



MENTAL PABULUM

Food for Thought

Since 1932

In This Issue:

Volume 81, Issue 2

November/December 2013

In Loving Memory of Giovanni Cipriano

BY
ARIE BAUM, FAYTHE
MUNDELL, CHASE
DOYLE, AND CHRIS
RINCON

Giovanni Cipriano was a 14-year-old boy born on August 18, 1999. He graduated from Lawrence Middle School in June 2013. This year, he started his freshman year at Holy Trinity High School.

Giovanni Cipriano passed away on October 18, 2013. On October 1st, he had an anaphylactic reaction after mistakenly consuming peanuts, to which he was severely allergic. He was rushed to the hospital, but upon arriving, had ceased breathing.

Giovanni fell into a coma, was put on life support for weeks, then passed away days later.

Gio was a very funny and intelligent person who was admired by many people. He was very personable and charming and all of the girls wanted to get a chance to date him. He was kind-hearted and a loving person who everyone, including all of his teachers, loved.

He was incredibly athletic. He played football and baseball for Lawrence Middle School, and played for teams outside of school. Baseball was his passion.

It really doesn't even feel like he's gone. It still feels like he is just a text or phone call away. Saying our last words to him could have been the hardest day of our lives. Words can't de-



GIOVANNI CIPRIANO
August 18, 1999
October 18, 2013

*"Breathe.
Listen for my footfall
in your heart.
I am not gone,
but merely walk
within you."*



A Chorus Line (page 8)



Catching Fire (page 9)



Stress Management (page 11)



LI Champions (page 12)

scribe how much we all miss and love him. Now, he's in a much better place and is looking down on eve-

ry single one of us.

Gio, it's not a good bye, it's a see you later. We love you.

Student Spotlight: Matt Zampino & Fabrizio Urqueta

BY KRISHANA
RAGHUBEER

In all the hustle and bustle, what notice do you take of the hundreds of other students desperately trying to avoid the inevitable stampede to the buses and parking lot after 8th period? Do you even recognize the faces of your best friends as they angrily push past you? Would you realize if two strangers did you a thankless favor every day at 2:35? Wait, what?

No way such self-

lessness could be a thing of truth, here, right? Wrong! If you exit the building through the front doors, every day since September, Matt Zampino and Fabrizio Urqueta have made your life slightly easier whether you've realized it or not. When that last, long awaited bell finally rings, Matt and Fabrizio take their positions at the main doors and politely hold them open for the day-end riot to come.

They went unnoticed for a while, but their uncommon kindness

is the cause of some murmur. Still, they deserve *much* more appreciation than that! We hold in high esteem large contributions to charities, but the little, random acts of kindness matter, too, as they may *directly* impact one's peers and community.

"I never realized they were holding the doors for *me*," said Stacy Canete. "But when I did, it really warmed my heart. Something as simple as that made me ask myself, 'what good deeds am *I* doing?'"

Perhaps we need to ask ourselves this question more often. We lose ourselves easily in our own stress and headache, but what attention have we paid to the people around us?

With the simple act of holding doors, Matt and Fabrizio have taught us a valuable lesson. For their generosity, they are truly deserving of the student spotlight.

If you see them around, especially after school, be sure to give Matt and Fabrizio a well-deserved thank you!

EDITORIAL

“A good head and a good heart are always a formidable combination.”

But when you add to that a literate tongue or pen, then you have something very special.”

When great men shake the earth, we regard them as heroes. However, when they leave the earth, almost as quickly as they came, we pause. We reflect. We ask, “*now, what?*”

As teenagers, extracting lessons from the life of Nelson Mandela seems out of our reach. For what else can we do after he has already done it all? After he has already dismantled the legacy of apartheid and spread his message of freedom and racial reconciliation?

Before Mandela did any of these things, he was a *student*. After he was baptized, he began primary school and was the first member of his family to receive an education. Here, he was named ‘Nelson’ by his teacher, as it was custom for students to have Christian names.

Mandela attended the Clarkebury Boarding Institute and Wesleyan College and went on to enroll at the University College of Fort Hare, which was considered South Africa’s Oxford.

Mandela was an active and involved student—he worked hard, played sports, and was elected to the Student Representative Council at Fort Hare. In fact, he was *too* involved.

The Council lacked power, and campus meals were inadequate, so many students boycotted the election. Mandela resigned from his post, joined his peers in protest, and worked toward the same cause. The school saw this as an act of insubordina-



Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

July 18, 1918 - December 5, 2013

tion, and Mandela was subsequently expelled.

Mandela’s foster father was furious upon his return home, and rather than comply with the marriage arranged for him, Mandela ran away. He settled in Johannesburg, where he completed his bachelors degree through correspondence courses, and enrolled at the University of the Witwatersrand to study law.

Here, Mandela

began his involvement in the anti-apartheid movement. He joined the African National Congress and a subgroup within it, the African National Congress Youth League.

The Youth League aimed to garner strength from the peasants and workers who went unheard under the existing government, and encouraged the ANC to adopt methods of boycott and civil disobedience.

With these tactics, the ANC worked to attain their goals of compulsory education for all children, trade union rights and land redistribution.

