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POW WOW



BRENTWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

BRENTWOOD NY 11717

MARCH 2009

VOLUME 40

ISSUE V

Sondo Sinkhole

by Gilberto Martinez

Lately, there has been some restoration done to Brentwood High School. The major problem occurred behind the Sonderling High School, specifically the problem occurred behind the Home Economic kitchen and the other parking lot adjacent to the portables. For years now, the problem of sink holes has been an on and off occurrence. The question is, why do sink-holes occur?

There was initially a suspicion of a pipe drain burst, but workers later found that was not the problem. Normally, sinkholes are caused by some movement of water underneath the ground. The explanation of sink-holes can range from water coming from a drain pipe to water leaking from the roof, due to the weather, and being absorbed into the ground. Mr. O'Brien, Principal of Brentwood High School, stated, "The hole looked five or six feet deep, so that would have required a heck of a lot of water."



Once Brentwood declared the sinkholes hazardous, administrators informed faculty members to remove their vehicles from the parking lot. Also as a safety precaution, a fence was put up to prevent anyone from coming into the parking lot.

The parking lot where the sinkholes are emerging is the same parking lot the ROTC practices their routine. Brentwood High School informed Peter Wagenhauser of the problem. Mr. Wagenhauser is the Assistant Superintendent of Buildings and Grounds. This is the office, located on Oriole Place, that maintains the fields, facilities, and the entire buildings in the Brentwood District, not only the High School. "It [sinkhole] was reported about two weeks before the snow day," stated Mr. Wagenhauser. Due to the recent snow day,

the cover up of the sinkhole was postponed. Immediately following the snow removal, the repair of the sinkhole in the parking lot began. The sinkholes were covered up with Recycled Concrete Aggregate (R.C.A.) and was supposed to be paved over but because of what time of year it is, they have just been filled. Once the weather clears up and it starts to get warmer the holes will be covered just like they were potholes. The parking lot, the entire road behind Sonderling, and the road towards Stein are scheduled for repair. This is part of the Excel Bond that the district got from NY State.

The Excel Bond, which consists of 100,000,000 dollars, is to go towards the restoration of all the schools in the district without costing the tax payer one penny. The money is used for capital repair, improvements and extensions of buildings. The Superintendent has a list of

the entire repair schedule to be done; on the list are improvements for the Ross Auditorium and the improvements of fences and bleachers on the football field. All of the restorations are further down the road.

An interesting question is whether during the restoration of the parking lot the portables be affected? The land surrounding the portables might be housing more sinkholes and therefore is it most likely that restoration to this area will be during a vacation when no students will be present. Using the correct methods of restoration, no permanent damage will be done to the portables.

Clearly the sinkhole situation is part of a larger, ongoing restoration of our school. The current solution is temporary but rest assured, a permanent solution is on the way.



BEHIND CLOSED DOORS...

by Wendy Melendez

Abusive relationships happen every day. They often start early in teenagers' lives and the relationships end up becoming really dangerous. Unfortunately, celebrities are not proving to be safe role models in this area. Teenagers are affected by pop culture and when they see celebrities get abused and then see the victim go back to the abuser, it might seem to them like everything is okay. It starts with celebrities like Tina Turner, Whitney Huston, Haley Barry, and most recently pop star Rihanna, who only just turned 20. Most women go back to the abuser and celebrities are no exception. Most women get caught thinking that their abuser will not abuse them again. When women, especially young women, observe celebrities staying in these abusive relationships, everything seems alright and more acceptable. This is extremely dangerous.

Teenagers are more vulnerable to go back to their abuser because most teenagers have not yet evolved their mentality, have not fully matured, and go back to what they know. All have different reasons to go back. Some victims go back because they don't want to break up their family, others because they are blindly in love with the man that



ends up hurting them the most, others stay because this is what they are used to and it's already their way of life, still others go back out of fear because they know their abuser will always strike back, which is a fact to be proven true. This is exactly why women shouldn't go back, because once he hits you, he will do it again.

One out of every eleven teenagers is in an abusive relationship. Often, it starts because the abuser was raised in a family with domestic violence. They see that the cycle of abuse with their parents and the child's mentality starts off by thinking that he will never do that, but next thing you know he is the abuser in his own relationship.

This was the alleged situation with Chris Brown and Rihanna. Brown grew up watching his mother in an abusive relationship. He was accused of hitting and biting Rihanna. Charges were pressed but he was able to get out on \$50,000 bail, which because of his success as a singer, he was able to afford. Brown was sentenced to appear in court after he was charged with two felony charges but this appearance has been postponed until April 16, 2009.

(continued on page 11)

PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR!

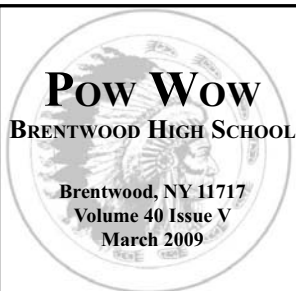
That's right! Our very own Mr. Thomas P. O'Brien has been awarded the distinct honor of being named New York State High School Principal of the Year. On Monday, March 23, the School Administrators Association of New York State (SAANYS) recognized our principal's commitment to excellence, his outstanding contribution to the community and the education process. This award is given annually by SAANYS and is clearly a distinguished honor. Congratulations to Mr. O'Brien for this well-deserved recognition of his hard work and dedication.



The Pow Wow has an EMAIL!!!!!!

Write to powwow@bufsd.org with comments, ads, contributions, or announcements!





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This is YOUR Time to Shine

Ahh! Spring is here! The weather is getting warmer and the flowers are starting to bloom. The winter snow is melting and vanishing from existence. Shout-out to Green Machine, who did a great job at the St. Patrick's Day Parade! Now is the time to go outside and have fun! It also means the end of the third quarter... and the beginning of a hectic review in preparation for many exams (It's best if we don't go into specifics. Everyone is going through enough torture). Teachers, you really shouldn't be so overwhelmed when it comes to preparing for the Regents. Every year, in almost all of our classes, our teachers seem unable to help but feel so frustrated at the fact that students are not really paying attention nor showing any form of commitment. In the end, the majority of us do since we would like to graduate and get started on another journey we are all destined to follow. So, please, for our sake... RELAX! And especially all AP teachers: don't you dare fret about us not passing the AP Exam. (You know who we're talking to). We know what to do; just guide us when it comes to studying.

Let us just take the time, not to brag, but to tell you just how much unnecessary stress we had with this issue. Our journalism class works every day 9th period, putting articles on blank pages, going through frustration and fights with the computer. Our editors-in-chief and copy editors stay after school nearly every day, adding the "finishing touches" to the pages. Our faculty advisors do not interfere with the paper during the process unless we are deeply in need. So basically, we do this on our own. After staying in school until 5 pm, our staff learned a horrible fact: the night we left, the Student Shared Folder was deleted, destroying all the hard work that we put into this paper - the night before deadline! Though we love all of you, please think before you act. We are deeply hurt by this mistake (and we are hoping it was a mistake) and we hope that something like this won't happen in the future.

On a lighter note, this is the time for new beginnings, new choices, new chances, and new experiences. This is the time where the year suddenly comes to an end. Between holiday breaks, quarterlies, review, Regents, AP Exams, and saying goodbye to your senior friends (and/or GRADUATING!!), the year is quickly going to be in the past. Make sure, juniors, that you sign up for the SAT's! The more you take them, the better you do!

