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# The High Times

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## Boston Marathon Bombings

*Deadly explosions at the finish line shake a country*

**Aisling Casey**  
staff writer

Near the finish line of the Boston Marathon on the afternoon of April 15, two bombs exploded within 15-seconds of each other, killing three and injuring more than one-hundred. Many of the injured suffered dismemberment from the pressure cooker bombs, which were filled with metal shrapnel. A frenzy of first-responders, bystanders and runners rushed to help those hurt, amidst the blood and broken glass.

Victims were taken to a number of local-area hospitals. Many will need long-term medical care and will face the possibility of more amputations in the weeks and months to come.

Law enforcement, from the local to federal level mobilized quickly after the explosions to discover the culprits. With no pre-indications of the attack, nor anyone coming forward to claim responsibility, agents waded through a deluge of pictures and videos sent in by private citizens and surveillance video from local businesses. Facial-recognition technology failed to pick out any likely suspects, as there was mostly low-quality material to work with; it was up to analysts to sift through the material for suspicious behavior.

It was not until the early evening of Thursday, April 18, that the FBI released the photo of two suspects, walking in single file with large backpacks. They were later identified as Tamerlan and Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, brothers from the Chechnyan Republic in Russia that have lived in the US for the last decade.

After their photo was released



*First responders rush to help the victims of a series of explosions at the finish line of the annual Boston Marathon.*

to the public, the two men were suspected of having shot and killed MIT Police Officer Sean Collier while he was sitting in his cruiser on the college campus around 10:15 that night. A manhunt ensued.

The two went on to hijack an SUV, leaving the driver unharmed a few blocks away. They drove to the Boston suburb of Watertown, where the police pursued them. At some point, the suspects got out of their car and were surrounded by police. A firefight commenced, with explosive devices thrown by the suspects and gunfire from both sides. The older brother, Tamerlan, was badly injured and ran out of ammunition. Attempting to get away, Dzhokhar got in the car and backed over his brother, then sped away. Tamerlan was taken to a

hospital and later pronounced dead.

Police officers proceeded to encircle Watertown in the early hours of the April 19, advising residents by tweet that they would be searching door to door for the suspect, and to remain indoors.

Later that morning, Governor Deval Patrick told residents of Boston and surrounding towns to open their doors only for law enforcement, to remain indoors, and that public transportation would be shut down, essentially placing the entire city on lockdown.

At 8:45 p.m., the suspect was found hiding in the boat of a Watertown resident, led by a tip from the resident himself. He was taken to the hospital, and the lockdown on Boston was lifted. Dzhokhar is currently recovering from serious gunshot

wounds. On April 21, he responded to investigators for the first time, but is still not ready for interrogation.

The motive of the suspects, and any further terrorist plans, are still unclear at this time. However, more ammunition and explosives were found in the brothers' possession, so it is likely that they planned to harm more people. Officials have yet to decide whether Dzhokhar will face trial in a state or federal court, or by military tribunal. Numerous vigils were held for those wounded and killed in Boston this week. Before the London Marathon on Sunday, runners observed a 30-second moment of silence for victims of the bombings. This is just one of the many instances of individuals showing solidarity with Boston from around the globe.

## Annual Senior Fashion Show Raises Money for Project Graduation

**Julia Koski**  
staff writer

A Ridgewood High School tradition, Project Graduation has been looked forward to by seniors throughout the years on the night of their graduation. Fundraising for this evening occurs all year long, but by far the biggest event held to accumulate the necessary funding for the cause has to be the Senior Fashion Show, which this year took place on Sunday, April 21. The Sheraton Crossroads in Mahwah, NJ played host to this extravagant event with approximately five hundred people in attendance.

In addition to the money raised from the tickets to the show, a Tricky Tray, a Silent Auction, and a live auction before the start of the show also raised funds. Items donated by multiple local stores and businesses were thankfully received, and in some cases were individually auc-

tioned off for thousands of dollars.

The theme for this year's show was "Vintage Hollywood", and students opened the show by sporting styles from the 1930's up until the 1980's. A majority of the seniors in the show were clothed by local outfitters such as Lord and Taylor, Leapin' Lizards, Anthropologie, and Free People just to name a few. Their clothing choices ranged from stunning evening gowns, to preppy casual wear, with all models and emcee's looking stylish and sophisticated. RHS senior Aisling Casey revealed that, "We had a lot of freedom in what we were able to wear and do with our hair and makeup, which I was pleasantly surprised about." With about eighty girls and fifty five boys participating in the event, they treated the audience to great modeling, beautiful fashion, and creative struts down the runway. Appearances were even made by Dr. Gorman, Mr. Pizzutto, and Mr. Nyhuis on the runway with the assistant principals' children making a cameo as



Julia Koski



Julia Koski

*Seniors Blake Parsekian, John Byon (pictured left) and Amanda Dauber, Connor Kubikowski, and Ally Flood (pictured right) pose for a picture during their walk down the runway.*

well. One of the first student emcees of the afternoon was senior Andrew Simoncini, who when asked about the show and the closing of his high school experience stated, "It just shows that we're so close to being done." Indeed with Graduation just around the corner,

the money raised from this event will surely help with the costs associated with Project Graduation. The Senior fashion show highlighted numerous members of the RHS class of 2013, as well as raised money for PG-13, making this event one to remember.



News

New Lights

Daniel Park  
staff writer

Recently new lights were installed in the Campus Center. The new lights “are brighter to meet better lighting standards and more energy efficient,” according to Steven E. Tichenor, RHS’s maintenance manager. Mr. Tichenor stated that “the old lights were not bright enough to meet the desired result, and we could no longer get parts for them.” He called them “a chronic maintenance problem that wasted hours of manpower productivity” and often burned out or broke down. Repairs also required expensive material. The life expectancy of the new fixtures and bulbs are 7 to 10 years, and these eco-friendly lights utilize LED technology, reducing electricity usage by 80% and give off 400% more light, according. The new lights also came at the price of \$450 per fixture, and were repurposed from Benjamin Franklin Middle School gym.

The new lighting has received mixed reviews from students. Nicholas Park, a senior, commented that he “thought the improvement was good.”

“They make everything brighter, and I suppose that is better for students,” says Maxwell Neuman. However, the students feel the good lighting comes at the price of a lack of cosmetic appeal in the Campus Center. Neuman continued, “They also look really ugly and bare, too industrial for an otherwise beautiful room in the school.” Another student commented that the lights “are completely fine and get the job done; but they could be a little more pleasing to look at.”

When asked if the Campus Center would ever be refitted with the old lights, Tichenor responded, “No, it’s not likely.”



New, brighter and more energy efficient lights were recently installed in the RHS Campus Center.

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Dr. Sam Inspires Cambodia Club Students and Staff

Emily Feder  
staff writer

One of the goals of the Ridgewood High School Cambodia Club is to put a face on the horrible tragedies that occurred in Cambodia during the reign of Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge towards the end of the 1970s. During this genocide, 25% of the Cambodian population was killed.

Dr. Sonn Sam, who visited Ridgewood High School this past Friday, April 19, is a Ridgewood resident who knows the horrors of the Khmer Rouge first hand. Both of his parents survived the genocide, and his brother died during it.

On Friday, Dr. Sam explained to a group of sixty RHS students and faculty what his parents and brother went through. His brother died in his mother’s arms at age two, and his parents were treated like slaves in one of the death camps. Dr. Sam told the group the story of how his parents ended up leaving the camp; his father was about to be executed by the Khmer Rouge, Pol Pot’s communist followers, when shots were fired by the Vietnamese army that had taken up the task of liberating Cambodia. Dr. Sam’s father eventually found his wife, and together they traveled through the jungle to the border of Thailand where they lived in refugee camps. They then moved on to the Philippines and after a few



Dr. Sonn Sam, whose parents survived the Khmer Rouge genocide, speaks to the RHS Cambodia Club about his life.

months were granted access to the US. Only a week after his parents arrived in Alabama, Dr. Sam was born.

Dr. Sam told the Cambodia Club more stories about the time his parents spent in the death camps, as well as the history of the genocide. Students in the audience were able to ask Dr. Sam questions and learn about the tragedies that occurred in Cambodia. Dr. Sam explained the effects that the genocide has on those who survive. He also told the audience that his parents were never able to give him material things, while he was growing up. They did however, give him the greatest gift of all, which was show-

ing him the importance of education.

