



# Jericho

AN AWARD WINNING HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER

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## Jericho lends Haiti a helping hand

By **Nadia Sikander**

Upon hearing of the earthquake in Haiti, a small island nation in the Caribbean, countries around the world responded with pledges and donations offering to help the decimated nation.

On Jan. 12, 2010 at 4:53pm, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.0 hit Haiti and lasted 30-40 seconds. Even though the time scale is very small, this earthquake caused severe damage, leveling homes, hospitals, and schools. There have been many deaths; the number reaching 200,000. There are over one million people still homeless and in search of their surviving family members.

Here at Jericho High School, students and teachers are doing what they can to help.

"It's a tragic situation, but I'm glad Jericho is helping out," said senior Josh Roberts.

Student Council, National Honor Society, and Blue Key Club col-

lectively raised approximately \$2500 to donate to the American Red Cross. Other clubs involved include the Italian Honor Society and Tri-M.

According to Guidance Counselor Mary Jo Moriarty who advises the Blue Key Club and National Honor Society, Blue Key joined forces with Student Council and delayed their "Pennies for Patients" campaign to next month.

"Blue Key members raised money by selling chips and water at the Jericho vs. Roslyn basketball game as well as during the course information fair," Moriarty said. She also said that many of the National Honor Society students helped out at course information night collecting canned goods to send to the citizens of Haiti.

"Together we are all trying to make a difference," she added.

According to Lauren Weiner, junior class treasurer, the student council chose to donate Battle

of the Classes money to Haiti because they were shocked by pictures in the media depicting the devastation. "It means a lot to me that I helped donate a significant amount of money to help other people," Weiner said.

Student Council members are happy to help.

"I feel proud to be a part of a community like Jericho because even though our community is stable, we don't hesitate to unify with each other to help others around the world facing adversity. Everyone in Jericho cares so much," said junior class president Nicole Ripka.

"We would love to increase the high school community donation," said Chemistry teacher and Student Council advisor Theone Rinaudo. In an email to the staff, Rinaudo told teachers to see her if they were interested in contributing to the JHS American Red Cross donation.

"I'm really proud of the efforts that the students are putting forth in or-

der to raise money," said math teacher Ellen Deutsch. "Students at Jericho High School should be involved in world events."

According to sophomore Hannah Lim, The Community Service club is selling bracelets for \$2 each and will be having a bake sale in the coming weeks in order to aid Haiti. The National Chinese Honor Society held bake sales to raise money and donated the money through the Clinton Bush Haiti Relief Fund.

Senior William Gusmanov said, "We should donate more goods to those in need; the situation there is horrible."

"Although our impact may be small, any amount of effort will help," said senior Blair Seideman.

*Sophomore Jenna Levine and junior Taylor Katz contributed to this story.*

## Snowfall closes school for three days

By **Amanda Ritter**

Collaborating with meteorologists and neighboring superintendents, Jericho Superintendent Hank Grishman decided to close school for two consecutive days on Feb. 10 and 11, and again on Feb. 26, due to the hazardous blizzard conditions.

According to English teacher Mary Bauer, the last time Jericho had

two consecutive snow days was in 1996. In fact, the Superintendent himself referred to this incident as an "all time Grishman first."

Losing three days of class time has caused some teachers and students to stress over their academic responsibilities. "Many teachers have had to readjust their instruction," said Principal Joe

Prisinzano. In addition, many tests had to be rescheduled. Grishman said, "It becomes negative when you miss a lot of instruction and a significant number of days are lost."

According to English teacher Mellene Hederian, "There's a lack of continuity already when we break for a vacation, and this was only exacerbated by being off for snow days."

The winter concert had to be postponed due to the snow days, as well as play practice for *Annie Get Your Gun*. According to Prisinzano, students in *Annie Get Your Gun* had to make up for play practice by having an in-school field trip for rehearsal on Mar. 1.

Science teacher Reena Bhasin said she had less time for the unit she was teaching because of the days off.

Students have reported that AP Physics B teacher Karen Engelhardt is teaching through the four minute breaks between double periods.

Along with Jericho, 124 Long Island school districts had two consecutive snow days such as Syosset and Roslyn. However, some schools such as Babylon only closed one day.

"The snow days were much needed, unexpected breaks from the hectic school day," said freshman Cynthia Kallif. "I went sledding, built a snow man...the works."

"When I found out there was a snow day, I was so happy and I freaked out," said senior Jesse Aronica.

Senior Caroline Motschwiller was also happy to have a snow day.

"I called all my friends and we went sledding through the snow storm," she said.

Grishman believes that the students and faculty can work with one another to make up for the lost school days in an effective manner.



# The show must go on

## Fashion show continues despite cuts

By Lexi Garay

Because the school budget did not include funds for Fashion Show this year, directors Sarah Wilner, Katie Landsman, Danielle Warren, Ariel Feldberg, and Georgie Morris raised five thousand dollars to hold the show.

According to Assistant Principal Maureen Appiarus a collaborative decision was made by administration, the Jericho Teacher's Association, the Parent Teacher Association, and the student council to cut the fashion show from the school budget.

"The 20,000 dollar budget cut forced us to prioritize club offerings," Appiarus said. "Other clubs were cut also." Clubs with only a few members like the Stock Market Club were cut. Appiarus said clubs were evaluated based on attendance, their service to the community, and educational value. Appiarus said the budget

continued to fund academic clubs such as Honor Societies, but it needed to be reduced because community taxes could not be increased.

The directors of Fashion Show announced that the club needed to raise at least about four thousand dollars to have the show. This money was needed to pay for the DJ, the lighting, the TV screen setup, and the clothing.

