

THE SPECTRUM

December 2010

Nyack High School

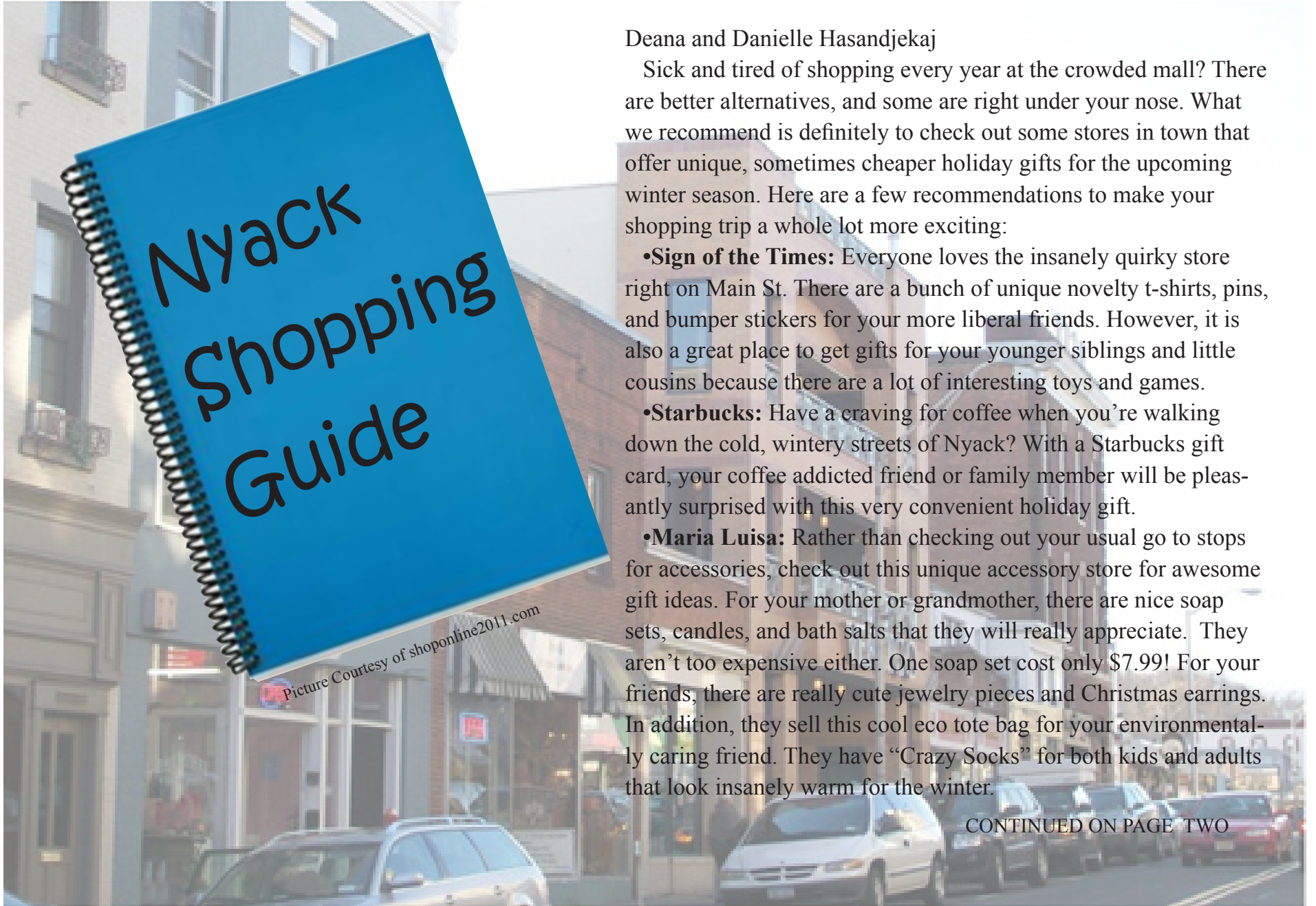
Volume XVI Issue 4

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Deana and Danielle Hasandjekaj

Sick and tired of shopping every year at the crowded mall? There are better alternatives, and some are right under your nose. What we recommend is definitely to check out some stores in town that offer unique, sometimes cheaper holiday gifts for the upcoming winter season. Here are a few recommendations to make your shopping trip a whole lot more exciting:

•**Sign of the Times:** Everyone loves the insanely quirky store right on Main St. There are a bunch of unique novelty t-shirts, pins, and bumper stickers for your more liberal friends. However, it is also a great place to get gifts for your younger siblings and little cousins because there are a lot of interesting toys and games.

•**Starbucks:** Have a craving for coffee when you're walking down the cold, wintery streets of Nyack? With a Starbucks gift card, your coffee addicted friend or family member will be pleasantly surprised with this very convenient holiday gift.

•**Maria Luisa:** Rather than checking out your usual go to stops for accessories, check out this unique accessory store for awesome gift ideas. For your mother or grandmother, there are nice soap sets, candles, and bath salts that they will really appreciate. They aren't too expensive either. One soap set cost only \$7.99! For your friends, there are really cute jewelry pieces and Christmas earrings. In addition, they sell this cool eco tote bag for your environmentally caring friend. They have "Crazy Socks" for both kids and adults that look insanely warm for the winter.