Dr. Sam’s parents were not able to get good jobs in America because the Khmer Rouge had not allowed anyone in Cambodia to attend school. They went as far as to bring Dr. Sam and his brother to work with them, to show the children what kind of life they would have if they did not get an education: working sixteen hours a day in terrible conditions. This is what inspired Dr. Sam to not only pursue an education, but also earn his Doctorate degree. Dr. Sam currently works at East Side High School in a Newark, helping students who, like him, face a childhood full of difficult and challenging circumstances.

Ridgewood School District Budget

Kat Francis  
staff writer

On April 16, Ridgewood voted on the 2013-2014 school budget. The residents voted to decide if \$84,608,635 should be raised in general funds for the coming school year. The unofficial election results are 1,165 people voted for the budget, while 929 people voted against it.

The budget’s largest revenue source, taxes, will be the area most affected by the budget. The revenue for the budget from the tax levy is 91.4%. Along with the tax levy, the school budget will be receiving two types of state aid. The extraordinary aid of one million dollars is the same

as last year. The school also receives money from the categorical aid. In total, the district will be receiving two million dollars from the state. The district will be spending money on special education, employee benefits, administration, transportations and facilities, and capital expenses.

The district will spend 25.1% of the budget on special education. This money goes towards specialized services, therapy, resource rooms, teachers, technology, and books. 11.6% of the budget will be spent on employee benefits, which include health benefits, and social security, and 7.1% will be spent on administration. 12.5% will go to transportation and facilities and capital expenses, which are improvement of

utilities, maintenance of facilities, and capital projects planned for schools.

The budget increase will have an impact on homeowners. Based on of the average Ridgewood home value assessed in 2013 at 687,364, the monthly increase for the average homeowner will be \$16.97. Money from the budget is also being allocated to pursue technology goals. The district wants to improve technology by purchasing new electronic textbooks for select classes. The budget will also be supporting the revision of over 100 courses, creating new courses at RHS, such as Advanced 21<sup>st</sup> Century Music Production, and purchasing new social studies textbooks for grades K-5.

Day of Silence

Britta Potter  
staff writer

Walking through the hallways on Thursday, April 18, it might just seem like a normal school day. Students laughed. They chattered, they shouted, they whispered and gossiped and worried about tests. Most of all, they talked. But some students didn’t.

On Thursday, April 18, over a hundred students and faculty participated in RHS’s Day of Silence to bring attention to anti-LGBT name-calling, bullying and harassment in schools. Some students took a vow of silence for the entire day, while other students and faculty joined the movement as Vocal Allies, who could speak and help explain the cause to those who were confused.

What is the cause? Why stay silent -- that means no talking, no texting, no Facebook, no Twitter, no communication -- for an entire day?

Because there are some people who are forcibly silenced for much, much longer than that. When someone identifies as lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender, everything in society tells them that they are wrong. Walk down the hallway outside the cafeteria and yes, you may often hear someone say, “That’s so gay.” But there are more subtle things than that. In the halls, in town, you see almost

**Please understand my reasons for not speaking today. I am participating in the Day of Silence (DOS), a national youth movement bringing attention to the silence faces by lesblan, gay, bisexual and transgender people and their allies. My deliberate silence echoes the silence, which is cause by anti-LGBT bullying, name-calling, and harassment. I believe that ending the silence is the first commitment to address these injuries. Think about the volces you are not hearing today.**  
-sticker worn by participants

no same-sex couples. In commercials, you see straight, couples almost exclusively. A young man’s father asks him if he has a girlfriend yet and questions his masculinity when he says no. A teacher cracks a joke about a male student asking another guy to prom, another tells her female students the importance of choosing a good husband; a third does nothing when one of his students is called a homophobic slur in the hallway. All of these have happened here in Ridgewood.

Everywhere you turn, heterosexuality is assumed and expected. If you are anything else, if you want to be with anyone else, you are wrong. Sometimes worse things happen. Sometimes you are bullied, sometimes threatened and beaten, sometimes harassed, sometimes killed

-- all for being who you are. Many decide it’s safer to be someone else.

In the 2011 National School Climate Survey by GLSEN, more than 80% of LGBT students experienced harassment at school in the past year because of their sexual orientation. More than 60% felt unsafe at school, and nearly a third had skipped a full day of school in the past month because of safety concerns.

The Day of Silence raises awareness for the need to address the silence faced by students who feel unsafe expressing themselves. Seeing friends, acquaintances, and strangers walking down the hallway with stickers that explain their silence is tremendously helpful for LGBT students -- it means not only that those people are accepting and tolerant, but also that they are supportive and caring enough to draw attention to themselves and make a sacrifice, even if only for a day, to make a difference on behalf of the LGBT community.

The day is even more powerful as a participant. You see, just for an instant, what it might be like to feel so shut off from the world, so vulnerable and so self-conscious that you don’t dare even raise your hand in history class--because you’re just going to be wrong, again.

Think about how many voices you didn’t hear on the Day of Silence. Now imagine the hundreds of thousands more who are silenced every day.

What will you do to end the silence?



News

# High Times Car Wash

## Mother's Day Special

Looking for a Mother's Day Gift...

**May 12, 2013**

**10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

**Little Theatre Parking Lot**

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### High Times Car Wash

# \$5 OFF

Freshman Focus Day

**Marissa Del Vecchio & Sam Hernandez**  
staff writers

Freshman Focus is a period dedicated to freshman that is taught by upper-class peer counselors. Mr. Maye is the long-time head of the program, and every year, the peer counselors put on a Freshman Focus talent show. This started ten years ago when peer counselors wanted to do something special for the freshman at the end of the year. When this first began, there was only one main show put on. However, since the freshman class has grown, the peer counselors decided to split it up into three separate activities which the freshman rotated through; the talent show, game show, and field day, during the last three pe-



Freshmen participate in the peer counselor-run field day in Gym 3.

riods of the day on Friday, April 19. Being able to participate in these activities and experiencing them firsthand was very exciting. The first activity was the talent show that the peer counselors performed in the Little Theater. It consisted of many different acts, including skits, singing, and dancing. It was very enjoyable and entertaining because freshmen were able to see their peer counselors showing off their talents. The game show consisted of contests in the Campus Center. They challenged people both mentally and physically with activities like tug-of-war and history questions. These activities brought everyone together to compete for a common goal. The peer counselors ran the show and kept the audience engaged. Field day was located in Gym 3. Here freshmen focused mainly on physical obstacles such as relay races, pie eating, dodgeball, and blind-folded makeup. These were all activities that everyone could participate in and helped emphasize teamwork. As freshmen, it was fun to bond with peer counselors through friendly competition. This day was a great way to end the class. Students could see their peer counselors not just as role models but as friends. It was an amazing experience and gave everyone an opportunity to meet other freshmen and peer counselors.

American Studies in D.C.

**Amanda Muccio**  
staff writer

The American Studies program's recent field trip to Washington D.C. was disrupted by the government's decision to cancel its White House tours. Effective March 9, 2013, public tours



Tours of the White House were cancelled earlier this month due to spending cuts.

were cancelled until further notice due to automatic spending cuts brought on by the sequester. In an interview with ABC News, the President said that "this was not a decision that went up to the White House." However, outrage from the class and students across the country deprived of the opportunity to see the White House could not be helped. Due to Republicans and Democrats' inability to reach a bipartisan deficit reduction plan, the law mandated that the sequester took effect. The sequester is an across the board budget cut to all government programs. It is unfortunate that despite the relatively small cost to run White House tours, the decision was made to suspend them. The news of the cancelled tours was felt directly by students at Ridgewood High School, and produced many unhappy tourists in the capital. While some journalists have regarded the

Margaret Thatcher Dies

**Victoria Seremetis**  
staff writer

Britain's political hero of the 1970s through 1990s, Margaret Thatcher, passed away on Monday April 8, 2013. "The Iron Lady", as she was known for her firm political views, was 87 when she died of a stroke at the Ritz Hotel. Thatcher was in poor health, and had been suffering from dementia for several years. Thatcher's funeral was held at St. Paul's Cathedral in London on April 17, and she was given full military honors. Flags at government building were lowered, and the Big Ben clock was silenced during the funeral in honor of her death. Citizens from Britain and many other countries gathered at her funeral



Margaret Thatcher was the first and so far only female British Prime Minister.

to say goodbye and pay their respects. Other notable leaders, such as Queen Elizabeth II, her husband Prince Phillip, eleven prime ministers from around the world, Henry Kissinger (former U.S. Secretary of State), and Dick Cheney (former U.S. Vice President) attended her funeral as well. Politicians from many countries gave out public messages, including President Obama, who stated that "the world has lost one of the great champions of freedom and liberty, and America has lost a true friend." Margaret Thatcher was the first and only female prime minister of Britain. She led Britain through the Cold War of the 1960s and 70s and fought against communism. She led the Conservative party to three successful electoral victories and held office from 1979 to 1990, longer than any other British Prime Minister before her. During her time in office, she managed to decrease the budget deficit and lower inflation, which gained her the approval of many British citizens. Her primary beliefs consisted of individual freedom and rights, a free-market economy, and free democracy. She spread these beliefs through much of Europe and influenced the governmental structure of many European countries. Thatcher was loved both nationally and internationally. She became close friends with Ronald Reagan during her time in office, and was very popular among feminists, especially since women's rights were a critical issue in Britain during her early years in office. One of her most famous quotes was, "If you want something said, ask a man. If you want something done, ask a woman." Margaret Thatcher will be missed by many of her admirers.

