

January/February  
2013

Volume 80, Number 4

# mental Since 1932 PABULUM

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

## IN THIS ISSUE

- Bradley Rubenstein stars in *Hairspray*, p. 10



- Pokemon Game Reviewed, p.11



- Wrestling, p. 16. Coach Zach Cogen offers insights to his wrestlers, Photo by Melik Mavruk.



## *Emotions Stirred as LHS Moves to LMS!*

### **Sandy Causes Electrical Problems in High School Basement, Forcing Closure**

#### *Mr. Schall Predicts Return by March 18th*

**By Dee Dee Eisenberg**

Absolute shock and incredulity overcame Lawrence High School on Tuesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> when Mr. Gary Schall, district superintendent, announced that the High School would be temporarily closed for at least eight weeks and all students and faculty would report to the Middle School on Thursday morning.

Due to the disastrous Superstorm Sandy, the High School suffered the most damage, the full extent of which was not known until now. As the months passed and inspections were taking place, more information on the condition of the school was obtained.

Inspectors discovered flooding in the High School basement caused electrical wires to be corroded by the sea water. What this means is simple—if electrical problems were to occur, it would be a highly dangerous situation that would endanger the school population. Because of these dangers, it was deemed a necessity for students and staff to move out of the building.

Many students, parents, and staff were left confused and in disbelief, especially because of the abruptness of this procedure, giving little time for anyone to be prepared for such a drastic change. Parents, students and



**Lawrence Middle School: The temporary home of Lawrence High School.**

administration gathered at meetings held in the Lawrence Middle School auditorium to discuss the plans set for the following days.

Walking into the Middle School on Thursday morning brought a rush of dormant memories back

to mind for many former students. As one student explained, “It’s as though I’m seeing the same school, along with all the old memories it holds, from a different perspective now that I’m older.” Students of Lawrence High School, though with occasional mumbles and complaints, have adjusted well to their new setting. Senior Alex Tse stated, “At first I wasn’t too happy with the idea, but now I’m used to it.”

The student population has been through so much this year, with Sandy and its aftermath, it seems as though things are only

*(Continued on page 11)*

## EDITORIAL

Middle School Transfer

Two months after we returned to school, we transferred to the middle school. The news was shocking. Weren't we assured that everything was fine? Many of us spent Wednesday conjuring up the nightmares we thought Thursday would be like, while teachers frantically packed up years worth of their things within a few hours.

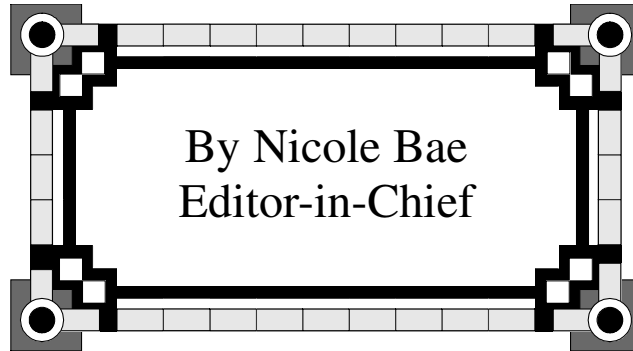
No matter how inviting the administrators and faculty may be, we are not at home. Like living in a stranger's home, we feel restrained and uncomfortable, awkward and cramped. Our free periods are no longer "free." We squeeze by in the hallways and stairs. We may have complained about the smell and the crumbling of our high school, but we love it and miss it more than anything right now.

It is an unfortunate situation scattered with annoying blips but it is hard for me to

*Seniors Feel It Most*

bring up any legitimate complaints. Technically, a school is "an institution for educating children." Lawrence is doing just that.

For my two days at the middle school,



instruction time hasn't really changed. Despite the sounds of the orchestra's rehearsal seeping into Ms. Foy's classroom and adding drama to her teaching, there are little to no distractions or problems during class time.

For the most part, the factors outside

of the classroom are the ones that are irritating the students. I cannot speak for any grade but my own, the seniors, the class of 2013.

We have spent the past three years dreaming of our last year. Senior year is special. The end of an era. The culmination of all our successes and silly mistakes. A final hurrah. A goodbye. We were supposed to spend our final year in a certain, comfortable, and cozy environment.

In addition, the privileges we are promised were snatched from us. Because of Sandy, senior weekend and February break were taken from us. And now? All our privileges, no matter how miniscule they may seem, dissolved, as if they didn't exist at all.

I understand the situation. I understand the administrators' actions and their hard work. I understand. I can't even get mad, which makes everything so much more frustrating.

## EDITORIAL CARTOON

Student of the Month*Jessica Beyer*

**Jessica Beyer**

**By Justin Mahabir**

Lawrence High School is proud to present Jessica Beyer as this month's Student of the Month!

Jessica is a sophomore at Lawrence. Not only is she enrolled in AP courses, she also has a very demanding academic schedule!

Jessica is dedicated to several clubs and activities on campus. As of now Jessica will be going to State's in March with a project for DECA.

In Model Congress she is Hospitality Chair and will also be chairing Teen Issues.

Jessica is also involved in the Dance program and will be going to Disney in March.

As if this was not enough, she is also an athlete! Jessica plays on the JV Softball team as a pitcher.

Jessica is the definition of a balanced student, and looks forward to participating in Relay For Life later on this year.

## Mental Pabulum

**Editor-in-Chief**

Nicole Bae

**Associate Editors**

Sergio Caceres

DeeDee Eisenberg

James Schneider

**Feature Editor**

Krishana Raghubeer

**Opinions Editors**

Carina Kohn

Justin Mahabir

**Staff**

Jencel Abuan

Ryan Bae

Sneha Chittabathini

Darina Georgieva

Toni Gonzalez

Cheongmi Hwang

Victoria Miller

Jonathan Rutchik

Jeffrey Schwartz

Damari Shackelford

**Advisor**

John Nici

NEWS

# Three Seniors Qualify as Intel Semi-Finalists

By Victoria Miller

Ariel Chapin, Andrew Chen, and Alexandra Tse are this year's semi-finalists in the prestigious Intel science competition! They were chosen along with three-hundred other students nationwide.

Intel Science Talent Search is a program sponsored by the Society of Science and the Public. Students in their last year of high school compete to become finalists in the Intel program.

These students do independent research; each entry has a written description of the research and an entry form that shows evidence of the student's achievements. Research topics relate and contribute to science and society as a whole.

When Andrew Chen found out that he was a semi-finalist he was surprised and it all felt surreal to him. He was thankful and grateful for having the opportunity to work with Mrs. Isseroff and Dr. Rafailovich over the summer.

He wrote the bulk of his paper after Hurricane Sandy hit, so he had no electricity, heat or power and had no electronic resources. Thankfully he was able to go to his mother's workplace and charge his laptop.

His project was about improving the efficiency of organic solar cells by incorporating a nanomaterial called Graphene, which is a single sheet of carbon atoms arranged in a hexagonal grid. His project really focused on the method of using Graphene and the impact it has on solar cells. By using certain chemical interactions between gold and sulfur, the Graphene would bond with the organic solar cell materials and the impact increases solar cell efficiency by a factor of 50% by converting light into electricity.

Andrew felt happy after completing his project because he felt like he had actually contributed something important to society and science.

Alex Tse felt honored to be named a semi-finalist because the students chosen around the country are some of the smartest. Even though you can only compete for Intel in your senior year, Alex started her research freshman year.

When she first heard she was a semi-finalist through her friends, she thought it was a prank, but after she received the actual con-

firmation she couldn't stop smiling. Her project tested the impact of grit (perseverance, effort, and self-control) which she measured

wouldn't trade it for anything.

As for Ariel Chapin, when she found out she was a semifinalist, she felt great because she had put in so much hard work and time to complete her project. Ariel's project is a cognitive psychology project where she used a computer program to measure spatial learning ability.

She tested fifth, seventh and ninth through twelfth graders to gather information; her analysis took about six months. Before submitting her project to Intel she presented it at the Society Neuroscience Conference in October in New Orleans, Louisiana.

She also ended up writing her whole paper without any power or electricity after Hurricane Sandy, and had to submit her application at a Starbucks. Ariel is extremely happy to have become a semi-finalist and to know that her hard work has been appreciated by others.

Lawrence High School is proud to have three of students qualified as semi-finalists in the Intel project. These students are among the brightest in our nation and deserve to be semifinalists due to their extensive effort and work done.

Each one of these students has contributed to current research in the science and social science fields.

These students did especially well due to the fact that they worked on most of their papers after the disastrous Hurricane Sandy hit.

Congratulations again to these students and a huge thank you to Mr. Sullivan and Mrs. Isseroff for helping them Lawrence is proud to have students like these who prove the excellence of academics in our school district.



**Arielle Chapin, Alex Tse and Andrew Chen express surprise, shock and wonder at winning semi-finalist status in the prestigious Intel competition. Photo: Nicole Bae**

through surveys, and IQ (which she measured by using state test scores) on GPA. She has tested fifth and seventh graders and tested them again as seventh and ninth graders.

Her project is based on a study done by Angela Duckworth (a professor at the University of Pennsylvania who did her study on college students).

Alex wants to thank Ms. Beach for helping her with distributing surveys to middle school students and collecting data. She also would like to thank Mr. Sullivan for being her mentor and encouraging her for the past four years and she couldn't have done it without him. Doing her research for the past four years was an amazing experience and she

## Valentine's Day Word Search

p i n k x x h h e v u f i j k t k y u i  
 m c n e b u u k c e t n j w r z r p h  
 d m v s h c q f i s f t f g s u m a z p  
 m o j r c y s t w q j v a q w o y u j j  
 l i e n i t n e l a v c t l h m o r l g  
 b d n p j a e m s o a q u g o a t b e j  
 b w s e m t k a y o t t a a z c r e b y  
 y v m o h c k a t d r a t i n x o f s l  
 x w r e c a s a n o v a i l s x i h n d  
 t r a e o n k z c g l g o e m a t u c p  
 l r n z e p k k u g g d n t m x f v s m  
 t w x p q e q o q w a a i t x r w g u b  
 v j a d q b s t v q s y x e m r u i i v  
 f p o b u m u x s r o m h r m x f w u x  
 t l x w l e u w o y l e y s l b j u j i  
 r n o i g x f n g o a w d u w g f w w v  
 w i s w v l x a x r n g u q l d h s s g  
 n w g u e l n d t t a m i d c u b o s z  
 y d n a c r x s z m n u a p p n c q y g  
 z z b p v e s v m y v z w l p g a q i j

- amour
- candy
- Casanova
- chocolate
- day
- February
- flowers
- hearts
- infatuation
- letters
- love
- mine
- pink
- red
- romantic
- roses
- sweetheart
- Valentine

Answers on p. 11

## FACULTY NEWS



# Plan B: What I would have been....

**Everyone needs a Plan B. Sometimes things don't work out in the field of your choice, and you are forced to change careers. Here are the secondary dreams of the Lawrence High School faculty.**

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

**Mrs. Nicole Nardi:** International Relations  
Reason: I majored in International Relations

**Mr. Paul Guastella:** Architect  
Reason: I won many awards for it in high school

**Mr. Gerry Armengau:** Police officer  
Reason: He always wanted to be a police officer as a child, because I wanted to help others.

