

RAM'S HORN



December '10

Clarkstown High School North

Volume 56: Issue 3

Senior Superlatives

On November 10, the senior class voted on "Senior Superlatives." Below are the categories and winners. A special thanks to Colleen Fallon for providing Ram's Horn with this information.

FACULTY TORMENT:
Grace Burger and Mike DeSimone

BEST DANCER:
Kim Ballard and Alim Scarpelli

BEST WRITER:
Madhuri Vastare and Austin Avaras

SENIOR SOPHISTICATE:
Nora Gorman and Zachary Cahn

BEST ACTOR/ACTRESS:
Caroline Trugman and Reno Lenci

MOST ATHLETIC:
Danielle Destaso and Tareek Turner

MOST VERSATILE:
Mackenzie McIndoe and Brian Rinciari

BEST DRESSED:
Jannah Shahid and Brandon Aberion

MOST LIKELY TO LEAD A PROTEST:
Val Champeau and Bruce Rubin

NICEST SMILE:
Alicia Yablonsky and Anthony Porco

BEST HAIR:
Sam DePietri and Ryan Rubinstein

NICEST EYES:
Christina Popowytch and Nick Conroy

MOST CHANGED:
Bianca Zara and Tommy Cooper

CLASS CLOWN:
Kristy Termini and Jeremy Kleiman

PERSONALITY PLUS:
Colleen Fallon and Scott Silverman

CUTEST COUPLE:
Nicole McGowan and Nick Windman

CLASS FLIRT:
Alexa DiSilvio and AJ Hernandez

MOST ATTRACTIVE:
Briana Warschun and Mike Parella

CUTE AS A BUTTON:
Marlee Kiel and Paul Fields

ATTACHED AT THE HIP:
Chelsea Broughton/ Shelby Zellman and Grant Germano/ Bruce Rubin

MOST TALKATIVE:
Kaleigh Shea and Greg Baron

MOST TECH-SAVVY:
Rachel Silverman and Brian Sacks

ALWAYS A FRIEND:
Rebecca Giglio and Greg Galli

BEST TO BRING HOME TO MOM AND DAD:
Alex Shenier and Tommy Colaprico

MOST CONTAGIOUS LAUGH:
Alexis Callan and Justin Miller

MOST SPIRITED:
Lexy Frascione and Pat Jankun

DID THE MOST FOR CHSN:
Aly Yacyshyn and Jordan Naft

MOST ENVIRONMENTALLY CONSCIOUS:
Hannah Burger and Greg Issak

MOST LIKELY TO CAUSE A SCENE:
Karen Connolly and Charles Regalbutto

MOST ARTISTIC:
Rachel Mitrani and Adam Leon

MOST MUSICAL:
Darian Marchetto and Juno Arreglado

MOST COMPETITIVE:
Laura Brennan and Anthony Barbetto

MOST LIKELY TO SUCCEED:
Sylvan Tsai and Anthony Conte

LIFE OF THE PARTY:
Cori Fine and Matt Kigler

Meet your new Senator: David Carlucci

By MADHURI VASTARE
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Succeeding an extensive and difficult fight, David Carlucci came out as a victor in the 38th Senate District campaign against County Executive Scott Vanderhoef. On November 2, Carlucci secured his place as State Senator, a position formally held by the late Thomas Morahan for approximately ten years. Carlucci, former Clarkstown town clerk, had nearly a 6,000 vote lead over the County Executive, and was able to put the 38th District seat back in the hands of the Democrats, since their hold in 1983.

Carlucci, a Clarkstown North graduate, was the youngest Town Clerk in New York State, serving when he was only twenty-five. A graduate of Cornell University, his objective was a new direction for New York State. Unsurprisingly, Carlucci won the race for Senate with a tremendous amount of support.

First off, how does it feel to win?

It feels great to win. This election campaign was a team effort: so many volunteers helped out and we achieved a great victory for us all. The real hard work starts now.

Why did you choose to run for senate?

I said to myself that I'm not going to sit wait and let someone else reform Albany. I grew up in this county, as did my fiancé. I want to provide NY State with what I and my fiancé once had, and for that we must drive New York in a new direction.

What are your plans as senator?

There are hundreds of issues that we need to address. We definitely need to reform the way the Senate operates, from property tax reform to bringing quality jobs to the people.

Did you anticipate your win?

I was optimistic. I knew I had to push since my opponent had so much experience, but



Photo By lohud.com

there was a lot of hard work from the young people who got involved, as they knew what was at stake. There was a lot of face to face contact and people personally coming out to urge others to vote. The bottom line is that we have to work to maintain what makes New York state- we have to gain control of our spiraling jobs and the state of our taxes. We have to be competitive to bring Albany out of the Dark Ages into the 21st Century to modernize government.

Who is your political inspiration?

There was no one exact political figure who motivated me into the field of public service. Rather, I just felt the need to get involved and give back to the community. I recommend all teenagers to get involved in everything to find your interests. When I first started, politics wasn't a career, yet as I got more involved, it was a perfect match.

Do you believe teenagers are putting enough effort into the political process (voting, educating themselves regarding the issues, etc?)

In my case, a lot of young adults helped campaign for the cause to either vote campaign voting. I read in the NY Times, that New York State had the lowest voter turnout, percentage wise. It's crazy and it's something we have to work on.

We need to push to reform New York State and for that we

have to encourage voting. When residents do not vote, it hurts all of us. We want to start preregistering potential voters-at age sixteen-, so when you are eighteen and eligible to vote, it cuts the administrative difficulties and allows for a greater number of registered voters.

Why do you believe our education in New York needs reform?

I believe that we are putting schools against property taxes, which needs to be reformed. We need to focus on getting the politics out of the classroom and resources into the classroom, where they belong.

Were you interested in politics in high school?

It wasn't until my Junior year of high school when I became involved in politics. I was my Junior Class President and when I became involved, I really enjoyed it. It started right here, in Clarkstown North. I was also involved in Model Congress. At first, I was intimidated by all these speakers, but once I started speaking, I became more motivated to learn more about politics, to affect change and change politics.

Who were your favorite teachers in high school?

Some of my favorite teachers were Mr. Turner, who I had for Global Studies and Model Congress, Mr. Suchy, and Ms. Flood.

Cholera outbreak in Haiti harms residents

By CHELSEA AISS

CLASS OF 2011

523 dead, 9,123 wounded. Cholera has expanded throughout Haiti and is an ongoing outbreak that cannot be stopped.

Cholera is an intestinal disease that is brought upon by the ingestion of contaminated water and food. This disease has yet to spread to the Haitian tent camps where more than 1.3 million live. It is said that if Cholera

were to be spread to the tent camps, then the disease would explode and become a vast epidemic. The Haiti International Humanitarian Relief Corporation is receiving negative press for this Cholera outbreak, and hopes to prevent it from spreading to the camps. The corporation succeeded in helping by providing doctors efficiently, and stockpiling of IV bags. Unfortunately, these acts of sufficient

medical aid are not enough to stop the disease from spreading.

About 40% of the Haitians utilize dirty water to drink and for cooking necessities. About 80% do not have toilets, soap, or proper sanitary conditions. Statistics such as these prove that most Haitians live under an unsanitary setting. In most of the villages, the people drink directly from the nearby rivers, which were tested positive for Cholera.

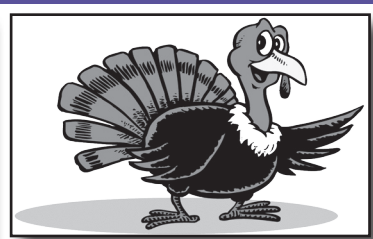
The Haiti International Humanitarian Relief Corporation defends itself by stating that it is doing what they can to stop the disease. Non-government corporations have set up clinics throughout Haiti to help people affected by Cholera. Due to these corporations and donations of many Americans, the patients in Haiti are provided better living conditions and medical aid to help stop the disease.

