

THE SPECTRUM

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Nyack High School

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Siblings in School: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly

Andrew Gates

Having an older brother or sister in school can be quite a nice perk,

especially if you want a ride to school or a heads-up on a good math teacher. Mr. Waterbury, a science teacher, believes that having a sibling in school (older or younger) "gives them (the siblings) moral support

and academic support because it gives them someone who understands them (and someone) to fall back on when they need help."

Yet the opinions of some Nyack High Schoolers are surprisingly indifferent. One High School sophomore who has a younger brother said, "It doesn't really matter if you have a sibling in the same school or not. It doesn't change a thing." While some students haven't noticed any significant changes in their lives when

a sibling joins the school, others are quick to point out the benefits.

Hannah Greenburg speaks positively

about having her brother James in the same school. She said, "James and I give each other good moral support when we need it." The school is not only full of sibling pairs but also has a few teacher-student pairs which have different dynamics but some of similarly positive feedback.

Mr. Perry is a science teacher who has a 9th grade son. Mr. Perry, who went to NHS in the 70's, says that, "looking at him (his son) gives me lots of happy memories of when I was a student at Nyack high school." He enjoys helping his son out in lots of ways like driving him to and from school. For years now, the yearbook has had a page for sibling pairs, so we can infer from that that most students and faculty enjoy seeing the familial connections.



http://www.parenting-ed.org/html/html/sibling%20rivalry_files/image001.jpg

A Home That's Not So Sweet: The War in Darfur

Zahra Ahmed

"Home sweet home" has become a popular saying among people all over the country but that can't be said for the people in Darfur. Darfur, located in the western region of Sudan, Africa, has been at war for several years. And the results of this, conflict have been tremendous.

Stemming from a corrupt government, massive neglect, and an even more corrupt military, the citizens of Darfur have been forced to live in horrifying conditions. They live every-day not knowing if their village will be raided and burned to the ground or if their men will be killed or their women raped. With 400,000 people dead, and 2.5 million displaced from their homes already, there is no end in site for the conflict.

Located in northeast Africa, Sudan is the largest country on the continent. Its hot and humid climate made it ideal for people to become herders or nomads, but agriculture was soon

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Teenagers and the Economy

Kendi Kajogo

The declining economy has continued to be a topic of much stress and concern for American citizens alike since the beginning of its collapse in 2008. As a result of the diminishing market, the majority of Americans, regardless of race, gender, age or social class, are feeling its impact in both their wallets and places of work.

"To be honest, I don't really think this recession has affected me personally," says Katie Cuffari. "Has it affected my family? Sure. But I already have a job, I haven't gotten allowance since I was nine, and money has been an issue with my family for a while now, so vacations and all that were already very limited. But there's no doubt that things are harder right now. Even if it isn't affecting me personally, I can still see what's going on."

While it can be argued that the recession might not be directly affecting most teenagers, it is certainly affecting their family members, some of whom may be experiencing debt, cutbacks on food and clothing, or job losses. "I have two brothers in college at the same time and tuition is no joke," said sophomore Sabrina Clervil, "[and] it's winter time, so the electricity bill is like, \$1,000 by itself. We're definitely cutting back on everything."

Another sophomore, Claire Masters, who is in a similar situation, says that, "My twin brothers are going to college next year so money would have been an issue with or without this horrible economy".

"My mom works in the city, so I've been very aware of the massive amount of jobs being lost. I

think everyone is affected by this in some way, but for many people, as in my case, it's hardly anything to even note. We plan on traveling less this coming year, but that's not a big deal at all."

Cutbacks for the average suburban family might

however, is a good way to help save money that can go towards paying bills and other expenses.

Many families' financial savings have also been put in serious jeopardy after business mogul and former chairman of the NASDAQ stock exchange,



Courtesy of www.americanconsumernews.com

mean spending only half of what your family might normally pay for food and clothing in one month, as well as taking less vacations or spending money on things like movies. Using items such as food stamps and coupons, or buying the generic brands of food,

Bernie Madoff, came clean about the Ponzi scheme he had been operating for more than nine years, which cost many families their investments. "I'm poor because my parents invested in a million dollar corporation that ended

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From the Music Wing

Katrina Hohlfeld

The winter concert may be over, but with multiple performances on the agenda, the Nyack High School Chamber Orchestra has no time to rest. Nyack is one of eleven high school orchestras chosen nationwide to

on Saturday mornings. This will help the ensemble get a lot accomplished in a more relaxed environment than the average school day. We are also hoping to bring in a guest clinician, Dr. Sandra Dackow, to listen and



The Chamber Orchestra plays for a crowd at a street fair. compete in the National Orchestra Festival sponsored by the American Strings Teachers Association, which will take place in Atlanta, Georgia this year.

Concentrated preparation is required to say the least. Chamber is preparing a challenging program, including the first movement of a Concerto Grosso composed by Ernest Bloch that propelled them towards a gold medal at the Heritage Festival in Boston last year. There are many new members this year, and several new pieces of music as well which calls for plenty of practicing on the students end. Christine Gero, the director of the Chamber Orchestra, describes the upcoming schedule: "In addition to class rehearsals, students will be working in sectionals during 10th period. During these last two months before the competition, we begin rehearsing

courtesy of www.musicworks4nyack.org

work with the Chamber Orchestra before we leave for Atlanta."