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Van Brunt Gallery Closing

Hannah Kay
Saturday,

November 6th marked the second to last show of the Van Brunt Gallery, featuring artists Colin Barclay, Stanford Kay, and Peter Lannarelli. Carl Van Brunt, the owner and curator, has decided to close the gallery, located in Beacon, because it is not economically viable at this time. There is no way to know when the recession will end and until then, most people are not willing to spend money on things other than the necessities.

The gallery started out blocks away at the other end of town in a larger space, but not necessarily better in any way other than size. In this relatively newer space with a much more reasonable rent, \$900 rather than \$5,000, the gallery survived for about two to three years. At this point, "I do not have the resources to keep things going any longer. I don't see any way to save it in its current form and need to take a break before I can figure out the next step," says Van Brunt when asked about trying to save the gallery. Despite the imminent closing, with all the connections that Van Brunt has made over the years, there are many exciting new possibilities ahead that he can focus his energy and skills on. Suzanne Ball, Carl Van Brunt's wife, does agree with the decision to close the gallery. Seeing as it is no longer a profitable venue, she feels there is no reason to continue losing money on it.

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Courtesy of Van Brunt Gallery.

Manuel Pardo, "Pandillera Girl with Entity" (2003), Oil and pencil on linen.

Links Between Suicide and Sexual Orientation

Zahra Ahmed

"That is so gay."

"Dude, stop being so gay, suck it up."

It's sad to say that these are common expressions with youth across the country. In fact, The National School Climate Survey, conducted by the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network, found that three-quarters of high school students surveyed heard derogatory and homophobic remarks "frequently" or "often" at school. And 90 percent said that "gay" implies stupid and worthless. While we subconsciously don't mean to hurt someone's feelings, it doesn't mean that using the word "gay" with negative connotation is okay. It's the equivalent of saying that calling people the N word is perfectly acceptable. And that's another thing. It is not fair to set a double standard. It is not okay to use the N word yourself, when referring to people of color, and then get angry for someone outside your race for using the same language. You just can't do it.

But what does this have to do with anything? This is not a lecture on what's right and wrong. This is to inform you, to encourage you to open your eyes and see the scary things happening around you. It's time to stop the growing relationship between suicide risk and sexual orientation.

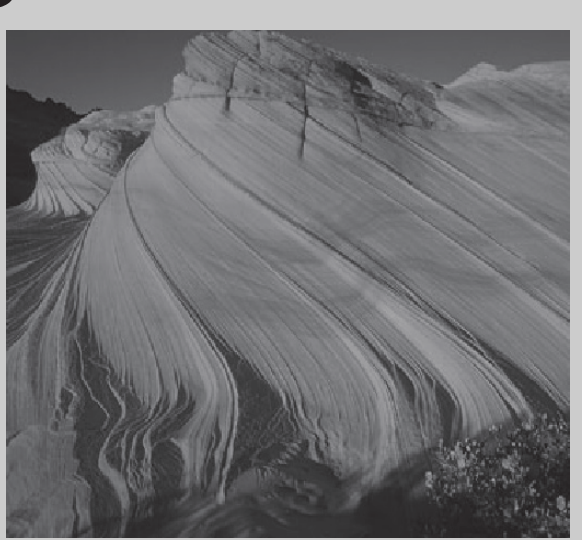
It is not new information that bullying has been a leading cause in teenage suicide. But according to Sciencedaily.com, recent studies done by the University of Washington have uncovered groups that are more at risk. Students who identified themselves as heterosexuals, but also as being attracted to people of the same sex or have engaged in same-sex interactions, are three times as likely as heterosexuals to have made a plan to commit suicide in the past year and six times more likely to actually attempt suicide.

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Van Brunt Gallery Closing

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER

Many people felt the gallery pulled the Beacon community together, bringing art and culture to the town as well as providing other businesses with work. For example, when printing postcards for advertising or purchasing wine for shows, among other things, this gallery was a place where people came together.



Courtesy of Van Brunt Gallery

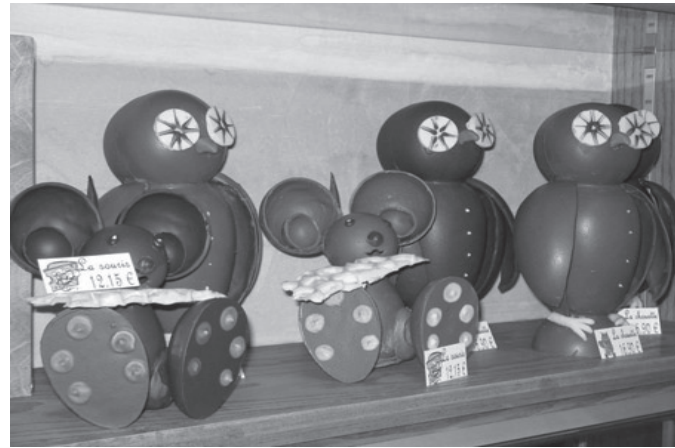
Double Swirl

For the artists shown by Van Brunt, this is upsetting news, especially if this was one of their main galleries. All the artists greatly enjoyed being a part of the gallery because it showed quality work, had a kind and supportive environment while bringing people together, and as Tom Huber, one artist, says “ [it] raises the bar for Beacon.” Everyone involved and concerned with the well being of the gallery has tried to help out in whatever way possible.