What's Inside

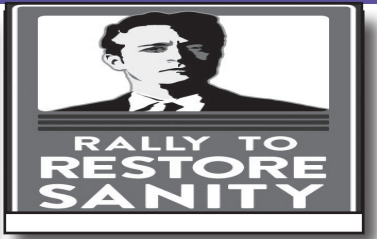
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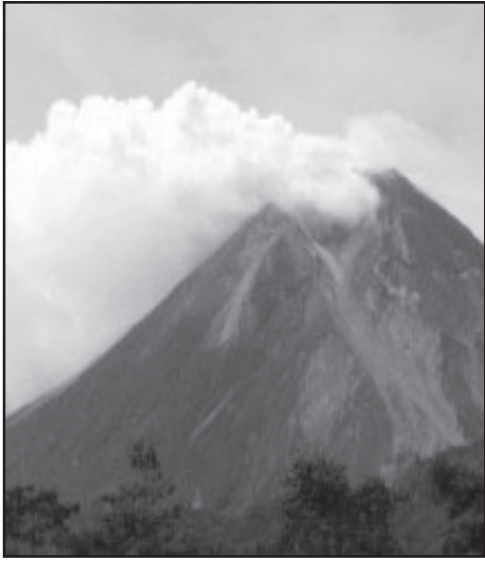


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Volcano Erupts in Indonesia



<http://i.huffpost.com/gen/212672/thumbs/s-INDONESIA-VOLCANO-2010-large.jpg>

By LAUREN SEID

REPORTER

On October 26, Mount Merapi, a volcano on the island of Java, Indonesia, began to erupt. The sky began to darken around the volcano, but the worst was yet to come.

Mount Merapi is one of the world's most active volcanoes, killing more than 1,400 people over the years. The people of Indonesia had recently dealt with a tsunami, and a strong eruption from the volcano was the last thing they needed. Mount Merapi's eruptions have been

continually getting worse, and recently have had casualties of over 100 people.

Those who live around the volcano evacuated in fear. Some locals initially did not want to leave their harvest and so police were ordered to go into the homes and move those people to safety. Many are now living in government camps, or with friends or relatives, waiting until it's safe enough to go back home.

The eruption is seen as a blessing and as a curse.

The ash creates soil that is good for harvesting crops, but of course there are casualties in the communities that own those farms, or just live anywhere around the volcano.

This has been the deadliest eruption in 80 years; people have died of burns, respiratory problems, heart attacks, and other illnesses related to Mount Merapi.

Although the eruptions have calmed down, it seems as if the fear the Indonesian people feel has not. For now, the volcano is continuously on watch.

Election Ads

By ADITYA ROYYURU

ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR

Elections are always a do-or-die cause for political candidates. Politicians give up money, time, and effort in putting together a campaign strategy. Surprisingly, candidates direct a majority of their resources towards advertisements. According to an NPR interview with correspondent Peter Overby, finances used to fund campaign ads have gone up 80% over the past two years. This has occurred despite the fact that limits on campaign contributions have not changed significantly.

The midterm election of 2010 marked an uptake in political campaign ads. Political ads take up so much television air time, that local businesses have been forced to cut back on their advertisement expenditures. Voters were treated to 1.48 million ads in 2010 compared to 1.41 million ads in 2008. About 23% of the ads in Cleveland and Columbus Ohio were campaign ads. In addition, 20% of the ads in Portland Oregon and Sacramento California contributed to promoting candidates.

Where political ads falter is the content provided to the viewer. Republican candidate Sharon Angle accused democrat Harry Reid of "living large in the D.C. Ritz Carlton" while voters in Nevada were "living in the state with the highest unemployment rate, worried about mortgage and interest rate". She continues to mock Reid by stating he is "another multi-millionaire making ends meet". This particular example shows how personal attacks have become a popular

political ad technique. Candidates seek to spread slander about their opponents, hoping to diminish their reputations. The effectiveness of this approach has been continuously debated, but these ads distract voters from political policy and spread gossip. Research has shown that mudslinging has suppressed voter turnout to an extent, as many voters become frustrated with the barrage of ads and the constant bickering between the candidates.

Political ads, over the years, have been categorized into two major groups. Attack ads focus solely on the negative attributes of a candidate. Contrast ads contain information about both candidates in an electoral race, and make conclusions as to why one opponent is a better choice than the other. Sometimes secretly damaging information is leaked to the public during a negative campaign. Often, campaigns use lobby groups to launch the attacks and then claim the information was derived from a neutral source. Candidates have been known to organize push polls. These polls involve questions that make a candidates' character subject to question and imply that the candidate would commit an immoral action. In essence, negative campaigning has been on the rise. Instead of focusing on the political policies that they want to support or their goals as a future politician, electoral candidates are spreading slander. In response to the general discontent of voter during the past election, political candidates may alter their advertisement strategies.

Health and School Lunch Reforms

By EMILY MCKINSTRY

REPORTER

Our school lunch menu offers a variety of foods for us to eat. Your food is in your hands, whether you'd prefer a bagel, or a salad, or a hot lunch meal. However even though the cafeteria may offer some healthy options, that does not mean that every student will be receiving a balanced meal.

From middle school, we have watched our school cafeterias become healthier. Gone were the carbonated drinks, and many of the snacks in the vending machines. Still, that does not stop a student from purchasing French-fries as a meal.

Of course the option of unwholesome foods was a problem in our cafeterias, but removal should not be the only tactic taken. High school's purpose is to educate teenager into becoming well rounded adults. However, eliminating certain food choices from the lunch menus is not going to discourage students from purchasing these foods once they leave the school building.

There are certain marketing methods that have been proven

to increase sales of healthier options in the cafeteria. By just moving the salad bar closer to the cash register, and having the cashier ask students if they would like to purchase a salad tripled the sales.

Other devices include making the healthier options more sale friendly by making their names more appetizing or changing the way that the food is presented, such as placing fruit in bowls. Likewise, by placing the less healthy options out of sight or behind better options, will encourage students to go for the more healthy food.

The problem also lies deeper. Students only receive about 3 weeks of nutrition in their required health classes. If more healthy habits were instilled in students from an early age, they would be more likely to make nutritious decisions, not only at school but also later on in life. Our society has transformed into one that easily markets snacks and drinks high in fat and sugar in our youth, therefore the only way to truly defeat our national health problem is to attack it before it starts.

Iranian Execution

By MONICA OSHER

REPORTER

News exploded when authorities announced the impending execution of Iranian woman Sakineh Mohammadi Ashtiani in Tehran, Iran. Ashtiani is a forty-three year old woman, and the mother of two children. She was convicted of adultery and murdering her husband. The crime for which she would be executed would be her adultery. The original sentence of Ashtiani was death by stoning, as stipulated by Islamic Sharia Law followed in Iran. Her son and attorney are also in custody without an attorney of their own because it was not deemed necessary by the Iranian regime. Ashtiani's other lawyer was attempted to be arrested. However, he is now under the protection of European diplomats in Iran.

She has been acquitted of her murder charges, although the true culprit responsible for the death of her husband has been imprisoned. He has not been given the death sentence. Ashtiani claims that the Iranian government was not honest in its disclosure that Ashtiani was convicted of murder in the first place. Ashtiani believes that the government is detailing this "conviction" because it is ashamed that her case is so widely recognized. By saying she was convicted of a worse crime, attention will be drawn to determining what the truth of her conviction is and not the actual act of execution. This issue has come to the attention of the International Committee Against Stoning and Execution. They call for action on behalf of

the people and international relations to protest the impending stoning of Ashtiani. In addition, Iranians in Armenia are protesting the planned execution of Ashtiani. On Monday, over a dozen Iranians staged a protest at the Iranian embassy in Armenia, demanding repeal in the death sentence and denouncing the Iranian government.

Ashtiani's son and daughter, along with various human rights groups, worked to get international attention to Ashtiani's case. Western governments around the world and human rights groups are deeply concerned over the implications of the execution of Ashtiani if it indeed does take place. They are concerned over the inhumane treatment of Ashtiani, even if an alternative method of execution is chosen, and worried that if this does take place, it will be the gateway for other brutal executions. When the International Committee Against Stoning announced their impending protests on November 3rd, the day set for Ashtiani's execution, rallies sprung up in various capital cities across the globe.

As of November 3, Ashtiani remains at the Tabriz Prison in Iran, alive and healthy as can be. It is now believed that Ashtiani will not die by stoning but rather by hanging. Yet the International Committee Against Stoning is still urging Ashtiani's release because any form of execution would have tremendous effects on human rights around the world. According to French prime minister, Bernard Kouchner, no decision has been made yet regarding Ashtiani's future.

The Ram's Horn
STAFF LIST 2010-11

Mission Statement:

The Ram's Horn staff's vision is to create an exciting newspaper that provides readers with a thorough understanding of issues in our school, our community, our nation and our world.

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Letters to the Editor Policy:

Do you have concerns on a subject which was discussed lately in The Ram's Horn? If so, write a Letter to the Editor. Please limit letters to three hundred (300) words. Letters should be signed, typed, and submitted to Mr. Celini's mailbox. Please note that letters may be edited for clarity, potential libel and good taste. Anonymous letters are not accepted.