Mandela directed nonviolent protest for 20 years. In 1961, he felt that only armed struggle could truly end the cruelty of apartheid. So, Mandela cofounded MK, an armed offshoot of the ANC. He sparked workers’ strikes and travelled

secretly across Africa and to England to gain support for the armed rebellion.

In 1964, Mandela and seven other ANC leaders were sentenced to life in prison for political offenses. He spent a total of 27 years in prison, and 18 of those years on Robben Island. While incarcerated, he earned a Bachelor of Law degree through a correspondence program with the University of London.

Mandela was finally released on February 11, 1990. He was soon elected president of the ANC and worked with President F.W. de Klerk toward South Africa’s first multiracial election. They were both awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, and saw their work come to fruition on April 27, 1994, when South Africa held its first democratic elections. President Mandela was inaugurated on May 10, 1994.

Even in retirement, Mandela raised money for schools and clinics in rural South Africa.

Nelson Mandela lived a full, hectic, and extraordinary life, but through it all, one theme remained—he *continued to further his education*. If he had not begun school as a little boy in Qunu, would he have changed the world as he did?

The facilities to which we have access are vastly superior to Mandela’s opportunities. In theory, haven’t we the capability to *surpass* him?

Mandela’s life has taught us that we mustn’t underestimate the value of education. This imperfect earth still has some shaking to do, and since we are the future, isn’t that our job? Perhaps, *you* may be the next Nelson Mandela.

Source: nelsonmandela.org

MENTAL PABULUM

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NEWS

Dispelling the Myths—What *is* Obamacare?

BY
RYAN BAE

Hopefully, everyone has heard about the controversial Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, otherwise known as Obamacare. Unfortunately, due to the complexity of the Act, facts can easily be construed incorrectly. Nearly every student I have talked to, including myself, has the facts misconstrued. So, let's hear some facts.

Commencing in 2014, the Act reduces health care costs in aspirations to make healthcare services available to the 32 million Americans who currently don't have insurance. So, the Act targets to aid those who don't have health insurance.

To do so, it will ask for higher taxes for those who CAN afford it. Many doctors have been portrayed as upset be-

cause the Act would ask hospitals and clinics to pay higher operating fees, but the government will be compensating with tax credits. This is an extremely democratic and liberal ideal. The plan essentially asks the people who can afford healthcare to help pay for those who can not.

Many of the components of Obamacare are quite beneficial and advantageous to the aver-

age American. Unfortunately for the insurance companies, the Act won't be helping them so much. Once fully enforced, insurance companies will not be able to turn down or charge higher rates for people who are currently ill. This would help many ill people to afford health insurance who otherwise would not be able to. This plan takes the democratic ideal of taxing people who are financially stable to help make

something-- in this case health insurance-- affordable for those who normally would not be able to.

This is a plan that is idealistically promising. The main aspiration of the Act is to make healthcare affordable to as many Americans as possible. So, as much as we can dislike the linguistics of the Act, we can not be too quick to bash the ambition.

One Year Later—Reflecting on Super Storm Sandy

BY ALEXANDRA
GRESGRE

Exactly one year and 2 months ago, on October 29, 2012, the rightly named Super Storm Sandy hit New York. One year after this disaster happened, it's hard to believe that the damage is still affecting peoples' lives today. It is even more diffi-

cult to accept that this disaster happened in our communities, leaving many families in our own community with almost nothing.

In Long Beach, people are still struggling with not only repairing their damaged possessions and homes, but with their recently disrupted lives. When Hur-

ricane Sandy hit, it came so hard that it took houses, which has taken over a year to rebuild, and may require even more time.

Long beach is known as one of the hardest hit communities throughout. Sandy wiped out the Long Beach boardwalk. This cost the city \$44 million to repair

in order to have a successful summer for tourism.

Despite this, people are still persevering and trying to rebuild the houses and hospital. Because of Sandy, new laws and building ordinances were put in effect to prevent such damage in the future. It is now mandated that houses must be

built on eight foot podiums in an effort to avoid a disaster like this in the future.

Wherever you were on that date, people in our area will always remember where they were when the storm hit and how it affected their lives. And I'm sure we will all agree we hope not to see another storm like it!



ROBERT SIMMON / NASA EARTH OBSERVATORY

Beautiful Disaster | This natural-color image of Hurricane Sandy was captured at 1:45 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (17:45 Universal Time) on October 28, 2012 with the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite 13 (GOES-13).

NEWS

Celebrity Gossip—Have you heard about...?

BY DAMARI SHACKLEFORD

Have you ever said to yourself, "What ever happened to this celebrity," Or, "What is the latest gossip on this celebrity?" Or perhaps, "What was that dress she was wearing at the award ceremony she attended?" I've asked the same things, myself. So what are these celebrities doing?

I heard that Kanye West is making a new video with his fiancée, Kim Kardashian. I also heard that Kim wanted plastic surgery to take off some of the baby weight she gained after giving birth to their daughter, North West, but Kanye forbid her from doing it. He actually made a clause in their prenuptial agreement, which states that if she does get plastic

surgery, she will be fined five hundred thousand dollars!

Did you hear that Barack and Michelle Obama won't let their daughter, Sasha, go on Facebook? They say that she isn't old enough since she's only twelve years old. Even her older sister, Malia has limited access to the social networking site and she's fifteen! The parents say that they are trying to protect their children from some of the dangers of Facebook, such as cyber-bullying.

