alyssa Zimpelman	Suffolk Community College

The staff of The Matador made every attempt to account for every student in the graduating class, but some were unable to be contacted. We sincerely apologize for any omissions, and wish the class of 2007 the best of luck in all their future endeavors.

Nothing gold can stay

by **Samantha Marcario**

My senior year is finally coming to an end. And, just like the end of my other high school years, I'm stuck scuttling around to finish projects, elevate my grades just a bit more, write this article, and try to enjoy the last 18 days of high school that lay before me.

In the midst of all the hustle, it's difficult to stop and take a look around. Only 18 days left – three and a half weeks left until these familiar faces start to become just yearbook photos, and those become 'some kids I went to school with once,' until the classmates we've been with for four years become strangers at our ten-year reunion.

The past few weeks have been a pretty awkward experience: I'm stuck between virtually dying of senioritis and not wanting to say goodbye to the kids that I grew up with and the building that I've been in for years.

I look up at the probably 100+ pictures I have on message boards in my room, and I honestly can't remember taking half of them. Sure, there are some pictures with memories that I'd now like to forget, along with the pictures with people in them that I haven't spoken to in years. The rest, however, depict some of the best memories that I'll never forget: birthdays, last day of school, parties, etc.

Meanwhile, I have new pictures clogging up the hard drive on my computer. I really should replace the old pictures with the new ones, but there's something about taking a picture off the wall that makes me feel like I'm just disregarding my past. Whether I like it or not, those people and those places are a part of my life. I can't pretend like my life has always been how it is now, and it would be wrong for me to try. Especially

now, when my life is about to change and a whole new future lies ahead of me, it's probably a good thing – maybe the best thing – to remember my past.

I bet a lot of seniors have been



Photo: K. Perry

examining their pasts lately because we don't have a lot of time left here at East. Like everything else in life, we're realizing that we don't know exactly what we had, wish we had, or wish we hadn't done until it's all over.

Looking back, I wish I hadn't worn overalls until I was in sixth grade. I wish I didn't try so hard to look like everyone else, and drive my mother crazy buying new kinds of makeup to try. I wish I really listened when people tried to

give me advice. Now, I'm stuck kicking myself for having to learn tough lessons on my own when I know I could have avoided them.

I wish I appreciated the people in my life more. Only recently, I've started to really value my mentors, my best friend, and my parents. I kind of wish I appreciated myself more. My insecurities of having a big nose, knobby knees and pointy teeth blinded me throughout a good chunk of my life. It's not until I'm about to leave that I realize how completely unreasonable and thick I've been all these years, and I wish I had time to do it all over. It's funny how we always realize these things when it's almost too late – almost.

In a few months, we start over: new school, new people, new lessons, new pictures on the wall, and, undoubtedly, new regrets. But with all of the things we now know from this high school nostalgia, we have a new opportunity. We know that our past isn't something to run away from: it's something to learn from. We know the difference between right and wrong – well, some of the time. We know the things that really matter, and the things that don't deserve our time. We realize that these four years coming up are the final moments before we truly reach adulthood, which is probably the scariest, most thought-provoking idea for all of us.

I guess in the end we're leaving more than our handprints on the wall for a school fundraiser, and way more than the legacy of being the first graduating class. We're leaving the fights we had, the tests we failed, the laughter, and the pictures on the wall, all in the hopes that over the next four years we'll get something even better.

Important Senior Dates and Info:

Senior Countdown & End-of-Year BBQ:

Monday, June 11 at 1:15 p.m. on the SHS East football field
(Rain location is the gymnasium)

Tickets will be sold until June 8th during lunch periods in the Commons for \$10 each

Senior Prom:

Friday, June 15 from 6-11 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Wind Watch
(1717 Motor Parkway, Hauppauge)

All students and guests must arrive by 7:30 p.m.

Tickets will be sold on June 8th during lunch periods in the Commons for \$70 each
Required for ticket: "Library Clearance," Prom Contract, and a photo ID

Graduation Rehearsal:

June 21 at 11:00 a.m.

Graduation:

June 22 at 5:00 p.m. on the SHS East football field

FROM THE EDITORS' DESK

What a long, strange trip it's been Co-Editor-in-Chief Lauren Weiss says farewell to high school

When I was a little kid, I used to think a journalist was someone who got paid to write in her journal all the time. In middle school, I took a career test in home economics and it told me I'd make a good journalist, though perhaps not if I did what I used to think a journalist did. Strangely enough, that terrible test filled with generalizations was the best thing that ever happened to me – and I believe that may be the first mostly positive comment I've made about home economics on record.

If I hadn't forced my way into the journalism class my freshman year in order to pursue what I felt must be my destiny, I wouldn't have met the people who made high school worthwhile; I wouldn't have joined or run any of the clubs I've been a part of in the past four years; I'd probably be sleeping right now, as the clock ticks past midnight on a Wednesday, content to lead a stress-free life. And maybe that wouldn't be such a bad thing, but I doubt I'd be half as content as I am now – I certainly wouldn't be as successful.

There are many people who have completely changed my conceptions about who I could be since I entered high school. Mr. Shelley has continually been an inspiration and a guide via e-mail since I entered his class in ninth grade. Mr. Velocci – or, should I say, Mason Raige – encouraged me to be more than “the freshman” on the staff of *The Bull's Eye*. Mr. Hersh taught with the philosophy that students are people first – a teaching philosophy that is, unfortunately, being abandoned far too frequently in this day and age. There hasn't been a single teacher who hasn't influenced me in some way, and for that I am eternally grateful to all of my teachers, though I can't possibly mention them all

here. (Please don't fail me.)

Teachers are not the only ones who have influenced me. Brendan Price, my former Co-Editor-in-Chief at *The Bull's Eye*, has had perhaps the greatest impact of any peer on my future. If he hadn't scared me to death as a freshman with his insane knowledge of grammar, I might never have made it my goal to hone my editing skills and find a mistake in one of his articles. Alex Fumelli, another former Editor-in-Chief at *The Bull's Eye*, unwittingly taught me that a sense of humor is essential in journalism. Of course, I wouldn't be anywhere without my best friends, but I hope they know me well enough to know that without my having to give them a shout-out in *The Matador*.