**Mr. Michael Perna:** Rodeo Clown

**Mr. John Limoncelli:** Pilot  
Reason: I actually changed my career plan early in college and decided to become a language teacher in lieu of trying to become a pilot. To this day I am still fascinated by aviation.

**Ms. Jeannine Cammarata:** Nurse.  
Reason: I feel I would be a good wellness care provider.

**Ms. Anastasia Tzortzatos:** Pastry Chef  
Reason: I grew up baking with my mother and grandmother. Baking always gives me a feeling of calm and happiness like when I was a little kid. It always puts a smile on my face

**Ms. Misty Sornchai:** Sports Agent.  
Reason: "I can get into the best games. I wouldn't have to teach students the preterit or imperfect tenses."

**Ms. Sharon Lupeke:** Work to help small animals because she grew up raising ducks, birds and a guinea pig and she loves them. Now she has a dog but she has pet squirrels outside and she loves science. She also has a degree in Biology and she co-teaches ESL science.

## ADMINISTRATION

**Ms. Roseanne Epp:** I didn't have a Plan B. I knew I wanted to be a teacher since I was a child. I guess if I had gone in a different direction, I would have gone into law enforcement.

CAREER AND  
TECHNICAL

**Mr. Mark Palladino:** Chef

**Mr. Mark Albin:** I would have been a professional Whiffleball player,  
Reason: I was a 5 tool player



(Continued on page 12)

## MUSIC

**Mr. Terrance Batts** "If I did not become a teacher I would have been a concert cellist in an orchestra."

Reason: Mr. Batts loves playing the cello and he would very much enjoy being a performer.

**Mr. Richard Buckley** "If I did not become a teacher I would have been a rockstar."  
Reason: "I can wake up late."



be a new and exiting experience for him.

**Mr. Brian Stabile** "If I did not become a teacher I would have liked to have been more involved as a performing musician."  
Reason: Mr. Stabile thinks that it would be nice to be more involved in the music realm, however being a high school band director is exactly what he wanted to be when he himself was in high school. Mr. Stabile is living his dream job here with us at Lawrence!

**Ms. Laila Sales** "If I did not become a teacher I would be doing what I do right now. Outside of school I am a voice-over actress and a screen play writer."  
Reason: "I have a nice voice and I am a great story teller."

PHYSICAL  
EDUCATION

**Mr. Pat Leary:** Stock Broker  
Reason: "I have a finance degree."

**Ms. Cheri Donnelly:** Court Officer.  
Reason: "I passed the Civil Service exam and was called."

**Mr. Joe Martillotti:** Head Coach of the New York Jets.  
Reason: "It would be less stressful because there is no pressure to win if you are the Head Jets coach."

**Mr. Bud McQuillan:** Suffolk County Cop.  
Reason: "I passed the examination."

**Mr. Rich Ravo:** MLB Player.  
Reason: "Baseball is the best sport."



## GUIDANCE

**Mr. Jon Diamond:** A Chef  
Reason: "I enjoy cooking. If I had only had the opportunity to take culinary arts with Mrs. Cohen, perhaps I would be on the food network."

**Ms. Isabelle Hernandez:** A Personal Shopper  
Reason: "I love for people to look and feel their best. I'm also addicted to shoes and handbags!"

**Ms. Karen Staller:** Elementary School Teacher  
Reason: "I consider myself to be creative, and I love the challenge of working with young children."

**Mr. Adam Labriola:** "If I were not a School Counselor I would have been a Coal Miner because the air quality may possibly have been better."

## ENGLISH

**Ms. Meg Capobianco:** If I did not become a teacher I would have had "a career in medicine."  
Reason: "I started out in chemistry, math, and sciences. It is very intriguing."

**Ms. Nancy Mastrangelo:** "If I did not become a teacher I would have been working in a bookstore."  
Reason: "So I can make a lot of money."

**Mr. Jason Biscardi:** If I did not become a teacher I would have been a servicer for outdoor media.  
Reason: "because that's what I did for years before I became a teacher, and also sell vintage Star Wars people on the internet."

**Mr. Ken Dunckley:** If I did not become a teacher I would have been a rock star.  
Reason: "fame, fortune, and I don't have to get up early."

**Ms. Mary Vachris** "If I did not become a teacher I would have been a jazz singer."  
Reason: "'Cause I love to sing, and I love jazz. I have family in show business, and thought it would be fun."

**Mr. John Nici:** I would have been a museum curator of medieval art.  
Reason: Objects are great. They don't talk back, ask to go to the bathroom, or play with cell phones.

(Continued on page 12)

FACULTY NEWS

# Plan B:

## ...if I did not become a teacher....



ART

**Mr. Rob Verone:** A policeman.  
Reason: That is what he was before he was a teacher and it was something that he also enjoyed doing, so he'd one day return to.

**Ms. Christine O'Malley:** something involving art and kids.  
Reason: Before she became a teacher, she had her own design/building company. A friend of hers told her to try substitute teaching and so she did. She enjoyed it so much that she went back to college, got a teaching degree, and became a full time teacher.

**Ms. Ilanit Alon:** would do almost anything involving art.  
Reason: She'd become a gallery owner, a museum curator, or most likely, a full time photographer. Her passion is photography. Ever since she was a kid she took a strong liking to art.



**Ms. Amy Salerno:** "I'd open a cafe where colorful folks would hang out for hours, drinking coffee, playing checkers, listening to music and telling tales in comfortable chairs while an obese, Old English Sheepdog named Copernicus would lie asleep outside on the front porch gently snoring. Seems as though we need more places to come together like this, and slow down and listen to one another."

**Ms. Janet Ganes:** "Teaching art is my second career. Trained as an artist with a degree in painting, for the first ten years after college, I developed my painting style and exhibited my work in NY and Brooklyn galleries. I supported myself by working for a design firm that specialized in handmade furniture and specialty hand woven textiles. Intrigued by how visual stimuli affect young children, when my 2 sons were ages 2 and 4, I suddenly decided to quit my job and pursue a Masters in Art & Design Education at Pratt Institute. This shift in career and lifestyle was the right move that allowed me to continue creating and inspiring others."

**Ms. Joanne DelGuidice:** would like to stay to stay in the art career since her passion is art. Ideally, her plan "B" would be to work in a studio all day, everyday, doing what she loves to do most, creating works of art. Realistically though, she would do one of two different things. She'd either go back into the art administrative department at a college level school, seeing as this is what she did prior to becoming a teacher, or she'd become a curator at either a museum or art gallery.



SPECIAL EDUCATION

**Mr. Isaac Mayo:** Work or open up a coffee shop.  
Reason: because I love working with people

**Ms. Sheryl Bouzaglou:** Wanted to go to medical school and be a nurse or possibly a doctor. But after volunteering at a hospital for three years, she changed her mind and decided to become a teacher.

**Mrs. Grace Senatore:** She would have been a psychologist because she has a psychologist degree and loves listening to others and giving them suggestions on how they can help themselves to achieve their goals.

**Ms. Nora Hall:** She would have been a Rockette.  
Reason: She went to dancing school when she was

five years old up until 17, and realized the physical work it required. After working with a special needs child and fell in love with the job and became a teacher.

**Ms. Leslie Aronin:** Always wanted to be a teacher

**Ms. Helaina Wolkoff:** Teaching was my Plan B. I always wanted to teach and was told by my mother (a teacher) not to do it. She felt that teachers were denigrated by the public, underpaid and often unsupported by parents and bureaucrats. I completed my undergraduate education and proceeded directly to law school. Although I was unhappy with the majority of the classes I took, I graduated, passed the bar examination and went to work as a lawyer. After three long years in which I was very unhappy with my profession I returned to my first love. I began to substitute teach and take classes towards my masters. Although I have in the past disliked some of the schools I worked in and some of the classes I have taught, I have never regretted my decision to teach. All this despite that fact that my mother was correct about how teachers are treated and viewed by the media and the public!



SCIENCE

**Mr. Norman Deitch:** lifeguard

**Ms. Irina Bayeva:** race car driver

**Ms. Karen Bissonnette:** a veterinarian  
Reason: She was even accepted to vet school.

MATH

**Ms. Karen Posner** would have been a chef.  
Reason: she loves to cook.

**Mr. Rick Barbarette** would have been a rock star drummer  
Reason: he loves to drum.

**Ms. Marie Presland** would have been a domestic engineer (stay at home mom)  
Reason: that is what she did before teaching.

If **Ms. Bonnie Browdy** did not become a math teacher she wouldn't have been anything because she did not have a backup plan.

If **Ms. Virginia Pesce** did not become a math teacher she would have been a weather reporter because they can never be wrong!

If **Ms. Robyn Posner** did not become a math teacher she wouldn't have been anything because she didn't have a backup plan and knew all her life that she would be teaching.

If **Ms. Mendez-Aronson** did not become a math teacher she would have been a dance teacher and owned a dance studio because that is what she originally wanted to do but her father said she would not make a living off of that job.

If **Ms. De Paola** wasn't a math teacher, she would go and work in the front office of a sports team or sports agency where she would use two of her other degrees (finance and sports management).

If **Mr. Saraceni** wasn't a math teacher, he would have been a game show host to bring joy to the millions of deserving Americans. He would also choose this because he would enjoy the job and would be perfect for it.

