

THUNDERBIRD

HIGH SCHOOL EAST NEWSPAPER

Half Hollow Hills High School East

Issue 3 Spring 2013

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HILLS EAST "TOP 20"

BEST OF LUCK TO YOU ALL ON YOUR FUTURE ENDEAVORS



- Daniel Baden**
- Christy Chon**
- Caila Cohen**
- Brittany Colonna**
- Emma Cordano**
- Hiral Doshi**
- Tyler Fisher**
- Alexander Frieder**
- Shreyas Havaldar**
- Spencer Kaplan**
- Carol Lee**
- Helen Hiu**
- Amanda Luper**
- Miranda Lupion**
- Sydney Pergament**
- Benjamin Sorkin**
- Alexa Spiegel**
- Ross Tannenbaum**
- Robert Tannenbaum**
- Amanda Zigomalas**



Urinetown: the Musical



Congratulations to the entire cast of Urinetown for an amazing performance! (See page 2 for the story)



High School East congratulates the class of 2013 Valedictorian, Ross Tannenbaum and the Salutatorian, Hiral Doshi.



NAHS Art SALE was held on April 8th and 9th. Proceeds went towards art scholarships for HSE students.

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Urinetown: A Great Success!

Jiyun Lee
School News Editor

After performing various Shakespeare Plays, such as *Taming of the Shrew* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, successfully, the High School East drama club turned to a more contemporary work this year. *Urinetown: the Musical* was performed on Friday, March 22nd and Saturday March 23rd at 7:30pm. Al-

(Josh Rosenbaum) and Little Sally (Alexa Gottesman). Because of a 20-year drought, a city suffers from a water shortage. The private toilets are no longer accessible, and one evil company owner, Caldwell B. Cladwell (Michael Worshoufsky), forces people to pay to use the public amenities. That is, until Bob-



Some cast members singing on the jaw dropping set

though *Urinetown* debuted only 12 years ago, it is famous for its hilarious tale and witty characters. As a satirical musical, it parodies classic plays, including *The Cradle Will Rock* and *Les Misérables*. The directors of the HSE musical (Dr. McRoy, Ms. McCarthy, and Mr. Wiley) noted that it was specifically chosen to “allow students the opportunity to participate in a more contemporary piece of musical theatre while exploring the centuries’ old theatrical form of satire.”

When the night started, the audience was met with a jaw-dropping set. Then, the play began with a short explanation of the background story told by Officer Lockstock

by Strong (Nathaniel Bear) leads the people into a revolution for their “right to pee”. Caldwell’s daughter, Hope Caldwell (Katherine Rigano) falls in love with Bobby and continues the revolution after his death. At first glance, the plot may seem silly and merely funny, yet the play actually explored darker elements, such as problems of capitalism, social irresponsibility, and bureaucracy.

The actors and actresses did an amazing job; each of their roles fit them perfectly. The singing, the set, and the clever lines all collaborated to create one fantastic play. The High School East Drama club has succeeded once again!



The wonderful cast of *Urinetown*

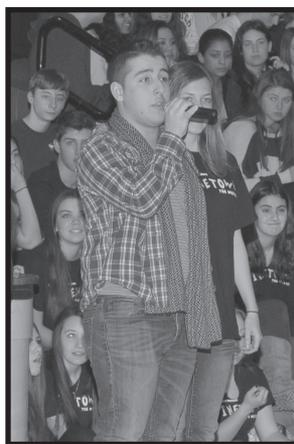
Pumped Up For Pep Rally

Lindsay Goldman
Staff Writer

As the seasons change, a sure sign of spring is the annual HSE spring pep rally! The students piled into the gym, some of whom would be sitting in their last pep rally at HSE, and they all seemed very eager to start a new sports season. With spring sports comes spring weather



The Dixettes doing their thing at the spring Pep Rally



Josh Rosenbaum getting the crowd going!

and finally getting back out onto the many fields of the HSE campus. The spring sports highlighted at this pep rally included: boys’ tennis,

girls’ golf, boys’ and girls’ track, boys’ and girls’ lacrosse, boys’ baseball, girls’ softball, and badminton. To add to the excitement, the kickline performed an amazing, high-energy routine to a remix of Britney Spears’ songs that got the crowd out of their seats. Last, but not least, the crowd went wild for the OUT OF THIS WORLD freshman girl, Sheimyrah Mighty who belted out a song that put every contestant on every singing competition show to shame. While she is the reigning winner of Hills Idol, perhaps she should set her sights on something bigger in the near future. A spirited beginning such as this seems to hold a lot of promise for the upcoming sports season. The Thunderbird staff wishes all of our spring athletes the best of luck



Who’s that boy or girl behind the T-Bird?

throughout the 2013 spring sports season. LET’S GO T-BIRDS!

Model UN Supports World Water Day

Helen Kim
Staff Writer

On March 22, 2013, Model UN organized a fundraiser for Charity: Water in honor of *World Water Day*. This charity helps people all over the world, especially those in Latin America, sub Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia,

get clean water. In the United States, people think clean water is always accessible. However, the need for clean water is increasing in other parts of the world. In fact, according to the *Charity: Water* website, charitywater.org,

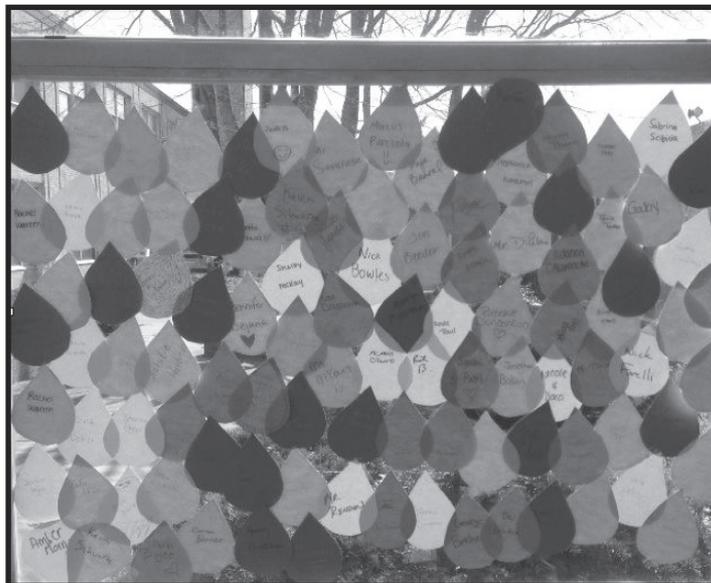
approximately 800 million people



live without clean water every day, and every 19 seconds a child

dies from a preventable water-related illness.

For just one dollar, students and teachers bought a piece of paper in the shape of a water droplet. They wrote their names on their drop and then taped it on the window in the hallway just outside of the cafeteria. One dollar provides enough water for a child for over forty days. Within just three days, Model UN was able to raise over \$600. The club donated all of the money directly to funding water development projects to countries that need it most all around the world.



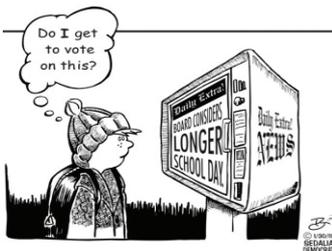
Teachers and students from HSE show their support for *World Water Day* by purchasing paper in the shape of a water droplet.

School's Out! Oh, Wait, Not Yet...

Lauren Lopez
Staff Writer

Six hours a day; five days a week. That's the typical school day. So what would happen if Governor Cuomo executed his plan to extend school days? He would have a lot of upset kids on his hands; even his own. There has to be a logical way as to why the Governor wants to extend the day. After all he can't do it for no reason whatsoever. Maybe he thinks it will improve the academic performance of kids in New York. I, for one, disagree. We students go through enough school and any more school, along with the added homework, would be enough to fry the brains of students. I'm sure many students, parents, and teachers would agree.

Let's look at this from his perspective, shall we? New York does go to school for less time than other schools in the country. So, are we behind? In other states, particularly the warmer ones, students go to school longer. They'll go for a certain period of time, then have off for a few weeks and repeat this cycle. These students don't have the elongated two month break that other states get. Some could argue that this is why the education is behind for kids who have a free summer. Summer does eliminate the process of learning for some students. Maybe it would be better for children to go to school in semesters, instead of quarters, so the information is not lost in the back of their minds like the Algebra homework that never made it out of their backpacks. This, of



course, is not the issue at hand. The issue at hand is Governor Cuomo and his proposal to extend school days. School days are long enough. High Schoolers go to school from 7 to 2, and some students don't get home until 7 at night or even later because of sports. If the school day was increased and these kids had to come home even later and then do homework, nothing would ever get done effectively.

