

# Lord Flieder to lead the April Revolution !!!



**Miriam Smerling**  
*the active comrade '11*

After neo-communist President Barack Obama gained national support with his charming good looks and perfectly thought-out words, he now feels incompetent and unsatisfied. The Commander-in-chief has announced today that he has a new passion in life--to follow his fellow Democrat Al Gore and further discover the root of global warming. He has left the White House in his battery-powered car, en route to northern Greenland. In his place he has appointed the once AMEX, AP Euro and interim AP American teacher, Saul Flieder.

As Flieder takes the stage as our leader, there will be many changes to which all of you must become accustomed. There will no longer be Democrats and Republicans, but rather one party called the America Party. Lord Flieder (as he will be called from this moment forward) will of course lead the America Party, with comrades Erik Cunningham, Mark Schmele, and Kyle Hallowell as his closest advisers.

Flieder affirms that all are equal in

every way, with a decent place to live, enough food to survive, and a few outfits that will be of course shared among the people.

We will each be issued free health insurance, and unemployment is now considered a crime once a citizen is over 21 years old. Those who do not have a job by this point will be jailed and eventually placed in solitary confinement. To avoid getting to this point, high school students will no longer be required to take SATs, but rather the new and improved ECT, the Employment Classification Test. The ECT will incorporate not only tests of the brain, but also physical capabilities as well.

It will be a worker's paradise. Those who have a job, which is everyone of course, will be permitted to work the five day, forty-hour work week, and over-time has been abolished. Once a citizen has a job, they will be issued a brand new, large screen HDTV that was made in America.

All will be given free cable with the most channels available at the given time. TVs will be updated instantaneously with any additional channels.

Money will no longer be of value, so the

wealthy will be sent to re-education camps to be run by Flieder's three advisers. The prisoners will not be released until they have been properly cleansed of their capitalist/competitive agendas.

Furthermore, the absence of the wealthy will cease exclusive golf clubs, and country clubs will now be used as community centers open to all. Only team sports may be played, those seen playing any type of game alone will be arrested on the spot.

With the America Party gaining popularity currently, many other countries plan to mimic our ways.

Lord Flieder says, "It will not be too long before Canada will become a part of the America Party, as they do not earn much as igloo constructors in this day and age."

Lord Flieder plans to stay in office until the day he feels Americans can survive on their own, something only he will know.

Elections will be held in November, as Flieder leads the America Party once again. All are eligible to vote.

Anyone found voting in opposition of the America Party will be escorted away from the voting area and immediately arrested.

The current state of the economy: Wonderful

**Nick Rapak**

*embodiment of capitalist evil '10*



For the past two years, I have given you my honest opinion about the way the economy was headed. This morning, I woke up to find out that this paper was turned into a ~~Communist propaganda machine~~ **AGENT OF HONEST NEWS REPORTING.**

I think that this is a ~~terrible~~ **WONDERFUL** thing to happen. Next, all of my columns will be ~~censored to conform to party ideology, instead of the truth.~~ This is the ~~worst~~ **BEST** thing that has ever happened in the history of Hatboro-Horsham.

I urge you to take all of your money and ~~move out of the district~~ **INVEST YOUR MONEY IN THE PARTY** before they begin ~~taking~~ **RELIEVING YOU OF THE BURDEN OF** your money and home, and move you into a ~~prison-like~~ **SPACIOUS** apartment complex. Soon, the economy will be in shambles because of ~~the economic mismanagement inevitable in a Communist dictatorship~~ **CAPITALISTS.** The Communist leaders are a bunch of ~~dirty, rotten, slimy, good for~~

*Mr. Rapak will not be writing any more columns for us and he has been sent to a re-education camp for the foreseeable future. As far as anyone knows, Mr. Rapak has never existed, and never will. Please stay tuned for next month's column.*

## Red and Black still in standoff

**Tony Mei**  
*comrade '12*

**Kevin Zhang**  
*comrade '12*

The Academic Bowl is a cherished part of Red and Black Night and the surrounding activities. However, an ongoing 34-day stalemate between the competing Red and Black teams has drawn into question the continuation of the event in future years.

The event, which began on Friday, March 12, was brought into its first ever overtime in a double jeopardy between the two ninth grade teams.

The competition quickly heated up when ninth grader Red Team member Connor Ryan brought the match into double overtime with a correct answer about the migration patterns of cold-water bottlenose dolphins.

Sources then say the competition escalated when 10th graders were forced to begin their round as the freshmen were still competing, leading to a collaboration

of the two grades as they matched wits in an attempt to determine the average speed of both the African and European swallow.

"It was intense but nothing compared to what we were doing by day four..." slurred 10th grader Alexis Waché before collapsing from exhaustion. He is currently in a stable but serious condition, and is being treated in a nearby hospital.

Soon, the Red Teams from all four grades were competing together against the four black teams.

"There was simply no way to allow the grades to compete separately, given the issue of time," said one administrator as the competition dragged on into fourth period.

Another administrator also added that moderating the competition was "becoming boring, and [she] wanted to watch some true competitive spirit at Gym Night."

None of the competitors were allowed to take a lunch break. One of the team captains, senior

Devron Lovick, said that the reason for eliminating a lunch break was because "a lunch break might drag [the Academic Bowl] into a multiple-day event."

Another competitor, freshman Megan Raymond, showed true school spirit and added that it would be beneficial to go hungry, since "hunger stimulates the mind and allows for clearer thinking."

By the second day, administrators judging the event had already left the building to continue with their lives.

However, competitors say that the change was not noticed, and they continued answering trivia questions about the communist takeover and Newton's Fourth Law

It was when the administrators returned to school the following Monday that they began to get concerned.

"Some of the students, they looked pretty hungry, like they hadn't eaten in a few days. We tried to get them cookies or something else, but the team captains

insisted they first finish a question concerning the gravitational pull of the fourth planet from the sun," said one teacher.

It was when students began to collapse from exhaustion that school officials began to acknowledge Academic Bowl's 45th overtime.

"Usually, kids just answer a few questions and leave," said another teacher. He also added that "these students are the kind we'd like to see more often...their school spirit is actually satisfactory."

Throughout the competition, parents have been extremely supportive of their kids.

"It's great to see them actually involved in some school pride," said the mother of a junior who remained collapsed in a corner of the auditorium since day 16.

However, none of the parents seemed to want to approach their kids, since they had not bathed for two weeks.

There is no word of whether or not the competition is set to

end soon, although talks have emerged between the two team generals that they call for a five-minute break.

"Maybe this has gone a bit too far," croaked a Red Team member whilst two paramedics attempted to affix him to a machine that would pump a nutrient-rich solution directly into his veins.

"But, you know, sometimes we get carried away in the competitive spirit."

***At publication, the Academic Bowl score is 10637 to 10638, with the Black team in a narrow lead after correctly answering a question about the mating habits of African zebra toads.***

## Class of 2010 must return for 2011

**Melanie Martin**  
*opinionated comrade '12*

As enjoyable as the snowstorms of 2010 were, there are now some unfortunate consequences. In theory, having no school due to snowy days is a great thing. However, the days missed eventually need to be made up in order to meet the Pennsylvania mandated number of compulsory school days. Two days will need to be added to the 2010-2011 school year in order to meet the mandated number of days. Seniors are specifically affected by this new change in school policy. Since the class of 2010 graduate before two of the required make up days roll around, the administration and the state's new policy are requiring that the graduating class of 2010 return to school for the first two days of September of the fall 2010-2011 school year.

It seems unfair to force seniors to come back to the high school in which they graduated from but rules are rules. Principal Dennis Williams was interviewed about the new requirements. He said, "We [the administration] know that the class of 2010 may be upset at the new policy but as a school we need to fill our required learning days for every student including the senior class." Seniors are soon to be very outraged over this readjusted schedule. The new schedules for

the 2010-2011 two-day school year for seniors will be mailed home the first week in May. Seniors will be placed in each of their core subject classes such as English, Math, Science, & Social Studies. They will not be able to have the same teachers they had as their previous semester but the education they receive is the most important thing. Teachers are committed to making sure the seniors fulfill their requirements for the state. The seniors will be tested at the end of the second day of make ups to see if they have really absorbed the information taught or rather just let it slide off their backs like a bad case of senioritis. The test will consist of 45 scantron multiple-choice questions and one main essay question: What does school mean to you?

With these stricter testing and teaching guidelines, the seniors are in for quite a rough time as they return to school in September along with the incoming freshmen, the sophomores, the juniors, and the class of 2011 seniors. Failure in passing the exam will result in continuous make up days being added onto to the already chaotic schedule of two days. Obviously, no senior wants to make up more than is required therefore I recommend that all seniors take this new policy seriously and study hard so they "officially" graduate.

## Artist of the month: David Gildin

*Junior David Gildin is both a fine artist and creative writer. Below is a selection from his extensive body of work.*

## Rodent Farm in Waterloo?,

*a short story*

"If I was a diamond, would I shine?" Young Harold inquired like it was blinking. Only for Harold, blinking did not come naturally. He possessed no eyes.

Advising young Harold was acorn-like Josephine. "Do as you are told, and one, shiny afternoon, you will be as bright the sun."

"Neat," inquired Harold.

Harold and his acorn-like advisor were never to be heard from again.

Earvies later, the sun spontaneously flourished with the stars. New sycophant, Birle, arose from Graceland, combining the intricate pully-systems of her tentacles with the gargantuan soul intertwined within her liver(s).

Here is how it took place:

Birle <3 her homeland, Graceland.

Graceland was the habitat of the Jentler species.

The Jentler species fed on the homogenous tadpoles.

The homogenous tadpoles wed their biannually strenuous syrups.

The biannually strenuous syrups pervaded their inner consciousness.

Their inner consciousness extinguished cells unalterable to mothballs.

The extinguished cells unalterable to mothballs began a Rodent farm in Waterloo.

The Rodent farm in Waterloo was quite successful, and yearly.

Amen.



