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# Blood Sucking Melodrama Incites Tweenage Riots

By Hilary Lyons

An awkward, crazed, stalker-like hunk is not exactly what I had in mind for the teenage vampire heartthrob who portrays *Twilight*'s main character, Edward Cullen. Originally a novel, published in 2005 by Little, Brown and written by Stephenie Meyer, *Twilight* finally hit the big screen. The book struck its biggest audience from the "tween" to teen age groups, girls being the dominant demographic. Fans became borderline obsessive and November 21<sup>st</sup>, the day of the movie premiere, was added to numerous MySpace countdowns worldwide. Unfortunately, for many devoted Edward-lovers, the movie fell short of all expectations.

*Twilight* is the story of one 17-year-old girl named Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) who moves from sunny Phoenix, Arizona to live with her dad in the



Summit Entertainment

chronically rainy Washington town of Forks. While attending Forks High School she falls in love with the ultimate "off-limits" boy, Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) who turns out to be

a vampire. Edward lives with his "clan" consisting of two other couples, Rosalie and Emmet and Alice and Jasper, and their "parents" Carlisle and Esme. While Edward's family turned their backs on the traditional vampire

diet of human blood and exist only on animal blood, other wandering clans still prey on innocent human lives. One such clan makes their way into Forks

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# The DNA of Mrs. Nardone

By Andrea Ramdhan-Cohen

Mrs. Nardone is a well admired teacher at John Jay High School. She teaches Biology and is clearly a great teacher by the number of students who come and visit her every day. She explains things clearly and creates an environment that makes learning fun. She has been teaching for over two decades and she clearly loves what she is doing. She is the right balance between a fun and strict teacher. As a parent, she realizes that the world was different when parents went to school and there are new pressures today which can overwhelm the kids. She understands that "every student is different and shouldn't be expected to achieve at the same level."

Q: How did you get into biology?

A: I was always a scientist. What I mean by that is that I was always interested in what something was, and how it worked, and why it did what it did. But I was especially interested in living things. I was the kid who was picking

up the worms and the bugs (and dissecting them too!). I was the nerd watching the science and discovery channels on TV while other kids were watching cartoons.

Q: How did you decide in becoming a teacher?

A: Again, from when I was little I seemed to be cut out for teaching. I was always trying to explain things to others. For as long back as I can remember, and especially in college, my friends would ask me to help them study because I had a knack for making difficult concepts understandable. I was actually a pre-med major in college, but when I tried to volunteer in hos-

pitals to get a feel for what medicine was like, I realized I was too emotional for it. I was more upset then the patients! They were comforting me and they were the ones who were sick. But I am that kind of person who always felt that whatever I decided to spend my life doing, it had to be something where I was helping others. Despite what people might think, people who become teachers don't do it to get summers off; they do it because they want to make a difference, and what better way then to encourage young people to be the best that they can be!

Q: What college did you go to?

A: I got my undergraduate degree from the College of New Rochelle. I took my science courses at CNR and my education courses at Iona College.

Q: How long have you been teaching?

A: I began teaching in January of 1985. I worked as a long term sub for a biology teacher and started teaching full time the following year at John Jay. The rest is history!

Q: What did your parents think of you becoming a biology teacher?

A: My father passed away before I had actually made that fi-

nal decision to teach. I think he would have been real happy though. He was a European immigrant and was not educated himself, yet felt that education was very important – a must for his children. He had great respect and admiration for teachers. My mom actually wanted me to be a pharmacist, but was not too disappointed when I decided to be a teacher. My mom considered teaching herself, but instead, stayed at home with us.

Q: How many of your students have gone on to becoming doctors?

A: That's a great question. At least eight that I know of. Many go into pre-med, but unfortunately I don't always get to find out if they actually finish. I know of many of my students who have become teachers.

Q: What other subject would you like to teach if you couldn't teach biology?

A: I have taught chemistry and some science electives in the past and really enjoyed the chemistry, but chemistry is really abstract and difficult for students to grasp, so I don't know if I would like to teach it. Although I enjoy literature, I'm not a great writer (and I'm a terrible

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Sanjana Arefin

## More Budget Cuts

By Royce Zhou

As members of the John Jay student committee, every single one of us notices the dismal state our high school has fallen into: lockers that don't close, water you can't drink, bathrooms in which you can't breathe, and gym locker rooms that can't accommodate the growing John Jay population. All of this is enclosed in a building filled to the brim with people, a total of approximately 2177 students. Meanwhile, our neighbor to the north—the one with the four cafeterias—is undergoing massive spending on construction.

Governor David Paterson's plan to reduce spending on education could cost the

Wappingers Central School District 4.9 million dollars. The cut proposed to reduce the New York State deficit, can result in cutting certain renovation projects as well as laying off teachers in the district. Salaries could be hit hard, considering the fact that the district's administrators are already paid approximately \$70,000 less than the state average.

As ironic as it may seem, the Wappingers Central School District actually has a higher budget than the Arlington School District, with \$175 million to \$164.2 million. Yet, John Jay is constantly cast in our rival's shadow, with the exception of boys' and girls' soccer. Who needs turf fields when you can get new planners?

## Announcements? More Like Un- Announcements

By Amanda Gisonni and Gabby Schreffler

Did you hear if dance club is today, or if practice was cancelled for tomorrow? No? Don't worry, you're not alone. Many students like you do not hear the announcements in the morning or in the afternoon either. Many distractions add to the chaos of the announcements such as teachers still teaching, classmates talking, or just the loud speaker buzzing.

Fact: that little voice on that loud speaker determines your day. It tells you whether to stay after school for a meeting or if you are going home on the bus. Now you would not want to show up for band and find yourself to be the only one, would you?

Don't fret; there is a quick and simple solution to your announcement problems. It's time

to put that interesting conversation on hold and quiet your friends. If you are already listening, maybe the problem is the muffled speakers. If that is the case, head to the main office between classes or during a free period to pick up a handout of the news. It's an easy way to catch up on what you missed third or last period.

If you do not have time to swing by the main office during the day, check out the school website and find an update on the news. All you have to do is go to the John Jay website and click on the announcement tab on the left of your screen. Then you will know when Proscenium is having their next poster run way ahead of time.

Now that your inability to hear the announcements problem is solved, you can go about your day not worrying about your plans for upcoming events.

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speller) so ELA is out. I love reading about history, but I am not good at memorizing dates and names, etc., so social studies is out. Although I like problem solving, I find working with numbers (without application of the math) boring, so I'm really at a loss for what else I would like to teach. I guess I'll have to stick to teaching Biology!

Q: You are clearly a teacher that is well admired, why is that?

A: Thanks for saying that! I think the key to the success that I've had as a teacher is simple. I really like what I do and it shows. I love teaching. I'm happiest when I talking about some difficult biological concept and I look at a student's face and I see that look of confusion suddenly turn into a smile. I love it when my students rush into the classroom to tell me what they saw on the discovery channel the night before or how they went to the doctor and they understood everything he was talking about because of our anatomy unit. When I look at my student's everyday, I think of my own kids, and I realize that each and every child sitting in front of me is somebody's most precious possession, and then I try to treat each student that way. I expect three things from my students: hard work, fairness, and respect and that's what I give back to them. I'm honest and most importantly, I'm real. What the students get in the classroom is exactly who I am. I think they appreciate that. I'm not afraid to show my vulnerability. Lastly, and most importantly, there is a lot of laughter in my classroom (usually directed at me!)

Q: In what ways do you think that students learn the best?