For **Mr. Pat Palleschi**, teaching was his backup plan and originally he majored in accounting and worked almost two years at the firm KPMG, but he didn't like it at all and decided to go back to grad school to teach math. He said it was the best decision he ever made.

If **Ms. Sharon Baker** did not become a math teacher she would have been a real estate agent because this was her job before she started to teach math.

SOCIAL STUDIES

**Mr. Frank Zangari:** "I would have become a lawyer. Throughout high school and early on in college I was undecided between the two. I always loved the law, especially criminal law. In the end I picked teaching and I could not be happier with my decision. Anytime I feel nostalgic I speak to my wife. She is a lawyer and I do love hearing about her interesting cases."

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued on page 12)

POINT

*Your Thoughts on Gun Control*

“People should put more emphasis on morals so that people can tell the difference between what’s good and what’s wrong.”

~Anonymous

“The only purpose of handguns and assault rifles are to kill humans. There is no need for an individual to own one. They can’t be used to hunt with. Never should a person need or be allowed to own a gun like that.”

~Anonymous

“The saying ‘Guns don’t kill people; people kill people’ is very true. Gun control should become stricter in the aspect of *who* we are giving our guns to, not where or what kind. There needs to be stricter medical and background checks before purchasing a firearm.”

~Anonymous

“Whether you increase regulations on guns or not, people will still find a way to get around the law and own a gun. Those who are violent and have guns with the intention of killing people would most likely be the type of people to ignore gun laws anyway.”

~Carina Kohn

“Criminals will commit crimes regardless of strict screening or strict gun control laws, but taking these measure will help decrease the amount of violence.”

~Anonymous

“There is no easy solution to this problem. We need to ban handguns and assault weapons and do more to help the mentally ill. Researchers who have analyzed and interviewed prisoners who commit these mass crimes can determine who fits a distinct profile and exhibit certain behaviors. There is very little that can be done in school and other places to defend against such weapons in the hands of a disturbed, angry person.”

~Mrs. Capobianco

“[Guns] should either be accessible to everyone or to no one. If everyone has a gun, people will be scared to use them. If no one has a gun, no one will use them.” ~Anonymous

“...There are too many young kids dying from guns. Lives are being taken like nothing. What ever happened to dying of old age? The United States should ban guns. I love my life!”

~Zyashia Webb

# Gun Control: More Needs to Be Done to Save Lives

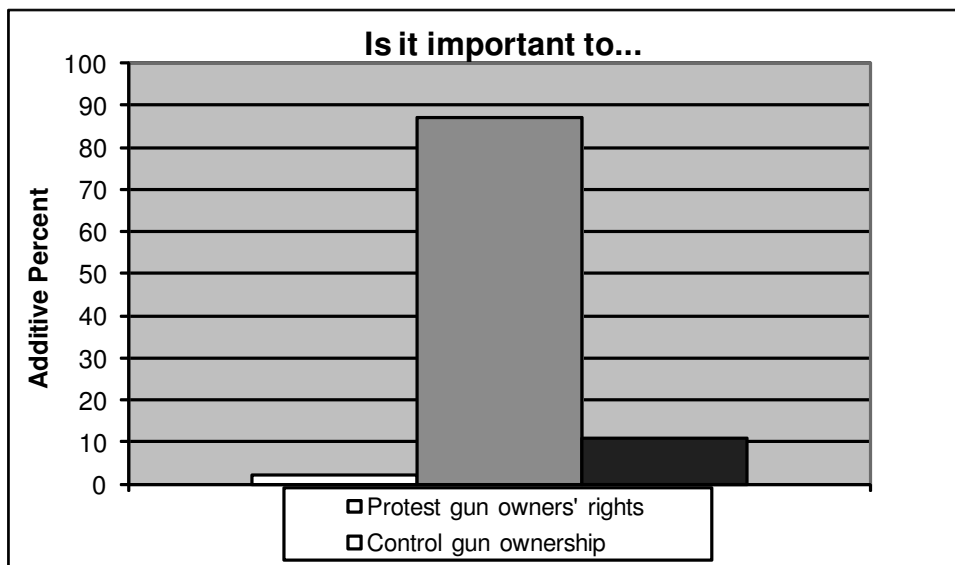
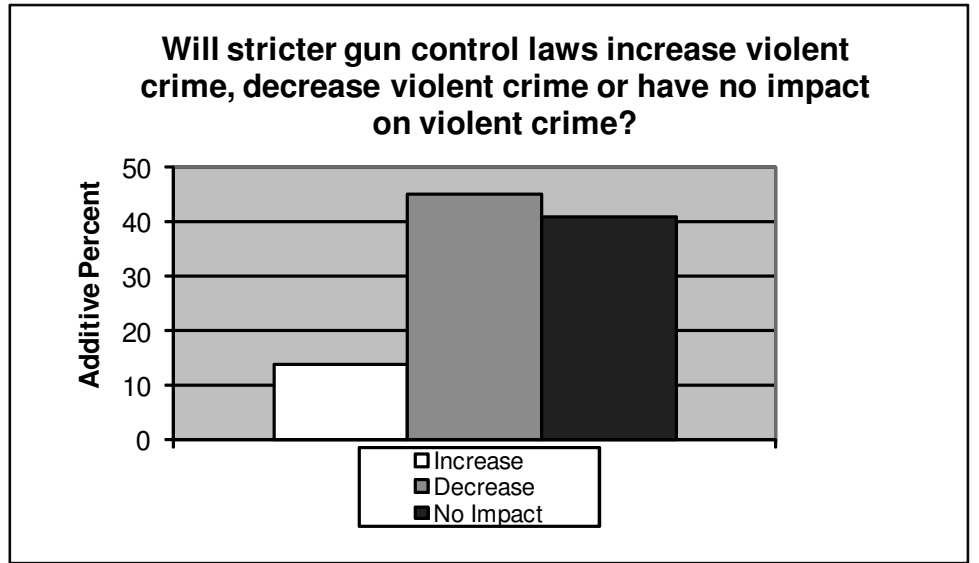
**By James Schneider**

Those who think laws banning the ownership of guns would be an unjustified infringement on our rights fail to understand the impact owning a gun has on others, and that the private choice to own a gun becomes one with public significance.

As someone who has often criticized our government for restricting certain freedoms, I appreciate the importance of not sur-

ent meaning in 1787, when the right to bear arms was a public security issue. We need to stop investing this antiquated doctrine with importance.

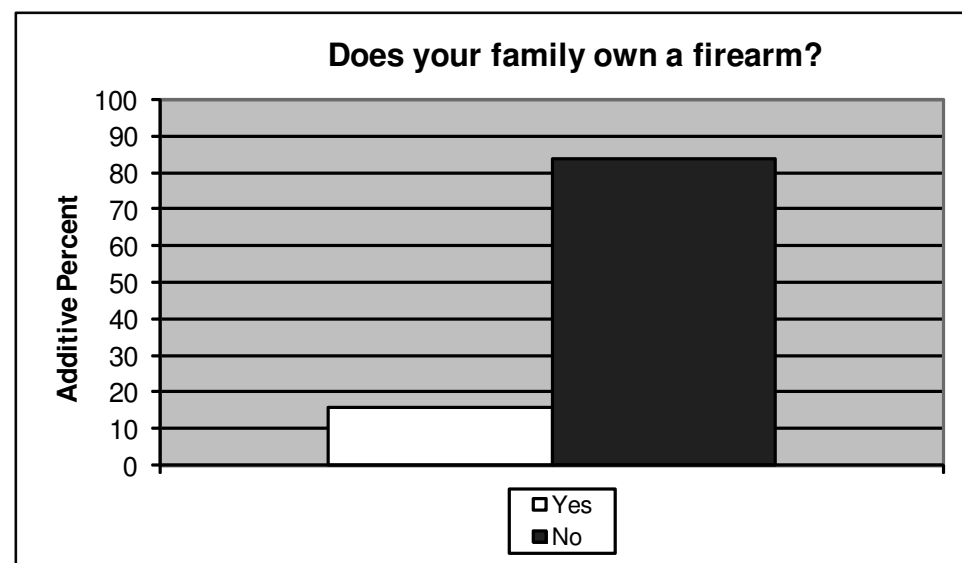
We have become our own biggest threat. The recent string of mass shootings in Aurora, Newtown, and Tuscaloosa, along with recent gun scares as close to us as Baldwin, Elmont, and Hewlett have not been done by hardened criminals; instead, people with easy access to guns have opted to use them for destruction. Many



rendering our freedoms to an increasingly burdensome government. Still, I feel that it is more important to preserve the safety of our nation than to enable gun ownership.

It is not a fundamental “right” to own a gun. The second amendment is commonly understood as our nation’s unequivocal establishment of gun ownership, but it should not be.

As written, it hardly embraces the idea; the amendment concedes that a “militia” must exist to serve the public interest, so the citizens are given the right to bear arms in order to protect themselves. Like the Third Amendment, which prevented soldiers from quartering in private homes, this had a differ-



Americans justify purchasing guns for hunting or self-defense, but are actually just feeding into a vicious cycle of destruction and slaughter.

