

The Lance



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Livingston High School

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Lights! Camera! Action!

LHS Presents: *Comedy of Errors*



Image Credit: Daniel Stein Photography

Hilary Borker as Luciana and Ilana Saltzman as Dromio of Syracuse

By Samantha SILVERMAN '13

After much time and effort, devoted LHS performers brought *Comedy of Errors* to life for four nights, and delighted the audience with their magnificent rendition of the Shakespeare classic.

"*Comedy of Errors* is an opportunity for people who may not have had the chance before to experience Shakespeare," said junior Scarlett Ferman, who played the role of Adriana in Livingston High School's performance of the classic com-

edy. This Shakespearean satire, directed by Ms. Storti, tells the story of the mistaken identities of two sets of twins who were separated at birth. The confusion results in instances of theft, seduction, arrest, and other such madness.

"Rehearsals were intense," explained sophomore Jared Goldsmith who, with a nod to his surname, played the goldsmith Angelo in the performance. "They were generally from three to six every day after school and additional rehearsals on week-

ends...but it was definitely worth it in the end."

Both Scarlett and Jared performed remarkably, as did the rest of the cast. Ethan Cohen, Sarah Halperin, Sarah Stein, Megan Foley, Abi Simko, Hilary Borker, Ilana Saltzman, and Anthony Vecchio all took center stage.

"The show was better than expected and very funny. I enjoyed it a lot," said freshman Erica Silverman, who went to Friday night's performance of *Comedy of Errors*. "The actors did a very good job, especially knowing how difficult Shakespeare can be." Erica explained that although Shakespeare is difficult to comprehend, she and the rest of the audience were able to fully understand the complicated plot due to the actors' meticulous performance.

Mr. Megaro and his set crew crafted the setting of the play, a Louisiana bayou. "Neptune rising out of the chthonian depths of the sea was awesome," said Mrs. Glucksman.

If you missed this performance by the Livingston High School Theater Productions, be sure to catch the upcoming spring musical *Seussical*, this March.

Sexual Allegations Plague Modern Society

By Shivangi KHANNA '13

Sex scandals have tarnished the reputations of numerous authority figures in recent months; their actions have shocked many Americans.

Herman Cain announced that he would "suspend" his campaign for the Republican nomination in the 2012 election on December 3rd after multiple women came forward with allegations of extramarital affairs with the contender. Amongst those women were Ginger White, Karen Kraushaar, and Sharon Bialek according to the Huffington Post – one of whom, White, claimed the affair had gone on for thirteen years.

Critics are convinced that Cain's decision is a result of his private life rather than his policy of nines.

"Plagued by allegations of sexual harassment and marriage infidelity, businessman Herman Cain announced Saturday that he is officially suspending his campaign for president of the United States," said Chris Moody of Yahoo News.



Image Credit: Wyoming Post
Jerry Sandusky was handcuffed and removed from his Pennsylvania home.

This trend hasn't just surfaced in politics: former Penn State coach Jerry Sandusky "was charged with 40 counts of abusing eight boys over 15 years," according to Pennsylvania Attorney General Linda Kelly. On December 7th, he was charged with twelve new counts of sexual abuse.

"What was once a wholesome football program is now marred beyond recognition, and an idyllic American town is left reeling (and rioting). After all, these were the hallowed leaders of the city, and the revered halls of a highly respectable institution," said Bret Mavrigh, Penn State alum.

At Syracuse University, another scandal erupted. Bernie Fine, associate head coach of the University's basketball team, was fired after investigations regarding child molestation allegations against him.

Sex scandals have spread like wildfire, tainting the reputations of many respected politicians – frequently those linked to the presidency. After all, one cannot forget the infamous Bill Clinton impeachment after he lied about his affair with White House intern Monica Lewinski.

Jon Edwards, who campaigned for the 2008 Democratic nomination, faced a scandal of his own. In August of 2008, he admitted to his affair with Rielle Hunter with whom he even had a child as his wife suffered from terminal cancer.

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Joseph Trad
Advisor

From the Desk of the Editors-in-Chief **Bah, Humbug!** Don't Become Scrooge During the Rest of the Year

'Tis the season to spend some extra time in soup kitchens, throw any spare change into Santa's can on the street, and enjoy the company of your friends and family. December brings about holiday spirit and the joy of giving. Every holiday season, we "deck the halls" of LHS with more donation boxes and fundraising flyers than during the rest of the year. Businesses donate a portion of their products and profits to the less fortunate, capitalizing on the spirit of goodwill. The idea behind giving to charity at this time stems from the tradition of gift-giving during the holidays, but why not "give back" at all times of the year?

In our daily routines, we should all aspire to contribute to the community at large. For some, this could mean spending an afternoon washing dishes at a local animal shelter, participating in a game of Bingo at a senior citizen home, or volunteering at a nearby hospital. At school, surprise a stranger with a random act of kindness. Hold the door for the person behind you or smile at someone new. Follow the lead of college campuses and start a "Free Hugs" club.

Rather than waiting for a special occasion to donate to a non-profit organization, we should act charitably year-round. Based on your personal preference, there are thousands of organizations that benefit different causes. If you want to support disaster relief, the American Red Cross accepts donations throughout the year. They hold disaster response training sessions for volunteers who reunite families displaced by chaos and conflict. For fifty years, the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) has been protecting the future of nature through action at the local level to the global community. The WWF encourages innovative solutions that meet the needs of both people and nature and continuously welcome donations and support. Internationally, the Salvation Army requests clothing, furniture, and household appliance donations, which are used to assist people across the world.

The New Year has snuck up on us yet again. For 2012, instead of vowing to shed a few extra pounds at the gym, resolve to impact your community. Volunteer with special-needs kids, donate to a food pantry, help a friend who's having trouble with her homework. It is never too late to start giving back.

- CarCar and MarMar



Lance News



Spanish Honor Society



Spencer Luster, Mayer Chalom, and Kris Kania perform at Hispanic Cultural Night
Photo Credit: Alex Dashman

By Julie KESSELHAUT '14

The Spanish Honor Society recently celebrated *El Día de la Herencia Hispana*, the Hispanic Heritage Day, on October 26th. Over 70 students participated by performing Spanish-language songs, creating artwork, and cooking traditional Hispanic foods such as *pico de gallo*, *flan*, and *empanadas*.

Aside from its cultural events, the Spanish Honor Society does philanthropic projects that give back to society. "As an honor society, we try to look out into the community and see how we can make an impact," said co-president Sarah Gilman ('12).

Before new members were inducted, they were each required to bring in a paper good to donate to the Divine Mercy Café,

a soup kitchen in Orange.

All members tutor at either the high school or middle school level and as co-vice president Julia Fisher ('12) said, "there is a tutor for anyone who needs one."

At the end of the year, the Spanish Honor Society publishes a literary magazine, *La Piñata*, which features writing by Spanish students of all levels. The editorial board is composed of select students who edit pieces for the magazine.

"We're really excited for this year's issue," said managing editor Jessica Chu ('12). "This year's theme is *Sueños y Sentimientos* [Dreams and Feelings]."

The Spanish Honor Society inducted nearly 100 new juniors and seniors.

Chinese Honor Society



Members of the Chinese Honor Society create Thanksgiving Day Cards for charity
Photo Credit: Ms. Gao

By Marlena IDROBO '12

The Chinese Honor Society kicked off the year with its annual Moon Festival Celebration this past September in conjunction with the Joy Luck Club and the Chinese Culture Club.

"The central idea behind [our celebration of] this 3,000-year-old Chinese tradition is the promotion of culture and diversity in an entertaining fashion," explained President Alexandria Li ('12).

The Moon Festival Celebration featured routines by members of the LHS dance team and a Chinese yo-yo performance by one talented student. Members of the Chinese Honor Society sold an array of authentic Chinese food, including the festival's traditional mooncakes.