A: Students have to want to be in your classroom. You can be the most knowledgeable

teacher, but if students don't want to be in your room, then they won't be receptive to what you have to say. So first of all, your classroom has to be a place where the students feel safe emotionally and where they look forward to coming to. Next, when students can be actively involved (instead of passively involved) they learn more. I'm lucky because in science we have labs that allow for active participation. We also use inquiry learning in science which is the best way for students to learn. This involves students figuring out the answers themselves instead of just being given the information.

Q: Is there anything that you would like to change about John Jay?

A: That's a dangerous question. Mostly, it would be things that pertain to the physical building. We need more space!!! The hallways are too crowded. Things are old and in some cases falling apart. I also feel strongly that we need more administrators for the number of students that we have in our building. They are definitely overworked. We also need smaller class sizes, in many cases. Oh, and the school lunches!

Q: What would you like to change about the education system?

A: That's easy. I hate teaching for a test. In New York State that's what we do. We teach for the Regents exams. To me, that's not educationally sound; that's not what education is about. How ridiculous is it that you have to ask your students not to ask too many questions because you don't have the time to answer them unless they pertain directly to the curriculum because you are on such a tight schedule to cover all the material needed for the Regents. I also don't approve of the notion that all students should and must achieve at the same level. I think this is unrealistic and

unfair. People are different, with their own strengths and weaknesses and that's OK. I would also like to see students take a more active role and be more responsible in their education.

Q: Do you think parents put too much pressure on their kids to do well in school?

A: In some cases yes and in some no. There are parents who want their children to be involved in after school activities, sports, maybe even have a part time job AND be on the high honor role in all honors and AP classes. Personally I think this is a bit much. It's good for students to be involved in extracurricular activities, but school should come first, and it doesn't always. There are only so many hours in a day and so much someone can do. Then we have some parents who aren't involved at all and that's not good either. As a parent, it's hard to find the right amount of motivating, but yet be realistic about what our children can actually handle without being overwhelmed. I think today's world is different from when parents were in high school and parents don't realize the pressures that are on young people today.

Q: What do you think helps kids succeed?

A: Being a biologist, I do believe that the drive to succeed is somewhat genetic but in order to be successful, most kids need caring, involved parents at home, hardworking, caring teachers at school, friends that make you feel good about yourself, a realistic, healthy view on life, good self esteem, and a feeling of acceptance. Also, the knowledge that you're going to screw up once in a while is OK as long as you learn from your mistakes. No one should feel that they have to be perfect all the time (or even most of the time), because that's impossible!

## Spectacular Winter Production Planned, Along With Many Treats and Surprises

By Kyle O'Rourke

Proscenium kicked off their 2008-09 season with a great start! This past month, our production *With Their Eyes* was excellent, commemorating the legacy of the tragedy that took place on September 11, 2001. It had an intimate influence on the surrounding community of East Fishkill. A recap of the 9/11 events and the months thereafter that were very emotional for students at Styvesant High School, just two blocks away from the world trade center. Even though these excerpts were quite upsetting, there were

some very uplifting songs as well as scenes that showed terrorists could not take their city: New York! All in all, Proscenium's *With Their Eyes* cast exhibited one grand performance. As most students in John Jay know, Proscenium is always hard at work, meeting our extremely high standards, as we are formally known as one of the best drama organizations in Dutchess County. The Proscenium members including myself are pleased to inform you that this year we are doing something a little extra; we are presenting a winter play in addition to our all time favorite spring

musical *West Side Story*. The winter show will have one performance only, on Saturday, January 10, 2009. Our winter production, *The Stars Still Shine*, is a very unique show, because we have a special treat in store for the audience. Some of our alumni from previous seasons are joining our current members to put on a memorable show for all. *The Stars Still Shine* will feature scenes from some of Proscenium's greatest moments and is designed to take the audience back in time, back to many of Proscenium's excellent previous productions. Come with us in a magical jour-

ney back to some of Proscenium's long legacy of shows: the sands of Egypt (*AIDA*), the mountains of Austria (*Sound of Music*), the upper and lower areas of London (*Jekyll & Hyde*), the streets of France (*Les Miserable*), even your old High School (*Is There Life After High School?*) and many more of your favorites, including scenes from our upcoming spectacular production of *West Side Story*. We promise that this will be an excellent performance and a great opportunity to see your old friends perform at John Jay once again. Please buy your tickets, as they

are going very fast and support your school's drama club, Proscenium. We are holding this once in a blue moon event to raise funds for replacement of the lights in our theater. Unfortunately, these lights are not paid for by the district and are used by Proscenium and the music department in the auditorium. We truly appreciate your support and promise that this show will be long remembered after the curtain call. Tickets are \$7.00/adults, \$5.00/students and seniors. Why not come and enjoy a winter's Saturday night reliving some incredible Proscenium moments.

## Dr. Horrible: A 'Singing' Sensation

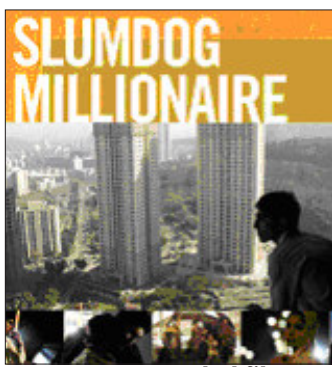
By Amanda Assenza

*Dr. Horrible's Sing-Along Blog* was just something Joss Whedon thought of (creator of TV cult favorites *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Angel*) while passing time during the writer's strike. He did not know it would become a phenomenon. *Dr. Horrible Sing-Along-Blog* was first released on the Internet on June, 25<sup>th</sup> 2008, in three parts, each about 14 minutes long (entirely, the film is approximately 43 minutes). The short film is a smart, different musical comedy with Neil Patrick Harris, Nathan Fillion and Felicia Day. It features 14 original songs sung by the cast. It begins with our protagonist, Dr. Horrible, also known as Billy (played by Harris), trying to get accepted in the Evil League of Evil. He is usually in his lab, wearing a white lab coat and goggles, working on his "freeze ray" project. He makes posts on his weblog and answers questions submitted by fans. When he is in his normal state, he goes to the Laundromat and sees the girl he has a crush on: free-spirited, Penny (Day). He is



always only inches shy of having "a real audible connection" with her. He also has to deal with his obnoxious nemesis, Captain Hammer (Fillion). Things do not go well with Dr. Horrible. His plan to be in the Evil League of Evil flunks and worst of all, Penny falls for Captain Hammer. What will Dr. Horrible do? What measures will he take to be the greatest villain and to get the girl of his dreams? Check it out online at [www.hulu.com](http://www.hulu.com), and if you're interested enough, buy the album on iTunes, featuring the notable songs, "My Freeze Ray" and "Brand New Day." You will not be disappointed. Buy the DVD on December 19<sup>th</sup>, 2008; if you do Dr. Horrible hopefully won't use his death —I mean 'freeze' ray on you.

## Slumdog Millionaire Will Take You On an Emotional Ride



[www.slashfilm.com](http://www.slashfilm.com)

By Mike Gallant

From director Danny Boyle (*Trainspotting*, *28 Days Later*) comes yet another masterpiece, produced and shot entirely on location in India. A complete change from previous films of his, Boyle's *Slumdog Millionaire* has a beautiful feel and is a good type of film. Its direction is similar to his earlier film, *Millions*, yet more fully realized. However, it's not your average feel good movie, as Boyle masterfully avoids all the usual pitfalls which make these films sappy and sentimental.