Michael Jordan's wife is having a baby! Yes, Michael Jordan and Yvette Prieto are adding an extra member to their family.

Kelly Clarkson photo-bombed Ellen and



HOLLYWOODLIFE.COM

Best Dressed | The queens of the music industry, Taylor Swift, Katy Perry, Lady Gaga, Miley Cyrus and Rhianna, turn heads at the American Music Awards.

Portia de Rossi's picture at the Grammy Awards. And did you see what some of the women at the AMAs were dressed like? Taylor Swift was wearing a Julien Macdonald mini

dress. Miley Cyrus was covered up, wearing a white Versus Versace suit with black pumps. Ke\$ha wore a stunning one shoulder black Michale Costello gown

with her gray-blue-pink hair. And Jenifer Hudson tops it off wearing an orange Dior gown with pink on the inside.

That's it for this issue's Celebrity Gossip!

Masserati Welcomes Ghibli to the Family

BY JONATHAN RUTCHIK

Expected to arrive in the early fall of 2014, Maserati has done it again; the new Ghibli will be racing into showrooms. Maserati has maintained a certain image of superior racing cars engineered for only the best. Their cars are built with an eye-catching precision in a sporty exterior emulated by the intriguing sleek design of the interior.

Maseratis are usu-

ally seen as too expensive to ever consider owning. The new Ghibli will make that statement a thing of the past. With an estimated market suggested retail price (MSRP) of approximately \$65,000, the new Ghibli will still be expensive, but now enter a lower range of luxury cars.

Whereas Maseratis are expected to compete with Ferraris, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars, the Ghibli is intended to compete with lower range luxury sport sedans. The Ghibli will

offer new competition for car models such as the Audi A7, Mercedes-Benz CLS- class, and the BMW 6-series Gran Coupe.

At the heart of the Ghibli lies a three-liter Twin Turbo V6 engine; the engine is a lightweight one with all six cylinders made from aluminum to guarantee efficient handling. The engine is an extremely efficient one that can still maintain low levels of fuel consumption and

emission. Most impressive are the peak torque and power values; the engine can pump out 330 HP at 5,000 rpm. This sporty car can also reach a top speed of about 163mph. All this is packed in to a car that can go from 0 to 60 in just about 5.6 seconds when at a standstill.

The exterior design, just like the engine inside, was taken into deep consideration. Wavy lines create a great sense of movement to

catch the eye even when the care is not in motion. The front of the car is taken over by the overwhelming grill filled in by concave vertical fillets and framed by the strong LED lights. On the rear, the car contains the traditional LED lights framed in red lights as seen on other Maserati models. The door, unframed door windows, and the traditional triangular C-pillar give the car the sleek look of a coupe; however, looks can be deceiving since this coupe is longer than most coupes.

The interior is just as glamorous. Due to its long wheelbase, passengers are presented with the largest amount of legroom offered by other luxury coupe sedans in the same range. This is done without going against the sporty design, which is often defined by a smaller interior. The large leather

(Continued on page 11)



MASSERATIGHIBLI.US

NEWS

Decorum! Hewlett Takes Home the Gold at Lawrence Model Congress XLIV

BY KRISHANA RAGHUBEER

On December 13 and 14, 2013, Lawrence hosted its 44th annual congress. For Lawrence delegates, it was a weekend of little sleep, great stress and too much food, but it was worth all the trouble when over 200 delegates from eight other schools in New York came to our school to debate, cheer, and forge lasting friendships.

Model Congress is a club dedicated to debate and socialization. At each congress, held once a year at each school, delegates from different schools spend a weekend at the host school. They debate Friday evening, house with the host delegates over night, then return to the school to continue their activities on Saturday.

In a mock congress environment, delegates are separated into committees of their choice to debate

hypothetical, student-made bills. Delegates are given awards based on their performance in committee sessions.

A larger debate is carried out during plenary sessions, in which awards are also awarded for speaking ability.

Meal times are quite different. During lunch, foreign delegates

cheer. This involves screaming spirited cheers to express school spirit and congress love. Cheering, too, is competitive. Unlike in committee, here, the loudest is the best.

This time, it was Lawrence's turn to host. The *Mardi Gras* themed LMC XLIV was a great success. Despite some

disruption due to the inclement weather on Saturday, most delegations stayed all weekend and enjoyed all Lawrence had to offer. The traditional talent show was awe-inspiring as always, and artistic talent was unveiled in the carnival mask-making contest.

But which delegation was the *best*? The

decision was a difficult one, as every delegation was excited to attend the first overnight congress of the season. This time, it was Hewlett. They came prepared to win, with creative cheers, hot debates, feathery masks, and polite decorum.

Though the biggest event of the year is over for Lawrence Model Congress, five congresses remain for our winning.

Model Congress is a great club. It promotes the development of social and public speaking skills and is a fun time overall.

Regardless of personal weakness, in a family like Lawrence Model Congress, there is something for everyone. The best speakers win awards, the songwriters write cheers, and the artists participate in the artistic entertainment sessions.

With that said, there's always room for one more at LMC!



