

THE SPECTRUM

December 2008

Nyack High School

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Prop H8: Taking Away Freedoms

Katy Brockschmidt

Bells were ringing, people were cheering, couples were kissing, and across the country people were looking at California with a renewed hope for the future. Gay marriage was just legalized in one of the most liberal states in the union, and everything seemed right with the world. It wasn't very long, though, before the bells were silenced and the cheers turned to tears.

Only a few short months after equality was allowed, it was all taken away. Proposition 8 (more commonly known as Prop 8) was passed, effectively banning same-sex marriage again. Prop 8 was passed with a 52%-48% majority.

The law was proposed and created by the Mormon Church. Said church gave several million dollars to the "yes" campaign to get Prop 8 to pass. Many reports on the election also claimed it was the African-American vote that

got it to pass. It is true that 70% of black voters voted yes, but they only represented 10% of all the people who voted. Furthermore, powerful black voices in the community like Barbara

are so cruelly yanked away!" This is very true: as a nation we pride ourselves on equality and diversity, but we still deny minorities equal rights. Some would think that with all of our



courtesy of www.latimes.com

Lee and Willie Brown, openly opposed Prop 8 and urged everyone to vote no.

"Prop 8 is a step backwards for human progress," says Nyack junior Julia True. "How can we say that we're a country of equal rights if those rights

history, the government would wake up and realize that Prop 8 is a civil rights violation, or that banning gay adoption is a civil rights violation, but they haven't gotten it yet.

The LGBT gay community has not taken Prop 8 lying down. A couple of days after Prop 8 was passed, a group of protesters marched through LA holding signs, quoting Ellen Degeneres and Harvey Milk, and singing the same classic songs that have been used in countless protests. In NY a group of protesters gathered outside the big Mormon church on the Upper West

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Homecoming 2008: Hyper or Hype?

A Student's Perspective

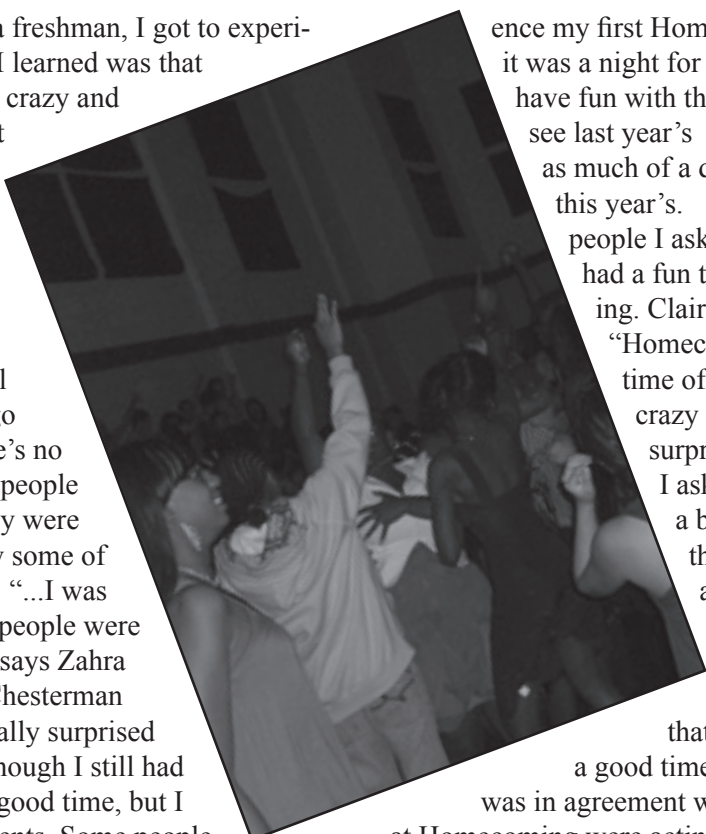
Deana Hasandjekaj

After this year's Homecoming, as most of you know, a bunch of kids were suspended and punished due to...well, let's just say "inappropriate behavior." Many rumors leaked that there might not be any more school dances and I figured it would only be fair to ask the students what they thought about this year's Homecoming.

Last year as a freshman, I got to experiencing. What I learned was that students just to be crazy and friends. I didn't Homecoming

ference from Many say that they at Homecoming-Masters says, ing is a magical where people go have fun. There's no in that." A few people did say that they were shocked at how some of students acted. "...I was little surprised people were ing so stupid," says Zahra Ahmed. Tina Chesterman adds, "I was really surprised was so crazy, though I still had I myself had a good time, but I my fellow students. Some people crazy, but I feel Homecoming is and relax from all the stresses of school, work, and sports.

Another question that arose was whether we should be allowed to have any more dances. Others, as well as myself had a lot to say on that topic. I feel that



ence my first Home- it was a night for stu- have fun with their see last year's as much of a dif- this year's. people I asked had a fun time ing. Claire "Homecom- time of year crazy and surprise I asked a bit the a act-

that it a good time." was in agreement with at Homecoming were acting a time when students can just be crazy

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A Chaperone's Perspective

Kendi Kajogo

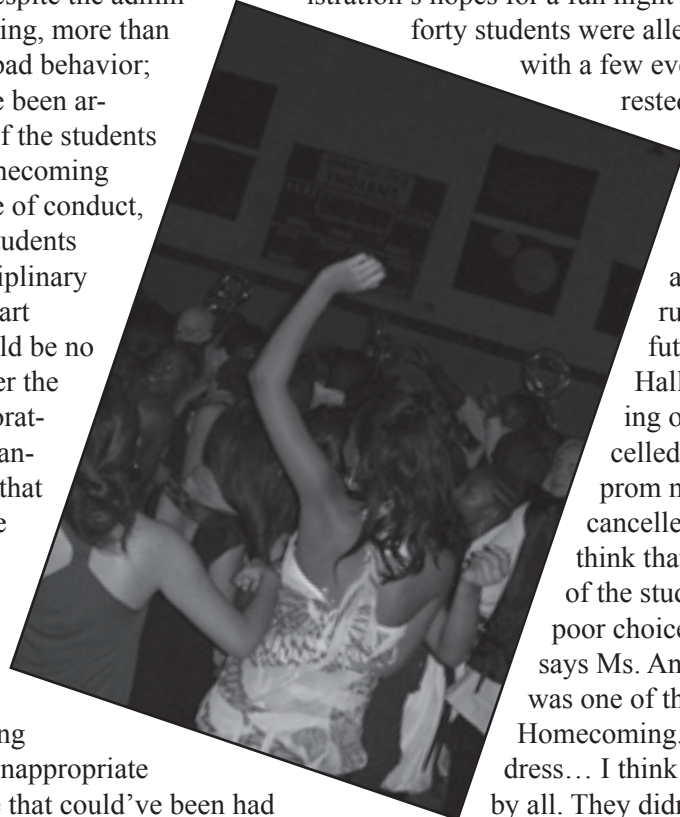
This year's Homecoming, which was supposed to be a fun and exciting time for the whole of the student body - especially given the success of this year's football team - ended with many students and teachers alike wondering how the night's events managed to get so out of hand.