The story is rather simple: it follows the life of Jamal Malik (Dev Patel) as he tries to survive as a poor slum dweller. The story treks through the brutal conditions which he is forced

to live through (mother is killed at a young age, when he and his brother Salim must try to survive a very Dickensian orphanage, etc.). Throughout the film, Jamal constantly finds and loses the girl he is in love with, Latika (Freida Pinto). Themes of never ending love, trust, family, and the like are abound in the film, yet never at any time become awkward or embarrassing. It is amazing to see that the film is truly authentic, using an entirely Indian cast (a feat rarely seen in western cinema), shooting in the real slums of India, and in general showing such a horrifying, yet accepted way of life these children are born into. And of course, the end credit's Bollywood sequence is perhaps the funniest and most tongue-in-cheek scene to come out in recent history.

Boyle's film shows mastery of his medium, as he can make a film which is so achingly beautiful, and so emotional, yet can have enough restraint to keep it from ever becoming cliché. Watching it is an incredible emotional ride, leaving one completely drained by the end of it. It is a real treat, and certainly one of the best films of this year.

## Can You Say Crème Brûlée?

By Rina Berisha

A modern Italian restaurant with high quality food is located close to home in Dutchess County. The *Il Continori* owner Ken Berisha, is proud to say that the restaurant has been open and successful for six years. Its old fashion elegance and mouth watering food is what keeps the business running today. *Il Continori* may be old fashioned on the outside, but displays modern decorative designs on the inside. *Il Continori* opens for lunch on Tuesday - Friday from 12:00 PM to 3:00 PM. For dinner it is open Tuesday - Thursday 4 -10pm, and Friday and Saturday 4-11pm. On Sundays the restaurant is open from 1 - 9pm.

The traditional Italian style food has a little twist of modern day Italy and America. From the *Insalata delgi Spinach* (spinach salad) to the *Warm Insalata di Mare* (warm sea food salad), there is a variety of style in each kind of salad. The spinach salad has baby spinach with crumbled goat cheese, toasted walnuts, and mushrooms topped with a thin balsamic vinaigrette dressing. Not all salads in *Il Continori* are topped off with walnuts and mush-

rooms, though. For instance, the Warm Sea Food salad has a variety of sea food toppings in addition to a lemon chive on a bed of baby greens. From an appetizer to a delightful dinner meal, *Il Continori* has a variety of pasta, steak, fish, chicken, and veal. One of the most favorable dinners at *Il Continori* is called the *Cochiglia Maritate*. This dish is served with baby shells with sautéed shrimp, sea scallops and calamari in a light cream sauce with tomatoes and basil, and slices of garlic for decoration.

Last, but certainly not least, is the desserts. *Il Continori* is famous for their homemade deserts such as the tiramisu,

crème brûlée, chocolate mousse, chocolate gelato, cheese cake, cream of berries, and many more. Even more deserts are delivered to *Il Continori* each week. These desserts include the delicious Tartuffe, the chocolate cake, the pumpkin pie, the peanut butter pie and more.

Give them a call for any special occasion, private party, date reservation, business meeting, or just a night out with friends. For an extra treat to add to your evening, there is live music on the piano every Friday and Saturday night. Call (845)-297-9222 or visit their website at [www.ilcontinorirestaurant.com](http://www.ilcontinorirestaurant.com) for more information.



## Are You Over The Hills?

By Arianna Galati

*The Hills*, which airs on Monday nights on MTV, created quite a following over the past few seasons. But hey, with rumors, break-ups and make-ups, who would not love this show?

The show centers on the lives of Lauren Conrad, her friends, Audrina and Whitney, and frenemy, Heidi. Season four starts out with tension between Lauren, Audrina and their new roommate, Lo. Lo and Audrina don't really get along, which puts Lauren in the center of it

all. Eventually, they make peace, but that does not last for long. Near the end of season four, Audrina accuses Lauren of "hooking up" with her boyfriend, Justin-Bobby. Audrina heard a rumor about the two or them, and apparently believed it. Lauren clearly never showed any interest in Audrina's on-again, off-again boyfriend and is shocked and hurt when Audrina approaches her about it. This puts their relationship at a new low.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of season four, Heidi has just gotten back together with the

guy we love to hate: Spencer Pratt. Seriously Heidi, what is wrong with you? Spencer alienates all of her friends, is rude to her relatives and drives them away, and costs her a job, without really seeming to care about it at all. Clearly, something is wrong with Heidi if she is still with Spencer.

Also, Lauren's friend Whitney may be moving from the Hollywood Hills to New York City. How will Lauren take this? Will her relationship with Audrina ever be the same? Will Heidi ever dump Spencer (here's hoping)? Watch "The Hills" to find out.

## The Patriot's Interview with iCarly Star, Jerry Trainor

By Zach Dozer

Zachary Dozer received a chance to talk with Jerry Trainor from Nickelodeon's popular television show, *iCarly*, over MySpace. Below, read what Trainor has to say about life.

Zachary Dozer: What got you into acting?

Jerry Trainor: I was always really into it since I was little.

ZD: Did you have a role model that might have helped you to become an actor?

JT: Not really, I was always re-

ally by myself.

ZD: What was your childhood like?

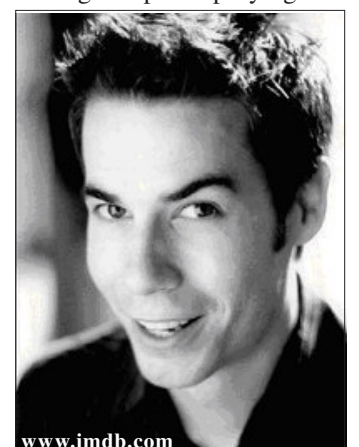
JT: I think I had a great childhood - at least compared to others. I was always treated well.

ZD: Have you done any acting before movies and television?

JT: I was in school plays, starting from when I was in 7th grade. I was in every one throughout the rest of school, except for my 11th grade one, where I didn't get a part.

ZD: Do you have anything to

say to people who want to act? JT: Follow your dreams. And if one thing doesn't work out, don't give up. Keep trying.



[www.imdb.com](http://www.imdb.com)

# Fortune Cookies are *Not* Chinese

By Bryan Chan

Contradicting many present-day stereotypes, the “Chinese” fortune cookie is not even Chinese! Although the usual “Learn Chinese” on the back of the fortune slip promotes the idea, its birthplace is actually California. The inventor of, exact location, and date of the original fortune cookie is presently uncertain, but there are a few opinions on the matter.

One thought that explains

the whole phenomenon is how a Chinese immigrant named David Jung, the founder of the Hong Kong Noodle Company, invented the fortune cookie in 1918. It was said that David Jung noticed all the poor hoi polloi in Los Angeles near his shop; therefore, he felt the need to create free cookies for them, in which each one contained a motivating, laconic aphorism.

Likewise, Japanese immigrant Makoto Hagiwara, designer of the Japanese Tea Gar-

den in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco, is said to have invented the fortune cookie in 1914. After being fired by an anti-Japanese mayor, Hagiwara endured hardships until he was later reinstated by another mayor. To thank the people who had supported him throughout his troubles, he created a cookie that enveloped a “thank-you” slip. Soon, these cookies became popular and started to be served on a regular basis.

Way before that, Mongols

occupied China. A patriotic revolutionary named Chi Yuan Chang planned an uprising against the Mongols; however, he had to inform the Chinese public furtively and in a political manner. He devised a method of hiding messages in moon cakes, which later contributed to the successful rise of the Ming Dynasty. It is believed that from the messages in moon cakes, Chinese 49’ers—who constructed American Railways through the Sierra Nevada to

California—deviated from moon cakes to biscuits during the Moon Festival, in which the fortune cookie was born.