There's also the issue of how long someone can sit and learn. After a while, the information starts to get jumbled. It might seem beneficial to learn for longer at 8 in the morning when you're alert, but try learning logarithms after 4 straight hours of school. Not so simple.

While Governor Cuomo may have good intentions for extending the school day, he should look at it from a kid's perspective. No kid can sit in school for 7 hours or longer and learn efficiently. No one wants to go to school for longer than 6 hours. The students have homework and friends, the parents need their kids home, the teachers have families and papers to grade... the list goes on and on. Sorry Governor Cuomo. It's evident that no one wants longer school days, and your proposal probably won't make it too far.

Surviving Your Junior Year... The Parent Conference

Alexus Haddad
News Editor

Those of us who are juniors and seniors can attest to the extreme amount of stress brought on by junior year. Juniors have to take their PSATs, SATs, ACTs, and have their parent conferences with

important. Try to maintain an average that is "decent." That means work hard and pay more attention in your classes. Along with decent grades, try to study for the SAT or ACT; you will be submitting either one or both of these scores to

once in a while to discuss what you might be interested in pursuing in college. One of the most terrifying moments is when your parents schedule a parent conference with your guidance counselor to discuss college plans. This



their guidance counselors to talk about their futures. On top of all this, juniors must also maintain a decent average, partake in extracurricular activities, and prepare for Regents and/or AP exams. While all this may seem overwhelming and complicated, with careful planning and some sleep, junior year will seem like a breeze.

First, try to make a good impression on your teachers, as you will be asking two of them to write your recommendations. Show your teachers that you embody the ideals of respect, responsibility and excellence. Grades are very

colleges of your choice in a short time.

Above all, the most important aspect is having a little fun once in awhile. Don't try to stress yourself out with too many rigorous courses, otherwise you'll lose sleep and be more likely to make careless mistakes. Try to schedule an appointment to meet your guidance counselor every

conference is defining your future and where you want to be in life. The most important thing is not to worry about it! One's guidance counselor will give him or her an incredible amount of options for colleges and majors. So really, junior year is just another year with a little bit more work!

Student Government Update

Shari Bieber
Staff Writer

Student Government officers and representatives are working hard to make this spring exciting for all of the students at HSE. On March 22nd, the sophomore class played their list of music over the intercom. Next month, the freshmen class will have their turn to play their list. Some Student Government officers went to the Compassion Without Borders Conference. This conference was a trip set up for student leaders and ambassadors from all of the high schools in Suffolk County. These officers listened to presentations about forgiveness and empathy from people who have overcome hard-

ships much more painstaking than those with which most people deal. They also discussed the qualities that a good friend possesses and how to best influence the people in their lives and their community. In addition, Student Government established two spirit days at High School East, occurring on March 21st and 22nd. On March 21st, students were told to wear blue to support *World Water Day*. By wearing blue and donating a dollar, students were able to support the Model United Nations club fundraiser for the non-profit organization *Charity: Water*. This organization provides safe drinking water for people



all over the world by supplying purification systems. On

March 22nd, students were encouraged to wear HSE school colors. On that same day, Student Government supported the Architecture Club in their grand opening of the new HSE Student Center by donating baked goods to be given out throughout the day. On April 15th, election packets will be distributed for students interested in running for 2013-2014 Student Government positions. Student Government meets every Wednesday at 2:15 in room 207.

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Disclaimer: The Thunderbird hereby states that the opinions within this publication are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect those of the staff, administration, or school community.

TRI-M'S COFFEEHOUSE NIGHT

Helen Kim & Fatima Ouedraogo
Staff Writers

Every year, the Tri-M Music Honor Society hosts *Coffeehouse Night* in the auditorium. *Coffeehouse Night* is an event where musicians from different grades and genres of music come together to perform a selection of music for an audience. Starbucks provides coffee, and the Tri-M members bring baked goods to sell for fundraising purposes throughout the night. All proceeds of this event go to the Save the Music Foundation. The *VHI Save The Music Foundation* is a non-profit organization dedicated to restoring instrumental music education in America's public schools and raising awareness about the importance of music as part of each child's complete education. It

was created in 1997, and to this day, has raised over \$40 million. Music is a vital part of a child's life, and each child should be exposed to music education early with classes in public schools beginning as soon as Kindergarten or even

of tables with delicate decorations, and a spotlight shining toward the current act.

Each ensemble performed different genres of music that ranged from singing acapella to jazz to string quintets to rock. This array of performances appealed to the audience and created an uplifting applause after each. This is the fourth year that Coffeehouse Night has been presented,



earlier in some cases.

As soon as you enter through the doorway of HSE's Coffeehouse Night, you are engulfed in a darkly lit stage with only the sparkle of Christmas lights. The aroma of freshly baked goods and Starbucks coffee only makes the facade of a coffeehouse even more real. The student participation was overwhelming and was a major factor in the success for the night. There were clusters

presented, and it is becoming an outstanding tradition within the music department that reaches out to people of all types for a great cause. Join the Tri-M Music Honor Society in keeping the music alive in public schools; come on down to Coffeehouse Night next year for an amazing cause and even better entertainment!

Unity Day 2013

Rachel Schwartz
Staff Writer

On March 3rd, High School West hosted the 10th annual *Unity Day* to join families and

snacks and activities. HSE's National Art Honor Society created a "photo booth" and

the auditorium with performances from dance groups, a boy on stilts, and two stu-



Figures that were on display in the HSW lobby during Unity Day. These figures depicted cultures and holidays indicative of our community's respective countries.

friends of all different cultures to share just what their individual cultures mean to them. In a diverse community such as ours, it is always important to maintain stability and friendship, and Unity Day reinforces the idea of community within. Although the program was held at High School West, students and families from all over the district attended and supported this event. Various clubs from East set up stations for the younger children to enjoy culturally relevant

allowed the children to create their own decorative masks to wear in their pictures. Art Club and Amnesty Club also supported this event. Walking around the various tables, the sense of community is strong as people enjoyed foods and learned traditions from areas all over the world. The volunteers were allowed to enjoy a buffet of food that consisted of everything from tapas from Mexico to sushi from Japan. At 10 AM, there was an introduction to the day held in

students singing the National Anthem. Overall, Unity Day was a success allowing people from all over the district to learn about different cultures and try different foods; something that they would not normally have the opportunity to do. A big thank you goes out to the Diversity Committee and PTA for putting together an amazing day of learning and fun.

Best Dressed at the Oscars 2013

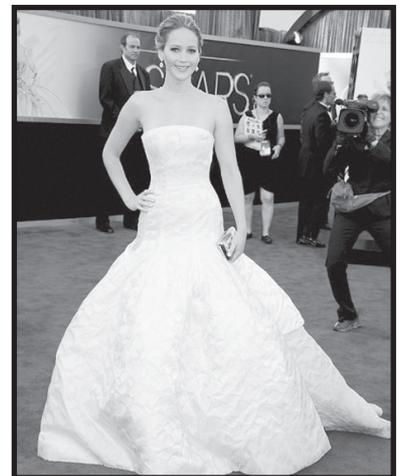
Jordi Schmidt & Emily Shanker
Staff Writers

The 2013 Oscars were fashion forward and trendy to say the least. Many actresses chose to wear metallic, nude and white on the red carpet. This year's best dressed included: Jennifer Lawrence, Naomi Watts, Nicole Kidman, Zoe Saldana, Jessica Chastain, Anne Hathaway, Jane Fonda, Kerry Washington, Jennifer Garner, Quvenzhané Wallis, Halle Berry and Michelle Obama. Naomi Watts wore a stunning galactic inspired, gun-metal sequin gown. Nicole Kidman was lovely as always in a black and gold beaded L'Wren Scott gown. Zoe Saldana wore a greyish, silver Alexis Mabille gown with details on the top and a silver belt. Jessica Chastain really stood out in a strapless, bronze Armani gown. Anne Hathaway wore a pink, column, Prada gown and turned heads as she made her way down the red carpet. Jane Fonda wore a yellow, Versace gown with retro details and broad shoulders. Kerry Washington lit up the evening with her bright, coral-detailed top,