College Speaker Series

**Risa Hirasawa & Kevin Won**  
staff writers

On April 18, 2013, representatives from four prestigious universities came to RHS for the annual College Speaker Series Presentation. Guidance Counselors Mrs. Hellman and Mr. Fabish organized this unique experience, which both students and parents were invited to attend. During the presentation, representatives from the admissions staffs of Northeastern University, Ohio State University, The College of New Jersey, and Villanova University introduced their schools and answered some "frequently asked questions." The presentation and the questions from the crowd took approximately 90 minutes. Each university was somewhat unique in its presentation, and each presenter made sure to assert the

specific qualities of his/her school. Northeastern specifically highlighted its cooperative education program, which is one of the oldest and most prestigious in the nation. Ohio State boasted its title as one of the Top 20 Research Universities. TCNJ is proud to have the 5th highest graduation rate in the nation, and Villanova's business program is ranked 15th in the nation. Mrs. Hellman stated that this series is always a great opportunity for students and parents, because it presented a very diverse panel that discussed the college admissions process from a different point of view. At the same time, Mr. Fabish highly recommends that more high school sophomores and juniors attend the event in the future. Both counselors wish to see more students and parents attend the annual College Speaker Series in years to come.

situation as rather twisted because they see a White House tour cancellation as an inconvenience more than a major problem, some of RHS students and others from other states were outraged by the way they were impacted by these spending cuts. The teachers of the American Studies program applied to go to the White House several months ago, as it is a long process involving screening student's background information before attending. As March approached, students in the class anxiously awaited the day they could walk through the President's home. Sadly, two days before the American Studies group left for the trip, they were shocked and disappointed by the government's verdict: cancelling the tour they had been looking forward to for months. When asked about the impact of the decision, one Republican Hill staffer exclaimed: "This move by the White House is com-

pletely vindictive and unnecessary, meant to direct blame for the sequester away from the administration." While others who want to take a tour of the White House will feel the effects of the sequester, the window of time that the American Studies students could have taken the tour as a class has passed, and the opportunity to further educate themselves on the building where our President resides has been taken away.

The Daily Treat

where everyone meets  
serving: breakfast, lunch, dinner



177 East Ridgewood Avenue



Opinion

# Shrinking Ground: The Disintegrating Legal and Logical Arguments against Marriage Equality

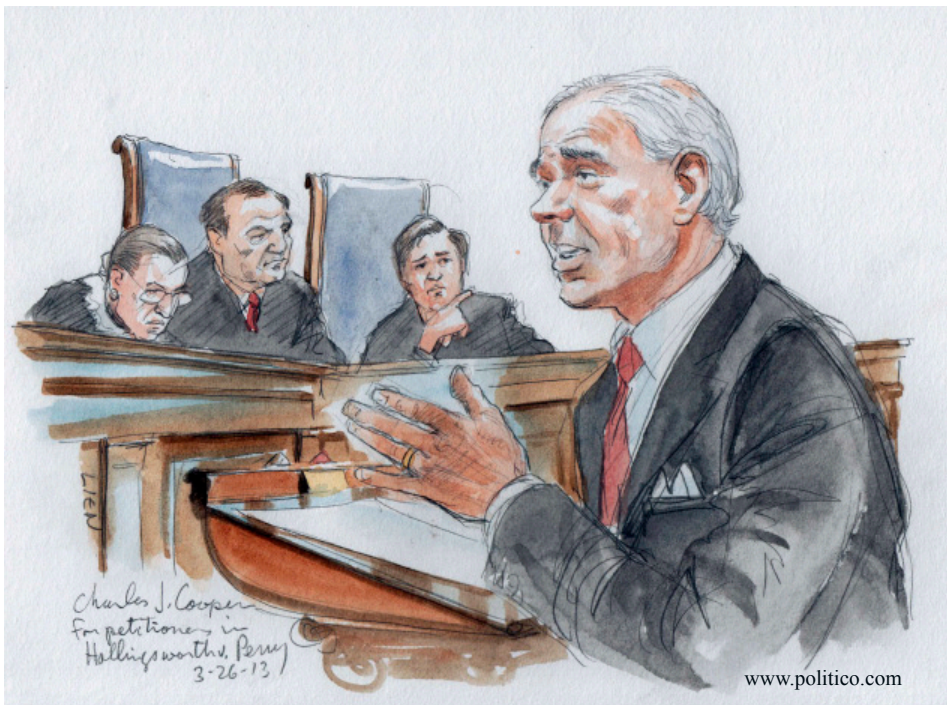
Liam Berry  
staff writer

Last month the Supreme Court gave nearly an hour of its time to hear Charles J. Cooper argue on behalf of the petitioners of California’s controversial Proposition 8 (the initiative action that defines marriage as between one man and one woman). However, Mr. Cooper’s argument sounded less like the typical ones made so often against marriage equality, and held up under scrutiny not as well as the opponents of marriage equality might have hoped.

The first argument made by Mr. Cooper concerned the rights of the Prop 8 initiators to defend their action in court. Mr. Cooper focused on this issue to remind the court and justices that the legislation in question was directly democratic and that the decision to overturn it could have “drastic” effects on the initiative and referendum process. This argument, however, is the same states’ rights argument that has been given in defense of every case of institutionalized bigotry and discrimination since the creation of the court.

The body of Mr. Cooper’s argument was predicated on a different, equally recycled idea: homosexuals are not a class against which illegal or extra-constitutional discrimination can be levied. To further this idea Mr. Cooper referenced the 1971 decision of *Baker v. Nelson* to support his specific definition of “suspect classification” (the illegal classification of a group based on race, gender, creed etc.)

Justice Ginsburg was quick to point out that this decision was made before even gender was included in



Republican Lawyer Charles Cooper gives arguments on Proposition 8 in front of the United States Supreme Court

the definition of suspect classification. Mr. Cooper’s argument continued to fall apart when Justice Sotomayor asked if, based on Mr. Cooper’s logic, homosexuals should be subject to other forms of discrimination. Mr. Cooper’s response was a hesitant and linguistically cushioned “no”.

Mr. Cooper’s struggle in court last month was certainly not for lack of experience. In fact, there is probably no one better suited to make the argument. Serving as a ranking member of the Department of Justice under Ronald Reagan, Mr. Cooper played a key role in the Iran-Contra crisis. He has

also been described by the *Wall Street Journal* as “a lawyer with a genteel Southern tone and a record of championing conservative causes, including preserving gun rights and limiting affirmative action and gay rights.” He clearly has no problem defending controversial stances and doing a good job of it too. Mr. Cooper has been awarded “Republican Lawyer of the Year” by the Republican Lawyers Association, multiple times.

With his illustrious, albeit morally gray, history considered, one has to wonder: Why, then, did his arguments flounder so blatantly in court?

The reality of the situation is that there are fewer and fewer socially and legally acceptable arguments to make against marriage equality. The shrinking ground upon which opponents of marriage equality stand is atrophying faster than ever before.

In court last month the last remaining arguments of Mr. Cooper’s cause were put on display and shown as what they truly are: archaic and contrived logical fallacies.