The senior class decided to set up a raffle to help raise the money for this very popular event. The directors auctioned off a parking spot and in order to participate, seniors had to buy raffle tickets. Brandon Casiola, who bought 50 raffles, won the spot. All of the proceeds went toward the show. Students said the raffle was a huge success.

Fashion show is a very popular school event that a

majority of the school attends. It is a fun night of comedy, dancing, strutting, and new fashions. "Fashion show was a lot of fun to be a part of, especially because I did it with my friends," said junior Austen Stein. "Also, the money went to a great cause."

All money made on the tickets sold for Fashion Show went to The National Children's Cancer Society. The N.C.C.S. offers the families of children diagnosed with cancer a wide range of programs such as direct financial and emotional support, education and hope.

Through the support of donors, the N.C.C.S. has provided more than \$47 million in direct financial assistance during the past 22 years to the families of more than 25,000 children with cancer throughout the United States.

# Stony Brook trip offers college level learning

By Rebecca Liebenenthal and Sammy DeBello

The Journalism students and Senior Experience students gained hands-on experience and heard college-level lectures when they visited Stony Brook University on Nov. 17, from 9am to 3:30pm.

Newsday reporter and Journalism professor at Stony Brook Zack Dowdy lectured about freedom of the press, engaging Jericho students in a college-level discussion. He then gave the group a brief tour of the campus facilities.

The students also got to meet Marcy McGinnis, the Associate Dean of the school of journalism and has 35 years of experience with CBS. McGinnis told the group she was in college for 2 years and then became involved in journalism when she was nineteen years old.

"Ms. Bouler and I both admire her energy and her passion for the news," said

journalism teacher Mellene Hederian.

The students had many "favorite" parts of the trip. Junior Brett Schumer said, "I loved the newsroom because it showed how a real news station or journalism course would work." Many other students agreed that the newsroom was an authentic and state-of-the-art atmosphere because of its advanced equipment.

"The newsroom connects journalism students to the real world in that there is a ticker that keeps them in touch with what is happening up to the minute," said journalism teacher Mellene Hederian.

McGinnis explained how the room supports the student's education because there is current, live journalism practiced at all times.

"I was able to put myself in the shoes of an everyday journalist," sophomore Rachel Silverman said.

While students loved the trip to Stony Brook University, some found it extremely challenging. Schumer said, "Mr. Dowdy treated us as college students and that was intimidating. Some of us are only fifteen."

Junior Seth Kornfeld and junior Kelly Yoo were unsure as to why Dowdy referred to his lecture as "a brief summary of journalism" when it was actually five pages long.

Students also took turns reading from a teleprompter in the Broadcasting studio on campus and had the chance to discuss the difference between a news anchor's responsibility and a field reporter's.

The trip culminated in the campus art gallery where art works were on display. Freshman Megan Joseph said, "The art gallery we visited provided a different atmosphere with its white walls. My favorite painting was 'Strange Light' because it portrayed a serene desert."

## JerEcho

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## Toy Drive plays important role for kids

By Kelli Aibel

There's something about children's toys that makes the holidays that much brighter. The Blue Key Club set up a toy drive this December that collected gifts especially for the holidays. The Blue Key Club does different types of charity work each year and each event donates to a specific organization/foundation.

The toys collected this year were donated to the John Theissen Charity Foundation who donates to hospitals and



childcare facilities year round. The foundation is set up to help to improve the lives of sick and underprivileged kids throughout Long Island. "My officers chose this organization because it helps local needy and sick children, which is a touching subject for almost everyone," said Blue Key Club Advisor Mary Jo Moriarty.

Many kids who are underprivileged and don't have the opportunity to receive gifts from their families during the

holidays received the gifts collected by the Blue Key Club. Other kids that were sick and had to remain in hospitals over the holiday season also received gifts.

The specific toys Blue Key asked for were unwrapped toys for ages 12 & under. "We were very successful this year with our toy donations," Moriarty said. "Over 500 toys were collected from our club just for this holiday season."

## 5 selected as Intel semi-finalists

By Brett Schumer and Taylor Katz

Shelly Esque, Vice President of Intel's Corporate Affairs Group believes that "fostering a passion for math and science in today's youth is imperative for America's future success as a leader in innovation."

Demonstrating this important passion are the 5 Jericho seniors- Brittany Hsu, Pragma Kakani, Yvette Leung, Brandon

Li and Zachary Porges- who have been selected as Intel Science Talent Search (STS) Semi-Finalists in this year's competition.

This is the first time Jericho High School has had 5 students selected as Semi-Finalists in the Science Research category.

"This is a big deal," said Science Research teacher

Serena McCalla. "It is like a Nobel Prize for High School students." McCalla said that the young researchers put in many hours a week, including meeting with her on weekends in order to conduct their experiments.

Having worked in a lab before junior year, Brandon Li said he tried to use what he'd learned there in his research in water purification. "I tried to use

my knowledge and apply it to a problem," Li said.

The students' projects were diverse in subject matter, ranging from interpreting emotions using technology, to removing arsenic from water, to investigating dental stem cell growth.

"I was very excited," said Brandon Li. "I was proud that all my hard work materialized into rewards."

## School takes steps to prevent swine flu

By Jenna Levine, Samantha Ostrow and Deborah Bellomo

Should I get the swine flu shot? Is it safe? Is it more dangerous to get a new vaccine than it is to get the swine flu?

Just because the name is different doesn't mean that it is completely different from the regular flu; however, it is still more contagious than the regular flu, and health officials advise taking necessary precautions.