Miu Miu gown. Jennifer Garner was classy as always in a plum, Gucci dress with a Neil Lane Necklace. Quvenzhané Wallis wore a blue, tulle Armani Junior dress with a matching wrap. Halle Berry, the epitome of Hollywood glamour, wore a long sleeve, black and silver striped Versace gown. Michelle Obama, always known for her fashion choices, wore a sparkly Naeem Khan gown. Jennifer Lawrence stole the show in a blush color Dior gown. This year's show had more

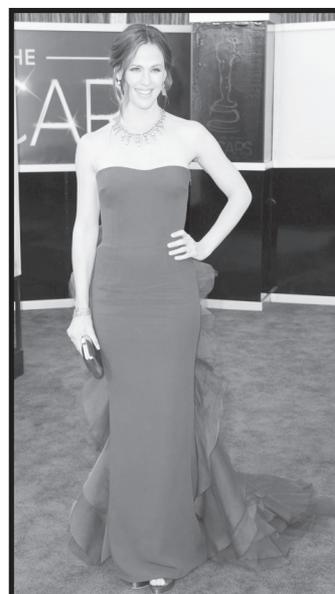


Anne Hathaway in her pink Prada gown

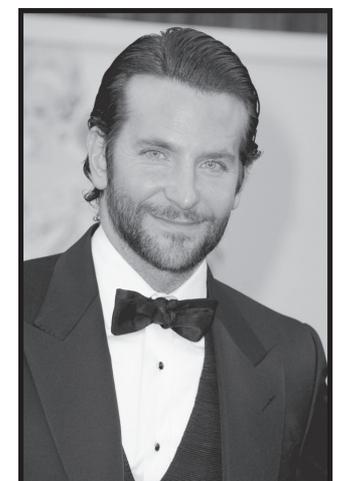


Jennifer Lawrence in her pink Dior Haute Couture gown

fashion hits than misses, and it was amazing watching all of the beautiful women and handsome men of Hollywood make their way down the red carpet.



Jennifer Garner in her plum Gucci dress



Bradley Cooper attends the 2013 Academy Awards in a Tom Ford tuxedo.

Superheroes?

A Look At Athletes Who Have Fallen From Grace

Max Wexler

Staff Writer

story to lose hope in him and his charity, Livestrong. Most

The almost super human athlete who took one of his most terrifying experiences and used it to inspire people all over the world and raise millions for cancer research, the happy-go-lucky family man golfer who rose to become one of the best in his sport (and looked good doing it), and a double amputee who inspired millions in the 2012 Olympics despite his handicap: all athletes who were the kings of their respective



recently, we saw Oscar Pistorius, the awe inspiring double amputee runner from the 2012 Olympics, get accused of the murder of his girlfriend, which, like the situations of Woods and Armstrong, has completely destroyed his once



sports and have since fallen from grace.

First, we saw the golfer, Tiger Woods, revealed to be a serial adulterer, thus permanently tarnishing his overwhelmingly positive public image and the loss of his wife, his multiple media sponsorships, and his "mojo" which caused him to begin losing tournament after tournament.

Then, we saw the super human Lance Armstrong accused of using illegal performance enhancing techniques to win the Tour de France 7 times. So many believed he won on sheer determination that the discovery of Armstrong cheating caused all those who were inspired by Armstrong and his heroic life



great public image.

Most people were shocked when all of these things happened, but why? Because thanks to teams of publicists and other aids, practically all we knew about these guys were the good things and frankly that's all most people wanted to know. These three were seen as superheroes; cartoonishly perfect super beings that had no flaws. Then they were revealed as mere mortals who are just as capable of terrible acts as we are.

So, next time you see a charming or inspiring celebrity remember that you're only seeing part of that person. I'm not trying to say that people like Jennifer Lawrence or George Clooney are without a doubt insane, drug addicted, criminals; I'm just saying that as far as you know, they could be.

Stars To Watch in 2013

Amanda Blum

Staff Writer

The year is just beginning, and there is so much more to look forward to in the world of fresh faces and new talent in the entertainment industry.



With amazing talent and upcoming projects, these women are rising stars of 2013. One of the actresses to watch this year is Samantha Barks. Barks came onto the scene when she played the role of Eponine in *Les Miserables*, which came out on Christmas Day of 2012. Barks got high praises for her performance and amazing reviews for her stunning voice. So what's next for this blossoming star? She's currently working on a new film called *The Christmas Candle*, featuring Susan Boyle. With her amazing talent, Samantha

Barks is definitely a star on the rise.

Another star to watch in 2013 is funny lady and actress, Rebel Wilson. Wilson was first noticed in her role in *Bridesmaids* as Brynne, Annie's roommate. But the role that got Hollywood, and the rest of the world, talking was her role as "Fat Amy" in *Pitch Perfect*. Wilson was absolutely hilarious and one of the biggest appeals of the entire film.

This role really put her on the map as one to watch. With her next gig being the host of the 2013 MTV Movie Awards, this funny lady is one to keep an eye out for.

This next woman is a rising star, but not in acting; she is one to watch in the modeling industry.



This woman's name is Cara Delevingne, and she is a rising star of 2013. Delevingne was first noticed for walking the runway at this



year's *Victoria's Secret Fashion Show*. She has also walked the runway for major designers, including Oscar De La Renta, Stella McCartney, and Chanel, and is currently the face of Burberry's beauty campaign. Cara has famous friends as well, such as Rihanna and Rita Ora. This girl's amazing repertoire of jobs in the fashion industry puts her as one to watch in 2013. If you were to pick up a magazine some time in the near future, you will most definitely see one of these women's faces!

The Host: Movie Review

Heather Andelsman

Entertainment Editor

The Host, based on the book written by *Twilight* author Stephenie Meyer, takes place in a futuristic world where alien souls have taken over the bodies of the majority of humans on the planet. These souls are parasites, and they cannot exist on their own so they always live in the body of another. The only humans left are on the run. Melanie Stryder (Saoirse Ronan) is a seventeen year old girl living with her little brother Jamie (Chandler Canterbury), neither of them having been taken by the souls. Melanie soon meets Jared Howe (Max Irons), another human who has been on the run. They start a relationship, but things get complicated when the Seekers, the souls that look for resistant

humans, find Melanie while she is trying to protect Jamie and Jared. Melanie tries to kill herself rather than be taken by the souls, but she survives her suicide attempt. A soul called Wanderer is put into her head in the hopes that she can



give the Seeker (Diane Kruger) information about other rebel humans by accessing Melanie's memories. Wanderer soon finds that Melanie is much stronger than they think, and she begins resisting. Wanderer also begins to sympathize with Melanie, and the two become a team. They find Jamie and Jared, and oth-

er humans that have survived with the help of Melanie's uncle, Jeb (William Hurt). Unfortunately, the humans that are there do not see that Melanie is still inside her head with Wanderer, and many of them resent her for that, including Jared. They believe that she came back to them to show the Seekers their location and that she is nothing but a Seeker herself. Wanderer will need to convince the others that Melanie is still inside her head, otherwise they will kill her.

This was a really good science-fiction movie with an interesting take on a traditional, body-snatcher type plot. There are no plans for a sequel yet, and no second book has been announced either. If you are a fan of Meyer's work with the *Twilight* series, then you should definitely check out *The Host*!

3 POINTS- LOUISVILLE VS. MICHIGAN

AN ANALYSIS ON THE 2013 NCAA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

After three weeks of non-stop action, with tons of upsets and surprises, from Florida Gulf Coast to Wichita State, and after three weeks of great games, such as the thrilling games in the Final Four, the Sweet Sixteen game between Kansas and Michigan, and the incredible finish between Davidson and Marquette early on, March Madness has finally reached its conclusion. The end result? The Louisville Cardinals walking away as champions, defeating the Michigan Wolverines by a final score of 82-76. With the win, Louisville wins its third national championship in school history, and their first since 1986. Rick Pitino now becomes the only coach in NCAA history to win the tournament with two teams, winning it with Kentucky and now with the Louisville Cardinals. It was definitely an exciting game, and an historic one at that. With that said, what were the three takeaways from Louisville's championship win over Michigan?