So, even though the year is almost over, please continue to try. This is a warning: the days will get warmer, the nights will get shorter, and you are going to want to slack off. However, AP students still have their AP exams, Regents kids still have their Regents (sophomores, we are SO SORRY you have to take so many this year), and teachers still have to prepare. This is arguably going to be the hardest time of the year. We will be here to support you, and we will be celebrating along with you when it's time to relax :)

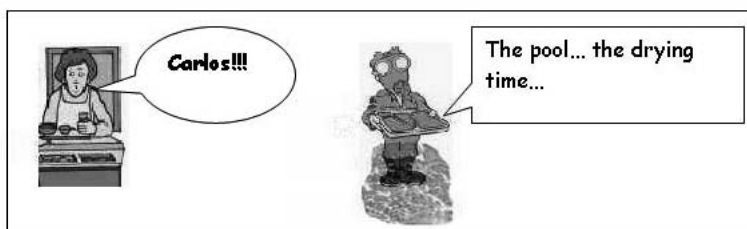
Fellow students of Brentwood High School, feed your craving brain the knowledge that is contained in this healthy issue of vitamins and minerals. Most importantly, keep smiling.

Your Editors-in-Chief,

Denise Rivera and Elisabeth Scheffel



Cafeteria Carlos March 2009



ATTENTION ALL LOYAL POW WOW READERS:

The Pow Wow is always looking for dedicated members! All are welcome to join and voice their ideas. We are looking for individuals interested in the layout process, poets, reporters, cartoonists, and anyone else who wants to contribute school news or views. We meet every Monday in room 1402 - the Sonderling Computer Lab!

Tinker Auto Parts

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD
AUTOPARTS STORE SINCE 1962

****Brentwood** 273-1771, 952-0980**

****Bay Shore** 665-0700**

****Bohemia** 567-1991**

Hablamos Espanol

A COSTLY RECESSION: 'I GET IT'

by Joan De Jesus

Tuesday, February 24, 2009 marked President Obama's first joint session addressing issues like health care, energy, and education. Most importantly, he addressed his economic agenda, one that has sparked controversy in both houses. More than 800 people, including senators, representatives, even the American hero pilot, Sully, spectated this event in person. Both major parties sat on their respective sides, awaiting the President, who arrived "fashionably late." However, both sides applauded and warmly welcomed the Speaker of the House, Nancy Pelosi, Joe Biden and America's first lady. "You don't need to hear statistics about the economy because you live it everyday." The President turned away from the negative speculation to a more positive tone. "We will rebuild, we will be stronger than before." He stated that the answer to the recession lay here on American soil, "in our laboratories, companies, factories and schools." He also emphasized responsibility and advised that now was the time to act boldly and wisely stating, "That is what my economic agenda is designed to do."



corporations are the real ones to blame for the economic recession. President Obama did not look to blame anyone, but affirmed that in order to help the economy, the credit crisis must be cleaned up and Americans should not fear banks and reassured them that it's safe to put money in our banks. In other words, banks would receive assistance, but lending would be restarted as well. Although this plan is one of the largest lending plans towards corporations in history, it also responds to the people. The plan launches housing plans which lower monthly costs of mortgage for responsible homeowners in debt. In terms of bank assistance, he comments, "It's not about helping banks, it's about helping people." Obama consoled Congress members and viewers that the days of banks using tax payer money for personal gain were over. He also addressed the fears that too much money and action were

Obama introduced his economic plan with three major points. The first and most important point discussed jobs. He reassured his adversaries that he was mindful of "big government," something he himself did not want to create. These much-needed jobs, approximately 3.5 million of them, would result from the private sector for communities, roads, and bridges. He also explained that Americans would receive extended unemployment benefits and health care. "Checks are on the way," he assured the country. 95% of households will see a tax cut as of April 1st. To most Americans, banks and

coming too soon stating, "The cost of inaction will be greater..." President Obama concluded his speech by extending support to soldiers in Iraq. He also warned the world that threats towards the American people, by nations halfway around the globe, must end. Many think his package is another lump of money being added to our already tremendous debt. Others parallel his presidency to that of Franklin D. Roosevelt, who helped America's economy from an on-set depression through reform. Regardless of speculation, Obama's \$787 billion stimulus bill has been passed by Congress and is being considered a "major milestone on our road to recovery..."

MAIN POINTS ENERGY · HEALTH CARE · EDUCATION

"It is time for America to lead again."

- Commit \$15 billion a year to renewable energy research (cars, power lines etc.)
- Double the size of experimentations with solar Energy over next three years

"Let there be no doubt, health care reform cannot wait and will not wait another year!"

- Every 30 seconds someone goes bankrupt because of medical expenses
- Seeking a cure for cancer in this generation

"You are not quitting on yourself, you are quitting on your country."

- Reducing high school drop out rates
- Expanding early childhood education
- Supporting charter schools

SNOWED OUT!

by Maria Sgroi



Is March the new season for winter wonderlands? Monday, March 2, 2009 the students, teachers, and staff experienced their first snow day in about five years. Were you one of the many people that was shocked and in total disbelief that your own school cancelled classes... due to snow?

Brentwood's cancellation generally was a surprise to all that received a call from Mr. O'Brien the night before. In this pre-recorded



message, our high school principal stated that school would be closed due to the weather. Parts of Long Island had up to 14 inches of snow. This snow storm was one of the biggest in more than three years. Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy declared a snow emergency which warned people to stay home unless they had to leave their homes and travel.

Although the snowy, cold, and icy conditions made for a messy back-to-school day commute, it was after all a day off from school, which always seems to make every student jump for joy.



LIVE HIGH. DIE YOUNG.

by Cleona Smith

Oxycontin: A highly addictive drug prescribed to people with severe pain from cancer, severe arthritis, sickle cell disease, and nerve damage. 'Oxycotton': A street drug sold a dollar a milligram. The only difference in these two drugs is the fact that one is obtained illegally, crushed down into powder and sold to whoever has enough money to buy it. Yes, 'oxycotton' is the new morphine for young drug users seeking a new high. States such as Maine and Kentucky have been trying to control the illegal distribution of Oxycontin for years, even going as far as keeping it out of the hands of pharmacists.

Though the drug has been around for a while, it seems to be making its way into the high schools of Long Island. 'Oxycotton' is inexpensive enough to where anyone can purchase it. That is why it's nicknamed "the poor man's heroin." Not many adolescents worry about the dangers of oxycontin because it's a legally-prescribed medication, so they feel as if there will be no repercussions for their actions. They do not fear addiction, they do not fear death. For many kids, when it comes to drugs, ignorance is bliss. It is not just oxycontin that parents should be concerned about; it is other drugs such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, etc. that kids seem to be getting their hands on at even younger ages. In some states, kids are starting their drug experimentation at the tender age of 12 while many of their peers are still playing with toys.

Is our society so corrupted that even with the millions of deaths caused by drugs per year, they remain so prominent in our culture? Or is it this factor that makes it so enticing? An interview was conducted with three students who attend Brentwood High School. The three teenagers are mutual friends that probably hang out at the mall together every Friday like many students of BHS, maybe they even have a class or two together.

However, something that is not healthy about their friendship is the fact that they like to get high together on marijuana and prescription medication. From the questions that were asked, they all seemed to like experimenting with a list of other narcotics as well, such as cocaine.