According to Health teacher Denise Romano the H1N1 (swine flu) cases have ranged from mild to severe. The disease itself has never killed anyone directly but has only caused problems with underlying issues, like heart problems. Many people have recovered without a doctor's visit just like patients do when they have the flu.

The good news about the vaccine is that it's available. The bad news is that there is a shortage. You can receive the vaccine at a local hospital, or call your doctor to see if he/she has the vaccine in stock. This

vaccine is just like the seasonal flu shot that is administered every year.

Out of 100 Jericho students interviewed about the H1N1 flu shot, 32% have received the shot already, and 12% of the ones who haven't gotten it, plan on getting it.

Many people are afraid of getting the H1N1 shot. 60% of the students we spoke to know someone who is opposed to this vaccine.

This vaccination is extremely new on the market and its symptoms and effects are still unknown. People are going to be cautious about it until they know more information.

School Nurse Iris Reshef reminds students and faculty to take precautions like washing your hands throughout the day with warm water and some soap. She also suggests coughing or sneezing into your elbow, which lowers the risk of spreading germs.

Another precaution after sneezing or coughing in a tissue is to remember to throw it out right away, and wash your hands

thoroughly. Another precaution is staying home if you have a fever and making sure it is gone for 24 hours before you leave the house.

In addition, Reshef does suggest that students and teachers carry around hand sanitizer just in case they aren't near a sink to wash their hands.

Reshef said that the school has been aware of the virus ever since it first started to break out and does recommend that everyone talk to their doctor about the flu vaccine.

Superintendent Hank Grishman says that both the middle school and high school have been washed down over the summer. He added that he is very aware of the H1N1 virus and has taken the necessary precautions such as disinfecting the bathrooms, the nurse's office, and the areas of the building that have the most traffic during the day.

He also added that the CDC (Center Of Disease Control) no longer advises that school should be shut down due to the epidemic. The school can shut down if there aren't enough students to teach, or enough teachers to teach the students.

### SWINE FLU

#### STATS:

**Out of 100 students polled, 32% had received the H1N1 vaccine as of January, 2010.**

**Out of 100 students polled, 65% knew someone opposed to getting the H1N1 vaccine.**

## Millmann, Bouler: artists, role models, teachers

By Rachel Anne John

After a whole day of teaching at Jericho High School, photography teacher Louise Millmann and English teacher Nadine Bouler don't just go home and leave their passion for art in school. Instead, these teachers create and submit their own artwork in galleries around the world.

Millmann, who creates media collages, and Bouler, who creates surrealist art, have been friends since their teenage years at Northport High School together where they both developed their crafts. "The funkiest kids in high school were artists," said Bouler.

Millmann, who has been teaching high school photography and digital arts classes for 21 years, attributes her unique style in photography to her teachers. "My high school teachers, Doris Rowe and Robert Burns encouraged me to pursue a career with my unique style of photography," she said. Her



**"A" IS FOR ART:** Nadine Bouler and Louise Millmann strike a pose at a local art show featuring their work.

teachers also helped her put together a portfolio which allowed her to win a four year photography scholarship to the School of Visual Arts in New York City.

In her art, Millmann says she utilizes mass produced media from the 1900s to the 1960s and

superimposes herself in the images. "I become the characters in the media," said Millmann. Her favorite artists are self-portrait artist Cindy Sherman, collage artist Matthew Rose, and friend and colleague Nadine Bouler.

Bouler says she was also inspired to follow an art career while

in high school. After her high school years, she received a Bachelor's degree in Art History from Stony Brook University and a Master's degree in English Literature at Hofstra University. Even though her teaching career focuses on English, she still follows her passion for visual art.

Bouler says she uses paper images, photographs, Photoshop and her imagination in her artwork. "I create surreal images that are like dreams," Bouler said.

Her favorite artists are Rene Magritte and Archibaldo (both surrealists). She also writes for her own architecture and design blog: [boulderdesigngroup.blogspot.com](http://boulderdesigngroup.blogspot.com).

Since they both were inspired to pursue art in high school, they offer advice to potential artists of our high school. Both say to keep creating art no matter what. "Make art often and don't worry about the result," said Bouler. "Enjoy every creation."

## Bode goes the distance once again

By Emily Gordon

Math teacher Paul Bode, a cross country runner from Jericho High School, has participated in five marathons—three on Long Island, one in the Hamptons, and one in New York City, and is planning to run another one in May, 2010.

Bode ran in high school, but gave it up for 15 years after he graduated from college. Recently, he realized he needed to become physically fit again.

A childhood friend suggested that he train with him to run in marathons. "I started running again just before I turned 40 to get back in shape in early 2005. I needed to lose weight and I signed up for a 10k in September of 2005."

Bode's love for running is back full force. "It was a great experience and I will sign up for the NYC Marathon again," he said.

"I am planning on running the Long Island Marathon in May of 2010," he said. "It is an amazing experience to be at the starting line with thousands of people."

Bode said one of his favorite aspects of marathons is

how so many people of different levels can come together for the same reason. "Each person has a different story; a different reason for being there but we all have to cover the same distance," Bode said.

The beloved math teacher also hopes to send an important message to his students. "It is important to stay fit. Be active. Find a sport that you enjoy and keep with it," he said. "Don't stop once you graduate high school. I now regret that I stopped running for 15 years after I graduated from college."

"Also, my own kids have seen me run (including the NYC Marathon) and I like the positive message that I am sending them about staying fit and setting goals and working towards reaching those goals."

Just like Bode had hoped, students have taken his advice. "I've had students that graduated come back for a visit and tell me that they started running to stay fit."