## Suicide pact ends two lives in Interboro

Hayoung Yoo  
staff writer '13

Gina Gentile and Vanessa Dorwart, sophomores from Interboro High School in Prospect Park, committed suicide by stepping in front of an Amtrak Acela train coming up from Washington, D.C. on February 25, 2010.

Their actions were allegedly committed part of a suicide pact. Dorwart and Gentile arranged to show up Thursday morning at the Norwood train station in Delaware County to end their lives together. That day, Gentile, Dorwart and Cashwell, also from Interboro High School, all left school and were seen by a SEPTA ticket agent arguing on the southbound train platform minutes before Gentile and Dorwart stepped in front of the train and were fatally struck. Cashwell watched her friends become trapped under the train before she changed her mind about ending her life. She reported the deaths to counselors and teachers.

The night before the girls' deaths, the three girls and their friends gathered to share stories

and poems about their deceased friend, Bill Bradley, Gentile's boyfriend. Gentile has been dating Bill, 17, for a year when he was killed in a car accident while biking over to see her.

The girls and their friends formed the pact to end their grief promptly. "Bill. Life without you here is not going to be the same. Save a spot for me Pumpkinn," Gentile posted on the "R.I.P. Bill Bradley" Facebook page. Dorwart was also distressed by Bill's death and the end of a recent relationship.

"It's a shame that was the way they dealt with it," said Principal Williams. Resting, exercise, balanced diet, and avoiding alcohol and medications are a few examples of ways to deal with grief.

This crisis does not directly affect our school, but we do have measures in place aimed at preventing destructive behavior. Our school has constructive and consoling guidance counselors, SAP, and relationships with productive connectivity in our community.

All students from kindergarten up to seniors can use the tip hotline.

The tip hotline is (215) 420-5100 or [tips@hatborohorsham.org](mailto:tips@hatborohorsham.org).

## Embedded Within signed

The Band Embedded Within was recently signed onto a record label. Their members are from our school. Two of the members are graduates and two are current students.

Embedded Within is a band bringing metal into an entirely new direction. With influences ranging from the most technical of death metal to the most brutal of deathcore, the outcome is bound to be some of the heaviest stuff to come out of the Philadelphia area.

The technical guitar work of Richie Pickwell is the main drive of this band. Mike (Berad) Berardi adds in his thrash influenced drumming and James Clark throws down his traditional death metal bass lines.

Shortly after, Matt Cook had joined the band doubling up on guitar and adding in his deathcore influenced vocals. The sum of everything combined equals a band breeding a new genre that is

bound to blow you away.



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## Beauty and the Beast on our stage

*Continued from Front Page*  
**"Beauty and the Beast"**

Indeed, the audience was just as marveled at the performance on the whole as the thespians who conducted the affair were. Sophomore Sara Barber believed the vocals to be harmonious, "the actors singing together sounded, at times, to be one, beautiful voice."

Junior Jacob Butterly also donated his (lengthy) opinion on the show, saying that Beauty and the Beast was "a wonderful performance, exhibiting the school's talents; from the showmanship of the thespians, the performance by the orchestra and the pride of the crewbies in their dedicated work to the stage they culminated into an enjoyable rendition of a timeless classic for the entire audience."

Sophomore Kirsten Cills was awe-struck at how intricate and decorated the costumes were, and the "glitzy, glamorous... and the 'Broadway' feeling" that shone through each of the costumes.

Costumes this year were a huge part of the production, both literally and figuratively. Tony Brooks (the Beast) donned face prosthetics and a tail, while Devron Lovick waltzed around with heavy light-up candle extensions on his hands.

Hope Margerum stood inside of an 'armoire' she was portraying, along with rather interesting headgear- a Viking helmet and an adorned headpiece that shaped a semi-circle atop her head. The ensemble could have been seen wearing napkin dresses, complete

with silverware adorned headbands, while flatware danced around being chased by an occasional whisk.

These costumes and makeup added such life and vibrancy to the already amazing singing and dancing to be seen.

Despite the onstage talent, the cast of Beauty and the Beast would have had a rather difficult time successfully portraying this show without the Stage Crew. The set design was drawn up by Pete Barsky and completed by thirty plus students from all grades.

Three rotating cubes allowed scene changes to be nearly flawless while providing some beauty to the already stunning performers. Hand props and drops added to the enchantment by bringing simple details to life for the actors. The larger than life drops consisted of the tavern in the town, the forest, and the charming little town itself with a castle in the background.

This was a perfect way to bring an end to the theater seniors' years at our school.

Thirty-one actors and stagehands were in their final year here. As is tradition, each senior gave a speech at the Cast and Crew Party, after the final performance, totaling to an hour and a half of nostalgic reminiscing upon their years in theatre.

All of the speeches were tear jerking in their own way; most were touching, though many were also quite hilarious as they recalled (mainly inappropriate) stories from previous years.

Cast member Kevin Durkin

paraphrased a quote from The Hangover as he cut into Tony Rombola's heartwarming speech, while crewbie Ryan Heeren recalled his near "self-destruction" over his four years backstage.

Upon reaching the end of this show, many cast and crew members had things they wished to say about Beauty and the Beast. "[this] was a good show to do...the truth is, Les Miserables was amazing, beyond amazing. It was my first show," explains Carley Haggerty, senior and stage manager this year.

"My expectations were high because of that. The past two years lacked, but now it feels complete to end with a show that is comparable to Les Miz. Though I have to say, I like Pocahontas better than Belle." Meg Adam's had a little to say about the cast, "The Cast bonded wonderfully, but personally I got closer to some individuals on crew. The student ensemble as a whole worked nicely."

While Sara Gallo explains her dedication; "I worked extremely hard to get into character this year. I really wanted to bring her [Babette] to life and add more humor to the show. Everyone was great and I'm really going to miss the seniors who are leaving this year; they were such a huge part of these productions."

Senior Kevin Durkin explains in simpler terms his views on graduating this year.

He said, "I'll be sad to pull out of HH Theater, especially after one of our better shows. But, life moves on."

# Battle of the Bands 2010

**Friday  
April 16**

**Hatboro-Horsham  
High School  
Theater  
6:30 - 10:30pm\***

**Come to the  
2nd Annual  
Hatboro-Horsham  
Battle of  
the Bands!**

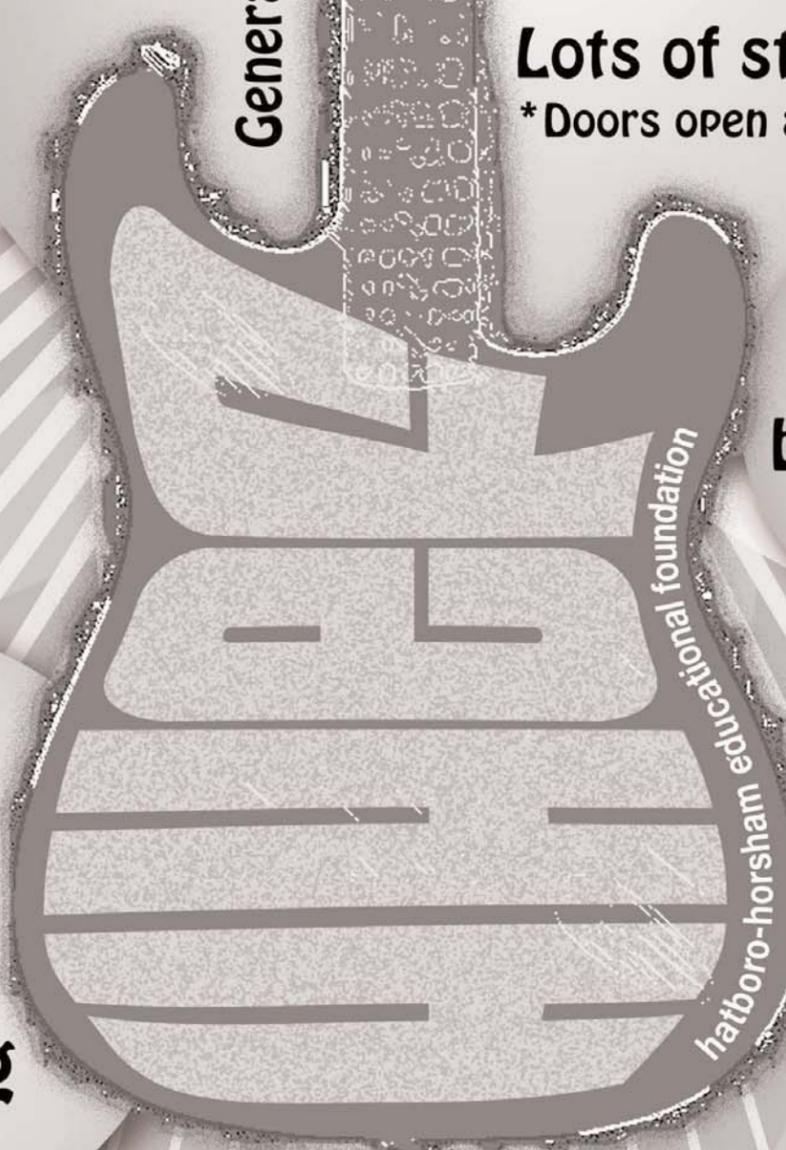
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Lots of stuff to win!**

**\* Doors open at 6pm**

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# Horsham Square gets healthy

**Amanda Turner**  
staff writer '11

It is hard to tell why the customers exiting Bryn and Dane's have toothy grins on their faces. It must be a mixture of the delicious snacks, comfortable atmosphere, and mellow music.

A little background information: Bryn and Dane's—"The Healthiest Place On Earth"—opened on Friday March 5.

The store is located between Sushi 4 You and Planet Fitness on 597 Horsham Road. They sell a variety of smoothies, air-popped corn, fair trade coffee, fresh brewed tea and nutritious energy bars.

Bryn used to be slightly heavier and wanted to lose weight. However, he had trouble finding healthy food at places like WaWa and McDonald's.

His quest for healthy food and his admiration for the Walt Disney Company combined to give him the brilliant idea of Bryn

and Dane's. After interning in Walt Disney World, Bryn realized he wanted to recreate the magic of Disney in his company. In case you did not notice, "the healthiest place on earth" is a reference to Disney World, which is considered "the happiest place on earth."