Nothing good can come from owning a gun. Many have suggested that more rigorous mental health screenings

(Continued on page 8)

COUNTERPOINT

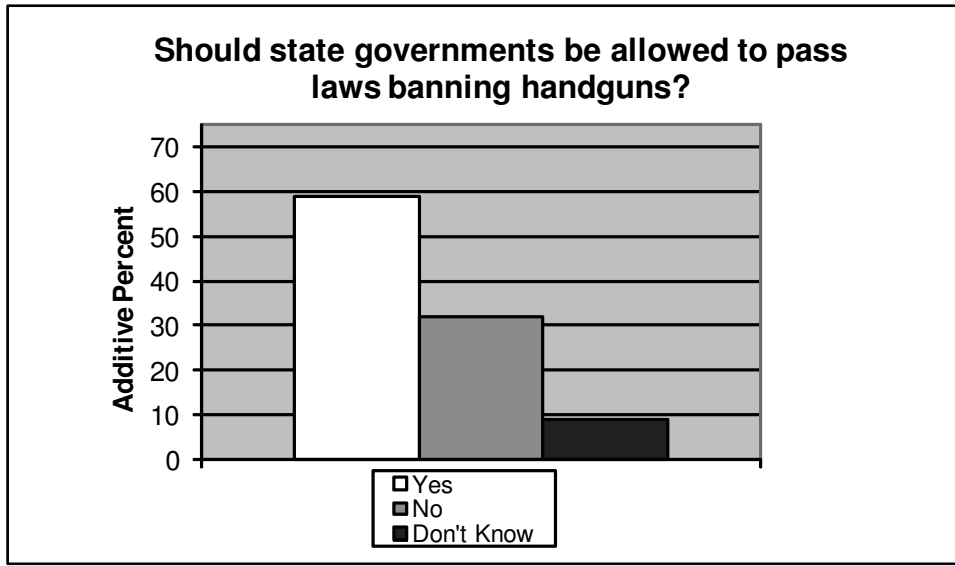
# Gun Control Is Not a Solution to Crime Sprees

By Sergio Caceres

bombs, the two boys walked the hallways and

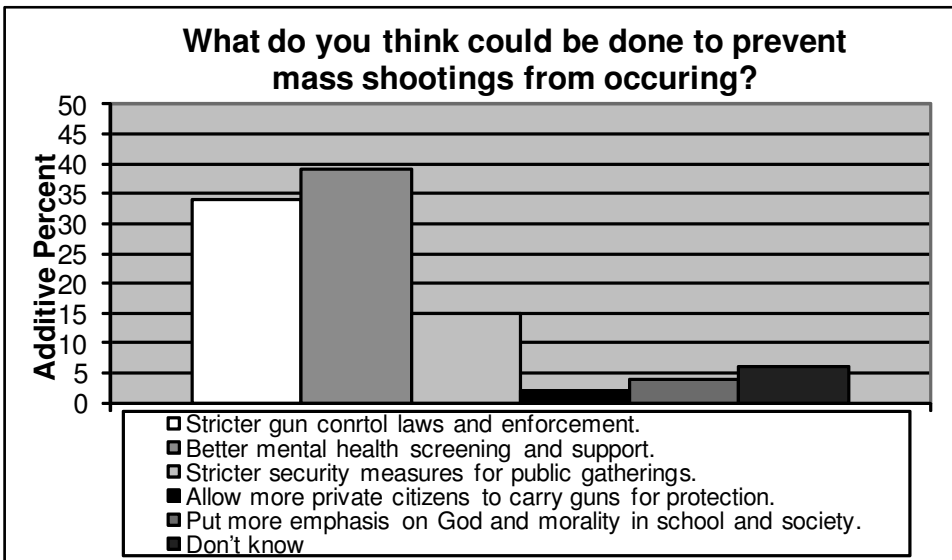
Can gun regulations REALLY help this situation?

The United States has had many incidents in the previous years involving guns that have caused people to urge the government to change regulations on how to buy guns.



The question is, even if gun regula-

killed innocent people on April 20, 1999. The reason behind it was because they weren't the

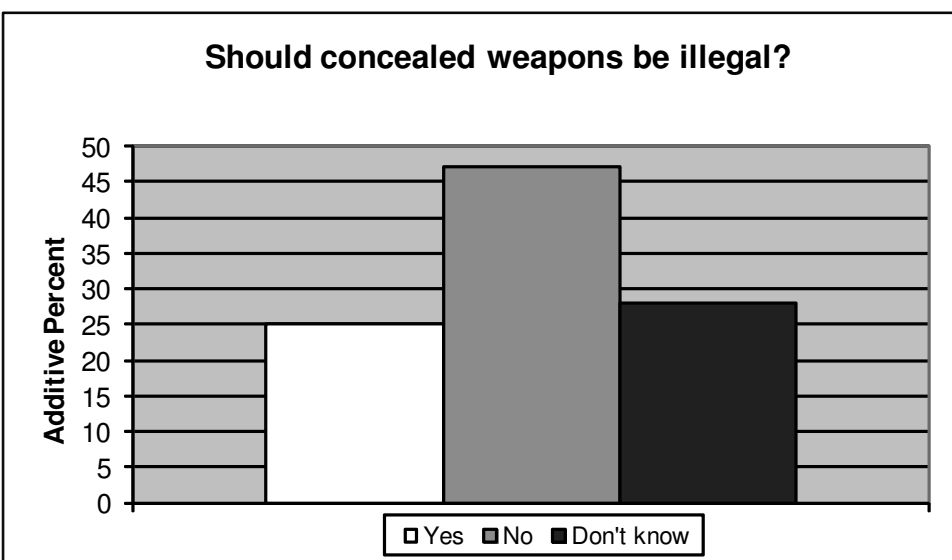


tions are made stricter; will it actually decrease the number of crimes committed?

The reason for the outcry for stricter regulations is because of many mass murders that have occurred due to guns.

One of the most famous events was Columbine, Colorado where two Columbine High School students, Dylan Klebold and Eric Harris decided to come up with a plan to kill hundreds of their peers.

With guns, knives, and a multitude of



most "liked" teenagers. They were bullied and didn't have many friends. As a result they thought they'd take it out on innocent people and kill thirteen and wound up to twenty-one people.

Another big shooting at a school was the Virginia



Tech University massacre that took place on April 16, 2007. Thirty-two were killed and seventeen were wounded by the gunman Seung-Hui Cho.

He used two guns for this attack that he had pur-

(Continued on page 8)

## Your Thoughts on Gun Control

"Gun control laws should be a lot stricter. Unfortunately, we usually wait until something really bad happens to open our eyes."

~Lauren Abecassis

"I think that no one should be own guns except for government officials. As they say, 'Where there is a will, there is a way.' Criminals will always be able to own firearms, whether legally or illegally. Whether you make the laws more stict, people will always own guns."

~Kevin Etwaru

"The problem with the Sandy Hook incident is not that he *had* a gun, but his mental state. If he wasn't so mentally unstable, he wouldn't have done that deed. If you want to eradicate such a problem, you need to weed out the problem from the roots. If you want to stop these freak stories and the psychological suffering of these criminals, *heal them!* It does better for him and the people around him."

~Krishana Raghubeer

"Guns aren't just like any other weapon; there's only danger present when a dangerous person is wielding it. If there had been a stabbing with a kitchen knife, how many people would propose a ban on knives all together?"

~Keenan Garry

"It is inexcusable that the United States condones ownership of such destructive weapons. The Second Amendment is not a justifiable defense of gun ownership. It is a relic from a very different society"

~James Schneider

"The right to bear arms was okay when the law was first created, however guns today are hundreds of times more dangerous. If people can have guns because of the second amendment, then they should be allowed to wield muskets and other guns of that time as well."

~Jeffrey Schwartz

"Citizens should be allowed to protect themselves with guns, but there is no reason to have assault weapons. A greater emphasis on mental health support, if done right, could be the most effective way to deal with possible crimes without impairing our rights."

~Anonymous

NEWS

# Gun Control Is a Necessity for Public Safety

(Continued from page 6)

for gun purchases and a decreased popular emphasis on violence would stop these mass shootings, but the evident *convenience* of these murders is the overwhelming issue; Adam Lanza used a gun his mom acquired 100% legally to kill 20 elementary school students.

Even if you feel like you are a responsible person, and that you are not going to indiscriminately fire into a crowd, **you do not need to own a gun.**

Guns *never* help the situation, they only escalate things and kill people. Ask George Zimmerman, Billy Moore, or the guy who killed Uncle Ben in *Spiderman*: if you feel threatened and you pull out a gun, no matter how good your intentions might be, someone is going to get shot.

It is time to get serious about gun control. American citizens have become willing to endure unauthorized wiretap-

# Banning Guns Is Not a Solution

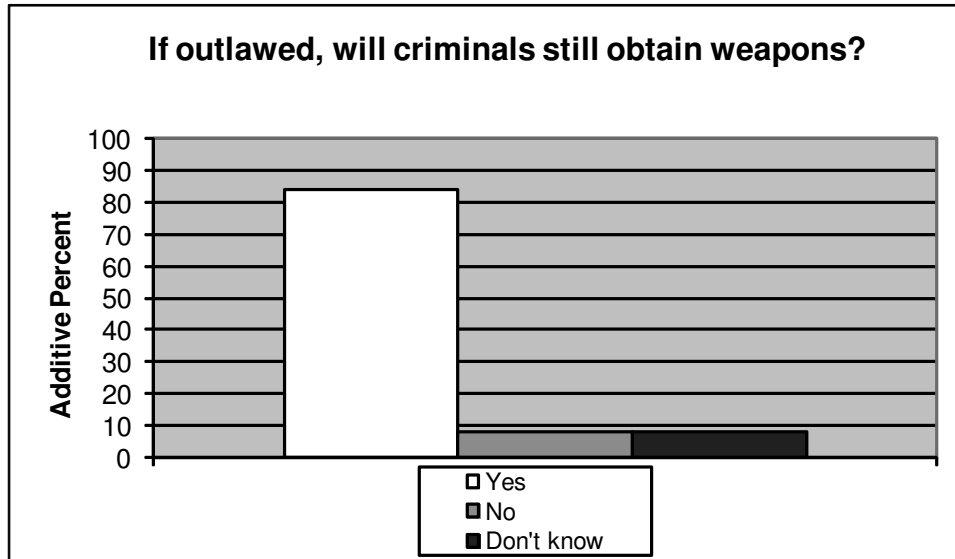
(Continued from page 7)

chased him self. When he was young he was diagnosed with severe anxiety disorder and in college was declared mentally ill when he was taken to court for stalking two girls on campus.

Another shooting, which occurred in Aurora, Colorado at the Century movie theater July 20, 2012. James Holmes went through the emergency exit in the

theater where "The Dark Knight Rises" was playing wearing a costume and wearing protection.

He started throwing smoke bombs and started shooting with many assault rifles. Killing twelve people and harming fifty-eight this was the final straw and showed President Obama that there was a gun issue in the



ping, full body scans at airports, and New York City "stop-and-frisks," which sacrifice freedoms for protections, we just need to start looking at gun control the same way.

Other countries, like Canada, Norway, and Britain, have had similar shootings, and have successfully enacted changes to stop them, and the same thing can be done here.