Despite the admin- istration's hopes for a fun night with no trouble- forty students were allegedly suspended with a few even rumored to rested. Although not who attended violated the the number who received action was enough rumors that there future dances, that Halloween hallway ing or parade would celled (or worse, both), prom might even have cancelled. think that a significant por- of the student body made poor choices that night," says Ms. Andrews, who was one of the chaperones Homecoming. "The drinking, dress... I think it ruined the good by all. They didn't get to experi- the inappropriateness."

during the inappropriate time that could've been had ence the best time ever because of

When asked whether it would be fair to take away any upcoming dances as punishment, Ms. Andrews says, "No, I don't think that would be fair, but the responsibility is back on the kids. I think that it has to be earned, and we can do that by behavior at athletic events and behavior in the hallways." Another one

Contined on page 6



Nyack Marching Band: Marching Towards Success

Andrew Gates

We are all familiar with the reputation of Nyack High School's football team. But what you should know is that it won't be long before the Nyack High School's Marching Band has a reputation to match it! At the end of the 2008 school year, perspective marching band members were introduced to their new director Ted Zobel. (Mr. Zobel is a music teacher at East Ramapo where he teaches Electronic Music, Orchestra, and Music Theory.)



Courtesy of Andrew Gates

Now, at the close of the football/marching band season, they are doing a complete show with great movements taught to them by Ted Zobel. The band consists of a mixture of ages, which requires a lot of patience and cooperation from everyone. Nevertheless, each member has needed to practice very hard to get the band to where it is today. After a close loss on Friday night to Burnt Hills and the end of the 2008 season, the marching band is already thinking about next year and the 2009 season. As Kareem Bien-Aime, a Nyack High School marching band drum major put it, "I can't wait for the start of next season and the sight of new faces."

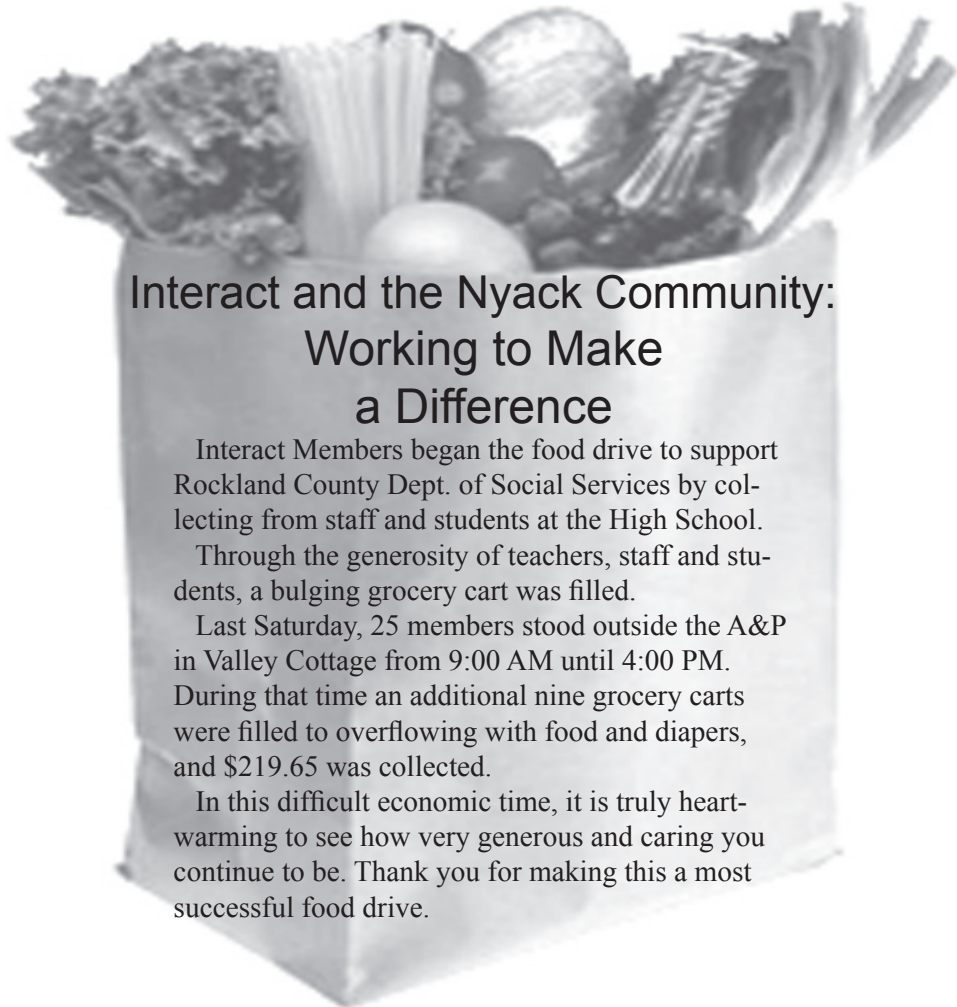
"We are all familiar with the reputation of...[the] football team...it won't be long before the... marching band has [one] to match it!"



Courtesy of Andrew Gates

When the new band met again in August in the senior parking lot, it was immediately clear that everyone--and even Mr. Zobel--had much to learn! The newly formed band with members from 6th -12th grade could barely do a simple box (the basic marching band movement.)

The Spectrum is going on vacation! But don't worry, we will continue in 2009!



Interact and the Nyack Community: Working to Make a Difference

Interact Members began the food drive to support Rockland County Dept. of Social Services by collecting from staff and students at the High School. Through the generosity of teachers, staff and students, a bulging grocery cart was filled. Last Saturday, 25 members stood outside the A&P in Valley Cottage from 9:00 AM until 4:00 PM. During that time an additional nine grocery carts were filled to overflowing with food and diapers, and \$219.65 was collected. In this difficult economic time, it is truly heartwarming to see how very generous and caring you continue to be. Thank you for making this a most successful food drive.