All of them claimed that purchasing drugs was very easy. Sullivan* stated that he buys drugs from whomever he can get them off of. When asked if they sold in school, he answered that they sometimes did. He commented that all of his friends he associated with were involved in drugs as well. He also claimed that he wasn't the one to get his friends involved in drugs; it was the people around them that did. His friends, two girls around the ages of 16 and 17, claimed that they enjoyed getting high with one another.

They both claimed to have "accidentally" tried heroin. The list of drugs that they have done seemed endless. They both admitted they have done drugs in school, claiming that ever since they were caught in the woods, they stopped going there to get high. Stacy* proved that peer pressure is a factor in teen's drug use when she said that at the age of 10, her friends forced her to smoke. Lisa's* case was different. Her reason for trying drugs was based on the fact that, "It was there." When all of the three teens were asked if they got high in school, they laughed as if it was so obvious that they did.

When asked what kind of drugs they did in school, all of them gave a short list. All of them stated that they have gotten high on Xanax, Percoset, and other prescription medication. Problem . . . peer pressure.

Whatever the reason they start, the path students begin for themselves by choosing to use drugs, is a dangerous one for them to follow.

Behind the safety line. . .

by Gilberto Martinez

Just like every school in America, safety is Brentwood's #1 priority. Teachers, faculty and administrators act like the eyes and ears of the halls in order ensure the safety of themselves as well as the students inside the school. The administrators of the school are doing all they can to prevent the level of violence from rising. Joining together with State Park Officials, they are doing all they can to get students out of "The Woods" and back into school.

Recently, Brentwood High has begun the use of random searches with a metal detector as another method of safety to prevent any weapons from entering the school. If a student is found with any form of a weapon, he or she will be brought to a superintendent's hearing and a request will be made to have them expelled from the high school. Mr. Murphy, Assistant Principal from Sonderling High comments, "Sonderling High School has found none (weapons)." On the Brentwood High School website there is a list called "The Security Action Plan" listed in the Parent/Guardian Information section of the website.

This is a list of security measures used in the high school. One of the security measures is to make sure all doors leading outside of the Brentwood campus are to be locked while school is taking place. Brentwood High School has some obstacles to beat in order to achieve maximum safety. The biggest obstacle our high school faces is the gang violence that happens within the walls of the school. Many security guards patrol the halls making sure no violence is occurring. According to The Security Action Plan, the guards take orders from a senior guard who is already assigned to the High School and serves as a Security Supervisor. Most of the security guards are still in the process of on-going training and do tours around the school in order to maximize the work force for our safety. Another way the school is ensuring safety is the practice of safety drills such as the fire drill and other emergency drills.

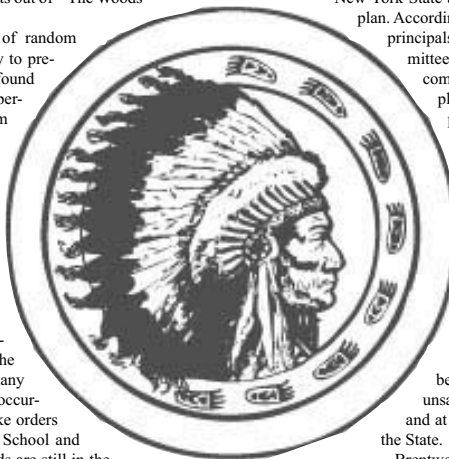
As for gang violence in the school, it is prohibited to wear bandanas or colors of any kind. If a crowd begins to form, administrators disburse the lingering crowd. Our high school also has group called the Council for Unity. This club spreads awareness of

gang violence in the community and intends to help prevent kids from joining gangs by showing them the negative factors of being associated with gangs. Mrs. Pappert, the Assistant Principal of Sonderling High firmly states, "Gang violence is not tolerated in Brentwood High School."

New York State also makes sure that all high schools have a security plan. According to the New York Department of Education website, principals are responsible for establishing a school safety committee that is responsible for making a safety plan. The committee usually meets on a monthly basis. The safety plans must be updated annually by the committee. The principal has to submit the plans to the district's superintendent to be approved by the end of the third week in September of each year.

The way a high school's safety level is determined is by the Violence and Disruptive Incident Report or V.A.D.I.R. It is twenty categories, ranging from murder to shoving and pushing. A different number classifies each category. The school is judged by the State Education Department on how safe it is by how many incidents it has annually. The school is given a score based on how many incidents it has. There is also a line where a school can have such a poor score, it would be determined "unsafe." Brentwood has never been an unsafe school. Every month the schools tally their score and at the end of the year, they summarize it and send it to the State.

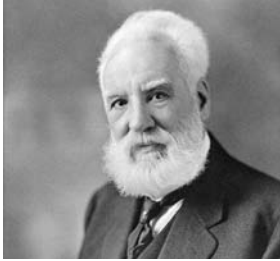
Brentwood High School has never been an unsafe school. It is not without incident, but no public institution is. As Mrs. Pappert said, "Are there fights? Of course there are fights, kids' fight." Administrators at Brentwood are constantly watching over the students. Deans are at the front line for this defense against student violence. There have not been many fights reported. B.H.S. has plenty of equipment, as well as dedicated staff, to ensure the safety of everyone that walks in and out of the school and so far their security measures have been very effective.



Important People Born In March

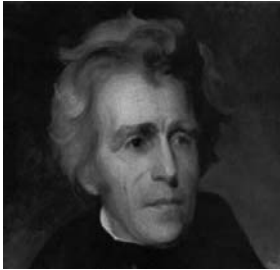
by Cleona Smith and Joan DeJesus

March 3, 1847: Alexander Graham Bell



Alexander Graham Bell was born in Edinburgh, Scotland. At the age of 12, Bell built a homemade device that combined rotating paddles with sets of nail brushes, creating a simple dehusking machine that was put into operation and used steadily for a number of years. In 1876, he invented his most famous invention, the telephone. Among the last of Alexander Graham Bell's words were: "There cannot be mental atrophy in any person who continues to observe, to remember what he observes, and to seek answers for his unceasing 'hows' and 'whys' about things."

March 15, 1767: Andrew Jackson



Andrew Jackson was born on March 15, 1767. He was the seventh President of the United States. Jackson was a military governor of Florida, commander of the American forces at the Battle of New Orleans, and eponym of the era of Jacksonian democracy. He was a polarizing figure who dominated American politics in the 1820s and 1830s. His political ambition combined with widening political participation, shaped the modern Democratic Party. Renowned for his toughness, he was nicknamed "Old Hickory."

FIFA Tournament: Andrew Reached His Goals

by Carmeleau Jean-Francois

Congratulations to Andrew Jean-Baptiste for becoming Brentwood High School's first FIFA video game champion! In an epic game, Andrew, who played as Chelsea, defeated Jose Vega, who played as Macherster United 2-1. Carmeleau Jean-Francois (student council President for Ross) would like to thank everybody for making this event a huge success.

The next video game tournament is NBA 2k9, so every student should start practicing.