Working for the school newspaper, I've met many interesting characters, whether they were writers or stories. I've been witness to scandals that were never allowed to be printed, and I've helped make sure the history of our school, however uneventful, has been documented. When the ceiling fell down, I was the one sneaking around the rubble trying to get a good angle for a photo. When an unfortunate hole was dug in our football field earlier this year, I was out there with staffers trying to get the custodians to lift up the tarp (they wouldn't). When *Extreme Makeover: Home Edition* came to town, I was the one

waiting two hours in the cold to get a five minute interview with one of the cast members. Whether for better or worse, journalism has been a defining experience. Without it, I'm not sure where I would be today; where I would be going to college; what I would be majoring in; who I would know; or what my career goals would be.

I may talk of how I hate high school and can't wait to leave Smithtown for the city, but that's all it is: talk. Sure, the future is looking absolutely incredible right now, but that future wouldn't exist if it hadn't been for my time here and the opportunities afforded me. So here is my bit of sage advice for this article: take advantage of every opportunity, whether it's offered to you or not. Fight for your future. Believe me, it's well worth the fight.

After four years, I am finally being forced to relinquish my power and move on from my beloved newspaper. I have felt truly privileged to be able to work with such brilliant people in my years at Smithtown High School, and I will not forget how they have shaped my future. Now, however, the time has come for me to say farewell and officially pass the journalistic torch to Lyndsay. To quote Dr. Seuss, “Don't cry because it's over: smile because it happened.”



Photo: E. Mancuso

ARTICLES!

Editor-in-Chief Lyndsay McCabe bids Mr. Hersh and the seniors adieu

I walked into Journalism this year not knowing what to expect, and I wasn't the only one. There I met Mr. Hersh, who was entering his first year of teaching Journalism. Lauren and I were quick to speak with him about the journalism program and get to know who we would be staying many a late afternoon with for layout. In between bombarding him with questions, I can recall us telling him that our goal was to get him to keep his job, as we did not want to lose a second journalism teacher.

Mr. Hersh was like no other teacher I've ever had – a teacher who treated his students like people and was both understanding and relatable. One thing that is reiterated in Journalism is to know your audience, which is important not just in writing, but in real life. Mr. Hersh was a Smithtown graduate himself, and he always made time to listen and give out helpful advice that came from his own experiences. I had a mentally and emotionally daunting year due to external circumstances, and I'm very lucky to have had him as a teacher to get me through it. He would be quick to cheer students up with a witty, amusing comment or observa-

tion, he could carry an interesting conversation on any topic, and he was a teacher I felt comfortable being completely honest with, and that made all of the difference.

When I received the news that Mr. Hersh was not returning to Smithtown East



Photo: E. Mancuso

next year, I fell apart. I had just reconciled with Ms. Neville's leaving and I had envisioned having him when I became a senior, and we frequently discussed plans to revamp the journalism class for next year. Much like last year, this is something I cannot grasp or rea-

son with yet, but it upsets me greatly.

Now that the year is ending, I realize that Mr. Hersh had twice as much confidence in his students as we had in ourselves. I can't even count how many times I've heard him say to our deputy editor, “believe in yourself, Kevin Perry!” Mr. Hersh was the drive behind the newspaper, pushing to meet every deadline and ship the paper off to the printers as quickly as possible. With this publication, I say with great sadness that we must retire Mr. Hersh's catchphrase that the Triple L (Editor-in-Chief Lauren Weiss, News Editor Liz Mancuso, and myself) loved dearly. No longer will there be someone to shout “ARTICLES!” with a slight lilt and smile sporadically during class, and no longer will the Triple L be the editing force of the newspaper.

I am incredibly grateful that I was able to meet Mr. Hersh and that I have so much I can take away from having him this year, including a new friendship. With that, I must also face the graduation of my seniors, especially my Journalism “partners in crime,” Lauren and Liz. Goodbyes are too difficult, so I will say farewell and wish you all the best of luck in your future endeavors!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

The Simpsons: TV screen to big screen A sneak peak at the highly-anticipated release

by Enrico Purita

As the trailers have proclaimed, it is "an event that is 18 years in the making." Since their introduction to the primetime world in 1989, *The Simpsons* have arguably been this country's greatest pop culture phenomenon. As the highly-anticipated July release date of *The Simpsons Movie* approaches, fans brace themselves for a film that will either drive the most popular television show ever conceived straight into the ground or further cement its legacy as the ultimate lesson in longevity.

The producers of the movie, Matt Groening, James L. Brooks, and Al Jean, have been with the show since its conception, and they know the extreme fandom of many *Simpsons* fans. Therefore, it is only natural that after three trailers have been released, still no one is sure just what this movie will be about. Fans have witnessed familiar scenes in the trailers, such as Homer choking Bart, Homer being chased by a mob, and Homer doing many other things that define his character. However, there is nothing in the trailers that suggests any sort of cohesive plotline, and James L. Brooks has even stated that, "We're going to put some fake plots out there, just to make it interest-

ing." Therefore, it is hard to get a sense of what exactly the movie will entail.

What fans do know is that basically the entire arsenal of characters that have made the show as deep as it is are

humor is. Originality has been sorely lacking in recent seasons of the show and is something that needs to be included in the movie in order for it to be considered a success.

One thing that fans can hold solace in is that all of the great producers, writers, and voice actors that have made the show what it is will have prominent roles in the movie. Mike Skully, Al Jean, David Mirkin, and Mike Reiss all have writing roles. Matt Groening, the creator of the show, and James L. Brooks, the man who realized its potential, will also have prominent writing roles.

Groening and co. have left the hungry *Simpsons* fan with very little to go on with regards to the movie. The teasers that have been shown have only served to leave the average fan craving for more, which is essentially what a teaser's intention is. One thing is for sure, and that is that one can most definitely expect a well-written and humorous film that will include a great couch gag and will be centered around a family that just about every American has come to know and love.



Photo: imdb.com

America's favorite cartoon family, the Simpsons, will be in their first feature length film debuting July 27.

expected to make appearances in the movie. This suggests that the movie will not be all that different from a typical episode. However, just like many of the new *Simpsons* episodes that have been aired, this could be either hit or miss.

One also gets the sense from the trailers that just as he has done in just about every season since season six, Homer will carry the bulk of the plotlines and quirky humor. Once again, this could backfire on the movie's creators depending on how original and fresh the

Simply "mindbottling" Ferrell and Heder deliver in Blades of Glory

by Elizabeth Mancuso

Directors Josh Gordon and Will Speck's new film can be described in one word: "mindbottling." *Blades of Glory* is 93 minutes of stupid humor coupled with hysterical skating routines to make for a very entertaining comedy.