Adrian Singleton, first violin, is confident that the orchestra will be prepared in time. "We're working diligently and we're all very excited about this opportunity. There's no way we're just going to let it slip by."

This musical endeavor will cost about \$30,000, so fundraising is still necessary. Anyone willing to make a contribution to this effort is welcome to write a check payable to Musicworks, care of Ms. Gero. The Chamber Orchestra is not expecting contributions without reciprocation! The invitation is extended to everyone to come hear the competition program either on Sunday, February 8th, at 2pm at Valley Cottage Library or Sunday, March 1st, at 4pm at Grace Church in Nyack.

Something to Prove

Tyler Perry

Over the past thirteen years, the Nyack Girl's Varsity Basketball team has had some successful seasons with talented players. Despite going to the playoffs numerous times, and producing two players who each scored 1,000 points in their career (Erica Lawrence and Tanya Freeman), they have never won the section tournament. In 1996, the girls finished 20-2 and made it to the sectional final, with help from Lawrence. The next year they made it to the sectional final again before they were narrowly defeated, and had played a chunk of the season without a key player. Strong section competition has proven to be difficult for Nyack in numerous sports, including girls' basketball. Neverthe-



courtesy of www.lohud.com

less, this season may be different.

Led by a highly talented young squad, this year's team could make a big statement in the section playoffs. At 8-3, they appear to have a good seed in those playoffs, but they have some tough teams (like Tappan Zee, Spring Valley, and Nanuet) to beat along the way. So far they have been led by sophomore Rachel McNair (approximately 17 points per game), senior Caroline Chesterman, and several others. McNair always has a big game with defensive skill to back up her offense. Chesterman's intensity and leadership on the court set an example for a young team. Junior Mary Gray's good shooting ability has paid off as she has become one of the most valuable players on the team. Experienced junior Chloe Soukas has great ball-handling ability and energy. Junior Alexis Pierson has provided strong minutes off the bench.

Nyack's three losses were all against solid teams: Pearl River (9-2), Suffern (6-2), and Rockland powerhouse, Nanuet. Nyack has beaten 9-3 Tappan Zee, 8-4 Ramapo, and 11-4 Blessed Sacrament.

With the ability to learn from mistakes and the passion from long-time coach Darren Shepard, they could advance some ways into another tough sectional tournament. Looking

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Drama Club Takes On the Disco

Joanna Sinelli

Is it getting hot already? No, but the Spring Musical, *Disco Inferno*, is just around the corner. And this year, the Drama club is doing a complete one-eighty from its usual plays, which have been mainly dramas. For the last two years, the musicals have been some very serious performances.

Two years ago, the Drama club performed *Titanic*, which was very different from the movie version, yet just as good. Last year, Nyack was one of the few schools chosen to do a performance of *The Phantom of The Opera*, and they did not disappoint at all. And this year,

"...doing this performance is very fun... with all the catchy singing and dancing..."

they are performing a happy comedy.

"We wanted to do something different," says Georgette Valincourt and Emily McCloskey,

two of the actresses in the play. They say the experience of doing this performance is very fun



courtesy of www.monsterparties.co.uk

for all those involved, with all the catchy singing and dancing.

Disco Inferno is a story of a man who sells his soul to the Devil so he can sing and dance disco. With that, there are going to be fourteen different dance numbers and the band will be on stage as part of the show, something very new and exciting. So, when this opens up in early March, make sure you get yourself a ticket to see the show. You won't be disappointed.

Attention Students!

We invite you to do research and display your results in our exhibit, on any subject with in the broad topic of **Hudson River in the History of the Nyacks**. These could be team, individual, or class projects.

We request brief proposals, and you must have a teacher/mentor who knows your work.

Participation is sought from all grade levels.

Awards will be given for the best projects!

For more information:

www.nyackhistory.org

MR. LEE: THE TRUE STORY

Kenneth Johnson

Curtis Lee, also known as Mr. Lee around the school, was a Nyack student from 1969-1972. It was here that Mr. Lee learned of many new cultures and became a man of knowledge. He was the salutatorian of his class, graduating with a GPA of 97.8%. "It was a good time to be alive, the Vietnam War was alive, the Civil Rights Movement and the Draft..." Mr. Lee says there was never a "dull moment."