1. Another Signature Performance

We'll begin this edition of 3 Points with the play of Luke Hancock, who was dominant on the night. Remember how in the Final Four Luke Hancock singlehandedly carried the Cardinals to victory, with 20 points in the victory over Wichita State? Well, while I wouldn't say that he singlehandedly carried Louisville to victory in this one, as guys like Chane Behanan stepped up (15 points and 12 rebounds), I'd definitely say that he was the MVP of the game. Consider this- Michigan had a double digit lead just before the half and seemed like they were going to dominate the game and go into the half with the mo-

mentum on their side. Then, Luke Hancock hits tons of three pointers (he went 5-for-5 from behind the arc, which is the most 3 pointers made without a miss in championship history), and instead of a double digit deficit, the Cardinals were down by just one point entering the half. Luke Hancock ended up finishing the game with 22 points, playing the best game of his collegiate career. Who would've thought that the most important player of this Final Four would be a bench player? Lots of guys did not play well for Louisville, such as star guard Russ Smith (just 3-for-16 shooting from the field with 9 points and 3 turnovers), but Luke Han-

cock rose to the occasion, and because of his performance, the Cardinals not only won their Final Four game against Wichita State, but they also leave Atlanta as champions. He was the most valuable player of this game, without a doubt.

2. Spike Out of Nowhere

The Michigan Wolverines didn't play a terrible game by any means. Sure, they weren't too great on the defensive side, especially in three point defense (Louisville shot 50% from behind the arc, which is an incredible percentage), and they did turn the ball over 3 more times than Louisville, but the Wolverines played up

to their potential in this one. There's not much negative to say about the losers except that they were beaten by a much better team. Trey Burke really stepped up in this game, with 24 points on 7-for-11 shooting, and while Stauskas and McGary struggled on the offensive side of the ball, the Wolverines actually shot 52.1% from the field, which is one of the highest percentages for a losing team in championship history. But, during this game, we learned about one bench player, who was unknown before the game, yet at the half, he was the most known player in college basketball-

freshman guard Spike Albrecht. Before this game, he was averaging less than 2 points per game and never had more than 7 points in any game. In Michigan's first tournament game against South Dakota State, Albrecht played 5 minutes and recorded no points, so he was pretty much a non-factor all season long. But in this game against Louisville? At least in the first half, he was on fire, with 17 points scored. He led Michigan on their run at the end of the first half before Louisville turned the tide and could not miss. Over 20% of his total points on the season were scored in this championship performance against Louisville. While he couldn't keep it going in the second half, scoring no points (another reason why the Wolverines ended up losing), for 20 minutes in the first half, Spike Albrecht was the hottest and most talked about player in college basketball. If Michigan was able to hold off Louisville, then we would've

been talking about this man for days, maybe even weeks.

3. Comeback Cardinals

Finally, we'll end this edition of 3 Points with some thoughts on the national champions, and the undisputed top team in college basketball, the Louisville Cardinals. It's tough to have a better 48 hour span than what Rick Pitino had between Saturday night and Monday night. In that stretch, Louisville defeated Wichita State in the Final Four, defeated Michigan to win the national championship, Pitino's horse qualified for the Kentucky Derby, and Pitino got inducted into the Basketball Hall of

Fame. Tough to do much better than what Pitino did. As for Louisville, what word would I use to define this team? Resilient. It has to be the word resilient, and championship teams have that factor. Last season, the Cardinals were trailing Florida by double digits with about 10 minutes left in the Elite Eight and ended up coming back to advance to the Final Four in New Orleans. This season, the Cardinals were down to the Syracuse Orange in the Big East Championship and went on a massive run to end up blowing out Syracuse and win the conference. And, we saw it on Saturday night when they played the Shockers- the Cardinals were down by double digits, and ended up winning the game by defeating the Shockers down the stretch. Some teams just have that factor of resilience, and Louisville possesses

that. The Cardinals know how to come back in tough situations. And, once again, just as championship teams do, the Cardinals showed off their resilience in the national championship against Michigan. Other teams to play Michigan in the tournament have fallen once a run has been made by the Wolverines. Kansas lost after Michigan went on a run to send the game to overtime, Florida lost in the opening three minutes when Michigan went on their 13-0 run to start the game, and with an 11 point deficit at the half, Syracuse couldn't defeat Michigan. But when the Wolverines went on their streaky run against Louisville, the Cardinals didn't fold. Much like they did against Wichita State, and against Syracuse in the Big East Championship, and against Florida last season in the Elite Eight, the Cardinals went on a run to counteract Michigan's dominance and turned a double digit deficit into a manageable game, and then, turned that manageable game into a national championship. Sometimes, there are disputes on whether or not the team that won the tournament is the best team in college basketball because winning the tournament just requires getting hot at the right time. But this year? There's no dispute. Louisville is the outright #1 team in college basketball. They had the #1 overall seed in the tournament, had to overcome a gruesome injury to Kevin Ware, had to overcome terrible performances by Russ Smith in both Final Four games, and still dominated on their way to their third national championship in school history. Congratulations to Rick Pitino and the Louisville Cardinals on becoming the national champions of the 2013 college basketball season.



Check Out HSE Beautiful New Student Center!

**Heather Andelsman
& Shari Bieber**

Entertainment Editor & Staff Writer

For the first time in a long time, the student center got a makeover! The Architecture Club, led by advisor Ms. Mead, created a new, custom-made student center for students to enjoy throughout the school year. With student-friendly, comfortable furniture, the student center is now more inviting. The decor and furnishings created by the students in the Architecture Club only add to its new appeal. On Friday, March 22nd, students received tickets in their first period classes to use at the grand opening of the student center for an array of baked goods donated by members of various clubs and groups throughout the school. Students could use this opportunity to not only have a snack, but to also relax with their friends. In the new student center, there are modern black-wood and chrome high dining sets to give students the opportunity to homework or have a snack. The S style benches throughout are upholstered with a lively fabric and complimented by stylish



round tables. The tables stand atop contemporary stainless steel hairpin legs and are stained in a light and dark tone, mimicking the look of a custom inlaid wood design. The National Art Honor Society provided table-top art. These eclectic centerpieces were made of bottles painted to celebrate famous historical artists and architects, such as Frank Lloyd Wright, Haring, and Hokusai. Wall decals of famous architectural structures adorn the walls and are complemented by various inspirational quotes. The Architecture Club has worked diligently to accomplish this goal over an extended period of time. The *Thunderbird* staff would like to congratulate the Architecture Club on their vision becoming a reality and thank them all for creating this this new, welcoming space for students to enjoy for years to come. If you haven't seen it yet, you should definitely stop by!



Another view of the S-shaped benches with members of the club of the Architecture Club



Mrs. Mead and her hard working students



The S style benches throughout are upholstered with a lively fabric and complimented by stylish round tables.



Shown here are Mrs. Mead and her students with one of the tables with the contemporary stainless steel hairpin legs. These tables are stained in a light and dark tone, mimicking the look of a custom inlaid wood design.



Decals of some architectural structures adorn the walls.



Students can relax at the modern black wood and chrome high dining sets and do homework or have a snack.

What was your favorite part of designing and constructing the new Student Center?

"My favorite part was putting everything together after working on it for the last two years." - Alex Simon

What was the most difficult part of making the new Student center?

"It would probably be making the tables and trying to make them work together well with the rest of the room. It was also hard to make all of our ideas come to life and to be useable." - Alex Simon

What was the clubs inspiration for the design of the Student Center?

"We wanted to make the Student Center a less formal place for students to talk with their friend, to study, and to do homework. We were inspired by New York City and wanted it to have an urban look." - Alex Simon

How long did it take to make one piece?

"We spent last year trying to figure out how to construct the pieces we wanted. Last year we were able to figure out how to make the "S" shaped bench. This year we stained tables and did more of the design aspects for our project. Throughout this year, we worked on Thursdays as well as Mondays, which is the day our club meets." - Mrs. Mead

Who was most responsible for the project?

"The project was mostly ran by the officers and students of the club. Everyone worked very well together. I looked over the students to make sure everything was running smoothly. Bryan Wexler, the Architecture Club's president last year, did a lot to contribute to this project." - Mrs. Mead

POP OR FLOP?- HARLEM SHAKE

AN ANALYSIS ON BAAUER'S LATEST SINGLE

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

Before digesting the song, let's go over two things. Num-

ics whatsoever, and some with just directional lyrics (slide to the right, etc.). However, it has to be a song that you can listen to even when you're not at a

Style" or the basic follow-the-directions in "Cha Cha Slide," then it makes a lot more sense, and it's a lot easier to listen to.

Number three: the song needs to be an appropriate length. If it runs too short, then not enough people will be able to do it. If it goes on for too

ty good length.