The Editorial Section is designed to provide a responsible forum for the opinion of The Ram's Horn, its staff members, and Clarkstown High School North. However, editorials or editorial cartoons authored by individuals represent the opinion of that person and not necessarily the viewpoints of The Ram's Horn or Clarkstown

in focus: prop 19

Proposition 19 Does Not Pass in California

REBECCA GIGLIO

REPORTER

Debate has been heavy in California since Proposition 19 was placed on the statewide ballot on November 2nd. The act, which would allow people over 21 years old to purchase marijuana, was rejected, though it was a close race.

Only 54% of voters voted against the Regulate, Control, and Tax Cannabis Act. If the proposition had passed, local governments would have the authority to regulate and sell marijuana and costumers, of 21 years or more, would be permitted to

own (no more than one ounce), grow, and transport marijuana for their own use.

Marijuana would remain illegal on school grounds, in public, when used while driving, in the presence of minors, or in the possession of people under 21 years old. The medical use of marijuana is already legal in California.

Proposition 10 was initiated by Oakland entrepreneur, Richard Lee, owner of a medical marijuana trade school, a marijuana-themed gift shop, and a dispensary, an office that distributes medical supplies and

treatments.

It is since gained passionate supporters, including the California branch of the NAACP, the state chapters of the American Civil Liberties Union, the California Young Democrats, the Republican Liberty Caucus, the California Council of Churches and a handful of big labor unions.

Advocates have stated that the new proposition would “control cannabis like alcohol, put our police priorities where they belong, and generate billions of dollars in revenue.”

Those against the law in-

clude Mothers Against Drunk Driving, most law-enforcement agencies, all major-party candidates for governor, the state attorney general, the California League of Cities, and most business groups. They deem it dangerous, a violation to federal law rules for the workplace, and say that it would not increase revenue. California is currently in the middle of a budget crisis.

Could the law decrease drug-related violence, jumpstart California’s economy, or encourage citizens to live healthier?

These questions may be an-

swered in 2012, when supports say the proposition will be reconsidered on the California ballot. Until then, California remains the most liberal of the states in regards to marijuana-related laws.

Those caught possessing marijuana are charged with merely an infraction, the lowest level of offense in California’s legal system. Still, cultivating and selling cannabis remain punishable with imprisonment. How long laws like these remain in place depends on the outcome of the 2012 ballot.

Why Legalizing Marijuana Makes Sense

In America, we are surrounded by legal recreational drugs such as caffeine, alcohol and tobacco. Some people believe that just like these drugs, the recreational drug Marijuana should also be legalized. Marijuana. Pot. Weed. Kush. No matter what you want to call it, it’s been around forever and many people seem to like it. Those who smoke it (the most popular use of the plant for recreational purposes) experience feelings of euphoria and relaxation.

The truth of the matter is that Marijuana is an illicit drug that’s use is frowned upon by the much of our country’s population. Although this plant is in such a bad light, 42% of Americans have tried it at least once in their life-times according to a Time Magazine survey. According to the American Council for Drug Education, 23% of all Americans have used tobacco, which is another recreational drug. That means that 19% more Americans have tried Marijuana than have tried smoking tobacco.

Because of such facts, many individuals have proposed that it would be beneficial in many aspects to legalize marijuana for recreational use. Although many do not want to hear these arguments out, there are a number of economic benefits to legalization.

According to the Congressional Budget Office, our economy’s recession has the potential to be the greatest in length and depth since the Great Depression. The national government has proposed many possibilities of solving this economic turmoil including several stimulus pack-

ages. One idea that politicians are too fearful to support because of the public opinion is the legalization of marijuana. Some ask how legalization of an illicit substance even falls into the spectrum of economic recovery. There is a precedent to this idea early in the twentieth century. The Great Depression, the era of greatest social and economic turmoil in our nation’s history, occurred from 1929 to the early 1940’s. Prohibition, the period in which the consumption, sale and manufacturing of alcohol was illegalized, was in effect during the same period. Arguably, the newly revitalized alcohol market of the period was one of the factors in rescuing the fallen economy. This was a result of the tax revenue from alcohol sales as well as salvaging the valuable government funds going into policing alcohol related crimes. Therefore, legalization of marijuana is very applicable to this situation.

Harvard professor and economist Jeffery Miron is an advocate for the legalization of marijuana. He has devoted over fifteen years of research of the possibility of marijuana legalization and its benefits. Miron believes that our country can benefit economically from the legalization of marijuana just as it already does from the products of alcohol and tobacco that currently thrive. Miron has calculated from his dense research that legalization would bring our country about 77 billion dollars a year. How did he come to this number? Well through his research he concluded that our country spends about 44 billion dollars a year policing marijua-

na related crimes. This figure is a sum of all the different costs yearly of law enforcement collectively: police, courts, jailing, etc. The other 33 billion is the amount the government would gain from tax revenue, similar to the taxes it takes in from alcohol or tobacco each year. These 77 billion dollars would create government funds from a new source, therefore stimulating the economy without hurting other industries or putting the government into greater debt than it already is.

Advocators of legalization are criticized frequently about the subject. Even if legalization has the potential to stimulate the economy in such a matter, this is still a drug which is illegal for a reason. Marijuana is a mind altering drug but it is no more dangerous than alcohol or tobacco. In relation to other drugs that are illegal such as cocaine and methamphetamines, marijuana is non-addictive. In addition, according to the National Drug Abuse Warning Network, 400,000 people die from tobacco use each year and 75,000 deaths a year are attributed to alcohol. According to this same source, Marijuana alone has not shown to cause death. Therefore, this product can be integrated into the economy and as discussed earlier, provide for an immense economic gain.

There are many other aspects of the legalization debate that must be considered. This is merely to give background to how legalization could benefit our country’s financial system. The world is constantly changing. Is the legalization of marijuana next?

Legalizing Will Not Help

KALEY POMERANTZ

CLASS OF 2012

The legalization of marijuana is a hotly debated topic. Countless attempts have been made to legalize the substance for recreational use in various parts of the country, but the truth of the matter is that marijuana legalization will have detrimental effects. Regardless of one’s opinion of the drug or whether or not it is truly “bad for you,” the straightforward facts cannot be argued with.

With all morals aside, the legalization of marijuana comes down to one major problem: economic turmoil. The common belief is that legalizing marijuana will benefit the US economically because taxes could be collected from the sale of it. However, this is far from accurate. Legalizing marijuana will actually cost the US billion of dollars. According to Jeffrey Miron, a senior lecturer in economics for Harvard University, about \$33 billion in taxes could be collected annually from marijuana sales. However, this number means relatively nothing. When considering the legalization marijuana, the effects of legalization also have to be looked at. Increased DUI’s, health costs, loss of productivity, and more are all probable and costly issues that would arise from legalization. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the total overall costs of substance abuse of marijuana in the US, which includes health costs, crime related costs, and losses in productivity is approximately \$138 billion currently.

However, by legalizing marijuana, usage will increase

and this number will go up even more. When a substance becomes legal, it inevitably increases, as seen in the Netherlands from 1984 to 1992. Marijuana use among students rose 250% according to Dr. K.F. Gunning, the president of the Dutch National Committee on Drug Prevention.

The fact of the matter is that the US already spends \$138 billion annual to deal marijuana related problems, and by legalizing the substance and thus increasing usage, the country will be faced with an even bigger financial problem. The mere \$33 billion in taxes will be worthless compared to how much the US will have to spend to cover the problems of legalization. Given the current state of the economy, any more finical burdens would be extremely problematic.

Whether someone is a user or not, economic problems effect everyone. Furthermore, history proves that marijuana legalization is unsuccessful. In 1976, California legalized marijuana. Within the first six months, the number of arrests for driving under the influence of drugs rose 46% for adults and 71.4% for juveniles. The increase in DUI’s and the fact that marijuana is no longer legal in California for recreational use clearly show that legalization is unsuccessful. Legalization of marijuana is often looked at through a moral perspective.

But with all opinions aside, the economic troubles of legalization cannot be ignored. Any way you look at it, the same issue remains: marijuana legalization will be an economic catastrophe.

The History of Marijuana

JONATHAN ODGIS

CLASS OF 2012

Since ancient times, marijuana has been used as a gateway to experience the spiritual side of life and also to alleviate pain. Though indigenous to Central and South America, marijuana was first introduced in America in 1545 by the Spanish. In 1611, the early settlers of Jamestown cultivated marijuana (hemp) crops for fiber. By the

early 1900’s, marijuana was the most widely prescribed drug for more than a hundred ailments. Marijuana became illegal in the United States in 1937. The Controlled Substances Act of 1970 classified marijuana along with heroin and LSD as a Schedule I drug, i.e., “having the relatively highest abuse potential and no accepted medical use.” At the present time, medicinal marijuana is legal in only 15 of the

50 states, including Washington D.C. In November 2010, 54% of California voters defeated Proposition 19 which would have legalized various marijuana-related activities.

