



Rondout Valley High School's Official Newspaper

It's The Economy Stupid

By Carey Lam

Understanding the fundamentals of the Economy of the United States is actually quite simple. Consumers drive the economy. Consumers need jobs to be able to buy things and keep the economy going. The ebb and flow between unemployment and employment determines how easy or difficult it is to get credit, and depending on this credit, consumers will determine whether the economy will flourish or plunge. Naturally this balance of supply and demand cannot always remain constant. When this happens, the Federal Reserve steps in and raises or lowers interest rates in order to tighten or loosen the consumer's ability to obtain credit, increase or decrease the supply side to bring it in line with demand, or vice versa.

The overall focus of the markets is based on the actions of Federal Reserve (F.R.). The Federal Reserve manipulates interest rates in response to the report(s) of the day and based on how traders (buyers and sellers) perceive their markets. The F.R. then makes its decision and as the response to economic conditions is announced, prices move in one direction or the other.

At the base of everything there exists free enterprise. It is free enterprise that strictly defines the American economy, giving it its unique competitive flair. The federal government regulates private enterprise in numerous ways and thus influences our stock market. Some government initiatives seek either directly or indirectly to control prices. Traditionally, the government has sought to prevent monopolies such as electric utilities from raising prices beyond the level that would ensure them reasonable profits. At times, the government has extended economic control to other kinds of industries as well, but the type of regulation that has most recently influenced the economy of the United States, is the regulation of banks.

Just recently several banks have failed and according to CBS much of it has to do with a lack of regulation. Without proper government regulation, there was nothing to make

It is not just our economy that will suffer; one aspect of this economic state that most directly affects you as a reader is the difficulty to obtain a college loan.

-[finaid.org](http://finaid.org)

sure that the banks were abiding by the rules. This meant that the banks could qualify anyone for a loan, regardless of their income or ability to repay the loan. This resulted in loss of property value and rising interest rates. People started to owe more on their loans than the property was worth. On top of all this, the same banks that gave out these loans, invested their loan payments in the stock market. The United States stock market is never a sound investment because of its natural ups and downs. Eventually, many of these institutions ran into trouble. They include mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, investment banks like Lehman Brothers, brokerage firm Merrill Lynch, and major commercial banks like Washington Mutual, and Wachovia. These firms and others have and are continuing to turn to the federal government to bail them out of the trouble they got themselves into. The federal government responded to the call by suggesting a "bailout bill." This bill by the federal government under Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson proposed to spend \$700 billion and buy the troubled assets from financial institutions so banks could resume lending thus allowing the currently frozen markets to operate. Of course \$700 billion has to come from somewhere, and the source would most likely be from taxpayers. This bill has been passed after much revision and is starting to show some promise.

The Senate proposed the bailout bill twice to the House of Representatives. When it was first proposed, the House



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A Memorial To Jill Gartman

By Phoenix Trent

Rondout remembers magical music teacher

Words cannot describe how the Rondout Valley High School community and beyond felt when they learned of the loss of Jill Gartman. It was not until the deep feeling of disbelief was replaced by the horror that this was for real did we realize how much we were ourselves connected with this woman.

It went beyond her post as a director of the music department. She created a deep-rooted connection with all that she met, and it wasn't until she was gone that we truly realized how much she had affected so many of us. What was it about Jill Gartman that captivated the students of Rondout Valley High School? Was it her constant drive for excellence, her never-give-up attitude? Or maybe it was the intense passion that she had for all aspects of life, from her students, to her family, to music. Carey Lam, a senior said, "The passion that Ms. Gartman showed for her students was incredible. As a student of hers, I learned so much, not just in terms of music, but also in life as well. Her expectations were so high it seemed almost impossible to meet them. Yet, she brought out the best in her students and many of us rose up to the challenge. She was one of those people who really pushed you and made you a better person as a result. Suffice it to say, I'll really miss her."