The debate over marriage equality is thinning out everywhere. The Pew Research center finds that over 70 percent of the current generation are in support of total marriage equality, and as the political incentives shift, politicians have followed suit. Prominent Republicans like Rob Portman have come out saying they’ve “changed their minds” about the issue, additionally only four Democrats in the Senate haven’t announced their support for the cause. Even conservative loudmouth and Fox News pundit Bill O’Reilly has come out in support, commenting on the illogical nature of the debate, “The compelling argument is on the side of homosexuals... We’re Americans. We just want to be treated like everybody else. That is a compelling argument. And to deny that, you’ve got to have a very strong argument on the other side. And the other side hasn’t been able to do anything but thump the bible.”

The arguments and support are fading; the fight is far from over, but as Kate Kendell of the National Center for Lesbian Rights said, “When the hard questions get asked about why we don’t let same sex couples get married, there is no longer an answer that is persuasive to lost Americans.”

## A Moment of Reflection for the Marriage Equality Debate

Michael Antosiewicz  
staff writer

In light of the present controversy of Proposition 8 and the Defense of Marriage Act before the Supreme Court, it is time to think rationally in the hope of ultimately achieving a period of reflection about the issue of gay marriage.

A re-consideration of the function of the Supreme Court in these types of cases must occur in order to establish a climate of discussion suitable for a democratic society. The responsibility of the Supreme Court is not to espouse

but because they clearly agreed that segregation violated one’s fourteenth amendment rights. In fact, the most liberal Justice on that Court, Hugo Lafayette Black, purported this concept in the *Griffin v. Prince Edward County* case. He wrote that the slow pace of desegregation, “can no longer justify denying the Prince Edward County school children their constitutional rights.” If by ensuring equal protection under the Constitution to blacks, the Justices fulfilled a particular moral emphasis, it is strictly incidental.

However, in another landmark case, *Lawrence v. Texas*, Justice Scalia proposed a notion, which on its face seems very distasteful and incompatible with a democratic society. In this case, involving Texas’ sodomy law, Justice Scalia dissented so that he could condemn what was, in his perspective, immoral actions and behaviors. The justification which Scalia used to substantiate his moral assertions was the reasoning that, “state laws against bigamy, same-sex marriage, adult incest, prostitution, masturbation, adultery, fornication, bestiality, and obscenity are likewise sustainable only in light of *Bowers*’ validation of laws based on moral choices... ‘The law,’ (Bowers’) said, ‘is constantly based on notions of morality, and if all laws representing essentially moral choices are to be invalidated under the Due Process Clause, the courts will be very busy indeed.’” In other words, Justice Scalia principally claimed that if we do not involve the idea of morality in our laws, the greater majority of them would stand void. The question should be asked, on the other hand, if laws solely dependent on morality are necessary in our political system to further public welfare. Perhaps, we should reflect on the degree to which we factor morality in public action.

In these cases involving Proposi-

tion 8 and the Defense Of Marriage Act, we should refrain from incorporating our moral beliefs into the cases and into the issue of marriage-equality. Any proceeding discourse and course of action is of paramount importance not only for the future of marriage-equality, but also for the viability of our government. The government

should not be the enforcer of a standard of morality in which the majority of society chooses to project. The debate so far, concerning marriage-equality, has been based upon the arbitrary concepts of morality, but if we allow our laws to become agents of moral righteousness, our democracy will suffer.

## North Korea: Serious Threat

Amanda Muccio  
staff writer

In early February, world leaders came together and condemned North Korea’s defiant nuclear test. U.S. Defense Secretary Leon Panetta said North Korea represented a “seri-



North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un observes a Nuclear test

ous threat,” adding: “We’ve got to be prepared to deal with that.”

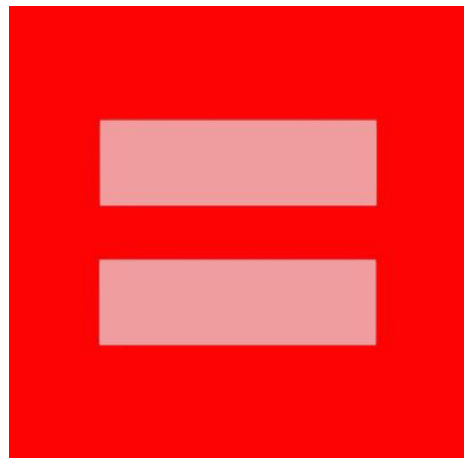
Even China, an ally of North Korea, was openly critical, while President Barack Obama said the “highly provocative act” threatened global peace.

A third nuclear test has been widely anticipated since December. The world is watching suspiciously, and fearfully, as North Korea is advancing its nuclear technology.

The country is coming closer and closer to mounting a bomb on a missile, one that could have a “greater, more explosive force” than the 2006 and 2009 tests. The signs are all there. North Korea’s desire to attack the United States has been noted. But can we call their bluff? Unfortunately, it would be better to recognize the worst could be yet to come, and to take their nuclear intentions seriously.

The North Koreans have no reason to have possession of nuclear systems. But with their growing number of arms, it is undeniable that the U.S. government has a major issue on its hands; one that is not just endangering the safety of U.S. citizens, but those of other countries as well.

Because North Korea is a threat to our nation, it is extremely important that we keep the capabilities of this antagonistic country in the back of our minds. North Korea is not even close to a globally friendly government. It will continue to be a threat to the United States, since the government has adamantly shown its ability to destroy America.



This red equal sign is the social media symbol used to show support for gay marriage

moral values but determine whether laws are unconstitutional based upon the law and constitution of the United States. The sole question which the Court must address is whether said law infringes upon one’s constitutionally protected rights. In the past, even the most activist courts carried out this principle. For example, the Warren Court in the famous *Brown v. Board of Education* case did not declare unconstitutional segregation in public schools not because the Justices thought that segregation was immoral,



Opinion

Quick to Blame in Boston: Public Prejudice

Karen Noh  
staff writer

Founded in 1897, the Boston Marathon begins in Hopkinton, from where the 26.2 mile course winds through eight Massachusetts cities and towns. Like all marathons, it symbolizes achievement and personal victory, a sense of accomplishment and pride. But on

norant citizens immediately put the blame on Middle Easterners, and even North Koreans. In Tweets laced with inappropriate profanities, Tweeters vowed revenge on the easy targets. “Wipe them off this world,” one suggests. “Turn their countries into parking lots,” says another. These speculations were posted on the Internet mere minutes, maybe hours, after the incident-long before authorities released

with him. He was a Saudi Arabian and looked it, unlike the hundreds surrounding him. Why was he, out of hundreds behaving just like him, targeted? The answer is simple: prejudice. There was a Saudi Arabian man running from the explosion, supposedly looking “suspicious,” and people automatically assumed he was a terrorist.

The young man was a victim, as confirmed by law enforcement officials. He was injured and running away from the scene of the explosion to protect himself. Yet, prejudice and ignorance tackled him to the ground and denied him medical treatment. Most of us will move on from him; the police revealed he was just a victim, so we will now ignore him and move onto the suspect in custody, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev. But that man will not move on; he was denied the sympathy and tears that we shed for Boston and its victims. He was not the only Middle Eastern man targeted as a suspect; several others, also running from the bomb, were tackled to the floor by bystanders. What does that say about prejudice in America?

I cannot say what the “right” response would have been. After all, the explosions did set off an absolute panic and it would have been difficult to think rationally. Still, the fact that an innocent man was targeted purely for his Middle Eastern ancestry and tackled to the floor when he too, was critically injured, breaks my heart. I cannot say that there is an easy solution here; I can only hope that the man recovers quickly from his physical wounds, and

“However, long before the photos and identities of these bombers were revealed to the public, eager but ignorant citizens immediately put the blame on Middle Easterners, and even North Koreans.”

his mental ones. I do, however, have a message to the ignorant tweeters that so profanely screamed to eradicate Middle Easterners and North Koreans before anyone knew anything: keep your outlandish accusations and speculations to yourself until there is sufficient evidence to back them.

Fig and Olive Restaurant Review

Sarah Sandler  
opinion editor

On Sunday, April 14, Emily Brodtkin and I ran the More/Fitness Magazine Half Marathon in Central Park. Obviously, the night before, I found it completely necessary to pick a restaurant with numerous delicious choices for race fuel. Being the food nerd I am, I went on the Open Table app and searched for a restaurant near my hotel at East 48<sup>th</sup> and Lexington. After perusing a few menus online, I stumbled upon a restaurant called Fig and Olive.



I visit New York City very frequently, so I had passed this restaurant on many occasions. Despite the intriguing façade and appealing menu, I had never gone in to try it. Very satisfied with what the menu looked like online, we made a reservation for the night before the race.