Pre K-12

"The journey to success begins with the...
Brentwood PreK-12 College Fair"



Saturday ~ April 25, 2009
Sonderling HS

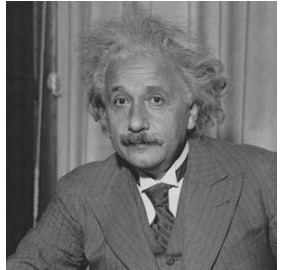


March 14, 1933 ~ Quincy Jones



Jones is an American trumpeter that has an outstanding 79 Grammy nominations and has won 29 Grammy awards. He is associated with the major successes of artists like Michael Jackson and Frank Sinatra. Celebrating more than 50 years performing and being involved in music, Quincy's creative magic has spanned over six decades, beginning with the music of the post-swing era and continuing through today's television and media. He and his entertainment company, Quincy Jones Entertainment, have been responsible for popular shows such as The Fresh Prince of Bel Air and Mad tv.

March 14, 1879 Albert Einstein



Albert Einstein was born on March 14, 1879 in Ulm, Germany. When Albert Einstein was a child, his mother actually thought he was deformed because he had a rather large head. Einstein is considered the "father of physics." He is responsible for the theory of relativity and the mass-energy formula, $E=mc^2$. In 1999, Time magazine named him the "Person of the Century" and in 1921, he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in Physics. Einstein was offered the presidency of Israel in 1952 but declined it. Also, an element named Einsteinium was discovered in 1952 and obviously named in his honor.

And the Winner is...

by Denise Rivera

We've all heard it. The majority of us has seen it, and it's one of the brightest times when Hollywood is at its prime. On February 22, 2009, the 81st Annual Academy Awards was presented live on ABC. The nominees were excited and pondering who was going to be the winner, while other guests showed off their glamorous dresses and the most sophisticated suits. Hundreds of celebrities were being interviewed, while new up-and-comers were on the watch and hassled for the what the next film project might be. At the end of the night, some great actors were awarded, while new faces were receiving a promise of a bright future. In the end, all the nominees showed great contributions and wonderful work, and all of them were winners that night. Of course, how can you compare The Curious Case of Benjamin Button with The Dark Knight? Congrats to All!

Best Picture: Slumdog Millionaire

Best Director: Danny Boyle (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Actor: Sean Penn (Milk)

Best Actress: Kate Winslet (The Reader)

Best Supporting Actor: Heath Ledger (The Dark Knight)

Best Supporting Actress: Penelope Cruz (Vicky Cristina Barcelona)

Best Screenplay written directly for Screen: Dustin Lance Black (Milk)

Best Screenplay previously Produced/Published: Simon Beaufoy (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Cinematography: Anthony Dod Mantle (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Art Direction: Donald Graham Burt & Victor Zolfo (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button)

Best Costume Design: Michael O'Connor (The Duchess)

Best Sound: Ian Tapp, Richard Pryke, Resul Pookutty (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Editing: Chris Dickens (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Sound Editing: Richard King (The Dark Knight)

Best Visual Effects: Eric Barba, Steve Preeg, Burt Dalton & Craig Barron (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button)

Best Make-up: Greg Cannom (The Curious Case of Benjamin Button)

Best Music Written for Motion Pictures, Original Song: A.R. Rahman (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Music Written for Motion Pictures, Original Score: A.R. Rahman (Slumdog Millionaire)

Best Animated Film: WALL-E (Andrew Stanton)

Best Animated Short Film: Tsumiki no ie (Kunio Kato)

Best Short Film, Live Action: Spielzeugland (Jochen Freydank)

Best Short Documentary: Smile Pinki (Megan Mylan)

Best Featured Documentary: Man On Wire (James Marsh & Simon Chinn)

Best Foreign Language Film: Okuribito (Japan)

Drawing on a 5 Scale!

The artists of the AP 2D Design class make Brentwood High School proud as they strive for a perfect score on their exams!



Artist: Samantha Sicari



Artist: Jevalynn Molina



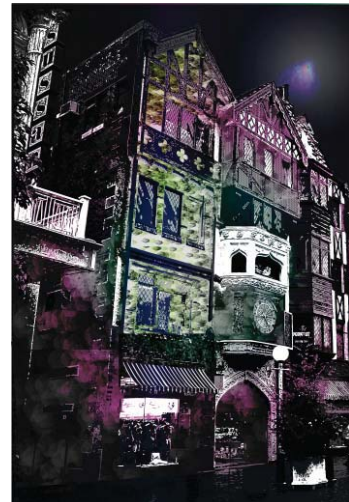
Artist: Kelly Campos



Artist: Joan De Jesus



Artist: Emma Soto



Artist: Sianna Stewart



Artist: Joan De Jesus



Artist: Xiomara Moran



Artist: Ivette Mercado

Fashion ~ March 09'

by Ramon Bueno and Jalisa Stanislaus

Sondo Best Dressed



"Fashion is what you make of it," is the quote that this month's best dressed female, Mei Zou, lives by. Inspired by Seventeen Magazine, Mei embodies what conservative and bold look like. Although she appears quiet, she is one person you cannot miss. Her style is unmatched.

Although she wears all American name brands such as Hollister, Abercrombie, Forever 21, and even Target, she's also influenced by the styles of Asian countries, like China and Japan.

When asked what famous person's closet she would raid, given the choice, she said, "I would pick CoCo Chanel and the Jonas Brothers because their style is impeccable."

Mei absolutely cannot live without her vans and graphic tees. Her favorite seasons are Fall and Spring, because that is when she is the most comfortable; she has the ability to wear her favorite dresses. Although she wears sweaters and jeans almost every day, she loves dressing up when the weather is right. From cardigans and skirts to hoodies and converse, she is a fashion setter!

Ross Best Dressed



Inspired by Demi Lovato, Tiffany Ramos is one of the most unique individuals in Brentwood High School. It is hard to stand out in a school as diverse as ours, but Tiffany manages. Whether it is her distinctive headbands or her unique purses, Tiffany is truly one in a million. Tiffany shops in both trendy and affordable stores, such as American Eagle, Hot Topic, Zumiez, and Forever 21. However, the way she puts her outfits together is anything but common. Tiffany believes in enhancing her ensemble with affordable accessories from both Icing and Claire's. When asked what makes her different from other "fresh" individuals, she answered, "My definition of fresh is unlike any one else's. My style ranges from button ups under a cardigan, and skateboard sneakers one day, to a parachute dress with converse the next; while many people are continuing to take matching to the extreme." Not only is Tiff inspired by her favorite artist Demi Lovato, she is also influenced by the Jonas Brothers. She says, "Although the 'JoBros' are guys, they inspire me to be versatile.. NOTHING IS OFF LIMITS!!"

Tiffany's style is unmatched; she symbolizes what fashion and edge look like.

Brentwood's very own Pochohantas says that she wouldn't categorize herself style as emo, grungy, or punk. "I don't want people to say I have fake steez. I am simply Tiffany, that's it! What's better than being your own person? The spotlight is on you! Fashions fade, style is eternal, is the quote I live by!"



Everyone has something or someone that has inspired him or her when it comes to style. Celebrities, people we surround ourselves with, and even the music we listen to inspire many of us. Who would know the religion we follow may also have an effect on how we choose to present ourselves? Surprisingly enough the best dressed boy of Sonderling for the month of March, Jonathon Valeria, was inspired by his favorite Christian singers Adrian Roberto and Jesus Adrian. When interviewing him I was shocked to hear this because the celebrities people usually are inspired by are Kanye West and Lil Wayne. To hear him say this was definitely a breath of fresh air.

