

NJ ENACTS NEW LEGISLATION IN ATTEMPT TO COMBAT BULLYING



The new law states that "any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication... that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic."

SAMANTHA FINK
HELEN PENG
news editors

October 17 to 21 was School Violence Awareness Week. Since 2003, schools and districts have been observing School Violence Awareness every third week of October. This year, the new Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act required that the first week the month, October 3-7 for this year, be designated "Week of Respect" in New Jersey.

The Anti-Bullying Bill of Rights Act, better known under the acronym HIB (Harrassment, Intimidation, and Bullying) was passed in the hopes of protecting children and adolescents against a wide variety of what is commonly labeled as "bullying" in schools across the state.

Assistant Principal Basil Pizzuto led each grade in an assembly, explaining the new law and how RHS would be a participant. HIB requires all teachers to file an official report to the state if any student

Continued on page 3

FIVE SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS

YOON MI KIM
staff writer

Five RHS students, Chong-suh Chun, Junyoung Kim, Elizabeth A. Mattson, Lan Wang and Helen Peng at Ridgewood High School, were recently named National Merit Semifinalists in the 57th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.

High school students enter the National Merit Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) in October and by meeting published program entry or

participation requirements.

The academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 8,300 National Merit Scholarships worth more than \$34 million in total.

About ninety percent of the nation's semifinalists attain the finalist standing, and more than half will win a National Merit Scholarship, earning the Merit Scholar title. The National Merit Scholarship corporation also offers a 2,000 dollar scholarship award to exceptional finalists.

NEW HOMEWORK HELP PROGRAM AT PUBLIC LIBRARY

MARA BERGANOVSKY
staff writer

The Ridgewood Public Library, in conjunction with the RHS National Honor Society, will be initiating a homework help program for elementary and middle school students in the upcoming weeks.

Gina Mitgang, a librarian in the Young Adult section of the Ridgewood Public Library, envisions the program as a means for children to receive homework help from junior and senior students. Planning has been underway since this past summer. The library hopes

to officially start the program in the month of November.

As of now, the Homework Help program will be available after school two days per week. High school students will be able to help children with work ranging from social studies to mathematics to foreign languages. Stations for each academic subject will be set up in the auditorium of the library for students to drop in and get free assistance. The program will operate on a first come, first served basis.

Senior Lauren Kelly says, "I think this is a great idea because it allows young-

er students to get homework help without having to schedule in advance."

The Homework Help program was conceived in response to the large number of library volunteers during this past summer. This summer season brought in ninety-seven volunteers, all of whom were looking for "more worthwhile, responsible ways to help out." Gina hopes that the Homework Help Program will be a way to help "meet a need" of the community - by providing free help for young students as well as volunteer opportunities for high school students.

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courtesy of SUNNY KIM



12
ANGRY JURORS

"12 Angry Jurors"

The latest New Players production premiered October 28th at the Little Theater

P8

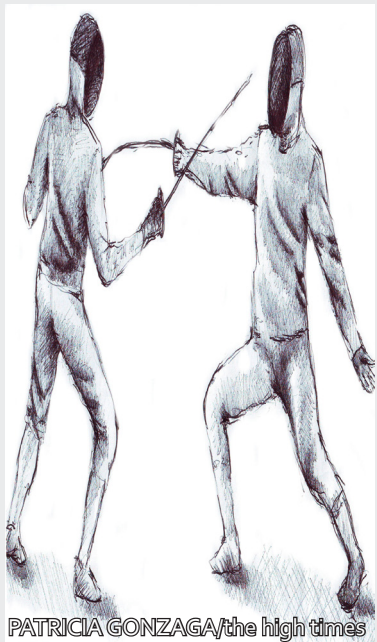


Halloween Feature

Creative costume ideas, the history of Halloween, and Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF

P6&7

FENCING CLUB IN NEED OF SUPERVISOR TO CONTINUE



SUFIA BAKSHI
staff writer

After just a year of existence, the fencing club may be forced to retreat for good. Although a fair number of RHS students have expressed interest in the club and have gained a new passion for fencing, the RHS fencing club may end this year if it is unable to find a staff supervisor.

Shayna Lyandvert, current sophomore at Ridgewood High School, started the club last February. She explained that she was motivated to cre-

ate the club because, "every school near Ridgewood had a fencing club. So why not Ridgewood?"

Lyandvert thought "it would be fun to compete with other schools and create a new hobby for kids."

Since February, the members of the fencing club trained with Nyack Fencing Academy's Attila Lukacs, a ten-time Hungarian National Champion. The acclaimed fencer coached students through basic conditioning, coordination exercises, games, footwork, drills and lessons.

The fencers practiced after school. In the early stages, they spent the time learning warm up exercises. As the year progressed, they began to use equipment and practiced fencing against each other.

"Probably the most fun I had was fencing with the coach," Shayna reminisced.

Roanja Milo, a friend of Shayna and a participant of the club, said, "When you won, you knew you were improving. It's a good feeling."

Anyone interested in supervising the team should contact Basil Pizzuto.

SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM ADOPTS PIN CODE SYSTEM



An RHS student uses the pin code machine to purchase breakfast.

ANNA NATHANSON
staff writer

As students filed into the cafeteria and Campus Center for lunch during the first week of school, they discovered that a new payment system had been put into place. The cafeteria pin code system requires that all students who buy food in the RHS center a pin code in order to make a purchase.

Food Service Director Maureen DiChiara states explained that recent federal regulations make it so the "district is now required to report food sales to the state." She says that since this is "data we would not normally have" the pin code method is necessary.

Some parents were uneasy about the pin code requirement and felt as though it was an invasion of privacy or posed a security risk since they had linked their credit cards to the pin code accounts. They feared the theft of pin codes and of their money.

To protect students' privacy, DiChiara explained that "data is consolidated when it is sent out," showing the school's record but not individuals' lunch choices. However, each

student's purchase record is stored in case Ridgewood High School is audited.