I arrived with my parents at Fig and Olive around 7:45 pm, excited to try what the restaurant had to offer. Once we were seated, we were served a plate of focaccia bread and three types of olive oil. Needless to say, we had to ask for a refill on the bread plate very quickly. For my appetizer, I ordered beef carpaccio with balsamic, tomato, parmesan, and white truffle olive oil. Whenever I see truffle on a menu, my eyes-and stomach-are immediately drawn towards it. I’ve never had a bad beef carpaccio, but this one was exceptional; the truffle oil was the perfect addition. To continue the trend, I ordered penne funghi tartufo for my entrée, which was accompanied by cremini and black trumpet mushroom, parmesan, parsley, scallion, and once again, white truffle olive oil. While this dish was very good, the truffle risotto my mom ordered was far superior.

Knowing I’d be running 13.1 miles the next day, I decided dessert was very necessary. I searched on my phone for a gelato place in the area but I could not find one, so I settled for ordering the warm chocolate soufflé with candied orange and vanilla ice cream. Even though I couldn’t find what I wanted in the first place, the soufflé was no disappointment. As the dish’s title suggests, it arrived warm, with a creamy scoop of vanilla ice cream on top. Once poked with a spoon, hot chocolate sauce flowed from the soufflé.

Fig and Olive has five locations, three in New York City, one in Westchester, and one in California. While its menu is slightly pricey, it is very much worth it. Although I enjoyed the dishes I received, I think I would have loved anything from the menu. Despite being a trendy restaurant, Fig and Olive is not too loud and is would be good for any occasion, from a family gathering to a date.

I’m very glad that after passing Fig and Olive many times, I finally decided to try it. And it was the perfect fuel the night before a half marathon! I definitely recommend this restaurant to anyone who is looking for a delicious meal.



Police attempt to contain chaos immediately following the Boston Marathon bombings.

April 15, 2013, this iconic marathon ended in tragedy when two bombs exploded right after one another, killing two and injuring at least 100 more.

The immediate response of many was the same: Who is responsible? Why did he or she commit this act? What is law enforcement doing to bring the perpetrator to justice? It is only natural to want to blame someone when tragedy strikes. We want someone to take responsibility for atrocities--we want someone to pay and be punished for the damages.

Two suspects have now been identified, Tamerlan Tsarnaev, 26, and his younger brother, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev, 19. The older of the two brothers, Tamerlan, was killed in a shoot-out between the police and the two brothers at MIT, along with a MIT policeman. The younger of the two, Dzhokhar was captured Friday night in Watertown, Massachusetts following a massive manhunt and remains in critical condition at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center.

However, long before the photos and identities of these bombers were revealed to the public, eager but ig-

any information on the truth behind the bombings. At the moments that these people posted their speculations, the police knew nothing. They did not know what the bombs were made of--they did not know if it was a single person that committed the act, or a group. Still, the internet community was happy to blame the “easy” targets.

Tweeters aren’t the only ignorant ones. A twenty-six year old man who had been watching the marathon was severely injured in the explosion. 176 people were injured along with him, but he was the only one that, while being treated for his wounds, was identified as a suspect and had his apartment searched. His roommate was questioned for five hours. Even more troubling? He was running from the explosion badly injured, along with hundreds others, but he was the only one tackled to the floor. Why? He was running from the explosion along with everyone else. The police reported that he smelled like explosives because he was standing close to the bomb and was caught in the explosion. He asked if anyone was dead, just like the hundred others that screamed the question

Spirit Week at Ridgewood High School

Jonathan Norrell  
staff writer

There is a famous tradition in high schools across America and even some places around the world. It raises the spirit of the whole school and adds sort of a “peppy” ambiance throughout the school day. In the case of Ridgewood High School, our event is Spirit Week, and it even happens twice a year. During Spirit Week, students wear all sorts of apparel according to the designated day. A personal favorite this year was “Preppy Tuesday” where all of the student body wore collared and colorful shirts and some even wore bow ties. Other days include, Maroon pride, Hawaiian Wednesday, and Throwback Thursday.

As the week progresses one sees that the amount of students participating increases exponentially until the final day of the week. Friday is the best part of spirit week. The Friday of the week is always “Color Wars,” and it is the day that the most students partici-



Girls' Lacrosse struggles in a tug-of-war competition against Girls' Softball.

pate. In RHS each grade is decided a color to wear for the day: red for the freshmen, blue for the sophomores, white for the juniors, black for the seniors, and green for the faculty. The highlight of the day itself is not just the colors, but that everyone in school, including the faculty and our new principal Dr. Gorman, sits in their designated sections in Gym 1 and there is a pep rally. Most of the student body is in attendance during the event to partici-

pate in the fun and “spirit-filled” event.

During the pep rally, there are many games that decide the more childish conflict of the school, namely, “Which grade reigns supreme among all others?” The activities include the classic tug of war, dodge ball (even though it’s not played in Physical Education class) and the relay race where teams from every grade band together for a list of events that range from Wheel-Barrel racing to a pie eating contest.



# All About Asian Fest

## Student Reflections

### A Review of a Four-Year Commitment

Betty Chen  
staff writer

For four years I have participated in the Asian Festival. I have loved every second of it, except the times when I was lagging behind in my grades. When I was a freshman, I was nervous about joining Asian Festival because I was shy and not the most talented dancer. Also, it was my first year of high school. After I joined, however, I was able to fit in and learn the dances. In the beginning, we only had practice once a week, but keep in mind that joining more than one group can be very hectic, which was what I chose to do my Freshman year.

As the day of the performance neared, practices became longer and more frequent. This year, practices generally ended around five. By the day before the school performance, the practice ended around nine. As a student, I thought that the schedule and practices were busy, but the



The individual members of the Korean Fan Dance work together in order to strategically form this intricate design.

country leaders had it even worse. Each leader had to choreograph the dances and attend extra meetings to make sure that all parts of the performance ran smoothly on the final day.

This year, on the day that we performed for the RHS students, everyone

was excited to show off all their hard work. Although the students' reactions in the morning were mostly indifferent and a bit nonchalant, they still applauded at the end. However, by the afternoon, everyone was awake and full of energy; the enthusiasm from the

audience fueled our efforts. Having fellow students cheer for you is exhilarating.

The night following the in school performance was the Asian Festival Benefit, during which we performed for our families, friends, and relatives. The profits from the event went to Doctors Without Borders.

I am grateful for everyone who came and supported Asian Festival. Without Ms. Kirtane the first-time supervisor, and the parents' help, Asian Festival would not have been possible. I am glad that I have participated in Asian Festival and will dearly miss it next year. I hope that I will be able to come and watch it in the future. Asian Festival has helped to keep me connected to my roots and to keep my traditions and values alive. It is a great way to learn about other cultures, as well, and I am proud to say that I have been a part of it. It's sad that this is my last year, and hopefully I will be able to do something similar in college and abroad.



The dancers strike a difficult pose during the Sambuk drums performance.

## New Direction for Asian Fest

Gabby Bonfiglio  
features editor

This year was Medha Kirtane's first time supervising RHS's annual Asian Festival, and the job exceeded her expectations in both the enjoyment it provided and the hard work it required. Ms. Kirtane was familiar with the Asian Festival because she had participated in the event as a student at RHS, but as a teacher she had never been involved. She did not predict that taking on the role would be so "all-consuming." Ms. Kirtane described the five months of coordinating, planning and directing as "overwhelming in an exciting kind of way."

The five months consisted of practices everyday after school, at which the advisor was always present. When she was not interacting with the participating students, Ms. Kirtane was organizing practice space, coordinating with parents, and overseeing flyer distribution and ticket sales.

She was hesitant to accept the job of Supervisor at first because of the time requirement. She explained, "my head said no, but my heart said yes." She finally gave in, and has not regretted the decision since. Even a couple weeks after the Festival, she smiles as she thinks about the experience, and firmly believes that she not only benefitted as a student in Asian Fest, but greatly benefitted as a Supervisor as well. She remains especially grateful for the number of students that she was able to meet and interact with during the rehearsal process.

When asked for her favorite mem-



Ms. Kirtane and retired Supervisor, Helen Aslanides share thoughts and memories of Asian Fest.

ory of the Asian Fest process, Ms. Kirtane named the chance to experience the excitement that the performers felt in sharing their culture with the Ridgewood community. "It's really their festival," says Ms. Kirtane, "and I'm so impressed with the students." In fact, when asked for the hardest part of her job as supervisor, Ms. Kirtane did not mention the long hours at the high school, but rather the necessity to "restrict the artistic spirit of the students." Every student in Asian Fest, she says, is so talented and so willing to share these talents that it is difficult to "say no."