However, medical marijuana has been legal in California since 1996. According to Eric Voth of the Institute on Global Drug Policy, “Yes, marijuana is too impure to use as a medicine and the side effects

(examples are dysphoria, introduction of contaminants are too great for the potential benefits for the maladies it is to be used to treat.” He believes that medicinal marijuana puts people at risk. However, most medications have side effects that a patient must consider before deciding to take the drug. In some cases, marijuana can cause birth defects if the fetus of a pregnant woman absorbs the chemicals

from the drug. For this reasons, medical marijuana should only be administered in small dosages and should only be given to patients who are able to tolerate its effects. Medical marijuana should be monitored carefully by the government and should only be available in hospitals and pharmacies where doctors can prescribe the drug to their patients.

Rally to Restore Fear and/or Sanity: A Firsthand Account

REMY MAISEL

REPORTER

Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert held a magnificent rally in Washington, DC on October 30th.

Tens of thousands flocked to the National Mall; some dressed as Colbert's biggest fear, a gay Mexican bear, some bearing signs, and all were ready to show support for Colbert and Stewart. Colbert tweeted an "early estimate crowd size of 6 billion," three hours before the scheduled start of the rally. Glenn Beck had nothing on that.

Attendees either made earnest calls for sanity or joking calls to restore fear. Some ran about yelling "Three word chant! Three word chant!" or "Loud noises!" and some, like myself, just grinned in overwhelming joy, soaking in the wonder of actually being there. I will share some of the best sign slogans I saw, such as:

-Christine O'Donnell turned me into a newt!

-I disagree with you, but I'm pretty sure you're not Hitler

-The Mad Hatter called. He wants his Tea Party back.

-I like tea, and you're kind of ruining it

-My comedy channel: FOX News. My news channel: Comedy Central.

This type of tongue-in-cheek

humor has always drawn me. Satire is considered the highest form of humor, because of the enormous intelligence and knowledge required to execute it well. Words truly can't describe the extent of my good humor as the realization sunk in: I probably agreed with everyone around me. Nobody's scoffing at us or telling us to leave the Mall cleaner than we found it. People picked up trash, knew about Glenn Beck's bias, and said "excuse me." Plus, nobody has confused the possessive 'your' with the contraction 'you're.'

The burden of feeling surrounded by misguided, ignorant people had lifted and I smiled for so long that my jaw started to hurt. Even the horrors of Jersey driving didn't lessen the entire experience. And all this was in the hours before the rally had even begun, while the Mall filled with happy smart people toting witty signs.

Jon Stewart began the rally by saying that "everybody knows the main criteria for judging the success of a rally are color and size.... As I look out here today, I can see we have over 10 million people-3 million over there, 4 million over there-and what makes it even better is the color I see, the variety I see. I can't even believe this is happening-it is a perfect demographic sampling of the American people," Stewart also poked fun at Glenn Beck's Rally to Restore Honor, held on the National Mall last August, criticizing it for wildly

optimistic estimates of attendance and a mostly-white audience. The Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear was held at the opposite end of the mall from Beck's rally.

In order to prevent disputes about the diversity and number of attendees of the rally, Jon Stewart's Daily Show correspondents began to interview people and ask them to count off and identify themselves by demographic characteristics. "I'm American, single-Stewart, single!" said one young woman in the crowd. "You know I'm a 47-year-old married man, right, you know that?" chuckled Stewart appreciatively.

As a passionate Colbert fan, I was wondering where my beloved champion of fear was. But before I became too concerned, Stephen's voice resonated over the speaker system, crying "Jon! Jon, help! It's me, Stephen Colbert! I'm trapped! Trapped in my fear bunker, Jon!" Stephen's image appeared on screens placed throughout the crowd, oddly, strongly resembling a Chilean miner, unshaven, grimy, and wearing dog tags. "Oh my god, Stephen, there you are! You look terrible!" yelled Jon. You really-Stephen, I have to tell you, you really look terrible."

"Wow," answered Colbert. "Thanks a lot, Jon. Wow, that was hostile."

Colbert was too afraid that "no one showed up to our rally," to leave his bunker and join his cohort on stage. But Jon merely

replied: "Uh-I think you're okay there."

He was right. An estimated 200-250 thousand people were gathered on the national mall. In addition to the staggering numbers of people crowded into the mall, 4 million people watched the rally on cable TV.

Needless to say it was a tremendous success

Some seemed to be wondering, why are we here? But that's the great comedy. Jon Stewart allowed himself a rare moment of sincerity at the end to explain. He said that our presence was what he wanted. The opportunity to be surrounded by like-minded, sane people was his goal.

He wanted to remind us that there used to be shades of grey in the world, and people used to be able to respectfully disagree with each other without calling each other Hitler.

In his final summation at the end of the rally, Jon Stewart used the metaphor of the zipper merge to demonstrate his belief that no matter who you are, we can all work together to get to the light at the end of the tunnel. We can stop the culture of fear, which he blames in part on the media, and learn to respect our differences. And, most importantly, we can recognize that "We live now in hard times, not end times."

I stood on the Mall rapt for over eight hours that day, and didn't even notice that it was alternately bitterly cold and scald-

ingly hot, that my feet hurt, that my stomach actually hurt from laughing so much, or that all I had eaten that day was a piece of coffeecake that I got at Starbucks, apparently the only place that's open before 7 AM in the strange city of Washington DC, or that really, John Legend played for way too long.

Sure, we walked forever to get away from the crowd, but we also ran into the Daily Show correspondents on Pennsylvania Avenue, a whole group of them that included Wyatt Cenac and John Oliver.

Yeah, it was physically uncomfortable, but there is nothing like being at a rally, overwhelmed by the knowledge that you are not alone, hearing people you admittedly have idolized and hero-worshipped for several years speak.

I urge everyone to go to ComedyCentral.com and watch video from the rally. When you do, appreciate the rapier wit, the subtle irony, and the dripping sarcasm, and read between the lines, if you will, and try to understand the meaning of all of this.

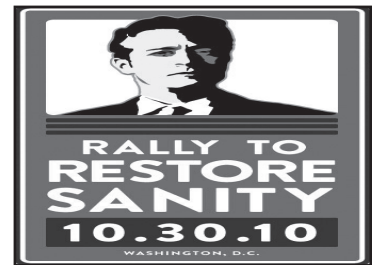


Photo By <http://dailyt>

The Pressure to Pay: An Underclassmen Perspective

MICHAL ZWEIG

CLASS OF 2013

Universities are infamous for being expensive and handing out easy rejections. College is probably one of the biggest causes of stress amongst high school students, causing insomnia, fatigue, and relentless nail-biting, one might even ask oneself if it is worth all the trouble and worry.

Of course, aside from acceptance rates, there is also an issue of affordability. The cost of universities can almost be called prohibitive, with price ranges up to nearly \$60,000 a year, making it nearly impossible for a student coming from an average-income family to afford.

However, state universities do have significantly lower admission costs, \$5,000 a year compared to the \$50,000 asked for by private universities is a really great contrast.

Thinking about it, the difference in prices is something quite ridiculous, when the education offered at let's say the University of Rochester does not differ too much from that offered at let's say Binghamton Univer-

sity.

Another thing one may take note of while wasting away on collegeboard.com, is that often, though not always, public universities are in fact better than private universities, with University at Stony Brook, for example, having 95% of their student body in the top half of their graduating high school class.

This could make someone wonder how much money their college education is actually worth, because when you graduate from Binghamton looking for a job in engineering, the only major difference between you and the guy who graduated from Rochester looking for a job in engineering is debt.



DAN FRIEDMAN

REPORTER

One thing I think most high school students can agree upon is how annoying it is to be constantly asked about where you want to go to college, especially for juniors and seniors.

It is very annoying having to constantly explain the various pros and cons for each college that you are considering. But for many in today's economy, the choice may not be between colleges but between attending college at all.

The question becomes, whether the price of college is worth the potential benefits. A college education has been viewed as an investment, a necessary way to achieve the means of a job that pays well.

However idealistic as it may sound, I feel that on the other hand, a student should strive to educate him or herself to better understand the world in which we live and to make an effort to contribute something useful to society. Students should want to educate themselves not for potential monetary rewards but for their

own improvement.

In the midst of the current recession, students all across the country are struggling to afford tuition at colleges.