Now that Bode is back in shape he has run many more races. "I enjoy pushing myself," he said. "Running is a great sport



**CATCH ME IF YOU CAN:** Jericho High School's own Paul Bode is captured on camera by his colleague and friend, Social studies teacher Nick Marverantano.

because anybody can participate no matter what their ability level is."

Even though Bode is a great athlete now, he is also inspired

by other runners. "Most recreational runners have goals they like to accomplish and I enjoy setting such goals for myself," he says.

## Teacher, principal, now Assistant Super

By Padma Lingechetty

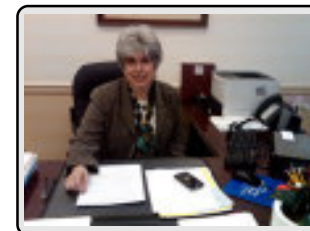
"I'm not sure that I chose education," she said, "but it chose me. I don't remember a time in my life when I didn't want to be a teacher."

Barbara Bauer, the current Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction, started in the Jericho School District in 1999. She came to Jericho for its reputation for excellence in education, and she has been here ever since.

Barbara Bauer started out as an elementary school teacher in Seaford, teaching students in various grades. With a keen interest in science, she also served as a Science Mentor.

Quickly, Bauer worked her way up to the principal of Seaford Harbor Elementary School and then became principal of Cantiague. During her time as principal she enjoyed working with a small community of students.

"[As an administrator] you have the joy of watching them over a larger period of time," Bauer said. "You get to see the whole child academically,



**"When you are a teacher, you have the joy of watching students grow to be the best they can be."**

socially, and emotionally, and you get to facilitate that growth."

It was only last year that she assumed the administrative job she performs today. As the Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction throughout the district, she realizes that students are probably not aware of what happens behind the doors of her office.

"I am seeing the fruition of all the Jericho students' work and planning what makes that happen," she said. Between answering phone calls, meeting with parents or colleagues, and observing classes, she loves

interacting with children and still finds time for this. "A couple of weeks ago, I greeted children as they got off the bus," she said.

Describing her responsibilities as "enjoyable, hard work," Bauer oversees our education and evaluates what works well in our classrooms. "We can continue to offer our students the very best in education," she said, "as well as the opportunity to grow as individuals."

Bauer told JerEcho the two most memorable teachers in her education were her second grade teacher and her high school history teacher. Bauer

said these two teachers "revolutionized learning and teaching" for her so much that they made her dream of becoming a teacher herself.

"My second grade teacher made learning into such an adventure, I couldn't wait to get up and go to school the next day," she said. Similarly, she remembers her high school history teacher turning history into a story.

"She brought history to life," Bauer said. "She made history understandable with a different perspective."

These teachers, she believes, demonstrate some of the best qualities teachers can possess: they teach beyond the curriculum and show every day that they really care about the students.

"When you are a teacher you have the joy of watching students grow to be the best they can be," Bauer said.

When she's not working, Barbara Bauer enjoys exploring her love of literature (one of her favorites is Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*) and listening to jazz.

## Seidman's successful set

By Marissa Karen

Serena Williams once said, "Luck has nothing to do with success in tennis because I have spent many, many hours, countless hours, on the court working for that one day when that special day would come." Captivated by tennis at age 6, senior Blair Seidman has continued passionately playing the game since. Success has been a major component of Seidman's career right from the start.

Seidman had participated in United States Tennis Association (USTA) tournaments since she was in the 5th grade. After constant victories, she has been ranked as high as 7<sup>th</sup> for the girls USTA age 18 competitions. "I love to compete and win," said Seidman.

Achieving the ranks of the number one girl in the Eastern United States and becoming the 2009 Nassau County Singles Champion have



**GAME, SET, MATCH:** Blair Seidman stands flanked by Superintendent Hank Grishman and Athletic Director Nancy Sarnnis.

helped Seidman to be recruited for the Yale tennis team in the fall of 2010. According to Seidman, during her high school career, Babolat, a tennis company, has sponsored Blair Seidman as a result of her steady ranking in the top ten girls in the county every year providing her

with racquets, shoes, clothing, bags, and grips.

Even athletes with such skill and achievements have role models who inspire them to be better. For Seidman, Serena Williams's power and desire to win motivates her to try to follow Williams's tactics on the court.

Not only was Seidman undefeated on the girl's varsity tennis team in Jericho, but she also took the initiative to be an example to her team mates by trying to instill determination in them. "I think I have inspired my teammates to work hard and believe in themselves on the court," said Seidman.

"I know that the experience has been more that just wins and losses, endorsements, and grueling practices," said Seidman. With that, she has realized that her tennis livelihood ultimately assisted the ability to deal with people off of the court by giving her more patience than she had before.

For Seidman, tennis has resulted with the capability to independently approach situations and take responsibility for her actions.

"Every match is a challenge and I love challenges," stated Seidman.

# The irony of it all:

## Obama sends more troops to end a war as he accepts Nobel Peace Prize

By Christina Chen

Did President Barack Obama make the right decision by sending 30,000 more United States troops to Afghanistan? That can be answered by another question: do two wrongs make a right? Sending more troops to the volatile country is adding fuel to the flames. And as any person with common sense knows, it's dangerous to play with fire.

On top of that, the President's plan is a mass of contradictions. He said that he would send 30,000 troops to Afghanistan...but he would start bringing American troops back in the middle of 2011. Why not bring the forces already in Afghanistan home at that time? 38,000 U.S. soldiers and many more from other countries have already failed to end the war. 30,000 troops are not apt to make a big difference. In his address about the war on Dec. 12, 2009, Obama said that he wanted to "bring this war to a successful conclusion." All wars conclude eventually, but not all are successful. And what of his bid for the Nobel Peace Prize? This award was presented to the man who sent more troops into fight a war. Obama will be prolonging the fight,



something that he has promised to stop. How's that for peaceful?