During the first weeks of school, students and staff alike struggled to adjust to this new routine in the cafeteria.

A common complaint among students, many of whom did not understand the necessity for the pin codes, was that they were forced to enter pin codes even when they were paying for their food in cash.

Almost two months into the school year, some students believe that the new pin code system has had minimal effects on the lunch-buying process.

RHS Sophomore Jacqueline Schimmel says, "At the beginning of the school year, it was really annoying [but now] it doesn't really make a difference."

In fact, many students see value in the pincode since they can use it to pay, eliminating the need to carry cash.

Junior Miranda Canilang agrees, saying that at first "it was slower, but now it's fine. You just punch in your number and go."

the
high times

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THE PEARLS PROJECT

PHOTOGRAPHER SHOWS BEAUTY THROUGH A NEW LENS



DAVID GARDNER/the high times



HELEN PENG
news editor

On Tuesday, October 18, students and staff packed into the Campus Center to hear about an ongoing project aimed at redefining beauty.

Fashion photographer Rick Guidotti, founder of Positive Exposure, a nonprofit group based in New York City, came to speak to students and staff about The PEARLS (Positive Exposure and Ridgewood's Lens) Project, an effort to enhance the lives of individuals with genetic differences.

Accompanying Guidotti were three young people, each with a different genetic disorder. Students from Philosophy,

Dance, Studio Art and other classes attended the presentation. Following the presentation, there was a Q&A session.

The PEARLS project was brought to Ridgewood High School as an effort to promote tolerance and compassion in the high school culture. It was done with the help of RHS teachers Louisa Luisi, Dr. Patrick Bernardo, Sandra Kunzel, Jennifer Landa, Lisa Valenti, and Christopher McCullough as well as Liz Grossman, a mother of a child who is part of Sharing of the Arts.

The PEARL ambassadors are students in the high school who have volunteered to work on the project, including Peer Counselors.

"It is about changing the way people think about what is 'normal' and re-defining the word 'beauty' entirely."

The same photographer who has photographed supermodels like Cindy Crawford and Claudia Schiffer began taking photos of children with genetic disorders in 1997. The

next year, his photo essay on albinism, titled "Redefining Beauty," was published in Life magazine.

For the PEARLS Project, Guidotti photographed eleven young people, each with a different disorder, including muscular dystrophy, albinism, port-wine stains, and others. His work has been displayed in galleries, medical schools and children's hospitals, as well as Harvard University and at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History.

Senior Brad Hong feels very strongly about the project and its potential to impact the school: "I definitely think that after the orientation for

the PEARLS Project, some of the students at RHS looked at the situation differently and learned that genetic disorders may be seen as a blessing to other people. It changed the way people thought about what is 'normal.' We tried to re-define the word beauty entirely and what that word means."

In teaching students the value of self-acceptance, they will gain an ability to better empathize with others.

In so doing, the PEARLS Project marks another step toward cultivating a more accepting and open environment within the student body--a goal that aligns with the new HIB legislation as well as that of the school's administration.

HIB from page 1

tells them about a bullying incident, whether it is verbal or physical, regardless of the reason or cause for the bullying.

HIB states that "any gesture, any written, verbal or physical act, or any electronic communication... that is reasonably perceived as being motivated either by any actual or perceived characteristic, such as race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, or a mental, physical or sensory disability, or by any other distinguishing characteristic..."

Although teachers at the high school support anti-bullying, some are not in favor of the HIB law. A few feel that legislating bullying is too drastic a measure for the state to take.

Art teacher Kellie Conforth believes how students view the law "minimalizes its importance." She cites students' mocking of the term HIB as an example of this minimalization.

Some students have a similar reaction, agreeing that the law is verging on extreme. "Overly excessive legislation will do very little to change actual attitudes and actions of students," commented an anonymous RHS Senior.

Many more students have doubts that a law, while technically making bullying illegal, would be able to affect change in behavior.

Still, there are people who see the potential the law has to improve school environments. In the words of Senior Trey Shore, "Any step is a good step."

RHS SPIRIT WEEK!

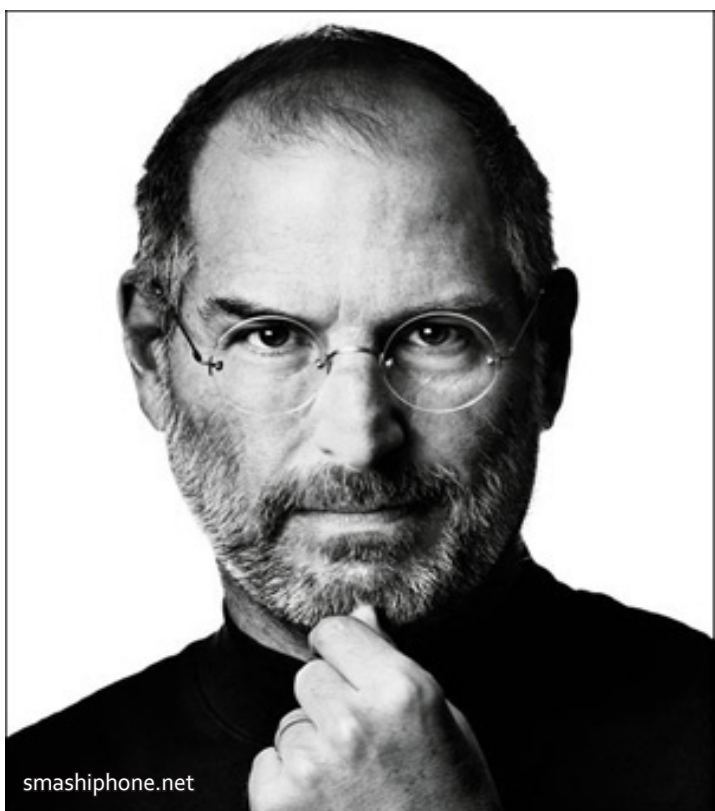
Monday, 10/1 ~ **Halloween**

Tuesday, 10/2 ~ **Pajama Day**

Wednesday, 10/3 ~ **WOOD WEDNESDAY**

Thursday, 10/4 ~ **Throwback Thursday**

Friday, 10/5 ~ **Color Wars**

STEVE JOBS:
ICON OF AMERICAN CULTURE

smashiphone.net

Steve Jobs was more than a businessman; he was a technological innovator.