MIKKI ASCH / HEWLETT MODEL CONGRESS

Best D | The board members of both delegations pose with Hewlett's shiny new trophy.

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

Holiday Word Search

Made by Victoria Miller

- | | |
|-------------|-----------|
| ANGEL | HOLIDAY |
| BALLDROP | HOTCOCO |
| BELLS | KWANZAA |
| CANDYCANE | LIGHTS |
| CAROLS | MENORAH |
| CELEBRATE | MISTLETOE |
| CHRISTMAS | NEWYEARS |
| COAL | ORNAMENTS |
| COLD | PRESENTS |
| DECORATING | RECEIVING |
| DREIDEL | RUDOLPH |
| ELVES | SANTA |
| FAMILY | SCARVES |
| FUN | SNOW |
| GINGERBREAD | SNOWMAN |
| GIVING | SWEATERS |
| HANUKKAH | TORAH |

HOLIDAY



RESERVATIONRESOURCES.COM

Rockin' Around Manhattan | The tree at Rockefeller Center is a holiday favorite that attracts tourists from all over the country. When the lights go on and the snow begins to fall, it is a focal point for couples, families, and of course, Instagram selfies.

The History Behind the Rockefeller Center Christmas Tree

BY CHEONGMI HWANG

When Christmas season rolls around, many people think of the giant Christmas tree at Rockefeller Center in NYC. Millions of people visit the Rockefeller Center to take pictures, but do we know the history behind the tree?

New Yorkers first put up a Christmas tree in Rockefeller Center in 1931. This was during the

Great Depression and the people who were employed were so thankful, they decorated the tree with cranberries, paper garlands, and tin cans. As years went on, decorations for the tree became more elaborate and live broadcasting of the decoration first took place in 1946. The largest Rockefeller Center's tree was 100 years old, 100 foot tall, and weighed 10 tons.

Many of the trees were donated to the Rockefeller Center. Helicopters would be flown in areas such as Connecticut, Vermont, Ohio, upstate New York, and Canada, and when the desirable tree is located, a crane supports the tree as it is being cut and is then moved to New York in a trailer. Most of the Christmas trees that have been chosen were a Nor-

way spruce. For the past 10 years, the company, Swarovski, has made the star. The tree stays lit until Epiphany, which is a Christian feast. Then it is removed and recycled for different uses. Since 2007, the tree has been milled and treated into lumber that has been donated to Habitat for Humanity for house construction.

This year's tree was put up on December

4. It is 76 foot tall, weighs 12 tons, and 75 years old. The tree was donated by a family in Shelton, Connecticut who had it growing in their front yard. It is decorated with 45,000 energy efficient, multi colored LED lights. The tree is topped by a 9.5 foot wide, 550 pound star that is made out of 25,000 Swarovski crystals. The tree will be up until January 7, 2014.

Source: NY Daily News

The History Behind the Times Square Ball Drop

BY VICTORIA MILLER

Every year, we celebrate the New Year by watching a huge ball drop, but why? Why do we gather around TVs or meet in the "Big Apple" just to watch a dazzling, lit-up ball descend from the top of a pole? Why New York? Why do we use a *ball*, and where exactly did this idea come from? How long has this been a tradition? Do you know the answer to any of these questions? I didn't either until I decided to do some research!

The idea of a ball dropping has been a traditional act since the 1870's to keep track of time.

Buildings near European ports would have a ball that would descend from a pole at 12:00 pm so that people could reset their watches or ship chronometers.

The Western Union Building in New York adopted this method of keeping time. To make sure the time was synchronized with other places, the signal for the ball dropping would come from Washington, D.C. When it was time for everyone to reset their



A Lasting Tradition | Though first used to welcome 1908, the ball drop continues to signify the start of a new year.

watches, a telegraph sent from Washington D.C. to the Western Union building signaled the ball to drop. Sometimes when this method didn't work and the ball would drop, Western Union would put a red flag up instead from 12:01 to 12:10 so that the people could still reset their watches. By

doing this, the whole town would run on a standard time.

The ball drops in New York is because *The New York Times* incorporated this idea into the celebration of the 1908 new year. The new year would be represented through this traditional method of keeping track of time. The idea was that people would reset their watches when the ball dropped; this would be symbolic of the how the New Year would

begin.

The ball is now 11,875 pounds, 12 feet in diameter, and illuminated by 32,256 LEDs. While Mayor Bloomberg pretends to initiate the ball dropping the push of a button, a technician is actually the one who keeps track of the time and pushes it. The New Year's Eve ball has become a universal symbol for the New Year and many people today come from all places to watch it drop in Times Square. So when you celebrate New Year's this year, think about how you are probably one of the few people who knows why we celebrate with a ball dropping.

Source: IB Times

NEWS

Batkid Swoops in and Saves the Day

BY
CARINA KOHN

Crime was in the air on Friday, November 15th, and San Francisco, which later became known as “Gotham City”, was in dire need of a hero. The fine line between comic book fiction and reality dissolved for the day as the Penguin meticulously planned a bank robbery and a “damsel in distress” awaited her savior, strapped to cable-car tracks. But as the city fell deeper and deeper into the grip of evil, a superhero was called to the rescue. But it wasn’t Batman, if that’s who you were thinking.