An Election to Remember

Jessica Schwartz

November fourth changed a lot for our country. This fact is undeniable, whether you're happy about the change or not. As I see it, the election of Barack Obama is a clear turning point for us, politically and socially. It's nothing short of revolutionary.

Race can no longer be claimed as a factor. The days of skin color holding a person back from achieving his/her dreams...they're in the past where they belong. No doubt it is still an uphill battle, but as a country we're finally finding our momentum.

Obama did not just slide into the 2008 election. He had to fight his way into it; he had handicaps in the form of his name and his skin color that could not be ignored. There were people who thought it could never happen- for some, it was too much of an outlandish thought for a black man with a name like Barack Obama to be elected.

And outlandish it was. After all, we have had scores of Johns, Georges, and James' (insert any number of generic last names). There have been many Protestants, and even a few Catholics, all forty-three of whom were white. Obviously, a black man named Barack Obama is a first.

Regardless of whether you're a



<http://cache.daylife.com/imageserve/>

Democrat, a Republican, or simply apathetic, there is great inspirational value in what we have just witnessed. We just elected a black man- why not a woman, a Jew, a homosexual? Let's create a truly equal society, with the same opportunities for all. Our forefathers stated this aim, and it has still not been achieved. We're one step closer, though. We're on our way.

Scholarship Deadline Approaching!
The Cross Lites Scholarship is open to all high school students. You have to write a reflective essay (400-600 words) based on Dr. Parker's quotes or messages. This is a competition, and first place wins \$2,000 in scholarship money!
For more info: <http://crosslites.com>
Deadline: December 15th

Long Anticipated Twilight Movie

Joanna Sinelli

The wait is finally over. The long anticipated film based on the popular book series, *Twilight*, by Stephanie Meyer is finally in theaters. It came out on November twenty-first, and the good news is that it does justice to the book. And unlike some movies, where the only thing in common with the book is the title, this movie truly displays what the book is all about. With some minor changes, such as the added and slightly unnecessary field trip scene, the movie stayed true to the book.

Robert Pattinson's (Edward) performance was surprising. His chemistry with Kristen Stewart (Bella) was perfect. The movie is a great choice for anyone. Girls will love the romance, and guys will love the action.

It was also surprisingly funny, with all the awkward conversations between Edward and Bella when they were still getting to know

each other.

Although their parts were very minor in this movie, Rosalie, Emmett, Alice, and Jasper were perfect; I could not think of anyone better to play

their parts. Carlisle, Esme, and Jacob Black were very well casted also.

Thankfully, it kept one of the most important lines from the book: the lion falling in love with the lamb.



Courtesy of www.mynewplayground.wordpress.com

People have even gotten this line tattooed on their bodies because they love it so much.

The only thing I wish they could have done was have the Cullen family play a somewhat more important part. Disappointingly, we only see them briefly in a few scenes.

And while some people, including myself, thought that Kristen Stewart's acting was not as great as anticipated, she did portray the character Bella nicely, and she fit the description of Bella well.

I would give this movie three out of five stars and recommend it to anyone who doesn't mind a little romance or action.

GOING GREEN IN 1, 2, 3

Zahra Ahmed

Environmental issues have become very important these days. Whether it's in politics, TV, technology or in everyday life, this issue arises every where and it's important for us to be aware of what is going on in the world we live in. And even more importantly we need to know what we can do to help it. With information coming at you from all different sources, it is sometimes hard to differentiate what something really means. So what does it mean to go green? In essence this movement is all about being eco-friendly, helping our environment by doing basic things. But before we get ahead of ourselves we need to answer a few basic questions. Why do we need to go green and what is going on with our environment?

The world is made up of many ecosystems and we have come to learn that they are all interrelated. Meaning pesticides used in America can affect the health of people in India. And greenhouse gases released in Spain can kill a forest in Brazil. Things going on all over the world have its effect on us and we don't even realize. Right now there are many things going on in the environment. Two of the biggest issues that are hurting our environment right now are pollution and global warming. People pollute everyday, not knowing pollution's damaging effects. There are many kinds of

pollution including land, air, and water pollution. Land pollution is the contamination of the earth's surface with harmful matter like urban waste, and industrial waste. The chemicals in pesticides and other substances contaminate the soil. Even something as basic as dropping your trash on the floor instead of a trash can, can be harmful to the environment. Air pollution is the contamination of the air. We pollute the air everyday with the burning of fuel, Diesel

smoke, smoke from our cars and even smoke from factories. But do you really now how this is effecting our environment? Did you know that pollution in the air creates smog, acid rain, the green house effect, and even holes in the ozone layer? Not only are these serious consequences but these are things that can seriously affect our health and our lives. Another serious issue is global warming. Global warming means just what the name indicates: an increase

the Earth's temperature. Though natural factors like volcanic eruptions, changes in the Earth's orbit, and the amount of energy released from the Sun have contributed to global warming, factors created by humans like the Industrial revolutions have contributed even more. It's time to take this into our own hands and help our environment.

Now, going green is easier than you think. Here are a few easy ways to go green and help save our planet.

Things You Can Do!

1	Recycle, re-use and reduce –Come on guys. You know you see all those blue recycle bins in almost all the classrooms. Just place your papers and plastic in the right bins. It is an easy way to help the environment, one bottle/page at a time. You can also re-use items like plastic bottle, which not only reduces the number of plastic bottles you use but also saves you money (plus, tap water has benefits for your health, so maybe you can trade that Poland Spring for a glass of tap water once a week).
2	Throw your trash in the garbage. I know sometimes we all feel a little lazy but I think we can all agree that walking those extra feet to the garbage, or maybe looking for one, will be worth it in the end.
3	Change your light bulbs to energy efficient and compact fluorescent bulbs. It is the quickest and easiest way to save money and energy.
4	Recycle your electronics- even the schools offers to take all your old cell phones and ink cartages. There is a bin in one of the offices, and if you ask in the main office, I am sure that they will be more than happy to lead you in the right direction.
5	Use Energy Star products- they offer many products that will be useful and environmentally friendly.
6	Next time you visit the supermarket, choose paper instead of plastic.
7	Look for ways to save more paper (maybe it's time to make your teacher aware of how many pieces of paper they are using and encourage them to start posting homework on e-chalk).
8	Save some gas and the environment by avoiding the drive-through window especially if there is a long line.
9	Look for organic soaps, lotions (they're better for your skin and eco-friendly) and even clothing.
10	Be aware of little things you can do everyday to help your environment, like picking up that piece of trash you just walked by.