Jill Gartman was a renaissance woman of her time. She was much more than the Music teacher that we knew her to be. It is true that she was a choir director, and music theory teacher, but that is not all. She pushed the envelope when it came to living. When asked about Gartman's life, Maggie Whalen, a junior, responded, "We always knew Ms. Gartman as a teacher, and we respected her abilities as such. We knew very little about her life outside of music, but after she passed away, we learned how little we knew even of her musi-



Jill Gartman at Rondout. Courtesy photograph.

cal life! She never bragged about her past, but focused on the present. Now, knowing that she was a restaurateur, a Harley mama, a knitter, a performer, a mother, an advocate and a Led Zepplin backup singer, I am amazed at her life even more, and am so honored to have been a part of it".

Gartman was a jack-of-all-trades, but her music students were still a huge part of her life. She had a great hand in altering the lives of so many of them. A senior Mike Kelly said when asked how she affected his life, "If it wasn't for Ms. Gartman, I would never have joined choir. She inspired me to expand my musical education past my comfort level as a trumpet player and go to the next level." Jackie Disanto, a freshman, shared with The Legend "When I first met her at the all county music festival she hugged me and told me she couldn't wait until I came up to the high school because she heard good things about me. From that moment on I knew that she really cared."

Gartman had an extremely strong relationship with her colleagues. Being a veteran teacher at Rondout, she nurtured many a new teacher, and ensured that everyone felt at home. The

band teacher Randy Loder was one of those new teachers. Loder said on the subject "Jill Gartman was a very close colleague and friend of mine. I enjoyed working with her immensely. She challenged me to be as authentic as possible in my teaching of music."

On September 27th RVHS students and members of the community came together to celebrate her life. Maggie Whallen summed it up best when she said "The service created a beautiful atmosphere, and really allowed everyone that knew her from all her various social groups to come together and create an image of her as a whole person, and it was a safe place for everyone to express their grief and support each other. Not to mention it was a hell of a show, a legacy Ms. Gartman can't escape, even in death. It brought us together as an ensemble, and that is the real thing we can take from this tragedy."

A wise person once said, "It's better to die out than burn away." Jill Gartman, the music teacher at Rondout Valley High School, lived her life by this principle. She will never be forgotten and there will always be a permanent place for her in the hearts of all who knew her.

A Foreign Friend

By Patrick Lopiano

Lisa Naumann is one of our new foreign exchange students. She is from Franksville, Germany, which is located in Central Germany. Lisa shall be staying in the US for a total of three months. Caroline Gerner has hosted her house for Lisa during her stay here in the states. A major topic which I brought up in our interview was academics. Lisa elaborates upon how their schedule in Germany and ours differ. Lisa commented



Naumann

on their shorter time-framed classes and an increase in the amount of breaks they have. In accordance to these statements, she also claims that Rondout has a far greater tolerance of acceptance, creating a friendlier environment. In Germany, she said, "it is a requirement for students to take English as a language."

So far Lisa has undergone six years of English, she also happens to take French and finds language to be easily grasped, clearly by her AP standards. Lisa seems to be a fan of science as she takes three major courses biology, chemistry, and physics. I'm astounded at how determined she must be to in-

corporate those three courses all at once in her schedule.

In Germany, back at Lisa's school, they appear to have no clubs or sport teams for after school. Lisa has taken advantage of what Rondout has to offer and joined the Cross Country team. Lisa also said one of her hobbies is playing the piano. She also speaks of her two younger sisters back in Germany and stated "I miss them both very much." This young junior seems to have a lot of determination and I'd say courage for coming over here to our country and following up with as much as she's doing with her limited time here.

# Rondout Students Abroad

By Tricia Anderson

Everyone coming back to school after a relaxing summer has stories to tell: interesting vacations, summer flings, and all sorts of adventures. But for some students, their summer adventures exceeded the average student's in terms of excitement, experiences, and fun. These special vacations consisted of various trips to Europe through a few different programs.

First of all there was the music trip. This trip, the Empire Tour, is arranged through the American Music Abroad Program and is only offered to the best young musicians in the U.S. These students have to be dedicated and proficient, and eight students from Rondout met those standards. Rarely has one school district had so many students qualify, so this trip was a matter of special pride to high school band director, Randy Loder.