Obama also called for America's allies to join in. His argument? "Since 9/11, al Qaeda's safe havens have been the source of attacks against London and Amman and Bali." Joining a fight should be the personal decision of Britain, Jordan, and Indonesia alone. These countries should not be pressured into war by an ally. America has also called upon Pakistan to fight the Taliban more aggressively on its borders. The blunt message was furthered by the promise that America would use more force to shut down the attacks on the Pakistani border, if Pakistan did not comply.

If "...our success in Afghanistan is inextricably linked to

our partnership with Pakistan," as Obama argued in his speech, then why are we insisting that they kill their men as we are? It seems that Obama wants to bring as many nations as he can into the conflict. The world would be backtracking into the dark days of World War I and World War II, when nations would clash because of problems in allied countries. If we need the assistance of international forces to end the war, then we have bitten off more than we can chew. No more people should be sent to try to solve this problem.

The costs of the war are also taking a toll on the United States. In this time of economic recession, the costs of the war are heavy indeed. America has not fully funded various nuclear control efforts. Seventy-five to one hundred million children are not in

school. Instead of spending the one hundred billion dollars per year on the war in Afghanistan, why not use it for more noble and beneficial purposes?

Then there is the problem of motivation. In his speech on the campus of West Point Academy (December 12, 2009), Obama said in his speech, "I opposed the war in Iraq precisely because I believe that we must exercise restraint in the use of military force..." If he is so adverse to the war, then why continue it? And this speech was given in front of 4,000 West Point cadets, no less. He has a Cabinet of more than capable persons. Vice President Joseph R. Biden has much experience in government (he was the chairman of the Foreign Relations committee), Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, a former presidential candidate, graduated from Yale Law School and was a U.S. Senator. The two Cabinet members are among a variety of experienced, intelligent people. With all of their heads put together, these men and women can come up with an alternative solution to the war.

# Give gay community the right to marry

By Rachel Silverman and Marissa Karen

How would it make you feel if you were legally not allowed to be with the person you love? A major issue circulating around the world today is the same-sex marriage crisis. Legislative officials in New York shot down the gay marriage bill attempted to be passed on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. This decision was unfair and does not agree with an individual's legal freedom to life, liberty, and happiness. Thus, the opposition to gay marriage is unfair, selfish and immoral.

Conservative America has a fear of gay marriage for it challenges its fundamental beliefs. However, if one individual's happiness does not interfere with someone else's then why should that person suffer? Ignorance on the part of heterosexual community should

not be what justifies secluding others.

The isolation of gay people along with additional minorities is dividing America from a united country into various segregated groups. Yes, same-sex marriage is not a marriage by traditional definition, but people who are against gay marriage have this argument alone. Same-sex marriage should not be anyone's business, frankly, except the participants themselves.

Why do heterosexuals assume the right to interfere in relationships of which they are not a part? Such a crucial topic such as same-sex marriage needs to be deciphered in our time.

America promotes variety and diversity; however, halting the unification of gay people is shifting America away from what it stands for.



**Attention students: Do you like to write?  
Do you have opinions about the world?  
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## Dobbs, take your Republican jargon to Fox

By Nikko Price

An ardent CNN supporter, I have been long appalled by the partisanship and the arrogance on his show, Lou Dobbs Tonight.

Just last month, Dobbs criticized a "Meatless Monday" idea at a school in Baltimore. As the name suggests, the school cafeteria only serves vegetarian food and grilled cheese sandwiches on Mondays.

Dobbs has called this idea "a real political storm in the making." Okay, Lou, last time I checked, serving kids healthy food on one day of the week is not a "political storm in the making." Even though this fact does not exactly prove Dobbs to be a Republican, it does indeed show his utter ignorance.

According to Dobbs, advocacy journalism and biased,

partisan news networks should be the future of news media. Supposedly, the true purpose of a news organization is to benefit monetarily. If opinion is what works, inquires Dobbs, then why do away with it?

Now if I'm not mistaken, don't the American people have the right to an impartial, unprejudiced source of information? Does he aspire to create a nation in which the sole source of news is from an unreliable, partisan organization? Indubitably, a diverse and independent news media is essential to any free nation; but one that consists of only distorted news, consists of no news at all.

Throughout his tenure at CNN, Dobbs prided himself as "Mr. Independent." This cannot be further from the truth.

Before Lou Dobbs Tonight,



he was a self-proclaimed "lifelong Republican." In 2001, he donated \$1,000 to the Bush-Cheney campaign.

On his show, Dobbs perpetuates right-wing rumors and attacks on President Obama. After the presidential election, Dobbs aligned himself with the so-called "birthers", who suggested that Mr. Obama was not eligible for the presidency because of the fact that he was not born in the

United States. How can Mr. Dobbs even spread such insanity?

Dobbs' involvement with the "birthers" has received such widespread media attention, that even the comedian and television host, Bill Maher, demanded that Dobbs stop his nonsense: "Lou Dobbs has been saying recently that people are asking a lot of questions about the birth certificate. Yes, the same people who want to know where the sun goes at night. And Lou, you're their new king."

So thank you Mr. Dobbs for leaving CNN. Now you can continue perpetuating such meaningless right-wing hearsay, along with Glenn Beck and Bill O'Reilly on Fox; I'm

## Autism awareness is essential

By Helena Fistel

What is autism? Many people do not know what it really is. Most people just assume that it is synonymous with mental retardation.