CONNOR ANOVICK
opinion editor

I am a long-time Microsoft Windows user, proud Google Android user, and I even own a Zune. I am as “anti-Apple” as it gets. However, there is no denying that Steve Jobs was one

of the most influential and innovative pioneers of our time.

Apple started as an ill-advised dream in a garage, but turned into one of the most successful companies ever a common theme throughout Jobs’ life and career. All of

his products were criticized and ridiculed when originally introduced. Analysts believed these products went against market research and ventured into an area of unknown which consumers rarely entered.

However on launch day, thousands of people would line the streets waiting to get their hands on Apple’s latest invention. Through ingenious advertising, creative presentations, and a unique market strategy, Jobs managed to gain followers, not only for Apple’s products, but for Jobs himself.

Jobs had a magical power over people not customers people. That’s what made him who he was; he didn’t follow traditional market research, or focus groups, instead he followed his gut. He once stated, “You can’t just ask customers what they want and then try to give that to them. By the time you get it built, they’ll want something new.” Somehow he knew what we

wanted before even we knew.

Apple’s presentations contributed to its success. They were exciting, over-the-top, and hyped up by the media, weeks before the actual event. These events showcased Jobs’ wide range of talents: from his artistic abilities to his technological skills.

After months of anticipation, everyone watched in amazement as Jobs presented a new product in a fashion that became known as “Steve Notes.”

No matter what product Jobs announced, everyone instantly buzzed about it. He introduced a product in a manner which made it seem like an irresistible necessity, an ability I’ve always greatly admire. What Jobs was able to do in just one presentation would be a goldmine to a marketer, invaluable to a businessman, and a dream to an artist; to Jobs it was just another day.

Over the past ten years

especially, Jobs has revolutionized the way we listen, communicate, and live. Having grown up in this decade I’ve only seen Jobs as the reigning champion whose company dominated every industry it entered.

At the very least, Job’s story is the pinnacle of American entrepreneurship. However it is something much more than that—it is much more personal.

Jobs made Apple into a culture rather than a company, a culture that believed in “Thinking Differently” and doing what you love in order to change the world. Apple and Steve Jobs, are indivisible and they always will be. Steve Jobs said “We’ve never worried about numbers. In the market place, Apple is trying to focus the spotlight on products.” Steve Jobs wasn’t a businessman, he was an artist.

Apple products were his creations, his masterpieces that will become his legacy.

DISPOSE OF
DISPOSABLES
WATER FOUNTAINS AT RHS

SARAH SANDLER
staff writer

As part of this summer’s renovation several of the water fountains in the school have been replaced with ones that have a water bottle refilling component. Students at Ridgewood High School should take advantage of the new fountains and make the shift away from disposable bottles—permanently.

Did you know that while one gallon of bottled water can cost anywhere from \$1 to \$4, tap water costs less than a penny per gallon? More than 90% of the cost of bottled water is in the bottle, cap, and label. Many people don’t realize that bottled water costs more than a thousand times tap water. Bottled water costs more per gallon than oil.

Reusable water bottles are very inexpensive, costing around \$10. Some companies known for their water bottles are Sigg, Camelbak, and Nalgene. The money saved by using a refillable bottle as opposed to buying a new bottle every time would very quickly cancel out the cost of the reusable water bottle.

Plastic is not biodegrad-

able. This means that every plastic water bottle that isn’t recycled will remain on the earth and build up waste. At least 50 billion bottles of water are bought every year, only 20% of which are actually recycled. Many of these water bottles are sent to landfills, where they sit for years and pollute the local environment. Others are dumped into rivers where they pose a threat to the local wildlife.

America is the largest consumer of plastic water bottles and uses more than 1.5 million barrels of oil a year to meet this demand. This oil is enough to fuel hundreds of thousands of cars per year.

It is only the second month of school and students at RHS have already reduced the number of plastic water bottles

Bottled water
costs more than
a gallon of oil.

being used. If each student makes a concentrated effort to use the bottles we receive from the Home and School Association, will make a difference.

GOTTA FAKE IT TO MAKE IT
GOVERNMENT CRACKS DOWN ON
ADDRESS FORGERY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ZOE DARTLEY
editor-in-chief

A recent opinion article in The Wall Street Journal discusses the irony of parents being prosecuted for “stealing” after lying about their addresses to try to get their children into better public school systems. Michael Flaherty, the article’s author, has a good point. Instead of fining and punishing parents who simply want their children to justly receive their right to a good education, the government should examine the source of the problem: our country’s public schools. There is obviously injustice

if parents feel the desperate need to lie about their addresses so their children can earn a quality education.

From California to Massachusetts, districts are reverting to measures so extreme as to hiring private detectives to literally follow children from their schools to their homes to make sure that their addresses are legitimate. Hundreds of schools are bragging about new address-verification systems in order to keep “illegal students” away.

There is something very wrong with this picture. As much as we tend to forget this, America is a land of equal opportunity. While yes, students attending the “wrong” school district is technically “illegal,” this issue isn’t so black and white.

Parents who are allegedly breaking the law are simply showing what is wrong with our country’s school system. Instead of punishing them over and over again the government needs to examine the issue and begin to correct their mistakes. Parents don’t deserve to have to serve jail time when they are simply fighting for their children’s rights. The public school system is equal

opportunity, and therefore each school should be equally as good.