It all started when trumpet player Jake Hoover learned of it and spread the word, and soon others began contacting the director. Students that went on the trip were Jake Hoover and Mike Kelly on trumpet, Alex Angyal on tenor saxophone, Phoenix Trent, who sang and played percussion, and recent graduates Dorothy Sommer on bass clarinet, vocalist Talia Baker, and Luke Miller, who also sang and played percussion. Trombonist Sarah Prehn, who had already graduated, also went. These students got to travel through Wales, England, Germany, and France, playing concerts while taking in all the sights. A highlight was playing at Omaha Beach, the World War II memorial site.

The students found it exciting to learn about other cultures, and they found that the people they met on the trip were just as respectful and interested in Americans as the students were in them. They were able to interact with the people when they played in town squares in France, for example, and saxophonist Alex Angyal said that he became "more accepting, and got a broader perspective of other

cultures" from the trip. Both Alex Angyal and Mike Kelly agree that, though the trip cost too much to do again, it was great to experience other cultures, and Mike confirms that it was "the trip of a lifetime." In terms of music, band director Randy Loder said that the students definitely grew musically and gained some great music experiences. Mike's sister, Christine Kelly, says that Mike was excited to play with people at a high music level, and his confidence and self-esteem seems higher now that he's back.

Another exciting trip to Europe was with the People-to-People program, which allowed current seniors Ruby Stanmyer, Rebecca McClintock, and junior Britney Sanchez to travel to Switzerland, Germany, the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and England for about three weeks. This trip, too, was very expensive, but the girls put in efforts to raise money by asking friends and family for donations and other fundraisers. Rebecca said she wanted to go very much because it was the trip of a lifetime, and she "didn't know if I'd ever get a chance to go besides this." On this trip, participants were able to experience the basic cultures and interact with people, like meeting friendly townspeople in Switzerland, as well as the high end matters, such as learning about British Parliament. They were able to meet a man from Parliament who, "was actually really funny," said Rebecca. She also said that she learned how different Europe was, as compared to America, and also gained an appreciation for American culture when coming home. In Rebecca's words, "Europe is much cooler than here," and if given the chance, she would not hesitate to do the whole trip again.

A third trip to Europe this summer consisted of what is quickly becoming an annual trip to Spain with Spanish teacher James Sullivan. It started when his classes made contact with a school in Madrid, and started an exchange

program. Junior Andrew Berlanga, for example, hosted a Spanish exchange student last year and was able to go to Spain in return. The exchange isn't formal, as it can't officially be under Rondout Valley's name, so Mr. Sullivan took it on privately. This year was his second time doing the trip, and the students he took to Spain included Andrew Berlanga, Sydney Magliola, Erica Gantz, Emma Seiles, Max Modugno, Mercedes Case, Brittney Donovan, Ben Nichols, Kayla MaGee, and Amanda Fox, some of whom graduated last year, and some of whom are still with us.



The trip to Spain this year included tourist attractions like museums, cathedrals, and a 13th century hermitage, but also included staying in the homes of Spanish families and being interviewed live on a Spanish radio station. The students experienced total immersion in the Spanish culture, and had to speak Spanish most of the time. Mr. Sullivan says, "If they didn't speak Spanish, they didn't speak at all." Andrew Berlanga says that for him, the interest was in comparing the different cultures.

It seems the general consensus is that just the ability to experience different cultures was what made the trips worthwhile. This summer held many new wonders for some lucky students, and even now, most of them wish they could be back there again.

## Visions Of Pumpkins

By Mercedes Case

Just like all seasons, autumn has its unique mixture of sights, sounds and smells. Chilly mornings lead the way to crisp afternoons so delightful you can almost taste the vibrant spectrum of colors. Caterpillars feast on the last of summer's bounty before drifting into a transforming beauty sleep while squirrels busily gather their cache, scurrying from here to there. Jays, cardinals, crows and assorted little brown birds chirp lonely calls while wondering... "Where did everyone go?" Whether you're outside laboring over fallen leaves, sipping hot cider with good company, or watching as the nearby bees drunkenly flit from various fermented fallen fruit, take some time to reflect upon our favorite autumn harvest.