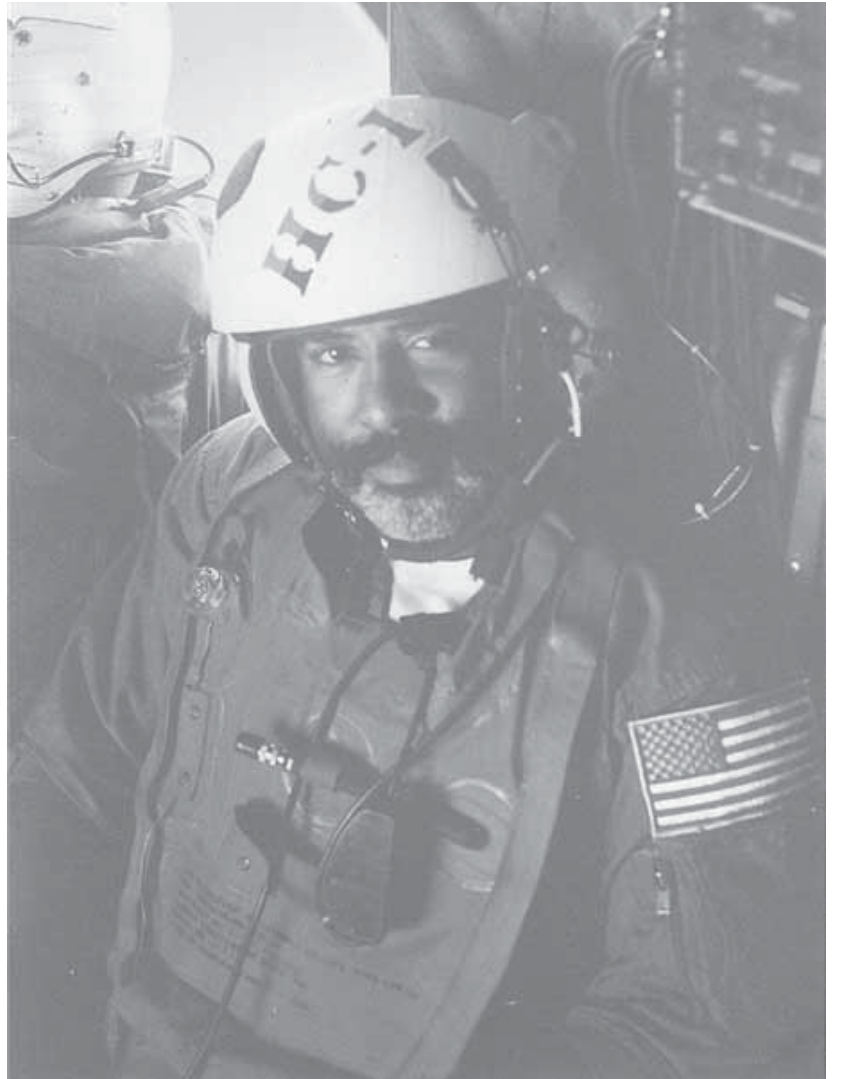


Mr. Lee Poses with his beautiful prom date.

Mr. Lee describes his high school experience as "interesting." He was a four-letter varsity player in football, track, baseball, and wrestling. In his senior year, he was president of the student body. He says that Nyack has always had "great school spirit."

It was at the end of his school days that he was hit with a "personal issue" that affected him greatly and changed the course for Curtis Lee. Upon graduating, he was accepted to Boston University. He planned to enter, but due to a personal issue, he stayed closer to home and went to Rockland Community College. "It was a tough time for me, it made me grow up real fast and it's something that I still haven't gotten over since then." After RCC, Mr. Lee worked in the automotive industry with some friends and then went into the Navy at the age of 35. It was then that he moved to San Diego, California for a "change in scenery," until he started to miss New York.

When he finally did return to Nyack in 1990, he decided one day to go see a varsity football game. It was there that he was offered a job by then principal, Dr. Oustacher. Mr. Lee is still at Nyack High School as a staff member. He is shaping young minds and keeping the hallways safe. He is a man of few words but a man with great character who gives sound advice. He is a proud man with a great legacy at Nyack High School.



Photos Courtesy of Mr. Lee

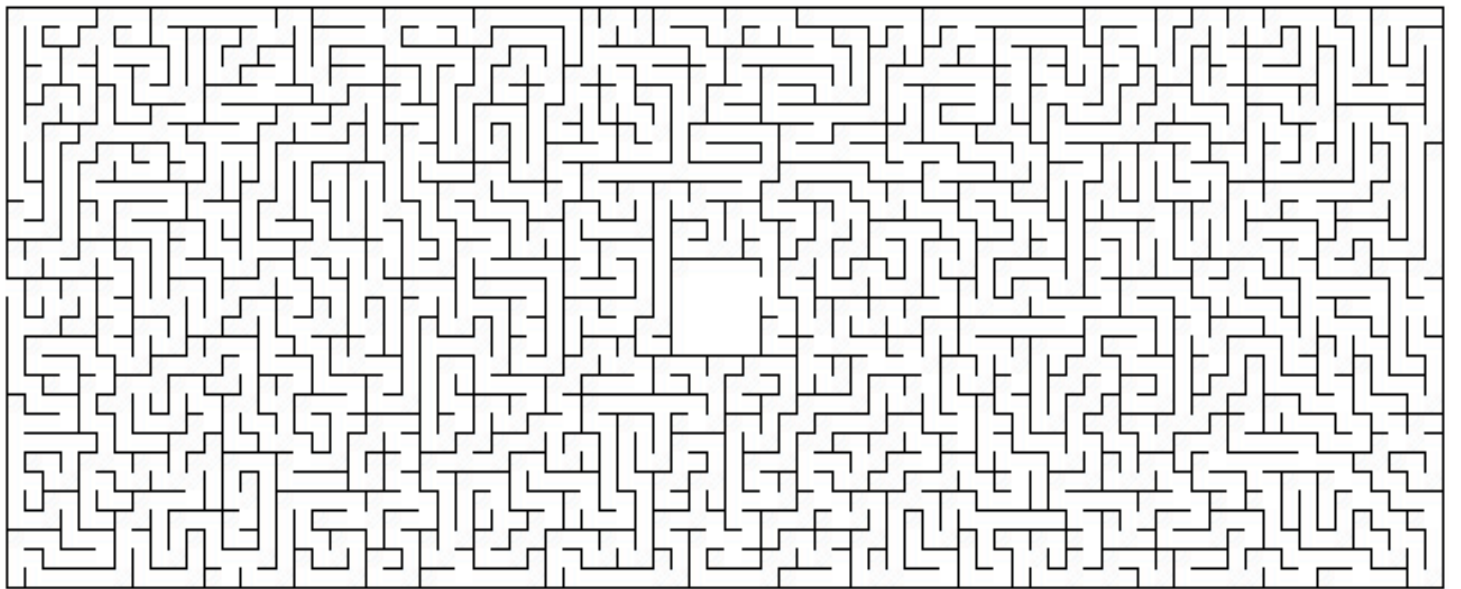
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most hated man in New York," said sophomore Caroline Cummings. "Seriously."