In August, a Powerpoint done by the American Federation of Teachers was accidentally leaked onto the internet. The presentation revealed how the AFT was purposely ignoring and undermining minority parent efforts to pass the “Parent Trigger” legislation in Connecticut. This new law, proposed to offer parents real governing authority to help transform failing school districts. Flaherty compares the issue to Betty Smith’s 1943 novel, “A Tree Grows in Brooklyn.” Like the main character, Francie Nolan, minority and low-income children are not receiving the equal opportunity they deserve because of the poor schools they are forced to attend. Francie fakes her address and enrolls in a much better school system. With the improved education, she thrives and meets a teacher who nurtures her love for writing. If our government were to truly examine the issue behind what they are prosecuting these parents for, they would realize how unjust the predicament is.

WHEN IT COMES TO A “FEAR OF FAT,” AMERICANS NEED A HEALTHY DIET

AMANDA MUCCIO
staff writer

What is the perfect body, and why does everyone want it? America’s obsession with body image drives adolescents to diet, and worse, to develop lifelong eating disorders. The pressure on teen girls compelling them to be skinny is everywhere. With the constant push to do what it takes to be a size zero and with celebrities reinforcing the message that “food doesn’t taste as good as skinny feels” (Kate Moss), it is hard avoid obsession.

The unfortunate reality is that body image is not only based on one’s perception of his or her appearance, but also on others’ opinions. If teens do not hear comments about their appearance from their friends, they see it in the media. The illusory image is plastered across every magazine and pervades mass media. Whether stated in Holly-

wood, in magazines, or in the hallways of RHS, the message is clear: “Thin is in.”

Teenagers are under a lot of pressure to fit in. Many are preoccupied with a vain pursuit of society’s unattainable ideal and are obsessed with

Girls are brought up to believe that if they are skinny, they will be accepted

the opinions of those around them.

From a young age, girls are brought up to believe that

if they are skinny, they will be accepted. Most of us need a role model. Unfortunately, too many of the role models out there are around the same age and are experiencing similar image issues.

These individuals, however, are not the only ones who promote the craziness of negative body image. Media, such as reality TV shows and fashion magazines, flaunt the ultra-slender female form as the final word in feminine beauty.

Oddly, this “fear” epidemic is mostly a prominent perception of the adolescent American mind. In Fiji, for centuries the ideal body was muscular

and solid; that the current generation is “going thin,” is more of a cause of concern than something to be commended or admired.

It is sad, but I have to admit, all my life I’ve been told by our culture that fat, either in food or on human beings, is

unhealthy, ugly and unpleasant. I’ve been taught that the word “fat” is an insult, associated with shame and failure.

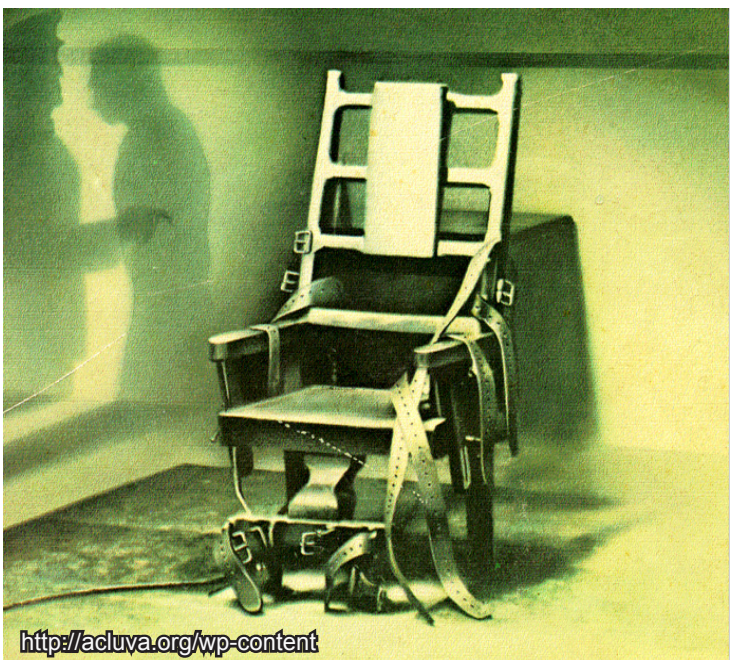
My hope for society is that we all learn to see ourselves for who we are instead of through the distorted mirror we rely on.



CAITLIN GAMM/ the high times

For some, society and the media define what is beautiful.

IT’S TIME TO KILL THE DEATH PENALTY



<http://acluva.org/wp-content>

Troy Davis’ death by legal injection highlights the need to end the death penalty.

CURRAN MCSWIGAN
op-ed editor

Capital punishment has always been a controversial subject, but with the conviction of inmate Troy Davis, questions have arisen concerning the ethics of the death penalty.

A native of Georgia, Davis was sentenced to death via lethal injection. Convicted of murdering an off-duty police officer, the convict (along with his supporters) defended his innocence to the death.

While Davis was able to convince hundreds of thou-

sands of people that he was innocent, he couldn’t convince a single court. In his final moments, as Davis was strapped onto a gurney in the death chamber, he nodded slightly to his attorney, and then made a statement that he was not responsible for the 1989 slaying of Mark MacPhail.

“I am innocent”, Davis proclaimed, “The incident that happened that night is not my fault.” He also told his supporters to “continue to fight.”

Davis had a large following that supported his pro-

clamation of innocence and was shocked that the state of Georgia went along with this execution of a potentially innocent man.

With the popularity of the death penalty slipping from 80% in the 90’s to 64% today, many wonder if there will ever be a time to simply get rid of it.

Considering the fact that this case was high profile and therefore publicly followed by the media, it may prove to be the tipping point for the public’s view on capital punishment.

The Davis case shows how unreliable and immoral capital punishment is. Whether or not Davis was guilty, there is no doubt that innocent men have faced the death penalty. Our justice system is already flawed, and the death penalty is too great a power to be given to our government.

Humans are naturally prone to bias and error and simply shouldn’t be trusted with this kind of authority. Some argue that the death penalty does deliver justice to

the most heinous of murderers, but it could also potentially lead to the murder of an innocent person.