Being at the gallery for the first time Bob Alpert and Faith Rozenfarb, came to see their friend Stanford Kay’s paintings, and were impressed with the space and how well the paintings were displayed, arranged, and lit. They agreed that they would definitely come again and greatly enjoyed the show. Bob Alpert remarks, “Sparkly!” and Faith Rozenfarb nods, adding, “Very refreshing.”

SHOPPING IN NYACK

CONTINUED FROM THE COVER



Courtesy of food.lohudblogs.com

•Chocolaterie: Everyone loves chocolate, so why not go here to get the best kind around? A box of assorted gourmet chocolates is twenty bucks, which you could get for your special someone in your life or your

chocolate crazed friend. They even have this special seasonal snowmen and Christmas tree decorated chocolates that are cute and a really great Christmas gifts. On the more expensive end: fancy chocolate towers!

•Unique Boutique: Want to shop somewhere other than Aeropostale or Abercrombie? At Unique Boutique, there is plenty of clothing and jewelry that is not going to be sold anywhere else.

•Nyack General Store: Come here to get a wide range of clothing for men, women, children, and teenagers. They have a bunch of winter accessories like gloves, hats, and scarves all for reasonable prices and for people of all ages. For less than twenty-five dollars, you can get pajamas, leggings, yoga pants, and some tops for juniors. There are also several pairs of jeans for fewer than thirty dollars for women. If you’re shopping for your dad or your friend there are socks, shirts, and pants that can be purchased for fewer than thirty bucks.

Nyack is known for being insanely different, so why not shop for your friends and family there? It is within walking distance for many people, and although it is getting cold, it is a great place to find great gift ideas for your loved ones during the holiday season. Rather than getting the same old stuff at the mall, your family and friends will greatly appreciate an awesome, and unique, gift from town.

Senior SUPERlatives

Best Eyes
Best Hair
Best Laugh
Best Smile
Most Creative
Most Organized

- Most Athletic-** Mark Castellano and Erin McCabe
- Most Contagious Laugh-** Matt Deighan and Kim Edelsberg
- Most Musical-** Justin Green and Tina Chesterman
- Most Artistic-** Harold Downing and Sally Gale
- Cutest Couple-** Scott Guinn and Catie Bausinger
- Most Likely To Be Carded at 30-** Andrew Smeriglio and Natalie Ceresnak
- Best Dressed-** Carlo Maghirang and Marina Santos
- Most Likely To Brighten Your Day-** Maxim Ngolla and Kate Delaney
- Most Likely To Appear On Reality TV-** Claudio Cuccini and Kasey Plotkin
- Most Gullible-** Conor Doyle and Allie Rodriguez
- Best Gal Pals-** Karly Walborn and Allie Rodriguez
- Best Bromance-** Ryan Slattery and Conor Doyle
- Life Of The Party-** Rex Bernstein and Kerry Farrell
- Best To Bring Home To Mom And Dad-** Will Fleming and Brooke Hefe
- Kid At Heart-** Nick Williams and Rebecca Zittel

- Teacher’s Pet-** Alex Satawa and Caroline Cummings
- Teacher’s Worst Nightmare-** Brandon Richards and Karly Walborn
- Most Likely To Win An Oscar-** Chris Guardaro and Caroline Cummings
- Most Likely To Save The Planet-** Adrian Singleton and Abby Bell
- Most Attractive-** James Quigley and Zaineb Ahmed
- Best Eyes-** Joe LaFemina and Sarah Fischer
- Best Hair-** Alex Weigel and Gina Miele
- One In A Million-** Noah Stambovsky and Claire Masters
- Most Changed Since Ninth Grade-** Niro Subeshan and Julie Breshin
- Worst Case of Senioritis-** David Foster and Natalia Grube
- Class Clown-** Connoe McDonough and Dolly Tassy
- Most Likely To Win A Nobel Prize-** Scott Guinn and Zahra Ahmed
- Cutest Couple That Never Happened-** Harold Downing and Jess Gelbman
- Most Likely To Be Late To Their Own Graduation-** Sam Cohen and Kelly Madigan
- Golden Shovel-** Connor McDonough and Dolly Tassy

Voices For Change

Contest Winner for LBTQ's Creative Contest

Zoe Tsakos

Dear Mom,

Don't think it was your fault. It could never be. Never was. All you ever were was there. For me. With me. Supporting me. I'm sorry, mom. Don't cry too much. I'm sorry we never built that boat. I know you tried so hard to be both the "mother" figure and the "father" figure. Thank you, but you were always plenty. Just you. Honestly, though, I never liked building things like you do. I really love that doll house you made Susie. I'm sorry I didn't tell you that before this.