From the Small Stage to the Big Show

Tyler Perry

A long and difficult road filled with years of hard work. This describes the journey basketball players take from high school to college and then even pro basketball, either in the NBA or another country.

Nyack enjoyed some success last year, including a huge upset of Tappan Zee late in the season, and a playoff berth. Unfortunately, they were eliminated in the first round and didn't get a chance to play long-time rival Peekskill High School, who advanced far in the playoffs after winning the section.

Brian Jones led Nyack with 17 points per game, and will be missed this year. But we will return a couple of starters and key players from last season. This includes forwards Terence Fede, and Ray Nichols, and role player Venson Constant, all of whom were on the football team, as well as three-point threat Matt Kramer.

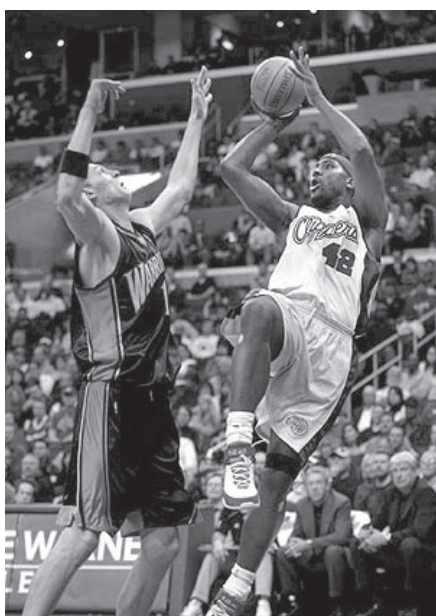
Under Coach Ramponi, Nyack has a chance to improve from last season. In league two South (Nyack's league), the

"A few local guys have even made it all the way to the biggest stage in basketball, the NBA..."

and intense rivalry. Hopefully Nyack will have a breakout year and can advance far in the playoffs.

On the next level- college basketball- many local stars are beginning to excel. Former Peekskill High star Mookie Jones, who led Peekskill to three State Championships, also beat Nyack in the playoffs four

years ago. He is now at Syracuse University, and looks to contribute to a very good team.



courtesy of images.smarter.com

Mount Vernon graduates Jonathan Mitchell and Mike Coburn are at Rutgers University. They both won numerous state titles in high school and are now teammates again. Mitchell has to sit one year after transferring from Florida, where he won a national championship, while Coburn had seven points in the recent victory over Marist and looks to surpass his eight points per game from last year. Their former teammate at Mount Vernon, Kevin Jones, scored nine points in his West Virginia debut victory over Elon. Former White

Plains star Sean Kilpatrick, now at Cincinnati, looks to have a nice college career. Six-foot-one Jordan Henriquez of Port Chester should get playing time in a rebuilding Kansas State program.

A few local guys have even made it all the way to the biggest stage in basketball, the NBA. Elton Brand, former Peekskill High School and Duke University star, is having another solid season with the Philadelphia 76ers, looking to improve on 15.5 ppg. He is fifth in the NBA with 11.0 rebounds per game.

Hilton Armstrong, another Peekskill legend who won the NCAA tournament with the University of Connecticut in 2004, is having a decent start with the New Orleans Hornets in his second pro season. The highlight of his career so far is a block of Dwight Howard that led to a Hornet's victory. His teammate on the Connecticut team in 2004, Ben Gordon, played for Mount Vernon High School and is now on the Chicago Bulls. He is having a spectacular year, averaging 21.3 points per game, including

a 35 point effort in a victory over Dallas.

Under the coaching of Gary Gray, Nyack High School beat Hilton Armstrong and Peekskill in 2001 to win the section title. Kudjo Sogadzi led the team with Alvin Carter, Nigel Morris, Jason Alcin, Ronnie King and others. Morris, Alcin and King won the state championship with the football team that year, and made it all the way to the state semi-final



courtesy of media.nba.com

in basketball. Sogadzi went to Fairfield University, while his 7'-0" Nyack teammate James Smith went to Marist

University and is currently playing in Europe. Another NHS great was Larry Abney, who was very successful at Nyack and led them two section one title games. He went to Fresno State University and set a school record with 35 rebounds in one game. He is now playing in Australia.

Also playing overseas is former Kennedy High School star Donnie McGrath, who is having great success in Europe. McGrath and Kennedy were rivals of Nyack. They beat us once in an emotional game at the County Center, but we also defeated them in an important game in the sectional tournament in 2001. One final interesting note is that Nyack varsity basketball coach Mike Ramponi played for Tappan Zee in 1997, and they were eliminated in the sectional quarterfinal by Elton Brand's Peekskill team. We'll see how all of the local stars play out this season at every level, from the small stage to the big show.

Max Cea

Thursday night's exhilarating win for the Jets in Foxboro seemed unlike any other Jets- Patriots matchup of the past. Over the years, this rivalry has been a one-sided one, associated mostly with Jets losses. In fact, Thursday night's game brought the Jets's head-to-head record to an abysmal 5-13 against the Patriots since 2000. During this span, the Patriots have never lost the two game single-season series. Despite the dominance shown by New England, the rivalry has remained a bitter, hostile one, filled with marquee coaches and players often switching from one side to the other. Also prevalent in this rivalry are the controversies such as Spygate and tampering charges (the Jets faced tampering charges for allegedly negotiating with Deion Branch before his contract was up).

Despite the season series being split and the game being a very close, competitive one, this game, more than any of the other past meetings, showed a Jets team flying in a different direction. Throughout the game, the Jets showed a versatility and lack of limitations that hadn't been there in years past. The obvious reason for the new look that the Jets showed is probably based on the nine free agents that the Jets added

in the offseason finally jelling. Most prominent among these acquisitions is the legendary Brett Favre.

Quarterback play seemed to be the biggest reason for this new versatility. Over the years the Jets have trotted out players such as Vinny Testaverde, Chad Pennington, and Kellen Clemens, all with obvious weaknesses and limitations. Favre, however, showed the ability to put the ball in places in which players like Pennington could not. To go along with these money throws, Brett Favre showed something not as tangible: a poise and leadership that has not been seen from a New York Jets quarterback since the likes of Joe Namath. And very Joe Namath-like was the final drive of overtime in which Favre led the Jets down the field into field goal position to lock up the win.