In January, the Chinese Honor Society plans to celebrate the Lunar New Year by way of a school-wide event as well as by volunteering at the Livingston Chinese Culture Day. The event will be open to community members of all ages including dancing, singing, and performing skits.

The Chinese Honor Society is "focus-ing more [on] being a community service-driven society this year," said Co-Treasurer Shirley Shen ('12).

This holiday season, members hand-crafted cards for Chinese immigrants affected by mental illness in New Jersey.

Other upcoming events include a bubble tea sale, stamp carving event, and badminton tournament that are open to the entire student body.

What's New With the Language Honor Societies?

The four language honor societies at LHS held their induction night on November 17th, 2011. Spanish and French students fulfilled rigorous requirements receiving an "A-" or above in all standard-level classes or a "B-" in honors-level classes throughout four years of study. Students in the Chinese and Italian Honor Societies need to maintain a "B-" average in their classes throughout two years, and must take a third year of the language to be inducted.

French Honor Society

By Talia ROSENSTRAUCH '12

On November 17th, 42 students gathered in the main gym to be inducted into the French Honor Society. In keeping with the organization's pledge that "language can be one of the strongest ties that binds race and religion," the French Honor Society strives to engage in French cultural activities.

This year, the members plan to visit museums, arrange an opportunity to converse with native French speakers, and see historic sites. "We are in the process of planning a trip to Montreal where we hope to further our studies through a fun, hands-

on experience," Co-President Devin Grossman ('12) said.

The French Honor Society also shows French movies after school and hosts parties with delicious French dishes. "Last year we hosted the first ever Mardi Gras Dance with the SGA. The dance was a fun event in celebration of a holiday like no other. Many people attended and danced the night away; it was a very enjoyable night," Secretary Karolina Siwek ('12) reported.

"Our goal is to promote the study of the French language and culture with the most dedicated and committed students," Grossman said.

Italian Honor Society

By Ari GILBERG '13

The Jersey Shore cast isn't the only group of "Italians" who traveled to Italy this past year; the Livingston High School National Italian Honor Society also decided to crash the party.

"We go to Italy once every other year," said board member Julia Kontos ('12), "Last year we went to Poggibonsi and Colle di val d'elsa."

Only a few lucky people get to travel -- usually a group of around 20 Livingston students who live with different Italian families for two weeks.

Charity work is also a big part of the

Italian Honor Society, which constantly helps out and gives back to the less fortunate, explained fellow board member Nicholas Colonna.

Last year members sold unique flowers, called mimosas, and bracelets for hurricane relief. This year the Italian Honor Society has already sold bracelets to raise support for St Jude's Children's hospital, as well as organized multiple events to raise money for cancer research.

One of the upcoming events will be an Italian-based Carnival where participants would need to pay a small fee to enter and wear traditional Italian carnival masks.

Tutto Fresco: A Deli Delight

By Will *BONI* '13

Food has fallen victim to convenience. People put up with fast food because they are unwilling or unable to dedicate more time to their meals. Fortunately, there is a solution: Tutto Fresco. Tutto Fresco calls itself a "Gourmet Italian Delicatessen," but in reality, it is much more. The quality and variety of ingredients used are impressive, plus it is located within two miles of LHS. Also, the service is quick, which is important for those who need to be back in school for the next period.

Though I usually order the "Hot #14" which is "Grilled Balsamic Chicken Cutlet, Mozzarella, & Broccoli Rabe," this time I wanted to try new things; things that I wouldn't normally get. The homemade roast beef in the cold cut refrigerator caught my eye first. I'm a real sucker for roast beef, so I ordered a "Cold #6". I also ordered a "Cold #15", a "Cold #21", a "Hot #5" and a "Hot #17" (all \$7.00). I also got a "#2 Salad" (\$7.75).

When I got home, I tried the salad first because it looked great and was at the top of the bag of food. It was the "#2 Salad" (Balsamic Chicken, Mozzarella, & Roasted Peppers) and came with a small container of balsamic vinaigrette. The cheese was chewy and moist, which worked well in this unusual setting. I can't say I've ever had a salad with so much mozzarella in it,



Image Source: Livingston Patch

Tutto Fresco is known for its fresh mozzarella, pasta, and sandwiches.

but I can say that I will be having another sometime soon. The chicken was warm and the greens were crunchy - any salad-lover would be pleased. The plastic knife provided was definitely necessary, as it was difficult to tackle the large knot of mozzarella embedded in the salad. To avoid an unnecessary trip to the dentist, remember that the olives have pits.

Next, I decided to take on the sandwiches by type. All were served on thin, French baguettes, which were fresh and soft. Because cold sandwiches are not usually my choice, I decided to try those first. I unwrapped the "Cold #6" (Roast

Beef, Salami, and Provolone) and was happy to find that it was packed with juicy, tender, thinly sliced roast beef. The salami added a pleasant saltiness not usually present in roast beef sandwiches. Next was the "Cold #15" (Mozzarella, Grilled Eggplant & Roasted Peppers). The eggplant was neither too firm nor too soft; however, it was marinated in balsamic vinegar, which gave the sandwich a very garlicky, tangy punch that was a bit too intense for lunch. Although it was a fine sandwich, it was probably my least favorite of the day. The "Cold #21" (Mozzarella, Plum Tomatoes and Basil) was a surprise favorite of mine.

If a sandwich can be refreshing, this one is. The tomato slices are a bit thin, but they still lend a lot of flavor and go well with the basil. The mozzarella, conspicuously present in almost every item that Tutto Fresco offers, really shines in this one. A drizzle of olive oil ties the flavors together nicely.

The hot sandwiches were next. The "Hot #6" (Chicken Parmigiana) was very good. It was not overly saucy, as chicken parm can sometimes be, and it was bold and zesty. Last was the "Hot #17" (Grilled Lemon Chicken, Mozzarella and Spinach). The spinach lent a pleasant softness to the bread, and the chicken was very tender, but not lemony. The "Hot #17" is definitely worth trying, and was a welcome change from the many choices of balsamic chicken-based sandwiches.

My experience left me with a very full stomach, as well as a new outlook on this popular Italian deli. I was definitely pleased, as everything from the heavy, filling chicken parm to the light, summery "Cold #21" which was made with quality ingredients and a definite knack for "gourmet Italian" flavors. If none of the items mentioned in this review seem appealing to you, go ahead and experiment. Anything you order will not disappoint. Feel free to explore the menu; everything in Tutto Fresco is definitely "all fresh."

Hugo: A 3-D Revolution



Image Source: The Christian Science Monitor

By Madan *ATREYA* '12

3-D technology has been around in movies for a long time. Never, perhaps, has it been used as effectively as in Martin Scorsese's new film, *Hugo*. *Hugo* is a movie far different from any other Scorsese picture. For one, *Hugo* is rated PG, different than his usual violent R-rated efforts. Set in a 1930s Paris train station, *Hugo* explores the life of the title character, a young orphan boy who spends his days hidden up in the clock tower of the station, winding the clocks and trying not to be caught by the station inspector (played by Sacha Baron Cohen). Skilled in mechanics, *Hugo* keeps hidden a mechanical man called an automaton that was given to him

by his dead father.

Scorsese enhances *Hugo*'s visuals greatly and makes the viewers feel as if they are running through a crowded train station or up in the clock tower. The film's plot is another one of its strengths. The adventure is exciting and fast paced; it involves *Hugo*, the automaton, a toy store owner (played by Sir Ben Kingsley), and centers in on the magical history of movies.

Containing humorous dialogue and excellent performances from Asa Butterfield (*Hugo*), Ben Kingsley (Papa Georges, the toy store owner), Sacha Baron Cohen (the station inspector), and Chloe Grace Moretz (*Isabelle*), *Hugo* is one of the best films of the year.