Remember those pictures I drew? From as young as seven? The teacher said they were too "mature" for the bulletin board. If only she knew... Hearing that really made me think. If a drawing is too mature, What are the things in my head? Drawings are but painted devils. That was nothing compared to the darkness swirling inside of my mind. No one noticed when people would start cornering me. No one said anything to Timmy that day he broke my nose. And I hadn't even come out to myself yet.

Yes, mom. I'm gay. I'm sorry I didn't tell you. I already got ridiculed at school enough. I wasn't sure how you'd take it. I needed to know there was at least one save space in my life. I want you both to understand how much it hurt to see kids be beaten to death all over the world. The hear about the penalty of death in so many countries across the globe for loving someone. To hear "what a fag" in the halls everyday. Even before I told Susie, people seemed to pin me as one of those "fags". I remember being in the bathroom in sixth grade and Jackson and some of his cronies sauntered in. I don't want to scare you guys, so I won't go into it. Suffice to say I told Ms. Brahnham I slipped and hit my head on the sink. She didn't see the bruises on my ribs. She didn't hear how hoarse I was from crying on the floor. No one saw. I was invisible, mom. Even here at home, I was invisible.

I'm sorry. God, I am so sorry. But see? I wore my new suit! You were right, mom. The navy looks much better with my complexion than my old black jacket. Not funny, huh? Sorry, just trying to keep you guys from being to sad. Really, it's for the best. This way, you don't have to be ashamed of me. I won't get hurt anymore. I'm free, mom. I'm free. Tell Susie I'm sorry, okay? I already cleaned out my locker and made my bed. I got you groceries, too. Remember me as my happy self, okay? Promise me that.

And you know what? I'm not gone. I'll always be here, now. Always. I'm in the wind. I'm in the grass. I'm in the earth and the sky and in smiles and strangers and laughter... I'm all I could ever want to be. Don't cut yourself from people, okay? Try to get yourself out there, mom. Friends and everything are so important.

Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Publish this, please? I want people to know this has to stop. Maybe someday people won't have to worry about being attacked for love. Heh, all for love, mom. What we do for love is pure insanity, mom.

Keep an eye on Susie for me? She has a crush on that new boy Michael. You didn't hear it from me, though! She's so grown up, mom. She's a young woman now. I'll be watching over her and you.

Remember when you used to leave in the night to get away from dad? When he was drinking? And you used to come into my room quietly and kiss my forehead and say softly into my ear, "I may not be here, but I'll see you in the land of dreams." I'll always be there for you, in your dreams.

I love you guys so much, mom. I can't express it in words. Take care, okay?

Love always,
Jake

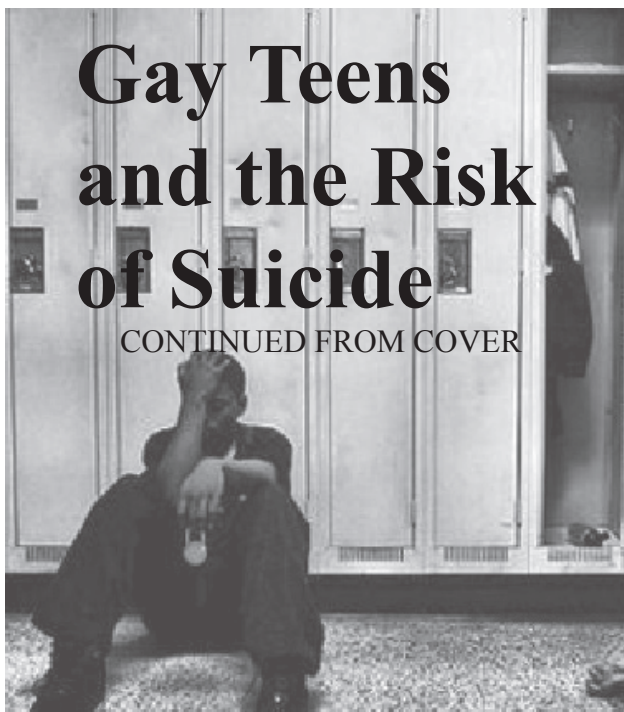


Photo Courtesy of <http://prideinutah.com/wp-content/uploads/2010/06/anti-bullying-law.jpg>

Gay Teens and the Risk of Suicide

CONTINUED FROM COVER

Gay and lesbian students are also more at risk, being twice as likely to commit suicide as heterosexuals. These numbers are no doubt due to societal pressures and prejudices that teens face. Unfortunately, fellow students in school are part of the problem. In a 2007 study, 86% of gay and lesbian students said they had experienced harassment at school.

Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, leading to over 4400 deaths a year, according to the CDC. Over 14% of students consider suicide, and almost seven percent attempt it. And the facts are that bullying victims are between two to nine times more likely to commit suicide.

This issue has really been highlighted by a string of recent suicides across the nation. In October, 18 year old Tyler Clementi jumped to his death after finding out that his roommate, Dharun Ravi, secretly broadcasted Clementi having sex with another man over the Internet. He told his dorm advisor before jumping off the George Washington Bridge. Ravi had also made comments about his roommate's sexuality on Twitter. We can never really know how much Ravi's actions contributed to Clementi's decision to take his life; his suicide marks the fifth suicide by a gay teen in the month of October. Billy Lucas, 15, hanged himself after years of being mercilessly bullied. Justin Aaberg was an openly gay 15 year old, who committed suicide after being bullied in school. Asher Brown, 13, told his parent he was gay the morning before he shot himself in the head (also bullied). And Seth Walsh, who was also only 13, hanged himself after suffering

years of bullying.