The movie tells the story of two rival Olympic skaters, Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder) and Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell), who tie for the Olympic gold medal and, as a result, have a fist fight on the podium. Their fight leads to the stripping of their medals by the Olympic chairperson (William Daniels) and gets them banned from competing in ice skating for life. Years later, Jimmy's overzealous fan returns to Jimmy at his miserable day job to show him that there was a loophole in the system: he could still compete pairs.

As one may have predicted, Chazz and Jimmy team up due to Jimmy's coach's observance of their skillful chemistry while fighting with one another. This leads to extraordinarily funny



Photo: imdb.com

Ferrell and Heder deliver a hysterical performance on and off the ice in *Blades of Glory*.

scenes of the two practicing and doing their first skating routine - humor based on timing and stupid insults thrown between the two.

Jimmy's character greatly contrasts Chazz's, which is conveyed through his coach's comment, "you complain like a girl," and his answering machine's response to callers: "This is Jimmy. If you can dream it you can do

it!" On the other hand, Chazz has a dirtier character - sporting tattoos of his girlfriends, getting drunk all the time, and being just plain obnoxious towards Jimmy. The pairing of these two personalities is the basis of the humor in this movie.

There is an underlying subplot to the pair's unlikely decision. A long-time pairs team, Stranz (Will Arnett) and Fairchild (Amy Poehler) Van Waldenberg, is robbed of the media spotlight because Chazz and Jimmy are the first male pair in the history of the sport. As one would expect, both aim to break up the newly-formed pair.

Overall, the movie is very entertaining. Although it has the obvious plot line of friendship not being torn apart and the "unexpected" success of Jimmy and Chazz as a skating pair, this movie will leave you in tears at some points due to its hilarious antics. The ending is corny, leaving the audience asking "why is this happening?"

Metal goes psychedelic

Mastodon releases unique musical opus

by Matt Cerami

In August of 2004, four struggling musicians finally saw their dream come to fruition when they released the musical opus entitled *Leviathan*, a concept album based on Herman Melville's timeless classic *Moby Dick*. The members of Mastodon, an abstract and experimental metal band from Atlanta, Georgia, skyrocketed onto the music scene almost immediately. Their unpredictable and unconventional music struck a nerve with metal fans everywhere.

Because of their increased popularity, they eventually struck a deal with Reprise Records, a huge step up from the independent label they had currently been on. Many times when a band signs with a major record label, their music subtly changes to the sound of the mainstream. There are exceptions to this rule, and Mastodon is definitely one of them.

Blood Mountain, the band's third album, was the first to be released on Reprise Records, and is anything but mainstream. In fact, there isn't necessarily a category you can throw this one into. The album kick-starts with the ferocious opener, "The Wolf is Loose," and immediately the listener gets an idea of what's to come. Grunge-infested riffs pummel forth from the speakers, igniting a relentless assault of distorted guitars and psychotic drumming. This album is something one can appreciate from the get-go. The second the maniacal drumming enters the listener's head, it'll sound like absolute chaos, but after a few listens, one will realize the true magic of what's taking place. It's not just chaos, but

orchestrated chaos. Every note plays its part, and every beat carries the song.

This is where the album's versatility kicks into gear. With Brent Hinds and Troy Sanders sharing vocal duties, every song has a unique twist, as one sings with a clean voice and the other sings raspy and rough. They take advantage of these vocal talents by featuring various sections of amazing vocal harmonies that often become the climax of whatever song they're featured on.

With Brann Dailor behind drums, often executing rhythms so complex that they take the focus of the song, the guitars are left free to do whatever they please, which is exactly what it sounds like. One second the listener will be bombarded with crushing riffs, slow tempos, and sledgehammer-like power chords, and the next second the song will explode into a fury of high-paced guitar harmonies that show off the amazing musicianship of each member.

On songs like "Sleeping Giant," "Bladecatcher," and "This Mortal Soil," the band makes it apparent that they're going for anything but a contemporary metal album. They show off their love for the 70's psychedelic era as they delve into territories of funk-based riffs layered with solos that reek of B.B. King. "Bladecatcher" features an energetic array of blistering melody lines and layers upon layers of psychedelic sound effects that turn the vocals into nothing more than high squealing pitches.

"Sleeping Giant" and "This Mortal Soil" take things down a notch as they

venture into the land of 70's drug music. Droning acoustics usher forth relaxing blues melodies while light vocal harmonies and soulful guitar playing add color. They always return to their metal roots, but that isn't to say a transition from classic blues to technical death metal won't grab your attention nonetheless. The single off the album, "Colony of Birchmen," featured most of these elements, and was nominated for a Grammy for Best Metal Performance.

However, one thing that truly sets Mastodon apart is their lyrical creativity. Whereas most metal bands focus on social or political issues, Mastodon has decided to turn their attention to fictitious stories that are meant to entertain. Whether it be the concept lyrics of *Leviathan* based off of *Moby Dick*, or *Blood Mountain's* drug-induced journey through a fictitious jungle filled with mythological creatures, Mastodon has never ceased to captivate audiences with their obnoxious and outlandish lyrics. In reality, it truly adds to the psychedelic feeling that radiates from this album as a whole.

Being heralded as one of the best in 2006 by critics worldwide, Mastodon's *Blood Mountain* is truly a unique piece of artwork that will undoubtedly stand the test of time. They didn't settle for the contemporary metal album, and they've managed to produce something all their own - and probably something that no one will ever be able to recreate. *Blood Mountain* is an album for the ages.

The Shins stay consistent

Third album keeps old sound with a new audience

by Enrico Purita

The Shins have quickly ascended up the ladder of the Indie music scene to become one of the most respected and well-regarded underground bands on the circuit. *Wincing the Night Away*, the group's new, infectious third album, proves to the rest of the music world that The Shins have quickly gone from that cool band featured in *Garden State* to one of the Indie scene's premiere musical acts.

Wincing the Night Away is an album built to cleanse the soul with everything from its artsy album cover to its relaxing pop hooks. "Sleeping Lessons" is an ambient opener that beautifully transcends the fine line between pleasant background music and intricate pop. "Australia" follows as one of the best Shins tunes to date. Its upbeat melody carries the song along with the banjo and the layers of musical texture that have become the Shins' trademark.