The Muppets: Back To Life



Image Source: toprelease.us.com

By Louis *RYAN* '12

It's been over a decade since the last Muppets movie was released. Is this new Muppets movie worth the wait?

The trio, Walter, Gary (Jason Segel), and Mary (Amy Adams) travel to Hollywood and find the Muppets Studios in ruins. They learn of evil oil baron Tex Richman's (Chris Cooper) plan to demolish the Muppet Theater and drill for the oil underneath it. Walter, Gary, and Mary travel to Kermit to tell him about it. They figure out the only way to save the theater is to get the old gang back together, put on a show, and raise enough money to buy back the theater.

This film was 100% entertainment from

beginning to end. The jokes were funny, the songs were catchy, and the heartfelt moments felt genuine. The film has dozens of celebrity cameos, including many familiar faces. Jason Segel's comedic script proves he understands the comic sensibilities that suit the Muppets perfectly. There is nothing to complain about with this film. It's 100 minutes of pure joy.

But how could I forget the Muppets themselves? Kermit, Miss Piggy, Fozzie, and Gonzo, who are undoubtedly the real stars of the film. As to be expected, they all were at the top of their game. It has been 30 years since they first performed, and they have, once again, proven themselves worthy of the spotlight.

Cheating, Competing: The Result of Pressure to Succeed



Image Source: visualphotos.com
Has this ever happened to you?

By Jana RUTHBERG '13

In today's society, with pressure to succeed in school comes the obsession with getting the highest grades possible, and never settling for anything less. High school students around the country are finding that their workload is too stressful, and the absolute need to succeed is so high, that cheating is the only solution. Whether it is copying homework, skipping a test and getting the answers from a friend, or copying information from Wikipedia, cheating has become a pattern among teens.

Cheating made national headlines in September 2011 when six students in Great Neck North High School in Long Island, N.Y. went so far as to pay a graduated student anywhere from \$1,500 to \$2,500 to take the SAT test in order to receive a high score, according to ABC News.

Similar to Great Neck, the atmospheric pressure to succeed is definitely strong

at Livingston High School, and cheating is not an extreme or far-fetched solution. "We go to a school where a 4.0 is not impressive. So many people in this school are brilliant, and expectations are set so high. I know plenty of kids who cheat to keep up with the standards of their teachers, parents, or peers," said an eleventh grade student at Livingston High School. "The focus is no longer on learning and personal growth, but on competition, numbers, and grades."

Some students will do anything, including pay, as in the Long Island case, to get a good grade. "While most of us work hard to get good grades and test scores, others cheat. Even though I know people who have cheated, and I know it's wrong, I would never say anything. It's not my business so I just look away," said a Livingston High School freshman. The majority of students across the nation "look

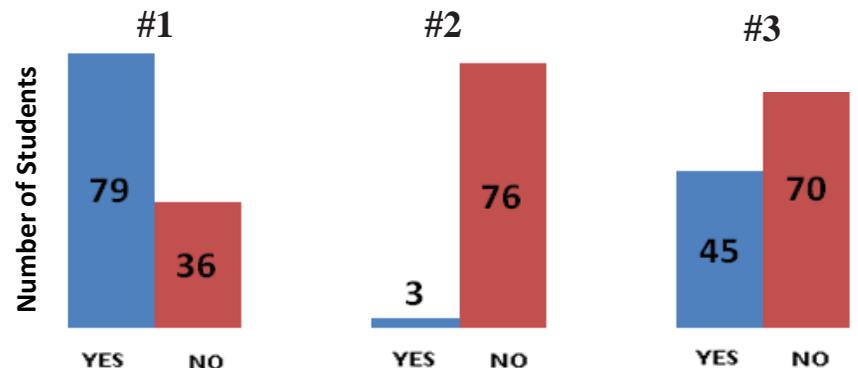
away" when they see cheating; about 95% of instances go unreported according to the 2010 Online Education Database studies.

Many schools, including LHS, have acknowledged the frequent occurrences of cheating and the low number of instances reported, and have taken action to punish

students to submit essays and homework assignments to websites like Turnitin.com where each submission is screened and compared to other internet sources.

In regard to sites like Turnitin, junior Max Farbstein says, "I wish we didn't have to use these sites. Students should just be

LHS Students Weigh In On Cheating



1. Have you witnessed cheating on a test, quiz, exam, or standardized test?
2. If yes, have you ever reported the incident?
3. If you were able to, without consequences, would you cheat?

Data collected by the Lance Staff; based on responses from 115 LHS students.
Graphic by Emily Bae and Carly Abenstein

and prevent cheating. Livingston High School's Code of Conduct clearly states the consequences of cheating, which includes the following: meetings with a teacher, parent, and/or assistant principal; a Saturday detention; no credit for the assignment or assessment; and a note in the student's record. In addition, many teachers require

honest and do honest work. If you know someone is cheating, report it. If someone asks you for information on a test, don't give it to them. You are not only doing yourself a favor, but you're doing the cheater a favor by teaching him or her a valuable life lesson. It is better to take the "F" than cheat through life.

Germaphobia: The Most Contagious "Disease" Yet

By Emily BAE '13

Mysterious pandemics, such as SARS in 2003, and the more recent H1N1 scare, have swept the international community and affected thousands. According to the World Health Organization, there were over 400,000 confirmed cases of H1N1 and 8,000 H1N1 related deaths in 2009 alone. In the same year, national shortages of the seasonal flu vaccine startled doctors and shocked the country.

New bacterial infections, including the dangerous, antibiotic-resistant superbug MRSA, have invaded hospitals as well as schools, and perplexed seasoned doctors and other medical professionals. In a study done by Henry Ford Hospital, researchers discovered that the newest mutated strain of MRSA is five times more deadly than its previous form.

Livingston has experienced small-scale "outbreaks" of disease as well. "There's always a flu season, and we have had cases of pneumonia at the elementary schools," said LHS Nurse Carolyn Ross.



Image Source: The Nieman Reports

However, what may be spreading faster than the germs themselves is the paranoia surrounding them. The technical term for this "paranoia" is Mysophobia, the abnormal fear of uncleanness or contamination. Mysophobia is more commonly known by its misnomer, "Germaphobia."

Mysophobia has already shown signs of manifesting itself in the United States. During the swine flu epidemic of 2009, Union Station's Tschiffely Pharmacy, in Washing-

ton D.C. sold out its entire supply of hand sanitizer. Additionally, it had extraordinarily high demand for hospital masks, as reported by the Washington Post.

The media also reflects the mass hysteria and the cultural obsession with disease. The release of movies centered on viral pandemics, including David Pastor's *Carriers* and Steven Soderbergh's *Contagion*, exemplify the panic and insanity that is "infecting" in society today.

In fact, scientists are coming forward with claims that a *Contagion*-like situation has chilling potential to become reality. "We just don't know when or where the next pandemic flu will come along," said Professor Mike Catchpole, of the Health Protection Agency.

Unfortunately, society's preoccupation with disease does nothing to thwart the large possibility of contracting an illness. "Germs spread through coughing and surfaces: door handles, tables, chairs," said Nurse Carolyn Ross.

"No one wants to get sick," she continued, "[But] year round, we have about 5-7 kids go home everyday."

However, according to the Center for Disease Control (CDC), and our school nurses, there is no imminent threat. "It is actually easy to prevent disease," said Nurse Mary Teshima, whose simple advice is consistent with the CDC's list of "Good Health Habits." "The best precautions you can take are washing your hands and covering your mouth while coughing."

WALKING IN A WINTER WONDERLANCE

Season's Greetings: Holiday Traditions Explained

By Shaylah BROWN '12, Tori KARGMAN '13, and Sam CETRULO '13

As deceiving as current weather patterns may be, the winter holiday season is just around the corner. *The Lance* has decided to cover the origins and traditions of three of the most celebrated winter holidays: Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, and Christmas.