Autism is a general term used to describe a group of complex developmental brain disorders known as Pervasive Developmental Disorders (PDD). The other pervasive developmental disorders are Asperger's Syndrome, Rett Syndrome and Childhood Disintegrative Disorder. Many parents and professionals refer to this group as Autism Spectrum Disorders.

There is a huge range on the autism spectrum, sometimes you would never even notice the person sitting next to you is on the spectrum. Today it is estimated that 1 in 150 children born will be on the autism spectrum.

Early Intervention is crucial for children who are on the Autistic Spectrum. Every child is entitled to free services provided by the government. It makes sense to treat an autistic child as early as possible. The reasons, though, are not research-based:

they're simple common sense. Preschoolers have no other obligations, so their whole day can be devoted to therapy (as opposed to academics). Two-year-olds have few ingrained habits, so it's relatively easy to stop negative behaviors before they become intractable. Even in the grocery store, bad behaviors can be tolerated. Once a child becomes older that kind of behavior in public could be embarrassing.

Many different services are offered such as speech, occupational therapy, physical therapy and more. You

may think that all of these services are expensive but the Early Intervention services are paid for by the government.

Early Intervention services are life changing. They can take a child from not talking, making no eye contact and sitting in a corner to playing with others, having conversations and making complete eye contact. With proper intervention and treatment, a child once diagnosed with PDD or ASD could be sitting next to you and you would never know it.

## Opposite sex roomies OK at Columbia

By Taylor Katz and Samantha Ostrow

Columbia University has recently introduced a new policy that will grant all sophomores, juniors and seniors the option of rooming with a student of the opposite sex. The new policy has caused extreme controversy on and off campus, as parents are beginning to get involved.

Although on paper the policy may be seen like a recipe for disaster, the reasons behind the new plan do make sense. In fact, about two dozen other universities throughout the country allow for co-ed roommates.

In respect to the gay and lesbian community, the policy helps them to feel more comfortable in their surroundings. It can be hard for someone who is straight to relate to their gay/lesbian roommate if they are of the same sex.

A gay student here at Jericho High School said, "I think that's so cool. I wasn't aware of the new policy at Columbia but I think it would make the gay community more comfortable, especially if they aren't yet comfortable with themselves."

Universities that are not willing to allow for co-ed rooming are making it hard for students to see

themselves as equals with the opposite sex. Why is it inappropriate for different genders to sleep in the same room in college when they will most likely be in the same situation within a few years?

If two students are dating, the new policy gives couples the option of getting to know each other much better and on a different level. It can really prepare them for what life may be like after college.

"Columbia is acknowledging a reality and protecting single roommates from having to share their rooms with couples," said Dr. Ruth Westheimer, a profound psychosexual therapist.

Think about it, most upperclassmen in college don't even live on campus- they get their own apartments. Since Columbia University is located in the heart of Manhattan, finding off campus housing is a battle itself. Then add the cost, and no college student can afford it. If students that attend any other university are sharing apartments off campus by the time they are sophomores, juniors and seniors with opposite-sex roommates, what's the big deal if they house together on campus?

## Affluence affects achievement

By Charles Rubinfeld

You may hear the phrases, "I hate school," or, "I can't stand coming here in the morning," from many of your peers (probably yourself included). I will admit, I have said this before when I have become frustrated. What many of us may not know is that we are the lucky ones.

I'm sure that by now, you know of our school's success. We have consistently been ranked in the "Top High Schools" list in Newsweek. In 2003, we were the fifth ranked school in the nation. Our 2007-2008 state tests rank us as the second best performing district in the entire state (that's out of 695 districts!).

If you look closely at our demographics, one stands out—"1% poor." Similarly, Syosset (<1% poor), Roslyn (4%), and Plainview

(1%) all ranked above the 95<sup>th</sup> percentile in state test scoring.

Looking at poorer districts, Westbury (63%), Hempstead (64%), and Uniondale (31%) all rank below the 20<sup>th</sup> percentile in state testing. Although there are a few anomalies, the relationship between poverty and test performance is seen throughout Nassau County.

What are the reasons for this?

The negative effects of poverty on a child's education are well documented. But what exacerbates this problem is funding among schools. According to the University of Washington's Center on Reinventing Public Education (CRPE) and Education Sector, "At every level of government—federal, state, and local—policymakers give more resources

to students who have more resources, and less to those who have less.

These funding disparities accumulate as they cascade through multiple layers of government, with the end result being massive disparities between otherwise similar schools."

Furthermore, a new study published in Newsday by the Long Island Index shows the huge disparities among schools on Long Island. In mostly white and affluent Cold Spring Harbor, parents spend thousands of dollars on tutors, and local sports boosters donate large amounts of money so the district can "afford to shoot hundreds of free T-shirts from a pop-up air gun to generate excitement at pep rallies." All of this is while in Hempstead, according to the study, students cannot write in workbooks because they are shared among several classes.

Is this how things should be? Shouldn't the poor and underprivileged children have more funds being invested in their education? We must ask ourselves why we have 124 districts with 124 vastly different outcomes. Taking a look at our school, are there things we can give up in order for Hempstead to be able to afford workbooks for all of their students? I would say yes.

If the use of textbooks and computers for longer periods of time allows other children to have basic educational opportunities everyone deserves, shouldn't we do it? Our educations should not be at the expense of others. The fundamental way in which our schools are funded needs to be changed.

## Secret Disservice

By Megan Joseph

Two reality television contestants who have been seeking to meet the President of the United States came face to face with him on Nov. 24, 2009.