When Jonathon first arrived to this country from El Salvador, he changed his style but not fully. He incorporated "All American" name brands with traditional attire from El Salvador. His favorite brands are Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister Co and Ruehl. The reason he preferably wears these specific types of clothing is that it provides him with the rugged yet classic look he has accomplished. He is a perfect example of how teenage boys should dress when trying to aim for a professional yet stylish look. Even though he is a tee shirt, jeans and converse kind of person he can switch it up and wear neutral color cardigans, button up tees shirts that include stripped and plaid ones, and moccasins that pull together the casual look he has exemplified.

Jonathon stands out from everyone else because the way he dresses himself symbolizes what kind of person he truly is. He carries himself in a dignified matter and shows that being well dressed does not mean wearing your pants down to your knees with matching kicks but carrying yourself in a respectable way. What makes Jonathan's style stand out is not as much about the clothes he wears but the way he presents himself in front of others and this is the reason why he won best dressed male of Ross for the month of March.



What are your favorite name brands? Frantz Vilfort replied, "Well I don't really have a favorite but if I had to choose it would be Louis Vuitton because the whole line is based on individuality and beauty and plus Marc Jacobs is awesome!" As you can see, Frantz Vilfort is into the more high end name brands which clearly explains the reason why his style is so couture and different. You can see Frantz in very unusual pieces of wardrobe such as colored bowties, vintage vests, Italian inspired boots and even Gucci shoes when he feels like catching people's attention. The unique thing about Frantz is not only the way he dresses but also his huge love for fashion and its lifestyle. He is not a person who goes by fads but someone who looks at clothing from a more technical point of view. One of the reasons he is more attracted to more high-end brands is also because they are inspired by art and different cultures. Another cool fact about Frantz is that he was always into fashion and creating simple objects into a masterpiece that can be incorporated into his wardrobe. He started getting into fashion in middle school when his science teacher assigned him a project which consisted of using aluminum and instead of doing the project he created a garment out of it.

When asked to define his fashion style he said, "I make up my own style I cannot be categorized" This clearly shows that he stays true to himself and fads are not something he follows. Some people in school even see him as an icon because he uses his creativity to create a new look for himself everyday that hasn't already been done and that takes true love for fashion. Some advice he gives boys regarding style is, "Be yourself because even though someone may tell you that you look bad in certain things doesn't mean you have to fall into society's fad." It's true; looking good first starts with confidence in yourself. A quote that he also lives by is, "Fashions fade, style is eternal so always remember to go with what you feel is right, not what society told you is right." Frantz can be a good role model for anyone who is scared to step out the box and the fact that he dresses to kill doesn't hurt either. This is the reason he won best dressed male of Ross for the month of March.

FASHION MARCH 09'

TEES ME

by Cleona Smith



When you purchase a band tee, you're letting the world know that you love and support that band. After all, you did spend your hard-earned money on a shirt that sometimes can go for \$20. When you buy tickets to go see a band live you are personally letting the band know that you are a fan who is dedicated to their music, because you are now spending your time and money just to see them perform. So what happens when someone purchases a band tee, not even knowing that it is a band? Well the real fan is deceived, and in a way, the band is deceived as well. I know you're wondering, what is the deception? Well the deception is that you are pretending to have listened to that band. It is the most annoying, poser thing someone can do. It is like walking around with a skateboard, then acting surprised when someone asks you how long you have been skating. That is the same thing as wearing a band tee just to wear it. You are pretending to be someone your not. You are pretending to have an interest in something that you really do not. So next time you wear a band tee remember this, there is a rocker out there who just wants to talk with you for hours and hours about how great your shirt is and what is your favorite song by that artist. You do not want to have that kind of conversation do you? I thought not. Here are a few tips to help avoid this embarrassing "So you like [insert band name here]" convo:



- 1) If you are going to wear the shirt at least listen to the band's music. Then if someone asks if you like them you can say, "I like their song [insert song name here]."
- 2) Find out a little bit about that band. So what if you don't listen to them, at least you know that the band exists.
- 3) If you do not want to do either two then put the band tee down and just walk away. Save yourself the poser title.

In the end you get nothing out of wearing a band tee when your not a fan, well maybe a few snickers behind your back.

BOYS' SPRING FASHION

by Ramon Bueno

This spring is about looking stylish yet comfortable and I have great tips for people on how to accomplish this look without blowing your wallet. This season all name brand stores are releasing shorts that lay right above your knees. This kind of shorts can be found everywhere and are for guys who are more of risk takers in regards to style. You can wear these kinds of shorts with Sperry boat shoes, converses and any low type sneakers, including Nikes. Stay away from any high top shoes because they would make the pants look shorter than they really are and you wouldn't want that.

A good place to buy these for cheap are pacsun. At Pacsun, all shorts are now 25 dollars, which is great compared to other stores such as American Eagle and Abercrombie & Fitch who are charging super high prices that start anywhere from 40 dollars and go as high as



80 dollars.

If these kinds of shorts are not for you than you can always wear cargos. These particular types of shorts never go out of style and can be worn with any type of footwear - just stay away from Timbs (you are not Jim Jones!). For reasonable prices on cargos, you can try Old Navy and Aeropostale that go anywhere from 15-30 dollars. In addition, V-necks are a great piece to your wardrobe this spring, they have become the white tees of the season. Great colors to stick with when buying V-necks are earth tones such as greens and browns. Earth tone colors usually go well with cargos and jean shorts. I would recommend staying away from colors like hot pink and neon green because they would attract negative and unwanted attention. V-necks are also great if you are a person who likes to layer their clothing, you can wear button up shirts to give you that classic spring look. This spring less is more and it is all being comfortable yet looking stylish.

I hope you follow some of my tips so you can stand out for all the right reasons in a time where everybody is looking to make a statement.

Girls' Spring Chic

by Cleona Smith

Say goodbye to winter and say hello to spring! No more peacoats and no more scarves. It's time to break out of that cold funk and get into the nice warm spring groove. So of course it's important to dress to warmly impress. Uggs, for one, need to be thrown into the back of your closet (or waste bin). Put on some cute sandals and some even cuter heels. There is no need to cover it all up (there is no reason to show it all off either). Wearing flowing knee length skirts paired with

Spring Do's

1. White dresses
2. Ruffles and bows
3. High-waisted skirts, pants, and shorts
4. Asymmetrical shirts and dresses
5. Bohemian (hippie chic)



a tank top and a cropped jacket is a must wear. Remember don't be boring, make your colors bold (not blinding). You're young so go crazy with patterns, but not too crazy, you don't want to be viewed as an abstract piece of art. Leave that kind of display for the museum. If you're going to wear shorts, don't go too short. There is a fine line between pants and underwear, remember that line, and don't cross it!

Remember these tips and you're sure to be the prettiest flower in any bed of roses.

Spring Don'ts

1. Multi-colors (you're not the rainbow)
2. Too many accessories. What's too much you ask? When you start looking like an accessories vendor
3. Uggs! I know I said this before but some people don't realize that they are just not for spring, or any weather. Seriously, THROW THEM AWAY!!