In the long run, there are many beliefs surrounding the “who, where, when, and why” of the creation of fortune cookies. Fortune cookies seem to fit all the standards of being Chinese, such as being served in Chinese restaurants and having Chinese writing on the back of the slip of paper; however, fortune cookies are not Chinese.

## The Guilty Shopper’s Carbon Footprint

By Ariel Alperstein

As the holidays approach, I usually frantically wonder if I have enough presents for everyone on my list. I have been better at earth-friendliness the past few years than most: last year, asking for all my gifts to be donations to Heifer International; this year, buying one person an eco-chic water bottle from SIGG, another person a peace crane. But as I walked into a lecture on carbon emissions last Saturday, my arms laden with bags, I couldn’t help but feel embarrassed.

The program took place in the Beacon Institute for Rivers and Estuaries. Held on Global Day of Climate Action (Dec. 6), several famous people—Andrew C. Revkin (New York Times), Dan Rosenblum (Pace Energy Project), performers Linda Richards and Pete Seeger—stood in front of the crowd and talked about our injured earth and what we need to do to save it.

Global warming is a real and dangerous problem. Humans are destroying the earth, and those who have compassion enough to care for the future of our race believe it is a problem that needs to be solved. Unfortunately, our government tried to avoid admitting the truth of global warming and made the problem worse. The US emits the most CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere out of all the countries on Earth (China and India, though populous, are still developing). We need to reach a decision as a nation and as part of the world by December 2009\* on reducing emissions overall.

Small scale efforts help as well. First of all, know the facts. There is NO SUCH THING as “clean carbon,” the energy source the Obama campaign supported due to his need of Illinois voters (the state provides some US coal energy). “Clean

carbon” would mean no toxins are released into the air when it is burned. Any basic level student of chemistry knows that when carbon burns (or oxidizes) to release energy it forms carbon dioxide. Don’t believe me? Here’s the *formula*: C + O<sub>2</sub> → CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon monoxide plus oxygen also forms carbon dioxide). Secondly, there’s not a whole lot we can do to reduce our carbon footprints as students, but talking to parents about making changes in the home helps (more than you might think). Some simple tips are listed below.

I am not trying to deter you from driving to the mall, buying yourself a pair of amazingly cute shoes, and then driving back home again. I am trying to convince you to carpool with a friend to the mall, buy those shoes, watch a movie, and grocery shop at Target all in one trip to save gas. In the coming year, we all need to be more conscious about our actions and how they affect everyone around us. As the word quickly approaches a population total of 9 billion, it’s going to take effort from more than just one person, or one global conference. It’s going to take effort from us all.

\*UN Climate Conference in Copenhagen date, making it a deadline

- Reduce Your Carbon Footprint:
1. Turn off lights/TV/computer/etc. when you’re not using them
  2. Get a central heating timer: the house doesn’t need to be heated when no one’s there
  3. Completely fill the dish washer before you use it (same for clothes)
  4. Carpool or visit local places/stores
  5. Use reusable water bottles

Visit [dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com](http://dotearth.blogs.nytimes.com) for Andrew C. Revkin’s environmental blog.

## Phil’s-Osophy

By Phil Blechman

Okay. Here’s the deal. Question everything.— Why? (see I’m not a hypocrite...) Because if you are learning something that you feel is valuable, then you have to be sure that that information is correct.— Why? — Because school is an installment in our society to give everyone education.— Why? — Because that’s the definition. Boom.

At college I have expanded my knowledge on a certain category and I questioned some of the statements made and have decided to share it with you. It’s just the kind of guy I am. Now college lets you meet a lot of new people. Older, younger, etc. In this case, younger. The topic: Nursery Rhymes.

These deliciously decadent miraculously marvelous little mingle jingles we all have come to so lustfully love with amorous affection have some holes in them. Just ask Sir Humpty Dumpty. Now, if you would all elegantly escort me while we are on this exquisite exploration, I fruitlessly feel that freely and frankly foregoing into this field would be first-class. And to start things off I’m going to show you why education is so impor-

tant.

Peter, Peter, pumpkin eater, (likes pumpkins, nothing wrong with that, many a gentleman has in his day). Had a wife and couldn’t keep her. (Okay Peter, we got a problem, how about not proposing to a two-timing woman who’s going to leave you? How’s that sound?) He put her in a pumpkin shell and there he kept her, very well. (Wow bro, no need to freak out and hold hostage in a pumpkin, I didn’t know you liked pumpkins that much...freakin’ slow down there champ...) Had another and didn’t love her, (Okay, Pete, Pete-O, we can’t be getting picky. You let your wife waste away inside a pumpkin. If someone is willing to love you after that, let’s not pass it up.) Peter learned to read and spell, and then he loved her very well. (Boom. See, education can help you fall in love. Way to take the advice Pete! I can’t make this stuff up people. If you want Mr. or Mrs. Right to step into your life, get a degree.)

Oh where, oh where has my little dog gone? Oh where, oh where can he be? (Okay first off I have to penalize him good samaritan points for being irresponsible. Secondly, instead of singing about wondering where he went, may be you should go

out and actually look for him! Fye upon you sir. Fye upon you. Why don’t you go hang out with Little Bo Peep? You guys can go not look for your animals together...)

All around the cobbler’s bench, the monkey chased the weasel. (Why is Monkey chasing Weasel? What did Weasel do to Monkey?) The monkey thought ‘twas all in fun. Pop! Goes the weasel. (Sometimes you have to know when too much fun is too much fun Monkey. Weasel, why are you popping at Monkey? Two wrongs don’t make a right Weasel. Think about it.)

Rain, rain, go away. Come again another day. Little Suzy wants to play. (This is my man. All he wants to do is work his game on Little Suzy.)—(Now for those who think Little Suzy is singing this song...nay. How? She’s little. And that would mean she’s talking in the third person. That’d be creepy. Why would anyone write a creepy nursery rhyme for kids? Why ever do that?)

Rub-a-dub-dub. Three men in the tub. (Whatttt?!)

Rock a bye baby on the tree top, where the wind blows the cradle will rock. (?really?)

I can’t even follow that last one up. The End.

## Holidays! Sudoku

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H |   |   | O |   |   |   |   |   |
|   | I | S | H |   | A | Y |   |   |
| L |   |   |   | S | I |   | O | A |
|   |   |   |   | Y | D | S |   |   |
| D | Y | H |   |   |   | ! | I | O |
|   |   | A | I | H |   |   |   |   |
| Y | S |   | A | ! |   |   | H |   |
|   |   | O | S |   | H | A | D |   |
| A |   |   |   |   | Y |   |   | ! |

Created by Ariel Alperstein

Answers on Page 8

Yay, it’s almost time for a holiday from school, as well as the many varied holidays some celebrate over break. Play this Sudoku like regular Sudoku, except instead of numbers, use the letters (and character) H, O, L, I, D, A, Y, S, and !. Each letter fits once in every column, row, and 9 by 9 square. Happy Solving!



Continued from Front Page

and when one member of this lethal tribe—James—gets a whiff of Bella's irresistible scent, he cannot keep away. Consequently, Alice and Jasper must flee Bella to Phoenix while the rest of her new adopted family tries to defer their murderous opponent. The climax culminates to a bloody brawl and a damsel in distress.