Pumpkins are a classic fall symbol here in Upstate New York. Their pleasing shapes and warm colors provide a comforting sense of nostalgia that includes jack-o'-lanterns and the rich smell of home baked pie. We commonly use pumpkins as food ingredients or to carve out clever visualizations intended to impress our neighbors, but did you know...?

1. The largest pumpkin pie ever made was over five feet in



diameter and weighed over 350 pounds. It used 80 pounds of cooked pumpkin, 36 pounds of sugar, 12 dozen eggs and took six hours to bake.

2. Pumpkins are members of the vine crops family called cucurbits.
3. In early colonial times, pumpkins were used as an ingredient for the crust of pies, not the filling.

4. Native Americans flattened strips of pumpkins and dried them to make indoor mats.
5. The largest pumpkin ever grown weighed 1,140 pounds.
6. The name pumpkin originated from "pepon" – the Greek word for "large melon."
7. Pumpkins are 90 percent water.
8. Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.
9. Native Americans called pumpkins "isquotersquash."
10. Pumpkins were once believed to help eliminate freckles and cure snakebites.

P.S. Don't use pumpkins as door stops or attempt to store them in the attic for next year. It's also wise to avoid using them in cold fusion experiments (pumpkin fusion has been recently debunked)

Facts provided by:  
(<http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/Pumpkins/facts.html>)

## Economy continued from page one.

rejected it based on claims that it wasn't clear \$700 billion would be spent. The second proposal for this bill was more clear; according to Time magazine Mortgage-backed securities are to be the main target. Right now you might be thinking to yourself, "\$700 billion is a lot of money, what will happen if it failed?" Well, we might still recover without it; this might all just be a natural phase in our economy. But in the worst case scenario, Time magazine says that, without this bailout bill something as detrimental as the Great Depression

would not be completely impossible.

It is not just our economy that will suffer; one aspect of this economic state that most directly affects you as a reader is the difficulty to obtain a college loan. According to FinAid.org, 137 lenders have stopped funding federal student loans. Since May, the Education Department has spent \$5 billion buying loans in an effort to reignite private lending. Loans made to parents through the plus program have dropped 29%, and this was even before the crisis on Wall Street. The economy affects us all, but with a little bit of hard work, catastrophe can be avoided.

## Jumble

By Rachel Schiff

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each line to form four ordinary words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the drawing.

1. yhw e \_ \_ \_ \_
2. iebvraal \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. otlhse \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. tprea \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

A: \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

**Hint:** Where can you find ghouls and goblins on Halloween?



THE LEGEND

Thanks to The Blue Stone Press!

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## Yo Yo

By Brittney Donovan

The wipers of Mrs. Thatcher's car were furiously flying across the windshield to keep up with the rain. Her eight-year-old son, Eric, sat in the backseat, fiddling with a faded red yo-yo, anxiously awaiting their arrival to the youth group at the church.

Mrs. Thatcher looked in the rearview mirror at her son, a smile crossing her face. When she looked back at the road, she was faced with a sharp curve, flooded by an overflowing stream. Going too fast to negotiate the curve, Mrs. Thatcher raced to hit the brake. The car began to hydroplane, and careened into the other lane. Still out of control, the car smashed into a telephone pole, wrapping around it like an embrace.

When the car came to rest, Mrs. Thatcher looked once more in the rearview mirror to see her son, in the now confined space of the backseat. Tears flooded her eyes when she noticed he had already left the world, the yo-yo still in his hand.

Six-year-old Mira Linder, woke up smelling the previous night's rain wafting through her open bedroom window. She sprang out of bed and ran downstairs like she did every morning following a rainstorm. As she reached the end of the staircase, she peered in to the kitchen to see her mother handwashing dishes. Mira tip-toed to the front door, checked once over her shoulder, and then quietly cracked the door.

Across the street sat a large white church with slate steps leading the way to the large wooden doors. Sitting on the slick wet steps sat a boy. He was young and very fair-skinned. He appeared to be waiting for something as he fumbled a yo-yo through his hands.