The hero called upon was someone more tangible, someone who exists outside the outlines sketched with a pen, someone who despite having only walked on earth for a mere five years, is the bravest and most heroic of us all.

Miles Scott, better known as “Batkid,” was diagnosed with acute lymphoblastic leukemia when he was 20 months old. His one dream had always been to be a superhero just

like his role model, Batman. The Make-A-Wish Foundation made his dream a possibility, and organized staged crime scenes with volunteers who dressed as Batman’s enemies and civilians in peril. Batkid arrived with his younger brother, who appropriately dressed as Robin, Batman’s sidekick, in a “Batmobile” (Lamborghini decorated with Batman logos). The Make-A-Wish Foundation hoped that a few hundred people would volunteer to support Batkid, however when Batkid and Robin got out of their car, they were greeted by smiles, cheers, and tears of joy from more than 12,000 spectators.

The event, in as little as a few hours, had become a social media phenomenon; excitement, pictures, and Batkid’s heartwarming story soared around the web on sites such as twitter and instagram. Even the president had something to say about this remarkable day and posted a Vine, thanking Batkid for saving the city.



A Pint-Sized Hero | Miles Scott saves the day disguised as Batkid.

Towards the end of Batkid’s mission, the crowd was bigger than ever. Everyone was dressed in Batman related outfits, and Batkid T-shirts were being sold for 20 dollars.

All proceeds were donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Batkid, like every good superhero, received a key to the city at City Hall from San Francisco mayor, Ed Lee. His key, however, was made of

chocolate, and there is no sweeter reward for a five-year-old. Batkid left with a smile larger than life, and a place in everyone’s hearts. The Mayor told him that they “might need to signal for [his] help” one day soon, and although he wasn’t called back to San Francisco, he was needed in New York City, where celebrity rapper, Pitbull, was being held hostage.

In times of strife, people often look to oth-

ers for help, for a hero. Miles needed a hero more than ever to give him the strength to fight his cancer and yet he’d rather help others and be a hero himself. It’s no wonder his story has gone viral. We can all learn something from Batkid, who is now thankfully in remission. His father, Nick Scott, shared that “chemo is all he’s ever known...but this is kind of a way to celebrate its ending.”

Exclusive Interview with Mr. Bascardi

BY NARIEMA
SHIVMENGAL

Mr. Bascardi met with the *Mental Pabulum* to tell us some basic and interesting facts about himself.

When were you born?

I was born on March 22, 1977.

Do you have siblings?

I have one brother, Vinny.

How would you describe yourself?

I’m an easygoing homebody. I’m a thinker and a blue collar, liberal American.

Do you play any sports?

I play tennis, paintball, and tackle football on Thanksgiving.

What are your hobbies and passions?

I enjoy reading, playing tennis, cooking, and gardening. I love collecting baseball cards, watching and reading about *Star Wars*, and writing poetry.

What kind of music do you listen to?

I love all music that has lyrics. I love rap, 80’s love songs, and Billy Joel.

What’s your favorite movie?

Unforgiven.

Who is your favorite celebrity?

Jimmy Super Fly Snooka is my favorite WWF superstar.

Who is your idol?

Ricky Henderson.

If you could, with whom would you switch lives?

The RZA AKA Bobby Digital AKA Jaime Summers.

What’s an interesting memory from your childhood?

When my mom told me she had eyes behind my head.

Tell us something unique about yourself.

I lived with my grandma for six years in my twenties, and she taught me how to be successful and that tough love works.

What is your dream?

I hope to publish a screenplay.

What would you like to do before you die?

I want to see the Great Pyramid of Giza, be alive to witness the first man to take a walk on mars, and I hope to take a vacation on the moon.

What is your life’s mission?

I want to help people.

If you could give advice to a large group of people, what would it be?

Don’t get upset over things you can’t change. Work hard.

**Join the
Mental
Pabulum!**

Meetings
Every
Monday
Morning in
Mr. Vega’s
Classroom

~ * ~

ENTERTAINMENT



“Bows” | (From the left) Noemi Viola, Christina Sanders, Patricia Magliaro (middle), Sabrina Perry, and Marcela Contreras perform the song with grace.

One Singular Sensation—Lawrence’s *A Chorus Line*

BY
CARINA KOHN

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the Lawrence drama club put on the groundbreaking musical of its time, “A Chorus Line.” Not only did this play make history in the world of theater due to its originality, but it made history in Lawrence High School as well. After twenty seven years of showcasing a different play each fall, this was the first year that Mr. Buckley had ever repeated a show. “Putting on a show that had already been done

once is a little intimidating,” shares Senior Bradley Rubenstein, who played Mike Costa, “but we did our best to live up to their example, and make it our own in the process.”

As our drama club worked tirelessly but happily to put on the best show they possibly could, the students in Hewlett High School’s drama club were doing the same. They, too, put on “A Chorus Line” on the same weekend, and here’s where the coincidences get scary: it is also the first time that their

director, Mr. Lastowski, had ever repeated a play! The cast members in Hewlett came to support our production on our opening night and we returned the favor on Saturday. Marianna Santostefano, a sophomore who played Kristine, shared that “in drama, you form a bond with your cast so much so that it feels like everyone’s family, but it was also nice to form a bond with the cast members of Hewlett.