Ms. Kirtane expressed further gratitude for the RHS community, which strongly supports Asian Fest. The administration lends its space and school hours, the parents donate food and costumes, and the students either participate in the Festival or come to see it. The Festival, would not be possible without this support.

Ms. Kirtane was left, after the Asian Festival with "such a great feeling," that she cannot help but look forward to the coming years.

## Not Your Average Festival

Chris Lee  
staff writer

On April 3, 2013 Ridgewood High School witnessed one of the most culturally intense events of the year; the Asian Festival. As a minority in Ridgewood, the Asian community gathered many willing participants to perform traditional skits representing various parts of Asian culture. Ranging from tranquil fan dances to animated acts of Tae Kwon Do, the Asian Fest definitely did its job of impressing the general audience. The Asian Festival's lineup did not follow a mediocre path of increasing intensity; instead, the program's skits were randomized with the purpose of keeping the audience on the edge of their seats throughout the performance. For example, the Chinese Lion Dance, a intense skit

involving gorgeous lion costumes and a large drum, was the first to be performed, followed by the serene and artful Korean Fan Dance, which involved traditional Korean dresses and bright pink colored fans. By the end of the Festival, everyone in the auditorium was out of his/her seat, clapping, and cheering for more.

Also, the skits presented during the school hours acted as an enticing invitation and preview for the full length Asian Festival, which took place on April 4, the next day. Instead of having to split the performance between two periods, the Asian community was granted the chance to portray everything they had prepared in one night. The performers did not disappoint, and this year the Asian Festival gave the audience more than they were ever expecting.



Performers present their hard work and practice with passion and fervor.



Features

Ridgewood Asian Festival: Special Features of Kumdo Skit

Zion Chang  
staff writer

Of the numerous performances in Asian Festival, those of martial arts are becoming increasingly popular. Tae Kwon Do is remembered for its kicks, but Kumdo is remembered for its bamboo swords. Participants interested in the mar-

tial arts must make a choice between Tae Kwon Do and Kumdo. If the interest level in both martial arts is the same, the choice would be dependent on whether the participant wants to make their own performance or follow the leadership of the upperclassmen. This year in particular, the choice was easier to make since the junior

Kumdo leader (Haktae Kim) encouraged performers to come up with their own ideas in the performance. In the early stages of preparation, after the leader assigned performers their partners, every one of the participants was allowed to freely create their fighting scene that was set to last 30 seconds. As expected, not every performer in the festival had the chance to use his or her creativity and original movements for the performance, but all ideas were welcome. There is not a specific guideline for the skit, although the use of any body parts other than the sword is generally discouraged in the martial art. Just as the Tae Kwon Do performance caused injuries, the Kumdo performance caused injuries. To create the fervor of the fighting scenes for the audience, the performers had to make big-

ger movements with more power. These large movements and anxiety from performing on stage in front of more than four-hundred people caused mistakes that don't happen during practices. Even the slightest mistakes can make scratches and bruises where one is hit. More inexperienced participants join Kumdo compared to the number of those who join Tae Kwon Do. As only a few know, not all participants in these martial art performances are involved in regular practice or have high degree rank/level or 'dan'. On the other hand, there are even participants that join Kumdo with more experience with Tae Kwon Do. If you would like to participate in the Asian Festival in the future, Kumdo welcomes anyone with a willingness to create and work for a spirited skit.



Kumdo participants prepare for a sparring match with a traditional bow.

Highlights From Asian Fest

Jaesung Son  
staff writer

With the help of the new faculty advisor Medha Kirtane, who undertook the arduous task of managing Asian Festival while teaching history at Ridgewood High School, the students were able to perform their annual Asian festival and represent five different Asian countries: South Korea, Japan, China, India, and the Philippines. Each of the over one hundred students who participated, received noteworthy commendation for the success of this year's Asian Festival. The participants not only shared their culture with the audience, but also helped the Doctors Without Borders foundation. The Chinese Lion Dance requires powerful moves and strength in one's stance to mimic the movements of a lion. The lion with the white-colored fur is considered to be the oldest lion while the lion with the yellow fur is considered to be the middle child, representing liveliness. This dance has traditionally been the opening for the Asian Festival.

Tae Kwon Do is loosely translated as "the way of the hand and the foot." Besides learning combat techniques to develop strength and agility, students learn moral ethics such as respect and diligence. Currently, Tae Kwon Do is a martial art and sport in the Olympics with many competitive areas such as sparring and brick-breaking. Representatives from Japan performed the Japanese Fishermen dance with the traditional song, Sōran Bushi. In earlier years, the fishermen of northern Japan sang the Sōran Bushi as a sea shanty. Now, the song is accompanied by dance movements that depict ocean waves, fishermen dragging nets, pulling ropes, and lifting the load over their shoulders. Asian Festival entertains the audience while they develop an insight into the culture of the various nations. A participant of Kumdo and K-Pop, Jacky Wang says "Asian Festival is a good experience for Ridgewood High School students because it allows them to socialize outside of school and connect with people of different ethnicities. It's just fun to meet new people."



One of the colorful costumes of the Chinese Lion Dance.



The Taekwondo act is a fan favorite every year, largely because of the jumps, flips, and kicks performed by the students.



Closer Look Into the Japanese Fisherman Dance

Megumi Fujii  
staff writer

This was my last year of Asian Festival, and I was one of the members of Japanese Fisherman Dance and Japanese Wadaiko Drum performances. Unfortunately, we were not able to practice as much as in previous years, but despite that I feel that this year's performances were just as great.

The members of the skit started to practice for Wadaiko Drum in December. Since there were few beginners, we started with the basic skills needed to hit the drums. The leaders of the drum worked hard to teach us how to look professional when hitting the drums. Sometimes the graduated students came back and taught us skills like the posing and how to make the sound of the drum

louder through hitting it in different ways. Tomoya Ishizuka and Stephanie Hannon were the leaders for Wadaiko Drum, and they made all the arrangements of who was going to hit the drum in each position. They arranged it so each member could hit the drums an equal number of times. In Fisherman Dance, not many people came at first, but later on we were able to make three rows of people.

Last year, there were not enough blue uniforms that seniors wear, but this year parents made additional uniforms. They also brought all the food we ate during the practice and between performances. We did not have much time, but Meg Shigeta, Ishizuka, and Hannon tried to make our performance as good as possible in the limited time. This year the group was great, and had outstanding leaders.



The members of the Japanese Fisherman Dance perform in the Campus Center.



Arts and Entertainment

Justin Timberlake’s Return: The Full Musical Experience

Connor Anovick  
opinion editor

After a seven-year hiatus from music, Justin Timberlake has returned to the music scene with his new album, *The 20/20 experience*. The reveal of this album had little to do with the actual music, and more to do with Justin himself. In the seven years that Justin has been gone the music industry has changed drastically. Stars such as Justin Bieber and Lady Gaga have ushered in a new era of pop. People questioned if Timberlake would be able to adapt to the new market. However Justin chose to take the market in his own direction with a new experience. In mid January JT released the first song off his album, “Suit & Tie”. It was clear that Justin was aiming for a more retro and soulful style of music paying homage to the era of performers such as Dean Martin and Sinatra, while still maintaining a pop vibe. This album release marked the beginning of one of the most effective marketing campaigns in the music industry in recent memory. Timberlake returned to the music world with a bang performing at the Grammys and and was welcomed back to the industry like a king. In the next month Timberlake hosted SNL, made numerous television performances and was a guest host for an entire week on the Jimmy Fallon Show. He was able to catapult himself back to the level of popularity he achieved in 2007, all in the matter of two months. The release of the album occurred on March 19 after a massive

release party, and in the first week the album sold just fewer than one million copies, making it one of the highest selling records in the past decade. In the current era of music this type of success is relatively unheard of. The

of Prince or Michael Jackson. However, for the most part, the impressive medleys and Justin’s talent overshadow the weak lyrics. Long gone is the wounded puppy dog theme that Justin has pushed in songs such as “Cry Me a

“Pusher Love” begins with a very Sinatra like opening and becomes a soulful ballad. Halfway through the song turns into a hip hop song with an entirely different feel, but it works perfectly and is one of the stand out songs on the album. The songs have a much more mature sound to them than Timberlake’s previous albums, but many of the songs lack risk. However this album was risky in its own way. Timberlake made long and soulful songs with an R&B vibe; choosing not to cater to a pop market, which favors shorter songs with a hip-hop vibe. He also marketed himself as a “Suit & Tie” wearing, Rat Pack like performer to a generation of people who have grown up wearing nothing but baggy gym shorts and flat-rimmed hats. His branding resonated with people. His charm and class is a welcomed change and his talent is undeniable. Not only did people buy his music, but they paid for the entire album, a rarity in today’s music market where people will usually only purchase singles from iTunes. Another problem with music and the Internet has been the illegal downloading of albums, which has caused many to give up on the music industry and the possibilities of big record sales. Justin Timberlake proved that purchasing music is far from dead, as people are willing to pay for quality. Additionally, there are rumors circulating that JT will release another ten song album near the end of 2013, which would complete the 20/20 Experience. Hopefully, Timberlake will continue to rejuvenate the music industry.