A local retiree from Valley Cottage, Phyllis Molchatsky, has even taken to suing the S.E.C., which is supposed to enforce federal securities laws and regulate the securities industry, for \$1.7 million in damages after losing over \$1.5 million in Madoff's scheme.

While the failing economy may have left a bitter taste in the mouths of many at the end of last year, hopefully 2009 will bring about new economic growth and stability that will allow the U.S. to prosper once more.

Random Maze... Find Your Way Out!



Kenny Johnson

The job market is the weakest it has been in more than a half century for teenagers, according to the NY Times. Little more than one-third of 16 to 19 year olds in the U.S. are likely to be employed.

"When you go into a recession, kids always get hit the hardest," said Andrew Sum, an economist at the Center of Labor Market Studies. "Now they're in line just like everybody else." According to a recent analysis by Andrew Sum, the percentage of teens employed has fallen from nearly 45 percent in 2000 to about 30 percent today, as adult workers are increasingly taking jobs that once went to teenagers. According to the New York Times, employment among American teenagers has been sliding continuously for the last decade, with a few ups and downs.

As older people stay in the work force longer, and as experienced workers who lose jobs at factories and offices settle for lower paying work in restaurants and retail, some teenagers are being "squeezed out." Meghan Byrne, who works at

an afterschool program in Pearl River said, "her job is cutting jobs because of the hard times and because there are too many people to pay." Sophie Newsome, a student at Nyack High School, said her "father's



construction business has less business due to the struggling economy and the fact that people do not have the desire to buy houses anymore due to the bad housing market."

Teens face the highest unemployment rates with 20.4%. The situation is far worse in low-income minority areas, where the youth employment rate appears to be hovering not much above 10 percent according to the article, "Even for Teens." However, Frank Bacigal, a manager at Shoprite, said the recession hasn't affected jobs there, since business has not suffered too greatly. "There's an increase in people cooking dinner more than going out to eat."

The worsening market is jeopardizing what is considered a crucial time in teenagers becoming adults. It is typically a time for young people to experience and gain confidence working, as well as put some extra change in the pocket. Let's hope it gets better before it gets worse.

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A Home That's Not So Sweet: War in Darfur

adapted. The country experiences regular droughts and desertification. In the 1820s, Sudan was conquered by Turkey and Egypt, and 1881 was marked by rebellion against the Turkish-Egyptian administration. Only a few years later, an Islamic state was established and Sudan was governed by a British/Egyptian administration. Starting in the 1950's, revolts and civil war broke out until Sudan gained its independence in 1956.

Over the course of the past hundred years, Sudan has experienced several civil wars. The first civil war, also referred to as Anyanya I, occurred from 1955 to 1972 between northern and southern Sudan. The first civil war occurred mainly because some areas demanded more regional autonomy or independence. As a result, about half a million people died over the 17 years of war. The war ended in 1973 with the Addis-Ababa Agreement.

Unfortunately, this agreement didn't last and only eleven years later mutiny sparked the second civil war. Some even view the second civil war as a continuation of the first. During this conflict nearly 1.9 million civilians were killed in southern Sudan and at least 4 million others were displaced from their homes. The civilian death toll is one of the highest of any war since World War II. The war officially ended in 2005 with the signing of a peace agreement and Northern Sudan's dominance and military superiority.

Just as the civil wars seemed to be coming to an end, a war in northwestern Darfur escalated. Unlike previous civil wars, this war was seen to be ethnic and

At first, competition over Sudan's scarce resources and grazing lands was the main source of conflict, but in 2003, conflicts intensified after the foundation of the Sudan Liberation Army and Equality Movement. The Sudan Liberation Army and Equality Movement accused the Su-



Courtesy of www.thehungersite.com



http://www.darfurcentre.ch/imagedarfur/Darfur_Destroyed.jpg

tribal rather than religious. The government soon stifled the war and allowed a pro-government militia group called the Janjaweed to repress rebels throughout the region of Darfur.

Soon, however, the Janjaweed became extremely out of control. Though the Sudanese government officially denies supporting the Janjaweed, they have provided them with money and assistance on several occasions. "Janjaweed" in Arabic means "devil on horseback" and this militia group soon lived up to its name.

danese government of favoring Arabs and neglecting the Darfur region of Sudan. These people took up arms against the Sudanese government, who in response sent the Janjaweed to pillage towns and villages.

The Janjaweed killed the men, raped the women, and burned whole villages down. They even went so far as to use racial slurs like, "I will give you a light-skinned baby to take this land from you," as justification of raping women. They have become famous, not for the repression of rebels but for the massacres, raping of women, forced displacement, and torture of innocent people.