Smoothies are always perceived as healthy but this is not always the case. For example, a PB&J smoothie from Dairy Queen has a total of 700 calories.

At Cold Stone, a "Love It" Mango Pineapple smoothie has 510 calories.

Instead of wasting your calories on fattening smoothies from these chains, try a "Pee Bee and Jay's" or a "Jackson Drive" and enjoy either for about 200 calories. The smoothies are all natu-

ral, consisting of almond milk, agave, an all natural honey substitute, and the fruit of your choosing.

The names of the smoothies

sister, Na.

So, who exactly is Dane? Dane is Bryn's younger brother and his name graces the store front because as Bryn said, "It

just rolls off the tongue and I wanted the store to have a family-friendly environment". A major goal of Bryn's is to be involved with Simmons since Dane is attending the elementary school.

Believe it or not, but it is illegal to play any music you want in a business. Luckily for Bryn, he had met Jack Johnson a few times and decided to contact his record label. They assured him they

would give him no trouble for playing Jack's tunes and that is why you are sure to hear "Banana Pancakes" or another favorite while getting your nutritious snack.

The future for Bryn and Dane's is to "beat McDonald's." There are over 30 million McDonald's in the world. Although this may take a while Bryn's goal is to have more stores around instead of salads sprayed with fat and french-fries made of Dimethylpolysiloxane (which is used in shampoo).

It may be a little while before the next store opens, but for now we are lucky enough to have a Bryn and Dane's right down the street from the high school, now opening at 6:30 AM on weekdays to accommodate high school students.

Stop by, have a snack, sip a smoothie and introduce yourself to the owner, Bryn, who will make sure you enjoy yourself at the "healthiest place on earth."

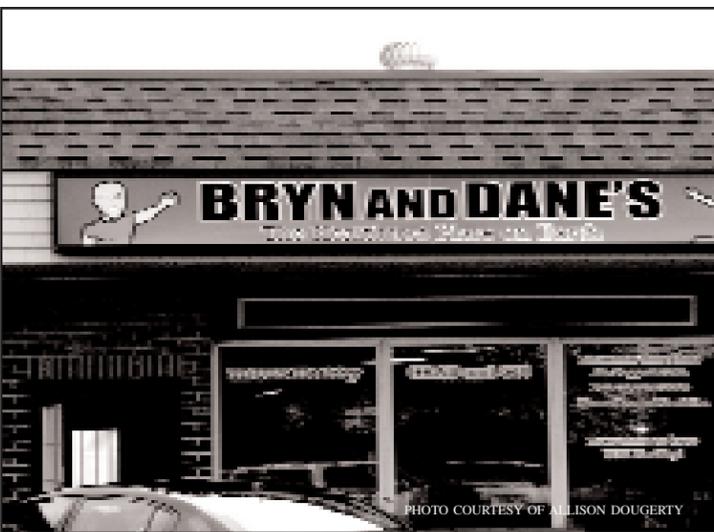


PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLISON DOUGERTY

## Black Eyed Peas concert: *Definietly a good night*

**Melanie Martin**  
editorials editor '11

Most of you reading this have probably heard at least one Black Eyed Peas song before. With hits like I've Gotta Feeling, Boom Boom Pow, Imma Be, My Humps, Pump It, Don't Phunk With My Heart, and many more, it is no surprise that the Black Eyed Peas are well known.

On March 3, I attended a Black Eyed Peas concert at the Wachovia Center. I had general admission tickets and I was very excited to be close to the stage...that is, if I was able to run fast enough to obtain a close spot. Of course as with most concerts

PHOTO COURTESY OF MELANIE MARTIN



Black Eyed Peas wows the crowd in their Philadelphia concert.

and events, especially for general admission ticket holders, it was very unorganized.

We stood out in the rain for an hour waiting for the doors to open. After being frisked, having my bag searched, and being pushed and shoved by many other excited concertgoers, I was finally in the building.

I ran into the arena and actually managed to get one of the best spots in the house. I was right against the catwalk of the

stage and I knew this was going to be a great night. The band LMFAO performed first and they sang their well-known song, "I'm In Miami", or rather "I'm In Philly." They were not that great of performers at all and I was beginning to get restless for the Peas. Once they were done performing "Shots", I expected the Black Eyed Peas to be on next;

Well, I was incorrect. Ludacris came on and performed a few of his own songs. At this point, it was 9:30 and still no Will.I.Am or Fergie. Finally, they came on and it was very much worth the wait.

After standing on my feet for two hours, the Black Eyed Peas delivered and put on a fantastic show.

Everyone on the floor was ready to party and so were the Peas. They came out right on the catwalk and the pictures I took

were amazing. The theme of the concert was futuristic, robotic stuff similar to their whole album. They opened with "Let's Get It Started", which was awesome, and then Fergie sang some of her own songs like "Big Girls Don't Cry" and, my personal favorite, "Fergilicious."

With a crazy laser light show, multiple disco balls, and robots in costume, the band definitely knew how to entertain and throw a great party. Then for the purpose of time and costume changes, Will.I.Am came out and rose up to the top of the arena and said, "Do you mind if I turn this place into a night club?" He began to act as a D.J. and played songs by Earth, Wind, & Fire and other artists. He even sang "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey. The special effects throughout the whole concert were awesome and Apl. De. Ap rode on a lightcycle above the stage.

The show ended with confetti covering the floor of people and the stage.

The Peas ended with their hit, "I've Gotta Feeling." It was an amazing concert and even though my ears were ringing and my feet numb, it will be a night I will always remember. I recommend buying tickets to their next show.

## She & Him

**Melanie Abeygunawarada**  
staff writer '12

If there are any doubts as to Zoëy Deschanel's legitimacy as a singer, She & Him's new album blows them away. While best known for her acting, retro style and plate-sized blue eyes, Deschanel's collaboration with alterna-pop headliner M. Ward has brought attention to her musical side as well. Volume Two is the pair's second album, following the overwhelming success of their 2008 release, Volume One. The name is fitting – Volume Two is essentially an extension of the relaxed, 60's throwback vibe of Volume One.

This hardly matters, however – while not groundbreaking, Volume Two is a light, sweet slice of vintage pop that satisfies immensely. Deschanel's husky, unique voice, coupled with tremulous, sun-kissed guitars, brings to mind sepia photographs and California beaches, perfect music to start the summer with. The aptly named first single "In the Sun" is an immediate standout, a buoyant, danceable song that contrasts nicely with the sweet, melancholy strains of the previous track, "Thieves." The irresistibly catchy "Don't Look Back," with its Beach Boy-inspired chorus and bouncy melody, continues the duo's tradition for sunny hooks and harmonies. Tracks like "New Shoes"

and "Me and You" slow down the pace and strip down the arrangements, sweetly melancholy love songs that prove no less successful than their upbeat counterparts.

"In My Car," an excellent cover of NRBQ's 1977 hit, offers a rare vocal performance by behind-the-scenes mastermind Ward, a great touch that polishes off the song. However, one of the more unexpectedly successful tracks is "Home," a tender, lilting, lighter-than-air summer song that features Deschanel's compelling vocals and Ward's gracefully layered arrangements at their best. Lyrically, the album mirrors its sound – simple, whimsical, and uncontrived, featuring such lines as "I could be your welcome, I could be your greeter/ I could be sweet and I could be sweeter / I want to be where your heart is home."

While many may be quick to dismiss She & Him as hipster hype, just another attempt by a successful actress to market herself as a "singer," Volume Two clearly proves the opposite. It's a nod to Deschanel's considerable talent that the listener is able to forget her involvement while listening to the album – its carefree sweetness and nostalgic charm are far too real for such distractions. Volume Two is a delectable, resounding success – it personifies She & Him's style and lifts it to record highs.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP WIRE



# The Oscars: Who Should Have Won



**Conor McAteer**  
staff writer '12

**Best Picture:** (winner- *The Hurt Locker*) This year's Academy Awards were different from any others in the past 67 years; this year there were ten Best Picture nominations rather than five. The reasoning behind this is that films that normally would not have a chance at being nominated are now presented with that opportunity. The problem however, is that said films had no chance at winning. Instead, the signature Oscar material war film, *The Hurt Locker* won. It is not a bad film, but it is far from the year's best. Critics praised it for its realistic screenplay and gutsy performance from Jeremy Renner, but overall the film was two-dimensional and the viewer does not more an attachment to any of the characters. The film that deserved to win is Quentin Tarantino's risky war epic, *Inglourious Basterds*. With a screenplay that changes history, and darkly comedic performances by newcomer Christoph Waltz and veteran Brad Pitt, *Basterd*'s is by far the most original film of the year but it did not get nearly as much recognition as it deserved at the Oscars.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP WIRE

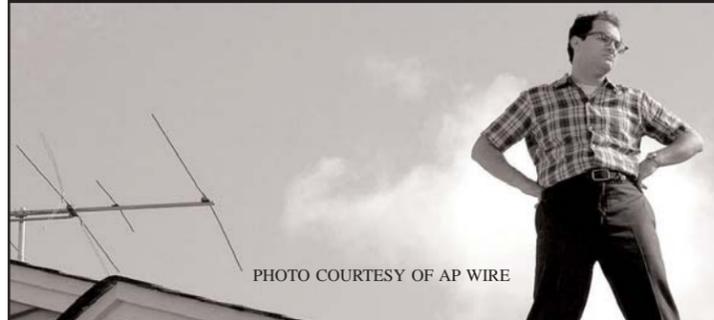


PHOTO COURTESY OF AP WIRE

**Best Actor:** (Winner- Jeff Bridges in *Crazy Heart*) Long time actor Jeff Bridges had been nominated for four Academy Awards prior to his win this year for his performance in *Crazy Heart*, and absolutely deserved the award for Best Actor. His performance as Otis "Bad" Blake, a washed up country singer suffering from alcoholism, was raw, emotional, and truly the performance of his career. However, like in many past years, the best performance was not even nominated. Michael Stuhlbarg, who played a Jewish math professor going through a messy divorce in "A Serious Man" had by far the best performance of the year. Stuhlbarg managed to have a dramatic performance, while maintaining director Joel and Ethan Coen's signature offbeat style of humor. Any actor that can portray such a character so flawlessly deserves, at the very least, a Best Actor nomination.