According to The College Board, an organization that keeps track of tuition changes among other college related statistics, in the decade ending with the 2003-2004, school year average tuition costs increased by forty-seven percent at public universities and forty two percent at private universities.

This obviously constitutes a large increase in the tuition of colleges, and particularly if one views a college education as an investment, then perhaps this investment is not worthwhile.

I disagree however, because there are such a wide variety of colleges that can be affordable to many students across the country. According to statistics published by the College Board the average annual tuition for a public four year- university is seven

thousand two hundred dollars, which is very reasonable considering the level of success some public university alums have achieved such as television per-

sonality Ryan Seacrest,

Senator Saxby Chambliss, and former Governor of Georgia, Joe Frank Harris. Students can make up for higher tuition costs with hard work, especially considering the wide variety of scholarships and financial aid being offered today.

Education has no price tag because learning more about the world we live in is priceless, as the late Sir Francis Bacon stated "scientia potential est," knowledge is power.



FAFSA
FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

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Letters to The Editor

To submit letters to the editor, stop by room 225 located next to the Writing Center, and drop off the letters in the bin. All letters to the Editor must be submitted with writers name, no anonymous letters will be accepted.

Dear Editor,

I liked the article about Tareek Turner and the Homecoming Game Victory. This was important for our school because we haven't had a year this good in a while. This also helps the students not focus on things such as no heat in the Annex building. Last Monday, my Earth Science class had a temperature of 53 degrees and people were wearing hats and gloves to stay warm. I also thought the texting while driving article was good because it causes a lot of accidents and causes tragedies and helps us learn of the dangers it causes.

Sincerely,
Lucas Burger

Dear Editor,

While viewing the second page of the Ram's Horn today, I had noticed that some articles are not school related. Take for example, "New Leader for North Korea" by Monica Osher. I have absolutely nothing against this writer and I think the article itself was ok, but I feel the point of having a school newspaper is to read about the current events and happenings of our school. I do respect the writer for writing such an article and decently enjoyed reading it, I just feel that an article like this doesn't belong in a newspaper for school. Maybe I'm wrong, but I'm just sharing my opinion.

Sincerely,
Alim Scarpelli

Dear Editor,

Colleges aren't really that expensive for the learning and experience you will be receiving. Granted, some colleges are more expensive than others, but that's just how it is. You can't not expect to pay tens of thousands of dollars to go to a top ranked college. Most students will take a loan out to pay for school, but your getting your money's worth with it. The great education you will receive or the new friendships and memories you will have in college are priceless and no amount of money can pay for them.

Sincerely,
Angelo Joseph Hernandez

Dear Editor,

I am very, very upset about the fact that there is no information about Blue Dogs. Considering that the Blue Dog Democrats are almost as controversial as the Boston Tea Party movement, I would appreciate if there could be a new topic written about these people. Also, I think there should be a new column about current events. Also, the paper should be involved in informing us students about the decisions that have been made in our own school government by our own fine school president and such. Thank You.

Sincerely,
Scott Silverman

Dear Editor,

I agree with the article written by Sarah Dinkes about Katy Perry on Sesame Street. Katy Perry is a talented popstar, and yes, I am a fan, but her music and style is inappropriate for the age range of children who watch Sesame Street. Katy Perry and the children who watch Sesame Street do not fit well together and it should stay that way. I think parents will start to complain about this.

Sincerely,
Molly McNamara

Dear Editor,

The article, "iPad. Work or Play?", written by Griffin Gold provokes controversy. Gold explains how the iPad is slowly creeping into the business world. This transition from a fun device into a corporate device has many negative effects. In the business world, time is one of the most valuable factors to success. Combining a fun device with the business world could create a less effective business world filled with employees without focus. In my opinion, Griffin Gold should not be so ignorant and one sided to the iPad.

Sincerely,
Brandon Steinbaum

Dear Editor,

The lunch system in our school could change. Not in a major way but it could have more options of food. Also, everyone in the school should have a lunch period, it is unfair to the kids that do not have lunch. Kids who try to get lunch before class and are late to class always get into trouble. If it is a lunch period, I think teachers should understand that the children might be a few minutes late.

Sincerely,
Dynell Clement

Thanksgiving is LAME

JESSE TODER

CLASS OF 2011

I have become accustomed to a countless number of Christmas commercials being aired throughout December. The companies usually have the decency to wait until after Thanksgiving. This, of course, is not the case this year as the commercials seem to be aired like it's the middle of December! In fact, a Christmas commercial just played on lil' miss Emily McKinstry's television!

It makes me sick how many commercials there are at a time as sacred as Thanksgiving which is such an important holiday for the nation. This dramatic increase in Christmas ads has been extending to earlier and earlier dates. This then gives the impression that pres-

ents are all that America really cares about.

It is peculiar to me that a holiday, such as Christmas, which is supposed to be about hope and newfound joy can conceal what is supposed to be a

Friday because that's something that I actually care about and I can actually utilize that information for my own good. The best, or actually, the worst example I have seen is when I saw a commercial for a Hallmark

Christmas movie on CBS for Sunday November 28. That is three days after Thanksgiving!

The worst is that it's a Hallmark Christmas movie so there is no surprise as to how the movie will supposed to turn out; by which I mean some cliché mushy-gushy ending. If people really wanted to go see a movie, they would wait until Christmas itself and if not, then they can

use Netflix if they are really in the Christmas spirit that much.

I get it that Christmas spirit is encouraged and dandy and all that, but why does it have to overshadow Thanksgiving, a simple holiday of football and eating?

I would love it if stores had more advertisements for Black

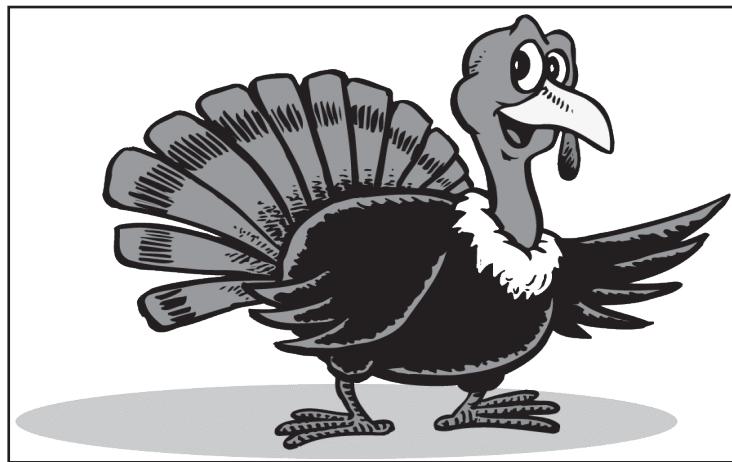


Photo Courtesy of Blogspot.com

If this turkey is Santa Claus, then I'm the Queen of England!

What to do with the trailers?

EMILY MCKINSTRY

REPORTER

We have always complained about our school being a mess. From the cockroaches, decaying ceilings, and faulty furnaces and toilets; we have our share of criticism on the infrastructure of our school. But finally, we are given an empty plot of grass which can also provide our school with a ___ environment. The place where the trailers used to be could become more than just a neat place to eat your lunch and have a break from school.

Yet this relaxation could

be expanded upon beyond the lunch periods. What if teachers could reserve the spot outside to use as an alternative classroom?