This year the Drama Club put on a powerful production of "the Laramie Project," a story of a college student who was beaten to death simply because he was gay. It is such a shame that bullying, something that we can control as students, is getting so out of control. We need to get a better grip on what we are saying, what we are doing, and be more accepting of others.

FUN FACTS

Photo courtesy of Moxie

It took Nathan three years to grow his dreads

Cameron is the messiest of the group and Nathan is considered the mom



From Left to Right: Cameron Quiseng, Nathan Darmody, Zack Porter, and Michael Martinez

Their musical guilty pleasure?...The Hannah Montana Soundtrack

Cameron is starstruck by girls...and John Stamos, while Nathan was pretty starstruck by George Lopez

How has your life changed? Have you faced any struggles along the way?

Nathan: Well, we have a really really busy schedule. We wake up really really early in the morning. We're almost working 'til pretty much 12 at night. We're doing interviews; we're calling fans; we're signing stuff. We're playing shows. We're touring across the country.

Cameron: Pretty much 'til midnight, 'til we go to bed. Buy hey, hey don't say ouch because we love what we're doing. We could not imagine like having a better situation.

Nathan: Not going to lie, it can be very tiring...

Cameron: It can be very tiring but it's so worth it.

Nathan: So worth it.

What are and how have you overcome your struggles?

Nathan: I think the main struggle that we have is playing live probably.

Cameron: Definitely.

Nathan: The chemistry on stage, and I think for many artists that's pretty much how it is, starting from nothing, starting from the garage and working your way up. So, we definitely got a lot better on stage. We got better at playing together. We got better at song writing, a bunch...a bunch of stuff.

Cameron: Once we got signed to a major label is when we knew we really needed to step our game up. It's now or never. You got to work even harder. So we basically took every aspect of it and just got a lot better.

What kinds of music do you listen to?

Nathan & Cameron (together): Everything!

Nathan: I like a lot of indie rock and pop. Anything that's like bass driven, that you feel, you feel me?

Cameron: I really like Jason Mraz, Jack Johnson and everything top 40, Drake, Kate Perry...

So, if you weren't in a band, where would you be career wise?

Nathan: I think I would probably go to college and major in a friendship. That's why because I would be a really good friend to everybody. You know what I mean? You need to have a really good friend, right, like a professional friend?

Cameron (laughing): I was going to college to become a teacher and it would be my junior year right now.

Nathan: I graduated high school last year. So, (to Cameron) what are you like 50?

What has been your craziest fan experience?

Nathan: A fan kissed me in Maryland...

Cameron (laughing):right on the lips.....

Nathan: I like it, it was cool. I kinda kissed her back in a way.....

Did you get her number?

Nathan: No

Cameron: No, not that one. But we do get a lot of numbers, which is new for us, at least new for me.

How do you react when you're compared to the Jonas Brothers?

Nathan: I go, what!?! No, just kidding. You know what it's never an insult. They've done so much. They work so hard.

Cameron: They're really talented.

Nathan: You got to respect what they do as a musician and they relate to the fans. They connect with the fans, which we try to do.

Cameron: And that's one thing we really want our fans to see through like through Youtube. If you watch those videos, what you see is what you get. That's who we are. We're all really weird, crazy guys. We're just dudes that really enjoy what they're doing and we just want to invite our fans into the party.

Nathan:Merry Christmas!

What are your rituals before going on stage?

Nathan: That's when we turn all the lights off....

Cameron: ..We start a camp fire then listen to E.T.

Nathan: No, we stretch a lot. Put on some of Michael's jams. Get all loose. Get all weird. [We] sing Acapella. We sing some weird stuff.

What is your musical guilty pleasure?

Nathan: Oh, I'm not going to lie, the Hannah Montana soundtrack.

Cameron: ...is really good actually! "Nobody's Perfect," that's a jam. ..Don't tell my sister I put that album on my computer.

SPOTLIGHT ON ALLSTAR WEEKEND

A Nightmare-ish Beginning

Zahra Ahmed

After a rough Thursday and a post-Calc test-headache, courtesy of Mr. Shepard, Marina Santos and I ran to catch the 3:08 train at Tarrytown. Well, we didn't actually run. That would be stupid. But I did stress my mother out the entire way, yelling at the red lights. Thankfully we made it on time, hopped on the train and were on our way to Grand Central. From there we took the subway to Irving plaza, and by that I mean we stood around being confused for about half an hour then began asking people for directions.

We were glad to make it to Irving Plaza right on time, 5pm, which was when our interview was scheduled to start. Little did we know the interview wasn't going to happen anytime soon. They had us line up outside to receive our tickets, which we and a bunch of other high school students did without a problem. To our relief they finally began to let us in. But as soon as that happened, a man, who I presume was in charge of the front door, told us to move back in line. "Only the official press was going in now. People like MTV, "Seventeen," Disney...not high school staffers." To say we didn't appreciate the condescending tone was an understatement.