While the *Twilight* series is phenomenal, the movie leaves a true fan seething. As in all book-to-movie changeovers, many parts of the story were left out, unexplained or poorly portrayed. Many critical scenes of the book were neglected and parts of the main themes were left unsupported. The book represented an internal struggle in Edward; he lusts most for Bella's blood but loves her too much to drain it from her. Bella and Edward's love in the book is undeniable. Although it has some chauvinistic qualities, any girl who reads it will be sobbing, laughing and loving along with Bella. Meyer encapsulates all readers into her book, drags them into her story and sweeps



**Emmett (Kellan Lutz), Rosalie (Nikki Reed), Alice (Ashley Greene), and Jasper (Jackson Rathbone) in Summit Entertainment's *Twilight*.**

them off their feet. The movie is an opaque shell of the true story of Edward and Bella. Pattinson's and Stewart's acting can barely maintain any believability. They show close to zero chemistry and have one sixteenth of the dynamics of the written high-school sweethearts. Incredibly romantic scenes were played out awkwardly and poetic dialogue on paper seemed cheesy in picture. The movie was barely true to the book and its characters. As a self-proclaimed obsessive *Twilight* fan, I was thoroughly disappointed to have the images I conjured in my head play out in front of me, yet be

completely untrue to the fantastic world I created. Although I will gladly re-read the series a few more times probably before I finish my junior year, it's going to take a while to replace the images Summit Entertainment branded into my visual memory. So even though *Twilight* raked in millions of dollars in box office sales over the first weekend, I'm positive most of those customers came hoping to see their fantasies of the vampire world come true, but left only with the notion that *Twilight* should have stayed at Barnes and Noble.

## Twilight Graces the Big Screen

By Nicole Cucolo

Over the first weekend of its theatrical release, *Twilight* made over 20 million dollars. In total, it made 120 million. Some might say the movie was amazing, but it was not as great as the book. The book was more detailed—the same conclusion drawn about most books that are made

into movies. The movie did not stay true to the book at times, as well.

When most books are made into movies, they are a disappointment, but *Twilight* was not at all. The only major difference between the book and the movie was the way one of the main characters, Bella, found out the other main character, Edward, is

a vampire. Some people say the movie was better, while others liked the book more. Nevertheless, *Twilight* was spectacular. A lot of people say that the *Twilight* series is even better than the *Harry Potter* series. I like *Twilight* better; *Harry Potter* is a little too far-fetched, but I am actually starting to believe in vampires.

Robert Pattinson, who plays the part of Edward Cullen, did an amazing job. Actress Kristen Stewart who plays Bella gave an equally good performance in her role, as well.

Anyone who has read the books should definitely see the movie. The next book of the series, *New Moon*, will also be made a movie and will come out some time in the next few years.



Summit Entertainment

## Behind the Glamour of the Stars of *Twilight*

By Nicole Lee

Behind all the makeup, smiles, and dazzling designer outfits, are secrets that the tabloids constantly attempt to exploit but we will never know. In Hollywood, everything appears to be gorgeous and wonderful, from the clothes and the accessories to the shoes and the hair. There is one thing that cannot be glamorized: the truth.

Recently, Kristen Stewart, who plays Bella Swan in the

newly-released film *Twilight*, was snapped smoking what was supposedly marijuana, with her actor boyfriend, Michael Angarano. The photos taken were posted all over the internet, creating quite a stir amongst both the *Twilight* production and Kristen Stewart fans.

Also making headlines is costar, Robert Pattinson, who plays Edward Cullen. Several photos and videos have been shot of him heavily drinking and smoking in restaurants, clubs,

and parties. He has also been seen many times extremely intoxicated and unaware of his surroundings.

While Stewart and Pattinson seem to be doing not-so-healthy activities, another *Twilight* star turned her life around.

Nikki Reed, who plays Rosalie Cullen in *Twilight*, was sucked into the world of smoking, drinking, and drugs, amongst many other unhealthy activities around the age of 12. Luckily, when she reached the

## Cheesy Sparkly Vampires: Total Failure

By Pelin Akman

In the days counting down to the opening of *Twilight* in theaters, John Jay High School was brimming with hordes of insane female fans. One could hardly walk through the halls without glimpsing at shirts, sweaters, and other items depicting the leading duo of the already-predicted-to-be blockbuster movie. Everyone from your best friend to the creepy hobo man who lived by the bus stop knew about this unstoppable force of literature. For a bestselling book series turned into a movie, the hype generated around the works of Stephanie Meyers was simply intoxicating; it was a *High School Musical* for the teenagers of today. In many minds, there was no possible way the movie could live up to the hype surrounding it. While the hordes of girls, and the occasional guy, crammed themselves into theaters across the country, judgment day arrived at last. The opening scene contained majestic mountains and a breath taking view, giving a sense that a spectacle was about to occur. Then it all came crashing down.

First enters Bella Swan, a clumsy and plain looking girl who decides to move in with her father in Forks, Washington. A seemingly simple character is absolutely butchered by the actress Kristen Stewart by giving the heroine of the story the emotional range of a log, if that. Throughout the story, it is made crystal clear to the viewers that this wannabe A-lister has only two tones: hoarse when angry or scared, and monotone for every other emotion.

As Bella settles in with her father she encounters some old family friends, the lovable big-nosed Jacob Black and his wheelchair ridden lively father, Billy Black. Although both these characters immediately draw in

and entice the viewers, the pair merely plays a small role and only shows up once or twice throughout the film.

Next, Edward, affectionately dubbed "Cedward" by those who remember him from his previous role as Cedric Diggory in *Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire*, is introduced. Robert Pattinson does a terrific job of portraying Edward's angsty side, but was regrettably atrocious when it came to representing the rest of Edward's character. The air of mystery and sureness that surrounded Edward's character was nearly disposed of in this film. Only one scene depicts Edward as his true self, which lasts for about 20 seconds. In addition to that, Edward and Bella's relationship seems to move from loathing to 'irrevocable' love over night. In one scene Edward is doing everything possible to stay away from Bella, and in the next he has her cornered in a forest telling her he feels 'very protective' of her. If that's not stalker behavior, I don't know what is. Once their love is officially established in the movie, there really is no chemistry between them. Viewers half expect Bella to end up with her childhood friend, Jacob Black, as she had more chemistry with him during his minor roles, than she does with Edward through the whole plotline.

As for Edward's family, their role is lacking as well, and many forgo any character development whatsoever.

Overall, the entire movie lacked talent. Also, due to a small budget, many events were cut out, which in turn gave viewers an empty feeling at the end of this film. This movie is one that the average moviegoers should avoid unless they wish to punish themselves with cheesy special effects, many awkward transitions, and horrid acting.



**Actress Nikki Reed plays Rosalie Cullen in *Twilight*.**

# Athlete of the Month: Caitlynn "Mo" Moran

By Conway

Caitlynn Moran, a senior at John Jay, is coming from the New York State Girls' Soccer Championship to her final basketball season at John Jay. She wears number 22—her favorite number—on the soccer field, but if you are looking for her out on the basketball court she is number 44. Since there is no jersey number 22, she took the next best: 44, or twenty-two twice. While her soccer team was getting pumped and ready for the championship, Moran had another celebration of her own. You may think she is great in soccer, but when it comes to basketball she is even better, and this past November Caitlynn Moran signed the letter of intent to play basketball for Boston University next year.

Moran secured the winning and only point scored in the NYS Girls' Soccer Championship game. This winter she can only



Last year Caitlynn scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point in her high school basketball career.

hope for the girls' basketball season to end as exciting as the soccer season. The soccer team was a strong and, as Caitlynn said, "It will be hard to replicate

the success that our soccer team had, but I can only hope it will end the same."