Instituting gun control would get rid of one of our sickest vices, and would help protect our families, friends, and neighbors.



county.

But the question is, do guns kill people or do people kill people? When it comes to serial killers many of them never even used weapons such as guns. Ted Bundy, one of the most famous United States serial killer killed thirty women without using any gun. He would strangle them, beat them, and

(Continued on page 9)





NEWS

GUN CONTROL

(Continued from page 8)

suffocate them until they died.

To be more technical serial killers aren't the same as mass murders. Serial killers kill lots of people throughout time with long time periods while mass murderers kill a lot of people at once like previous school shootings. Therefore, in 1927 in Bath, Michigan, Andrew Kehoe, who was upset over a burdensome property tax, wired an elementary school with dynamites and set it off in the morning of May 18. The dynamited killed 45 people, 38 were innocent children.

Previous similar incident with a elementary school shooting in Newton, Connecticut where Adam Lanza broke into the school and killed twenty-eight people, including his mother and himself. The differences between both was that Lanza used a gun and killed twenty-eight people and Kehoe used dynamite and killed forty-five.

This shows us that to have huge inhuman events like these the killer doesn't need a gun. Regulating gun control may decrease gun crimes by little, but won't reduce all crimes.

People kill people, guns don't kill people. Anyone can pick up weapons such as knives, home made bombs, dynamite, hammers, and even poison and kill people. People don't just need a gun to have a massacre in a mall, movie theater, or a school. They only need a motive and any weapons or their bare hands.

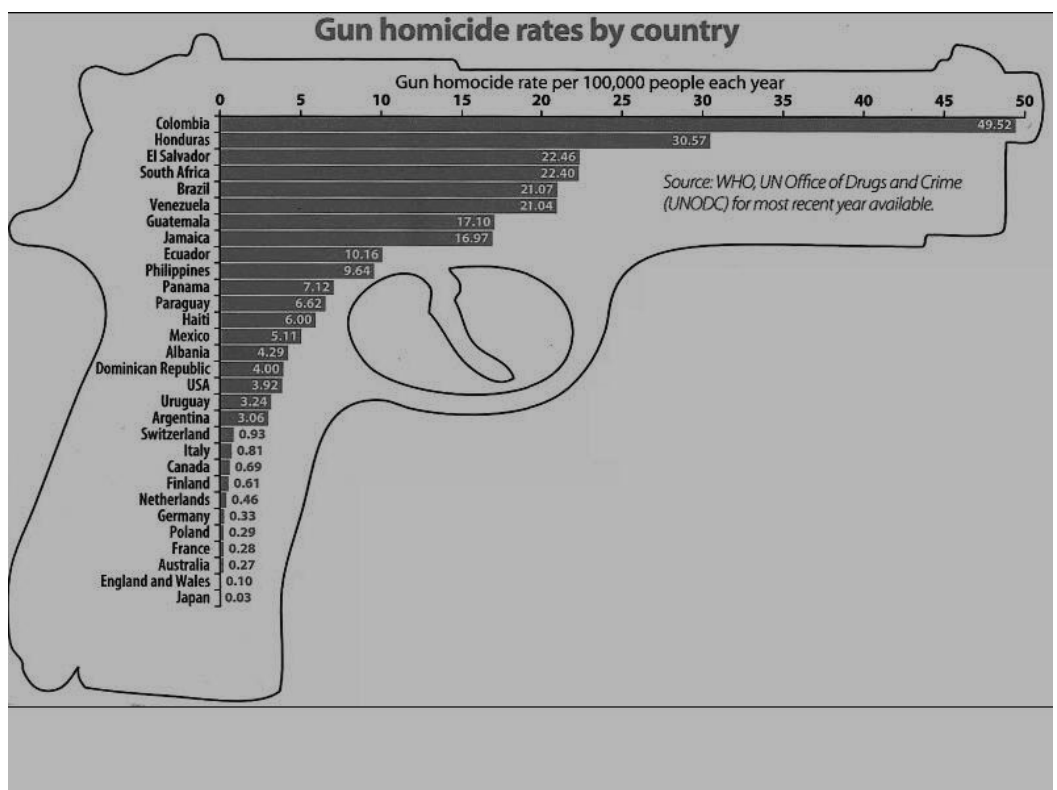
For example on December 4, 2012 in China Min Yingjun went to a primary school in central China and with a knife, not a gun, stabbed twenty-two children. These children were

in the ages of six and eleven.

It's hard to hear these bad news and think of how a human being can do such think to innocent young human beings. But the thing is, it doesn't matter if it's a gun, bomb, or a knife. If people want to kill they will find away to.

We can try to stop this through gun regulations, but personally I don't think this will help at all. We need to create another way of finding out how to stop these inhuman instead of targeting firearms as the main problem. Do you now think that guns should be regulated even though many other bigger crimes didn't have guns involved?

<b>National Gun Ownership (2010)</b>	<b>39 %</b>
<b>Sex</b>	
Male	43 %
Female	35 %
<b>Race</b>	
White	44 %
Non White	27 %
Black	27 %
<b>Age</b>	
18 - 29	31 %
30 - 49	40 %
50 - 64	45 %
50 +	42 %
65+	38 %
<b>Education</b>	
College Post Graduate	30 %
College Graduate	37 %
Some College	41 %
High School Graduate or Less	42 %
<b>Income</b>	
\$75,000	47 %
\$50,000	49 %
\$30,000	44 %
<b>Region</b>	
East	22 %
Midwest	39 %
South	50 %
West	37 %
<b>Politics</b>	
Republican	49 %
Democrat	35 %
Independent	35 %
<b>Ideology</b>	
Conservative	49 %
Moderate	37 %
Liberal	22 %



Above: International Action Network of Small Arms

Left: Gallup Poll

## ARTS &amp; LEISURE

# Hairspray

## Sandy, You Couldn't Stop Our Beat!

By Carina Cohn

Everyone loves a story about an underdog who lifts his head up high no matter the struggle, and whose perseverance pushes him to well deserved success. How much more inspiring would it be to have a play about a group of underdogs with perfectly styled hair and an endless supply of hairspray who could work against the forces of nature?

Our drama club was challenged to overcome many setbacks due to Hurricane Sandy this year, but the cast's determination to pull through and put on the best show possible paid off.

Lawrence's production of *Hairspray* was a total success! This of course would also not have been possible without and the support and direction of Mr. Buckley, who made sure that the saying "the show must go on" was fulfilled.

*Hairspray* took place on the 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> of December at Lawrence Middle School. This was because our stage here at Lawrence High School was damaged during the storm. It is still under reconstruction, and

we have high hopes that the auditorium will be finished sometime in February, even if the rest of the school is not ready until sometime thereafter.

Jared Goodman, a senior who hilariously played Tracy's mom, Edna, joked about the situation on the closing night of the show and said, "My drama club experience began in the middle school, and now it only seems right that it will end in the middle school, too!"

The entire cast of *Hairspray* was tremendously talented, as always. Nicole Eras, played our "shining star" Tracy Turnblad, a young obese teenager with a dream of becoming a dancer on her favorite TV show. She gets support from African-American who attempt to integrate the TV show. Nicole did a fantastic job, and it is going to be a shame to say goodbye to her as well as all the other seniors who were so greatly in-



Jared Goodman and Ryan Bae in their show-stopping number.

involved and devoted to the drama program over the years.

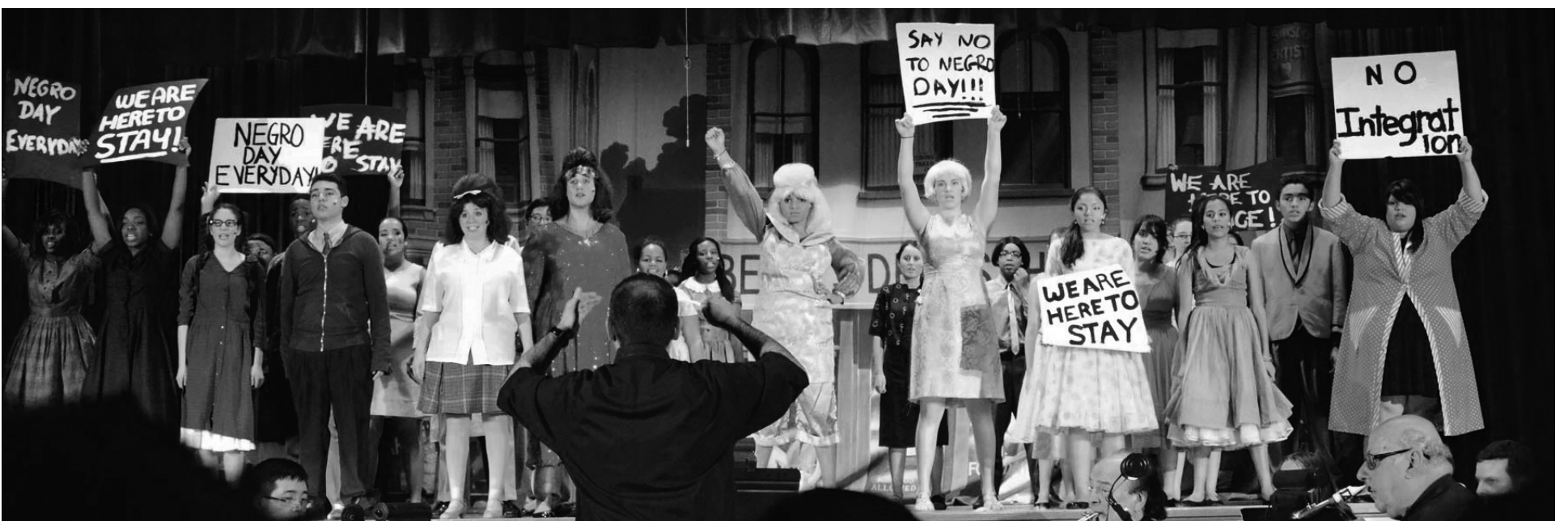
Alongside Nicole, Jose Romero played Link, Jared Goodman played Edna, Ryan Bae played Wilbur, Bradley Rubenstein played Corny Collins, Patricia Magliaro and Carina Kohn played Penny, Sahsa Unger and Shelly Goldman played Amber, Marcel Frederic played Seaweed, Shelby Applebaum played Velma Von Tussle, Gizzel George played Mortormouth Maybelle, Alex Spinelli played Prudy Pingleton, Shana Mireku played Little Inez, Daniel Butler played Mr. Pinky, Amir Mackey played Spritzer, Marianna Santostefano played the guard, Denilson Cruz played the principal, and Nico Hernandez played the gym teacher.