Even if Troy Davis was guilty, the death penalty is a human rights violation and therefore should be abolished. Through this case it is clear just how flawed the capital punishment system really is. Americans are right to oppose it.



GOT
OPINIONS?

We want to hear them!
Email us at
rhshtimes@gmail.com, or visit
our Facebook page **RHS High Times 2011-2012**



HALLOWEEN HISTORY

BRITTANY CHUNG
staff writer

Celebrated for its costume craziness and candy galore, Halloween has a very long and rich history. Halloween can be traced back 2,000 years to the Celtic festival of Samhain. In the Celtic land (now Ireland, the United Kingdom and Northern France), the New Year was celebrated on November 1st. The day symbolized the harvest at the end of summer and the start of a gloomy and frosty winter, which was frequently associated with death. According to Celtic belief, on the night before the New Year, October 31st, the dead returned to Earth, ruining crops and wreaking general havoc.

The celebration of Samhain commemorated the ghosts' return to the living world. The Celts built gargantuan, sacred bonfires in which they threw crops and animals in tribute to the Celtic god. During this festival of fire, Celts dressed up in costumes, often made of animal heads and skins.

The Roman Empire conquered the Celtic Region in 43 A.D., resulting in the integration of the Celtic reli-

gious rituals with those of Christianity. Consequently, when the Roman Church celebrated All Souls Day (a day to honor the dead) on November 2nd, it was celebrated in a similar fashion as was Samhain: with big bonfires, parades, and costumes of saints, angels and devils. The festivity was also called All-Hallows Day. Eventually, the ancient night of Samhain adopted the name All-hallows Eve, and ultimately become known as Halloween.

How did fiery religious sacrifices become a holiday devoted to a door-to-door pursuit of candy? The popular activity of Trick or Treating originated from Halloween parades in England, during which the poor pleaded for food. Some offered "soul cakes" to the poor in an exchange: their promise to pray for the dead relatives of those generous folk. The practice, which earned the name "going a-souling," was ultimately taken up by children who galavanted about the neighborhood, asking for food and money from houses on Halloween. Eventually, the routine evolved into the spirited tradition of "Trick or Treating" we know today.



HAUNTED HOROSCOPES

Aquarius

January 20- February 18

You will become a haunted hero during spooky situations

Pisces

February 19- March 20

Your hard work will lead to a successful night of trick-or-treating

Aries

March 21-April 19

Your aura will inspire ghosts to take over

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your courage will help you in haunted situations and when you encounter the scariest costume of the night

Gemini

May 21-June 21

Your generosity will benefit you and others, as will your ability to steal other people's candy

Cancer

June 22-July 22

At the end of the night your goals will have been accomplished: you will have terrified your little brother and stolen all of his Kit-Kat bars

Leo

July 23-August 22

Your winning streak will begin at midnight on Halloween

Virgo

August 23-September 22

Your carelessness will get you in trouble and cause you to lose all of your candy, probably to a pesky Gemini

Libra

September 23- October 23

Your stubborn refusal to take your sibling trick-or-treating will cost you access to their candy

Scorpio

October 24- November 21

You will fall in love with a supernatural being on Halloween night, preferably a hot werewolf

Sagittarius

November 22-December 21

Your wild imagination will guarantee your win in the costume contest

Capricorn

December 22- January 19

Your patience and kindness will lead to good fortune and lots of candy

the *high* times features

QUICK, CREATIVE COSTUMES:

LAUREN KIRSHNER
staff writer

No idea what to wear on Halloween? Don't pull out your wig in frustration! The following will dust away the cobwebs and remind you of several creative costume ideas. You'll even have a chance in winning the school costume competition.



Girls, you can improvise with that cute black dress you bought last year by being a good old-fashioned ferocious cat. Paint your fingernails black and your face tiger-like with whiskers and a black nose. A leather collar and tail will top it all off. Or wear your black dress as a librarian. 3-D glasses make the perfect costume accessory, just pop out the plastic and use them as part of your outfit. Pull your hair into a tight bun and voila, you suddenly look like a librarian.

Of course, you could always be a witch. However, make sure you are not a traditional witch; you want to stand out from the other 100 people who are witches. Wear a purple wig instead of black and decorate your pointy hat with flashy costume jewelry. If you choose,

you can wear striped stockings and carry a broomstick.

How about being one of your favorite childhood characters? Travel "to infinity and beyond" with a Buzz Lightyear costume or jump out of the Nintendo video game as Mario. To save the world, dress as Captain America or Superman.

For those of you who want to do a double costume with a friend, how about the Flintstones? To be Fred, create a sleeveless tunic from orange fabric. The arm holes and the hem should be jaggedly cut. Then, use black fabric to make spots and glue them all over the dress. Lastly, wear an unevenly cut blue tie, made from cloth and perhaps wear some make-up for a five o'clock shadow. For Wilma, you will need a cheap or old white dress so that you can cut off one shoulder in the same jagged pattern. Make a necklace from small-sized



Styrofoam balls and spray paint your hair red in a topknot.

As it is plain to see, the best part of Halloween is dressing up as someone different for a day. So, choose a costume, be imaginative, and have fun because you definitely do not want to miss out on this opportunity. Happy Halloween and one last thing.....BOO!



STEVEN LEE
staff writer

We are now over a month into the school year and autumn has arrived. Leaves have tinted into oranges and reds, adding to the spirit of the season. In fact, most Ridgewood houses don festive Halloween decorations.

On October 31, children of all ages will be knocking on doors asking for candy. However, some will be holding up little orange boxes and asking for money instead. Those boxes are a part of a program called UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) which has been actively raising



money for children since 1953, making trick-or-treating a very charitable experience for many philanthropic children.

All of the money raised goes to children in need, including those who are suffering from post-war problems. This year, UNICEF has decided to take another step in helping the kids. Starting this Halloween, people all around the world will be able to donate through text or the official UNICEF website, www.unicef.org. This Halloween, be sure to log on, send a text, or go trick-or-treating to help this worthy cause!