**Best Actress:** (Winner – Sandra Bullock in *The Blind Side*) This award is where the Academy truly lost credibility. There were plenty of great performances in this category, particularly Carey Mulligan's, which was as a 17-year-old British student in the coming-of-age story, *An Education*. Instead of awarding Mulligan's amazing performance with an Oscar, the Academy decided that they would give the most prestigious award in the film industry to Sandra Bullock, who plays a rich house wife who takes in a homeless African-American teenager in *The Blind Side*. The problem is that Bullock's performance was dreadful. What she did onscreen was not acting; it was line memorization. There was absolutely nothing extraordinary about her performance. She simply went in front of the camera and restated the script. So to all of you aspiring young actresses out there: if you can put on a blonde wig, speak in an obviously fake southern accent, and remember a few lines, then you too may someday win an Academy Award.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP WIRE



**Best Supporting Actress:** (Winner – Mo'Nique in "Precious": Based on the Novel "Push" by Sapphire) The Best Supporting Actress category contained the least amount of talent of any of the categories at this year's Academy Awards. The winner, standup comedian Mo'Nique who plays an abusive mother in *Precious*, had a performance that was solely based on shock factor. It forced you to feel bad for the characters rather than genuinely care about their misfortune. The other nominees were not much better. Vera Farmiga and Anna Kendrick, who both starred in *Up In The Air* were charming in their roles, but not worthy of an Oscar. The only candidate that really stands out is Maggie Gyllenhaal in *Crazy Heart* who plays a single mother who gains an interest in country singer "Bad Blake". Gyllenhaal was the only nominee who was truly convincing in her role and actually makes the audience believe that she is going through these problems instead of acting in front of a camera.



PHOTO COURTESY OF AP WIRE

**Best Supporting Actor:** (Winner – Christoph Waltz in *Inglourious Basterds*) Finally! An award category that the Academy got right! Although some of the other nominees were fantastic, such as Stanley Tucci who plays a sinister serial killer in the otherwise mediocre *The Lovely Bones*, none surpassed Christoph Waltz whose performance as Nazi Colonel, Hans Landa in *Inglourious Basterds* was pitch perfect. Every line delivered by the little known Austrian actor is a perfect blend of both evil and comedic elements which makes for one of the best performances of the year.

**A Side:**  
What Everyone Will Be Talking About

**MUSIC**  
Quirky hip-hop duo MGMT returns with "Congrtulations", due out on April 13.



**MOVIES**  
Miley Cyrus stars in Nicholas Sparks' teen romance *The Last Song*.



**CONCERTS**  
Vampire Weekend slides into the the Electric Factory on April 2.



**B Side:**  
What Everyone Should Be Talking About

Up and coming band Envy On the Coast releases its sophomore attempt, "Low Country" on the 30.



*Paper Man*, in which Jeff Daniels deals with an imaginary super hero, is due out in April.



Synth-screamo outfit Attack! Attack! storms the Crocodile Rock on April 1.



# Red v. Black

## Aliens and Demons battle on the gymnasium floor

**Raymond Zhao**  
staff writer '12

The Red Underworld and Black Galaxy entered Gym Night almost tied, with Red leading with 123 points and Black trailing behind with 113 points.

The night started off with both teams vying for a showy entrance. Lights dimmed, Black entered first with a space shuttle, from which the two generals Ryan Hildebrand and Melissa Keller emerged, followed by the rest of the participants flooding in. This procession repeated itself for the Red team, but with a coffin that concealed Red generals Devron Lovick and Sarah Tustin. "School and team spirit was felt to the point where tears of joy were dwelling in my eyes," said sophomore Eun Shim.

After the national anthem, students on the different teams were situated across from each other in the bleachers on the side closest to the parking lot, with Red occupying the ones near the locker rooms and Black on the ones by the far wall. Parents and younger kids were located in the bleachers on the cafeteria side of the gym, and the second-floor balcony was a pell-mell mixed crowd of parents, middle-schoolers, students who didn't rush in with the crowd, students just arriving, and random kids who boasted no clothing whatsoever to distinguish which team they were on. This was where I chose to position myself for the night.

The first event of the night was the obstacle course,

which was dominated by Black, although Red won the 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> boys relay because Black was disqualified. This tied the score at 128 for both teams. "Obstacle course is an intense event and is a good one to start off with, because it really sets the mood for how things are going to go for the rest of the night," said sophomore Sam Hibbs.

Black pulled ahead by two points after they took Simon Says. However, a few people were annoyed at getting out early on mistakes that they "didn't make". "Simon says was hype and I wish I didn't get out so early," said Black participant and junior captain Justin Coleman. "I'll definitely be signing up again next year to redeem myself."

Red caught up and passed Black by ten points after winning the Ski Race and taking most of the points for Partner Dance, with Joey Palo and Steph Reamer in first, Devron Lovick and Claire Murphy in second, and Black's Shea Hoffman and Janelle Henry taking third.

Volleyball was owned by Black, tying the score again at 144, after a good battle between the girls team and an amazing comeback by the boys Black team. "The way the black team rallied at the end—it was very clutch," said sophomore Tim Brown. "It's also funny how the girl's team seemed so much more pro than the boy's team, it's usually the other way around." According to some people, volleyball is a woman sport...

Crab Soccer was won by

the Red boys and the Black girls, which did not help to break the tie. The teams were short handed, so captains resorted to pulling people from the crowd. "Well quite honestly, crab soccer sucks," said sophomore Red volunteer Ryan Tancredi. "But Red and Black night is really awesome so I didn't mind doing it."

Dodge Ball was also won by the Red boys and the Black girls, but it resulted in a bit more misfortunes than Crab Soccer did. Red General Sarah Tustin had to be taken out of the game after she collided with another girl going for the ball in the beginning, falling on her shoulder. In the boy's game, unfortunate crowd members and even judges were hit with 80 mph dodgeballs gone wild.

Indoor Handball was won this time by Black boys and Red girls. The girls game ended in a shootout, and was won by Red, helped by an amazing performance by Christina Portelli. "Handball was my favorite part of red and black," said the senior. "It was really competitive, and there was a lot of pressure, especially at the end, but it was fun playing with my friends."

The tie was finally broken by a small margin after a really close performance by the two dance teams, but Black came out on top with 12 points, Red with 10. Things were really close, and there was some question over the fact of Red's routine. Points were docketed for sloppiness, but it was argued that they were sloppy because of their "zombie" theme. "I was real-

ly proud of our team, said sophomore Red dancer Tara Wilkinson. "We did our best, but Black won."

The gap between Red and Black really started to widen after Black swept the Speed Pyramids, although there was some controversy over the judges. "I was nervous being the top guy," said Black contestant Kareem Butler, "because if I messed up, our team would lose. I also felt misjudged on the second jump, because our judge just sort of turned away and left us." Tire Pull also added 10 points to the final score after Black took it.

Running Relay was next, resulting in a series of unfortunate baton mishandlings for the Red teams, resulting in Black winning all four relays as well. "I think Black got lucky that we dropped [the baton] so many times, because if we wouldn't have, they wouldn't have had a chance," said enthusiastic sophomore runner Lee Riches, who had run into the wall so hard that the mats had crumpled and the door had opened.

Black was leading by almost 50 points by the time the last event, Tug-O-War, was up. It didn't help Red at all that Black also swept both rounds. "We didn't want to lose the last event," said sophomore Marissa Giovinnazzo. "There should have been more rope."

So after the school entered Red and Black gym night with Red ahead with 10 points, Black came out on top after a long battle. The final score was: Red – 183, Black – 249.



### Red and Black Culinary

One of the many overlooked activities in Red and Black has always been the Culinary competition. This year was one of the most heated competitions—and not just

because of the ovens.

From left to right, the competition featured, for the Black Team, sophomore Nora Abraham who baked a coconut spice cake; senior Tommy Gieringer and his pineapple white chocolate pound cake with pineapple mouse; senior Megan Jones with her chocolate

cake with dark chocolate frosting; senior Ryan Claggett and his strawberry sponge cake; for the Red team, junior Amanda Turner with her carrot cake; senior Caitlin Taylor and her Mary Poppins cake; senior Nicole Medeiros with her chocolate raspberry layer cake; and senior Brandon Lang and his

french silk pie.

Of the contestants, only Ryan Claggett is planning on pursuing culinary as a career at Johnson & Wales in Rhode Island, while teammate Tommy Gieringer only sees it as a hobby: "You can make anything, and you enjoy it more when you make it," he said.

In its twenty-first year, the annual showdown between the A to K's and L to Z's fulfilled the expectations of everyone. While **Black** blasted off

and left **Red** burnt and dissatisfied, it

was clear that everyone who participated enjoyed what has become a staple of the Hatboro-Horsham experience.

## Captains of the Galaxy and Lords of the Underworld

A conversation with Red and Black Generals Melissa Keller, Ryan Hildebrand, Sarah Tustin and Devron Lovick

**Sherry Yang**  
editor-in-chief '10

**HatChat:** There were some changes to this year's Red and Black. What were some of the challenges that you faced?

**Devron Lovick:** Red and black was different this year for everyone. Faculty Red and Black advisers Mr. Lance Liott, Mrs. Jenn Tooley, and Mrs. Diana Harmon tried to fill a gap that we are all feeling in our school community. I am really grateful for all the community members who came to our aid and made the event possible.

**Ryan Hildebrand:** The biggest issue we had was with time. With all the snow – we started a little later and that really pushed back everything. We had to work harder during the nights. Usually we work from 6 pm to 8 pm before Red and Black week but because of the snow we worked from 5:30-8:30, sometimes even later three weeks before the week.