He looked up to see Mira peering from behind the red door of the house across the street. As she moved her arm to wave, her mother stepped up behind her, placing a hand tenderly on her daughter's shoulder. Glancing outside quickly, Ms. Linder saw nothing but a quiet, deserted street. "Mira, honey, shut the door," her mother said.

Mira stood looking out the door, and then finally shut the door. "Mommy, can I go play," she pleaded?

"With who, dear?"

"With the boy over by the church."

"Honey, no one is over there."

"Yes, his name is Eric Thatcher. He's sitting on the steps."

An alarmed look crossed Ms. Linder's face. Finally, after regaining her composure, she explained, "Eric Thatcher died...six years ago, in a car accident."

## Poetry Corner

### The Confused ? With No Morals

By Elodie Newt

Love has fallen into limbo's crotch.

A delicate wave

Of a razor glazed tear

Slides off of nothing

And onto my shoulder.

The son has been hidden

From the inside out.

A bottomless bellybutton

Ready to cave in on ?

While they sit in negative colors

Wondering about the unknown.

Whilst crying tears

Of glass

From whose desert whites,

Just to watch them fall

The 10 feet

And shatter on the cold hard ground,

Slowly transforming

Into beautiful nothingness.

# Legend Sports



Rondout Valley's Varsity Boy's Soccer team were runners up for the MHAL's championship and have qualified for sectionals.

## Rondout Varsity Scoreboard

**Girls Soccer:** 6-9-2

**Boys Soccer:** 11-4

**Field Hockey:** 13-4-1

**Football:** 1-7

**Golf:** 11-0

**Volleyball:** 9-4

**Cross Country Girls:** 8-7

**Boys:** 7-8

The Field Hockey team were also runners up for MHAL's as well as Section IX champions. Regional finals will be on Nov. 8th at the Hudson Valley Sports Dome.

Congratulations to the Golf Team for an undefeated season!

## Game Review

By Jake Alter

The game is Gundam Crossfire. It is out on the Nintendo Wii and the PS3. This game makes Mobile Suits come to mind. Mobile Suits are large, advanced human like weapons that are used for combat in all environments. Each Mobile Suit can be modified to suit a different environment. In this game I have used the Mobile Suit Dom (a unit that hovers over the ground and uses a bazooka) to finish a few missions in around three minutes. My fastest is about fifty seconds. If you are going on hard missions, or trying to get a high ranking in missions,



I would use the Mobile Suit RX-78. The RX-78 is one of three Gundam type Mobile Suits (and is the most powerful of the three). The other two are the RX-79G which is the Ground Warfare Gundam and the RX-79G-Ez8 which is a more powerful version of the RX-79G. A Gundam is a highly advanced mobile suit that is usually identified by having a distinctive head piece on its forehead (the Ez8 does not have this) and is usually many times stronger than the average MS (Mobile Suit). All in all I find this game to be challenging and fun.

## \*Jumble Answers

1. Whey
2. Variable
3. Hostel
4. Repeat

**Final answer:** Everywhere

COMIC STRIP BY LANI NELSON



# Reviews and The Arts

## Lyfe Jennings' Change For The Worse

By Katie Roosa in Mr. Soi's History Of Rock 'n Roll class

Lyfe Jennings has been known for bringing emotions to a new level with his music. In his first album, *Lyfe 268-192*, he spoke of experiences he dealt with. The whole album was a story for fans to follow. It wasn't the common topics of drama and love, but he brought in the theme of starting over. Jennings shared not only the good, but also the bad choices he made, which were laid



before the world to judge. Lyfe took this as an opportunity to tell others they can have a new beginning, giving them a listen at hope.

He carried that same hope into his second album made in 2006 called *Phoenix*. The album gets deeper into everyday feelings, feelings we dismiss, like when "you outgrow the ones you love." Jennings set a mood of comfort, saying you're not alone. Comfort should be attached in all songs in some way, that's the beauty of music. Unfortunately, record companies are

corrupting that beauty. Lyfe Jennings has recently succumbed to this sadly very common case.

After speaking from heart and soul, he released the album *Change*, which is exactly what it was. "Drop It Like It's hot" was one of the non-respected lines he threw into his song "Cops Up." He used to give power to his songs, using his strong voice to catch the attention of his listener. Now anything he has to say is drowned out by typical radio-friendly beats.