Of course, they play wouldn't have been as amazing as it was without the Council Members on the Corny Collins Show and Seaweed's Gang! As you can see, we had a huge cast with huge talent!

The performance of *Hairspray* was phenomenal and a joy to be in overall. I hope everyone who came enjoyed it. Don't forget to keep a look out for the Buskins plays that are right around the corner!



Gizzel George, Marcel Frederic, Carina Kohn



The Hairspray cast puts it all together.

NEWS

ARTS & LEISURE

**LHS Moves to LMS**

*(Continued from page 1)*

getting more difficult. Although for most of the student body moving back to the Middle School is not ideal, many are looking at the more positive side of such an unfortunate event.

“Being in the Middle School is kind of strange because it is our last year and spending it where we first became teenagers is a little strange...but I have to say it’s an interesting year. Not many seniors can say, ‘I spent my senior year in the middle school.’ It’s definitely a very memorable year,” senior Jeffrey Schwartz commented.

Sophomore Jonathan Rutchik said, “It’s okay being in the Middle School. I feel that it’s going to be a bit more difficult for the teachers and students, but we still have the same schedule; we’re just in a new school, so it’s not as horrible as I thought it would be.”

Others, like senior Sergio Caceres, are thankful that the administration has been sympathetic to the students over these chaotic couple of days. “Senior year has been very unlucky so far with losing senior weekend and moving into the Middle School. It feels as though I went back in time to four years ago. But at least canceling midterms has made it easier for us. It takes away a lot of the stress.”

Senior Jesse Friedlander commended the administration for their efforts as well. “I am impressed with the swiftness and rapidity at which the administration was able to integrate the high school into the middle school. Although we are dealing with hard times, this is certainly impressive, although that does not make the situation any better for students or staff. But, regardless, we will all have to pull together and be strong, just as we did after the hurricane to get through this tragic thing. All in all, I think it will strengthen the Lawrence community and I am glad because what does not kill you makes you stronger.”

Teachers, like the students, have had a difficult time settling into the high school’s new home. Nevertheless, all the teachers have done their best to adjust and get through these hardships. Mr. Alex Gofman even joked about the situation, “We’re going to stage a coup d’état and we’re going to make the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders go to the high school and we’re going to stay here.”

Regardless of our opinions on the move to the Middle School, however, it is an obstacle we cannot avoid. We will all have to find a way to cope and overcome this situation, one way or another. As Jodie-Ann Mullings stated, “Even though it seems unbearable, I think we just have to make the best of this situation.”

**Pokemon**

**The Next Next Generation**

**By Krishana Raghubeer**

On January 8<sup>th</sup>, Nintendo made a mind-blowing announcement. Though we all knew a sixth generation was inevitable, the trailer released on Nintendo Direct left fan boys and girls all over the world twitching on the floor and foaming at the mouth. For the first time in Pokemon history, a completely 3D experience awaits trainers worldwide in the form of Pokemon X and Pokemon Y.

The trailer revealed three new starters

lated to use the 3DS to its full capacity. Perspective is used in all parts of the game – from looking across an entire city, to glancing at Mom across the kitchen table. Battles, of course, have been completely changed. Instead of Pokemon slightly twitching in attack, the sprites make actual contact.

While the gameplay is impressive, so far, there is still much to be known about the upcoming games. Who’s the new evil team? Is Team Plasma gone for good? What does “X”



– Fennekin, a Firefox logo ripoff, Chespin, a grass-type woodland critter with a green shower cap, and Froakie a water-type toad with a striking resemblance to Benjamin Franklin.

Though somewhat disappointing and unoriginal in character design, the games’ detailed and breathtaking 3D animation makes up for it. There are new capabilities in camera rotation, and Pokemon are no longer stationary in battle. The sprites themselves are three dimensional, unlike every other game before it. Even without the 3D effect turned on, there is a great sense of depth within the game.

The setting has been greatly manipu-

and “Y” even mean?

There are many theories circulating the internet concerning the title, but most assume “X” and “Y” to represent chromosomes. Of course, this doesn’t clarify much, either. It gives a hint of experimentation and illegal Pokemon testing, but what scientist would create test-tube Pokemon after the Mewtwo incident, fifteen years ago?

Pokemon has evolved into something much different from what it was in 1995, but will “X” and “Y” disappoint or leave us asking for more? Decide for yourself in October 2013, when the Nintendo 3DS exclusive is released worldwide!

**WORD SEARCH**

**SOLUTION, from p. 3**

*(Over, Down, Direction)*

- AMOUR (16, 6, N)
- CANDY (5, 19, W)
- CASANOVA (5, 9, E)
- CHOCOLATE (19, 10, NW)
- DAY (12, 11, S)
- FEBRUARY (18, 8, N)
- FLOWERS (1, 14, SE)
- HEARTS (13, 14, SW)
- INFATUATION (13, 1, S)
- LETTERS (14, 9, S)
- LOVE (1, 5, NE)
- MINE (1, 4, SE)
- PINK (1, 1, E)
- RED (4, 4, SW)
- ROMANTIC (3, 9, NE)
- ROSES (11, 8, NW)
- SWEETHEART (10, 3, SW)
- VALENTINE (11, 5, W)

```

P I N K + + + + + I + + + + Y + +
+ + + E + + + + + C E + N + + R + R + +
+ + V + + + + + I S + T F + + U + A + +
M O + R + + S T W + + + A + + O + U + +
L I E N I T N E L A V + T L + M + R + +
+ D N + + A E + S + + + U + O A + B + +
+ + + E M T + + + O + + A + + C + E + +
+ + + O H + + + + + R + T + + + O F + +
+ + R E C A S A N O V A I L + + + H + +
+ + A + + + + + + + + + O E + + + + C +
+ R + + + + + + + + + D N T + + + + +
T + + + + + + + + + + A + T + + + + +
+ + + + + + + + + + + Y + E + + + + +
F + + + + + + + + + + + H R + + + + +
+ L + + + + + + + + + + E + S + + + + +
+ + O + + + + + + + + + + A + + + + +
+ + + W + + + + + R + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + E + + + T + + + + + + + + +
Y D N A C R + S + + + + + + + + + +
+ + + + + + S + + + + + + + + + +
    
```

### SCHOOL NEWS

#### DECA

These are the results from the DECA Regional Competition. The following students will be competing at the DECA State Career Conference in Rochester, New York this March:

**Jesse Friedlander** finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the category of Business Finance.

**Jacob Penzer** finished 1<sup>st</sup> in the category of Automotive Services Marketing.

**Isaac Amos** placed 7<sup>th</sup> in the category of Quick Serve Restaurant Management.

**Thomas Lira** finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the category of Business Services Marketing.

**Akil Mavruk** finished 10<sup>th</sup> in the category of Retail Merchandising.

**Ryan Bae & Jonathan Rutchik** will be competing in Sports & Entertainment Promotion Plan.

**Danielle Diamond, Rebecca DiLuzio & Samantha Rubenstein** will be competing in Advertising Campaign.

**Lauren Abecassis & Noah Friedlander** will be competing in Hospitality & Tourism.

**Jessica Beyer, Victoria DiCeglie, Maxine Kastriner & Sophia Mohamed** will be competing in Fashion Merchandising Promotion Plan.

**Jake Bernstein & Jonathan Scott** will be competing in Professional Selling.



#### PLAN B

(Continued from page 4)

#### CAREER AND TECHNICAL

**Ms. Ruth Cohen:** As someone who grew up "playing school", it is a difficult question. In the late seventies it was almost impossible to get a teaching position. I was working in the fashion industry, in NYC, at the time Lawrence called me for an interview. I died and went to heaven....a job in Lawrence!

I did my demo lesson in the room that I am in now.... the rest is history! I got the job. So in answer to your question... I would be working in NYC in the fashion industry!

(Continued from page 4)

#### ENGLISH

**Mr. Paul Vega:** I originally wanted to be a musical engineer (the people who work the board with all the buttons and knobs in a recording studio). I love music but I don't play an instrument, nor do I sing, so that seemed cool to me. I became a teacher, however, because I wanted to help troubled kids even more than I wanted to make music. After my first educational observation, I realized I had always wanted to be a teacher but never knew it. Outside of my children, nothing makes me happier

**Mr. David Yaker:** a hip hop DJ  
Reason: He has a passion for the hip hop culture and teaches the history of hip hop to 12th graders.

**Ms. Margie O'Brien:** education is my Plan B. My Plan A was to be a computer programmer, but I realized I enjoyed reading more than math.

#### PLAN B

(Continued from page 5)

#### SOCIAL STUDIES

**Ms. Linda Gerard:** "I would have gone into a merchandising industry. I love jewelry and the marketing it's associated with. I find it so interesting."

**Mr. Alex Gofman:** "I would have been a hobo." "Why?" "Summers off. Now, ask me why I wouldn't have been a lifeguard." "Why?" "No summers off."

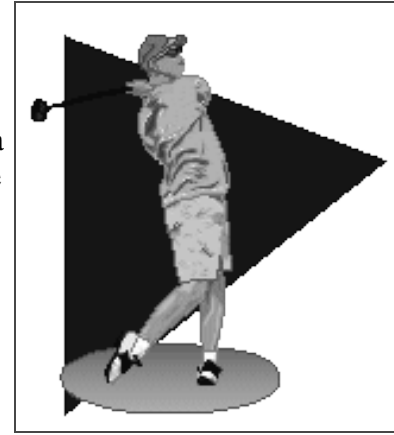
**Mr. Steve Sullivan:** "Teaching was actually my Plan B. I wanted to be a vet, but I was so unbelievably allergic to fur-bearing creatures that the animal doctor window closed pretty quickly. I started college as a premed, but I think I was more "allergic" to chemistry and to premed "ethics" than I ever was to the St. Bernards at the kennel in Brooklyn. The rest is history [pun intended]."