"Phantom Limb," the album's first single, contains a constant drum beat that leads the song to an explosive chorus.

The rest of the album follows much of the same formula, as the Shins continue to polish their ambient sound through beautiful pieces, such as the psychedelic "Sea Legs" and the bubblegum pop of "Girl Sailor."

All in all, the album sometimes risks having its tracks sound too similar to each other. While the Shins have clearly outlined their trademark sound, they have been very reluctant to venture from it through their three albums. However,

they have been able to hide this lack of musical exploration through their incredible affinity with their current sound.

Wincing the Night Away does not contain any track as "life-changing" as "New Slang." However, the Shins have put together another solid effort built around their ambient sound. They have made it easy for any

fan of ambient pop to put on this album after a long day, light some candles, and wince the night away.



Photo: mp3.com

The Shins continue with similar work, but miss the mark established by New Slang.

Disturbia just an average suburbia

New DreamWorks picture does not meet its hype

by Bill Portoghese

The movie is about a teenager, Kale (Shia LeBeouf), who punches his Spanish teacher and, as a result, is placed under house arrest. He must wear a tracking device on his leg and cannot go further than 100 feet from his front door or else the police will come.

This movie starts off slow with him getting things taken away from his mom, Julie, (Carrie-Ann Moss) as well as Kale just living an average teenage life. When the new neighbors move in,

he discovers that they have a girl his age named Ashley (Sarah Roemer). They soon become friends, along with Kale's friend Ronnie (Aaron Yoo.) Everyone turns spying on the neighbors,

causes them to become specifically interested in one neighbor named Robert Turner (David Morse.) They become spies through their use of high tech equipment and cameras to uncover the truth. The

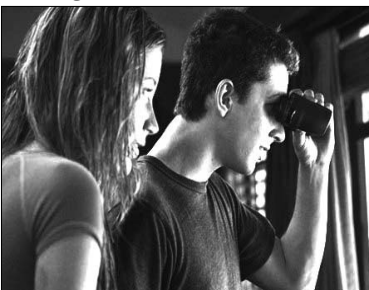


Photo: ocolly.com

three become involved in a mysterious plot, and then the adventure begins. The movie is pretty good, but has a cliché storyline - suspicious neighbor vs. a group of kids to hide his secret, and it's easy to guess the outcome. The action doesn't really pick up until the end of the movie, which is a disappointment since it is supposed to be a "thriller." Most of the story involves Kale's crush on Ashley and researching Turner's past with Ronnie. Another cliché is that they face movie

conflicts that are typical to the genre, like Turner flirting with Kale's mom, cops coming after Kale, and the public believing that Turner is innocent.

This film is easier to relate to than others because it's about average teenagers. The three live in suburbia and have normal lives, until everything comes crashing down. The music in this movie is mostly geared towards teenagers, but there are some curveballs thrown in for good measure. System of a Down's "Lonely Day," and Afroman's "Because I Got High" are just some basic ones, but oddly, "Lovin' You" by Minnie Riperton is played during a party scene.

Overall, this movie was somewhat thrilling, but only in the last 45 minutes. There are some great plot twists, but it has a predictable ending. *Disturbia* is an average movie, and there are better thrillers out there.

Wintersun goes "Beyond the Dark Sun"

Jari Maenpaa exhibits musical genius on latest album

by Matt Cerami

Hailing all the way from Helsinki, Finland, the brainchild of singer, composer, and guitarist Jari Maenpaa has finally come to fruition through the emotionally-charged and brilliantly composed debut album from Wintersun. The self-titled debut not only showcases the musical brilliance of the band's founder Jari, but puts on display some of the most highly-technical and emotional songs that have come out in the last twenty years. Although Wintersun does not have a solid fan base in the states, their debut album *Wintersun* has received critical acclaim from music reviewers all over the world, and it has boosted them to main-staging most major festivals in Europe.

Ranging from elements of death metal, black metal, melodic metal, and even "viking" metal, to folk, classical, and symphonic genres, Wintersun has created a unique combination of music that many struggle to categorize. On more than one occasion, composer Jari has ventured into the lands of his deeply-rooted Finnish culture and has written some beautiful acoustic folk segments that add color and life to songs such as "Starchild" and "Sadness and Hate." No matter what kind of music one prefers, any mature listener will be able to appreciate the songs and their emotional content, as well as their symphonic structure and technical composition. Every song features a full orchestra, and most of them are written in classical format - which is to say that there are movements

instead of the standard verse or chorus. There are only two songs shorter than seven minutes, and each movement brings out more and more emotion with every listen.

The big, epic, drawn-out songs are definitely the focal point of this album, but that's not to say that there aren't any all-out thrashers. The flashy and fast-paced opener "Beyond the Dark Sun" is a perfect example of not only Jari's godly guitar-playing abilities, but the speed at which Wintersun is capable of playing. "Winter Madness" has been heralded as one of the most technical recent guitar solos by musicians all over the world, and "Battle Against Time" doesn't slow down for a second.

In terms of vocals, it's amazing Jari doesn't receive more recognition. Ranging from Rob Halford-esque squeals in the extreme upper registers to low-down death metal growls, Jari has one of the best ranges in modern music today. Mixed in the middle of the two extremes are the breathtaking clean vocals, showcased in songs like "Death and the Healing," and "Starchild." They add so much to each and every song, and they give a perfect contrast to the harsh growls and screams. Never has there been more emotion portrayed by a single

vocalist. Whether he's screaming or serenading, Jari brings so much to the table in terms of vocals. Without them, Wintersun wouldn't be the same.

Their lyrics tend to focus on three main ideas, which include philosophy, death, and time. Needless to say, the lyrics - also written by Jari - are brilliant and could easily pass for classic literature. Through all the philosophical metaphors and portrayals of barren winter landscapes, these lyrics are chock-full of emotion; they couldn't fit in with the songs any better. The feelings of desperation and hopelessness can really be felt. Combined with the music, the lyrics create a monumental atmosphere that can engulf the listener at any time.



Photo: wintermadness.net

Wintersun is Jari Maenpaa's first attempt to break into the American music scene.

Wintersun has created something so special and so unique that it will be a wonder if they do not become respected as one of the most talented groups of musicians ever assembled. The lyrics, combined with the music and beautiful vocals, make for an extremely atmospheric and emotional album that has yet to be matched on the music scene. *Wintersun* is without a doubt one of the best musical creations to have surfaced in a long, long time.