Though a peace agreement was drafted in May 2006 with the Sudanese, only one of the rebel groups agreed to sign it. The situation in Darfur has received widespread recognition in the United States, but it is not enough to stop the violence. The interests that other nations have in Sudan are the blocking the way for progress. For example, the Chinese have been severely criticized for their interest in Sudanese oil and for not taking action against the crisis in Darfur. Though the Chinese have taken action since then, their efforts are not enough.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "A house divided against itself cannot stand;" the efforts of only one country cannot stop this widespread violence. We need to come together as a world and take action against the injustices that surround us and then maybe, just maybe we can make a difference.

FUN CORNER

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Word Search

- BABY
- BATMAN
- BIOPSY
- CONVERSE
- CURTIS
- DARFUR
- DERIVATIVE
- FAREWELL
- GEE
- GREASE
- HAMSTRING
- INFIDEL
- INVISIBILITY
- JESSICA
- KAT
- LOL
- MAGNETO
- MCCAIN
- MTRAK
- NADA
- NUCLEUS
- NYACK
- OBAMA
- OSCAR
- PHYSICS
- PIKACHU
- RANDOMNESS
- SANDWICH
- SNOW
- SPECTRUM
- STAPLER
- STEPH SUDOKU
- TARZAN
- UMBRELLA
- YONGKIM
- ZILCH

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January 20th, 2009: A Day to Remember

Jessica Schwartz

January 20th, 2009 marked an important cornerstone of our history. For the first time, an African American man was elected President of the United States. This represents a major checkpoint in the struggle for equality. There are many things that made this inauguration remarkable. There is, of course, the significance of the triumph of a race of people. The current state of affairs may have rendered the ceremony slightly more somber than it otherwise would have been, but the incredible “buzz” surrounding Barack Obama yielded the largest turnout that an inauguration has seen. There is also the symbolic nature of Mr. Obama’s use of the Lincoln Bible, and the close proximity to Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

Mr. Obama’s Inaugural Address did not dwell much on race. “Why a man whose father less than sixty years ago might not have been served at a local restaurant can now stand before you to take a most sacred oath,” is one of a few references that Mr. Obama made to his own race. Despite this fact, the significance of our nation electing its first black president was by no means ignored. It simply did not need to be stated, because it was surely felt all around. More than pride in one leader, or pride in one race, pride in the entire nation was evident. The crowd was literally a sea of American flags and happy faces.

Mr. Obama’s first speech delivered as the president was quite sober. Those anticipating joyful, “We Did It,” rhetoric were probably disappointed. In truth, however, Mr. Obama’s tone was appropriate. The nation is facing a score of serious problems, all of which must be seriously addressed. He urges collective responsibility, the need for diplomacy, and swift action, among other things. Despite the long list that he recites of work that must be done and things that must be changed, he does not appear cynical. Rather, he acknowledges all of

One memorable line from the speech was, “Starting today, we must pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and begin again the work of remaking America.” This notion of starting over was prevalent throughout his speech. He also says, “The question we ask today is not whether our government is too big or too small, but whether it works.” This is something that we have already seen him enact, as he works to create a more bipartisan government with less ideological warfare, so to speak.



courtesy of www.nytimes.com

The inauguration that we just witnessed is symbolic in a number of ways. It took place just one day after Martin Luther King Jr. Day. This reinforces the momentous step that we as a nation have just taken and reminds us all of the journey. In addition, he was sworn in on the same bible as Abraham Lincoln was in his first inauguration in 1861. This is one of a few comparisons that can be drawn between the American hero Abe Lincoln and Barack Obama.

The amount of excitement generated by the election and the inauguration is truly remarkable. Washington D.C. was flooded with people from all over the world who came to stand out in the cold to see history in the making. The event drew record crowds; it is estimated that there were close to two million people present. The media coverage was extensive leading up to January 20th, and the entire day of January 20th was dedicated to non-stop coverage. President Obama’s speech was available on the Internet by 12:15, only fifteen minutes after he was sworn into office.

It is safe to say that the majority of Americans who did not make it to the Capital caught some or all of the Inauguration on television or online. About two hundred students here at the high school were lucky enough to go to Riverspace to watch live coverage in the theater. For those students who were not able to go, a projector was set up in the auditorium so everyone had the opportunity to witness this important piece of our history.

We’re all so fortunate to have lived through this experience. Many years later, when our kids or our grandkids are shocked to learn that there was a time when an African American would have been blocked from the presidency due to racism and prejudice, we will be able to tell them where we were when Barack Obama took office and when history changed forever.



courtesy of http://www.latimes.com/media/photo

“Now, there are some who question the scale of our ambitions, who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans. Their memories are short, for they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose and necessity to courage.” --President Barack Obama

Just For Fun FBI Probe Reveals Boring School Board

Noah Stambovsky

A six-month federal investigation to uncover corruption on the White Plains Board of Education has determined that although there is no evidence of bribery, extortion or racketeering, the Board has continually engaged in what one agent called "deplorable behavior." According to Tom Eldridge, head of the Bureau's



courtesy of www.bettercartoon.com

White Plains Regional Office, "Some crimes are so subtle, they aren't even illegal. But those folks' lives are so boring that it ought to be a felony. I've done dozens of 72-hour stakeouts with no problem, but these people can cure insomnia just by talking. I barely lasted three minutes before falling asleep, and I woke up with a beard."