The cover art for Timberlake’s 20/20 Experience.

20/20 experience has ten songs each averaging around eight minutes long, which is again unique in the current music market, where songs are typically only three to four minutes long. The lyrics to many of the songs are somewhat cheesy, portraying love as candy and other such metaphors reminiscent

River,” instead now we see a married man in love. It seems as if the entire album is dedicated to his wife. Many of the songs change tempo and pace halfway through, often so drastically that it feels like an entirely different song. A prime example of this is “Pusher Love Girl,” the first song on the album.

Aida: A Night of Musical Success

Mickey McGinley  
staff writer

The New Players of Ridgewood High School held their own production of Elton John and Tim Rice’s *Aida*, on March 21 through the 24 in the Little Theater. Tickets for the show were in high demand and almost all of the five performances sold out. The story follows Captain Radames (Alec Cohen) and the enslaved Nubian Princess Aida (Meghan McCarthy), leaders of feuding nations who fall for each other and must keep their love a secret. To spare Aida from slave work, Radames assigns her to be the handmaiden of Princess Amneris (Allie Seibold), who is Radames’ betrothed, making the secret harder to keep. The complex storyline makes for an entertaining, climactic tale. When combined with the incredible Tony Award winning score, the play is a masterpiece. Further increasing the quality of the play are the rich production resources of RHS — a combination of musical director Steven Bourque, choreographer Jennifer Landa and the fantastic overall direction of Louisa Luisi. All of these talented leaders helped to ensure that the show

will go down in New Players history as one of the most excellent productions to hit the Little Theater stage. For those who are disappointed that they missed out on the production, or were too late getting tickets, there is still a second opportunity to get a viewing. Hayes Walsh and Spencer Muhlstrock are currently producing a high quality filmed version of the play to be released at a later date this year. Online downloads and physical copies will also be available. The play’s history also gives an extra layer of depth to the show. Elton John’s production is in fact based on an Italian opera of the same name. The opera was written by Giuseppe Verdi to celebrate Egyptian independence from Great Britain and debuted in Cairo, Egypt on December 24, 1871. Dissatisfied at the fact that only members of high society were at the debut in Cairo, Verdi felt that the opera’s premiere in Milan, Italy was the show’s proper opening. The opera was met with praise in Italy, and became a staple in Italian opera houses. *Aida* during the twentieth century garnered more and more popularity, and eventually was adapted by Elton John. It is now one of the most performed operas at the Metropolitan Opera. The New Players season is not over, and for those who have always wanted to see a show, there are still opportunities. This May, New Players will be presenting *Comic Potential*, a love story about a futuristic Soap Opera where the director falls in love with one of the android actors, which will be directed by Kelly Van Zile. The New Players also will be performing student written and directed One-acts this June. This summer the New Players will also present *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller’s classic play about the Salem Witch Trials, *Shakespeare in Hollywood*, about Shakespeare characters who come to life on a Hollywood set in the 1930’s, and *Footloose*, based on the classic 80’s musical film.



Meghan McCarthy, Aida, and Alec Cohen, Radames, sing “Enchantment Passing Through” together, a love song that evokes their forbidden passion.



Allie Seibold (center) as Amneris, singing “Strongest Suit” in a crowd of hand maids.



Meghan McCarthy as Princess Aida.



Ryen Martinez as Zoser, performing “Another Pyramid” with a group of soldiers.



# Arts and Entertainment

## Student Artists Show Their Talent

**Daniel Park**  
staff writer

The new Maroon and White gallery is now open to the populace of Ridgewood High School, and showcases many talented student artists. The artist utilized several different techniques

tercolor paints to create a simple painting, which was still striking and still had the ability to catch a person’s eye. All in all, the gallery proved to be an excellent display of the artistic talent present at RHS. It is truly astounding to see the incredible artwork that fellow students can create.



One RHS artist, Katie Cafaro, and her artwork.

and tools to create their visual art. Minha Lee used an abstract style involving many different shapes and a wide spectrum of vivid and dark colors to create an intricate and complicated canvas painting. Annie Thurston used her preferred medium, oil paints, to create a very realistic landscape that depicts a river in a field. Stella Collins created her drawings strictly in black ink. One of her more fascinating works was created from an open book and ink that depicted a field. Katie Cafaro created an intricate, colorful, abstract self-portrait for this Maroon and White. Caroline Kim used several colors in some of her paintings, but one sharply realistic self-portrait only used black paint. Abby Zrike created several black and white ink prints; she also used watercolors to create a self-portrait behind a collage background attached to the paper itself. Colby Byrne used wa-

The gallery’s art is incredibly thought provoking. It would be a mistake to miss out on this gallery filled with excellent paintings and drawings. There is a Maroon and White gallery every month, with an abundance of artists here in Ridgewood who are capable of producing high quality art.



Stella Collins’s interpretation of Edward Scissorhands.



Annie Thurston, who implemented oil paints into her creations.



Caroline Kim showcasing her pieces of art.



Minha Lee’s realistic painting of an eye.

## Maroon and White Showcases Dance Talent at RHS

**Emily Rizzo**  
staff writer

Eclectic would be an understatement when describing the array of performers and artists in this past Maroon and White. Talent was definitely present at the Little Theater and art displays after school on Thursday, April 2. The Maroon and White consisted of Irish step dancers, ballerinas, lyrical dancers, painters, drawers and photographers. The exciting mix was a joy to observe and was a great way to spend a free afternoon. The first of the dancers was Irish step dancer Lockie Nidds, who walked on stage with a confident smile and gleam in his eyes as he started the show off with a bang. After Nidds, Cristina Tummillo danced beautifully in the classic ballet style. Lexi Rizzo performed her graceful and traditional Irish step dance. Sarah Clarke performed a lyrical dance, and Kelsie McKenna performed another Irish step dance. Kim Wederfort performed a passionate lyrical, after which Kath-

erine DuBois sang another spirited lyrical performance. After DuBois, Caroline Kim took the stage with a profound dance performance that fully enticed the audience. After her was Caitlin Sullivan, a freshman who danced with undeniable energy and character. Following Caitlin was her twin sister Courtney Sullivan who performed an incredible lyrical dance as well. Stephanie Buesser danced a perfect ballet, and, finally, Tummillo and Nidds closed the dance recital, each performing for their second time. After applauding the talented dancers during their final bow, the audience moved to the artists’ wing for the reception. There snacks were offered and the second portion of the Maroon and White commenced. Overall the event was an excellent display of the incredible talent that RHS students possess. To know that students with such incredible dancing capabilities is truly astounding. Hopefully more dance related Maroon and Whites are offered in the future, as it was an incredible experience.



Lockie Nidds performing a spirited Irish step dance.



Stephanie Buesser performing traditional ballet.



(Left to right) Lockie Nidds, Lexi Rizzo, Caroline Kim, Caitlin and Courtney Sullivan, Katherine DuBois, Stephanie Buesser, Cristina Tummillo, Sarah Clarke and Kelsie McKenna.