Image Source: ApartmentTherapy.org

Kickin' it Kwanzaa Style

There is a common misconception that Kwanzaa was created and celebrated as early as its counterpart holidays such as Christmas and Hanukkah. In actuality, Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by an African-American professor named Dr. Maulana Karenga, who was motivated by the struggles African-Americans faced during the civil rights movement. Kwanzaa pays homage to the concepts and ideas of the African Harvest Festival, a religious time during which people perform narrative dances as they celebrate their culture.

Kwanzaa begins on December 26th and extends into the New Year ending on January 1st. Kwanzaa is celebrated for seven days, and during each night of observance families light a new candle that represents one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The principles occur in this order: *Umoja* (unity), *Kujichagulia* (self-determination), *Ujima* (working together), *Ujamaa* (supporting one another), *Nia* (purpose), *Kuumba* (creativity), and *Imani* (faith, especially faith in ourselves). Kwanzaa means "first fruits" in Swahili, an African language. The colors customarily used in Kwanzaa celebrations are red, black, and green. Black represents the people of Africa, red symbolizes the bloodshed, and green stands for the hopes of the African people. Bright colored fresh fruits are used as an integral part of the centerpiece on the table and around the room.

Put on your Yamaka, it's Time to Celebrate Hanukkah!

While the Jewish holiday Hanukkah has become commercialized and assimilated into the traditional mold of other winter holidays with its gift-giving, at the heart of the holiday are the traditions carried out throughout the celebration.

The literal translation of Hanukkah from Hebrew is "dedication." Nearly 2,200 years ago, Judah the Maccabee, leader of the Jewish rebel army, along with his supporters, fought to protect their community and sacred temple from Syrian oppression. After three years of fighting, the army reclaimed the synagogue and prepared to rededicate it to God. They believed they had only enough oil to kindle the menorah (a nine-pronged candleholder) for one night, but miraculously, the candles continued to illuminate the devastated temple for eight nights.

The "festival of lights" begins on the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev and lasts for eight days and eight nights; this year, Hanukkah begins at sundown on December 20th. Hanukkah mainly revolves around the kindling of the nine-branched menorah, known in Hebrew as the *hanukiah*. On the first night, the helping candle, called the *shamash*, is used to light the first candle only. On each of the holiday's eight nights, another candle is added to the menorah after sundown and the *shamash* is again used to light the others. Jews typically recite blessings during this ritual and leave the menorah burning in a prominent setting. Another Hanukkah tradition is the game dreidel which is played by children. The dreidel is a four-sided top, each side imprinted with a Hebrew letter: *gimmel*, *daled*, *nun*, or *shin*. Children exchange *gelt* -- golden coins, sometimes made out of chocolate -- depending on which

letter they spin.

The food eaten on Hanukkah is very oily, signifying the oil the Maccabees used to keep the candles lit in the temple. For dinner, most families eat potato pancakes, known as *latkes*, which are cooked and fried in oil. For desert, people may eat jelly-filled donuts, also fried in oil, and chocolate gelt.

Holy, Jolly Christmas

With Christmas just days away, everyone is filled with the holiday spirit! Dazzling lights and ice skaters fill Rockefeller Center along with its iconic giant Christmas tree; television is being inundated with Christmas specials that are sure to put you in a merry mood.

As both a religious and secular holiday around the world, people are getting ready for the joyous occasion. Christmas, which literally means "Mass of Christ," celebrates the birth of Jesus Christ. According to the Bible story, an angel came to the virgin Mary one day to announce that she would give birth to a savior and leader of the Jews. With child, she and her betrothed husband Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to give birth. All of the inns in Bethlehem were too crowded, so Mary gave birth to Jesus in a stable. Three magi, who had followed the North Star to the stable, presented the baby Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Observers celebrate Christmas on December 25th, perhaps in an attempt to incorporate the popular pagan traditions of Saturnalia and Yule. In Rome, the month-long festivity, characterized by bountiful feasts and inverted social order, begins the week before the winter solstice. Around the same time, the Romans also celebrated Juvenalia, honoring the infant-god, which was the most sacred day of the year for some. In some cultures, the winter solstice became a time where the upper classes honored the lower classes, which parallels the current holiday tradition of generosity and charity.

Despite its religious intent, Christmas has also come to represent a happy and joyful time of year, where people exchange gifts and gather with family and friends for festivities.

Holidays by the Numbers

By: *The Lance Staff*

3,000,000,000
Greeting cards sent in the U.S. per year

1870
Year Christmas became a national holiday

4 million
Tons of waste from shopping bags and wrapping paper in America during the holiday season

46%
Jewish population of Livingston

2,481
Population of Santa Claus, Indiana

\$1.5 billion
Value of candle shipments in 2009

4%
of Americans believe that Santa drives a sports car in the off-season

842,000,000
Number of houses Santa would have to visit on Christmas

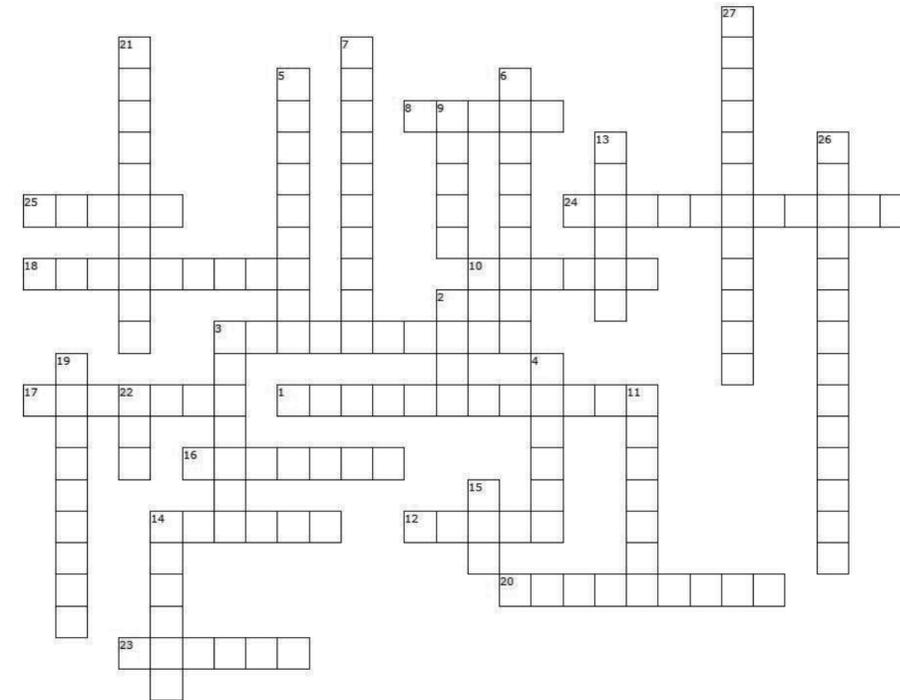
13%
of African Americans celebrate Kwanzaa

5,340
Swipes per minute on credit cards in the U.S. between Thanksgiving and Christmas



Deck the Halls

By: *The Lance Staff*



Across:

- 1. Tom Hank's Christmas Movie
- 3. Father of Judah Maccabee
- 8. Number of blessings said on the first night of Hanukkah
- 10. Nutcracker becomes after killing the Mouse King
- 12. Nor and
- 14. *Under the Mistletoe* singer

- 16. Ebenezer
- 17. Sings famous Hanukkah song
- 18. Pucker up under the
- 20. The three wise men followed

Down:

- 2. Number of reindeer driving Santa's sleigh
- 3. The letters of a Hanukkah dreidel stand for: "A great ____ happened here."
- 4. Originally sang "White Christmas"
- 5. American President who banned the Christmas tree in the White House
- 6. The Plastics dance to Jingle Bell Rock in this movie
- 7. Location of world's largest Christmas tree
- 9. Deck the halls with boughs of
- 11. Name of candle used to light others on menorah
- 13. Once stole Christmas
- 14. Frosty the Snowman's nose
- 15. Will Ferrell's Christmas movie
- 19. Item given daily in *The Twelve Days of Christmas*
- 21. Plant, native to Mexico, now associated with Christmas throughout the US
- 22. Grinch used as a substitute reindeer
- 26. Best-selling Christmas single of all-time
- 27. *Miracle on _____ Street*

'Tis the Season to Spend Big Bucks



Image Credit: gifts4christmas.net

By Karli WEITZMAN '12

After the close of the Black Friday shopping rush, retailers are happy to report that sales have increased substantially in comparison to last year's spending. While many people started their holiday spending over Thanksgiving weekend, it is expected

that holiday spending in general will increase markedly from that of 2010.