Agent Eldridge isn't the only victim of the school board's tactics. His former partner, Inspector Duane

Peters, recently left his FBI position and requested a transfer to FASIAB (Federal Agricultural Sheep Inventory Accounting Board). "That FBI School Board duty is wa-a-a-y too boring. At least out at FASIAB, I get to count real sheep."

Members of the school board have denied the charges. "I'm not boring!" says Board Member Cynthia Hedding, "Why, just the other day, I was making a green bean casserole, and it made the most surprising popping noise. And my friends from the sewing club think I'm hilarious. They love my bird impressions so much, I keep them in stitches."

Agent Eldridge wants to bring indictment charges against the board. "Listen, being dull isn't a federal offense...yet, but we have to think of the children, whose futures look bleak with such a brutally uninteresting board." Regional FBI commissioner George Martin says, "I've lost a lot of good men to gunshot wounds, stabings and assault, but I have never had more casualties than with the boredom these people inflict. I say, arrest 'em all. Murder's still illegal in this country. And they've been killing time for far too long."

The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

Marianna DuJohn

Imagine being born just after the end of the First World War not as a baby, but as an old crippled man; this is how *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button* begins. Abandoned at birth by his father, and after his mother dies giving birth to him, Benjamin is found by a kindly young woman named Queenie, who takes him in as her own, and becomes his foster mother. After taking him, she continues to raise him at the retirement home where she works. Here, he interacts with both the senior citizens who have been sent here to be taken care of, and the caretakers who watch over them, all the while learning new and interesting things from them.

Eventually, he makes the decision to go out into the world alone, a first for him, where he meets all kinds of

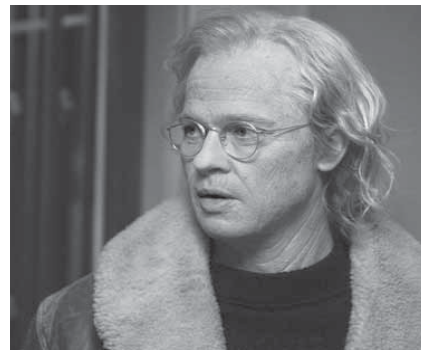
people, takes part in World War Two, and manages to experience love, loneliness, adventure, and heartbreak; all the while getting younger. Unfortunately, he falls deeply in love with one girl who (as is the norm) is getting older.

Benjamin Button's origins are rooted in a short story written by F. Scott Fitzgerald in 1921. The movie, when taken literally, is about a man living his life backwards, but figuratively, it's about life, death and everything that comes with it.

The movie puts a simple twist to the way events are explained and depicted; allowing for movie-goers to be connected in some way to this man's unusual approach to life and living. It's not about people not believing he's aging backwards, since none of the characters seem to care or even blink twice about the fact; it's deeper.

Benjamin Button is all about what you can get out of seeing it happen.

Also, it is one of those movies you have to be in the right mood for, it's hard to enjoy if you're overly excited or not in the mood to think. However, if you can look at it as art and try to take in all three hours of it, it can be very emotional. Some things will make you smile, others you'll want to cry, but in the end, it's probably one of the most beautiful movies that have come out in a while.



courtesy of www.latimes.com

people, takes part in World War Two, and manages

Man in the Hallway: How Has the Economic Recession Affected You?



"I lost 17,000 in college money. It was a trust fund."
Suzanna Buck, 11th

"It has affected me in no way."
Ben Grange, 11th



"Man, I hope Obama does a good job."
Mr. Weber



"Our 401k is no longer a 401k."
Miranda Means, 11th



"I really dont know. Oh, come man, don't put that in."
Jake Sokoloff-Gonzalez, 12th



"It hasn't changed anything. I still get your money."
Benny Carriel, 11th

Can't Touch This, Because I'm Too Fast

Yong Kim

For the past eight years, President George W. Bush has been a president with many ups and downs. However, his overall popularity has greatly diminished over the years due to many different incidents. One of the biggest issues was the Iraq War, which a majority of Americans fervently opposed. It can be debated whether Bush was the cause of the many problems or he was just elected at an unlucky time. As one wall in the Physics classroom 114 says, "You liberals blame everything on Bush!" On the other hand, many people believe President Bush to be an unwise leader. However, no matter what anyone may say, it is undeniable that President Bush has the reflexes of a tiger.

Last year on December 14, 2008, President Bush was speaking at a news conference in the Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki's palace, which was heavily fortified. On that evening, he was making a farewell visit, when suddenly an Iraqi reporter stood up and threw his shoe at President Bush. Throwing each shoe one by one, the reporter, named Muntadhar al-Zaidi, yelled in Arabic, "This is a farewell ... you dog!" The shoes were thrown on target; however, President Bush was just too quick for the reporter and dodged both with ease. As the reporter was wrestled to the ground by agents, Mr. Bush assured everyone that it was okay. If this had occurred earlier during Mr. Bush's term, the event may have gathered some sympathy and warm feelings for Mr. Bush; however, people's hearts had already moved on to 44th President Obama.

How would other presidents have handled the situation? Many of our previous presidents were advanced in years, so most probably would have been hit by the shoes, not being able to react quickly enough; however, some unique presidents may have acted differently.