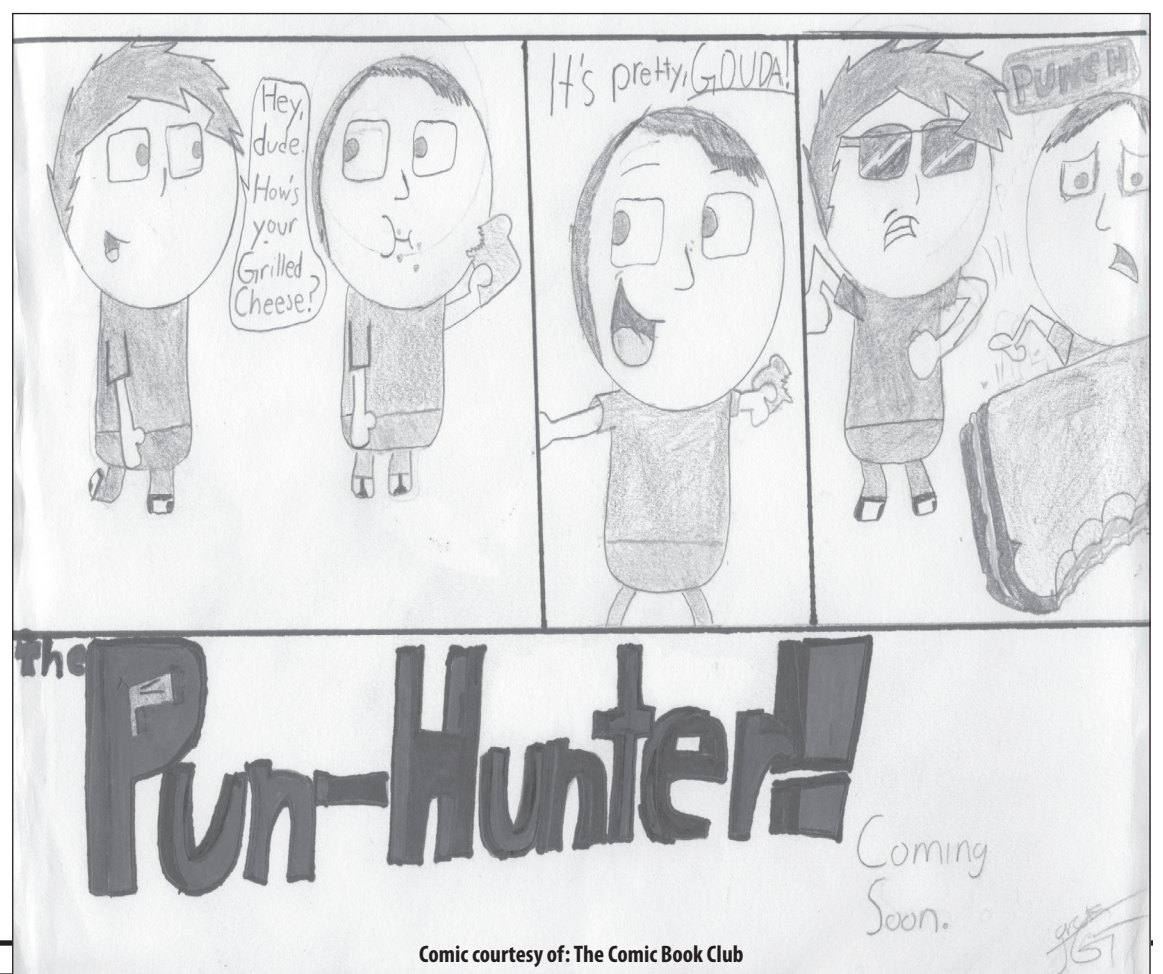
Because, to be honest, every student loves to learn outside. Instead of being confined within the dreary classrooms that we are so used to learning in, new surroundings and some fresh air could liven discussion and ideas. Maybe a projector and laptop could be brought out so that teachers could still use these aides, even outside.

I also think that this space has a lot of potential for other

school related activities. The Art Honors Society has spoken of holding a fundraising concert on this field. Instead of having to find space elsewhere, local musicians would be able to perform on school grounds. Besides that, we could hold a spring formal outside or hold outdoor movies nights or use the field to start a gardening club.

All it comes down to is whether or not you want to you take initiative and make use of the endless possibilities given to you by an empty field.

Here's to a monthly dose of Funny..



Comic courtesy of: The Comic Book Club

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Across

- 3. Dickens famous Christmas line
- 7. There is a special act in ____ that actually makes it mandatory to go to church on Christmas Day
- 10. Sending Christmas cards is still the in thing to do around Christmas time. Americans on average send out Christmas cards to friends and family yearly
- 14. This Christmas tree is actually edible. In addition, it is nutrient enriched, so if you take the advice stated previously you'd be getting a good source of Vitamin C and roughage
- 16. The _____ believed that witches and devious spirits were likely to steal their brooms on Christmas Eve
- 17. Christmas is a great time to exercise. You will walk an average of ____ miles between the parking lot and stores
- 18. Christmas Carols are great, right? Wrong, well at least according to some folks down in Pensacola ____ who were outraged at the loud singing that accompanied the rendition of a few old favourites at a Mall during the Christmas season
- 19. The lighting of the ____ is the main Hanukah tradition

Down

- 1. Ever wondered where the idea of elves came from? They are actually modern day versions of "Nature folk" described in ____ religions of the past
- 2. ____ really lives in the North Pole. But guess what, he foregoes the reindeer and drives a 1984 Ford Tempo, additionally; he delivers Pizza instead of working in a magical toy shop
- 4. It was once believed that any woman who went under a ____ and was not kissed would not marry the coming year
- 5. Christmas was illegal in England from 1647-1660. This was enforced by the then leader ____ who believed it was immoral to hold celebrations on one of the holiest days of the year.
- 8. Hanukah in Hebrew means _____.
- 9. '____ Hallalu', an ancient Hanukkah song is recited or sang while lighting the candles
- 11. Christmas shopping may be hazardous to your health. If you are an avid Christmas shopper statistics have concluded that you will be elbowed at least ____ times while shopping
- 12. Traditional Christmas dinner in England (Two words)
- 13. This legendary Christmas pudding is actually an off shoot of the Celtic dish frumenty
- 15. Leftovers can sometimes be your enemy. Spoilt leftovers are responsible for _____

The Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear

DANIELLE ZOLIT

REPORTER

On October 30, some two hundred thousand people gathered on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. to support The Rally to Restore Sanity and/or Fear. This rally was a combination of what started out as two separate rallies: The Rally to Restore Sanity, led by Jon Stewart, and The March to Keep Fear Alive, led by the in-character Stephen Colbert.

Both men are popular political satirists that have shows on Comedy Central. Jon Stewart hosts "The Daily Show with Jon Stewart" and is typically followed by "The Colbert Report" which is hosted by Stephen Colbert.

The "official" purpose of the rally, according to Stewart, was to give those less vocal, non-political extremists a place to voice their opinions on American politics. He claims that those who are loud and opinionated only start counter-productive arguments and de-value one another's views.

This rally would be a place to return to sanity and reasonable, productive discussion. However, being that this event was being led by two men whose job is to mock politics, participants knew to expect some satirical comedy.

Colbert, the leader of the original March to Keep Fear

Alive, constantly emphasized the superiority of fear over sanity to Stewart throughout the rally. In short, this became a highly comical "war" between sanity and fear.

It began when Colbert made his entrance by emerging from a "fear bunker," a supposed parody on the Chilean miner's rescue earlier that month, and ended with the audience and Stewart together chanting against Colbert's "Fearzilla," puppet, handing the victory to Stewart and sanity.

Besides performances by Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow, the main entertainment came from the signs attendees brought to the rally.

Some of the funniest read: "Don't Let Glenn Beck Tea*** Our Children," "I am a Muslim and I'm afraid of Terrorists Too," "My Comedy Channel: Fox News", "My news channel: Comedy Central" (as seen in picture) and "I support reasonable conclusions based on supported facts!" So while some were amusing, some also supported simply being reasonable.



Photo By huffingtonpost.com

This woman is clearly trying to restore sanity.

Stewart's closing remarks were surprisingly sincere for a man whose job it is to be comedic and sarcastic. "In summary," he said, "we live in hard times, but the hard times are not the end, and we all don't necessarily have to be enemies. What's turning us against one another, and destroying our sanity and increasing fear, is the constant media."

In his words, "If we amplify everything, we hear nothing," which is exactly what the media tends to do. The media overreacts to and over exaggerates each event, further dividing us as people. The reality is that most Americans are not extreme democrats, republicans, liberal on conservative. They're just Americans."

Charlie Sheen Meltdown

ADAM MARKS

REPORTER

Most people my age know Charlie Sheen as the fun, loving, and screwy alcoholic misogynist that he portrays on the hit sitcom "Two and a Half Men." What some people don't know is that he takes this role as Charlie Harper to an even larger scale, his everyday life.

On October 25 police allegedly found Sheen drunk, and naked at the New York's Posh Hotel. That same night he was rushed to a hospital for an allergic reaction to medication. This all happened in a room at New York's Posh Hotel, in which he allegedly caused \$7,000 worth of damage.

When the police searched the room it is reported that a hooker was found hiding in the bathroom. Needles to say Charlie Sheen had one crazy night. But the craziest part is that this type of incident has been

a recurring theme for Sheen, throughout his whole career.

One of the other screw ups, and scandalous situations he



has gotten into includes getting arrested for domestic violence against his then wife Broke Muller on December 25, 2009.

After Sheen was formally charged in February 2010, he was sentenced to 30 days rehabilitation. After all of this you might assume that Sheen would

be fired from his popular sitcom gig right? Well you would be wrong.

After returning to the show in March 2010 Sheen was never punished by his employers for his actions. In fact, in May of the same year he received a two-year contract that sets him up to make \$1.88 million per episode.