“A Chorus Line” is about a group of dance auditioners who share their life stories with di-

rector, Zach, played by Brandon Brumm. It happens to be one of my favorite plays and I feel so blessed that I was able to be a part of it for my last musical at Lawrence. After the bows on Saturday night, I already began to feel the wistful pangs of my desire to perform this musical one last time--to experience just one more animated moment with my cast mates on the stage.

Along with the seniors, this year will also be Mr. Buckley’s last official year with us as he had announced his retirement

after the Saturday night show. But not to worry, we can save all the “goodbyes” for later because there are still two more Buskins plays around the corner, and Mr. Buckley says that there is a chance he may still be directing the musicals in the next couple of years.

“Thank you to all who came to support the show! The entire cast of “A Chorus Line” did incredible and the memories we created will be with us forever, perhaps the same way a play lives on, never subject to time.



“I Hope I Get It” | (From the left) Simone Smith as Connie, Arnel Apura as Greg, Patricia Magliaro as Cassie, Carina Kohn as Sheila, Brandon Morales as Bobby, and Tamara Gonzalez perform the opening number.



“One” | (From the left) Tamara Gonzalez, Brandon Morales, Shelly Goldman, Marianna Santostefano, Owen Dredger dance in this scene.

ENTERTAINMENT

A Glowing Review of *The Hunger Games: Catching Fire*

BY
THOMAS LIRA

Arguably one of the more anticipated movies of the year, *Catching Fire* is the sequel to the previous and very popular movie *The Hunger Games*. *Catching Fire* attempts to rekindle the same interest viewers had in the first movie with an enticing plot, star-studded cast, and eye-popping visuals. Whether or not these factors achieved their intended effect in the production of *Catching Fire* will be discussed in this article.

that a "Quarter Quell" will take place in which the previous victors of the past 24 hunger games will fight once again, including Katniss and Peeta. Arguably the best part of the movie is the story and its message; it's based on what I consider the best book of the series and it is reflected well. While some parts of the book are not included in the movie, the directors did not severely divert the storyline. You wouldn't notice the differences without reading

Peeta Mellark is played by Josh Hutcherson. He also did an excellent job in representing how devoted Peeta is to Katniss throughout the film and perfectly captured his character.

Effie Trinket, played by Elizabeth Banks, demonstrates a pivotal change in attitude and shows that she really does care for Katniss and Peeta. This is shown in her small gestures of kindness, whereas in the previous movie she appears to feel more distant

others actors is able to portray his character well. At intimate moments, like the those with Katniss, Liam depicts the character of Gale the best.

Finnick Odair is played by Sam Claflin and is, in my opinion, all right. My only gripe is that Finnick seems more cocky and arrogant as opposed to how he is depicted in the book, where he is able to charm everybody.

Other than Finnick, all the characters are por-

vive against the many "obstacles" in the arena. While the visuals are pleasing, they don't distract you from what's going on in the story and effectively add to the movie, which is great.

OVERALL IMPRESSION

The movie was great and I thoroughly enjoyed it. The actors, the plot, and the visuals were all excellent. If you didn't watch the first Hunger Games movie, you will still be able to fully enjoy the movie without reading or watching the first one



ETHAN SACKS / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS

Remember Who the Enemy is | When their victory in the 74th Hunger Games sparks a rebellion in the Districts of Panem, how will Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark as the Capitol's newest targets?

THE PLOT

This movie picks up right after the first one ends, with Katniss Everdeen and Peeta Mellark as the victors of the 74th Hunger Games (in which they had to fight tributes from other districts to survive). President Snow informs Katniss that she has inspired rebellion in the Districts and that she must avert these acts of rebellion and convince the people that she is on the side of the Capitol by maintaining her fake love for Peeta. Eventually, it is announced

the book. Otherwise, the movie embodies and stays true to the general feel of the book.

THE CAST

The actors' portrayal of the characters remain true to the novel and they do a great job.

Katniss Everdeen is played by Jennifer Lawrence and does a superb job. She excellently portrayed her worry for survival in the "Quarter Quell" and her contempt for the Capitol and President Snow.

because she is forced to be with them. This time Effie isn't just comic relief but is now she is a team player and tries to help them however she can.

Haymitch Abernathy is played by Woody Harrelson and while he doesn't see to much screen time, he still captures Haymitch's character just as well as he did in the first movie.

Gale Hawthorne is played by Liam Hemsworth and just like the

trayed well and this is evident throughout the film.

AESTHETICS

Visually, the movie was aesthetically pleasing as well. These visuals are especially noticeable at scenes where Katniss and Peeta's iconic fire tribute clothing are on. Another great example of the visuals is when Katniss' wedding dress turns into a Mockingjay dress at the tribute interviews, or during the "Quarter Quell" when the tributes are trying to sur-

because this movie does an excellent job of catching the audience up. So even if you didn't like the first one, you should consider watching the *Catching Fire* because it is much more interesting and thrilling than the first one.

In conclusion, if you are a fan of the books or the last movie you should definitely watch this, and even if you haven't seen the last movie or read the last book, you can still thoroughly enjoy it.