"TRICK OR TREAT...FOR UNICEF!"

THE YOUNG (BUT) THE GIANT SUCCESS

JACKIE SCHLEIN
staff writer

Coldplay. The Rolling Stones. Maroon 5. Young the Giant. Wait, who was that last one? If you don't know who in the world this is, you are not alone.

The band's small roots

This song has a definite Coldplay and almost Vampire Weekend vibe, so anyone who loves these bands should be sure to check out the track. Payam Doostzadeh's performance of the bass is impeccable, and helps to add great depth to the song, especially when turned up loud.



Young the Giant members Sameer Gadhia, Jacob Tilley, Eric Cannata, Payam Doostzadeh, François Comtois jam to one of their hit songs.

are in Irvine, California, but their popularity quickly grew and captured the attention of MTV, greatly expanding their fan base. Young the Giant was chosen over many other bands to do a debut performance at MTV's Video Music Awards, where they performed their hit "My Body" to a pool of screaming and dancing fans.

Young the Giant took a small step into the Indie music scene with the release of their self-titled debut album. The album is full of energetic feel-good music that would make anyone want to play it over and over.

The CD includes the single "My Body," a fun thriving melody that is the perfect addition to a car ride playlist. It has catchy lyrics, amazing guitar riffs, and the extremely talented and authentic vocals of front man Sameer Gadhia. As the starting track, it possesses qualities that hook listeners. It is a perfect sample of what Young the Giant has to offer, and is sure to make listeners want to delve into the rest of their album.

"Cough Syrup" makes for another quality tune on this record. The track starts off slow and eventually bursts into an energetic chorus.

The beginning guitar riffs by Jacob Tilley and Eric Cannata in "I Got" set a relaxed tone for the song. This track is catchy, and it is hard to resist the urge to sing along every time the chorus rolls around. Gadhia's vocals are perfect for a white noise while studying or just hanging out with friends.

"Apartment" is a sweet, melancholy tune. The lines "So sure to keep you dreaming/You understood/Oh, I know you understood/Yes sir, it shows I was no good" are sure to leave listeners feeling like they just heard an Adele song, with a much more modern twist.

With so many songs, there is sure to be a melody on the album for everyone. While Young the Giant is great to listen to when sitting in your room with friends or driving around in your car, the group prides itself on being a performance based band. So be on the lookout for shows in the area.

With this first album, the band has made their mark. They are a young band that is not far from being a giant on the scene.

NEW PLAYERS GO TO COURT FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28

HANNAH COHAN
staff writer

Every year, come graduation, as the soon-to-be graduates parade through the Little Theater on their way to the field, at least one student proclaims that they "never knew that the high school had a theater." Hopefully, there will be an end to this naïveté once and for all with the upcoming season of New Player's Company.

So, what is the Little Theater, you may ask? The Little Theater is home to the RHS New Players Company, which is a program adored by all involved, as well as by the devoted audience members. All actors, designers, staff members, and students, should venture into the Little Theater this upcoming weekend for a night of unforgettable theater.

The first New Player's production of the season opens Friday, October 28. The production is *Twelve Angry Jurors*, a co-ed adaptation of the classic film, *Twelve Angry Men*. Directed by Louisa Luisi, *Twelve Angry Jurors* takes a step inside the jury room of a murder trial. The conversation gets heated as the twelve jurors attempt to come to a



Twelve Angry Jurors opens Friday, October 28th.

unanimous decision. A life is at stake, and each of the distinct, opinionated jurors is willing to argue to the very end.

There is the heroic, thoughtful juror 8, played by senior Jocelyn Milch; juror 4, an even-tempered stockbroker played by senior Justin Halle; and shy, confused juror 2, played by Jessi Scanlon. Other cast members include seniors Vince Loncto, Hannah Cohan, Marc Isabelle, Lindsey Imbruglia, Javeria Hassan, Maddy Duleyrie, and Diana Price; juniors Riley Clark and

Mansheej Paul and sophomore Mickey McGinley round out the cast.

Whether you are a seasoned audience member, or a person hopelessly clueless about New Players, you should attend this production! Freshmen often put "seeing a New Players show" on their Ridgewood High School bucket list and now is the perfect time to check it off.

Plus, you need to know: Will the boy be killed, or will he narrowly escape death? Come find out!

NEW PLAYERS 2011-2012 SEASON

Tickets available online at rhsnewplayers.com
and in the Little Theater Office

Twelve Angry Jurors

October 28 at 8 P.M.

October 29 at 2 P.M and 8 P.M.

The Important of Being Earnest

December 9-10

New Players in Concert

January 12-15

The Drowsy Chaperone

March 22-25

The Outsiders

May 11-12



FILMS THAT GO BUMP IN THE NIGHT



Paranormal Activity 3 hit theaters October 21.

EMILY GEIGER
entertainment editor

For those who feel that they have outgrown dressing up and going out trick-or-treating on Halloween, but still want to be part of the festivities, watching scary movies with friends is a great way to celebrate the holiday.

Although horror films may seem to appeal only to a cult following due to their violence and gore, the films usually include elements from multiple genres, and can therefore be enjoyed by a wide range of viewers; hopefully you will be able to find a film that piques

your interest in this top ten list.

For those who are fans of the classic Dracula story line, *Bram Stoker's Dracula* is a great option. With the number ten slot, the film does not have many unexpected twists to the well-known plot, but it offers an opportunity to watch a horror film that does not have all the creepy ghouls and goblins usually found in the genre.

If you enjoy Dracula, another great option, which is the number nine highest grossing scary movie, is *Van Helsing*, based on Bram Stoker's vampire hunter Van Helsing (Hugh Jackman).

Of course, with this mix of popular vampire movies, *Twilight* cannot be forgotten. Its place at number eight is a testament to its popularity. And although others may mock it, the fact that it is such a great success proves that, although it is fantastical, it is something many can relate to and enjoy. It also fits into the scary movie genre, without actually being *that* scary (but it may get your pulse racing, in more ways than one.)