Despite this, I'm not giving up on Lyfe Jennings. He started into the music world very honest, taking a huge chance. Everyone has a low point, and I consider this to be his. Hopefully in upcoming years his beauty and grace will come out again and make sense of the world. I truly hope he realizes the impact his first two albums made, and steers away from becoming just another artist trying to make it to the top.

## Raw Fish Warms The Heart

By Anna Reynolds

Are you looking for a new dining experience? Step into Momiji, a new Japanese restaurant on route 209 in Stone Ridge. Momiji, which means "red maple leaf" in Japanese, has received quite a good reputation despite its' being open for only five months. Its welcoming service and tasteful décor makes it a wonderful new experience for both lunch and dinner any day of the week. The interior design and atmosphere is unique for Stone Ridge. You can either dine at a romantically lit table or sit at the counter and watch the chef prepare your meal. Dave, the chef and owner, has lived in this area

for a long time. He started learning the art of making sushi at age 17 by a teacher. Lots of patience is involved when making sushi. As I ate dinner at Momiji I was told that there are different types of sushi. There are three main types: Sushi which is just rice with raw fish on top, Sashimi which is just a piece of raw fish and sushi rolls which are rice with vegetables and raw fish all rolled up in seaweed. The food is delicious and fresh. Overall Momiji was delightful, full of culture and friendliness. When you're there, try the green tea ice cream. It's the best!

## Deep In Design

By Michelle Bonanno

Advanced Ceramics has hit the ground running this year! For the student's first project, they were to create several ceramic pieces inspired by an artist of their choice who lives in the Hudson Valley. After doing the required research on their chosen artist, students were given the freedom to create their masterpieces. A junior, Becca Clinger, definitely gave this project her best.

Clinger started her project by researching her former ceramics mentor, Vaughn Smith. Smith works in the Westcote Bell Pottery & Studios located in High Falls. Since he originally taught Clinger the basics of ceramics, it was only natural that she would choose him. And, even if their styles were slightly different, Clinger was inspired and ready to begin.

Clinger began her pieces on the wheel. It was a long process because there are some days when you are not successful on the wheel and you end up creating several beautiful bowls.

After her bowls were fired, Clinger began a complicated glazing process.

Since Clinger was inspired by the rhythm and movement Vaughn Smith created on his pieces, Clinger decided to incorporate Smith's style into her work while still keeping her own style. In order to complete her vision, Clinger used a layering technique with the glazes while using bold and simple colors to make sure she did not take away from the elaborate design. With this technique, Clinger created sky and landscape scenes which transformed her bowls into beautiful works of art.

By using Vaughn Smith as her inspiration, and working extremely hard, Clinger has created fabulous pieces that are very beautiful. She is very proud of the work she has done and the pieces she has created during this project. She hopes this year she will be able to perfect her skills and techniques. There is no doubt that we will see great things from the ceramics classes this year.

## Woodstock Film Festival

By Sonia Ruscoe

Woodstock was bustling with hipsters the first weekend of October, flaunting their skinny jeans and ray-ban sunglasses all over town as the Woodstock Film Festival went into full swing. Starting on Wednesday, October 1st, revered film makers from all over the country, not to mention producers, actors, writers and musicians, flocked to Woodstock, New York to participate in one of the most prominent film festivals on the east coast as proclaimed by the New York Times. This year's Woodstock Film Festival was the ninth annual and has been getting bigger and bigger and this year's festival drew a crowd of over five hundred filmmakers.

Volunteers from all over the county helped run the festival smoothly, the behind-the-scenes work being vast. There are four venues in the town of Woodstock, each with a totally different around-the-clock schedule of films. Upstate films in Rhinebeck and the Rosendale Theater also show films for the festival. All the venues require volunteers to keep the theater running. Volunteering is a great way to help out in the community, especially at the Woodstock Film Festival where you can expose yourself to incredible films and meet remarkable people in the film industry. This year Kevin Smith (the director responsible for *Clerks I and II*, *Dogma*, and *Chasing Amy*) was around all weekend, and folk legend Donovan made an appearance Saturday night. There was even talk of Seth Rogan being at the award ceremony, although I never completely was able to confirm that rumor.