MY OVERALL RATING:

★★★★☆

ENTERTAINMENT

Scary Good—*Call of Duty: Ghosts* Does not Disappoint

BY BRANDON
BERKOWITZ

Call of Duty: Ghosts is the tenth main game in the *Call of Duty* franchise. It's on all major platforms. This game was released on November 5 for PC, Wii U, Xbox 360, and PS3, and on November 15 and 22 for PS4 and Xbox One respectively. It's basically the same on all platforms, except now PC and the new consoles can support more players and the Ground War gametype.

This game is basically a standard *Call of Duty* game – the usual shoot and kill – except that it has a few new gametypes. One of them is Blitz (my favorite). In Blitz, the object is to reach the enemy team's base without getting killed, and then step on the scoring zone; when you reach the scoring zone you get set back

to your base. You also have to defend your scoring zone at the same time. Another new game mode is Cranked, but that's just a standard Team Deathmatch with a bonus for getting quick kills and a punishment for not getting quick kills.

Another feature of this game not present in other *CoD* games is Extinction. Aliens invaded Earth and set up nests that you have to run around and destroy with a drill and an occasional helicopter. They jump at you like dogs or use their tails to shoot acid at you. You earn money, and buy fortifications within each match. You rank up in Extinction separately from Multiplayer. This is fairly similar to *Zombies* in past *CoD* titles, but it has minor differences.

A completely

new feature in *Ghosts* is Squads. You use ten characters that you are allowed to create in Multiplayer and you set them against enemy controlled bots or another player's Squad. It is a completely new twist to the *CoD* series. This replaced SpecOps from previous *CoD* games.

All-in-all, *Call of Duty: Ghosts* is a good game. It is not as beginner-friendly as past *Call of Duty* games, but it does not award veteran players with an advantage. It brings new possibilities to the table, which is un-



common for *Call of Duty* games. If you need a holiday present for someone, this game is a good

choice.

MY OVERALL RATING:

★★★★☆

CALLOFDUTY.COM

Snickerdoodles

-Victoria Miller

In a large mixing bowl, combine the 1 ½ cups of sugar, butter, and eggs. Beat at medium speed of electric mixer till light and fluffy. Add flour, cream of tartar, baking soda, nutmeg, and salt. Beat at low speed until soft dough forms. Cover with plastic wrap and chill for 1 to 2 hours, or until firm.

Heat oven to 375°F. In a small bowl, combine cinnamon and the 2 tablespoons of sugar set aside. Shape the dough into 1-inch balls and roll in cinnamon mixture. Place the balls 2 inches apart on ungreased cookie sheets. Flatten the dough balls a little. Bake for 10 to 12 minutes, or until light golden brown. Let cool for 1 minute before removing from cookie sheets. Cool completely before storing. Store in air tight container.



INGREDIENTS:

- 1 ½ CUPS OF SUGAR
- 2 TABLESPOONS OF SUGAR SET ASIDE
- 1 CUP OF BUTTER OR MARGARINE, SOFTENED
- 2 EGGS
- 2 ¾ CUPS OF FLOUR
- 2 TEASPOONS CREAM OF TARTAR
- 1 TEASPOON OF BAKING SODA
- ½ TEASPOON OF GROUND NUTMEG
- ½ TEASPOON OF SALT
- 2 TABLESPOONS OF GROUND CINNAMON

EDUCATION

Every Student's Sickness: Dealing with Stress

BY
SIMONE SMITH

We all know the feeling: sleepless nights, overwhelming thoughts, and nervous habits. You might be stressed. But what is stress exactly?

According to helpguide.org, stress is a normal physical response to events that make you feel threatened or upset your balance in some way.

Stress, in this aspect, is the body's way of protecting you. When uti-

lized in the right way, stress can help you stay focused, energized, and alert. Often times, however stress can be less helpful and it can cause problems with your health, your mood, and even your relationships.

Biologically speaking, the stress response results from the production and emission of a hormone called corticosteroid, which is released by the adrenal gland. The adrenal cortex also releases stress hor-

mones called cortisol, which suppresses the immune system. In other words, too much stress can cause symptoms such as weight gain and increased irritability.

Senior year is a very critical and stressful point in school, but stress is not limited to seniors or even high school students; almost everyone experiences stress.

There are different methods of handling stress levels and ease

anxieties. The most popular method is through meditation.

Meditation has helped people become less anxious and it's improved emotional stability, and helped increase happiness and creativity.

Meditation is a simple and relaxing way to ease tensions in your body and mind. Plus, the health benefits are great!

Other methods, such as releasing muscle tension, also help ease the effects of stress. Pro-

gressive muscle relaxation can help control stress and anxiety levels by helping you become physically aware of the sensations in your body that cause stress.

Deep breathing and "letting go of thoughts" have also been proven to help reduce stress levels. No matter which method you use to reduce stress, always remember to smile and stay positive.

A College Education: Weighing the Pros and Cons

BY
STEFANY DIAZ

As high school students near graduation, their next step is usually a choice between entering full time employment or continuing on a higher education. Each choice is followed with advantages and disadvantages. It's important to think about a career you would like, how much would you be able to pay for this career, how well your preparation is, and what your lifelong goals are.