A couple managed to prowl their way into a White House dinner highlighting the appearance of prime minister of India, Manmohan Singh, obscured from President Obama's guards who weren't following standard security protocol. Mr. Tareq and Mrs. Michaela Salahi were able to get past America's respected Secret Service agents, who failed to confirm with a guest list as to whether the couple was actually invited.

"...the Salahis had managed to get past three Secret Service checkpoints on their way into the dinner because uniformed agents did not follow procedures," said Mark Sullivan, director of Secret Service, who testified in Capitol Hill on Dec. 3, concerning the security breach.

Reports claim the couple also snuck into a Congressional Black Caucus dinner event on September 26th, about a month before crashing the White House state dinner through an entrance meant for the sole use of employees and bus boys. They

were later detected, found sitting at another guest's table. Busted.

Administrator of communications, Lance Jones, said, "I was told we had a couple sitting at our table that didn't belong, and as a result I walked back to security guards and I asked them to walk over with me—that we might have a situation of some uninvited guests. I walked back to the table checked the list. Upon confirming that they did not belong, we escorted them out," in an interview with Fox 5. Obama was also present at the Black Caucus event with less security.

This should have been enough of a warning to keep security even tighter than before, but they were still able to get past three agents. The agents were suspended from their services until the issue was properly dealt with. Is suspended a code word for fired?

The Salahi's were even able to take photos with and shake the hand of Vice President Joe Biden in addition to the President at the White House state dinner. "We're greatly saddened by all the circumstances that have, you know, been involved and portraying my wife and I as party crashers. I can tell you, we did not party crash the White House," said Mr. Sahahi.



Sources say that the President was not in serious danger because all guests had gone through a metal detector, so they couldn't have been carrying guns, knives, or bombs. Yet, some people point out that the couple could have brought lethal poison in with them. After all, it was a dinner party and for all we know, the couple could have been recently released serial killers.

The Secret Service is criticized for their carelessness, not only because of the grave danger President Obama was put in, but the message that the issue sends to others wanting to harm the President: the leader of America can be easily accessed.

Crashing a White House dinner is much easier than hijacking

a plane. If a person managed to somehow get past an airport security checkpoint metal detector, considering the couple had the chance to get past three Secret Service checkpoints, they could've had a gun on them. Once the plane started boarding, one cannot come on unless their boarding pass is checked. How is it that a couple could get so close to a nation's leader without even being checked for on the guest list?

When it comes down to the day when intruding into the White House uninvited is easier than hijacking a plane, it sends a clear distress signal that things have gone terribly wrong.

## Wonder World Tour hits Coliseum

By Rachel Silverman

Miley Cyrus rocked out at the Nassau Coliseum on Nov. 18 and 19. The fans went crazy as Miley Cyrus sang her hit song "Party in the USA" along with many other head nodding songs. According to Miley fan websites, tickets for Miley's hit concert went on sale months ago and were sold out within minutes of the release.

"As I waited outside the big doors to Nassau Coliseum, I was so eager to see her," said sophomore Helena Fistel. Around Nassau Coliseum, there were hundreds of parents chasing kids around in little Hannah Montana wigs, Miley Cyrus's alter ego in her hit TV show, "Hannah Montana."

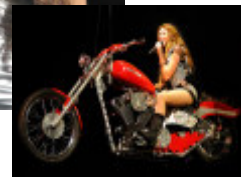
People started running towards the venue as the

opening band, Metro Station started to sing. Miley's brother, Trace Cyrus, is their lead singer. Metro Station played several songs, including their most popular song, "Shake It."

Fans were jumping up and down as Miley Cyrus came out for her first song, "Breakout," in which she breaks out of a giant ice cube.

"When I first saw her appear on stage I was so excited. I had been waiting for this day for months!" said fan Emily Gordon. The crowd was amazed as Miley swung in the air during her song, "Fly on the wall."

Miley also rode a motorcycle over the mass of crazy kids, during her rendition of Joan Jett's "I Love Rock and Roll."



## Celebrities, with power comes responsibility

Opinion

By Emily Gordon and Helena Fistel

Britney Spears, Tiger Woods, Mel Gibson, Kate Moss.

Being a celebrity comes with a great deal of responsibility. Famous people are being watched all the time. Their careers depend on each and every move they make. One mistake and their future spirals downwards. Being a celebrity comes hand in hand with many responsibilities, such as being a role model to fans and

making a proper image of themselves. While living in the spotlight people must make it their duty to be very conscious of their actions. Mistakes are neither accepted nor forgiven in the limelight.

For example, teenage icon Miley Cyrus is being watched by teenagers all over the world. Each and every day paparazzi follow her wherever and whenever she goes out in public. Being famous comes with being a role model and girls

everywhere want to be just like her. They follow her lead in every aspect of life, trying to be just like Miley from wearing her favorite brands of clothing to eating at the restaurants she likes. When people are being watched like this they are forced to act in such a way. Can she afford to make one bad decision?

In 2007, Miley was photographed wrapped in a bed sheet for a Vanity Fair cover. Her family was extremely supportive, but the fans thought otherwise. Mothers of Miley

Cyrus fans all over the world were bothered with these photos, thinking they were way too provocative and promiscuous for a 16 year old. This was not the girl that they wanted their children to be inspired by and they had a huge problem with this "sexy" image.

Some people believe that celebrities should be left alone and yes, I believe that is true. But it is also their duty to act as a role model to the people looking up to them.

## Public, leave celebrities alone

Opinion

By Alex Myrah and Zack Rosenthal

You can't turn on your television or check your email without hearing about some kind of celebrity-involved scandal. People shouldn't care about what celebrities do; it's their business.