I have been a volunteer for the festival for three years now, and every year I find my horizons being broadened immensely. Volunteering at the festival has taught me

a lot about the process of film making and editing, mostly due to the Q&A section at the end of each showing in which the film makers get up and answer any questions about how they made the films.

This year I found myself in the Woodstock Community Center, a venue which shows lots of short film programs and documentaries. Watching a short film program is a lot of fun because short films can be anything from an animated duck singing scat for two minutes, to a 40-minute documentary about a beauty pageant in a high security women's prison in Colombia. The shorts are put into categories, 'drama shorts', 'comedy shorts', 'superhero shorts', 'documentary shorts' etc.

The program I found most interesting was the 'youth shorts', a program of short films all made by teenagers. There was a mixture of quality: some were poorly edited, had bad plotlines and made me wonder why I was even there, especially since I had been sitting and watching some of the most creative films of our time all day. On the other hand, there were a few which left me utterly inspired.

One thing that disappoints me every year is that most of the youth shorts come from students in the Onteora Indie Program. This is a school program in which students learn everything to know about composing and editing films. It is a great program and I have seen amazing results from the students there, but it seems as though they are the only teens in the area submitting films. The festival needs some Rondout representation!

The festival this year was an incredible experience. I encourage every person to try to get involved, even if that just means going to see a movie or two.

## Rambow's Bastard

By Tyler Jewett

*Son of Rambow* is an English film about a group of children making their own spin-off of the famous movie *First Blood*. When I heard about this movie I thought it was going to be really cool, so I rented it expecting some funny kids getting into some funny mishaps and I'd be happy with my decision to spend \$2.75 on the rental, but what I got was a lot of boredom.

This comedy seemed to make no attempts to be funny. The movie takes place in England 1982, when *First Blood* debuted in theatres. Will Proudfoot (Bill Milner) is a child who is raised under a very strict religious family, so naturally he is not allowed to see this movie. Lee Carter (Will Poulter) is a mischievous kid who is constantly getting in trouble at school. The two kids meet and for some reason become friends. It is at Carter's house that Will Proudfoot watches a pirated version of *First Blood* for the first time, which triggers his over-active imagination to run around pretending he is the "son of Rambow" and he is on a quest to save his dad, Rambo. Carter then thinks it would be a good idea to start filming the movie to enter it into an amateur film-makers competition.

If they spent more time in this movie filming *Son of Rambow* and less time being stupid kids that do unfunny things all the time, it would have been a better film. The unfunny things they do throughout this movie are of course supposed to be heart-warming, but there problems (like being in a restricting religious family that prevents you from doing things you want) are too obscure for people to relate to and get wrapped up in to feel their pain. So the general audience will be watching as poor little Proudfoot is told he can't play with his new friend, and not have

any way to relate and show sympathy. All I thought when I was watching this was "when is this going to be funny...the DVD box said it was going to be funny." The attempts of being heart-warming made in this movie were obvious attempts, and that's it, that's all they were, attempts. Failed attempts.

Oh yeah, there is also this Trendy French foreign exchange student that shows up in the movie, and does literally nothing but keeps showing up, and you find yourself thinking "who is this kid, why am I watching him kiss a girl when our 2 main characters are in the middle of a conflict?" He is eventually tied into the story in the end, but the story really wasted a lot of time developing this character for him to tie into the movie as little as he did. The whole character was pretty useless. So when this heart-warming movie was over, needless to say I was disappointed. What could have been a funny movie about kids making an action movie with no acting experience and making props themselves, turned out to be a lot of nothing.

This movie would have been funny if they spent more time doing what they said they were going to do in every movie summary I read and every trailer I watched. Make an action movie. I mean, two kids making an action movie with no experience and no money for props, just using what they have in their toy boxes, sounds like it could be a good time. Maybe one day they will make a movie about people making movies that have no idea what they are doing, and actually have the movie about people making movies that have no idea what they are doing. I don't know what these writers are afraid of, other than success, money, and giant houses.