Although Favre did play exceptionally, there was one player who did seem to overshadow him. Amidst speculation about whether he should be starting in the place of the injured Tom Brady, Matt Cassel had the game of his life. Yet the speculation of Cassel may have been warranted, being that he is an undrafted twenty-six year old who had not started a game since high school. Any questioning that may have occurred, though,

Cassel put to rest, throwing for 400 yards with 30 completions and three touchdown passes, and leading a last minute drive that ended in a touchdown pass to Randy Moss to send the game to overtime. Cassel, a free agent at the end of the year, is now conjuring speculation about where he may end up next year.

Throughout the broadcast of the game, Chris Collinsworth, of the NFL network, mentioned something to the effect of that if not for Brett Favre the Jets would not have won this game. In a sense he is right; if the Jets had still been relying on the tandem of Chad Pennington and Kellen Clemens, they probably would have lost this game. But let's now consider which team would have won if Cassel had been the Jets quarterback. The scenario presented is a fair one, but rather for next season than this one. If Brett Favre decides to finally call it quits at the end of the season, the Jets will need a quarterback and who better than the Patriot who almost led a comeback win against them in Foxboro on the night of Thursday the thirteenth. Matt Cassel becoming a Jet for the 2009-2010 season is the next logical step in the Jets-Patriots rivalry, and may be the final piece to finally turn the tables for New York.

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Nyack Football: A Closer Look at the 2008 Playoffs

Can We? YES WE CAN!

Tyler Perry

Yes We Can. This slogan was repeated again and again in Barack Obama's victorious presidential campaign. Except this time, the phrase was being used to support the Nyack Indians in the Section One Championship football game against Ossining at Mahopac.

During the season, Nyack's one loss was at Ossining, a 20-7 defeat. As the number two seed from the division, Nyack beat number one seed Harrison 20-7 and previously undefeated number one seed Somers 30-7 in the playoffs. Besides the loss to Ossining, Nyack didn't give up more than one touchdown in a game and didn't give up a single point at MacCalman Field.

Ossining came into the game undefeated as the number one seed from Nyack's division. In the playoffs they beat Fox Lane 52-13 and Yorktown 45-44 in overtime at home. In the Yorktown game, Ossining trailed most of the way until they caught up in the fourth quarter and sent the game to overtime, where they won on a two-point conversion.

The strong Nyack defense shut down Ossining on the first drive and Anthony Davis scored on a touchdown run, one of four of the day for him. Ossining scored on the ensuing drive with a gorgeous touchdown pass from Kreamer to Lemar Johnson. But Nyack jumped off-side during the extra-point, which led to a two-point conversion and an 8-7 Ossining lead.

Nyack answered with a great drive highlighted by a 30-yard run from Nichols and a 20-yard touchdown from Davis, who kept breaking tackles and fighting for the extra yard all game. Unfortunately, Ossining came right back with an 85-yard kickoff return from the speedy Jesse Drinks. Then, Terrence Fede blocked the extra point to keep the score tied at the half.

One of the key plays for Nyack on defense came after the sack of Kreamer, a rare event. Later in the drive, Matt Mancini picked off a Kreamer screen pass that led to another Davis TD run and a score of

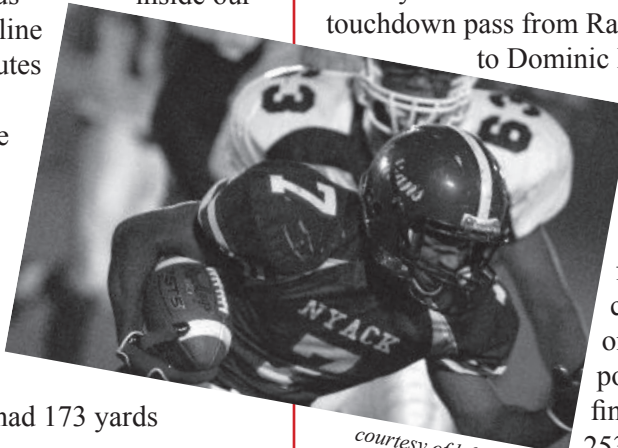
20-14. On the extra-point attempt, kicker Sanley Pierre-Louis knocked one through that bounced off the left upright. Ossining quickly retaliated with ten minutes left, as Kreamer completed a 67-yard pass to Laccetti, who ended up running it in to tie the game at 21.

All seemed lost as Kreamer recovered a Nyack fumble, but the defense forced a three-and-out and a punt that put us inside our own ten yard line with five minutes to go. With a fourth and one from our own 19-yard line, Davis blasted through for the first down and another big run on a day when he had 173 yards on the ground.

Then the Nyack fans started to chant the famous phrase from the Obama campaign, "Yes We Can." Ray Nichols delivered, with a fake handoff and a huge 61-yard run to spark the team, the bench, and the whole crowd. Then Davis had three runs for 19 yards and scored a TD with a minute to go to give Nyack a 28-21 lead.

But it wasn't over yet. Ossining got down the field with amazing speed; a drive highlighted when Kreamer escaped a sack and completed a huge pass to Lucky. But with six seconds to go on fourth down, Antoine McLaughlin batted away a pass intended for Lucky in the end zone, to win the game. Nichols and Davis led the team as Nichols finished with 188 rushing yards while the defense came up big against a potent Ossining offense to avenge the October loss.

Nyack fans screamed and ran onto the field to celebrate yet another Section One title for Coach Castellano, who tried to lead the team to Nyack's third State Championship. The theme for this game: Can we do it? Yes we can.



Waiting to Exhale

Tyler Perry

Three seconds. That doesn't seem like a long time to hold your breath. But it was for football fans at the state quarterfinal game between Nyack and Cornwall. The whole game was a thriller, in spite of a sloppy first half. Cornwall's quarterback, Kevin Arduino, led New York State in passing yards and touchdowns coming into the game, and was a great mobile QB at 6'-2." He ended the first drive of the game with a touchdown pass that Nyack answered with a 61-yard touchdown pass from Ray Nichols to Dominic Leonard.