Advantages of College Education

According to the National Center for Education Statistics, the average income for a college graduate would be \$45,000, in comparison to \$29,000 for a high school graduate a year.

Careers that are

required to have a college education are most likely to provide benefits such as job flexibility, insurance benefits and retirement funds. College provides a better perspective on society, and a better perspective on global thinking. In addition, college graduates are also most likely to enjoy job security.

Advantages of a High School Diploma

There are some careers that do not require an additional four years of college education, for example an auto mechanic, real estate agent, fitness trainer, or plumber. If this may be one of your interests, an internship may be a better choice, instead of going to college. Careers such as the arts sometimes may not require a college education. So it

would be easier to seek job opportunities directly after high school. Sometimes, a college degree is not required, in order to be wealthy. An example of this would be Bill Gates.

Disadvantages of a College Education

Sometimes going to college can be hard. Students that can't pay for college usually would rely on student loans. In the case of a doctoral career path, students would have to rely on student loans because the career itself is so expensive.

Students will be in debt because of a career that requires you to pay a lot of money. According to a report, a while back in 2011, college graduates entered the work world with over \$26,000 in student loan debt. Compounding is-

sues of being in debt, student loans are usually not eligible for loan forgiveness programs such as bankruptcy. There have been high rates of unemployment that leave almost a third of college graduates employed in jobs unrelated to their field of study. This has made loans that are repayable more of a challenge.

Disadvantages of a High School Diploma

A high school diploma provides less chances in seeking employment in uncertain economic times than a college education would do. High school graduates have a higher unemployment rate in comparison to college graduates. In February, 2013 The Atlantic reported that the unemployment rate for people with college de-

grees was 3.7 percent versus 12 percent for people with high school diplomas. Also, high school graduates that are employed have lifetime earning potential of almost half of college degree holders.

There would be many advantages or disadvantages whether you are a high school graduate ready to be fully employed or a high school graduate that is going for additional education years to pursue your career. High school students that have yet to graduate, should have a goal in mind that will lead them towards their future. Students that are planning to go to college should start thinking about if what they will be studying for their career is something that they like learning, if it's in their own capacity, and if it's the right decision for you.

(Continued from page 4)

seats with the Maserati logo on the headrest, offer comfort while maintaining the overall feel of the car. The dashboard keeps with the curvy lines of the car's exterior and does not emphasize the geometric display screen; this is partially achieved by the fact that the screen has rounded

edges to fit in. Again, in an effort to maintain the traditional feel of driving a Maserati, the Ghibli possesses the usual blue-faced aluminum clock over the display screen on the dashboard.

When the Ghibli makes its appearance in showrooms in the fall of 2014, it will come in four

models: Ghibli; Ghibli S; Ghibli S Q4; and Ghibli Diesel. These models will allow the driver a choice and a way to express his preferences. The interior leather will be offered in three colors- Nero, Cuoio, and Sabbia- that can be done individually or in a two tone- Nero/Cuoio. The brushed steel

pedals and rubber footrest will allow for optimal comfort while driving the Ghibli. The standard exterior trim around the door panels is in black while the colors for the car itself are endless.

If you wish to keep up to date with the Maserati Ghibli, you can go on to

www.maseratighibli.us. You can also view the #MaseratiGhibli page on Twitter to see what people are saying as well as visit the Maserati page on Facebook for updates. Whether it will help Maserati bring in a new wave of buyers or whether it will remain unsold, the 2014 Ghibli will certainly be revolutionary to the world of Maserati.

LAWRENCE SPORTS



DAVE ANDERSON / MSG VARSITY

A Decisive Math | It was a close game, but Lawrence's Golden Tornadoes came out victorious in the end, winning us the Long Island Championships for yet another year.

Three Cheers for Our Champions!

BY JUSTIN MAHABIR

For the second consecutive season the Lawrence Golden Tornadoes are Long Island conference III champions as they defeated the Huntington Blue Devils 41-32 before a lively and frost bitten crowd at Stony Brook University.

Leading 34-26 mid way through the fourth quarter, a "Joe Capobianco 46-yard

punt" left Huntington pinned inside their own 10 and set-up the decisive blow of the game.

Lawrence's defense, which scored the game-winning touchdown in last year's title game on an "Eddie Robinson interception", came up big again when Michael Spinelli forced a fumble on first down that Sean Moran jumped on in the end zone for a

touchdown, extending the lead to 41-26.

Huntington, who trailed 34-18 at the half, had gotten back into the game after a 44-yard touchdown run by Levar Butts to open the third quarter, followed by an interception on a first and goal at the 10.

The interception put a halt to Lawrence's marathon 14-play drive that began at their own 24 and

gave the Blue Devils the opening they had been looking for.

After converting two 3rd and 1's and a 4th and 2, Huntington was forced to punt on a 4th and 3 from their own 47, giving the ball back to Lawrence.

Even though Lawrence would go three and out, it led to Capobianco's clutch punt and ultimately the defensive score that put the game out of

reach.

The victory caps off an 11-1 season for Lawrence as they capture their second consecutive Long Island championship and third in eight years. They finish the season scoring 493 points, averaging over 41 points a game.

Congratulations, again, team! Next year, can our team pull this achievement off for a third year in a row?