As captain of the basketball team, her goal is to make it to

sectionals and win. The girls won their first scrimmage game. They also collected their first win against Ursuline, even though some said we were the

definite underdogs in that game. It was a very impressive win to start the season.

She is not just a big scorer in soccer; last season she scored her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point in her high school basketball career. As we were heading to halftime against Lourdes with the clock ticking, Moran headed toward the net and took a shot from half-court as the buzzer went off: she made it. Not only was it an amazing shot, but it was her 1,000<sup>th</sup> point on the John Jay team; an exceptional milestone for any high school basketball player. Her comments about this accomplishment were summed up in two words: "crazy" and "incredible."

Good luck goes out to Caitlynn Moran as she heads into her final basketball season, after being a member of the varsity basketball team since she was in eighth grade. It has been a thrill for her, as well as for the rest of her "family" on the team.

## NFL Playoffs: The Battleground

By Billy Murphy and Robert Goldstein

The regular season is winding down and the playoffs are coming. There are eight division leaders, four from the AFC and four from the NFC. There are four wild card teams, two from each conference. There are twenty other teams that can only hope to do better next year.

Here we will break down the top playoff hopefuls (as of December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Some records may have changed) and the keys to their successes:

### NFC East

Team: New York Giants

Overall record: 11-1

Division record: 4-0

Conference record: 8-0

Inter-conference: 3-1

Coach: Tom Coughlin

### NFC North

Team: Minnesota Vikings

Overall record: 7-5

Division record: 3-2

Conference record: 5-3

Coach: Brad Childress

Quarterback: Gus Frerotte

### NFC South

Team: Carolina Panthers

Overall record: 9-3

Division record: 2-2

Conference record: 6-3

Inter-conference record: 3-0

Coach: John Fox

Quarterback: Jake Delhomme

Team: Tampa Bay Buccaneers

Coach: Jon Gruden

Overall record: 9-3

Division record: 3-1

Conference Record: 8-2

Inter-conference record: 1-1

Quarterback: Jeff Garcia

### NFC West

Team: Arizona Cardinals

Overall record: 7-5

Division record: 4-0

Conference record: 5-4

Quarterback: Kurt Warner

Coach: Ken Whisenhunt

### AFC East

Team: New York Jets

Coach: Eric Mangini

Overall record: 8-4

Conference record: 6-4

Inter-conference record: 2-0

Quarterback: Brett Favre

### AFC North

Team: Pittsburgh Steelers

Coach: Mike Tomlin

Quarterback: Ben Roethlisberger

Overall record: 9-3

Division record: 4-0

Conference record: 8-1

Inter-conference record: 1-2

### AFC South

Team: Tennessee Titans

Division record: 6-0

Conference record: 7-1

Coach: Jeff Fisher

Quarterback: Kerry Collins

### AFC West

Team: Denver Broncos

Overall Record: 7-5

Coach: Mike Shanahan

Division record: 2-2

Conference record: 4-5

Quarterback: Jay Cutler

### NFC Wild Card

Team: Atlanta Falcons

Coach: Mike Smith

Overall record: 8-4

2<sup>nd</sup> in NFC South

Division record: 2-2

Conference record: 5-3

Quarterback: Chris Redman

Team: Dallas Cowboys

2<sup>nd</sup> in NFC East

Division record: 2-2

Conference record: 6-4

Overall Record: 8-4

Coach: Wade Phillips

Quarterback: Tony Romo

### AFC Wild Card

Team: Indianapolis Colts

Overall record: 8-4

2<sup>nd</sup> in AFC south

Quarterback: Peyton Manning

Division record: 2-2

Conference record: 7-2

Team: Baltimore Ravens

Overall record: 8-4

2<sup>nd</sup> in AFC north

Division record: 4-1

Conference record: 7-3

Coach: John Harbaugh

Quarterback: Joe Flacco

After almost 17 weeks of play, who will reign supreme? There will only be one champion.

## Goodbye Old Friend

By Michael Lynch

Goodbye Old Friend... You have hosted many historic events.

Goodbye Old Friend... You were a sanctuary to people who needed to escape from whatever their troubles may have been.

Goodbye Old Friend... You have made many people happy.

Goodbye Old Friend... The new stadium will be okay, but it won't be the same.

So, goodbye old friend... You will be sorely missed, By legions of fans and many past and future generations.

Goodbye Yankee Stadium



## The Patriot Editorial and Production Staff

The mission of this newspaper is to serve as a timely and accurate source of information and as an effective forum for student expression. We encourage our readers to send letters to the editor, and we will make every attempt to publish them.

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# Happy Politically Correctness Day

By Joe Bernstein

Holidays are coming up. That is a generalized statement: There are holidays coming up. But if I were to say the holidays are coming up, that statement would take on a slightly different meaning. And if I were to say Christmas is coming up, it would be pure blasphemy.

This is the season of many holidays; that much is true. There is Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanzaa, New Years, (Winter

Solstice, Festivus, Boxing Day...). But when someone goes bold and wishes another a merry Christmas, is it offensive? Should it be? Some may say yes. Some may say it is a statement pertaining to religion. But is it? Don't we all celebrate Christmas?

Christmas is no longer a religious holiday, at least for the most part. Aside from Christmas Day church services, very little of the "Christmas" season can be attributed to religion. Pine

trees, colorful lights, Santa Claus, gift giving, the colors of the Italian flag—since when are these religious symbols? Christmas has become the name given to the time of year when things can get better. December is a time when the days get darker and the weather gets colder. Stress from school and work begin to press down on us. Need we ask for more reasons to receive something uplifting? So here comes this daunting time of year, right after the fam-

ily togetherness of Thanksgiving. Luckily, Christmas (the season, not the religious holiday) is approaching, and people begin to act nicer, and smile a little more often, and peppermint and gingerbread make the air smell more inviting. Lights shine in rainbow colors around houses, and we look forward to a week (or two) off from school.

Depending on your religious customs, or just your personal customs, you may not participate in any or all of these tradi-

tions. I understand that. But should religion stop you from enjoying the Christmas season in one way or another? I am not saying you must, nor am I saying you should, but it is nice to have a time of year when everybody can come together with happy feelings.

So next time somebody wishes you a Merry Christmas, take it for a grain of salt. He or she just wants you to remember to smile, and enjoy the month of December.

## Letter to the Editor Gas Prices at an All-Time Low

By Rachel Barber

The recent article put forth by the newspaper, "The Politics of Heaven Part 88," was a great misrepresentation of the Christian religion, displaying severe misunderstanding, which must be addressed. There were many oversimplifications, misleading comments, and general mistakes to be noted, and I ask forgiveness if I miss some of them.

For one thing, the article states that Christians "stole" half of their religion from the Jews, referring to the Old Testament. From a Christian perspective, Christianity is the continuance and fulfillment of the Old Testament. It would be inaccurate to say that Christians stole it from the Jews as many of the first Christians were Jews themselves, and there are many references in the Old Testament to the coming of the Messiah, which are realized in Jesus Christ: Moses, Daniel, Isaiah, and Malachi—all important figures in the Jewish religion—speak of the eventual coming of the Messiah or "the Day of Lord," which is also understood to mean the coming of the Messiah. Jesus even refers to himself as "I Am" several times in the New Testament, a clear connection between himself and the God of the Old Testament, who calls himself "I Am" when speaking to Moses through the burning bush.

The article later refers to God as "manic-depressed," "one minute breathing life into Adam, then the next drowning the whole world in a massive flood." There is no argument with the fact that God becomes upset with his people repeatedly; however, to say he was happy "one minute" and destructive the next is a complete hyperbole. According to the Bible, there were over a thousand years between Adam and Noah, during which it says people grew corrupt and wicked. The very idea that populations decay over time is repeated again and again in the rest of the Old Testament with Israel and Judah's decline, as the people's

wickedness is noted.