Moving away from vampires, the number seven film is *Signs*, starring a pre-scandal Mel Gibson. The movie is about a family living on a farm that discovers mysterious patterns in their crops. The secret behind it is something frightening, and is sure to elicit a few gasps or even screams.

The next movie is *I Am Legend*, starring Will Smith. Although not equipped with the usual elements of a horror film it is appealing to lovers of the genre. This film is about a man who survives a virus and must try to live amongst cannibalistic zombies. Based on the Richard Matheson novel of the same name, this movie is not only scary for its several near-death experiences and creepy zombies, but its eerie vibe. The film makes it

seem like something of this sort could actually happen in our world.

New Moon and *Eclipse* hold the fifth and fourth spots on this list, respectively. These two films are the next installments of the *Twilight* franchise. Watching all three of these films with friends to celebrate Halloween is a great way not only to have fun, but also to get excited for the release of the next film in the series, *Breaking Dawn Part 1*, which hits theaters November 18.

The number 3 movie is *The Sixth Sense*. Best known for its famous "I see dead people" line, this character-driven movie attracts viewers with its deceptively simple plot, and is sure to surprise viewers with its twist of an ending.

A scary movie list is not complete without Steven Spielberg's *Jaws*. Almost everyone has heard the face score from the movie, but Halloween is a perfect time to actually view the film itself, and see what changed the way people feel about swimming in the ocean.

The highest grossing horror movie of all time is *The Exorcist*. The movie is about a twelve year old girl who becomes possessed by the

devil, and is forced to perform various atrocities. The movie was a phenomenon, and harbored such a reputation of people fainting in the aisles that theaters supplied airsickness bags, relabeled "Exorcist barf bags." The film went on to make \$440 million, and is recognized as one of the greatest horror films of all time.

For those looking to go to a movie theater to take part in Halloween fun, a great option is *Paranormal Activity 3*, in theaters as of October 21. The film is the third installment of the successful and horrifying *Paranormal Activity* films. This movie is about two young sisters that befriend a spirit in their house, and critics say that the last fifteen minutes "will mess up your life."

On Halloween, there are a wide variety of scary movies, all with different degrees of horror, so that everyone can find one to his or her liking. Whether wishing to never be able to sleep in the dark again, or just wishing to watch a romance with a fantasy twist, scary movies are a fun way to celebrate Halloween without braving the cold and worrying about a costume.

Halloween Attractions

Horseman's Hollow Sleepy Hollow, NY

The historic Phillipsburg Manor is transformed into a haunted house filled with vampires, witches, ghosts and more.

Beware! Horseman's Hollow has a high fear factor, so enter with caution.

Dates: October 27-30

Wanted: Dead or Alive Clinton, NJ

The 21st Annual Haunted Mill is complete with a scream filled hay ride and infamous walking terror trail.

Dates: October 28, 29



TOMMY WHO?

DEREK SUNG
staff writer

Since its inception, the Ridgewood High School Marching Band has been a student organization based on the five stars: leadership, trust, unity, pride, and respect. All band members are expected to abide by these principles in competition and during rehearsals, as well as in everyday life. The program is heavily rooted in tradition, and competes almost every week in addition to performing at home football games.

At the end of each summer, the band travels up to Timberlake Camp in New York for one week to learn and rehearse their show. The show this year is named "Tommy" with music by The Who. This year, the band lost power for four days due to Hurricane Irene, but the marching band persevered and learned the majority of their program nonetheless.

The marching band has



MARSHALL BRONFIN / the high times

The Ridgewood High School Marching Band hits the field during a competition.

already had a successful start to their season. In mid-October, the RHS Marching Band competed in the USSBA Yamaha Cup at the new MetLife Stadium in the Meadowlands area. Having already received second place in the Piscataway Competition and third in the South Brunswick Competition along with a number of caption awards, the band felt confident going into Yamaha Cup. Filled with suspense, as the last band

to perform in their division, they were soon pleasantly surprised with a fourth place award out of eleven very competitive bands.

With many more performing opportunities to come, including the annual Thanksgiving football game against Paramus, there are still chances to see the marching band in action. Everyone should try to go to one of their events and experience their talent firsthand.

SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Ridgewood's XC-LLENT Team



SARAH DAVIS &
LAURA WEISBERGER
staff writers

The Girls' and Boys' Cross Country teams at RHS have the depth in lineup that has earned each a prominent spot in the state rankings. As of October 13 the girls' team and the boys' team are both ranked 5 as well.

The girls' team competed at Penn State University on September 17, running an average time of 19.35 with three of the girls placing in the top ten. Senior captains Caroline Davidson and Hanako Shig-

enobu finished with times of 19:36 and 19:27 respectively. Freshman Catherine Pagano completed the race with a time of 19:00.

Coach Jacob Brown said, "This is one of the best teams Ridgewood High School has had in many years, and this team is ready to rock and roll."

On Friday, October 14 the girls and boys teams headed out to the Garret Mountain Reservation for The Big North Division 3 League Champs meet and did just that.

The weather looked menacing, but Coaches Jacob Brown

"This team is more than a team. It's a 60 person family."

and Michael Glynn were determined to have their runners compete and win the races.

The varsity boys' race began as scheduled. Ridgewood came in first by eleven points, beating Hackensack for the title.

Right before the girls' varsity race, thunder struck which ultimately delayed the starting time for over an hour. Frustration mounted as the teams waited.

Finally, the race started and so did the rain. Brown instructed the girls to run a tempo run workout and they still won first place by 23 points over Paramus.

Brown said of the win: "This team is extremely special, and after affirming our title at the League Champs at Garret



ALISON GRAHAM/the high times

The RHS Boys team taking off at Garret for a successful Dual Meet.

Mountain we have bigger and better plans for the future."