Sports

Track Team Travels To California for Arcadia Invitational

Laura Weisberger  
sports editor

On April 4, 5, and 6, the girls and boys spring track programs flew to California for the annual Arcadia Invitational. The girls team competed in the 4x800 meters relay on Friday and the Distance Medley Relay on Saturday, sophomore Catherine Pagano ran in the open 3,200 meters race on Friday night, and senior Mimi Devita competed in the pole vault. The boys competed in the 4x800 meter relay, the Distance Medley Relay, the Sprint Medley Relay, and the 4x200 meter relay. The Ridgewood track program goes to the Arcadia Invitational every year and last year experienced great success, as the girls 4x800 meter relay came in second place and was ranked top 40 in the country by the end of the season and was ranked US #3 at the time it was ran. The Distance Medley the girls ran at Arcadia was 20th in the country for last season and was ranked US #5 at the time the girls ran in it. This year, the girls 4x800 ran a solid time of 9:37.27. Each leg of the relay is half of a mile. Sophomore Kelly Cleary ran the leadoff leg in 2:27, followed by junior Laura Weisberger,

who ran 2:25, then senior Anna Caffrey, who is headed to University of Kansas next fall, ran a 2:29, and senior Micaela McPadden closed the relay with a bang, running her personal best time of 2:16. Micaela is running at The University of Rhode Island next year. In the open 3200 meters, which is two

miles, sophomore Catherine Pagano ran a time of 11:00 and came in thirteenth place. On Saturday, senior Mimi Devita, headed to Villanova University, no heighted in the pole vault. The girls distance medley team, although not running as well as they had hoped, still ran a fast enough time to qualify



From left, Weisberger, Cleary, Caffrey, and McPadden after the 4x800 relay.

for the Penn Relays, a prestigious meet held at The University of Pennsylvania each year on April 25th, 26th, and 27th. Penn Relays are the oldest and largest track and field competition in the United States. In the distance medley, unlike the 4x800 meter relay, each member of the relay team runs a different distance. The girls ran a time of 12:17, with sophomore Kelly Cleary leading off and running the 1200 meter leg, which is three quarters of a mile, in 3:52. Next, Micaela McPadden ran the 400 meters leg in 58.5, followed by Laura Weisberger, who split 2:25 for the 800 meters. Sophomore Catherine Pagano closed the relay with a 5:00 1600 meters, which is one mile. When asked about Arcadia, Catherine Pagano said, “I think it was a great trip in general because we qualified for Penn, which was one of my goals for the season. I know we can run even faster than we did in California, and hopefully take one of our relay teams to Nationals like last year.” Since Arcadia, the track team has hosted the Steve Palowski Relays at Benjamin Franklin middle school, and has also competed in two dual meets, the first against Northern Highlands high school, and the second against Indian Hills and Hackensack.

Nick Coppola

Nick Coppola is a junior on the varsity baseball team at RHS.



Nick Coppola, varsity catcher.

**What position are you?**  
Catcher

**How did you first get into baseball?**  
I started playing when I was little because my brother played.

**What is your favorite baseball memory?**  
My favorite memory is probably hitting the go ahead double in a varsity game, or hitting a home run in my first varsity at bat.

**What is your goal for the season?**  
My goal is to win a championship.

**Are you going to play in college?**  
Yes, I hope to play baseball in college.

**Are there any games you are looking forward to for the season?**  
I look forward to playing Don Bosco.

**How long have you been playing?**  
I’ve been playing since I was like four or five.

**How long have you been on varsity?**  
This is my third year on varsity.

**Who is your favorite professional baseball player?**  
Probably Derek Jeter because he’s one of the best players to ever play in my opinion, plus he’s never been in the media spotlight for doing something wrong. He always carries himself in the right way.

Jessica Chang  
staff writer

The Girls’ Golf team took a trip down to Maryland for a fun and productive four days of golf. Throughout this trip, members played fantastic courses, ate at delicious restaurants, and bonded through various activities. Not only did this trip improve everyone’s golf skills, but it also harvested a sense of teamwork and friendship. The trip was designed for everyone to work hard and play hard. The four days consisted of River Run Golf Course, Ocean City Golf & Yacht Team, The Links at Lighthouse Sound, and Midway Par 3 Golf Course. Links at Lighthouse Sound was particularly nice, which is also home to the nation’s longest cart bridge. The golf course preserved the environment remarkably well. Midway Par 3 Golf Course was especially nice on the last day, consisting of only par three holes. From Monday to Thursday, the team spent around five to six hours on the golf course, but Coach Quirk, made sure the team would have something fun and

Golf Team Spring Break Trip



RHS Girls’ Golf Team takes a team photograph at the scenic Links at Lighthouse Sound.

non-golf related to look forward to. On Tuesday night, the team held bonfire telling stories and having a good laugh. Wednesday morning, the team stopped by Assateague Beach and saw two wild horses before playing at a difficult golf course. On Wednesday night, the team bonded by making shirts with various inside jokes

written all over them. On the way back to New Jersey on Thursday, the team visited an outlet to go shopping. The spring golf trip, though exhausting, was very fun and enjoyable. The Girls’ Golf Team came back from their trip tan and ready to start the new season! The Maroons look ahead to a season hopefully full of wins and success.

Girls Softball Steps Up To Bat

Kelly Skettini  
staff writer

After an opening day win against Northern Highlands on April 1, the RHS softball team has maintained a slow but steady upward trend. Nicole Parks, a junior and one of three team captains, said, “Although we struggled at the beginning of the year, we are starting to grow as a team and learn how everyone plays.” This team is compromised of younger athletes, with no seniors on the squad. However, the team has succeeded so far due to a combination of hard work, positive chemistry, and team spirit. The hard work that the team has exemplified, so far, in practice has continued to prove its worth on the field. On Saturday, April 20, the girls won over the previously undefeated Fair Lawn in 11 innings. Tied at 1 at the end of regulation, the maroons rallied to score in the tenth. Although Fair Lawn answered with a run of its own, the RHS team stayed resilient

and claimed the win with a run in the top of the eleventh. With an exciting game in the books, the girls look to continue to win as they head into the county and state tournaments. As a young team, one of the key factors of success is team chemistry, a trait that seems to come easily to the squad. “There is a bond that is not just on the field. It will keep us friends for a long time, something that cannot be duplicated and can never be replaced,” remarked Mia Barbera, a freshman on the Varsity team. Another strategy that allows the maroons to continue to learn to work together is the shared motivation to keep team spirit alive. On April 10, some players took a trip to Build-A-Bear Workshop to create a team bear. Named Spirit, the bear was created to bring luck as the maroons head further into the season. Along with dressing up to school, the team utilizes numerous strategies to promote and portray their team spirit. The team looks forward to continuing their season and hope to accomplish all their goals.

Boys Tennis

Aidan Kates  
staff writer

Mens Tennis begins the season with strong start, with a record of 8-1, suffering an unfortunate loss to Old Tappan due to the absence of one of the teams top players. The highlight of the season thus far was a strong win against perennial powerhouse Don Bosco Prep, 4-1. Berfu Yildiz, a very talented sophomore, played exceptionally well against Sean McNulty winning in straight sets (7-6, 6-3). Here is what he had to say about the match. “Sean was difficult opponent, but I was able to come back from a 4 game deficit and use the momentum to win both sets”. The team looks to defend their titles in the county tournament at first and second doubles. This year, the county championships commence May 11th at Northern Valley Demarest. The team is hoping for a strong showing at this years state tournament as well.



# SAYLES STOCK

## MUSIC & ARTS FESTIVAL

### 2013



Van Neste Square  
Ridgewood, NJ  
Sunday April 28  
12:00-7:00 pm

**KNOB**  
**REFLECTIONS**  
**BONTON LIZARD**  
**VINTAGE SHEIK**  
**ALEX BLEEKER**  
**THE FREAKS**  
**AND**  
**THE FAMILY BAND**  
**AND MORE...**



The Matthew Sayles Foundation for Salivary Gland Cancer



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Art and Photography

# Sarah Clark



In all honesty, pottery is my favorite art because it’s the only thing I’m good at. I cannot draw for the life of me. I also really enjoy the physical experience of feeling and manipulating the clay. It feels a little more real to me.



I’m not inspired by any particular artists. Occasionally, if I know I want to make, let’s say, a bowl I will research other bowls and the possible shapes, styles, and patterns.

I started freshmen year when I took Mr. D’s ceramics class, and I really enjoyed it. I was pretty much forced into taking it because of schedule conflicts but I’m really glad I did.



I make pottery for many reasons... I love making art. I also love giving gifts, and pottery makes great (inexpensive) gifts.



I would love to continue making pottery, and would even love to go beyond, to other three-dimensional art forms. I plan to major in dance and art therapy in college so I can keep my artistic abilities as an active, everyday, part of my life.