Opinions

K-Pop or Flop

by Cleona Smith



In the eyes of the world, America is a trendsetter. We set examples in fashion, politics, music, etc. It is no surprise that other countries try to mimic our success in these fields. We are so confident (maybe too confident) to believe that no other country can surpass us when it comes to our entertainment. Japan might have its technological advancement, China might have its cheap labor, and England might have those cups of tea and adorable accents, but we have a democracy and Hollywood!

Well, sorry to be the bearer of bad news, but you need more than Hollywood to keep the attention of the world. Since the election of Obama, America has been viewed in a more positive light, but that is only in its politics. What about our movies and music? As everyone should know, some of the best movies are coming out of Asia. Hollywood has obviously noticed this because they have tried making... I mean re-making... some of Asia's hits. For example *The Eye*, *The Ring*, *The Grudge*, *The Uninvited* (so many "the"), the list can go on and on. As the list goes on, it reveals the failures of these movies. I will have to honestly admit that *The Eye* and *The Ring* were good, but I have a feeling that the originals were a hundred times better. Now back to the other subject at hand: music.

Americans might think they make the best Rock, Pop and Hip-Hop that ever graced this earth (Yeah, maybe, when they were first created). Once again, I have to be the bearer of bad news. It seems like Europe and Asia are creating some of the most amazing songs and artists that could never come out of America. Should this leave American artists like Beyonce shaking in their expensive leather boots? Maybe, because it's just a matter of time until people seek out artists in other countries to see just how good they are. Actually, too late, it already happened! Some Americans have set their eyes on Asia for their entertainment needs.

What's not to love about Asia? They have anime, sushi, and those really cute Kimonos. Overall, Asia has a lot to offer. Good food, clothes, movies, history, the list could go on and on and on. So of course, fans of the Asian experience would love to know what people in Asia find entertaining. That is when the discovery of J-pop, K-pop, and C-pop came about. Yes, it's true that the world was influenced by America's creation of hip-hop, R&B etc. but just because America created it, doesn't mean they technically own it. Asia has grabbed on to this and made it their own. Not only did they make it their own, they made it simply amazing!

Korean and Japanese artists are growing a larger fan base in America everyday. Boy bands and real talent might have died in America in the late 90's, but in Korea and Japan, they're alive and well. I know it might seem as though I am being extremely cruel and bias while bashing American artists, but I'm not. I'm opinionated about this subject only because I love and appreciate music. When you listen to every type of music, you can easily be able to tell what's good and what's bad (even if it's in another language). That's why I'm hoping for success for the Korean artists that are making their way to America, in hopes of winning over the American people. It will be hard so of course as they might have to Americanize themselves. I find that sad and pointless because their original songs don't sound ANYTHING like the things I have heard on the radio. They honestly sounded a hundred times better and different.



Artists to look out for in the upcoming months

Se7en: Releasing his song with Lil' Kim this month, entitled them girls.

Boa: Releasing her first English CD this month.

Wonder Girls: Releasing a English version of one of their songs in May.

Bi Rain (singer turned actor): Rain is coming, but not in music and dance, with fist and feet flying. In his new action movie "Ninja Assassin". Coming to a theater near you!

For more K-pop News visit Allkpop.com



This chimp is B.A.N.A.N.A.S

by Elisabeth Scheffel



A 200-pound chimpanzee, Travis, attacked his owner's best friend about one month ago. The owner, 70-year-old Sandra Herold, treated Travis like a human: he ate human food, he wore clothes, and he sat at the dinner table with his owner. Everything was going fine, until he suddenly pulled the poor Charla Nash's eyelids, lips, and hands right off of her body. What was the cause of this madness? It could be the fact that Travis was on Xanax, a medication that terminates anxiety. A common side effect of Xanax, ironically, is aggressive behavior. Another reason could be that chimpanzee attacks are extremely common! Though they may be adorable, chimpanzees are wild animals. Their teeth are similar to canine teeth, and they have the power to rip fingers off a person's hand. They are affectionate, and they are relatively close to humans, but that does not mean that they would make great pets.

In her defense, Herold was not to blame. According to a recent article printed in the Hartford Courant, Herold was not proud of what happened. She had lost her daughter in 2000 due to a car accident, and she lost her husband in 2004 due to a car accident (and now, her "son" Travis is cremated!). Herold just needed someone to love. However, I think that before one gets a pet, he or she should do some research before he or she makes a decision to get a killer critter. Chinchillas and ferrets, as small as they are, have a gripping bite and they have the power to break bones. Dogs have been known to attack people and give them permanent scars! So even though Herold did not mean anything bad by owning a chimp, she set an example for all: Think before you buy a "loving" pet!

Paradox Peninsula

by Gilberto Martinez

At the far western end of Long Island lies a peninsula that sets a boundary between Queens and Nassau County. The peninsula is referred to as The Rockaways. One of the best things about The Rockaways is the surrounding natural beauties of it. Surrounding the peninsula is the Atlantic Ocean. The beach breeze can be felt miles away from the shore. Just pass Peninsula Boulevard and you get a sense of The Rockaway history. Nevertheless, history implies that it is no longer alive and unfortunately, the natural beauty is being overrun and destroyed by the beast that was injected into the lonesome part of Queens.

A land that was once considered a summer getaway place is now known for its contradiction. Heading further west into the peninsula is a place called Avern. It is one-half of The Rockaway. In the 1990's, Avern was an empty area filled with an empty dirt lot, construction lanes, giant machines and more dirt and cement. Now, recently, in the early 2000's, Avern finished its construction and allowed the world to move in. With houses very appealing and prices unheard of in that area, Avern is trying to restore, with a more moderate taste, summer getaway places similar to that of the Hamptons. Everything you would want in a community adjacent to the shore is in Avern: surf shops, bars, clothing stores and better grocery stores.

PARADOX PENINSULA (CONT'D)

(cont'd from page 9) But what stops Avern from reaching maximum profit? Its twin brother Far Rockaway is an area overrun by street criminals, lazy police officers and crowded buildings with lazy landlords. Far Rockaway is located at the very beginning of the peninsula. Instead of surf shops, bars and a grocery store, there are liquor stores, abandoned houses, parks filled by syringes and of course what kind of 'ghetto' would it be without its youth outreach place, the PAL, similar to a YMCA. Far Rockaway is the brother that is neglected and taken for granted.

In the 1960's a massive urban renewal project was underway. This project was to provide a more affordable place to live for urban citizens. The project destroyed most of the summer houses in The Rockaways to make way for the new housing and buildings. The government was oblivious to what was happening to minorities in the 1960's. "The projects" refers to the buildings that are close together, overcrowded and rundown. These kinds of buildings do not create a good image or a good reputation for any neighborhood. What's worse is the condition the citizens, who have no choice but to live there, have to deal with. With no grocery store in the area most people get their food from Jamaica, Queens and then carry it up flights of stairs because the elevator has been out of commission for weeks. The other condition is the fear of getting your food robbed. The deaths and street fights occurring in Far Rockaway are just another thing citizens have to do deal with.

Far Rockaway is living in Avern's shadow, and little by little, the city's Department of Housing Preservation and Development (DHPD) is building and buying land to make houses similar to those in Avern. The DHPD's new residential project is underway and has entered phase two, which is when the land is already bought and houses are going up. The project, Lewmay by the Sea, is a 97-unit residential complex of two to three family semi-attached houses. So far 49 houses have already been built and sold. These houses go for \$475,000. But here's the kicker: Who is going to pay to live there? I doubt any one would pay to live right down the block from a place that has its own police squad surveillance, let alone pay the same price that all Avern houses go for.