Number four: you actually have to be able to do the song at parties. When this song comes on at parties, you need to be able to do it comfortably in front of people and not just look like the only one doing it or like some random cluster that just occurred. Any dance song that fits all four of these requirements is fine by me.

that are either great or awful. This one? It's awful. The beat is just recycled, the choreography is not uniform and 99% of the time, it turns out incredibly lame. It's almost impossible to do this song at parties. The only good thing about the song is how creative you can get with it, and the creativity factor gets old very quickly. It's remarkable to me how this song, overnight, shot up the



A version of the Harlem Shake

ber one, what is this dance craze about? In a nutshell, one person is doing something completely obscure and out of place from the real world, and nobody notices. Then, when the dance break hits, everybody starts going crazy. And number two, what makes up a great dance song? "Macarena," is a great dance song, "Gangnam Style," is an amazing dance song, and there are countless others, like, "Cha Cha Slide." I've got four simple rules to creating a great dance song.

Number one: the beat/lyrics have to be great. There are some dance songs with no lyr-

party. For example, I can listen to, "Macarena" and "Gangnam Style" when not at a party, because they've got a great beat.

Number two: there has to be some form of choreography associated with the song. One of the primary reasons why I dislike all (with the exception of "Party Rock Anthem") of LM-FAO's songs is because even though they are stupid dance songs, you can't really dance to them. Do you ever see anybody dancing to "Sexy And I Know It" or "Sorry For Party Rocking" at parties? I don't think so. If there's some uniform choreography, like the riding-a-horse choreography in "Gangnam

long, then everybody just stops doing it. The original version of "Cha Cha Slide" ran six minutes, and it wasn't until it was cut to a three

or four minute song that it caught on. Hate to keep bringing it up, but "Gangnam Style" is the appropriate length of a song. It's long enough so that people can do it, yet it knows when to stop. "Macarena" may cross the line past the four minute mark, but overall, it's a pret-



NY Mets version of the Harlem Shake

THE VERDICT:

I'm not so sure what all the craze about this song is. "Harlem Shake" is just a lazy dance song designed to cash in on the ever increasing trend of novelty songs. "Gangnam Style" was a great novelty song, and there have been countless others over the past few months

charts. I can live with 2012 being the year of "Gangnam Style" and 1996 being the year of "Macarena," but if 2013 is the year of "Harlem Shake,"

then we're in for a long year. And, for the record, I highly doubt it. Don't be surprised if this meme dies out in about a month or two, and this becomes one of the most obscure one hit wonders of all time. FINAL SCORE: 1 out of 5

The New Justin Bieber?

"Say You're Just a Friend" by Austin Mahone featuring Flo Rida

Alexus Haddad

News Editor

Austin Mahone, an up and coming, 16-year-old singer, became famous in a way similar to Justin

"Mistletoe" in October of 2011. By 2012, Mahone attracted about 2 million fans on Facebook, Twitter, and

YouTube without a record label, marketing team, or any standard in-

songs, Mahone instantly became famous and then created a cover of Biz Markie's hit song, "Say You're Just a Friend." Mahone's new song features Flo Rida and is about a guy being friends with a girl that he's attracted to, but he can't tell her because it might ruin their friendship. This video, the music, and Mahone's dance moves oddly mimic Justin Bieber's "One Time" video from when Bieber first became famous. Austin Mahone also strangely resembles Justin Bieber. Despite the "Bieber" shadow, the music video featuring Flo Rida is, overall, absolutely amazing. The music, choreography, and the video, in general, draw attention from an audience and once the song is on, you cannot stop listening. I highly recommend this to all the Beliebers out there!

Bieber: YouTube. Austin grew up in Texas and became involved in music at a young age. On YouTube, Mahone has covered singers such as Drake, Justin Bieber, Ne-Yo, Bruno Mars, and more. The pop singer was first recognized when he posted a cover to Bieber's



dustry machinery. Mahone's first single was "11:11" and his second was "Say Something." After his first two

SPRING FASHION TRENDS

Heather Andelsman

Entertainment Editor

Staring into your closet and wondering what to wear? Here's a quick guide to the new trends for spring so you know what's in and what's out. First up is Bermuda shorts. These come down to the knee, and you can wear them in all different kinds of prints and styles. Black and white is another trend for this spring.

Pairing black and white together can work in any outfit. Another fun trend for spring is bright colored sunglasses. These can go with any outfit, casual or fancy. Even if they don't match the colors you're wear-

ing, they're still fun! Stripes is a big trend for this spring, and they can be worn for any occasion. Another big trend for the spring season, believe it or not, is leather. Leather can be worn as a dress, shoes, a skirt, and pretty much every type of clothing article that there is, so it's an easy thing to mix and match with other items. The last trend for this spring is short, sporty dresses, that are not too tight or too short, but not too long and flare out at the hem. They are A-Line dresses that can be dressed up or down, depending on where you want to wear them. If you wear any of these this spring, you'll definitely be following the trends!



Cover 2 Cover Unorthodox Jukebox

A Review of Bruno Mars' Latest Album

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

After the wildly successful Doo Wops and Hooligans, Bruno Mars released his latest album this past December. And he certainly has a tough act to follow- his last album netted 3 hits, including 2

songs ("Just The Way You Are," and, "Grenade") that hit #1 on Billboard, and in 2011, "It Will Rain," was one of the top songs on the charts.

So, would he follow up with the same formula? Everything about Doo Wops and Hooligans is scratched on this album, as Unorthodox Jukebox doesn't sound even remotely like mainstream pop. Instead, the album sounds like it was produced in the 70s and 80s. If you don't like albums where each song is a different theme, and albums that don't tell a story, then stay far, far away from this one. But, how does this album hold up if you take that out of consideration?

To summarize, it's one of the best albums I've listened to in quite some time. It's less than 40 minutes long, so it's a relatively quick listen, and it's well worth it. Every criticism about his first album, such as sounding too mainstream and not showcasing his strong vocals, can be scrapped. Bruno Mars experimented with different sounds, and clearly wasn't trying to produce one static sound. And, it's safe to say that, in my opinion, it worked. Each song on this album is, at the very worst, tolerable. There's only one filler track on this entire album, and that's, "Money Make Her Smile," which has an anticlimactic chorus and a somewhat awkward bridge. But, if only one track out of ten is a filler and 90% of the album is gold, then it's definitely worth a listen.

It starts off with, "Young Girls," which has some amazing vocals and some really good lyrics as well. It's a strong opening track, and

Bruno's momentum on the album continues with the lead single, "Locked Out of Heaven." Is it inappropriate? Absolutely (and another note- if you want cute Bruno Mars instead of a more mature Bruno Mars, then this might not be the best album to listen to).



Despite the content, the production on the track, with a Police like sound straight out of the 80s and a killer guitar hook, is flawless. I can't think of a single negative production-wise with that track, and it was a strong choice by Bruno to be released as the first single. No wonder that it hit #1 on Billboard.

The amazing thing about the song "Gorilla" is his vocal production. He's hitting notes on this track that are Michael Jackson-like and not even many female singers can reach them. Like I mentioned before, one problem that many people had with his last album was that he was showing no vocal ability whatsoever. On this track? Not so much. However, my personal favorite track has to be, "Treasure," which channels an Earth, Wind and Fire sound, has a disco feel to it, and has some really good lyrics as well. I hope this song gets released as a single sometime in the near future, because it is a catchy tune and definitely single-worthy.

Many have made the comparison between Bruno Mars and Michael Jackson, calling Bruno Mars the modern day Michael Jackson. It's way too early to say that, but on the track "Moonshine" Bruno does channel his inner Michael. In a track that sounds like it's coming straight out of the 80s (we need a lot more of those in modern pop today), Mars shines vocally on this one, putting in his own style while incorporating that of

Jackson. For the next track, Mars decides to write a ballad (the second single on the album), and, "When I Was Your Man," is the perfect piano ballad to express how a man screwed it up. You can feel Mars' heart and passion on this track, and some of the lyrics, such

as, "My pride, my ego, my needs and my selfish ways, caused a good, strong, woman like you to walk out of my life," show real maturity on his

part. "Natalie," track #7 on the album, definitely sounds like a combination of "Rolling in the Deep" and an Amy Winehouse track, but it shows how a girl named Natalie cheated on Mars and now he is out to get her back. How Bruno incorporates the old styles into modern day, such as in this track, is one of the positives of this album. Some parts sound like they belong in the 60s, and yet, the production is so good that it feels like it belongs in modern day pop. A perfect example is in this track.