Third time is the charm

Spiderman 3 web-slings to consoles everywhere

by Bill Portoghese

To go along with the blockbuster hit Spiderman 3, many video game iterations were released the same day, May 4. Since the movie was so hyped, the game was released on many different consoles. The development companies include: Treyarch for the PS3 and Xbox 360, Vicarious Visions for the Wii, PS2, PSP, and Nintendo DS, and Beenox for the PC and GBA. Each company handled the game differently for all the platforms and there are certain exclusives for each version.

The PS3 and Xbox 360 versions are the biggest of the bunch. They contain high definition graphics, spectacular special effects, a sprawling city, and a number of diverse storylines. Players take the role of Spiderman and mostly battle different villains from the comics. Kingpin, the Lizard, Rhino, and Scorpion are just a few, and they are fought in ten different plot lines. One of those plot lines is the actual movie itself, but it only contains three big missions each relating to a different movie villain. While it is fun swinging through a beautiful recreation of New York City containing all the famous landmarks, there isn't as much to do as fans would hope. Most of the game is playing through the stories, but there are also races, bomb defusing missions, and combat tours. The best feature of the game is the ability to play as the black-suited Spiderman. His punches

are more powerful, variety of moves are greater, and he can even slow down time to easily dodge attacks. A bad point of the game is that all the storylines don't really tie together and leaves the player with no real purpose. PS3 players though get the additional benefit of playing as the New Goblin himself, exclusively.

For the PS2 and PSP, the game also has a big city to explore, though it's not as big as the next generation versions. The combat is simple because players can just mash buttons and kill enemies, but there are advanced combos also for the player who wants to go more in depth. The Wii version is basically the same as these two, except one big difference. Because the Wii is motion sensitive, instead of just pressing buttons, the player can swing like Spiderman. These versions even have an exclusive villain pair, Morbius, the Living Vampire, and his wife, Shriek. The Nintendo DS version is also radically different than the rest, due to its hardware

capabilities. The city is still free-form, but the perspective is switched to 2D with third dimensional objects. Also, combat is handled by drawing different lines on



Photo: superhero hype.com

The video game for Spiderman 3 is a great addition to the movie and is sure to please comic, movie, and game fans alike.

the touch screen like a straight line for a punch or a half circle for a spin kick. The black suit for each game is all handled the same though, with players getting it after a meter fills up instead of at a certain part of the story like the next generation versions.

Finally, the PC version isn't anything special because it's just a port of the next generation versions. The Game Boy Advance though is its own game and is completely 2D, but it is still fun and plays well for the hardware it's designed for. No matter what system one owns, Spiderman 3 is a great game that can't be forgotten because of its minor flaws. If fans of the movie want to expand their experience, this is the best way to do it.

Lamb of God's controversial new

by Matt Cerami

It may not be apparent to most people, or even to the people involved, but in the last ten years a new wave of music has been rolling in. The New Wave of American Heavy Metal, named after its 80s counterpart from Britain, has been building up steam ever since the late nineties when "nu-metal" and grunge rock started to die out. Groundbreaking new metal had started to flow out of Sweden, Finland, and other Scandinavian countries, and good American metal bands were hard to come by. This is when the revolution started, and leading the charge was Virginia's own, Lamb of God.

After creating a reputation and strong following with classics like *As the Palaces Burn*, and *Ashes of the Wake*, Lamb of God had been dubbed the leaders of this new wave of metal. Many fans considered them the perfect heavy metal template, or "Pure American Metal." When 2006 rolled around, the word the street that LOG would be releasing a new album, metal fans all over the world awaited with growing unrest. What would eventually come to be titled *Sacrament*, turned out to be one of the most contro-

versial releases of the year.

Some fans hated it, some fans loved it, the common ground being that it was not Lamb of God's best. *Sacrament* contained much of the same style as there previous albums, that style being technical, choppy riffing mixed together with brutal groove beats and you have a typical Lamb of God album. But something was missing from *Sacrament*, and fans all over the world couldn't really put their finger on it.

The music on *Sacrament* takes on a darker tone than any other LOG releases, with intricate horror movie melodies and chilling dissonance weaving in and out of every song. However, through the heavy breakdowns and the chunking guitars, the raw aggression that seemed to live on other LOG albums is absent. The music is more produced and polished, and it's lost the famous LOG edge. This earned the album tons of controversy, as some fans claimed that Lamb of God had sold-out.

The album's low point, and the song that received the most criticism was the single, "Redneck." In almost a blatant rip-off of southern rockers, Pantera, this

song features catchy hooks, and sing-along choruses, complete with its very own cheesy video. To say the least, fans were not happy.

But the album does redeem itself with three amazing songs lined-up in a row. "Blacken the cursed sun," "Forgotten (Lost Angels)," and "Requiem" portray Lamb of God at their best, with Mark Morton and Willie Adler showing off their guitar proficiency. With brutal breakdowns and grooving metal beats, these three songs soar and easily become the highlight of the album. The onslaught of chromatic and pentatonic-based riffs fuel these songs, and of course Blythe's brutal vocals add so much to the composition.

Overall, there are some very nice tracks on *Sacrament*, but not top notch Lamb of God. The composition and songwriting has gotten better, as well as the sense of structure, but the songs lack the signature energy and raw aggression that LOG is known for. With increased guitar solos, and more musical complexity, this is a step in the right direction, and hopefully they can follow up.

SUMMER

Word on the street

How do you like to spend your summer vacation?

By Kevin Perry



"Probably playing guitar with my friends, hanging out at the beach...very chill."
 –Matt Christy, senior



"Solipsistic, Serendipitous and Sun Worship."
 – Ms. Archibald, English teacher

"Going to the beach with friends, and swimming with stingrays."
 – Janette McDonald and Jessica Dayboch, juniors



"Plunging into the mighty depths of the Nisseqogue for a cold gelato."
 – Mr. Kelly, English teacher



Movies of summer '07:

Oceans Thirteen, Fantastic Four, Evan Almighty and Transformers

by Kevin Perry

What are the odds of getting even? 13 to one. With new movies coming out all the time we start off our summer movies with Oceans Thirteen on June 8th. Oceans Eleven, the first of the three part series started back in 2001, with Oceans Twelve following in 2004 and now three more years and there is yet another Oceans crew.