Arduino then ran in for a touchdown after Nyack failed to capitalize on good field position. He finished with 253 passing yards and 106 rushing yards. Nyack gave up four turnovers in the first half, two fumbles and two interceptions, but also put pressure on Arduino. The strong Nyack defense sacked him once and forced him to fumble twice.

Nyack trailed 14-7 at the half, the first time all season that they were losing midway through the game. But Coach Cas got them to come out strong in the second half. Anthony Davis stepped up during a 65-yard drive where he got the ball on every play, and finished it with a four-yard touchdown run. Then Francis Stewart intercepted a deflection and returned it for a 29-yard score and Nyack's first lead of the game. After another strong Cornwall drive that ended with an Arduino rushing touchdown, Nyack completed a good drive with a 27-yard field goal from Sanley Pierre-Louis to take a 24-21 lead with just under five minutes to go.

After that, Arduino took the Dragons down to the four-yard line and seemed poised for another TD run. However, the strong Nyack defense came up big again, forcing him to fumble and

getting 305-pound Ralph Dragon to run it 20 yards. Just like against Ossining the week before, Nyack faced a tough 4-and-1. This time, the gutsy move to go for it failed, and the great Arduino had the ball with over two minutes left at the 30-yard line. The previous week, Ossining had gone down the entire field with one minute left and nearly scored as time expired. Now Cornwall had it closer with more time, but no timeouts.

Arduino got down to the nine, then appeared to run it into the end zone with fourteen seconds to go. Cornwall celebrated, screaming and jumping, thinking they had won, but a flag on the field was holding against Cornwall, keeping Nyack alive. With three seconds left, Cornwall decided to try to tie the game with a field goal to send it into overtime. But Kirshner's kick (with Arduino holding) was low and right as time expired. The Nyack faithful streamed onto the field with a third straight improbable victory in the playoffs. It happened to be over the number one quarterback in the state. Finally, Nyack fans could breathe again!

There were numerous strange plays, one being a kickoff from Nyack that a Cornwall player dropped. For some reason, the officials had Nyack re-do the kick. There was no flag or anything, just a five-minute conference and a rare "do-over." One of the other strange plays was when one of the Cornwall players seemed to suffer a leg cramp and Coach Castellano ran out and helped the guy stretch out the cramp.

Coach Cas has had a long time to learn how to treat injuries during his impressive 21-year career. His one loss in a state championship game came in 2002, to Class A powerhouse Aquinas, who also won last year's state championship. Aquinas was number one this year, until they were upset by Sweet Home. This year, Nyack's state semi-final opponent will be Burnt Hills.

At the last two games, Cas had many of his former players' support from the sidelines. They were all smiles; the air tastes sweeter when you win.

Journal News-All County

Offense

1ST TEAM

Anthony Davis-RB
Kevin Monahan-OL
Ralph Dragon-OL
Terrence Fede-OL

2ND TEAM

Maxim Ngolla-OL

ATHLETE OF THE SEASON

Anthony Davis

Defense

1ST TEAM

Matt Mancini-DL
Sal Marchese-LB
Dominic Leonard-DB
Antoine McLaughlin-DB

2ND TEAM

Elijah Sorel-DL
Francis Stewart-DB

1ST TEAM KICKER

Sanley Pierre-Louis

HON. MENTION- ALL COUNTY

Bobby Bertalocci-DB
Brandon Johnson-RB
Robensky Durandisse-OL
Ray Nichols-QB

NYACK FOOTBALL 2008

ALL SECTION NYACK FOOTBALL 2008

ALL SECTION HON. MENTION

Matt Mancini
Sal Marchese

ALL SECTION NYACK FOOTBALL 2008

COACH CAS AND THE NYACK FOOTBALL TEAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND ENTHUSIASM THIS SEASON.

ALL SECTION NYACK FOOTBALL 2008

Dominic Leonard
Anthony Davis
Terrence Fede

ALL SECTION HON. MENTION

Matt Mancini
Sal Marchese

ALL SECTION NYACK FOOTBALL 2008

Bobby Bertalocci
Ray Nichols
Robensky Durendisse
Francis Stewart
Brandon Johnson
Maxim Ngolla

ALL SECTION HON. MENTION ALL LEAGUE

Homecoming 2008: A Student's Perspective Continued From Cover

it isn't fair that we shouldn't have any more dances. I think that the people who were just not thinking and acting stupid should be excluded from the dances. I think that the dances should be a privilege for all of the good students at Nyack High School. Kendi Kajogo, a student at Nyack, agrees and says, "They kicked out some 40+ kids; if they know who was acting up then they should just not let them attend while students who were behaving properly get to have fun." I feel that with this solution, the dances will not be an issue in our school.

Last year we did not have dances other than Homecoming and I think that's unfair. It is a part of Nyack and it represents school spirit. One student had something to say about their opinion on school spirit. "Teachers are always complaining about us not having enough school spirit, but don't want us to have more dances. Dances really do increase morale and happiness, and although some behavior is not going to be great, everybody gets really excited and all for them," says Claire Masters.

I agree that homecoming and other dances are a tradition at Nyack High School and it would be sad for them not to happen. Although people tend to act foolish, it's a part of high school and a part of life. Joanna Sinelli adds, "Yes, we should have more dances. All the other schools around here have more than one, why can't we?" The lack of dances last year was really unfair, especially when you consider that every other school around here has plenty of dances. Kendi Kajogo made a point about Nyack Middle School. "Also, when we were in the middle school, we got like, four dances a year. Why can't the high school do that?" It is true that the middle school had lots of dances, where as last year, our school had only Homecoming. Are we going to

allow our school spirit to diminish over a few bad kids? Kendi Kajogo also made a comment about Nyack's school spirit. "Like others have said, the administration likes to make a big point of asking students to participate in school activities and things like that, and having more dances will definitely encourage more school spirit," says Kendi. I think that certain students should just get warned and punished for their actions so they know to act more mature next time.

Some students thought the dance wasn't that different from previous years. When I asked Tina Chsterman, she had a lot to say. "Of course we should have more dances. What annoyed me about this dance was that the reputation it got was only caused by the school's choosing to actually do something this year. Every year the dances have been like this and people do get out of control. By making the decision to kick out all those people, the school finally saw how "bad" it was. If you think about it, the dance would have been the same as every other year and we wouldn't have gotten the reputation, if they didn't decide to kick everyone out. Kicking everyone out made the dance look worse than it was." I agree that many of our school's dances have been just like this, yet now our school suddenly realizes it and actually did something about it.