**Sarah Tustin:** Spring sports start around this time for a lot of people. Time management and organization are what I took most away from it – you have to finish these posters and try to get everyone in events.

**Melissa Keller:** Painting was a big challenge. We missed about a week because of the snow. They did cut out two posters requirements but we were still crunched for time, and with the teachers not being involved – it took out some of the fun and just made things more difficult.

**HC:** What was the most rewarding part of the experience? Do you have a favorite moment or event?

**RH:** Now that everything's all over and you see how many kids had fun because of you – that was the most rewarding part. I had people texting me and calling me because they had so much fun. I also loved watching the King and Queen of the inner tube at pool night.

**MK:** The most rewarding part was winning. All the hard work me and Hildy put in finally paid off.

Being in all my events and watching everyone have fun while we were winning.

**DL:** For me red and black night is about getting involved. Just the fact that so many different people contributed to the team, that's my favorite part – people coming together.

**ST:** Seeing how excited everyone was about the night of Red and Black, and during the whole week. How people were so passionate about the team and the comradely that everyone had

**HC:** What kind of training did everyone have to undergo to prepare for the week of Red and Black?

**RH:** The dance team put in so many hours every night Monday through Thursday. It's really a shame, for all the work they put in, that the most you can get is for that event is 12 points. Posters are another thing I wish were worth more points because of the amount of time we spent on them. Also, **Sarah Tustin:** Spring sports start around this time for a lot of people. Time management and organization are what I took most away from it – you have to finish these posters and try to get everyone in events.

**HC:** What were some of your goals as co-leader of your team? **ST:** I promised myself I'd be really organized and be the best general possible. I just wanted this year to be special and to as many people involved as I could.

**DL:** I delegated the pep rally to Red and Black Captains Brian Terreri and Mark Mallozzi. They really did an awesome job with it – they were Red and Black captains – it was really cool to get them involved. I just wanted for everyone who wanted to, to get involved in red and black, and I wanted to give my team a good night. I wanted to have my team walk out of the gym proud of their behavior. My role was to keep Red and Black fun, to make sure the school knew what it was about. Of course it would have been nice to win, but I'm happy with how things turned out.

**MK:** One of my goals was to stay organized and keep everyone up to date. At times there was so much

going on. My job was to relay information back to the team.

**RH:** My goal this year was to stay as organized as we were as last year and to get things done in time. Everyone is rushing towards the end, but it was worth it.

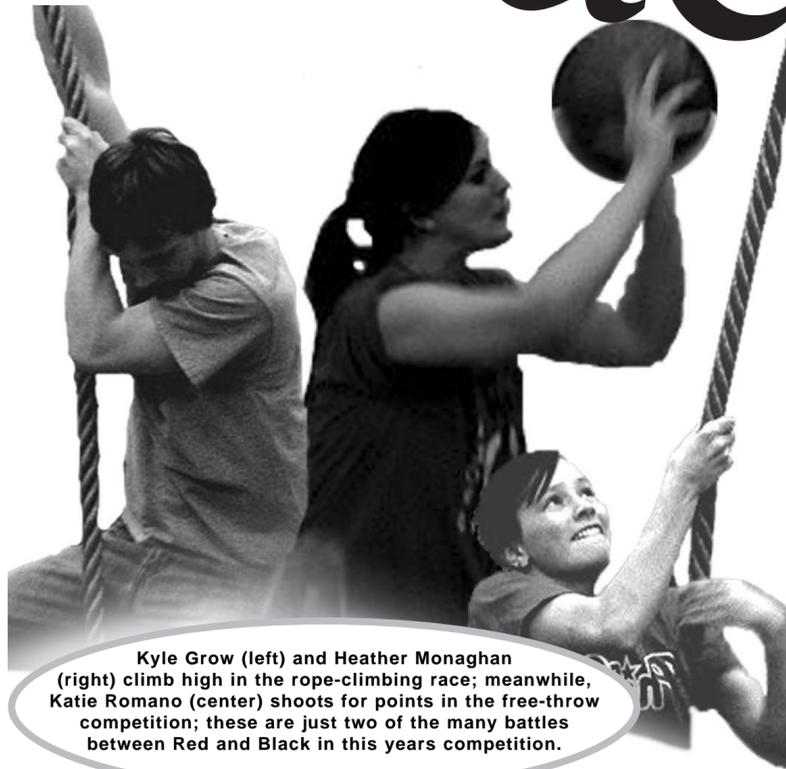
**HC:** The judges at this year's Red and Black were new. Generals were warned that judging might differ this year from previous years based on the novice experience of the judges. After Red and Black, there was some controversy over whether the judges were fair. Do you feel that this takes away from the spirit of the events?

**DL:** I think that the fairness and unfairness of the judges can only take away from the event if we let it. I really didn't like the negative cheers from gym night, which took away from the spirit of Red and Black. I'm proud of how my team represented itself. It's about school unity – in the way of a friendly competition.

**RH:** Honestly for their first year doing this, I didn't think they did that bad of a job. The only thing I think they weren't very organized with was the speed pyramid. I don't think the judging was so controversial that one team would have gained or lost anything. [In regards to team sportsmanship] everyone was just happy that we won. In the end it is just a game, it is just for fun, I think they realized that they realized that at one point, and everyone was fine at the end.

**MK:** It was hard for the judges because this was the first hands on experience for them. At some points I would say it was there was some unfairness, but at some points it went to black, at some points to red, so the unfairness [was dishd] back and forth, it was even.

**ST:** I feel like we got the short end of the stick a lot but I don't want to say they were unfair. Red and Black is supposed to be fun. After pool night, I just realized that it was for fun. The judging will definitely be something I'll always think about but we had fun and that's what matters.



Kyle Grow (left) and Heather Monaghan (right) climb high in the rope-climbing race; meanwhile, Katie Romano (center) shoots for points in the free-throw competition; these are just two of the many battles between Red and Black in this years competition.

## Red and Black pep rally

**Morgan Kurtz**  
spotlights editor '11

At the beginning of the pep rally, the scores were Red: 66, and Black: 73. For about forty minutes, students played the traditional Red and Black field events, such as arm wrestling, rope climb, free throws, relays, standing long jumps, and badminton.

Then, Student Council hosted four activities that would be awarded points, but they would not go towards Red and Black standings: they were for bragging rights only.

The first of the four events was the wheelbarrow race, consisting of the generals of each team, two other members from each team, and two administrators from each team. Principal Dennis Williams and Mr. Ralph Rapino gathered cheers from the crowd as they wheel barrowed their way to

the finish line. "I thought they were hilarious!" said Junior Mary Kate Ballerino.

The next event was called Finish the Lyrics, where each contestant had to finish a lyric of a song. Junior Chris Shriver wowed the crowd with his impressive finish on the chorus on Britney Spears' "Hit Me Baby (One More Time)"; junior Alex Kuntz also amazed the crowd with his impression of Backstreet Boys' "I Want it That Way". Sophomore Mike Becker won it all for the black team with his knowledge of Beyoncé's "Single Ladies".

Another event Student Council planned was General runway. Seniors from each team had ten minutes to dress the generals up using a trashbag, makeup, paint, flowers, and streamers, and then they had to show off their costumes by doing their best model walk down the runway. Each team used

their overall theme as a model, with red's theme as zombies and black as outer space aliens.

The last of the events was a pudding-eating contest, in which four students and one administrator from each team participated. Mr. William Miles and Mr. Jack McCue both participated for the red team. Junior Ryan Supplee ate all four cups of pudding first, securing the victory for the red team. Junior AJ Ortiz, who participated in the pudding race, said "the new activities were pretty fun but the pudding eating contest was pretty nasty. Next year, they could take the pudding out later or have it first."

At the end of the pep rally, the tallies from the official events earlier in the rally had been totaled and added in, and the scores were as follows: Red with 108, and black with 108; the teams went neck and neck into gym night.

# Interact members help world causes

**Julia Cohen**  
staff writer '11

Interact club has reached out to help struggling, Haitian students after the recent earthquake that devastated the country. Members of Interact volunteered to help by bringing in everyday school items to fill backpacks for these students.

The opportunity to donate backpacks arose through the Horsham

Rotary, the adult, community service and parent organization of our school's Interact club.

Working cooperatively, the Rotary and Interact succeeded in filling 25 backpacks. The backpacks will be sent to Labadee in northern Haiti. After the demolition of 90% of the schools in Port-au-Prince, people were forced to move to northern villages that are now in great need

of the supplies.

Interact alone was able to fill 10 backpacks in a short amount of time, while the Rotary came through with the other 15. The club chose to fill the backpacks for elementary school students, but supplies were sent to both elementary and secondary students.

Interact members purchased items off a list of what was needed for the backpacks.

Everyone worked together to bring in supplies that included boxes of pencils, pencil sharpeners, crayons, toothpaste and toothbrushes, white shirts and more.

Another service project the club has led is the sale of bracelets that has benefited orphans in Nicaragua. Interact members volunteered to sell these hand-made bracelets during all lunches.

For \$5, students not only received a bracelet, but were able to benefit a good cause.

This bracelet fundraiser was organized by Julia Wright, sophomore and interact member. Through a connection with her mother's friend, Wright brought the fundraiser to Interact. The bracelets were met with positive response from students.



Co-officer junior Lauren McNeil and President senior Kristen DeBelle joyfully pack backpacks for Haitian children. Interact

Kristen DeBelle, senior and president said, "The bracelets were really intricate and cool." When asked about the success of the fundraiser in our school, she said, "The fundraiser was really successful, even more so than I

thought it would be." Interact raised about \$300 at our school alone and the bracelets were scheduled to be sold in another school district following our high school.



Juniors Sarah Laster, Mikaela Hawk, and Kate Hentschel help support Haitian relief with their fellow Interact members. The backpacks will be sent to Labadee in northern Haiti.

## New handprints for autism society

**Silvia Chon**  
staff writer '12

As a student of our high school, it is not likely that you have missed the second floor hallway connecting the H-wing and the B-wing, perhaps more identifiable as "the hands hallway" or "the handprint hallway".

This April, a second handprint mural will dress up the walls of another hallway of our school.