All of the Ridgewood cross country girls have been contributing to the ongoing effort by running their best, supporting each other, and always watching out for their team mates.

Sophomore runner Megan Lucky explains, "This team is more than a team. It's a 60 person family."

At the League County Meets on Saturday October 22 the boys team came in second overall to Don Bosco and the girls team came in first. Both teams made record times.

Coach Saladino says of the

boys "So far the team has had a lot of success and as we enter the state meet and North East Regional Meet we are looking to build onto that success."

Senior captain Tina Gobble added, "As a senior on this team I can truthfully say that this team has accomplished a lot. We brought the Ridgewood High School Cross Country Team back to prominence. And the best part is we have great underclassmen to maintain the tradition of excellence."



ELIZABETH O'BRIEN/the high times

The RHS "Top 12" after coming in second at the Penn State Harry Graves Spiked Shoe Invitational.



WHAT MAKES YOU A RUNNER



ALISON GRAHAM/the high times

Camille Davis placed second at the Junior Varsity Bergen County Championships.

CAMILLE DAVIS
sports editor

I remember the first time I went out for a run. It was just me, my brand new sneakers and the daunting, hilly countryside. I set out for a two-mile run. It seemed easy at first, but then I realized I had only been going downhill. Ten minutes into my run, I could not continue. I was done.

Seemingly, there is nothing easier than lacing up a pair of sneakers and going for a jog; but as I soon found out, putting on a pair of shoes doesn't make you a *runner*. Runners push through pain and exhaustion by means of sheer mental strength. That first day I set out for my run, I really didn't have that strength.

That was three years ago. Over the years as my running

experience has grown I have realized that when it comes to running any long distance, there really aren't a thousand ways to success. The effort you put in will directly influence your results: you run harder, you run faster. You get what you deserve and in the process, you become a better version of yourself.

Running is a sport that doesn't ask for exceptional coordination or agility. The trick to mastering it is simple: don't give up. I would be lying if I said the thought of giving up doesn't cross my mind every single time I encounter a hill, or slow down, or feel like my legs can't support me anymore. Running requires physical stamina and athleticism, but demands so much more mentally.

Runners learn when to pace themselves and when to

go all out. But mostly, running implicitly calls for a single-minded determination to finish, and to finish strong. The rewards you reap are worth the effort.

Running is more than a sport, it is a lifestyle. Running helps you with weight management by increasing your aerobic threshold along with your energy and alertness during the day, which actually leads to better concentration in school. I have noticed that running also gives you the added benefits of better, deeper sleep, even in class... Running promotes general awareness of what healthy living means because by necessity runners make better food choices, and lifestyle choices.

Emotionally and mentally, running betters your self-image and self-worth by challenging you and making you

feel accomplished when you meet your goals. My own first moment of glory came when I succeeded in actually finishing the two-mile run, without stopping, walking or dying at the end of it and I haven't stopped running since.

Those first few miserable runs seem to belong to a distant past when I am standing behind the starting line, anxious and stressed out, wondering why on earth I put myself through this pain. When we take off, adrenaline pumping, I *still* ask myself why I choose to run! It is only once the race is over and I can breathe, that I am satisfied. I know I pushed myself, and I didn't give up.

I am a runner, and I am addicted to the challenge of maintaining that title.



November 2011

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 -3 DAY -SPIRIT WEEK PAJAMA TUESDAY	2 -2 DAY -SPIRIT WEEK WOOD WEDNESDAY	3 -1 DAY -Maroon and White Recital -SPIRIT WEEK THROWBACK THURSDAY	4 -4 DAY -SPIRIT WEEK COLOR WARS -Pep Rally	5 -SAT at RHS
6 -Band Poinsettia Sale	7 -3 DAY -Global Learning Meet- ing -Jazz Ensemble Info Meeting -High Times Meeting	8 -2 DAY -Last Day of First Quarter	9 No school for students	10 No School	11 No School	12 ALPS trip
13 -2 DAY	14 -1 DAY -First Day of Second Quarter	15 -4 DAY -Marching Band Meet- ing	16 -3 DAY -Parents Financial Aid Meeting	17 -2 DAY -Orchestra Concert	18 -1 DAY -All State Jazz Ensemble & Jazz Choir Concert	19
20	21 -4 DAY A Cappella Concert	22 -3 DAY Sharing the Arts Performance	23 Minimum Day	24 Thanksgiving No School	25 No School	26 Girls Alumni Lacrosse Game
27	28 -2 DAY -Global Learning Meeting	29 -2 DAY	30 -4 DAY -Girls Soccer Dinner			

UPCOMING MEETINGS FOR THE HIGH TIMES

If you are interested in writing for The High Times please attend our next staff meeting!

**NOVEMBER
ISSUE**



Meeting: Monday, 11/7

Staff meetings will be held at Unit Lunch in Room 244.

Evidence of Autumn



Mercedes Whitman
High Times Photography Editor

Representing the essence of the harvest, a farmer has picked crops from the orchard and stacked them into crates to prepare for the long winter. The rich colors of the fall will soon fade to the gray winter that the hovering clouds foreshadow.

Reserve



Alison Graham
High Times Photographer

The reserved countenance of this Native American woman at a reservation in Massachusetts reflects the frigidity of fall and the unwelcome arrival of winter.

Autumn often presents the sinking feeling of a wasted year as the inevitable "nuclear winter" looms near. We do so little to celebrate the beauty of the decomposition of the leaves that had arduously prospered for six long months. Appreciate the beauty of the color-changing leaves, rekindle your love for cozy moccasins, and sip those pumpkin spice lattes before they are gone!

Path of Enlightenment



Brad Hong
High Times Photography Editor

During the season of change, melancholy days, and crispy weather, there is a sharp contrast between the summer leaves and the fall foliage. The beauty brings a sense of awe even to those who are not easily impressed. Winter is an etching, spring a watercolor, summer an oil painting and autumn a mosaic of them all.

Autumn



Sunny Kim
High Times Photographer