Isn't it strange how someone could do so much wrong and yet still be praised and admired? Isn't it ridiculous that although this man commits these acts we will all sit down to watch him on Monday nights? By supporting his acting are we promoting the idea that as long as you're funny, talented, or rich you are some how exempt from formidable punishment?

It seems as if our society is willing to overlook a star's misbehavior as long as he or she keeps us entertained. CBS

Kid Cudi - MOTM II

AUSTIN GOLD

REPORTER

In September of 2009, Kid Cudi released his debut album "Man On The Moon: The End Of The Day." This album opened to critical praise, a few hit songs, and a rising fan base. Many were introduced to his dark and bleak songwriting style. On his most recent release, he takes his music down a notch, which makes the album almost boring to listen to.

The album starts with "Scott Mescudi VS. The World." One of the album's finer tracks, mainly because it features Cee-Lo Green of Goodie Mob and Gnarls Barkley on the chorus. After comes the first single off the album "REVOFEV." After this though, the album goes on a 17 minute, 5 song drought.

These songs contemplate his recent drug habits and are overall just plain boring. Many of these songs, most notably



Photo By musicbox.com

The album cover pretty much sums up the album, disappointing.

"Marijuana", had me longing for the song to end. After the forgettable "Ashin' Kusher," the album picks up its pace with Cudi's hit song "Erase Me," which features hip-hop heavyweight Kanye West.

The album continues to pick up with "Wild'n Cuz I'm Young," which was produced by Emile and Plain Pat, who helped produce his first album and his early mixtapes. The album then finishes with

some good songs, but nothing memorable. Overall this album was disappointing and I think it was a mistake to call this album a sequel of "End Of The Day."

I am very disappointed in this album. After "Erase Me" was released everyone, including myself were counting down the days until the album hit stores. Unfortunately, this album did not live up to the hype.

Must Listen to: Scott Mescudi

Allstar Weekend

GRIFFIN GOLD

ENTERTAINMENT EDITOR

Unlike Runner Runner, these guys are not allstars. If I had to sum their album up in one phrase it would be Jonas Brothers wanna-bees. They sing the same catchy songs as the Jo Bros., but not as good.

The pop quartet was formed in 2007 by Zachary Porter (vocals), Nathan Darmody (guitar), Cameron Quiseng (bass), and Michael Martinez on the drums. The four were inspired by popular bands such as blink-182 and Queen, but have not made their idols very proud.

Sure, Allstar Weekend will have a bunch of tween followers around the nation, but that does not mean they are good. If their idols were the Jonas Brothers then perhaps they would be doing a good job.

Like the Jonas Brothers, Allstar Weekend started on the Disney Channel and became well liked by young kids. The popularity from Disney translated into a contract from Hollywood Records.

Since signing a contract their only success has come from being highly ranked on Radio

Disney and a ton of views on their YouTube videos. Does not surprise me because the majority of the songs sound the same and the lyrics are not very creative.

The band is making money so I have to give them credit for that. However, I looked where they received a considerable amount of their profits, iTunes.

I looked at the responses and was surprised to see that the average person gave them a 4.5 out of 5 stars. When I took a closer look at the comments I understood why they received such a high undeserving ranking.

Scrolling through the comments I saw at least five that read about "OMG Zach is so cute. I love him!!!" Allstar Weekend seems like they are making more money off their looks than their music. But, they have made more money than I have so props to them.

Best Song on Album: Can't Sleep Tonight

Worst Song on Album: The remainder of the album

New Xbox Kinect Changes Video Games

SARAH DINKES

REPORTER

Microsoft is well known for their gaming system called the Xbox, which first came out in November 2001. Microsoft overtook Sony in the gaming world when they released the Xbox 360 in November 2005. Now, to top it all off, on November 4, they released the new Kinect for Xbox 360. Microsoft's motto for Kinect is, "You are the controller." This pretty much describes the purpose of Kinect. Using a series of cameras, microphones, and sensors, Kinect can detect the player's movements and vocal commands, and incorporate

them into the game. During its first 2 days of sale, over 475,000 systems were sold, and many websites and stores were sold out extremely quickly.

Overall, the Kinect has received almost all positive reviews. It is "easy to use and instantly fun." One reviewer on Amazon.com says, "The Kinect is just amazing. It works extremely well, and recognized my every movement and voice command." Another reviewer on IGN.com, a gaming review website, says, "The Kinect sensor is unlike anything I've seen before." Unfortunately, Kinect has some competition. With the release of

PlayStation Move on September 17, as well as the ever-popular Wii system, many people have been saying that "the three heavy weight contenders in the rock 'em sock 'em world of video gaming are duking it out in the center ring." Many people at the moment are rooting for the Kinect, saying that "it's great that you don't need to worry about buying batteries and using controllers for it, while you do for both Wii and Move." A writer on the 14U News website says, "The idea of controlling not just games, but also media and video conferencing in the living room is mind boggling. I want this."

The "real winner" will be discovered after the holiday-shopping season by seeing which system was bought by the most people. Despite its recent release, there's already a total of 17 games for Xbox 360 with Kinect. Some of these games are Kinectimals, Dance Central, MotionSports, and Sonic Free Riders. All of these, as well as the other games for Kinect, involve various movements as well as voice commands. Another cool feature of Xbox Kinect is that it allows the player to navigate through the Xbox dashboard through voice command. By simply speaking the name of the action

he or she would like to take, the Kinect will listen and obey to your every command. In a game, if a player holds out their left hand, the Kinect pause menu will come up, allowing him or her to see different options to enhance his or her experience. The Kinect is relatively new to the gaming world, so there's no telling what will become of it later on, or after the big holiday-shopping season. But, currently, the Kinect is popular, fun, and extremely unique. "You are the controller", so "Jump In!"

College Basketball Preview

By COLIN BARILE AND
JOE CANNATA

CLASS OF 2012

It's that time of year again when the leaves are dying, the flowers have come and gone and the boys of summer are in hibernation. In the midst of the cold weather, there is a game that fans are extremely passionate about. This phenomenon is called NCAA Men's College Basketball. There are many questions that will be answered in the upcoming season.

1. Can the Duke Blue Devils repeat as National Champions?

Last year the Duke Blue Devils overcame expectations and won the National Championship. This year, with the addition of Kyrie Irving, Seth Curry (transfer from Liberty University and brother of Stephen Curry current guard of the Golden State Warriors), Josh Hairston, and Tyler Thornton, they are ranked as the number one team in the country and are the favorite to win the National Championship this year. The Blue Devils are still the favorite even though they lost their top scorer from a year ago in Jon Scheyer. They also lost Lance Thomas, the team's best

defender, and Brian Zoubek who was the team's best rebounder a season ago. The one major weakness that Duke has is that they lack a true center. Mason Plumlee, Miles Plumlee, and Ryan Kelly have to perform extremely well to successfully fill the center position which Duke lacks. Duke is an extremely talented team with many great guards, a top level forward in Kyle Singler and many other players that will contribute on a regular basis.

It is extremely likely that the Duke Blue Devils can repeat as National Champions if the team stays healthy and if they follow the expertise of Coach K. Coach K has put up an impressive resume of over 800 wins, and is regarded as one of the best coaches in college basketball history.

2. Which Mid Majors to keep an eye on?

Everybody knows about Butler and their shocking appearance in the Final Four and eventually the National Championship game. Can they do it again? Or will another mid major surprise in the NCAA tournament. It is likely that Butler will win a game or two in the tournament, but nothing compared to last year's run, due to the loss of sophomore guard/forward Gor-

don Hayward, who is now on the Utah Jazz (NBA). One team that could possibly make a lot of noise is San Diego State. The reason being, they have returning players in, D.J. Gay (senior), and Malcolm Thomas (senior) and their stud sophomore Kawhi Leonard. Other notable mid majors with potential include Wichita State, Murray State, and BYU. This could be another exciting year for mid majors in college basketball.

3. Who is the best freshman this year?

After last year's freshman class that included John Wall and Derrick Favors, who were both picked in the top 5 of last year's NBA draft, who will be the impact freshman this year? We like Harrison Barnes of UNC, Jared Sullinger of Ohio State, and Perry Jones III of Baylor. Last year's group of freshman had the better player in John Wall, but this year there is more talent throughout the freshman class. Harrison Barnes is a 6'8" forward that can pull up off the dribble and hit shots. He is also very good at attacking the basket and making plays happen. He is projected to go number 1 overall in this upcoming draft in June. Jared Sullinger might be our favorite freshman this year.