Far Rockaway is not all a bad place. It has the natural beauty that Avern has to offer and subway access that goes directly to Queens, Brooklyn, Manhattan and all the way to the Bronx. What everyone fails to see are the people that believe in peace and talk about the shooting that happened last night at the local day care center. Far Rockaway is the home to many gangs that add more gasoline to the fire. Citizens that take the A train to work get a glimpse of Avern and are reminded of the place they called home. Far Rockaway will always be the place I call home, regardless of what Avern has to offer, or how long I've been away from it. If I could use a Jimmy Breslin quote and make it my own, it would be, "Far Rockaway the place that I love and hate both equally."

iPods: Can They Ruin Your Hearing?

by Maria Sgroi

Many teenagers enjoy the sweet sound of music that is projected by their iPods. Many individuals carry their iPods at all times. Even during the school day you may see your peers walking along with their iPods, blasting music to their favorite songs. But, have you ever stopped and thought about the risks? As a teenager, I know we sometimes feel that the risks in life are far too small to catch up with us. Seriously, we are so wrong about that. There are about 173 million ipod users out there, probably including you... the one reading this article with your earbuds in. Turn that music down... way down before it hurts you! iPods played at high levels of volume can lead to hearing loss.



Many people may think that their hearing will not be effected by the high volumes of music that they play but there are actually a lot of things that may go wrong when you do this. Listening to an ipod with earbuds in at 80% volume will be safe for long-term hearing. Volumes around 70% for only about 4 and a half hours a day is even better for your hearing. The risk of permanent hearing loss increases with only 5 minutes of music blasted into your ears at full volume. All that intense noise can eventually damage the delicate hair cells in the inner ear that carry sound waves. A small increase in volume

can make a huge difference in how long you can be listening to your ipod safely. The risk of hearing loss increases quickly as the volume goes up.

Human ears are very complex organs that are quite sensitive. Hearing problems begin with a ringing in the ear, or a feeling that the ears are clogged. The ringing in the ears happens when the hearing system is overexcited. The clogged feeling in your ears are defense mechanisms. Your earbuds go straight into your ears with no other protection between the high volumes and your ears. More than 5 million children and teens in the United States have noise-induced hearing loss. Hearing loss in the United States has doubled in the last 30 years.

Hearing loss is permanent and additive. The longer one listens and the greater the volume, the more likely one will eventually develop problems hearing. The National Hearing Conservation Association advises that if you have to shout above the music from three feet away, you should turn your music down. Also, if someone else can hear your music from your earpiece, you are playing it too loudly at a dangerous volume. Listening to incredibly loud music for too long with a high volume might cause you to turn your earbuds in for hearing aids instead. If you love listening to music, it would be awful for you not to be able to hear it. So, listen to your music, carry your iPods, but do so a little more softly!



EMOTION BEHIND ART

by Eileen Rivera

Art is a part of us. Art is found all around our environment, it is found in a variety of shapes, forms, and symbols. Art is more than just a piece of doodle and canvas. It is a form used to distract as well as motivate one to identify self-expression. To some individuals, it may take just a few seconds for them to distinguish textures and color as well as detail and specificity. To others, however, art is something a lot more complex to read and its form of beauty is underestimated.

There is more to an art piece than its beauty. What can actually be most interesting is what the actual symbolism of a piece really identifies. Throughout history, we have witnessed the works of some of the most intellectual and artistic beings in the art world. These artists managed to speak their minds as

well as inform the world of their personalities. Jackson Pollack, an American painter who created art by simply



splattering liquid paint on an oversized canvas, wanted the world to be aware of how he felt about an era that was ironically soon to be followed. An alcoholic with an unstable personality, Pollack became well noticed through one piece in which his disorganized and messy form of working defined him as "different." It sounds really strange how a slight smudge or drip can be seen as a form of art. We also have

Frida Khalo, a Mexican painter who identified Mexican culture as artistic and unique and also defined the importance of showing oneself towards the public. Although she was a woman who suffered greatly throughout her

lifetime, the symbolism in her work helped her reflect her pain and surpass all that felt unforgettable. Both these artists, though deceased, made a dent in American culture just by sharing their talents.



The variety of fine arts today seem to be endless since there is so much you can do to express your talent. The power of art can at times be used as therapy and as distraction. By analyzing a piece and trying to solve its "mysteries," you can realize how amazing a piece is within the canvas. The symbolism and detail found in a piece of art can be memorable, unique, and above all beautiful!

WINTER WARRIORS

by Elisabeth Scheffel

There are about twenty members of Winter Guard. Neidy Hammer, one of the members of Winter Guard, explains, "Winter Guard is completely different [from] marching band. There are plenty of guards out there that don't march with bands. The winter gives us a chance to show what we can do. We work really hard all year long, but during the marching band season people can see how hard we work, and the level of performance that we attain."

Winter Guard practices all year long, even when Green Machine takes a break. They practice just as much as athletes do: Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 6 to

9 pm; Saturdays from 10 to 7 pm; and summer "camp" days from 9 to 9 pm. These long, endless hours of preparation pay off. According to Neidy, they "have three competitions... last year [they] placed second out of forty-six teams."

On February 27, 2009, the Winter Guard performed at the Freshman Center from 4 pm to 5 pm. About forty spectators came to watch their friends and family practice and present a showing of their hard work. Winter Guard continues to practice and they joined the Green Machine in an excellent showing at the St. Patrick's Day parade.

BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

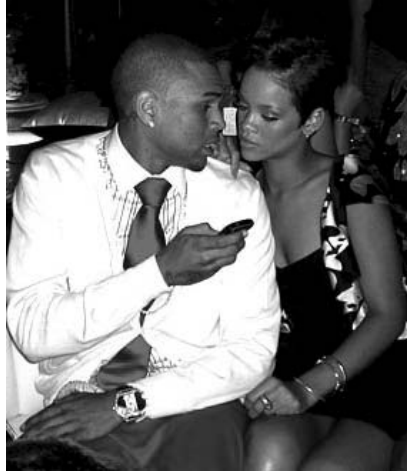
(CONTINUED FROM FRONT COVER)

by Wendy Melendez

Now we have to wait and see if the court will really have justice on Chris Brown or if his conviction will be a lot more lenient than an average guy because he is a celebrity. Rihanna has allegedly gone back to Chris with open arms and Rihanna's dad was fine with her decisions (although it could be that he supports her because she is the one making the money). Being the parent of a celebrity doesn't mean that parents should change their morals on how they want to raise their kids.

Although this couple has much success, people seem to forget that they are both still children - neither is yet of legal age. Their parents should step in and take on the role of being parents and not let their kids do what they want. This also shows that parents should be a lot more aware of their children's relationships and what they do. Teenagers see that Rihanna was beaten really badly but went back. It makes them assume that if the victim goes back everything will be fine. Teenagers don't think that everyone is different and if it works for Rihanna, why shouldn't it work for them? The abuser will abuse them again and every time it could get worse than the last time.