This year, Oceans Thirteen means that there are more characters and more famous faces including Al Pacino, Eddie Izzard, and Ellen Barkin. This movie unlike the last movie, taking place in Europe, is back in Las Vegas, Nevada and Los Angeles, California.

The next movie which is coming out June 17th is Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer. This movie is based off of the first family of superheroes from Marvel. In this sequel the character from marvel comics is The Silver Surfer while the movie sequel continues with all of the

same fantastic four; Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba, Chris Evans, and Michael Chiklis.

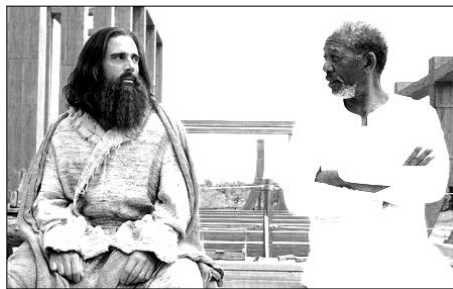


Photo: movies.about.com

Above is a scene from the upcoming release Evan Almighty, with Morgan Freeman and Steve Carell

The next movie on the list is Evan Almighty; the sequel to Bruce Almighty comes out on June 25. Much like Bruce

in the first movie, Evan undergoes a huge change in his outlook no life. Evan has made up with Bruce, and has been newly elected as a congressman leaving Buffalo, New York. The role of God continues to be played by Morgan Freeman, who has given Evan the responsibility of building a new ark. He will have to do the work God has given him just like in the first movie. Evan Almighty will be played once again by Steve Carrell and also includes actors such as Lauren Graham.

The next movie, which is coming out on July 4th, is called Transformers. Yes, the famous Optimus Prime and Megatron are back from their metallic home world of Cybertron to present-day Earth. The movie which is based upon the television series originally aired from September 17, 1984 to November 11, 1987.

Joining the global treasure hunt

Geocaching creates worldwide game for all

by Lauren Weiss

When we were little kids, searching for buried treasure in our backyards was purely an imaginary quest. With a bit of technology and some off-the-beaten-path excursions, however, geocaching has made hunting for treasure a reality for anyone willing to spend a little time and money on it.

Geocaching (pronounced gee-oh-cash-ing) utilizes the Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Internet (via geocaching.com) to lead participants to specific coordinates. Coordinates are plugged into a GPS, which, depending on the model, can lead you to within a few feet of the cache. Once you reach the specified destination, which can be anywhere from a mountain to the middle of a city, the search begins.

Caches are usually small containers with various small items, ranging from action figures to special geocache tracking tags, that are hidden somewhere out of sight.

Any person walking by would be unable to see the cache, that way only those looking for it would find it. Once you find the cache, you must enter your name into the log book inside of it, remove one item, and replace the item you took with something small of your own.

Once home, participants log on to geocaching.com, go to the cache's site, and leave a message saying that they visited the cache. This way, users can see who else has been to a cache, and the person who created the cache can see who has been there. Caches can be cre-

mark a place of historical significance. Several even mark the sites of small plane wrecks in the mountains, where debris are still visible. Caches are hidden globally on a large scale, so it's easy to type in a zip code and head out to hit a few caches over the course of one day.

The only expensive part of geocaching is the handheld GPS. A relatively cheap GPS can be purchased online for around \$60 and is a worthwhile investment for anyone interested in geocaching. As with any product, a bit of research comes in handy when picking out which GPS is best for you.

To begin geocaching, all the necessary information is available at geocaching.com, including tips for beginners, local caches, and geocaching events.

Some of the many local caches can be found at Moriches Park, David Weld Preserve, and on the Nissequogue River (this one is only accessible from a canoe). While finding the caches is always a thrill, venturing outside and exploring Long Island is a reward in itself.



Photo: geocaching.com

Geocaching provides a fun activity for the summer that only requires one to invest in a handheld GPS.

ated by anyone and posted on the site, but if the cache is too close to another cache the owner may be asked to remove it.

Not all caches involve physical objects. Some caches are purely aesthetic, and may offer a nice, hidden view, or

Tunes to take on the summer with

New releases to cure the summertime blues

by Lyndsay McCabe

Band: Queens of the Stone Age
Album: *Era Vulgaris*, June 12

Era Vulgaris appears to be a promising return of QOTSA with their first batch of new songs since *Lullabies to Paralyze* in 2005. The first single off the album, "Sick, Sick, Sick," is a driven piece, but not one of their more remarkable works. It has also been reported that Julian Casablancas of The Strokes, Trent Reznor of Nine Inch Nails, and Billy Gibbons of ZZ Top have contributed vocals and instrumentals to various tracks on the album.

Band: White Stripes
Album: *Icky Thump*, June 18

Icky Thump comes as a pleasant surprise to those who know that the lead singer and guitarist, Jack White, has been doing a lot of work recently with his other band, The Raconteurs, and may have feared that the Stripes would cease to be. Instead, they are back, now with edgy, political lyrics such as, "White Americans, what, nothing better to do/ Why don't you kick yourself out, you're an immigrant too."

Band: Velvet Revolver
Album: *Libertad*, July 3

Velvet Revolver's sophomore album, *Libertad* ("freedom" in Spanish), does not seem to break free of their first album, *Contraband*. The first single, "She Builds Quick Machines," presents not much to speak of, as it sounds like a regurgitation

of "Slither." The band seems to stick to their old habits – Scott Weiland wailing away just as he did in Stone Temple Pilots, and unimpressive lengthy guitar solos from Slash that one would swear they have heard before.

Band: Interpol
Album: *Our Love to Admire*, July 10

The indie New Yorkers of Interpol are back, having signed on to their first major label, Matador Records. Their first new song to be released is a tune full of catchy hooks known as "Heinrich Maneuver," which hit the airwaves in May. Interpol appears to have become less abstract, which should hopefully garner them more attention with *Our Love to Admire*, and one can only hope that they have left their creepy puppets from *Antics* behind for good.

Band: They Might Be Giants
Album: *The Else*, July 10

TMBG, first made popular for their work for popular television show themes, such as Malcolm in the Middle ("Boss of Me") and The Daily Show, have since moved on with their own albums and are now working up to their 12th studio album, *The Else*. The duo of TMBG, John Linnell and John Flansburgh, continue to keep their songs quirky and upbeat, such as in the bass-heavy, 90s-reminiscent breakup song, "Take Out the Trash."