Fewer consumers will be seen in stores this season due to the rise of online shopping. Black Friday brought an increase of about 25% in revenue over last year, according to comScore's report on e-commerce.

According to Lab42, most consumers reported that they are drawn to various retailers for additional discounts, including free shipping. Furthermore, Forrester predicts that e-commerce sales will soar to about \$60 billion this year, which would be \$10 billion more than 2010's total. Retailers are reporting record sales, which is more than uplifting considering the state of our economy.

Despite the soaring totals of holiday sales, economists are skeptical that the economy is actually improving. Americans, it seems, have always loved to spend money, and this year is no exception. Following that rationale, holiday sales cannot be indicative of any upturn in the current economic crisis.

Best Buy, while amongst the

biggest holiday retailers, retains half of the employees who were working last holiday season. And Best Buy is not alone in laying off staff as a staggering 9% of Americans are unemployed, according to MarketWatch. Other economists also point out that all of the price-slashing sales do not translate into increased profits or jobs.

So how much do holiday sales say about the American economy? Not much. As Europe's economy struggles as much as America's, sales simply imply that more people are searching for bargains while shopping for the holiday gifts, not that they have more to spend. It is impossible to tell whether the economy is improving or declining even further. For the coming year, everyone remains optimistic for economic improvement.

Opinion

Head To Head

Internet Domination: Beneficial or Detrimental?

There has been much speculation about whether the recently-debuted Google Plus, a social network, is edging into Facebook's territory. Meanwhile, Facebook introduced a new messaging system this year that allows users to claim an address similar to email. Many services are being streamlined into a few companies, but is this the best option for competing companies and consumers?

BENEFICIAL

By Beatrice WANG '15

In our economic recession and mounting chaos, it is crucial that large companies stay intact.

Companies like Google are known universally, not just because they've appeared in news stations around the world, but because they keep the cash coming in; Google alone had about 57 million dollars in assets last year according to its 2010 fiscal year report.

That much green saves other companies from bankruptcy. For instance, Facebook offers free advertising for businesses. These ads reach Facebook's over 400 million active users and generate an unbelievable amount of customers. Other Internet companies offer this business-generating platform too: YouTube has popular videos interrupted with short commercials, while Google has featured links on the sides of its pages.

In addition, companies like Google and Facebook consolidate our lives. From Google Plus to Google Finance to Google Earth, Google gives us the security of accuracy and the ease of accessibility using a single account. How many times have you used your Facebook account to log into a new website?

Large Internet companies also have unrivaled influence on our scope of thought. The Internet, especially, needs prominent companies—such as our favorite search engine, Google, which was even added to



Image Source: newmediator.com

the Oxford English Dictionary, along with LOL, Muggle, and bromance. These words would never have caught on if not for these internet giants.

With the rapidly increasing popularity of social networking sites, the voting percentage has increased significantly: there was a turnout of 49% of the eligible voters in 1996 in comparison to the most recent 56.8% in 2008, according to the Federal Election Commission. Nowadays, political figures have their own Facebook, MySpace, Twitter and YouTube pages that make it easier for the general public to hear them out. Even President Obama created a Tumblr page for his 2012 re-election campaign.

Aside from monetary and political influence, the Internet has the capability to reach all corners of the planet to find what we search for and to tie strings of information from that place into one big polygon.

DETRIMENTAL



Image -Source: fanboy.com

By Oriana TANG '15

Google's stock price on November 16th, 2011 was \$611.47 at market closing. Yahoo? \$15.72. Just from this astronomical difference, it is already evident that popular Internet-related companies—like Google—control the web.

With its own email service, web browser, operating system for mobile devices, and a host of other services, it is not far-fetched to say that Google plays a major role in our lives as well. Similarly, Facebook reports that the average user spends 46 minutes per day on the social networking site.

However, companies such as Google and Facebook should not monopolize the Internet. Technological monopolies are no different than any other, and the consequences on its competitors and users are just as severe.

While companies like Google and Facebook are not technically monop-

lies—meaning there are no legal barriers to market entry for their competitors—they do exercise control over the rest of the internet and over our everyday lives.

For example, small companies may have unutilized potential due to the looming influence of monopolists. Or, those that have already proved their worth may never be able to succeed because of the popularity of already-established, major companies.

Ask.com is one of those lesser-known companies. A CNN Money article reports that Ask offered content previews before Google did, gives content before advertisements, and has “superior features” that outperform those of Google.

But because Ask.com lies in Google's shadow, people are much less likely to go there for answers.

A lack of competition has yet another consequence: the monopolists can impose exorbitant prices onto smaller companies in exchange for their services because there is no alternative choice.

If smaller companies want to run an advertisement on Google, Google can then charge them any price because its dominance over the web ensures that these small companies won't seek alternatives.

The American dream is based on the idea that anybody can get to the top, but if a handful of companies hold most of the influence over the Internet, these ideals no longer apply.

Truth and the Value of Words

By Ethan COHEN '12

Perhaps political figures and news media alike should take heed of Ernest Hemingway's advice: “All our words from loose using have lost their edge.” The value of words has reached a notorious low in the American political sphere, and this year's Republican primaries showcase the media's over-coverage along with the candidates' dishonesty.

According to an IBOPE Zogby International poll, Herman Cain reached the peak of his popularity in mid October. Cain's “Nine-nine-nine” tax plan made top stories on MSNBC.com on October 12th and on the Washington Post online on October 18th. The question in this case is whether the media followed public

opinion, or if the people followed the news.

A September 30th CNN Research poll marked Tea Party approval at 28%, compared to its 38% peak a year ago. The New York Times online ran its last significant article on the Tea Party on August 16. In this case, waning media coverage noticeably preceded the souring of public opinion.

The freedoms of the press and of speech can only exist when the freedom of truth is the first priority.

When the media overexposes certain issues and perpetuates the irrationality of politicians who over-share, words like “immediate,” “absolute,” and “hate” lose their true meaning over time.

In response to the introduction of

the Affordable Healthcare for America Act, presidential candidate Rick Perry labeled President Obama as “absolutely socialist,” as reported by Fox News. Perry made the cover of Newsweek in April 2010 for “hating” Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal, which increased several taxes among other reforms. Ironi-

cally, Perry increased taxes and debt in the early 2000s as Governor of Texas.

Like Rick Perry, former presidential hopeful Herman Cain enjoyed a brief jump in popularity after proposing radical economic changes. Luckily for him,

Cain could not have contradicted himself in policymaking because he has never held a federal or state policymaking office.

After their brief spurts of media attention, both candidates are faltering in popularity with little chance of revival.

Irrational candidates are not reserved to the Republican Party. Platforms for the 2008 Democratic primaries included immediate eradication of nuclear arms, universal healthcare, and impeachment of President Bush.

Presidential primaries are the ideal platforms for unqualified candidates, and for news media that consider gross exaggerations made by these candidates to be newsworthy. The freedoms of the press and of speech can only exist when the freedom of truth is the first priority.