"Show Me," is a song straight out of Jamaica, and it's worth a listen. The beat and the Caribbean feel on this track makes it unique from every other track out there in American pop. I already went over track #9, which is the lone filler, and the album closes with, "If I Knew," which clocks in at two minutes. Something straight out of 60s Motown is how to best describe this track, as it's about how he regrets doing things that he did in the past. It may be short, but it's a great way to close off the album. This is one of the best albums that I've heard in quite some time. The production, the vocals, the variety in each of the songs, and how it doesn't feel like everything else out there on the radio, is what gives this album the edge over the others. Go out and buy this album, because unless you fill my criteria that I mentioned earlier, you won't regret it.

Exciting End to The Bachelor Season

Hayley Cohen & Rachel Sokobin

Staff Writers

This dramatic season of *The Bachelor* had an astonishing ending. With only two contestants left, Sean, the bachelor, had to decide which one of the lovely ladies he wanted to spend the rest of his life with. To begin, Sean takes both of the girls to meet his family. First is Catherine; right off the bat, Sean's family adores her. You know that Mama and Papa Lowe love Catherine when they give her their approval to marry Sean. Next, Lindsay arrives to meet Sean's family, and she was extremely nervous. The conversation started rolling, and there was a flashback to the first night of her arrival. Lindsay tells Papa Lowe what she is looking for and that her perfect marriage includes compromise and prayer. Just prior to the women arriving at the family home, Mama Lowe advises Sean that "if there is going to be a proposal, you should already know in your head which girl you want to pick."

The next two days were filled with adventure and romance. The final dates had arrived and nerves were flying everywhere. First up was Lindsay. Sean and Lindsay took this long and relaxing raft ride down the Mekong River in Southeast Asia. They were kissing, holding hands, talking and acting like a newly married couple. That evening, they spent some time relaxing and hanging out in Lindsay's hotel room. That was the last night that they would see each other before the "big day." Before embarking on his date with Catherine, Sean says that he is looking for a sign from her, one that will give him clarity. He takes her on an elephant ride that leads them to a nice little outside bed where they relax and talk about their future. They talk about engagement parties and all of the cute things that engaged couples get to experience. A similar date night happens with Catherine and Sean, except at the end, when they get ready to say their final goodbyes, Catherine gets upset and doesn't want Sean to leave. He walks out and Catherine runs after him, reminding him that she loves him,

and she doesn't want him to go. The next day is the "big day"; nobody knows what to think. There is tension in the



Catherine and Sean after the proposal.

air when they show the three preparing to find out their fate. No one knows what is going on in Sean's mind, but he finally chooses a gorgeous ring for the woman of his dreams. As he is standing and waiting for the first car to arrive, he is ranting and raving about the perfection of

the woman he's chosen. The first car pulls up, and Lindsay gets out. She is talking about how perfect life would be married to Sean. She gets to Sean, they exchange greetings and compliment each other before he abruptly drops a bombshell. He starts talking to her about how wonderful she is and why he loves her and then, all of a sudden, stops and says that he can't marry her because his heart is leading him the other way. She shuts him off, takes off her shoes and angrily walks away. Lindsay was devastated and didn't know what to think because he didn't give her a good reason as to why she wasn't the one that he fell in love with. Before Catherine arrives, Chris Harrison brings out this letter that was written by Catherine. In the letter, she describes what Sean means to her and how he will impact her life if she is the one that he chooses. Sean is troubled by this and gets all jittery when she starts to walk in. They are both very anxious because he knows how it's going to end, but she is still clueless. As he bends down on one knee, he starts saying "I miss you every time we have to say goodbye. I don't want to say goodbye anymore. Catherine, I want to spend the rest of my life telling you that I love you." The next word on the show was a big "Yes" from Catherine as she is shaking and her nostrils are flaring from uncontrollable emotions. They ride off into the sunset on an elephant as she is babbling on and on about how he is finally all hers. They are now currently together and cannot wait until they get married in a lavish, televised wedding.

Hopefully, they actually make it to the altar as all too many of these relationships don't end the way in which they are intended.



Collin's Corner ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

Modifying the Madness

A PROPOSAL TO CHANGE THE NCAA TOURNAMENT

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

The time has come- March Madness. Not counting the World Cup or the Olympics, which occur every four years, in terms of an annual sporting event, March Madness might be the greatest three weeks in the sporting universe. There are 68 teams, all vying to become the national champions of college basketball. Some of them, like Indiana and Duke, are looking to win it all. Others, like Northwestern State and Liberty, are just happy to be there.

And, I really don't have any problems with March Madness. The format of the event is great. The design of the event is amazing, and the television contract with CBS that now allows us to get every game on national television just makes the tournament so much better. In what other sport can you see a small time school like Lehigh upset a giant like Duke? I can't really think of any other, and for that reason, March Madness is a great tournament. It amazes me that college football can't get a playoff right, yet college basketball can do it to perfection.

That is... except for one thing. Consider this- Liberty went 15-20 and earned a spot in the tournament. North Carolina AT&T went 19-16 and got into the tournament. James Madison goes 20-14 and somehow gets into the tournament. Stephen F. Austin went 27-4 and didn't get

into the tournament. At 26-6, Louisiana Tech couldn't find its way into the event. And for a 24-7 record, Stony Brook couldn't even sniff the main event. Noticing a problem here? All of the time, the best teams are left out of the tournament. The more deserving teams are left behind, through no fault of the committee. The committee was forced to put the first 3 teams mentioned into the tournament because they won their respective conference tournaments, and the last 3 teams were left behind because they didn't win theirs. That's the problem, and it needs to be addressed.

College basketball is the only sport in the world that rewards a team for 3 good games instead of 30. You could go 25-3, but if you have an off night in your conference tournament, you're done, and if it's a smaller conference like the Atlantic Sun, you're definitely not making the tournament. However, you could go 0-28 and just win 3 games in a row, and with a 3-28 record, you could make it into the tournament. Liberty finished 5 games below .500, and they were 12-20 entering their conference tournament. They got hot, won 3 in a row, and here they are in the biggest event of college sports. Meanwhile, take a team like Stephen F. Austin, who put in an entire body of work, with a 27-3 record, before losing their conference final to Northwestern State by 2 points, finishing 27-4. Which

one of those teams deserves to be in the tournament? It's Stephen F. Austin, without a doubt.

What am I proposing here? No, I'm not proposing expansion... although that's another debate for another time. Rather, I'm proposing a change to the conference championship system. It's incredibly flawed, doesn't reward the best teams, and rewards the hot teams while punishing the great teams that just had an off night. I'm not saying to scratch the conference tournaments, because that would cost the NCAA millions of dollars and would take the fun out of the regular season once your favorite team loses 5 in the conference. I'm saying that the conference tournament shouldn't be the way to get into the NCAA tournament.

Under this proposal, the creation of a conference final would happen. In the conference final, the regular season champion automatically earns a spot in the conference final (the game could either be played at a neutral site or at the site of the regular season champion). Then, all the teams from the conference would play in the conference tournament, just like they normally do. The winner of the conference tournament becomes the second team in the conference final, and from there, the regular season champion plays the tournament champion for the NCAA's bid. If the same team is both the regular season champion and the tournament champion, then they go into the NCAA tournament automatically, without hav-

ing to play in the conference final. This would apply to all conferences, except the Ivy League, who doesn't play a conference tournament.

Consider you're a team like Stony Brook. They were 23-6 entering their conference tournament and beat Binghamton in the quarterfinal. Then, they have an off night to Albany in the semifinal, losing to the Great Danes, and are out of the America East tournament. The NCAA is, under this system, negating everything else that Stony Brook did in the regular season, such as the 23-6 regular season record, and the fact that they beat Albany twice in the regular season. And right now, Stony Brook is in the NIT, playing Massachusetts as the #7 seed.

However, under this system, a team like Stony Brook, who won their conference in the regular season, would get a well deserved second chance. Stony Brook would automatically be placed in the conference final and would then play in the conference tournament. If they were to win the conference tournament, then they would automatically be advancing to the NCAA tournament. If they lost in the conference tournament, however (as they did this year to Albany), then they would play the winner of the conference tournament (in this case, Albany) in the conference final. Win that game, and they're in the NAAs. Lose that game, and their only hope is an at-large bid.