SPORTS

Radio vs. teacher softball game raises \$145 for ACS

by James Brierton



Photos: L. Weiss

During the seven inning game to raise money for the American Cancer Society, Mr. Cummings found himself trapped between first and second in a run down that included Senior Matt Christy.

Sports

Just days before the second annual Relay for Life of Smithtown, Smithtown Radio broadcasted live from the softball field as they challenged East teachers to a softball game. The staff of Smithtown Radio, East's official online radio station broadcasting on SmithtownRadio.com, faced off against East staff including Mr. Thompson, Mr. Coady, Mr. Needles, Miss Gentile and Miss Heal to raise money for the American Cancer Society. Following an entertaining 7-innings of play, Radio took an embarrassing loss to the teachers 21-11. The event raised \$145 for the American Cancer Society.

With Mike Porcelli from

Smithtown Radio's 'The Show' pitching for the radio team, the teachers took to the board first in the first inning. By the start of the 6th inning, the teachers were ahead 13-5 and would add eight before the close of the inning. After rubbing dirt on his hands to improve his grip on the bat, Mr. Peters hit a grand slam to deep left field bringing in Mr. Cummings, Mr. Gallucci and Mr. Zeidman and increasing their lead to 21-5. The radio team would follow in the bottom of the sixth bringing in 6 runs.

MVP was unofficially rewarded to Mr. Menendez. Mr. Menendez, along with Cummings, are the chairmen for the Relay for Life of Smithtown. Cummings

wasn't able to escape the game without creating his own blooper. Cummings found himself in a rundown in the bottom of the fourth between first and second. Cummings was not able to squeeze his way out and he'd quickly return to the bench.

In the words of game announcer Mr. Specht, "The teachers schooled the students once again." Zeidman, who pitched for the teachers, said, "I try to shake things up a little - a little high, a little low," when asked about his strategy.

The game was streamed live on SmithtownRadio.com, but a podcast of the game can now be downloaded from the 'Specials' page.

Badminton tourney raises money for ACS

by Lauren Weiss



Photo: L. Weiss

In an effort to raise money for their Relay for Life team, senior Bridget Germain and her team, the Nerd Herd, organized a school-wide badminton tournament on May 30. At the end, seniors Bryant DeFranco and Ian Holst dominated the competition and won the tournament.

The tournament was open to both students and teachers in teams of two. Participants paid \$5 each to enter the tournament, and refreshments were sold on the side.

The team raised a total of \$244.42 for the American Cancer society through the tournament.

Pictured to the right is senior Kara Greenfield, and to the left is senior Bryant DeFranco. both participated in the tournament and are members of the SHS East badminton team, as well.



Photo: L. Weiss

Varsity team reaches monumental

Boys' tennis finishes third, crushing West twice

by James Brierton

East's first boys' Varsity tennis team in years finished 7-5 in League II and 7-7 overall. "Coach Gambeski encourages us to be positive, and to motivate each other," said doubles player sophomore Bradley Fleischman.

On March 27, Fleischman said his match against Northport had to go into a third set to break a 1-1 tie. Fleischman explained, "we got killed in the first set and lost 6-1." An intense second set led to a tie-breaker. Smithtown took a 8-6 win in the third set, and later a 4-3 victory in the match.

"I thought after the first set we had already lost. Gambeski gave us a pep-talk and inspired us to play our hardest,"

"We just overpowered [SHS West]."
— Bradley Fleischman, sophomore

Fleischman said. Gambeski always told them, "don't let the other team play you, control the game and make the next play."

The two Bulls teams matched up on March 26 and April 20. "We just over-

powered them. It was odd because a lot of our players used to be on the same team, but either way, we had the stronger lineup," said Fleischman. In both matches, East crushed West with a monumental 7-0 victory.

Reflecting on the season, Fleischman said, "We had a stronger line-up in the beginning of the season but because of testing we didn't always have our full line-up towards the end." At an end of the season awards dinner, Gambeski told his team it was a great season and that they have a shot at being number one next year.

Hitting the ground running

Boys' track finishes 5-1, loses to West Islip

by Kevin Perry

This year, the Varsity track team had a great season, finishing with a final record of 5-1 and a trip to the counties. They started out their first meet on March 27 against West Babylon and won 74-64.

Their coach, Coach Willman, led them through a great amount of successes this season. Their next meet on April 10 against East Islip ended with a score of 54 East Islip and 86 Smithtown.

Senior Greg Zielinski won the long jump, the triple jump, and the pole vault to lead Smithtown East to its 86-54 victory.

Junior Brendan Ward, who has been running track since ninth grade, said that his favorite part of track was the races. "I think that the races were very exhilarating," said Ward. One of his teammates, sophomore Brendan Connell, said "My favorite would be the training, because it's fun and you also get to hang with friends." Connell has been running for four years.

East was undefeated this year with the exception of a loss to West Islip on April 18. Junior Will Taliferro won the 100 meters that day and won the 200 meters in 23.9 seconds for East against

Half Hollow Hills on May 2. East won 91-50.

The last meet this season was their biggest win yet. The meet was versus Copiague, and when it ended Copiague had a score of 31, and Smithtown ended with a score of 109.

"The team got along really well and achieved great success this year," said Ward when asked about his team overall. Connell said once again that "there were a lot of great memories from working out and running the track."

Rough start for girls' lax

7-8 overall; finish 11th in Division I

by Bill Portoghese

The Smithtown East girls' Varsity lacrosse team got off to a rough start. The team's first two games against Comsewogue on March 24 and West Islip on March 28 ended in landslide losses of 4-11 and 5-13, respectively. Shortly after, on April 9th, the team killed Miller Place 13-2. With a league record of 6-6 and an overall record of 7-8, the team broke even. In a league of 21 teams, East finished 11th place with 107.250 points.

East had some tough competition with Ward Melville, who had only lost one game, but easily overcame others, such as Brentwood, who had lost every game.

On May 14, the team faced the second worst team of the division, Copiague. The game was slow at first, but quickly began to pick up speed as East scored goal after goal while Copiague gave little resistance. Just before the first half ended, there was some tension on the field.

This year, the team doesn't have its own field due to the construction that has been going on since the beginning of the year. This meant that the football

field has to be used, but it didn't seem to pose a problem for the girls.

Of the 19 on the team, seven are seniors and won't be returning next year. There is still hope for next year because the team currently has two juniors, five sophomores, and four freshmen, and an 8th grader named Shannon O'Connor.