But we were appreciative. We were getting free tickets and a chance to interview this up and coming band. When we were finally taken upstairs to where the band was, more bad news came. They had apparently gotten some good news and had to push the interview back TWO HOURS. So we stood around for two hours, listening to the other bands on stage. Maybe this wouldn't have been so bad, if we didn't have school the next day? Anyway, the whole thing was getting more annoying by the minute. But we sucked it up. We were already there and this was a great opportunity...at least that's what I kept mumbling to myself.

Thankfully, when we finally did get to interview the band (actually two members of the band, Nathan Darmody and Cameron Quiseng), they turned out to be really nice and funny. This barely twenty-something rock and roll band, comprised of Bass-ist Cameron Quiseng, drummer Michael Martinez, guitarist Nathan Darmody, and lead singer Zack Porter, has rocked to No. 1 spot on radio Disney and their first album, "Suddenly Yours," hasn't even come out yet. You can check out their rock and roll sound on Youtube and Facebook. Check out the interview below!

All-Star Interview

What are your major influences?

Nathan: I think my major influences are pretty much girls, relationships and personal stakes. Like we're on tour right now, so there are so many concepts you can take in, you know what I'm talking about.

Cameron: We write about what we know and that's all we have to write about, you know? Thankfully it's stuff that people can relate to. But also our family's influence us a lot.

Who would you like to work with in the future?

Nathan: I would love to work with like Kid Cuddy or MGMT. I like them a lot, they're really...

Cameron: Definitely. Yea, Katy Perry would be cool. How do you guys communicate with your fans?

Nathan: Ohh...boom hit them where it....

Cameron: Telepathically usually.

Nathan (looking intently): You feel that? You feel that?

Cameron: Honestly, we're online, 24-7. Facebook, Myspace and Twitter are huge for us, mainly Facebook and Twitter. We like to keep our friends updated 24-7, at least every hour. Not only that we like to talk to them on the phone. We have this really cool phone number called the Say-Now-Number, 858-768-0650 (Nathan(joining in): ..768-0650...What!). They can call us and talk to us on the road.

Nathan: They can also communicate with us through Youtube.

Cameron: Youtube a lot too.

What were you guys like in High School?

Nathan (laughing): I was like the coolest guy ever. Umm, nah, I played a lot of sports. My main sport was lacrosse. And yea.

Cameron: He used to like to pick his fro a lot. We had foods together, and the teachers were pretty annoyed. Ah, I played a lot of video games in high school. There's this one game called World of Warcraft, and I spent like two years of my life addicted to it. So, I didn't really have any friends but I really like video games.

How did you guys come together as a band?

Cameron: Well, we've been friends for a very long time. Nathan and I went to elementary school together, middle school together, high school together....

Nathan: College....

Cameron (laughing): No I am kidding; we didn't go to college together. But we uh...good times all right.

Nathan: Preschool!

Cameron: Preschool! So, I meet Nathan through Zack. Zack and I have been, Zack's my oldest friend, the lead singer. And we've been friends since seventh grade. We were friends long before we were musicians. We would BMX together, paintball together, check out girls together and he introduced me to Nathan when I got involved with the band. And since then we've been the best of friends.



Photos courtesy of Zahra Ahmed



Photo courtesy of Moxie

What's the worst part of touring?

Cameron: The lack of sleep...

Nathan: The lack of sleep and you just...

Cameron: And junk food!

Nathan: Your eating habits change. Home co meals, Taco bell...

Cameron: Oh, you know what's funny? To tr healthy we eat Taco Bell. Every day we get p candy and we have this cabinet on our bus, ca death cabinet, where we stash all the candy.

Nathan: Stay away?

Cameron: Stay away? It's really hard to stay especially when it late at night and you're abo to bed....those peanut buttercups look great.

1. Try to hold your breath for as long as you can without passing out. Time yourself. Record your time. Repeat.
2. Disagree with everything your teacher says. When they get mad, threaten to call the security guard in self defense.
3. When answering multiple choice questions insist the answer is 3. Always.
4. Argue with yourself about anything. Insist that you're wrong and hit yourself repeatedly. Until someone notices and/or asks you to stop muttering about how you can't do anything anymore.
5. Bleach your hair. Deny it to everyone who asks.
6. Drop the biggest textbook you can find from on top of your desk. Then sit down and pretend that nothing happened.
7. When your teacher starts to drone on and on get up and sit at their feet. Explain that you are just so interested that you don't want to miss a thing.
8. Repeatedly check your backpack saying things like, "Are you ok?" or "Got enough air in there?"
9. Read this list.
10. Look at the person on your right. When they notice say in a whisper, "They're coming." Then smile manically.
11. Really get into a class debate. When your teacher tries to move on, ignore him/her and talk louder. When your teacher finally stops you, act really annoyed and frustrated.
12. Superglue quarters to the floor and count how many people try to pick them up.
13. Compliment your teacher on his/her haircut. *Works better if they are bald.
14. Randomly burst out, when someone is talking, "I get it now!"
15. Get your whole class to go to the computer lab. After ten minutes come back to the class room and ask the teacher angrily where he/she has been.
16. Try to stick your pencil/pen into the ceiling tiles.
17. After giving a presentation tell the class that you will be outside the room to take pictures and sign autographs.
18. Write all of your notes in mirror image. Use a mirror in class to try and decode what you wrote. See how close you were.
19. Call your teacher Master and refer to your fellow students as Padawans.
20. Pretend to swing from imaginary ropes attached to the ceiling humming the "Indiana Jones" theme song.
21. Order a pizza under a friend's name.
22. Claim that the project you were assigned infringes upon your rights as an American citizen and refuse to do it.
23. Get the kids in your class to breakout in a predetermined dance. Use someone's iPod for music.
24. Yell "Marco" and see if anyone from another class responds with "Polo." Keep a tally.
25. Practice your origami. Give your creations to your teacher and thank him/her for the time it took to make them.