Why is this system better than the current one? Number one, the current system punishes an off night, while it

rewards the ability to get hot at the right time. Playing 30 games in about 4 months is a better indicator of where a team is than playing 3 games in 3 days. Unfortunately, the indicator of playing 3 games in 3 days is what the NCAA is currently standing by, and this system ignores the whole body of work put in by a team. Number two, it puts deserving teams into the tournament. If you win the conference tournament and then beat the regular season champion, then I've got no complaints about you getting into the tournament. And if you're the regular season champion who just had an off night (and that happens in basketball all the time), then you're not getting punished for that off night. I'm all for the small schools getting into the tournament and pulling off upsets, but let's be honest- does anybody want to see 15-20 Liberty or a 12-18 Oakland (MI) team in the tournament over a 25-5 school who just had one off night?

March Madness doesn't need any tweaking. The 68 team tournament is perfect, as how the scheduling works out, the upsets that occur, and the interest in the games makes it one of the greatest times to be a sports fan. As for the process to get into the tournament... that could use a little bit of work. By keeping the conference tournaments, but adding a conference final between the regular season champion and the tournament champion, the more deserving team gets into the NCAA Tournament. And any system where the more deserving team gets in is fine by me.

RED BULL REVIEW

PREVIEWING THE 2013 NEW YORK RED BULLS SEASON

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor



Since entering Major League Soccer in 1996, the *New York Red Bulls* have never won an MLS Cup. This is going back to their days as the MetroStars; despite being one of the premier and most well known franchises in the league, they've never won the title. They've only made the final once, and that was

in 2008, when they lost to the Columbus Crew. This year, they're looking to win their first MLS Cup in franchise history. Last season, they were ousted from the Eastern Conference semifinals by rival *DC United*. As for this team... let's just say it's a much different team than the *2012 Red Bulls*. They've got a new manager (Mike Petke) and a whole bunch of new players as well. Let's start with the ones that they let go of, as they traded away Le Toux to

the Union, traded Lindpere to the Fire, let go of Rafael Mar-



quez (sigh of relief for all fans of the club), let go of Wilman Conde, and perhaps in the most head scratching of all the

moves, traded Kenny Cooper to FC Dallas for an undisclosed amount of money. A great striker like Kenny Cooper, who made the MLS All Star lineup last season, for just cash considerations was probably not the smartest move.

However, that's not to say that they still aren't good, as they improved on a terrible defense last season that allowed 46 goals (third worst in the conference). They traded for Jamison Olave, a solid defender from

Real Salt Lake, and acquired Kosuke Kimura, the Japanese defender from the Portland Timbers. In addition to that, they picked up forward Roger Espinoza and midfielder Juninho, who is known to take some of the best free kicks in the world. So, while they might have regressed somewhat on the offensive side, as long as the defensive acquisitions live up to expectations, and Henry and Cahill play like they did last season, then the Red Bulls should have no problem making the playoffs, thanks to the star power on the team, and the fact that they're playing in the somewhat weak Eastern Conference. PREDICTION: 4th place in Eastern Conference

YANKEE DOODLE DANDY?

PREVIEWING THE 2013 SEASON FOR THE NEW YORK YANKEES

Hayden Nadler

Staff Writer

The 2013 MLB season is underway, and the Yankees are looking to win another World Series. But, with the AL East being arguably the toughest division in baseball, it will be tough for them this year. The other four teams in the division all improved, with Toronto picking up R.A. Dickey (former Met pitcher and winner of the 2012 NL Cy Young) and Jose Reyes, the Rays having AL

Cy Young winner David Price and Evan Longoria, Baltimore coming off of their first playoff appearance in nearly fifteen years, and Boston acquiring Shane Victorino in the offseason. New York's season didn't start off well, as star players Curtis Granderson and Mark Teixeira got injured. The two major strengths of the Yankees are their speed, notably in outfielders Brett Gardner and Ichiro, and their pitching staff, headlined by CC Sabathia. However, what

I don't like about the Yankees is that they lack depth. Brian Cashman made a mistake by not renewing the contracts of Raul Ibanez and Nick Swisher, as he left the team with barely any options. The catcher spot is also a weakness, as neither Cervelli nor Romine are as good as former catcher, Russell Martin. I expect a season around .500, with the team most likely missing the playoffs.

NEW YORK STATE OF MIND

PREVIEWING THE 2013 SEASON FOR THE NEW YORK METS

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

The beginning of spring can only mean one thing in the sports world- the beginning of the baseball season. Thirty teams enter each baseball season, trying to win the World Series. Teams like the San Francisco Giants and St. Louis Cardinals are going into 2013 with the expectation that they could contend for baseball's greatest prize. And then... there are teams like the Mets, who will be happy to even scratch a .500 record. I'll say that I was pleasantly surprised about last season for the Mets, as up until around the All Star break, they were right in the thick of things for the National League playoff race. However, in typical Mets fashion, it all came crashing down, as they winded up with a 74-88 record. Looking for their first playoff appearance since 2006, can the Mets surprise many this season and make a run at the 2013 postseason?

OFFSEASON: Did the Mets make any flashy moves in the offseason? Absolutely not. They didn't go out and get anybody flashy in free agency. However, their offseason can be considered a success. They had one job in the offseason- to re-sign David Wright, arguably one of the greatest players in franchise history and maybe the best third baseman in the game. And they did just that, by giving him an eight year contract worth close to \$138 million. Instead of just letting their franchise player walk, like they did with Jose Reyes in the 2012 offseason, the Mets were focused on bringing back their cornerstone, and did just that. In addition, they finally let go of Jason Bay and traded away R.A. Dickey to the Toronto Blue Jays. Many have criticized the trade, won-

dering why the Mets would trade away a Cy Young winner. However, I consider the trade by the Mets to be a great one. Dickey is in his late 30s and was a one year wonder. At most, he's got 5 years left in the tank (and that's being generous). The fact that the Mets got a promising prospect like Travis d'Arnaud as part of the trade makes the trade a good one for New York. Don't be surprised if d'Arnaud is the catcher of the Mets by the time the All Star Game hits, which happens to be at Citi Field this year.

PROS: On paper, the Mets are not a good team, and let's not kid ourselves about that. However, they do have some positives going for them. Number one, as I mentioned before, they've arguably got the best third baseman in the game with David Wright. He only missed 6 games last season, hit .306 (his best average this decade), had 21 home runs and 93 RBI. You can't go wrong with those numbers, and if Wright can put up similar numbers come this season, then the Mets are always going to have a chance when Wright comes up to the plate. Their rotation, while not great by any means, is deep. Sure, there are spots that are stronger than others in that rotation, but I'm comfortable with any one of the five pitchers in the rotation taking the mound. We'll get to Johan Santana in just a moment, but to give an idea of how deep this rotation is, Matt Harvey, the likely #5 pitcher in that rotation, had a 2.95 ERA last season. And finally, Ruben Tejada could have a breakout season. He hit a career best .289 last season and is only 23 years old. If he can get things going in 2013, then the Mets not only will win a few more games, but they might have a franchise shortstop on their hands, which would fill the void that

Jose Reyes filled for so many years.

CONS: There's a reason why many don't expect the Mets to do much this season. In fact, I've got multiple reasons. The main reason is their outfield. It's one of the worst in baseball and might be the worst in the National League. They don't have any recognizable names on that team, and they don't just lack depth in the outfield- they lack quality outfielders. Lucas Duda hit an abysmal .239 last season, with more strikeouts (120) than hits (96). Kirk Nieuwenhuis recorded over a strikeout per game last season, playing in 91 games while striking out 98 times and hitting .252 in the process. And Mike Baxter, who played in 89 games last season, only managed to hit .263 and record 3 home runs and 17 RBI. Being generous, those are below average numbers. Next concern: I cannot trust their bullpen. The Mets recorded just 36 saves last season, which ranked fourteenth out of sixteen teams in the National League. Their current closer, Frank Francisco, had a 5.53 ERA last season, with an 88% save percentage (the save percentage ranked around the middle of the pack for the 2012 MLB season). And, to make matters worse, Johan Santana is likely out for the season with a tear in his left shoulder, so the Mets lost a lot of star power with that injury. The team lacks depth at all positions, doesn't have a quality bullpen, and has one of the worst outfields in all of baseball. That doesn't sound like the recipe for a winning ball club.

OUTLOOK: I don't expect the Mets to do much this season. They're in the toughest division in the National League, while the Miami Marlins are a joke of a team, the Nationals and Braves have gotten better,

LOOKING BACK AT THE 2012-2013 NBA SEASON

Matt Tisch

Staff Writer

As the 2012-2013 NBA regular season comes to a close, let's look back at some of the highs and lows that this year has had to offer. From those who didn't quite meet expectations to those who far exceeded and surprised fans, this year's season was certainly one for the books.