He is a very physical player that uses his body to wear down opposing big men. At 6'9" and with his 262 pound body he has the ability to create angles for his shot and to clear space on the boards. He is a very special player that should be watched closely because he will make an impact this college basketball season. Lastly, Perry Jones who is 6'11" and at 235 pounds can shoot the three, or pull up off the dribble, but is much better when attacking the basket. He is hard to stop in the lane and some experts compare him to Tracy McGrady. Perry has a 7'2.5" wingspan, so along with all of his offensive skills and athleticism, he grabs a lot of rebounds. There are more notable freshman, including Brandon Knight and Terrence Jones of Kentucky, Kyrie Irving of Duke, and Fab Melo of Syracuse. Freshman matter every year, so we'll see which freshman step up the most this college basketball season.

4. Who will be in the Final Four?

Duke, Baylor Michigan State, Pittsburgh Duke- We feel that Duke has too much talent and too good of a coach to coach that talent that there is no way they won't be back in the Final Four.

Baylor- They have their best player returning in Lace Darius Dunn and the addition of Perry Jones puts them over the top and into the Final Four. Michigan State- The Spartans have almost the same team as last year when they went to the Final Four, but now they have the quality size they were missing with the additions of Adrian Payne and Derrick Nix. They also will have a healthy Kalin Lucas, who is their star point guard. We see them in the Final Four and possibly in the national championship game.

Pittsburgh- This is a team with size, scorers, and shooters. They pretty much have it all. If they can play with chemistry we see no team that can stop them.

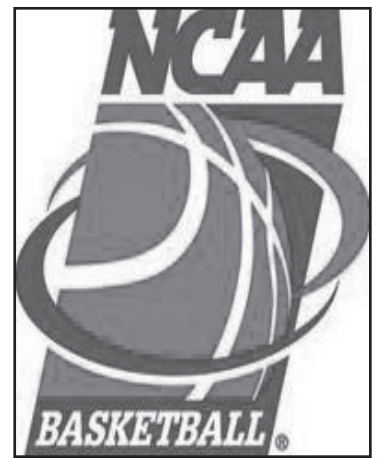


Photo By <http://1.bp.blogspot.com>

2010 World Series Recap

By DAN FRIEDMAN

REPORTER

In the past decade there have been a lot of firsts for baseball. The Red Sox winning their first World Series in 86 years, the White Sox winning their first World Series since 1917 and most recently, the San Francisco Giants, for the first time since the franchise relocated to San Francisco, holding the title of World Series Champions.

It wasn't easy for the Giants, however. They clinched a postseason spot on the last day of the regular season and, despite entering the postseason with arguably the best pitching staff in all of baseball, led by two time reigning NL Cy Young winner Tim Lincecum. Their lack of offensive production throughout the regular season was expected to be their downfall when it came to facing teams like the reigning NL champs and 2008 World Series champion Philadelphia Phillies.

Ultimately, their pitching dominated as expected and with timely hitting and solid defense, the Giants surprised everyone by making it to the World Series. They faced the Texas Rangers led by ace Cliff Lee and star outfielder Josh Hamilton.

Game 1 was billed as a pitching matchup for the ages between Cliff Lee and Tim Lincecum, both considered among the top four pitchers in baseball. However, it did not turn out that way, as Lincecum gave up two early runs on a Vladimir Guerrero single and an Elvis Andrus sacrifice fly. But the Giants offense struck back, scoring two runs in the third inning and six in the fifth inning. And that was enough for Lincecum who helped the Giants take an 11-7 victory in game one.

In game two the Giants started co-ace Matt Cain against the Ranger's formidable CJ Wil-

son in what was also expected to be a low scoring pitcher's duel. The Giants kept up their end of the bargain with Cain pitching well, and the Giants offense once again surprised everyone by exploding for seven runs in the eighth inning off of the shaky Rangers bullpen and the Giants held a 2-0 Series lead as the Series moved to Texas.

Home field advantage served the Rangers well as in game 3 Mitch Moreland, and Josh Hamilton both homered off of Giants starter Jonathan Sanchez and with a strong performance from Ranger's starter Colby Lewis the Rangers took game three 4-2.

In game four the Giants started rookie Madison Bumgarner against the rangers Tommy Hunter. Bumgarner turned in eight fabulous shutout innings. And with a two run homer by Aubrey Huff was enough for the Giants to take game four, and stand on the verge of their first Series win.

Game five was a rematch between Tim Lincecum and Cliff Lee, and this time it was the pitching duel everyone had anticipated. Lincecum and Lee both pitched six strong shutout innings, but in the top of the seventh, the Giants offense came up big, with a three run shot by shortstop Edgar Renteria. Lincecum gave up a solo shot to Nelson Cruz but that would be the final run of the game and Brian Wilson closed out a series clinching victory for the Giants.

Edgar Renteria was named Series MVP with a Series leading six RBIs and a .412 batting average. Ultimately, the Giants won because of dominant pitching and timely hitting; because of the youth of the core of this team, the Giants appear to be World Series contenders for many years to come.

North Football Season Recap

By BRANDON REITER

CLASS OF 2012

After many years of disappointment for Clarkstown North football, the 2010 Rams have concluded one of the most successful seasons in North history. This recent fall season was filled with an immense amount of triumph, improvement, and courage.

Following the intense pre-season preparation, the Rams opened the season with an easy victory over Gorton High School, by the score of 47-14.

The second, and most anticipated game for the Rams was against the intimidating Red Raiders of North Rockland. The Rams have had a tough history against the Raiders, being that 2009 was the 32nd year in a row the Rams have lost to them. This year was different, as the Rams marched on to victory by the score of 14-6. This win ignited energy throughout the school by accomplishing what most people felt was impossible for the Rams.

After the great 2-0 start,

the Rams suffered a disappointing loss to the Mahopac Warriors. The Rams were down just one point when the Warriors blocked a punt, and recovered the ball in the endzone to secure the win.

After this loss the Rams went on a surge, winning the final three regular season games. Among those impressive wins was the incredible victory against the rival, Clarkstown South Vikings. In front of a huge showing of fans, the Rams capped off the contest with a game winning drive that ended with a five-yard touchdown run by the quarterback, Luke Sullivan, on fourth down. That last burst of energy gave the Rams a three-point lead, eventually resulting in the final score of 22-19.

The win over the Vikings capped off the regular season. Finishing at 5-1, the Rams were first in their division and headed to their first ever playoff appearance in school history.

Their first ever playoff game was against the Scarsdale Raiders. The kids from Westchester

proved to be no contest as the Rams won by a crushing score of 23-7. The magical season grew a little longer, as the Rams mad it to the second round. This game was a rematch against the Mahopac Warriors, the only team to have defeated the Rams during the regular season. In a tough, well-fought game, the Rams eventually fell short. Despite the Rams defense being able to shut down the highly recognized Warrior quarterback, TJ Foley, the Rams could not capitalize on offense, resulting in a final score of 6-3.

Even though the season did not end the way everyone in the Clarkstown North community hoped for, the 2010 Rams football season was still a success. Ignoring all the doubts, the Rams worked hard to prove that they were a good football team, not only to themselves, but also to the whole community. When people look back on this season, they will be reminded of the immense success the Clarkstown North Rams had in one of their best seasons in school history.

New City Needs A Skate Park

By JAKE SOLOMON

CLASS OF 2013

In Rockland County, there really isn't any place to skateboard. Other than getting away with a few local spots, the only true skate park is the park in Congers, located in the Congers Community Center.

Congers Skate Park hardly meets the standards of many local skaters, making it really difficult for skaters to find a place they actually want to skate at. Another nice, new skate park, one that would actually meet the standards of skaters in the area, would be a huge benefit to the town of New City.

First off, a new skate park

would give New City skaters a local place to skate where they wouldn't have to worry about being stopped or even facing trouble for possible trespassing. Local skaters would not be the only people benefitting from the addition of a new skate park. A new skate park would move these skaters out of the way of other public areas and local businesses.

I personally feel that if there were a new skate park in New City, I would not have to spend as much time skating in the streets and on private property. There would be a place where I would belong and where I would not have to worry about possibly receiving tickets for trespassing

or getting yelled at by police.

"A marked drop of 34.9% in levels of youth disorder was recorded in Beat 6, where the skate park is located, since 2002-2006. Anecdotal evidence suggests that there is a code of honor among those who attend the skate park. This encourages youths to behave appropriately for fear of spoiling it for others." - wheelscape.co.uk

There is plenty of empty space in New City that would be great for a skate park. The empty fields that go unused at Zukor Park would be a perfect spot for the addition of a new skate park. The town of New City would greatly benefit from a new skate park being built.