Recently, several scandals involving Tiger Woods have surfaced, involving affairs with about a dozen different women. I understand that cheating on your wife is wrong,

but if it happened to any other random human being, nobody would know, or even care about it. Just because he's the best golfer on the planet, any mistake he ever makes will be publicized in the media. People aren't perfect and everybody makes mistakes. Unfortunately for Tiger Woods, any mistake he makes will make the front page of Newsday.

Being watched over constantly can even prove to be dangerous. Princess Diana was

killed because she was being followed by the paparazzi. Being in a situation where you must please everyone every second of your life has to be mentally wearing. If George Orwell's *1984* taught us anything, it's that being constantly monitored and judged makes someone incapable of acting in accord with his own free will and thoughts.

In the case of these celebrities, they become slaves to the media and have to try to keep a perfect public image. If they do

anything less than perfect, everybody will know about it immediately.

Just because somebody is well-known around the world doesn't give everybody the right to know everything about his or her life. Celebrities deserve their privacy just the same as you or I do. People should stop caring about the little mistakes that celebrities make and be more concerned with their own problems.

## Hawks make history

By Rebecca Liebenthal and Sammy DeBello

With great excitement, the Jericho Varsity Girls' Soccer Team made it farther than any other girls' soccer team from Jericho. Although the game on Friday, Nov. 6, 2009 was a loss against Division (Levittown), the athletes say that it was an honor to get that far.

"It's awesome to know we are the only Jericho Girls' Soccer Team to have played

under the lights at Tully," junior Taylor Katz said.

Katz explained that the team always spoke about their ambition to play at Michael Tully Field in New Hyde Park. "There's only one way to make it to Tully and that's to get to Semis."

The girls won the first two rounds of the playoffs against North Shore and Roslyn. These wins made the girls feel confident, proud, and positive.

Sophomore Taylor Falgoust said, "Taylor Katz and Amanda Epstein are definitely credited with scoring the most goals for our team."

In regards to the Jericho students and how they feel towards the Varsity playoff games, many believe that they should be allowed out of class or dismissed early to watch their fellow student compete. Junior Jacob Entel said, "We should be allowed out of class to add spirit and energy to the games."

The students who have last period free have been able to attend the games and have definitely added enthusiasm, as well as encouraged the girls to play to the best of their abilities. This makes the games much more exciting to watch and follow. Junior Jordyn Mitzman said, "The games are thrilling because they represent our school and the players are our friends."

## The handball wizards of JHS

By Zachary Kent

They wake up every morning for the early bus to school. It's not for extra help or for a club. It's for the sport they love: handball.

The group of boys consists of sophomores and juniors. Two of the students are Johnny Shin and Brian Kim. They go to great lengths to enjoy the time that they make for themselves for handball every morning.

Johnny said, "It is a place where we can escape the all day, everyday life of a Jericho student and just relax."

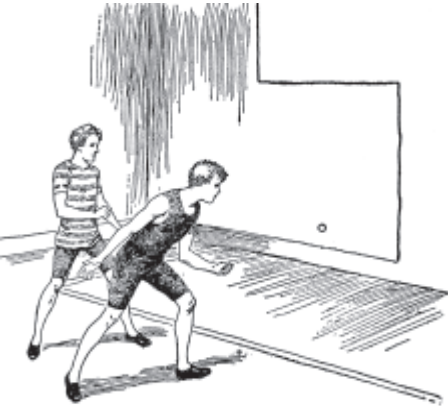
The typical day of one of these young men starts around seven o'clock in the morning, when they usually wake up. They arrive at school at between 7:45 and 8 o'clock. Then, the boys put on their gloves in almost

any weather. They play everyday unless it is raining, snowing, or below 40 degrees.

The group then has about 40 minutes to themselves to do anything from homework to studying to playing handball. Many of these players are in the same classes, and help each other academically. Occasionally, at the end of the day they return to their sanctuary, the handball court.

The boys are so deeply devoted to this sport that they want to establish a handball team. The group approached the Jericho Athletic Director Nancy Sammis last year with this idea in mind.

As the snow melts and the weather gets warmer, mornings for handball will come again.



## Jericho basketball beats rival school Roslyn

By Jonathan Davis

It's been a wild ride for the Jericho Jayhawks boys basketball team.

Isn't it always?

This season had its ups and downs, but one particular night this season stood out.

One exceptionally cold week in late January, there was a great deal of hype floating around Jericho from the "T" outside of the cafeteria all the way down to the elementary schools. What was this hype about?

It was because of one shot.

On January 5, the Hawks were devastated by a buzzer-beater loss, 51-49. To add insult to injury, it was against Roslyn, at Roslyn. Everyone knows of the long-standing rivalry between Jericho and Roslyn. But now the team wanted to prove something. On Friday, January 22, Roslyn made a journey to Jericho and the teams dueled like never before.

The turn out was tremendous for both teams with hundreds of students from both teams in attendance. The team spirit on each side was

electrifying throughout the game and so was the game play itself.

After falling behind early, Roslyn carried a one point lead into halftime. Do you think Wally Bachman would accept this? Not a chance.

Senior Shawn Francis got things rolling with a pair of threes and scored eight of his 12 points in the third quarter. The Hawks outscored Roslyn by 12 points in the second half which lead to the 60-49 win, and a massive storming of the court immediately following the game.

Top contributors in that game were senior Joey Gallo with

19 points, and junior Jordan Kanzer with 10 points.

This game was one for the ages, and it will not be forgotten any time soon.