MVP candidates:

LeBron James- As a Kevin Durant fan I tried to find a way to justify giving him the award but it was almost impossible. LeBron James has been far too dominant. From his streak of 33 straight 20 point games to the Heats 27 game winning streak, LeBron has been the best player almost every time he has stepped onto the court no matter the opponent.
•Kevin Durant •Carmelo Anthony •Chris Paul •Kobe Bryant

Rookie Of The Year candidates:

Damian Lillard- Going into the year it was Anthony Davis was a slight favorite for this award ahead of Damian Lillard. Lillard was viewed as a boom or bust pick before the season but now as the season draws to a close, Lillard has certainly proved that he is not a bust by having a phenomenal season. As talk about the award races heat up Damian Lillard can sigh because he's got this award in the bag
•Anthony Davis •Bradley Beal •Dion Waiters •Andre Drummond

6th Man of The Year candidates:

Jamal Crawford- With defending 6th man of the year champion James Harden now starting for the Houston Rockets this award is up for grabs. A case could be made for any of these players but, Jamal Crawford has been more valuable to his team than any of these players. If J.R. Smith were to perform more consistently this award would be his but, night in and night out while J.R. wasn't always there; Jamal Crawford has consistently provided an efficient and needed perimeter scoring spark off the Clippers bench
•J.R. Smith •Kevin Martin •Jarrett Jack •Ray Allen

Defensive Player of The Year candidates:

Joakim Noah- While Joakim Noah may not be the most athletic player on this list he makes up for it with his length and his basketball I.Q.. He is a great shot blocker and a force to be reckoned with in the paint.
•Larry Sanders •Andre Iguodala •Tony Allen •LeBron James

Surprises:

Golden State Warriors- *The Warriors* have had the talent to compete for a few years now but this year they filled out their bench with role players like Jarrett Jack and Carl Landry, became a complete team and matured. They also stayed relatively injury free with the exception of Andrew Bogut who appears healthy and ready to go for the playoffs.

New York Knicks- *The Knicks* were expected to be a playoff team and contend in the Eastern Conference but no one expected them to rebound from the loss of Jeremy Lin and the injuries of Amare Stoudamire and Iman Shumpert and jump right out of the gates like they did. They kept their success going and now are still in a position to grab the 2 seed in the Eastern conference.

James Harden and Houston Rockets- *The Rockets* were expected to be ok and Harden was going to be the face of the franchise but no one saw this coming. Harden has proved himself as one of the top players in the league and the Rockets appear to be a threat going into the playoffs and even more down the road. The Rockets have the cap space to make a big splash by acquiring a star next to Harden in free agency and look like they are going to be a big time contender by next year.

Disappointments:

Los Angeles Lakers- *The Lakers* went all in this offseason and assembled a team that was prepared to win immediately. That appears to have backfired as the Lakers might not even make the playoffs. This team has talent and experience but they lack cohesion and still aren't playing well together. They have been hurt by injuries but a team with this much talent should not be on the defenses of the playoffs under any circumstances

Andrew Bynum and the Philadelphia 76ers- After making the playoffs last season the *76ers* were ready to take the next step so they traded Andre Iguodala away and brought back Andrew Bynum to help them contend. The only problem... Bynum hasn't even stepped foot on the court all season long due to knee problems and the 76ers have no chance to make the playoffs nevertheless contend for a title.

Boston Celtics- *The Celtics* have regressed for the past couple of years but by adding Jason Terry to replace Ray Allen and getting back Jeff Green the Celtics looked poised to return to the top of the Eastern Conference alongside the core of Kevin Garnett, Paul Pierce, and Rajon Rondo. They were playing decent basket ball until Rajon Rondo went down for the season with a torn ACL. Although the Celtics have a recent history of turning it on during the playoffs it appears safe to say that the Celtics aren't going to contend this year.

Playoff Finals Predictions:

Eastern Conference Finals:

Miami Heat Def. New York Knicks (4-3)

Western Conference Finals:

Oklahoma City Thunder Def. San Antonio Spurs (4-2)

NBA Finals:

Oklahoma City Thunder Def. Miami Heat (4-3)

THUNDERBIRD

HILLS EAST SPRING SPORTS

BOY'S TENNIS TEAM PREVIEW

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

Boy's tennis has always been one of the more dominant sports at Hills East, and this season, the Thunderbirds are looking to improve on their incredible 2012 campaign. Last season, Hills East went 18-0 and won their third straight Suffolk county championship, including their seventh championship in eight years. The Thunderbirds went 18-1 on the season, with their only loss in the Long Island championship



to Cold Spring Harbor. This year, Hills East is looking to win not only their fourth

wins entering the 2013 season, the Thunderbirds opened the season with two wins against Bayshore and Kings Park, and will close the season on April 30 at home against Commack. The schedule also includes 2 meets against Hills West, and the Thunderbirds beat Hills West in both meetings last

straight Suffolk County championship, but also their first Long Island championship in school history. Looking to keep their streak intact of 58 straight Suffolk County

season by a combined score of 13-1. Good luck to the boy's tennis team in their quest for another Suffolk County championship!

BOYS LACROSSE TEAM PREVIEW

Collin Giuliani

Sports Editor

The 2012 season was an exciting season for boy's lacrosse at Hills East, as for the first time since 2006, the Thunderbirds made the playoffs. With a first round win over Sachem East in the post-season, the Thunderbirds also won their first playoff game since 2005. Despite a loss to Smithtown West in the Suffolk Division I quarterfinals, it was an impressive season that had Hills East finish 8-6. Now, the Thunderbirds are looking to build on that momentum heading into the 2013 season and are looking to make their second straight postseason appearance. Sophomore Jordan

Eichholz, the starting goalie who made 13 saves in the playoff win against Sachem East, is back in net for the Thunderbirds, and junior Dan Bockelman, who recorded 5 goals and 2 assists in the post-season, also returns for the Thunderbirds. They opened up the 2013 season with a win against Plainedge and will close the season on May 9 against Patchogue-Medford. The schedule for the boy's lacrosse team also includes a game against Hills West on April 27 at High School East, and last season, the Thunderbirds beat Hills West by a final score of 10-7. Good luck to the boy's lacrosse team as they try to make the playoffs for the second year in a row!

Girls Lacrosse Preview

Helen Kim & Fatima Ouedraogo

Staff Writers

The Girls' Varsity Lacrosse team had a great start to the season winning their first two games and exuding confidence for continued success this year. With a combination of girls from both High School East and High School West, the team has secured its rank as one of the top ten



in the League I Conference Suffolk Division I. The team has been practicing since the beginning of March and has made great progress with

it to the second game of the playoffs last year, the team has high hopes to make it past their previous achievements. Coach Graham and Assistant Coach Horan are proud of the girls for their amazing run last year and are planning on taking the win this year. With tough competitors, the girls are preparing to

new plays, conditioning and agility skills. After making

verse tough opponent West Islip in the coming weeks.

Badminton Team Preview

Helen Kim & Fatima Ouedraogo

Staff Writers

This year's Badminton team already has an impressive start; coming off an undefeated streak last year, High School East's girls' badminton

team started their season with a 7-2 win over Smithtown West. Although the season has just begun, they have an incredible record and are very excited to keep their undefeated streak going! With their professional mentality

and extremely talented members, they have coordinated a perfect strategy to keep them in the top spot. Girls' badminton is representing our school well and slowly sweeping Long Island, kicking off the spring sports season with a bang!



“With a great finish to our winter track season I can only expect the same from our girls in this spring season. Especially with the addition of some new runners it has only added to the amount of dedication and talent I see on this team. Everyday we go outside regardless of the weather and train hard on the track and in the weight room. I expect even more records to be broken and lots of personal improvements. Even after bring home our first win against Whitman it's given us more certainty on the strength of our team and high hopes for the future of our upcoming season.”

**-Ashley Jimenez, Senior
Girls Track**

“I've been very fortunate these past 4 years to have the opportunity to run with a great group of very talented guys. Everyone's always competitive and they always leave everything on the track, giving 100% not only in competition, but in practice as well. Coming off a very successful winter season, I'm expecting a lot of big things from many guys on the team. Many school records were broken and I'm sure there will be more records set this spring season. We have a lot of great runners willing to work hard for themselves, their teammates, and our coaches.”

**-Calvin Manchenko, Senior
Boys Track**



Girls Spring Track Team pose for a picture before their first dual meet with Walt Whitman