**Mr. Jarrad Richter:** If I did not become a teacher, I would have become a graphic designer. I loved video games and comic books growing up, and I really enjoyed my graphic design courses in high school, so I always thought it would be a fun career.

**Ms. Margaret Foy:** "I would have been an attorney, because I've always had an interest in law."

#### PLAN B

(Continued from page 5)



#### SCIENCE

**Mr. Charles Cohen:** professional golf player  
Reason: that's his passion

**Ms. Rebecca Isseroff:** astronaut

**Mr. George Klein:** professional hitman

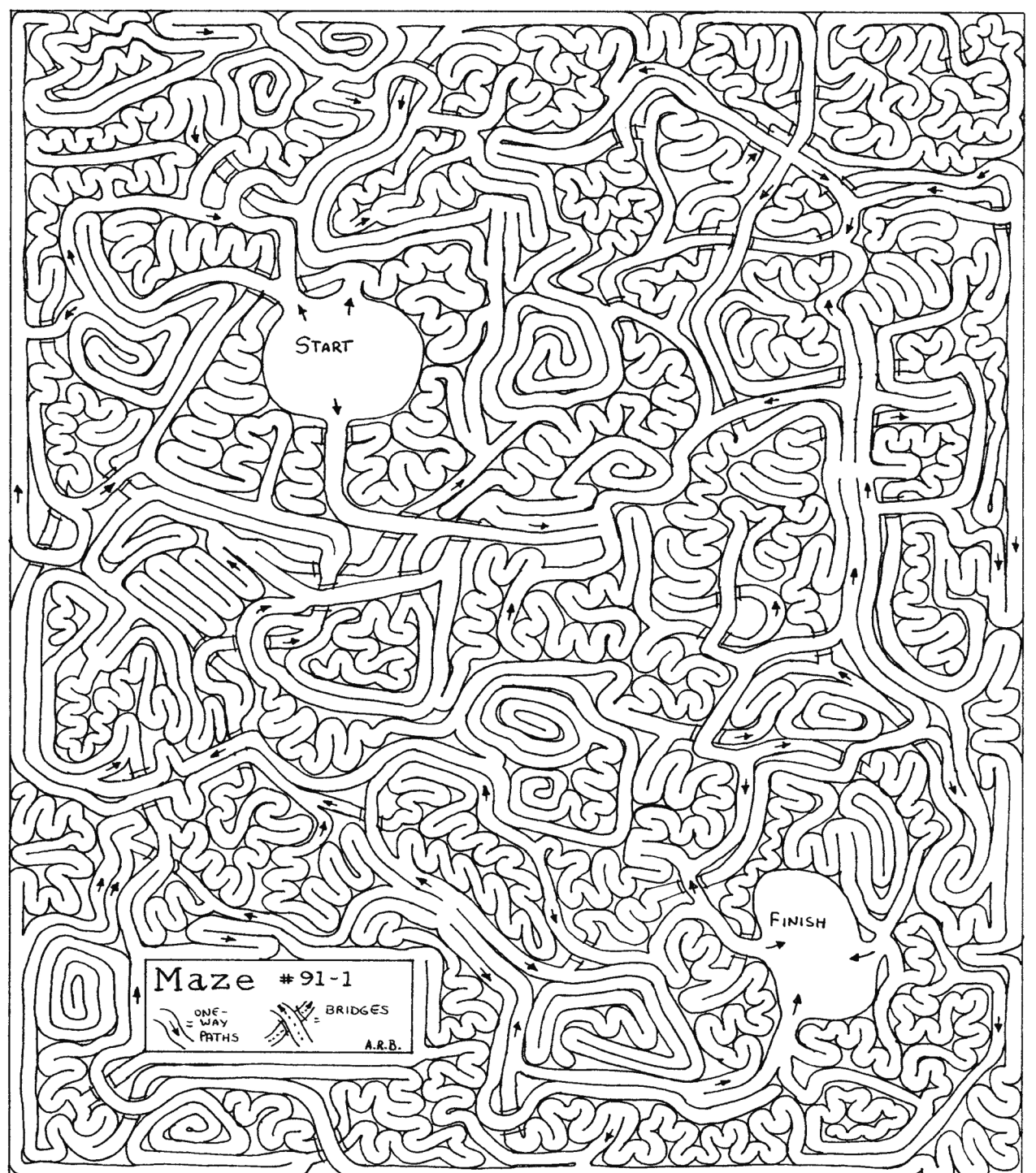
**Ms. Barbara Peel:** charter boat captain

**Mr. Pete Sebor:** park ranger

**Mr. Brent Simonds:** physical therapist  
Reason: currently, he works part time as a bio teacher and part time as a physical therapist. If he wasn't teaching, he would be a full time physical therapist

**Ms. Kelli Squicciarini:** Archaeologist or interior designer  
Reason: she loves designing things

#### MAZE



**Stuart E. Marks DDS**  
**860 Broadway**  
**Woodmere NY, 11598**  
**(516) 265-1414**  
**(516) 374-2040**

**Dear Lawrence Family,**

**I am extending a special offer to new patients. Your dental insurance will now allow 100% coverage in our office. Please present this ad at our office on the day of your visit.**

**I would like to tell you a little about my background and the services our practice offers. I attended the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery and received post-doctoral residency training at Booth Memorial Hospital. I stay current with the latest advances the dental profession has to offer by attending hours of continuing education classes. I provide all aspects of dental treatment including cosmetic and implant restorations.**

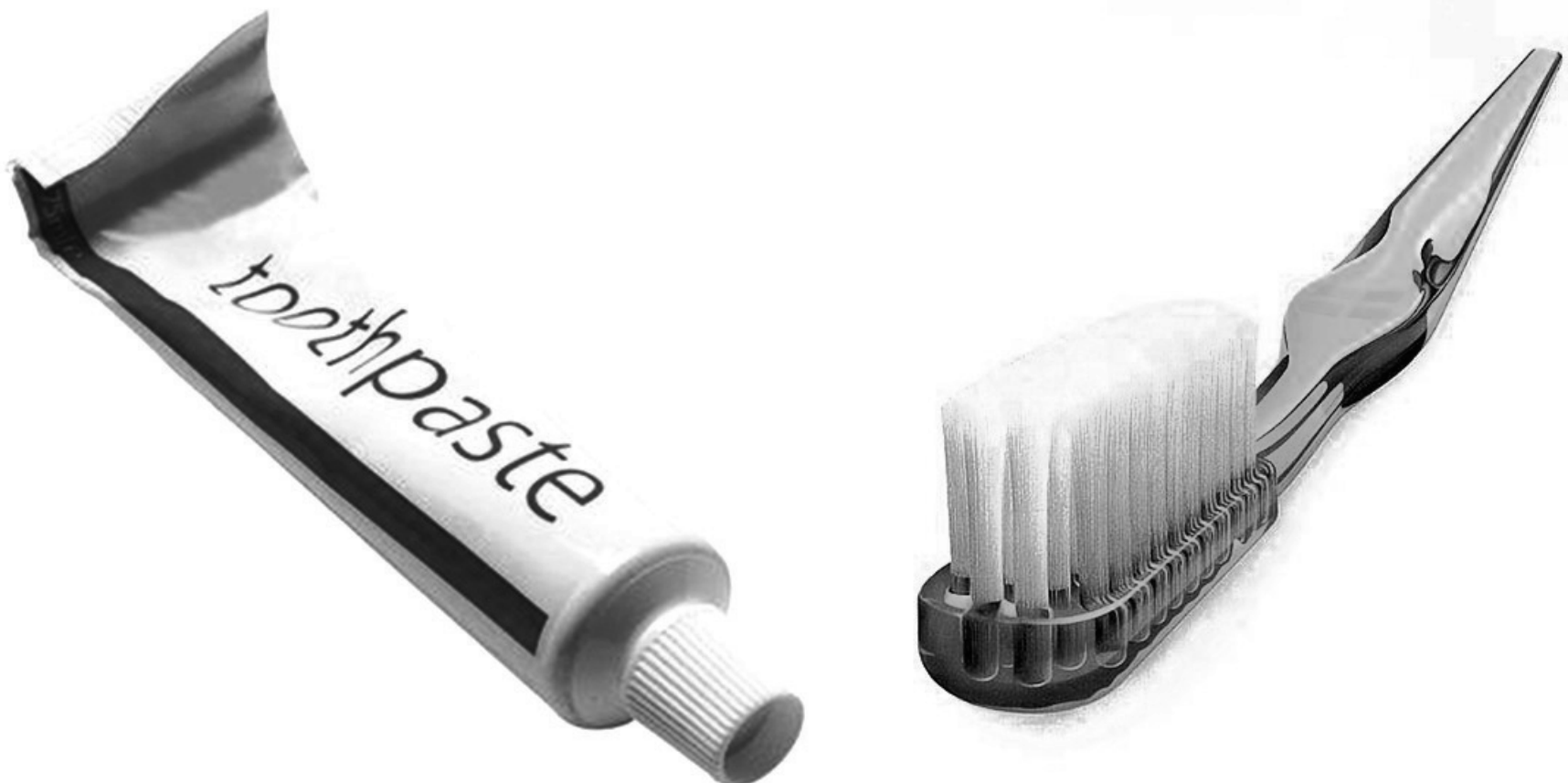
**I have been in private practice for over 25 years and have treated many of your colleagues. My staff and I strive for excellence in dentistry, practice up-to-date sterilization techniques, and take pride in the care of our patients. We provide the following services:**

**Bonding and Cosmetic Dentistry**  
**Full Mouth Reconstruction**  
**Crown and Bridge Procedures**  
**Implants**  
**Teeth Whitening**  
**Senior Discounts**  
**Laser Procedures**

**We provide both morning and evening appointments.**

**Sincerely,**

**Dr. Stuart E. Marks**



ARTS & LEISURE

# Art Class Sketches from Live Animals...

**By Cheongmi Hwang**

On January 9, Mrs. Ganes' Drawing and Painting class in period 1 had a unique opportunity to draw from live animals, such as a screech owl, a great horned owl and a barn owl. These animals were arranged by Mrs. Ganes to be brought to the Lawrence High School from the Volunteers for Wildlife.

Because of Hurricane Sandy, a sketching trip to the Museum of Natural History had to be canceled. As an alternative, Mrs. Ganes arranged for an animal presentation to be brought into our school by Volunteers for Wildlife.