Welcome to the Awkward Generation

By Jillian GAIER '13

We've all heard of the baby boomers and Generation X, but perhaps technology has designated us with our own special title: Generation Awkward. The 'awkward pause' that other generations have learned to accept as natural has become too intense for us to handle. Why? As teenagers growing up today, we feel entitled to instant gratification. Texting, instant messaging, and video-chatting have exposed us to answers with the click of a button.

It is not uncommon to hear a teenager saying the word "awkward" during a single moment of silence. Until now, people have never worried this much about running out of topics to discuss and not knowing what to say next in a conversation because of our constant technological contact. Teens are no longer comfortable with each other unless they're on their phones texting, which could be problematic when it's time to interview for college, get a job, or find a spouse.

According to Nielsen, the average teen

in the US sends and/or receives 3339 text messages every month. That breaks down to around 111 texts a day, or about one text message every 15 minutes. No wonder people feel tongue-tied when it comes to conversing with their peers face-to-face.

But it's not just the silence that's making teens uncomfortable. Any unwanted circumstance can automatically lead to the

"I've called numerous teachers 'mom' before.

How are you supposed to cover that up?"

cry of "awkward".

"I was at Pizzetta the other night and I saw my teacher sitting at the bar. That was awkward," said junior Jana Ruthberg.

Speaking of teachers, junior Tomer Niv also has had some pretty embarrassing moments. "I've called numerous teachers 'mom' before. How are you supposed to cover that up? It's just awkward."

Admit it, you know exactly what I'm talking about. You've experienced the humiliation of waving to a friend in the hallway who totally neglected your existence;

the shame in spotting a group of kids from school while you're out to dinner with your parents; the uneasiness when someone tells you and the person next to you that "you two should go out"; the mortification of tapping someone on the shoulder thinking they were someone else.

And what is your response each and every time? Awkward. In addition to the

legendary "awkward turtle" hand gesture, people make Facebook groups to acknowledge these situations they'd do anything to avoid. On Twitter, an account called "TheAwkwardTweet" posts daily examples of uncomfortable encounters. There are even multiple websites dedicated entirely to these floundering moments where teens can relish the fact that they are not alone in their awkwardness.

Beyond specific events being uneasy for us, romantic relationships are often mutated. "I think that the reason people don't

do relationships as much anymore is not because of the commitment issue, but because 'hooking-up' is an excuse to be with someone without having to openly confess feelings of affection. It's much more simple that way," said senior Steven Ennis.

In an article written in the *Chicago Sun-Times*, the author, Sharon Jayson, explores the nature of casual sex on college campuses. She brings up the point that in modern day society, dates usually happen after a relationship begins, not before. Another statistic shows that 72 percent of both sexes reported having at least one random hookup before the end of their senior year.

Our generation has become defined by our inability to communicate in the most basic manner. While our communication methods have increased, our communication skills have regressed to those of the Neanderthals. Yup, I just compared 21st century teenagers to cavemen.

Awkward.

Roving Reporter: *The Lance* Asked Students and Faculty... What Would YOU "Occupy?"

By Morgan LEVY '15

"World hunger." -Kim Villone '14

"The belt. Everybody should know what I am talking about!" -Mr. Mead

"Darfur to stop the genocide" - Kristin McKenna '12

"My bed. I'm tired." -Teresa Lin '15

"The rainforest" - Liat Kastner '12

"OCCUPY LHS!" - AM Wired 2011-2012

"I would occupy the staircase to prevent people from getting to their classes." -Giancarlo Razurri '14

"Cups, free samples of froyo!" - Morgan Collins '13

"Neiman Marcus, they've been overcharging for years!" - Lauren Vaca '13

"Animal cruelty." -Christina Qiu '15

(Almost) Occupying Our Thoughts: The Populist Fallacy

By Zach LUSTBADER '12

The Occupy movement was expanding. As unfortunate as the use of the past tense may be to former tent-dwellers of Zuccotti Park and distant sympathizers alike, the decline of Occupy Wall Street has become a bygone fact. One could argue that it was inevitable by virtue of pragmatism, that the "Occupiers" could only physically occupy an area for so long. But the eviction of protesters from the flagship movement (and what *Telegraph* columnist Nile Gardiner calls "descent into *Lord of the Flies*-style chaos") only tells part of the story. Movements across the country are losing support, and even the most left-leaning pollsters are noting a sharp decline in public backing of protesters. Occupy has lost traction, and not just because of isolated incidents.

There are, instead, inherent issues with movements that operate under the premise of populism, the notion that their interests represent the will of the common man. The first major issue, ironically, is that there is no such thing as "the common man." One need only look at the diversity of signs present at the protests. They range from a pure rejection of capitalism ("Dear Capi-

talism, it's not us, it's you. Just kidding, it's you.") to simple commentary on civil liberties ("You have the right to remain silent, but I don't recommend it."), all supposedly in support of the same movement. If an overwhelming majority of the population (the "99%") was so greatly in favor of a proposal, only the greatest cynic of American politics could even begin to argue that it would not immediately achieve its goals; rather, no populist movement is truly a "99%" movement, but a minority trying to claim it represents the will of the majority, over-expanding to the point where the fundamental diversity of interests is realized, and ultimately collapsing.

If the first issue with populism is that there is no such thing as a "99%," then the second issue is simple: what about the 1%? Populist movements, especially Occupy, rely on the idea that a majority is being suppressed by some minority, in this case, the 1% of Americans in the top income bracket. Because the members of the "movement" have so many different interests, the only common theme is a negative attitude toward certain Americans. When such attitudes are aimed at



Image Credit: Eeshin Chang '12

Justine Jang and Zachary Lustbader reenact the protests.

racism or religions, we call the attacks persecution or discrimination. And when such a division occurs on the basis of socioeconomic status, we call it class warfare, an effort to segregate a democratic society on the basis of "us" and "them" given an individual's economic success.

As James Madison noted in *Federalist No. 10*, division is an inherent part of a democratic society. But such mechanized division, on the basis not of political interests but of demographic status in a nation,

is anti-democratic. It is indubitable that some of the protesters have valid points, but when they turn to the "populism co-pout"—inherently divisive both within the so-called populace and throughout the society as a whole—they do harm to the country's democratic values, the values that "the 99%" so adamantly claim to protect. Before joining the populist bandwagon, you may want to consider the larger bandwagon, one of a modern nation with overall domestic tranquility.



Lance Lite



Sophomore Perspective

By Rebecca POPPER '14



HOLIDAY WISH LIST

By Annie RISHTY '14, Alyssa POSKLENSKY '13, and The Lance Staff



Image Source: chamberfour.com

- 1) A 2400 on the SATs so maybe colleges *won't* look at my GPA
- 2) A new shade of jeans for every day in the year
- 3) A rocketship to Mars (to go to Pigfarts and meet Rumbleroar)
- 4) A contract with Ark Music Factory and a duet with Rebecca Black
- 5) No acne for the rest of my life would be nice
- 6) An anonymous Twitter account satirizing Livingston and *The Lance* #ltownproblems
- 7) For Facebook to stop changing everything because it's driving us all crazy
- 8) An iPhone so I don't have to BBM myself
- 9) A cure for senioritis
- 10) A romantic date night with Edward Cullen

The Secret Lives of the Livingston High School Teachers

By Carly ABENSTEIN '12

Although it's hard to believe, teachers do have lives outside of grading papers, preparing lesson plans, and teaching classes. Livingston High School teachers reveal their craziest stories, bizarre hobbies, and gossip they won't tell you in class!

Mr. Downing, declared the "Most Interesting Man in the World" by AM Wired last year, has finally installed cable television in his home. This history enthusiast shared his new favorite television show.

"I can't get enough of Gossip Girl," Downing gushes, "...Just kidding, the big benefit of cable is all of the Mets games. I'm a devoted fan."