In addition, to say that the Old Testament's main figures are Adam, Abraham, and Moses is a massive oversimplification, as these three compose approximately the first 5 books of the Old Testament, 2 of which deal more with regulations and genealogy than these actual figures. It is true that they are foundational figures, but there are 39 books in the Old Testament and these three take up 5. There are 6 books—1 Samuel through 2 Chronicles—that deal with Israel before the time of exile, 17 books devoted to the prophets, 5 books of wisdom literature, and several other assorted books. The Old Testament is a large book with many vital people, and should never be limited to Adam, Noah, and Moses alone.

The article also rejects the idea of a multi-billion dollar church and grand cathedrals. It should be noted that the church would obviously be wealthy, as is so large with so many members, and that churches are typically generous in using their money to help others, displaying their love of Jesus Christ through good works. As for grand cathedrals, the Bible never opposes extensive places of worship. You will recall King Solomon was famous for his elaborate temple in Jerusalem. It is reasonable for, and God often encourages, people to decorate places of worship for the glory of God. It is true, some people put on displays of grandeur for themselves, and that is contrary to the religion, but glorifying *the Lord* through fine and fancy churches portrays appreciation of God, not man. The quotation about it being easier for a camel to get through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter Heaven concerns individuals using wealth for selfish purposes and has nothing to do with using wealth to glorify God. Also, the example of going into your room to pray deals with people who exalt themselves rather than God, and has no bearing on the church. There are some misguided souls

who try to show off through worship in front of others, and that is not in accordance with Christianity; however, people are still encouraged in the bible to gather together in matters regarding Christianity: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am."

I do not know whether Ian was joking or serious concerning Heaven as a "totalitarian communist regime," but, in any event, I will address the issue as best I can. Giving Heaven such a title seems to imply that people do not have a choice. Those in Heaven want to be there. They want to grow in their Christian faith and they want to come nearer to God. Those who reject God certainly do not belong in Heaven, where days are spent joyfully praising the Lord.

There are two major theories as to Hell's structure. #1: It comes from a person's sudden closeness to and sight of God, which he cannot stand because of his own sin, resulting in misery. #2: It results from total separation from God, in which case the person gets what he wants, since he chose to reject God. It is God alone who protects and shelters people, bestowing all blessings. Rejecting God is rejecting his gifts. The evil of Hell is the result. It is hard for us in our imperfect world to accept God's perfection; thus, we dislike the idea of his dominion over us, but he is all knowing, and wiser than any human could hope to be. If you love God, you will want to serve him, and you will want to do what is right; therefore, Heaven will be pleasing to you. "Love God and do as you please." (Saint Augustine)

As a final note, I would like to remind that Heaven is not earth. It does not suffer from the same worldly problems. Heaven is a place of the spirit, where all that is needed is provided. God supplies everything. It should not be thought of as an extension of earth or even as a "perfect earth." There must be key differences between the two, as God will make "a new Heaven and a new earth."

By Louis Hwang

As of December 2008, gas prices have dropped tremendously to an all-time low. It is estimated that the average price of gasoline is under roughly \$2 a gallon throughout the whole United States. In our area—Dutchess County—gas prices are only a few cents over \$2 per gallon. Now that's actually a very low price compared to the times we had to face prices as high as three or four dollars a gallon. This may be good for those short on gas money, but it also may have some drawbacks to society in general.

Now since the price of gasoline has dropped tremendously from months ago, people are going to save money the next time they fill up at the gas station. People who commute or drive very often will not be so overwhelmed with high dollar to gallon ratios they have previously endured. For regular middle-class families and commercial businesses, the reduction gas prices can help ease the burdens of high fuel costs. This means paying less money for the same amount of gasoline as compared to a few months ago. It may help the individual and the general society financially, but low gas prices also do have some drawbacks on everything else in general.

While driving your car when gas prices are so low, will you really care so much about trying to conserve as much gasoline as possible or getting the most mileage possible? Probably not, because if you run low on gas you can always go to the nearest gas station and fill up cheaply. But back when a gallon of gas was three or four dollars, the excessively high prices encouraged people to find ways to conserve, or make use of the gas while staying stingy. When prices were expensive, people would be encouraged to drive less and probably use mass transit more often in order

to cut down on fuel spending. Efficient buses as well as walking or cycling, were fine alternatives to driving. High gas prices actually cut down on pollution by having people drive less often; an advantage for the environment. On the other hand low gas prices help us get on with our lives easier, but they do not always help the whole economy. It is true that low gas prices may cut down on the budget for the automobile, but what low gas prices really mean is an increase in gas consumption, since people will drive more often without worrying about filling up the tank. Vacations will be more common and there might even be more traffic. Differences can be seen for the working class mostly, because the rich and those unaffected by the gas prices, will be driving no matter what the cost. Think about it; higher gas prices will make you want to use less, while lower gas prices will provide a carefree driving experience.

Gasoline is really not unlimited; it is a non-renewable resource that exists only in very limited amounts. Right now the United States is on the top of the world in terms of gasoline consumption. If the prices are low, then more consumption will be encouraged, so it does not always help everything in general. In addition, higher gas prices actually did encourage people to find alternate renewable sources of fuel and energy to save on money and to help solve on the world crisis. So maybe the individual would enjoy low prices of gasoline because they only think about the short term of their lives, but it will not really benefit the world itself when the impacts are actually considered. The next time you fill up the gas tank of your car, you can be glad the prices are low, but at the same time also consider how this will actually affect the world around you in general.

# A Day Without Math

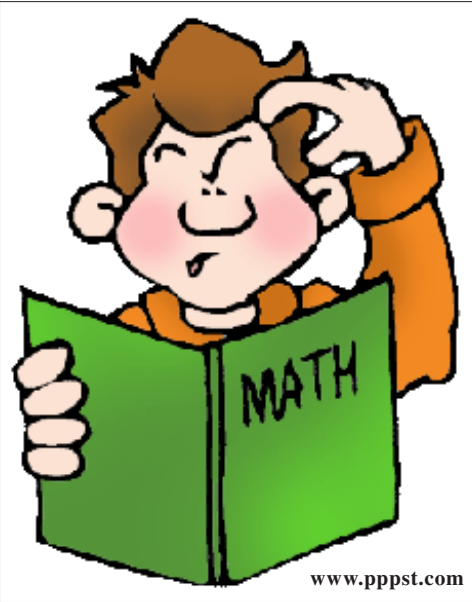
By Royce Hwang

I've come to a decision: I am going to quit math. Math is only useful for rocket scientists, nerdy Asians, and math teachers, and it's quite obvious that I'm not going to become any of them. Nobody needs math in everyday life. Friday is my final day; tomorrow and I will soon be emancipated from the shackles of math class.

Saturday finally comes; I get up early to do some last minute Christmas shopping and prepare for the party to be held at my house tomorrow. The thermometer outside reads 32 degrees on the left hand side and 0 degrees on the right hand side. Does this mean that the right side of the house is thirty two degrees colder than the left side? Maybe I should have paid attention in math class.

I start the car and head to the mall, which is ten miles away, at 40 miles per hour. I wonder how long it will take me to get there? I figure that I have 8 gallons left in the tank, and since this car gets 20 miles a gallon, I will be able to go 28 miles before refueling. A voice in my head tells me that I am completely wrong, but I shut it out.