Volunteers for Wildlife is a non-profit wildlife hospital and education center that promotes conservation and preservation of Long Island wildlife.

In addition to the three owls, they also showed a red tailed hawk, and an opossum. Representatives from the center had a presentation and talked about how the animals were saved and rehabilitated. While the animals were being shown, the students drew from live observation.

Bradley Rubenstein, a student from the Drawing and Painting class, said that it was a great in part because it was a different experience. It was rare to get a chance to draw from live animals. "Each second, the animal was chang-



ing, so it altered the work and it couldn't be perfect," said Bradley. If he had the chance to do this again, he said he would.

On January 10, Mrs. Ganes' advanced open studio class in period 3, Fine Arts Seminar, and the S.C.A.L.E. students had a chance draw from a live model using charcoal, and conti crayon on different colored charcoal paper. The model, Monica Rzewski, is a graduate of Lawrence High School, and is now a substitute art teacher. She started with short poses for quick 10-15 minute sketches, and extended the time to about 20 minutes.



This was the third session for students to practice drawing the human figure. Even Mr. Schall stopped by to observe the students deeply engaged in their drawings.

I was part of this wonderful opportunity, and it was really a great chance for me to be immersed in art. Everyone there was really into their artwork and enjoyed the time they were there. This was the last intense art class before we were relocated to our

new school.



Owl drawing by Alexandra Vega

ARTS & LEISURE

# ...and Live Models



Former student Monica Rzewski, poses for the class, so they can gain insight on how to draw from a live model.



Opossum drawing by Vanessa Munoz.



# LAWRENCE SPORTS

## Powerful Start for Lawrence Wrestling

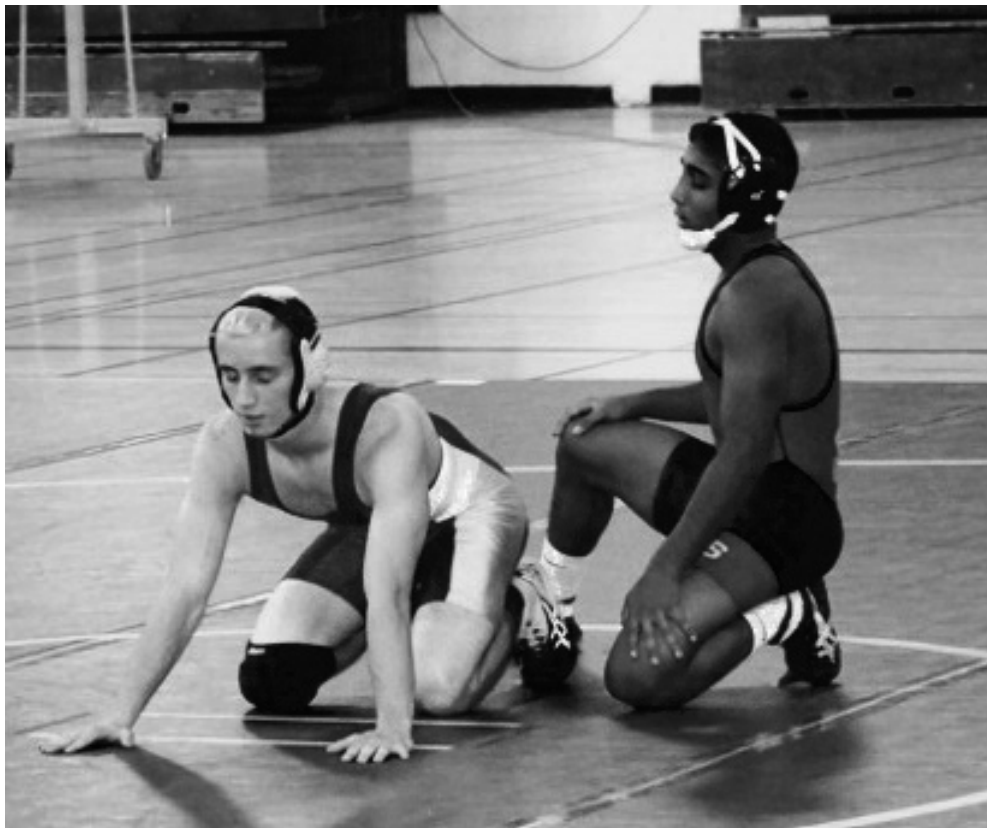
By James Schneider

The Lawrence wrestling team has not let anything get in its way. The 2012-2013 team has been faced with the loss of three all-county wrestlers, a hurricane that pushed back the start of practice, a new (and cramped) wrestling room, a career-ending injury to Akil Mavruk, a top starter, as well as the departure of a coach. The team has faced these challenges with resiliency, and put themselves in position to accomplish big things at the qualifier and county tournaments.

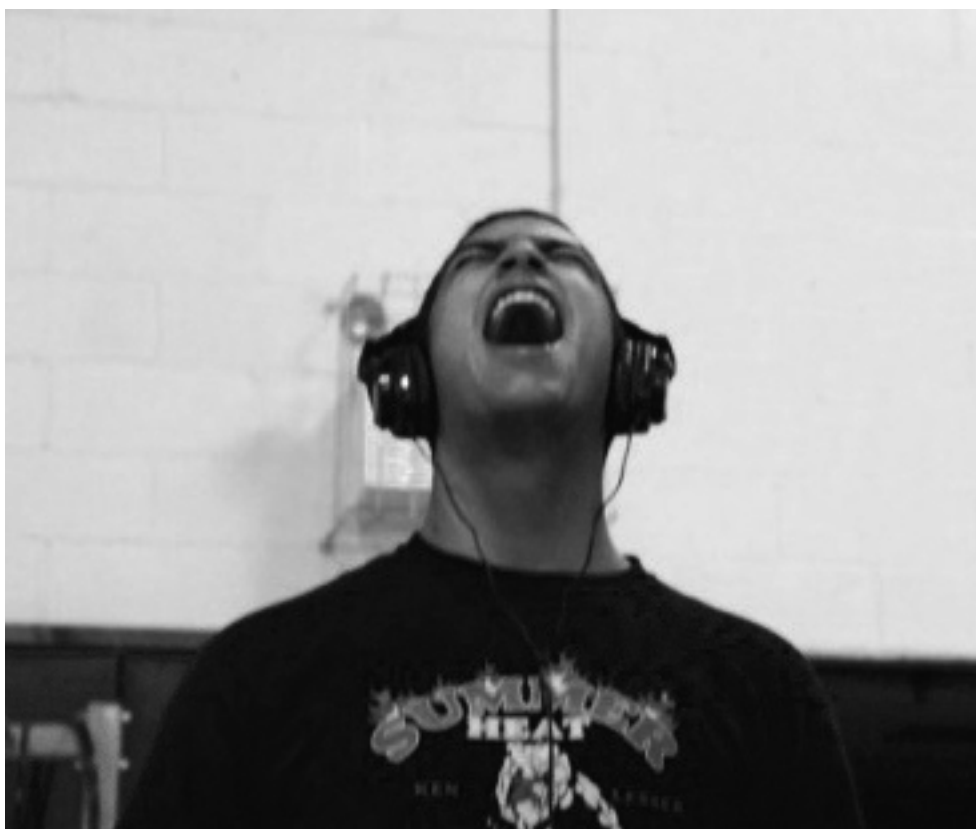
This year's team is highlighted by the two-time All-County Senior Pankil Chander, who is ranked second in the county at the 132-pound weight class. Additional all-county hopefuls include Fred Thomas, who was within one match of the honor two years ago, Mike Skillings, who has defeated multiple ranked wrestlers at the unpredictable 182-pound weight, and Jonathan Vinas, who only has two losses to unranked opponents this season. Demetri Samuels, Mark Rosen, and Hamza Ramzen have been pleasant surprises for the team thus far, and are looking to make deep runs in the county tournament, while Dean Fujimoto, Jesse Nacht, James Schneider, Oskar Puk, and Anthony Doll round out the Varsity lineup.

Guided by Coach Delvecchio and new assistant Zach Cogen, this group has already made its presence felt on podiums throughout the county. At the season-opening Sprig Gardner tournament, where Chander won, Vinas and Skillings took second, while Thomas, Samuels, and Rosen all placed. The next week at the Ralph Janssen tournament, the team did very well across the board and earned a fourth-place team score, as a multitude of wrestlers placed, and Skillings, Vinas, and Chander were each in the finals again. Then at the Syosset Invitational Tournament, the hardest and biggest of the year, Chander won, Vinas took 3<sup>rd</sup> behind 2 ranked wrestlers, while Samuels, Ramzen, and Thomas each placed in difficult weight classes.

As the big end of the year tournaments draw closer, our wrestlers are working hard to get better and challenge for the top spots in Nassau. Despite a league record of only 2-2, Lawrence's lineup is conducive to tournament success, and might have as many as ten all-conference wrestlers. Expect to see a lot of Lawrence wrestling at the county championships in February.



**Like a hunter, Pankil Chander patiently waits the chance to overtake his prey. Photo credit: Rachel Klein.**



**Mark Rosen gets ready for a match. Photo by Florie Capobianco.**

## Varsity Boys Basketball Crushing Competition

By Ryan Bae

Our Lawrence boys' varsity basketball team is off to yet another great start. Some believe that this very team is one of the best basketball varsity teams in the past four years.

A huge difference between last year's team and this year's team, is that this year's team realizes that in order to achieve their goals, they must play as hard as they possible can in each game, despite their lower competition level.

Lawrence boys basketball team already has a couple of players on the team that committed to Division 1 colleges while a couple more await collegiate offers.

This 2012-2013 team expects to bring yet another Nassau County Championship and Long Island Championship to Lawrence High School.

Thus far in the season, the team already has twelve wins along two losses while having six wins in league games with no losses.

Their game against Manhasset was a blowout; Lawrence beat Manhasset 94-53, with over a forty point gap! They are currently obliterating their conference, Nassau Conference A-II, and we hope they maintain their perfect season within the conference.

They are having a great season, and we hope they continue their winning ways.

**JOIN MENTAL PAB EVERY  
TUESDAY MORNING  
NOW IN ROOM 243 IN THE  
MIDDLE SCHOOL**