WHAT TO DO IN A BORING CLASS

Andrew Gates

Woman in the Hallway

IF THERE WAS ONE THING YOU COULD HAVE FOR THE HOLIDAYS, WHAT WOULD IT BE?

"ALL HIGH SCHOOLS TO HAVE AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE."
- MS. DARDZINSKI
(AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE TEACHER)



"A CAR AND A TATTOO."
- TRE BEAMAN
(GRADE 12)



"A PUPPY!"
- TASHINA BRADSHAW (GRADE 11)



"A NEW TV."
- ANDREW GASPARD
(GRADE 9)



"A DIGITAL CAMERA SO I CAN ANNOY PASKY BY TAKING PICTURES OF HER."
- AMY BLACK (GRADE 10)



"THE MALL WITH ALL THE STORES INCLUDED."
- KELLY GARRABRANT
(GRADE 12)





Christmas Word Search

4

U Z F H R U D O L P H P U H U
 N U V A Y E L L E B A R W N T
 L O S I G T I L S C U P I D E
 T E R A X L S N A M W O N S M
 S S P T N E J O D B R H R E O
 T T R S H T N I R E H S A D C
 N O E L U P A A K F E K T Y H
 Y C S E W G O C C Z X R S E T
 B K E D R R A L L Y Y O T N A
 G I N G E R B R E A D W I M E
 S N T N C W M G P E U N B I R
 M G N T N E Z T I L B S A H W
 K O U D A N C E R F U S A C K
 D N P R R C H R I S T M A S A
 L A A G P E A C E A Z V S V K

- | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| BALL | FROSTY | SANTA CLAUS |
| BELL | GIFT | SLED |
| BLITZEN | GINGERBREAD | SNOWMAN |
| CANDYCANE | NOEL | STAR |
| CHIMNEY | NORTHPOLE | STOCKING |
| CHRISTMAS | NUTCRACKER | SUGARPLUMS |
| COMET | PEACE | TOY |
| CUPID | PRANCER | TREE |
| DANCER | PRESENT | VIXEN |
| DASHER | REINDEER | WORKSHOP |
| DONNER | RUDOLPH | WREATH |
| ELF | SACK | |

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Free for non-profit use - Happy Holidays!

Our End of the Spectrum

Hey, Nyack high school. First, we all want to wish you happy holidays. This past month has been a busy one for all of us. Between college applications (which some of us have honestly not completed yet) and school work, it is not an exaggeration to say we have had our hands full. To top it off, first quarter report cards just came in the mail.

Though we are all preoccupied, it is no excuse to let some of the bullying and fighting in this school to go on. Please be conscious of the people around you and know that telling an adult is not tattling. If you could get anything out of this issue, we want you to get a newfound respect for your peers. High school is a time for us to find ourselves. We don't know who we are, so we don't need others to tell us what to be or what not to be. Be tolerant and accepting.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS,
 The Spectrum Staff

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JUST FOR FUN

Class President Race Sees New Party Formation

Noah Stambovsky

As the race for the school's second semester class president heats up, new minority parties have gained huge amounts of support. Many students are already decided about who has their vote, with a wide variety of candidates to choose from.

It seems the new "The homework is too damn much" party has won almost the entire junior class vote. Led by junior Jerry MacMarlon, the party's main platform is anti-homework. Jerry argues that a higher amount of homework leads to homework being done poorly, and therefore lower test grades. Large numbers of juniors are described as "excessive," "cruel," "violent," and even "inhumane." Jerry MacMarlon had this to say (it took him less than three seconds): "If I am elected to office, I will institute the following legislation: A progressive assignment system and a use of diminishing homework restrictions, limiting teachers on large projects and essays, and a new grading system that will allow for a few missed homeworks without penalty." When he was interviewed, it was revealed that Jerry does not do any homework.

While the "The homework is too damn much" party may have gotten most of the attention, The Spectrum took the time to find out about the other new parties in the class president race. Another intriguing party, led by sophomore Tim Carrol, is the "Serve Coffee in The Cafeteria" party, which has Carrol, "I want coffee. In the cafeteria." He refused to elaborate about his stance on school functions, the bell schedule, and a host of other important issues.