While Downing watches the Mets game and jams to the Beatles, Mr. Cuneo, another history teacher, spends his time in the wilderness: camping, hiking, and kayaking. He also gets a thrill out of stalking Mr. Alan Brinkley, a lifelong hero of his.

Mrs. Glucksman, noted exceptionally for her love of literature and writing, spends her free time reading the Twilight series and playing on her I-phone. Glucksman is a self-proclaimed "Twi-hard." She has also backpacked through Europe and

visited her grandmother's village in the Czech Republic.

Teachers even participate in extreme sports. Mr. Jones, LHS gym teacher, affirmed his bungee-jumping, skydiving, and ultimate fighting double-life. Although Mr. "C" Cirlincione doesn't partake in such events, he finds himself in the middle of mosh pits at crazy concerts and even met the writer of Bruno Mars' famous song "Grenade."

Other teachers have acquired many hobbies throughout the years outside of school. Ms. Eisen is an active University of Texas alumnus, a ballroom dancer, and a kickboxing instructor. Dr. Alirangues swears by his chili recipe and frequently attends cook-offs with his son.

"We may have only won first place in the 'Decorating your Booth Award,'" says Dr. A, "but other times in my life, I've caught an eagle while hunting, been chased by a swarm of bees, and attacked by geese."

In addition, Ms. Deprospero shared an incident where she accidentally called the cops on one of her old boyfriends! On Halloween, she was pranked by a man in a gorilla mask. Scared to death, she called the cops and almost had her former boy-



Image Source: cmuexplorers.org

friend arrested from a harmless prank! Ms. Deprospero, an English teacher at LHS, also enjoys belly dancing and square dancing, and has eaten cow stomach out on a date.

Similarly, Mr. Trad has encountered weird foods while attending dinner dates throughout the world. In Seattle, he admits to trying crickets and scorpions, but chickening out after the "crunch sound." A once in a lifetime opportunity for him, Trad has even "had tea with the Queen of England."

So, next time you accuse one of your teachers of being dull and uninteresting, just remember, they might just have more interesting lives than you.

BCS Bowl Preview



Image Source: allstatesugarbowl.org

By Dan GREENSTONE '13

This season of College Football has been a very unusual one to say the least. The headlines were first dominated with very negative stories at Ohio State, Miami, and Penn State and now controversy has surrounded the upcoming championship game between LSU and Alabama. Many teams' seasons are over, with those advancing to bowl games having a few weeks off before they play. Here is a preview of the Bowl Championship Series (BCS) Bowls, involving the elite teams in the nation.

National Championship-

LSU VS Alabama- Prediction: LSU

Controversy surrounds this rematch between LSU and Alabama because LSU, in order to win the national championship, has to once again defeat Alabama, a team they beat in Tuscaloosa earlier this year. Oklahoma St., ranked third in the nation, was denied the right to

play in the game even after coming off a blowout win in the Big 12 Championship game against their state rival Oklahoma, while Alabama was idle.

Alabama and LSU are pretty much carbon copies of one another. They both play great defense, have great special teams, and score enough on offense to pull out wins. The BCS National Championship game is held this time in the Super Dome in Louisiana. Ironically the last two times the national championship was in the Superdome, LSU won, with their 2003 title under the leadership of coach Nick Saban (Alabama's coach now). The Tigers this year have beaten five teams ranked in the top 25 and three teams in the top 10. Running backs Spencer Ware, Alfred Blue, Kenny Hilliard, and Michael Ford have combined for over 2000 total yards of offense and 29 touchdowns, and for a team that does not pass much, wide receiver Rueben Randle

has over 900 yards receiving and 8 touchdowns. On defense and returning punts, LSU has Tyrann Mathieu, a Heisman finalist, who is the most explosive returner in college football. Alabama, on the other hand, is led front and center by Heisman finalist, running back Trent Richardson. Richardson, 6th in nation in rushing along with 20 touchdowns, provides a powerful ground attack. Despite inconsistent play from quarterback Jordan Jefferson, LSU, with a defense even more impressive than that of the Crimson Tide should once again defeat their SEC rival and capture the national championship.

Fiesta Bowl-

Oklahoma State VS Stanford:

Prediction: Stanford

While Oklahoma State can put up points, other than its performance against Oklahoma, its defense has been subpar. To win against quarterback Andrew Luck and Stanford the Cowboys' defense needs to hold up. Luck, the predicted #1 pick in the upcoming NFL draft along with running back Stephan Taylor provide a very lethal combination for the Cardinals. It should be a shootout with Stanford prevailing over Oklahoma State because of Heisman runner-up Luck and a defense that is better than that of the Cowboys.

Rose Bowl-

Wisconsin VS Oregon

Prediction: Wisconsin

Just like with the Fiesta Bowl this game should be a shootout, showcasing Wisconsin's stars, quarterback Russell Wilson and Heisman finalist running back Monte Ball, against Oregon quarterback Dar-

ron Thomas and running back Lamichael James. Oregon has given up plenty of points this year, surrendering an average of 24 per game. Wisconsin should prevail in this matchup of two great offenses.

Sugar Bowl-

Michigan VS Virginia Tech- Prediction: Michigan

After the Rich Rodriguez's disappointing tenure as coach of the Wolverines, the Brady Hoke era starts in Michigan with a BCS bowl appearance. This game features two great running quarter backs in Michigan's Denard Robinson and Virginia Tech's Logan Thomas who both lead their teams in passing and rushing. Playing in the Big Ten, Michigan has played against better competition than the Hokies, who play in the ACC. Even though both of these teams rank in the top 10 in team defense, Michigan should be able to win the game.

Orange Bowl-

Clemson VS West Virginia

Prediction: West Virginia

West Virginia, the Big East Champion is led by quarterback Geno Smith (3978 yards, 25 touchdowns) and receiver Stedman Bailey (1197 yards, 11 touchdowns). Clemson, while being able to move the ball down the field very well with quarterback Tajh Boyd (31 touchdowns) and running back Andre Ellington (10 touchdowns), is very inconsistent on defense and lost back-to-back games before defeating Virginia Tech in the ACC championship game. The Mountaineers but should capitalize on Clemson's defensive troubles and pull off the win.

All information from ESPN.

From Jailbird to Soaring Jet: The Plaxico Burress Comeback Attempt

By Ari GILBERG '13

Three million dollars. That's the amount of money a former inmate received only a month after being released from Oneida Correctional Facility.

However, this wasn't any disgraced criminal, this was Plaxico Burress a former Super Bowl champion and a menace to opposing cornerbacks.

Burress was sentenced to 28 months in prison after being convicted of violating the strict New York gun possession laws relating to an incident in which he accidentally shot himself in his thigh at a New York club in 2009 with an unlicensed gun. The ex-Giant was released from prison on June 7th, and by the end of July, he was a millionaire signing a \$3 million contract (all guaranteed) with the New York Jets, snubbing the Giants, who offered him \$5 million in incentives.

Even though Burress has been held behind bars for over two years, away from the game of football, he remains confident in his football abilities.



Image Source: zimbio.com

Plaxico Burress exposes the Oakland Raiders' secondary.

"A lot of people are going to be surprised with my conditioning...The only thing I can say is that everybody's going to get a chance to see real soon," Burress said. "Then everybody can make their own assessments."

However, many analysts did not expect nearly the same production from Burress. Bleacher Report's featured columnist

Matty Hammond wrote, "Burress turns 34 years old in August, well over the 28 years on Vick after he left Leavenworth in 2010. Three years without wear and tear or not, Burress' legs aren't what they used to be." Hammond's claim seemed to be spot on early in the season after Burress was left without a catch in the Jets' 32-3 thrashing of the Jacksonville Jaguars in week two.