I think that our school should punish students when a dance in the future comes around, but I think that our school should have taken action long before this year's homecoming because every dance has been just like this one. However, I do have an understanding of why teachers and staff are against them, as well as some other students at our school. Caroline Cummings said, "I would love another dance but if I were to step into the administration's

shoes I would say no. There were way too many kids who never realized the line between having fun and being stupid/irresponsible."

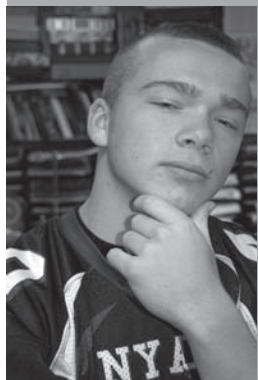
To end this article, the students I've spoken to feel that dances have always been a part of Nyack High School and should remain that way. Most students also agreed that there should be more in the future. However, some of us agree that the students who acted inappropriately at the last dance should suffer consequences for future dances. It seems like administration finally realized how the dances have gone every year, but in the process the events at this year's Homecoming have been treated as if they're something new. Hopefully there will be more dances this year because many students (including me) would like that. Students should have another chance to prove they have the maturity to handle themselves at these events.

A Chaperone's Perspective Continued From Cover

one of the chaperones, Ms. Gross, agrees with this sentiment: "I think the whole student body needs to show maturity throughout the day ... [and] let us know that we can trust them outside of school."

Although the question of what the fate will be of all upcoming school events still hangs in the air, from both Ms. Gross's and Ms. Andrew's responses, it is understood that it is now up to the student body to prove that we are worthy of and deserve any forthcoming school events.

Man in the Hallway: What is your opinion of hall sweeps?



"I don't really get swept that much, so I don't care."
Nick Salemo, 11th

"I think it's awesome."
Edy Modica, 11th



"I'm a studious person. I get to class on time. But what if I'm two minutes late? I have to miss 41 minutes of learning for a couple minutes of lateness? It should be for people who are consistently late. Plus, the AIP room just turns into a social gathering anyway."
Erik Ooi, 11th



"I don't think it's working. There are always lots of people in the hallways. It's definitely ineffective."
Katrina Hohlfeld, 12th



"It's dumb."
Samantha Long, 11th



"I like it, because I have more kids coming in on time. The halls are quieter, which is great."
Mrs. Cossette



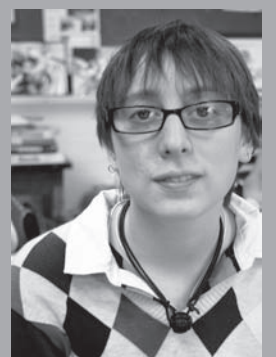
"I got swept once and I didn't even know what to do. I went to the room and there was nobody there."
John Leone, 12th



"I was in class one day when a student came in late. He was let in. A different day, the teacher sent a late student out. The teachers should be more consistent."
Antoine McLaughlin, 12th



"I think it's stupid. The punishment for not going to class is not going to class?"
Kat Brockschmidt, 12th



Just For Fun Philosophical Student Claims Homework Doesn't Exist Teacher: Neither Does Passing Grades

Noah Stambovsky

Citing a philosophical theory that is thousands of years old, Nyack High School freshman Ed Templeton has defended his failure to hand in a thematic worksheet on *Romeo and Juliet* by claiming that "homework doesn't actually exist." Templeton and his lawyers have successfully petitioned the nation's highest court to accept the controversial case.

His teacher, Ms. Ellen Murphy, thinks otherwise. "A freshman cannot just decide what exists and what doesn't... maybe a junior or a senior can. The fact of the matter is that he did not do his homework. Hey, y'know what? His credit doesn't exist either. And while we're at it, neither does his cell phone, which I confiscated from him yesterday."

Templeton acknowledges that The Supreme Court of the United States also might not exist, but "they've got this huge building down in Washington, I saw it on YouTube, so they probably do exist, but who really knows?" In spite of his doubts, he is eager to have the nine justices hear his case.

Most of Ed's classmates say that he is not actually a philosophical kid but that he just "really can't fail this quarter." According to a close friend, "all that existence stuff is just a pose." Allegedly, Ed was given an assignment on Greek philosophy two weeks ago and discovered the works of Plato. "Ever since that project, Ed's been talking about philosophy and how we can't prove the existence of things... like who cares?" a classmate commented. "And then the

other day, he didn't do his homework, and he was like 'I bet I can get credit for it anyway, watch this'."

Existentialism experts say that Ed's philosophical ideas are not without merit. Plato did in fact suggest that our entire universe is only a bleak reflection of reality, a scary thought to some. Ed doesn't fully subscribe to the Platonic theory, though. "I don't think that the whole universe doesn't exist, that would be dumb. I am only suggesting that the existence of this specific assignment is questionable, is that so weird?"

Professor Willard Whitman, Chairman of the Department of Metaphysical Existential Philosophical Ontology And Culinary Design at Harvard University said, "This matter is mind-boggling. Not the philosophical part, but the fact that Ed's weak excuse for a missed homework assignment has made its way to the highest branch of our judicial system." If Ed can prove to the court that his homework actually does not exist, he will receive full credit for the assignment plus damages of \$400,000 for psychological trauma. Ms Murphy has proposed a counter-suit claiming that she does not have to pay him because "the money doesn't exist either."



Our End of the Spectrum

Hall sweeps: they sure have been effective in sweeping up one thing, and that's controversy. How well do they serve their purpose? Some might refer to them as a necessary evil in keeping students on track, and others might refer to them as a purely unnecessary evil that only causes more disturbances.

We must admit that we're a bit skeptical. After all, isn't it a bit contradictory that the punishment for showing up late to class is simply getting to miss class? For many students, AIP is not seen as a legitimate threat, so being swept is nothing short of desirable. We've heard more than one joke along the lines of, "Ugh, I'm not in the mood for _____ class, maybe I'll just get swept." Hmm... probably not the sentiment administrators were trying to stir up.

Another thing to consider is that some students really do want to go to class. Some situations are simply unavoidable- a locker jam, crowded hallways, a temporary lapse in memory leading you to the wrong class... you catch our drift. One might show up a minute late to class due to said reasons, only to be turned away by their teacher. Trying to go to class and instead getting sent to AIP... talk about disheartening!