Another party that has attracted quite a bit of buzz among sections is the "There's Too Many Damn College Applications" party led by Jerry MacMarlon's older brother, Jeremy. While his party is similar to his brothers, Jeremy MacMarlon only supports reduced homework for seniors until about January and after that, he "couldn't care less."

These new parties all have a few quirks, and only the "The homework is too damn much" party has received wide spread support, rivaling the mainstream candidates. Principal Blair has tried to explain how these new parties should not be receiving any support, because the legislation they wish to pass is completely out of their control. We'll soon see which candidate will disappointedly find out that the role of class president comes with almost no actual power. This should be fun.



A Look Back 2001: Nyack Basketball

Tyler Perry

Ten years ago, Nyack High School had one of their most memorable boys' basketball seasons. The 2000-01 squad, under Coach Gary Gray, went 24-3, winning a section title and a regional title before losing in the state semifinals. While they did have a few standout players, their success was mainly a team effort, with different guys stepping up on different nights. Three members of the team went on to play D-1 basketball in college, and the crew had to defeat several future D-1 players on their road to the state Final Four in Glens Falls. They had a rough 2-2 start, largely because many of the players were on the state championship football team and had barely practiced, but they were able to recover and win 22 games in a row before getting knocked out.

The '01 Nyack squad was marked by a lot of resiliency and toughness. They had been able to reach the section title game in 2000, but couldn't use star guard Kudjo Sogadzi, who had transferred from New Jersey, and ended up losing to Kennedy. That same Kennedy team, led by future Providence star Donnie McGrath, defeated Nyack again at the beginning of the '01 season, which helped to put Nyack in a troublesome 2-2 start. Then, the resiliency and toughness that came partially from members of the state championship football team jump started the club.

Quarterback Ronnie King and RB/DB/K Nigel Morris were key guards, and RB Jason Alcin was a major force inside. 6'10 center James Smith was inexperienced, but definitely made his presence felt. However, the team's leaders were Sogadzi, and forward Alvin Carter, who lived in the same home. Carter



and Sogadzi both committed to D-1 Fairfield, while Smith ended up a star center at Marist. Morris played football at Toledo.

Behind the offensive firepower of Sogadzi, who averaged over 20 points per game, a quick transition game, and a stingy defense that only allowed 43 points per game before their final loss, Nyack entered the sectional playoffs on a roll. They had won 16 in a row, and easily blew away Byram Hills and Nanuet to earn a trip to the Westchester County Center for the sectional semifinals, and another rematch with mighty Kennedy. Nyack was the 3rd seed, and Kennedy was the 2nd seed, with both teams sporting a stellar 20-2 record. Both defenses were superb, resulting in a slim 37-36 Nyack lead heading into the 4th quarter. McGrath and James Gray hit huge 3-pointers to keep the Kennedy Gaels in the game when the Indians jumped ahead, but a nice jumper by Morris with 1:25 proved to be the dagger, and Nyack ended up winning 50-47.

Nyack then turned in another phenomenal performance in the section final against Peekskill, and won 48-40 with 24 points from Sogadzi. This was their first title since 1994. They were able to shut down 6'10 center Hilton Armstrong. Armstrong went on to win a national championship with UConn and is currently playing for the Wizards in the NBA, and star point guard Rashard Turner. The Indians advanced to the state playoffs, and defeated section 9's Onteora 67-46, before beating section 4's Chenango Valley 54-46 for the regional championship.

Nyack advanced to the state semifinals in Glens Falls, where they would have to take on defending state champion Amityville from section 11. Amityville was 23-1, and had won 23 in a row. They were tall, fast, athletic, and powerful. They were led by St. John's-bound

guard Tristan Smith, and monstrous junior center Jason Fraser, who was 6'9". Fraser was one of the top players in the country, amongst the likes of Carmelo Anthony, and was predicted to be one of the most dominating college players in the country at Villanova, unfortunately his career was derailed by leg injuries. The squads had met in the state semis in 1991, where Nyack won, and advanced to the state final, where they lost by 2 in OT to Nottingham. Amityville dominated from the start this time, mainly behind Fraser. They led 17-2, and 23-9 after the first quarter behind 66 percent shooting. Nyack shot 28 percent, and had no answer for Fraser, who finished with 22 points, 12 rebounds, 6 blocks, and 4 assists. Smith had 10 points, 6 assists, and 7 steals. Nyack did put a fight in the end, crawling back late in the 4th quarter, but it was already out of hand, and Nyack lost 74-65. Sogadzi led all scorers with 23 points, and Carter finished with 12, but was shut down by Fraser in the 1st half, scoring just 1 point. Amityville went on to win this state championship, and then the next two after that, becoming the only team in state history to win 4 in a row.

Even though they couldn't go all the way, the 2000-01 Nyack boys' basketball team still accomplished a lot. They brought back league, section, and regional hardware, and showed that they could overcome periods of doubt and frustration to accomplish their goals. They were able to get their revenge on rivals Kennedy and Peekskill, and extended the wonderful spirit in the Nyack community that had stemmed from the football team's success. This excitement was carried on by the girl's lacrosse team, who battled to win a fifth straight section title, and a third straight regional crown.