Obama: With the increased security, the shoe probably would never even reach him, but if it did, Mr. Obama would have caught the shoe over his shoulder and said, "Yes We Can!"

Abraham Lincoln: He would think of the shoe-thrower as a southerner, and lecture him with a good speech.

Teddy Roosevelt: Using his Big Stick, he would have hit the shoe back at the thrower. Then he would point the stick in the man's face and say, "This is AMERICA!"

FDR: The shoe would miss and fly over his head, since he's in a wheelchair.

Richard Nixon: He would have gotten hit, but then he would photoshop or destroy the pictures and tapes of him.

Ronald Reagan: He would definitely be hit, but after getting up, he would joke and say, "Oops, I forgot to duck!"

George Washington: He would have been hit and not reacted much, but his companions would probably snuff the shoe-thrower with their wigs.

Andrew Jackson: Whether the shoes hit him or not, he would have taken out his pistol and capped the man.

Bill Clinton: Hillary would have been hit.

Our End of the Spectrum

Well, it finally happened! Mr. Obama has become our 44th president, and we on the Spectrum couldn't be happier. Big changes are planned for our country, from equality to shutting down Git-Mo.

Already Obama is making waves in the White House. Within 24 hours of his family moving in, the internet had crashed, and all the computer systems had to be revamped. Obama's statement to this event is "...It's like going from an Xbox to an Atari..."

Obama's plans for the next four years are a HUGE change from what we have had. He is giving more money towards fringe programs like better Sex Ed in schools, and he is in full equality mode for all Americans.

To say that the American people are excited is an understatement. For this historic election NHS broadcast the election for all the staff and students to see, and a group of 200 kids and teachers took the day off to Riverspace and watch the election with what seemed like the entirety of Nyack.

There was some controversy over showing the election here in school. Those who were opposed to it say we've never done it before, why do it now? Well we think the answer is quite obvious! This is the first African American president we have had, and this is probably the last we will make such a big deal about.

Mr. Obama being elected president is something we're all going to remember for the rest of our lives. The ceremony was full of meaning, from Mr. Obama using Lincoln's Bible, to the near dead silence Mr. Bush walked out onto. Yes, we will always remember that moment, and Mr. Obama's acceptance speech will be one quoted in textbooks to come.

So we on the Spectrum want to congratulate Mr. Obama on achieving a dream he probably had since he was a kid, and we hope for four to eight fantastic years to come.

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We welcome letters to the editor. They can be sent to nyackspectrum@gmail.com. Anonymous letters will not be printed. Students should include their name, grade, and ID number for verification purposes.

The Spectrum publishes seven times a year, with the option of an eighth summer issue. It is distributed free of charge to members of the Nyack Community. Staff meetings are usually held on the first Tuesday of each month, after school in room 323. All are welcome.

The New York Rangers: The Hot 'N Cold Hockey Team

Deana Hasandjekaj

It's winter here at Nyack High School, and you know what season is heating up--hockey! Here's an in depth analysis dedicated to fans of the #1 New York team- the New York Rangers.

The Rangers have had a very interesting (and sometimes frustrating) season. Currently, the Rangers are sitting in the number three spot in the east, as well as first place in the Atlantic division. It may sound excellent, but they have worked so hard to get there. They have faced many challenges this year and have encountered some big struggles. It has been a very up-and-down kind of season for the blueshirts.

Their main problem has been very obvious: their power play and offense. Another problem has been giving up many short-handed goals (twelve, the highest in the NHL-yikes!). A bad power play and giving up way too many shorthanded goals isn't exactly a winning combination.

Their power play has not been working, generally due to their lack of ability to get the puck in smoothly.

Over-passing, inaccurate shots, inability to get to rebounds, and the lack of pressure are also issues preventing them from scoring power play goals. For the past few games their power play has been slowly improving, but we'll see if it can last. Their lack of scoring is due to an unselfish roster (which can be a bad thing).

Aside from all the weaknesses of their play, the Rangers also have many strengths. They are a very solid defensive team, thanks to their goaltender, Henrik Lundqvist, their defense, and even their forwards

who all pitch in. Their good defense adds up to a stellar penalty kill, which is in fact number one in the NHL. For the last few games, the team stressed defensive playing, which led to tight wins.

As well as their strengths and weaknesses, the players as individuals effect the team greatly. Ever since Peter Prucha returned as a regular in the lineup, wins have been more common. Prucha has brought energy to the team, as well as a few points on the scoreboard. He has struggled offensively, but as of late, he is much improved and very confident.

In addition, Markus Naslund, a new blueshirt this year, brought his veteran advantage to the team. He is definitely the most consistent scorer on the Rangers. Naslund has played a very offensive role this season for his team and is a well-deserved assistant captain. Second year player

Marc Staal has also been a surprisingly outstanding defenseman. Although he has only one goal this season, he is hands-down the best defenseman on the team. As of late he has become more physical and has made good defensive stick handling plays.

There are also Rangers who had a few rough patches this season that are starting to pick up. For instance, Henrik Lundqvist lost his five-star play at one point this season. December was his weakest month of play, but for the past few games he has gone back to being the Henrik Rangers fans know and love. He will also be in the 2009 All-Star game.