I finally arrive at the mall (15 minutes later) and begin my shopping. After I'm finished, I buy some groceries, where I meet a small dilemma. Do I buy a dozen eggs for \$4.00, or do I buy two sets of six eggs for \$2.50 each? In my opinion, the six egg set is the better deal, since it has a lower price, and I don't understand why other people tell me that the dozen is the better deal. The receipt also



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puzzles me. It shows an 8.25% sales tax, but I am charged \$4.13 as tax for my \$50.00 purchase. These percents are quite confusing.

Finally, I get home at 5:00 and begin to prepare tomorrow's meal. The recipe for cake calls for five cups of flour and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  tablespoons of sugar, and will serve five people. Now, how much flour and sugar will I need to make enough cake for twenty people? I think I need some sort of proportion to figure this out.

Now that the day is done, I can finally relax. But first, I have to fulfill a vow of mine; I will plan out my budget for next month. Let's see... I make \$1,000 a week, pay \$342 in taxes, \$225 in utilities, \$127 in groceries, and \$69 in gas. In addition, I put away \$50 into the bank. That leaves... I can't figure out how much I have left to spend. I'll have to ask one of my friends to do it for me.

I finally come to a realization: maybe math isn't so useless after all. Maybe, gasp! there are actually practical uses of math in everyday life after all! Maybe if I had put more effort and attention into math class, I would have been able to better understand the confusing world around me.

## Answers to Sudoku Puzzle on Page 4

|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| H | A | Y | O | D | ! | I | L | S |
| O | I | S | H | L | A | Y | ! | D |
| L | D | ! | Y | S | I | H | O | A |
| I | O | L | ! | Y | D | S | A | H |
| D | Y | H | L | A | S | ! | I | O |
| S | ! | A | I | H | O | D | Y | L |
| Y | S | D | A | ! | L | O | H | I |
| ! | L | O | S | I | H | A | D | Y |
| A | H | I | D | O | Y | L | S | ! |

# Where is the Love?

By Hilary Lyons

Did you ever turn on the news with your parents only to have them gasp at the horrific headlines while you remain somewhat passive? As a part of the youth of America, I think I can safely say that we have become immune to violence. School shootings, terror attacks, rapes, robberies, kidnappings—all are just another part of our daily lives. While I am not claiming the youth is apathetic to world events, I *am* saying that we have a high tolerance for devastation. So were the terror attacks on Mumbai that surprising to us? My answer: no way. We expect bombings and shootings. Show us groups of Hindus and Muslims in northern India, or Sunni and Shi'ites living in Iraq, or Republicans and Democrats living here in New York who get along, and our jaws will drop. Hate is easy, but where is the love?

Hate filled the hearts and minds of terrorists who entered the city of Mumbai, located on India's west coast, on Wednesday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Armed with AK-47's and other military quality explosives and guns, attackers sailed into Mumbai (formerly Bombay) and targeted six different locations. Two major luxury hotels,—the Taj Mahal and the Oberoi Trident—a railway station, a hospital geared towards helping women and children, a Jewish community center and a local café were all under siege. At the end of the 60 hour series of attacks, the death toll reached nearly 200 people with cataclysmic devastation throughout the city and ultimately, the world. Two Americans were among the dead, as well as two members of a Brooklyn Jewish community, a rabbi and his wife, who were living in India as of 2003. Only one terrorist remains living today, the rest were killed by the

## Now is Our Time to Act

By Blake Rodriguez

Throughout his campaign and since his election, President-elect Barack Obama has promised to utilize government funds to create infrastructure across the United States. A major portion of those promised funds will be budgeted towards schools. As a school district we need to act now! Over the past few years our school district has been plagued with contingency budgets that always seem to come up short. I say it is our time. It is our time to be able to afford new textbooks and classroom equipment; it is our time to be able to walk in a hallway without stumbling over others; most of all it is our time to enjoy attending a school that reflects the hard work performed by our students daily.

Indian police force or explosions and fires they themselves instigated. It is unclear yet what specific group is behind the attacks, yet the Indian government is looking towards Pakistan to be the parent of these attackers. Pakistan believes that India's default—to blame Pakistan for acts of terrorism—is a weak scapegoat tactic. Pakistan claims no responsibility for the attacks as of yet; however, rumors of a Pakistani-based attack on Mumbai had been circulating for months. Indians blame the government for allowing what they are calling their own 9/11 to happen when they believed prevention was possible.

Criticism of the Indian government and police force has been evident since days after the attacks. The low wages awarded to Indian commandos cause little incentive for hard work and more incentive for corruption, making the law-enforcement weak. Indian citizens claim it takes hours for some police forces to respond at times. With thirteen and a half million residents in the city, many fear for their safety and are not comforted by the government's weak attempts at making conditions safer.

So, who can make one safer at a time like this? Terror attacks have been sprouting up all over India recently. Being one of the financial and commercial capitals of the world, attacks in India are considered global events. Terrorists were hoping that the world would get involved in this particular deadly scheme. The insurgents wished to anger more than just the community of Mumbai. While many believe that the terrorists were acting in pure disdain for the political situation between Pakistan and India, their true motives are still blurry. Nevertheless, it is heartbreaking to see the land that Gandhi once de-

voted himself to uniting, still in turmoil over the same things he wished to, and almost did, solve.

Being one of the most influential advocates for peace in the history of the world, Mahatma Gandhi would undoubtedly be heartbroken over the unfolding of recent events in Mumbai. India, for so long, portrayed an example of defeating adversity and overcoming ethnic and religious differences among its people. It was a pillar of human capability and achievement. Now it has been turned into a ground upon which terrorists believe they can inflict harm on individuals to send a message to the masses. Citizens of Mumbai have called their own home "ruined" and find themselves turning away from the unifying teachings of Gandhi to more aggressive teachings that promote fighting back. One cannot blame the Indian citizens for feeling violent at a time like this. They are hurt and scared and must protect themselves to survive: but it does not have to be this way. Citizens of the world should not have to live in constant fear of one another. Our global society revolves around killing, war and destruction. It is a known fact that nothing tops off those newspaper headlines like a good ol' fashion murder plot. As a human race we are fascinated by destruction; however, some good will come out of this terror attack. Whether it is the heightened awareness of police forces worldwide or the individual realizations of the importance of one's life, some good has to come out of all this evil. So as a global community we will grieve, we will mourn, and we will pick up our lives and move on, never to forget the heroic martyrs, but let me ask you this; will we learn? How long will it take for the globe's youth to not be surprised by another crazy terrorist?

In this case the squeaky wheel gets the grease, so we need to make sure that a sufficient amount of funds are secured for John Jay High School. I recently had the opportunity to travel to Arlington High School, and it truly was a privilege. As soon as I entered the campus I witnessed a spacious parking lot that was able to facilitate a vast amount of cars, newly constructed branches of the school, even more construction, and a planetarium. That was only the first part. When I entered the school I was met with a clean spacious main lobby and to further my amazement the library seemed to be more than twice the size of John Jay's.

My question is why can't we have the same? As a student body we perform exceptionally

well on Regents and AP exams and have a higher school ranking than Arlington. This makes me question why they are granted amenities we lack. This is our opportunity to improve our school; we need to take it. We need to improve our school so that John Jay students will be able to learn and grow in a healthier and better work environment. Jay students and faculty, it is our time.

I urge you all to write to our local congressman, John Hall and/or our state senators, attend school board meetings, and become a voice. Remember, a community is only as good as its schools and everyone in the community benefits from quality schools. So get involved and become a part of ushering in a new era for John Jay.