"It's easy for me to stay motivated, everything that I've been through...Little things like that [0 catch performance against Jacksonville] - it doesn't bother me...I don't let something like that get me down. I got 14 more games to play, with a lot more in me to let loose. So when that time comes, everybody'll see it,"

Burress has definitely proved himself as of late recording three touchdowns in a key 27-21 victory over the San Diego Chargers in week seven; as well as making an incredible one handed catch on the Jets' division rival Buffalo Bills during their week 11 matchup. The grab set up Santonio Holmes game winning catch to seal Gang Green's 28-24 victory.

Overall, this season has proved to be an effective comeback for Burress who has 512 receiving yards 12 games into the season in addition to leading the Jets in touchdown receptions, with 7.

All information from ESPN.

Lance Spotlight: Stacey Su

She's got the "Best Of Both Worlds"



Image Source: Actionphotos.com

By Tiffany HONG '13 and Nikki YAP '12
Student by day, skater by night: Stacey Su shines as a member of the national synchronized skating team, The Skyliners.

When did you start ice-skating?

I started ice-skating in the 3rd grade, at a friend's birthday party actually. A coach saw me and said that I was a natural and that I should give the sport a try. So, I started with group lessons and then private lessons, and I eventually started skating on a team.

What was your first team and what team are you on now?

The first team I joined was "The Synchronettes" in New Jersey, but as of now, I'm with "The Skyliners" in New York.

Why did you decide to join a Synchronized Figure Skating Team instead of going "solo"?

I really love the team setting and the support each member contributes to the team. We've grown together as a family—caring for each other, growing to understand each other, and working together to achieve the same goal.

How hard did you have to practice to reach your current level?

I practice with my team 3 times a week for 2½ - 3 hours, and I practice individually 3 times a week. I also have practices before school for one hour and 2 hours on the weekends.

How do you balance your schoolwork and extracurricular activities with your busy schedule in ice-skating?

Competition season starts from November to March, and before that, we're constantly training, so it gets pretty busy. I don't usually stay out late on Friday nights because practice starts on Saturday mornings. I try to catch up on sleep every chance I get, whether it's in the car or during practice breaks.

What's your team ranking?

Right now, we're ranked first in the nation. We placed first in Nationals last year in Ontario, first in Junior Worlds in Wisconsin, placed fifth in World in Switzerland, and won the title of Team USA.

Do you plan on skating in the future?

Definitely. I'm planning on skating competitively for at least two or three more years during college. It really depends on where I'm going for college, because some colleges have their own team and some don't. If I go to BU (Boston University), then I would skate with a team outside of school, but if I go to NYU (New York University), then I would continue skating with the Skyliners. I'd prefer skating with

a team outside of school because it's much more competitive.

What are your future plans?

I would like to be an ice-skating coach and maybe judge a few competitions. I know I'll always be doing something related to ice-skating because it has become a lifetime commitment for me. But aside from my skating life, I plan on going into Marketing and Public Relations.



Image Source: Actionphotos.com

If you could do any other sport, what would it be and why?

Dance – I'm on the LHS team. Dancing and skating have very similar styles; I have the same passion for both of them.

What is your favorite quote?

"Do what you love and you love what you do." –Chris Walker

How has your passion for sports spread to other areas of your life?

As part of the Science Research Program at LHS, I'm studying sport psychology, specifically how anxiety and motivation affect athletic performance. I did a summer internship at Ithaca College under

my mentor, Dr. Miranda Kaye in the Sports and Exercise Science Department.

In general, skating and sports have taught me different things like teamwork, dedication, and making sacrifices. Having a passion for something gives meaning to whatever I'm doing and really carries throughout the rest of my life. Whether it's at school, church, or work, or between family and friends, what I learn in

sports can always be applied, and I really appreciate how I've developed these habits and routines from a young age. The most important thing is finding a passion in the first place. I've seen so many teammates or friends at the rink quit because skating was too hard, or they wanted to focus on spending time with friends and such. If you aren't passionate about something, it's never really going to work out. It always made me wonder, why would you waste your time doing something you don't love?

If you could describe your experience on the ice in 3 words, what would they be?

Exhilarating. Spontaneous. Satisfying.

What Were Players Doing During the NBA Lockout?

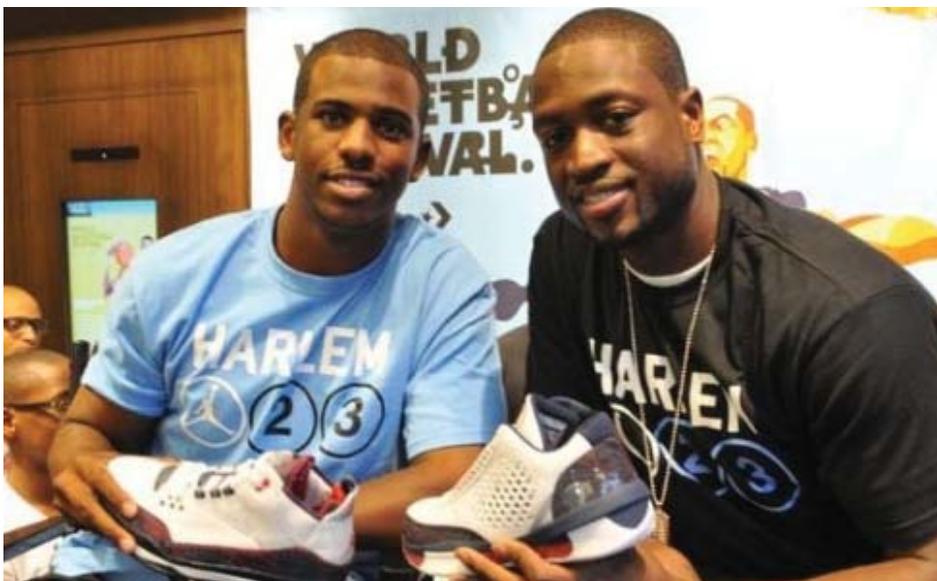


Image Source: Counterkicks.com

Dwayne Wade and Chris Paul advertise the Jordan Brand in New York City.

By Jared GOLDSTERN '13

With all NBA players out of work, many were looking to do play overseas

or simply find a paying salary. NBA stars such as Deron Williams, Wilson Chandler, Danilo Gallinari, Serge Ibaka, Ty Lawson

and Tony Parker all signed contracts to play in either Europe or Asia. There were many more players who have signed contracts to play overseas who are looking to continue playing the game they love and keep a steady paycheck. Not all players were looking to continue to play basketball and are using this time off to take off their second passions.

The Minnesota Timberwolves star duo of Kevin Love and Michael Beasley both used their time off to pursue other interests. Kevin Love one of the more promising talents the NBA has to offer played volleyball, and Beasley (a former #2 overall pick) took up ballet. One player completely took off from basketball all together; Delonte West of the Boston Celtics was employed by a furniture store in Maryland.

The larger stars in the game, such as Kevin Durant, Chris Paul, Dwayne Wade and Carmelo Anthony used the unexpected hiatus to build their brands. Over the summer Durant played in some of America's

most competitive summer ball leagues. Durant, a Maryland native, played on the Goodman League (out of Washington DC) team with fellow NBA star John Wall. The Goodman League team played the teams of other Metropolitan areas such as Philadelphia and Los Angeles. Playing in a game not affiliated with the Goodman League at Rucker Park in Harlem, Durant put on a show scoring 66 points in a regulation game. Apart from basketball, Durant played in a flag football game at Oklahoma State University at the request of a tweet he received from a student at the university.

The trio Paul, Wade, and Anthony, all signed by Jordan, took a tour through the US and China to shoot commercials to advertise the Jordan Brand. The players combined their efforts to run sponsored Basketball Camps and Skills Clinics along the way.

Although the lockout prevented the fans from watching the NBA, it didn't stop the players from pursuing other interests.