The National Honor Society will be hosting the creation of a new handprint hallway that will benefit the Autism Society of America.

For three dollars, any student can leave his handprint mark on

the walls of the school. While NHS is hoping to have as many clubs participate in this project as possible, sign ups for hand prints are open to all.

The original handprint hallway has approximately 380 handprints. The new handprints will be painted on the wall across from the art gallery

The blocks delegated to each group of students will be in the shape of puzzle pieces as a tip of the hat to the trademark puzzle pieces used to represent Autism awareness.

They are the same ones painted on St. Jude Children's Hospital's first mural.



Naitonal Honor Society's existing handprint hallway. Their new hallway will be outside the gym.

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# The strange but appealing world of Chatroulette

Michael Gildin

front page editor '11

As teenagers, we are generally highly affected by cultural trends – in fact, usually we are the largest proponent of the latest fad.

That is why you would be hard-pressed to find a student here who has not heard of Chatroulette.

For the three of you who have not heard of this website, I will describe it briefly: it allows you to video chat with random people until one of you clicks "Next."

I ventured into this strange world at my own peril, and I found something that was scary and creepy, and yet highly alluring and captivating. Once I threw myself into the sea of bored people, there was no turning back. Within 30 seconds, I had looked at more than 20 faces – for each one, I had to endure the emotional trauma of being "nexted." I was furious at all of those people who did not want to talk to me. I began to question what it was about myself that was so uninteresting or so unappealing.

Quickly, I became numb to the effects of what in the real world would be perceived as rude. It was not long before I was the one disconnecting from people I had looked at for a half second.

Ordinarily, I would be the one lamenting the loss of etiquette. The rules of normal human interaction, though, do not apply to this mysterious world. It is such a fascinating concept – it truly shows how powerful split-second assessments are.

If you can get yourself past the initial shock of Chatroulette, you will find that it has the capacity to make you think in new ways.

For instance, you can learn a lot about

yourself if you stop to consider why you do or do not want to talk to certain people. Let's face it: we all have prejudices, whether conscious or not.

I am not going to pretend that this website can open up people's eyes to allow them to confront their intolerances, but it certainly is an interesting exploration of how our minds work. Freud would have loved this.

But even if you are not going to go on Chatroulette to intellectualize about the unconscious, it is still an incredibly interesting website that has the dangerous potential to consume hours of your precious time. I will openly admit that, while trying out the website in order to write this, I stayed on, my image shooting around to hundreds of other people, for eight hours.

That's right. It was a school night, and I did not get off of my computer until 5 a.m.

Obviously, I would not recommend this for people who have anything at all to do the next day. Throughout the school day after my marathon stay on the site, I found myself longing to go back on, craving the rush of sorts I got from seeing all of those different faces.

When I returned home, I just had to enter that world again – and I did. There was clearly something more to this than a trivial gimmick.

Now, it would hopefully not be too much of a revelation if I were to say that Hatboro, Horsham and the other areas that are home to HH students are boring, bland and rather homogenous in populace.

What is so exciting about Chatroulette is the ability to instantly (albeit, randomly) connect with people of all backgrounds, ethnicities, nationalities. Provided that the person on the other end does not discon-

nect immediately and is not a naked old man (and please note, the latter is more prevalent than might be comfortable for many), you are almost certain to find someone with whom you can converse and from whom you can learn.

I had the pleasure of talking to a group of Polish people about my age; we talked about what it was like to grow up in our respective countries, and I was surprised to discover that they are perfectly content with living in Warsaw.

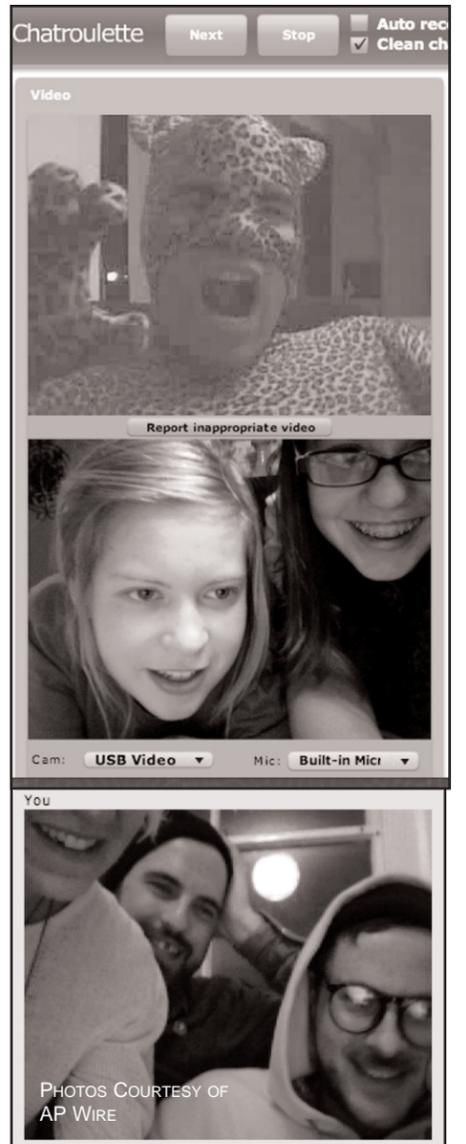
I found much of the same sentiment with the people I met from France, China, Turkey, and Brazil – they love living where they do. Sure, the opportunity is not as great, they generally told me, but they all said in one form or another that they would not want to live in a country as turbulent and commercialized as the United States (yes, even the Chinese person said this). It made me take a large metaphorical step back.

Do not get the idea that this site is not a place for fun. It can be great to goof around with random people, whether to blow off steam, or even for its own sake, and we all certainly need that. Getting together with friends to explore the site is a wonderful way to have fun wasting time.

A lot of the inhabitants of Chatroulette are rather entertaining as well – I spent a large amount of time during my marathon night enjoying the talents of a Minnesotan man who played on his guitar the many Beatles songs I requested to hear.

Though not everyone may get a good experience out of Chatroulette, it seems like an important force of vitalization for the internet that certainly provides a unique adventure for everyone.

And who knows? It might just be the cure for your Facebook addiction.



Interactions on Chatroulette can be very varied, but with patience, it will not be long before something interesting is found. The fun is always unexpected.

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# Lower Merion laptop scandal: privacy at risk?

**Miriam Smerling**  
activities editor '11

In the past month, Lower Merion School District (LMSD) has reached local, national and even global news.

Earlier this year, Blake Robbins, a student at Harrington High School, filed a lawsuit against the district for invading his privacy. Robbins had been called into an administrator's office and confronted with a photo taken from a school-issued MAC. The administrators believed that the image depicted Robbins eating what they assumed was a prescription pill. Robbins insists it was a Mike 'n Ike.

This lawsuit has raised many issues surrounding constitutional rights to privacy and drawn the attention of the FBI, the ACLU and Senator Arlen Specter.

I have many friends in the LMSD, and their perspectives add to what I have read in the articles already published.

All of this began because LMSD along with many schools in the nation, wanted to institute a paperless system.

The school district issued laptops to be used for taking notes, doing homework and projects as well as for students' own use. The students are given the laptop

from September until June, and are to bring it to class every day.

Junior Dann Weitz, a student at Lower Merion High School, said, "The addition of the laptops has been a whole different experience for school. We do tons of creative projects now, and organizationally, it is wonderful to have my notes in one place."

In order to receive a laptop each student must pay an initial insurance deposit. Robbins did not pay this deposit. His initial laptop screen broke, and he was able to use a loaner's laptop. The loaner's laptops are only allowed to be used in school unless they are signed out. Robbins failed to sign out the computer he was using, which made his computer a target for the district's security system.

According to the school district website, "Upon a report of a suspected lost, stolen or missing laptop, the feature was activated by the District's security and technology departments. The tracking-security feature was limited to taking a still image of the operator and the operator's screen. This feature has only been used for the limited purpose of locating a lost, stolen or missing laptop. The District has not used the tracking feature or web cam for any other purpose or in

any other manner whatsoever."

Although the website's claim seems credible, this still image is to be taken as the user first opens and turns on the computer, and then continue to take pictures at designated intervals. Although LMSD stated that Robbins was seen using drugs in the picture taken, this is quite impractical.

Another student in the district said, "Blake is known to smell of drugs, which makes the [district's] story more believable, but the picture would not have caught him so off-guard if he had just been opening his laptop. The picture they are referring to would most likely be in mid-conversation." This student also said it is common for students to use the popular "iChat" application when using their laptops, and he was probably using this at the time of the photo.

The assumption that Robbins was using drugs seemed to stem in part from numerous discipline referrals for "improper behavior at school" according to LMSD officials in an article from the Philadelphia Inquirer.

This part of the claim forces me to disagree with the school district side.

To me, this issue has been split into two. On the one hand, the laptop was in fact taken with-

out being signed out, and any student in this situation is subject to being photographed. On the other hand, his behavior should be irrelevant to that claim. If the district was only interested in the use of the laptop and not his activity, then it would be more credible. The fact that so much attention has been brought to his behavior, it forces me think that maybe the school district is using this security feature improperly.

The fact is that every student and every person has the right to their own privacy. Even if the school technically owned the computer, Robbins is only responsible for paying the fine for taking a laptop, not for any claims of his activity.

No distinct proof has been presented whether or not he was using drugs, and he should not be subject to questions about it.



A controversial topic arose after a student was investigated as being spied on from a school laptop. This issue threatens student privacy as well as questions the school's ability to access student's info.

# Winter '09-'10: Too much of a good thing?

**Melanie Martin**  
editorials editor '11

snow. With two major snowstorms and blizzard like conditions, this winter caused many events and activities to shut down. Parent meetings and events were cancelled or rescheduled. In my opinion, the most unfortunate cancellation due to the snow was the Red Cross Blood Drive. I was among one of the hundreds of students who had signed up to donate blood. The Red Cross relied on many students from our school to donate blood since many other drives were cancelled due to snow in our area. Fortunately, the blood drive for our school has been rescheduled for May 27.