In addition, Brandon Dubinsky has been an up-and-down kind of player this season. Dubinsky was excellent in the beginning of the season; he was confident with the puck and scored many goals. Then, he had a point where he hadn't scored a goal in twenty games. But recently he ended up scoring a goal and ever since then, he has been picking it up on the ice.

As the playoffs come closer, the Rangers hope to keep winning and playing as best they can. They need to stay consistent to get to the next chapter of the season: the exciting chase for the Stanley Cup.



courtesy of www.bu.edu

Something to Prove

Continued from page 2

ahead to next year, the returning juniors will be assisted by McNair and freshmen Tess Bosley, who has had some good performances off the bench.

Proving that they have the stuff to be section champs will involve a different road than in years past. Only the section championship game is to be played in the coveted Westchester County Center this year, whereas in

years past, winning teams got to enjoy two playoff games at this historic venue. As usual, a trip to the section championship would involve some grand victories and clutch performances from many. But anything can happen in high school basketball, and with some hard work and determination, anything can be pursued and achieved.

Any Given Sunday

Tyler Perry

If I had told you that Chad Pennington would lead last year's 1-15 Dolphins to an 11-5 playoff team that knocked out Brett Favre's Jets and the nearly perfect Patriots, you would have slapped me.

But it happened, and I guarantee that no one believed that the Patriots would miss the postseason for the first time since 2002 and that Chad Pennington would have a better year than Favre. Who would have thought that the

Super Bowl favorite San Diego Chargers would be the first team to start 4-8 to make the playoffs?

I also can assure all that there was no one on the planet who could have predicted the Falcons to win eleven games and earn a playoff berth after the Mike Vick dog-fighting scandal. Rookie of the year candidate, Matt Ryan, and rookie coach Mike Smith have set a record for wins by a rookie quarterback and coach with eleven, which was tied by this year's Ravens (Joe Flacco and John Harbaugh).

Unfortunately, there were many records that were not quite broken and some that shouldn't be broken. Drew Brees threw a pass in the dirt as time expired in the Saints loss to the Panthers, even though he had wide-open receivers. If he had completed a long pass there, he could have broken Dan Marino's single season passing record of 5,084 yards. Instead he fell 16 yards short.

DeMarcus Ware couldn't record a sack as the Cowboy's season ended

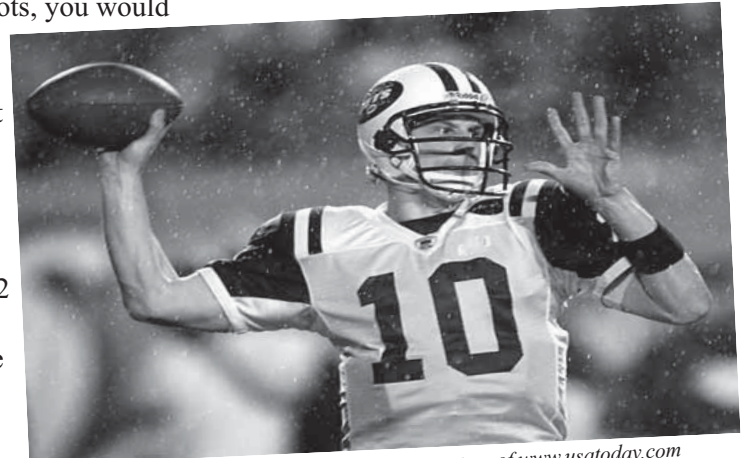


courtesy of www.cbc.ca

in a loss to the Eagles. He finished three sacks shy of surpassing Michael Strahan's record for sacks in a season (22.5). Unfortunately for the economically troubled city of Detroit, their Lions set the worst record of all. They will live in Canton in infamy forever, being the first team to lose every game in a 16-game season. The '76 Bucs went 0-14, but the Lions were the first to 0-16.

While they never showed promise during the season, the Bucs, Jets, and Cowboys all did before missing the playoffs. The Dallas Cowboys were picked by many to go deep into the

playoffs. They tried to endure many distractions, like the behavior of Adam Jones and Terrell Owens. After rebounding from quarterback Tony Ro-



courtesy of www.usatoday.com

mo's injury, they defeated the New York Giants, the best team in the NFC. They only needed a win in their last two games to make the playoffs and prove they could overcome monumental distractions. But, they fell to both the Ravens and the Eagles and will have to wait to end their playoff despairs.

The Jets started the season with a

“Certain teams and players shocked and surprised us this season, in both positive and negative ways...”

gamble by picking up aging legend Brett Favre. They bounced back from early losses to beat the number one Titans and divisional rival Patriots in the same week. At 8-3, people were considering the Jets to meet the Giants in the Super Bowl. But they proceeded to go 1-4 the rest of the way and ended up going 0-4 on the weak west coast.

However, the biggest collapse by far was the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. After starting 9-3, they faced the 9-3 Panthers in a game whose winner would have the second best record in the NFC. They lost that game and every other one left in the season. Their four-game skid at the end of the season put the Bucs out of the playoffs at 9-7. They would have been in the playoffs if they had

won any of those last few games. They ended their season with a disappointing 31-24 loss to the then 4-11 Raiders. Injuries killed the Bucs all season, and they lost their injury-prone running back, Cadillac Williams, to an injury a couple of games after getting him back from a prior injury. Certain teams and players shocked and surprised us this season, in both positive and negative ways. All of this mayhem just goes to show that in the NFL, anything can happen any given Sunday.