Of course, we do understand the idea behind hall sweeps. It's a way to minimize students cutting class and causing disturbances in the halls. We know that behind this new rule lay good intentions; however, we can't help but wonder if there isn't a more effective way of achieving those aims.

First, we think there should be a sort of grace period of maybe a minute or two for those students who have innocent excuses for their tardiness, such as those listed above. Also, students might try to avoid being swept if the punishment were different. We propose that swept students are returned to class, but receive some sort of after school detention. This way, the desire to be swept will be aborted, and it will encourage students to try their best to get to class on time.

In this issue's Man in the Hallway, we asked some students what they thought about the new policy. What do you think?

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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.

Prop H8 continued from Cover

calling itself "Join The Impact" organized hundreds of marches against what they call "Prop H8."

Protests against "Prop H8" were held all over the country on November 15. People in NY marched to City Hall and stood in the rain and cold for hours to get their message out.

Reasons for Prop 8's passing can be attributed to confusing campaigns, false information, and a strong faith backing. Many first hand liberal voters said that they really didn't understand the logistics behind Prop 8; they thought it was to protect gay marriage. The "yes" campaign also flooded communities with calls saying that Barack Obama supported Prop 8. This is false. Obama doesn't support gay



courtesy of wikimedia.org

marriage based on religious beliefs, but he has never publicly said anything for or against Prop 8. He is also for the separation of church and state, something this law doesn't agree with.

When asked about her reaction to Prop 8's passing, Nyack junior Amani Jordan says, "I first saw it on the cover of *The Advocate*. I was like, "damn! What happens to all those couples that already got married?" This question is being raised by many. Prop 8 cannot take away the marriages that have already occurred. There are couples that have been together for 50 years or more, and finally achieved their dream by getting married. Thankfully these couples' marriages are still recognized.

The Advocate had interviewed a cab driver in California

about his reaction to Prop 8. The cab driver Ali says, "I used to be against it, and then I saw it and I understood... I was really surprised, they were so happy! All they want

"The fact that gays and lesbians need to be fighting to keep their happiness is disgusting..."

is to be happy." Indeed all gay people want is to be happy.

The fact that gays and lesbians need to be fighting to keep their happiness is disgusting. Plenty of little girls and boys dream of the day that they'll find love and get married. Once they got older, some of them realized that they might never be able to do that. When California allowed gay marriage, many gay and lesbian youth felt renewed for their future. Prop 8 did not ruin this dream; it strengthened it. All the fighting to get this and all other discriminatory propositions repealed is being done for those



courtesy of www.daylife.com

present to fight, and those who need the fight to happen. Future Gay and Lesbian youth will look at this time and see Prop 8, but they will also see the fight that overturned it. The fight for equal rights that started with Harvey Milk is coming out, so to say, of the closet that it got shoved in for so long, and it will never go back in.

Adoption Banned for Gay Couples in Arkansas

Katy Brockschmidt

What makes a family? Most would say parents, children, generations that get together at various times, and some even consider a couple of their friends as part of their family. Basically, a family is created from love.

"Basically a family is created from love. Then why would the government of Arkansas try their hardest to break up families?"

Then why would the government of Arkansas try their hardest to break up families?

As of November it is illegal for unmarried couples to adopt or foster children together in Arkansas. The same group that spearheaded this new law was the one who spearheaded the ban on same-sex marriage. Yes, you read that right, it is now illegal for gay couples to adopt/raise children together in the state of Arkansas.

Along with this ban, all of the adoptions that were made in the past are now void. The Arkansas social services are going into homes and taking away children from their gay or lesbian parents. Some of these children were adopted when they were only

a few days old, and now many years later are being ripped out of the only homes they have ever known!

The court says testimony in the state's appeal for this law states, "the driving force behind adoption of the regulations was not to promote the health, safety and welfare of foster children but rather based upon the board's views of morality and its bias against homosexuals." So then is it the government's decision what makes a family? Is there only one kind of family? Obviously the government is not putting the children first,

or the parents' wishes in some cases! If the parents left the child to a family member who is cohabiting and unmarried, that child would be automatically placed into the system to join over 7,000 children already in it.

So should sexual orientation even

come into the picture when thinking about a family? Do straight couples have a better ability to take care of a child than gay couples do? Is there more than one way to love a child as your own? What do you do about the daughter/son that you've raised since he or she was two days old, who's now entering their first year in high school and being ripped from your arms? The passage of this new law raises these questions for many a family. The government already controls so much of our lives, should they be allowed to dictate what a family is?



courtesy of www.first30days.com

Deck the Halls

Kenneth Johnson

Originally started in the early 1990's for just the holiday season, hallway decorating began with conversations between Dr. Oustatcher, who was the former principal of Nyack, and the students from the student council. The purpose for was to bring kids together during the holiday season and raise school spirit.

Faculty judged which hallway was better from each grade, and with that, a tradition was born. Dr. Oustatcher, who was big on school spirit, would give candy to the students who worked on the hallway

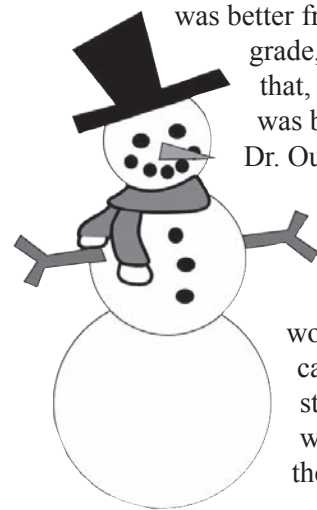
decorations; He would also ask a particular grade to sing the Alma Mater for Nyack. "He was a big Nyack High School person, he was into a lot of activities for the students and believed there should be a dance every week," says Mr. Gavigan, who is a part of the student council now.

"We would often joke that he bled the school colors red and black," says the secretaries in the main office. Today, thanks to Dr. Oustatcher, not

"...a tradition was created that will remain at Nyack for more years to come..."

only do we still continue to hallway decorate for the December holidays, but for holidays such as Halloween as well. Decorating would be from 3 to 7 pm the night before; seniors had the third floor in the north, juniors had the third floor south, sophomores had the second floor south and freshman had second floor north. Judging would take place Friday morning and all decorations would be removed Friday afternoon.

It was also required to have an adult advisor to help with the decorations, and parents were allowed to help as well. With help from Dr. Oustatcher, a tradition was created that will be in Nyack for more years to come.



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