Most abusive relationships end up in a tragic way. It is always the victims who are left with the scars. Just because someone abuses you and makes it seem like they are superior doesn't mean they have to be. Everyone has to take responsibility for their own actions. Don't let a bad situation turn into a horrible one. One must go into a relationship with open eyes and if they notice their partner is not treating them well the best thing to do is leave before it gets more serious. Teenagers should always remember that your longest lasting relationship is not the only relationship you should have. The longer you last doesn't always mean the happier you are. Don't keep things to yourself because you are scared of your partner, because the more people



that are on your side the more intimidated the abuser will get. It's a lot easier to abuse one single, isolated person than a person with a whole group of people supporting them. Abusers are just people who need to be shown that they are not the only ones who have a say.

Relationships take two but that also doesn't mean that when something bad happens it should also stay just between you two. Victims of abuse need to speak out. It's time to not be pushed around by the one you love. Take action based on the way you feel and don't allow people to have any say in staying in the relationship, and don't let nonsense like the media alter your decision because one day the headline will read "Killed by her partner" and that is not a headline you will want on top of your picture. Get help. Once you walk away the best thing is to never look back because once you look back there are more chances of you turning right back to the place you once were.

Chris Brown experienced an abusive relationship with his step dad and his birth mother. He saw his mom get abused and he didn't like it but years have passed and he is now the man who is making headlines as the abuser of his girlfriend of a year and a half. It is still not known what the details of the attack were. Unfortunately, like most victims of abuse, Rihanna is deciding to stay quiet. If it wasn't for her celebrity status and the pictures that were leaked of her, this might still be another case that people just don't know about because the victims don't speak up. In the pictures leaked of Rihanna, she looks like she was beaten with a weapon. There is no comparison to the pop star and cover girl model we are used to seeing daily. Hopefully she will wake up and come to her senses and realize that love doesn't hurt.

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SPORTS



Winter Wrap-Up

by Wendy Melendez

As Winter Fades to Memory, Stay tuned for Spring Sports in the Next Issue!



GIRLS TRACK

The girl's track and field has had a very prosperous season. They were able to qualify their 4 by 400 relay teams as well as an individual athlete to the New York State meet. The relay team consisted of Essence Felder, Donna Jeanty, Stephanny Laureano, and Andrea Aberdeen. Felder also was the individual athlete to qualify for the long jump. While at the state meet, the relay team easily qualified for the finals of the 4 by 400 relay and were among the best runners. Although Felder struggled slightly, she was able to earn the title as fourth in the State in long jump, jumping 19' 9". The 4 by 400 relay team ran a great race with Donna Jeanty as lead-off runner, and was able capture 7th in the State, which is a great accomplishment. They finished with a time of 4:07. It was not what they hoped for but was a great experience nonetheless. The girls' winter season has ended and they are now running outdoors for the spring season.

BOYS BASKETBALL

Our boys basketball team was up against one of their toughest challenges this year. With the help of their coaches and the dedication of all the players, they qualified for the playoffs early in the season. Brentwood had games against Patchogue Medford defeating them 65-63 and they also faced Longwood for their last home away game of the season. Brentwood came home with the victory when they defeated Longwood 66-57. The last home game of the season for our boys was on February 9, 2009. Brentwood faced William Floyd. The auditorium was filled with students, faculty, and parents showing their support for our Indians. The pressure was on! Brentwood did not give in and defeated William Floyd 67-59. Everyone celebrated, knowing that Brentwood ended the season successfully and the playoffs were about to begin. Although this sounds like a set up for a fairy tale ending, it did not turn out this way for Brentwood this season. When Brentwood opposed Deer Park at home, they were defeated in a heart-breaking, double overtime loss. This defeat meant that the playoffs were over. Brentwood gave it their all and near the end of the game, Deer Park was ahead with a score of 71-68. Cliff Murat was able to bank a 30 footer, which tied the game right at the buzzer. Deer Park and Brentwood went into overtime. As the first overtime was ending, Brentwood was in the lead by two. J.J. Moore blocked a Deer Park lay up but in the end, one overtime was not enough. The game went into a second overtime, many key players fouled out adding to the pressure, and the Sonderling gym was alive with energy and tension. In the end, the game went to Deer Park and the Indians' season came to a devastating end. The boys basketball team still had an amazing season and have next year to start preparing for already.



GIRLS BASKETBALL

The Brentwood girls basketball team showed their dedication this season. Our girls' hard work and dedication was evident as they played their hearts out in all of their games. The Brentwood girls were able to end their season knowing that they were making it into the playoffs after defeating William Floyd 47-44. Our fans were ecstatic when the buzzer went off and the scoreboard screamed victory for Brentwood! Brentwood girls entered the playoffs going up against Sachem North, who was a leading team in Suffolk County. The girls succeeded in defeating them in the first round of playoffs, only to face Sachem East in the second round. The Brentwood girls lost this battle in the second round of playoffs. By the first quarter, the score board read 22-8. Brentwood is known by other schools as being a very intense team. Brentwood was led by sophomore Brianna Harris. This sophomore converted a three-point play and ended the game with 11 points. Another player who showed all of her dedication that night was senior Erica Edwards. This veteran basketball player added 13 points to her team's efforts. Edwards is known for the way she plays basketball and the success she has had in this sport. Edwards admit, "The toughest competition was Sachem East, but Sachem North gave us a good run and we only beat them by two." This goes to show the tough competition lined up for our girls this season. Our girls have shown how driven they are by the heights that they have reached and the acknowledgments they have received.

Wrestling

by Brenda Salinas

For the fourth consecutive year, the Brentwood wrestling team has successfully been crowned league champions. Their unsurpassed season has come to an end and after all of those extensive, unmerciful, and sweat-drenching practices, they achieved glory. For the wrestlers of the 2008-2009 school year, their season has been one of many triumphs, tears, laughter, and victories. They have sacrificed, been driven, had the determination, were dedicated, hardworking, had the attitude, and gave it their all. Wrestling is getting out on that mat and knowing that you have your team and your family behind you supporting you the whole way through. It's taking down your opponent after practicing it over and over again the day before. For all of the senior Brentwood wrestlers who are graduating in June, you have made your mark and left your legacy. Wrestling will always be a part of who you are and what you become. When you were down by two points but in the last ten seconds managed to get up and rack up those extra points to win and have your hand raised in distinction, it taught you how to prevail. It motivates you to have the strength and energy to keep going through the pain, soreness and exhaustion. Josue Mendez, a senior wrestler, made it to the New York State Wrestling Championships where he placed 4th. Getting to States is a really intensive journey. To qualify you must win the County title, you must take 1st place in your weight class. Josue was the only Brentwood County Champ and exemplifies what it means to give it your all. Sophomore Alex Gomez also made it to States as he qualified for a wild card selection. A wild card is when an extra wrestler is picked out of their weight class based on their wins and the points that they have accumulated throughout the entire season. Being he is only a sophomore, there is much to be expected from Alex Gomez, he will be very successful in the upcoming wrestling seasons. It takes a lot for someone to have the drive to stay long hours after school to condition and prepare and sacrifice in order to be able to wrestle. There is no complaining and there is no easy way out. When you have your opponent on the mat shaking your hand, nothing else matters but you winning that match. We all give thanks to the coaches and the wrestlers for representing us in the best way that they could and giving us their all out on those mats. Next year's season will be filled with new faces, new captains, and new obstacles to overcome but there will never be another 2009 wrestling season. Their tradition of excellence will be handed down to new wrestlers but the seniors of this year will never be forgotten.