For me, snow has always been something to look forward to at the start of every winter season. As much as the warm weather of sum-

This winter, our area experienced a record-breaking amount of

mer appeals to me, the wintertime offers opportunity for sledding, snowboarding, skiing and more. These recreational activities are great for making the most of snowy



The snowstorms of 2010 caused many days off of school as well as opportunity for winter fun but many became "fed up" from the weather.

conditions. However, after two blizzards, I was fed up of the white cotton balls falling from the sky. My first thought: That groundhog wasn't lying! It was cool to live through and experience the history of one of the snowiest winters ever recorded for Philadelphia! Yet I was finally ready to return to school. With spring right around the corner, I can smell the flowers and of course the allergies. For the first time in over a month, I can finally see grass. Snow provided many fun, snowy, school free days but it is time for those flip flops to come out of their hiding spots and for the flowers to sprout.

Throughout the entire winter season of 2009-2010, to date our school has had three snow days that will need to be made up on May 18, June 17 and 18. The administration is hoping that there will be no more inclement weather but if this hazardous and very snowy winter persists, the schedule for the end of the year will

need to be reevaluated.

## Voice of the Hatters



The Hat Chat

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Unsigned editorials reflect the opinion of the majority of the Editorial Board, not necessarily those of the administration, faculty, or student body. Signed articles represent the opinion of the writer and do not reflect the *Hat Chat* as a paper.

Any student may respond to any editorial or article in letter form. The *Hat Chat* reserves the right to refuse any request that it deems inappropriate to its mission. It is the duty of the newspaper to correct false information in print as soon as possible.

The *Hat Chat* will attempt to publish all letters at the discretion of the editor. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for length, appropriateness, and clarity without changing or manipulating the original intention or tone. Please submit letters to F217 or any Hat Chat member.

## Taylor keeps her culture alive through dancing

**Eric Marinelli**  
staff writer '11

Although the sweetly shy Caitlin Taylor may tell you her life is boring, it is anything but, involving everything from competitive Irish dancing to taking a score of exceedingly difficult AP classes.

Originally born in Ireland, Caitlin and her family moved to America when she was five. Although she has now lost her previously strong accent, her connections to Ireland remain. "We travel back kind of often," said Taylor, estimating that her family visits Ireland every other summer or so to see her many cousins that still live there.

Her family decided to leave Belfast in Northern Ireland partially because of the violence that flared in the conflict between nationalists and those who preferred Northern Ireland stay a part of the U.K. The main reason the Taylor's left Ireland for America, however, was her parents' wanderlust. Taylor explained that, "My mom had lived in London, Germany, and

other places when she younger and wanted to try something new."

With an Irish heritage more recent than most Irish-Americans, there are some differences between Caitlin and her fellow Americans. Most notable is her usage of Irish slang, which "my friends really like to tease me about." Taylor also thinks that her international background allows her to see things in a different light than most native-born Americans.

Her dual-citizenship doesn't change her too much though: she is your typical over-involved American teen, with co-editorship of the Yearbook, treasurer-ship of our school's chapter of the National Honors Society, membership in Hatters Inc., and a seat on the Senior Advisory Board.

Like many in our area, Taylor plans to attend either Temple or Drexel for college with the aspiration of becoming a journalist covering news of—not surprisingly—international scope.



Photo Courtesy of Caitlin Taylor

Taylor in a performance dressed in traditional Irish costume.



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Eric Schwartz's business card.

## Udinsky jazzes his way into the "Harvard" of all bands in the state

**Drew Muller**  
entertainment editor '11

Unless they have been to the moon, pioneered a scientific discovery or earned a black belt, most people can't say they were the first to do something or are the best at something. John Udinsky can.

Stepping off the train in Baltimore, where he traveled to audition for Berklee College of Music, he received a text message that made four years of intense dedication pay off. He learned he had been selected for the All-State Jazz Band, making him the first student in the history of our school to earn this honor.

Seventeen students out of the entire state of Pennsylvania and its 500 plus high schools and more than 10,000 students have the opportunity to play in the band. For John's instrument, the bari sax, there was only one position. To adequately illustrate the merit of his achievement, a comparison is necessary: you are more likely to get struck by lightning after winning the lottery than to make All-State Jazz.

"I tried out for the group in 9th and 11th grade and didn't make it", Udinsky said. "Each year I'd approach it in a different way and each year got better and better and when this year came around the audition wasn't even nerve racking."

John worked tirelessly, practicing a minimum of two hours a day, to hone his skills to the point where the audition process was "just like another exercise." By committing almost all of his time to practice he didn't have to work up to the audition requirements and sent in his tape after only two tries. "This isn't something I decided to just try out for and see if I would make it. It took four years of training and practice," Udinsky said.

Udinsky feels his admittance to the elite ensemble is the defining career in his music career thus far and hopes to gain valuable experience for his musical endeavors in the future. "For me to make it this far makes me wonder if I

Photo Courtesy of John Udinsky



Udinsky in a concert last year with his bari saxophone and the rest of the jazz band; his performance in this and other concerts helped him practice for the audition tape he sent to the elite ensemble.

accomplished this, what else can I do? It is a great honor and I feel it is the first step to really making something of myself," Udinsky said.

His admittance to the All-State Jazz band was the pinnacle of a very successful year in which he made District band and moved on to Region band, showing he can complement his jazz skills with his classical music abilities.

On April 23rd Udinsky will head to Pittsburgh to participate in the All-State Jazz festival where he will perform high level music with fellow musicians who he will be meeting and playing with for

the first time. Equally as talented at the guitar, he hopes to study jazz guitar and saxophone at either Berklee or University of the Arts in Philadelphia.

After graduating he hopes to earn a Masters degree in music composition and as he said, "lay down a few records and entertain people with my music." Udinsky's lofty ambitions are matched by extreme work ethic and excessive talent, both of which will carry him far in the music industry. "In the past four years I've practiced more than I've slept," he said. It looks like all his hard work and dedication was worth it.

Udinsky shows off some of his other talents with the guitar



Photo Courtesy of John Udinsky

## New student business gives tutoring a unique "upgrade"

**Junha Chung**  
staff writer '12

Ever think of starting your own business? That's exactly what Eric Schwartz, a junior at Hatboro-Horsham, has done.

In his sophomore year, Eric was tutoring for community service when he noticed that tutors were charging a high rate for their services. He decided that he could help people without charging too high of a price for his services. With the help of his father who is a marketing consultant, Eric started to advertise his business in April 2009.

Compared to other tutors,

what does Grade Upgrade do that other business's don't? Eric Schwartz said, "It is an academic tutoring business that uses focus tutoring techniques to enhance the student's grade".

He decided his rates by using the standard tutor's rate that was between 60 and 120. Also, he wanted to be one of the lowest on the market that was efficient.

To find clients, Eric went to different places he was familiar with, and put up ads on those places with information up on his website.

Eric doesn't single handedly teach every subject, he has more tutors that teach the subjects that

are strongest to them. For example, Eric is very strong in subjects such as Math and Spanish which are the ones he currently teaches.

Currently, Eric is looking for tutors who are strong in World Languages such as German as well as an English tutor. Right now, there is a special offer for students who show up with this article, they get the first two sessions free!

If you are interested in contacting or asking for help, you can contact Eric at his email ems4.1.06@hotmail.com or you can go to his website gradeupgrade.com for more information.

# Portelli shines on the field, gives thoughts on the season

**Steve Gross**  
staff writer '12

As warm weather arrives, so do the spring athletes of the 09-10 school year.

The girls on the soccer team are warming up for a great season. Captains Christina Portelli and Amariah Baker are ready to show off their new team.

This year the team is comprised of a mere five seniors. However, the captains are not concerned. Portelli said, "This team is a very young team, but we will [continue] to be strong and be very aggressive".

As the first game of the season arrives, the girls are preparing. On average the team practices five days a week prior to the first game.

A typical practice for the team consists of a warm-up run, stretching, strategic drills, followed by more running and a scrimmage.

During the season, the girls play two to three games per week and practice on the other days.

Portelli and Baker are sure that the hard work will pay off.

The team has many goals that they look forward to accomplishing in their upcoming season.

Portelli said, "Some of our goals for this season would be to make it past the first round of play-offs and to just play a good season together as a team".

Both captains have been playing the sport for many years and they look forward to using their experience to aid in the team's success.

Portelli has been playing soccer for approximately eleven years. She said, "I have learned from many experiences over my soccer career".

She said, "I have learned that working hard in practice always pays off, and the harder you push yourself the better you will be".



Christina Portelli bounces a soccer ball on her knee in preparation for girl's soccer.

# Hollenback pitches a win for the baseball team

**Steve Braunewell**  
staff writer '11

With the snow finally melting, and the warm weather slowly approaching, it looks like it is about that time for the Hatters baseball team to get started.

After finishing a strong season last year, the team is ready for more action. With a bunch of players returning to the diamond, and some new faces added to the mix, the Hatters are looking strong.

Varsity baseball player Matt Hollenbeck said that the outlook of the season was good. "I think that we should have a very successful season this year. We have a very old team with a lot of experience. Our pitching and defense is very solid, and our hitting is looking promising".

Hollenbeck is a stellar left-handed pitcher that also plays outfield and occasionally plays first base. With a skill set like his, many wonder what lies ahead in his future.