When asked what she thought about the team's future, senior and captain Rachel Fierstein said, "It's [going to] be a hard rebuilding year, just like the year before, but I definitely have faith in them."

Junior Kaitlyn Devlin manages the team along with coaches Ms. Naughton, Ms. Taurassi, and Ms. Guerriere. When asked what games were memorable, Taurassi said, "Ward Melville, which is the top team in the league right now - they beat us by three



Photo: B. Portoghese

Junior Dianna Rubino and Senior Jackie Messina celebrate an early goal before the team dominated with a score of 16 to 4.

goals, but that was a neck-and-neck game the whole time." And just because the team is in 11th place, it's not keeping them down: "To move back into division one and to be middle of the road is still an accomplishment for us, and from there we just keep building," said Taurassi. Naughton had similar thoughts, saying, "I am extremely proud of [the team] for [making the playoffs.]"

THE BULL HORN

East reigns over Longwood *Boys lacrosse team finishes 13-3 overall*

by Kevin Severino

On May 16 at Smithtown East, the Varsity boys' Smithtown East lacrosse team defeated Longwood 19-6. Smithtown East improved to 11-2 in league play and 13-3 overall.

In their final home game of the season, Smithtown scored 19 goals and had 10 different players score. Attack Matt Hull had five goals, attack/midfield Vito Minerva had three, attack Sean Hickey also had three, and midfield/attack Andrew Marklin had two. Midfield Dan Kalata, attack Brian Donovan, midfield Dean Steinmann, midfield Kevin Csorny, attack Mike Nocerino, and midfield Nick Travers all had one goal. Bobby Whitmarsh had five saves, while John Carroll had six.

East showed their dominance early in the game, scoring within the first few seconds. Robert Simeti won the opening face-off and made a quick pass to Dan Kalata for an easy goal. East scored early and often, finishing the first quarter

with an 8-1 lead. Throughout the game, East showed their superiority on the field. They constantly worked together and played unselfishly.

At times Smithtown was so good that Longwood seemed to be lost. Longwood had an abundance of penalties. They were clearly puzzled on defense and could not find a way to stop East's skilled offensive players. Longwood was constantly playing down a man as a result of all the penalties. Smithtown took advantage of playing with more players on the field and had possession for the majority of the game.

As bad as Longwood's defense was, East's offense was even better. The result: a 19-6 win for Smithtown. At the end of the first half it began to rain steadily. Both teams seemed unaffected by the rain and the swirling winds. In fact, the rain propelled Longwood to a small 3-0 run. During the run they worked together and made direct and

effective passes. However, they could not carry this momentum into the second half in which they were outscored 3-2.

Overall, Longwood displayed a great attitude and played hard the entire game despite the steep hill they had to climb from the start.

Smithtown East finished their season on Friday, May 18, with a win at Sachem East. In the first round of the playoffs, they defeated Northport 16-5. Juniors Dean Steinmann and Anthony Sicari agree that the season was a good one. Steinmann said, "The season went well; we played some good teams and got the job done for the most part". He also said, "In order to be successful in the playoffs, we have to work together and not be selfish. If we do this, I think we can come out on top. Sicari said the season went "better than expected," and his opinion on the upcoming playoffs was, "I think we'll go deep and should be successful if we play together."

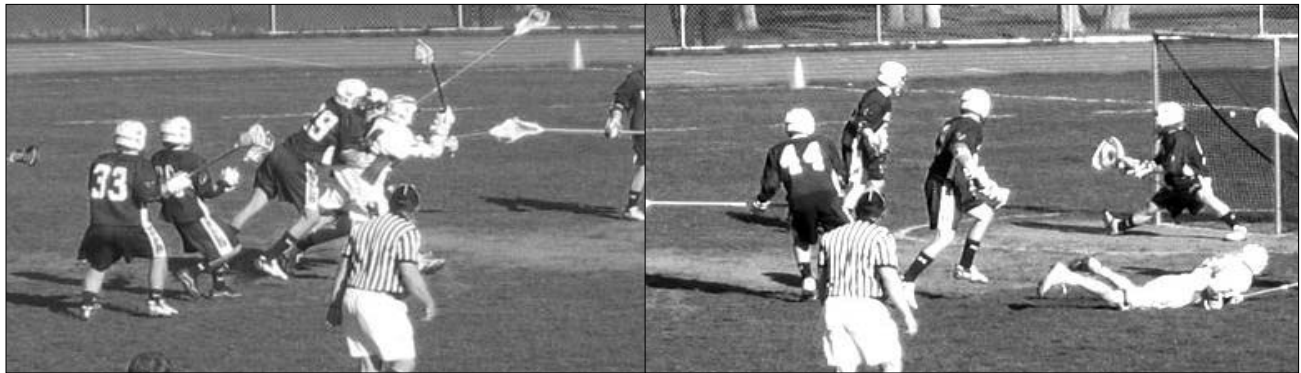


Photo: J. Brierton

Kevin Dwyer scored the winning goal with 4:10 left in the game. Carroll complimented Dwyer's goal with two saves in the last 1:30. East took a 6-5 victory over West boys' lacrosse.

East takes 6-5 victory over West lax *Carroll, Dwyer lead East to victory over West*

by James Brierton

The battle of the bulls continued as East boys' Varsity lacrosse team challenged West at home on Nicholas Schroeder field. As predicted, East kept West within an arm's reach throughout the game.

West took to the board first, scoring once in the first quarter and twice in the second quarter. Dan Kalata first brought East to the board in the second quarter. Within seconds, Andrew Marklin scored to tie it all up. Marklin would score again before the conclusion of the first half, which would end with the score

tied at three.

"Marklin is taking the best of his opportunities and scoring. That's what East needs," said Smithtown Radio announcer senior Mike Porcelli.

Junior John Carroll entered goal for the second half. Carroll wasn't wearing his normal number 5 but rather the number 31 in honor of his friend at Chaminade High School who contracted a compact disease where the calf muscle in his friend's leg has detached from the bone. Although Carroll started off a bit shaky in the beginning, allowing two

West goals, Carroll redeemed himself within the final minutes.

Following a winning goal by Kevin Dwyer with four minutes and 10 seconds left in the fourth quarter, Carroll saved two shots, preserving East's victory. The celebration began when Carroll saved West's final shot with 11 seconds left. Instantly, the entire East team was celebrating at center field while West proceeded to their bench with heads hanging low.

East took the victory over West 6-5.