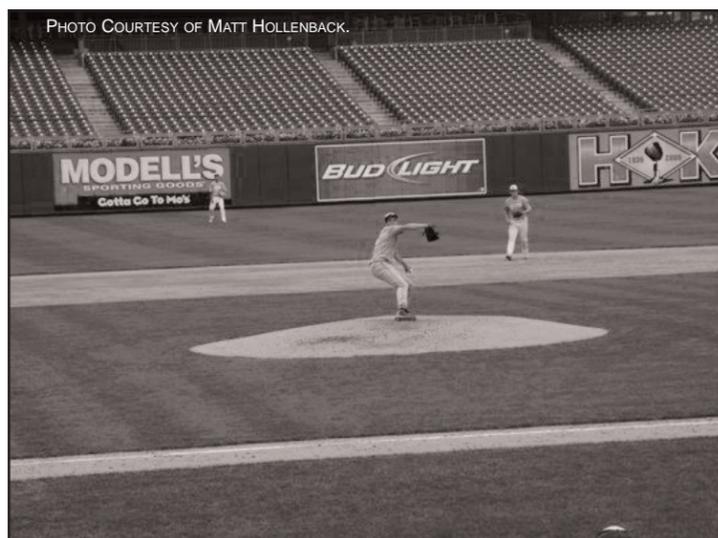
"I would love to play baseball

in college, and even at a higher level, if possible. Right now I am taking it one step at a time." says Hollenbeck about the years to come. With the season just beginning, Hollenbeck looks to prove himself not only as a dominant pitcher in the league, but also as a star prospect to potential universities.

His one game at a time motto ties perfectly into the team philosophy as the Hatters look to win game by game and stay focused on winning throughout the year.

Everyone is going to have to step up for the Hatters. Some some players like Hollenbeck, this is a defining moment in their baseball careers, as they try to take their careers to the next level.

As the team finally comes together after try-outs the Hatters look once again to improve on last years successes. The Hatters wish to assert themselves as one of the dominant few teams in the Suburban One League.



Matt Hollenback pitches for the school.

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# Sillybandz, on the warpath

Drew Muller

the entertaining comrade '11

Sillybandz, the visionary company that has brought the world more than 2,000,000 imperishable rubber bands in a variety of shapes, has climbed from the cellar of the synthetics business to achieve national fame.

Fueled by the obsessive collecting habits of America's youth, company profits have skyrocketed to previously unforeseen heights.

"When I was a boy in Alabama," said Sillybandz CEO Marvin Werthy, "I had a dream to allow the rubber band to become more than just a device for holding things together."

Werthy's childhood fantasy has turned into reality as Sillybandz are being gobbled off of dollar store shelves not only by elementary age children, the intended target, but high school age "children" as well. With the explosion and popularity of the creature-themed collectibles Werthy intends to expand into "a

new realm for rubber bands". "Move over Skittles and "Taste the Rainbow", now kids can wear a safari on their wrists," Werthy said. "And who wouldn't want to wear a safari on their wrist?"

Werthy plans to introduce a number of new shapes in the upcoming months. "Anticipate seeing an entire line of World War II Sillybandz and our labs are currently working on Sillybandz cigarettes, a healthy alternative to smoking. Also look out for a line of illegal item shapes called Contrabandz."

Not only are Sillybandz potentially life changing but they are emerging as the newest fashion trend of 2010. Celebrities, including Emmanuel Lewis and Gary Coleman, have been spotted with Sillybandz up and down

both arms. Both Lewis and Coleman would not comment on the subject. Paris Hilton was also seen wearing a dress made entirely out of Sillybandz. Eager to talk

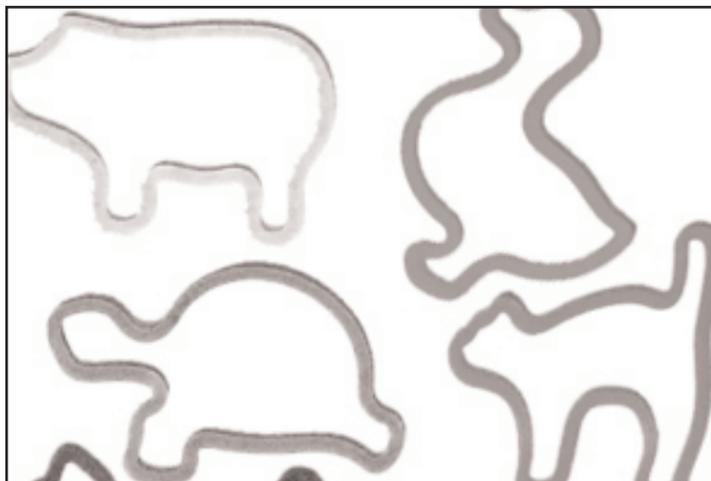
they continue to generate excitement. The company has stated that to support its newest line of Mythological beasts Sillybandz it will be manufacturing one

Minotaur, a creature with the head of a bull and body of a man, and placing it in a pack at random. The person who finds the secret Sillyband will win the grand prize, which is reportedly the opportunity to have a Sillyband

whose establishment was attacked by a rowdy band of adolescents, said, "[The fifth graders] barged into my store holding squirt guns filled with windshield wiper fluid and demanded to see all of my Sillybandz. I had no idea what they were talking about because my store sells industrial strength rubber bands. Whoever decided to make rubber bands silly is out of their mind!" Mr. McGilligan is being treated for methanol related injuries at Northside Hospital in Atlanta, but is expected to make a full recovery.

Despite the path of destruction that seems to be following the secret Sillyband, Werthy is not calling off the competition. "Until there is a mortal injury in association with this contest, I will not terminate it," Werthy assured.

The quest for Minotaur Sillyband continues to rage on and Werthy poses a last question, "Will you collect them all and become the ultimate Sillybandz master?"



about the subject Hilton said, "Um, like, um, you know, they're just so cool and like everyone has them, so like, um, I'm the first person to wear them as clothes, like I deserve a Nobel Peace Prize or something."

Maybe Sillybandz will one day cross into the world of international armistice, but for now

made in the shape of them self along with \$2,000 in cash. However, the bold move has generated drastic results. Dollar stores across the country have been sacked by gangs of fifth-graders in attempts to find the secret Sillyband.

Store owner Jerome McGilligan of Atlanta, Georgia,

## Lovick and Harrell to star in "HSM: Semester Abroad!"

Trevor Ceneviva

the deep comrade '10

Next summer, Disney will be releasing the newest film in its line of "High School Musical" movies in theaters—and alongside the cast will be two Hatboro-Horsham graduates.

The film, "High School Musical: Semester Abroad" picks up three years after graduation, when the beloved cast is in their junior year, which for them means it's time to spend a semester abroad.

While most of the cast went to different schools after graduation, many of them have gone abroad

in the same places. Troy, played by Zac Efron, and Gabrielle, played by Vanessa Hudgens, are both in Paris.

When they first run into each other there, Gabrielle is with her new friend Maxime, played by Hatboro-Horsham graduate Joey Harrell.

Meanwhile, Chad, played by Corbin Bleu, is studying in London, competing with Jack, played by Devron Lovick, for a high profile position with a stock-trade company.

Joey and Devron had just one thing to say about going to Europe to film: "We're all in this together!"

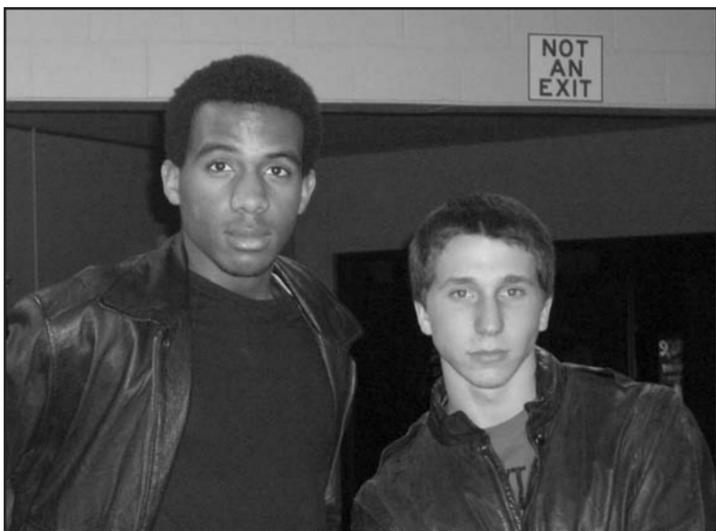
Songs from the new film include "Getcha Head in the Underground," "What I've Been Traveling For," "When There Was E and U," "Bop to the Top (of the Eiffel Tower)," "We're all in Europe Together" and "Mind the Gap (in my Heart)."

While Joey and Devron are putting off a year of college to work on the film, they both think it is worth it.

"There could be no greater experience," said Joey, "I'm so excited about the opportunities I'm going to be presented with."

Devron agreed: "After this, there's no telling where we could end up."

**Devron Lovick and Joey Harrell**, stars of many H-H stage productions, will be working together in Europe on the next *High School Musical!*



## Hat Chat reconized for supierieor speling

Emilia Yu

comrade '13

We are vary pround of our newspaper staf. Aperil 21st wil mark the day when the *Hat Chat* is finally recognizd for they're outstanding speling.

The Scripps Howard Foundashon, who sponsors the Nashional Journalizm Awards, has desided to present there first ever Perfect Speling Award to our newspaper.

As we all knew, it was only a matter of time before some presteegous organizaton notised how our papers have never had a singel error.

The Foundashon had the monumetel tasc of making the choise between to papers, but the *Hat Chat* triumphed. Obviously, the whole staff was all thrilled with this acheivment, but not altogether serprised.

This aword also reconizes are superiorness in grammer. We were chosen as the best papar for bowth speling and grammer. Readers certainly also knoh of are grate use of grammetical skillz.

Advizer, Ms. English, sed, "The club relly deeserves this

aword. They hav the best speling I have aver scene in my years of teeching."

With each issue, we recieve many compliments on how amayzing our speling is. We are sure that this aword wil not serprise the students of Hatboro-Horsam. They are all aware of are skillz.

This feet could not have been possible if it was not for our fantastik editers, who are shure not to let any mistaikess past them.

Asistint editor, Kierra Foley, says, "We don't even use the spel chek in Microsoft Werd becuz we know that it's imposibel for us to have a speling error with our skillz in writing Wee r simplee the best in all of Horsam, their is no contest."

Editor-in-chef, Sherry Yang, sed, "I am vary pround of the staf. We hav all werked vary hard in order too win the Perfect Spekubg Award."

If you are intrested, the awards seremonys are being held along the shure of Lake Mishigan from 4:15 A.M. two 4:20 A.M. in the earlie mourning of Aperil 21st.

We hope too see all of you their to shair this specall momeant with us!