The voice of the John Jay student community

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#### **Hopewell Junction, NY**

**January 2012** 

### Patriot Football Makes History

By: Bobby Henderson

Wow, what an impressive year from the John Jay football team! Not only did we win the majority of our games, but we also made program history. After clinching a league championship, we stormed through the playoffs and made it to the Section Championship Game. It is the furthest that any John Jay football team has ever reached in postseason play. Unfortunately we lost the game in a dramatic fashion, losing by a touchdown on the last play of overtime. It was a heartbreaking loss for most

members of the team, but we were able to keep our heads held high, knowing everything we had accomplished over the course of the season.

year, I gave my full effort every time I stepped on the football field. I know that every other senior felt the same way

that ensured the team would be successful. This season had plenty of hard fought wins including going on the road and



Photo by: Bobby Henderson

beating New Rochelle, dominating our rival Ketcham on homecoming, and prevailing over Arlington in frigid, snowy conditions in the playoffs. There were many unforgettable memories in the 2011 football season, from the laughs at practice to the highlight reel plays during the games. This season will always have a special place in my heart, and I will never forget my days of playing as a Patriot. Expect to see much more from the John Jay football team in the next several years. WE WON'T BE BEAT! WE WILL SUCEED! WE WILL WIN!



# Cheerleaders Gone

By: Gennaro Nardelli

So far this year the varsity cheerleading team has done an outstanding job. These beautiful and dedicated girls spend the majority of their time perfecting their routines in order to achieve the ultimate goal: That is, beating Ketcham's varsity cheer. In the past three competitions they have done just that. Before their first competition of the year at Ketcham, where they placed first and were the grand champions, these ladies were extremely nervous. All of them knew the difficulty of their task, but still accomplished their goals. After coming out on top, they gained confidence in themselves and the team. It was clear to their peers that the team morale had improved. The goal was

the same in the second competition. John Jay again beat Ketcham by placing second. At this point it was evident that this team could do well if they focused their concentration and energy as a team. By the time they participated in their third competition (which Ketcham did not compete in), the ladies placed first again! When they competed for the grand champions title, however, they settled for third. Still, their coaches, parents, and fellow classmates were extremely proud of the team. Each time the team places, it makes them more motivated to prove to Ketcham and other teams that they are a true threat. It also proves to us that cheerleading is indeed a sport that displays the fierce competitive nature of schools.

# CHRIS: Community. Hope. Resource. Initiative. Service

**By: Jessica Williams** 

On Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 pm, the Spanish Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica), led by Señora Beiner, welcomed the community to John Jay High School in order to address parents about teen driver safety. They also listened to the parents of former John patriot, Christopher Ulanmo, speak about their loss and how what happened to their son can be prevented from happening again. All Sociedad members were dressed uniformly in black polos. They were standing at the front door of the school, ready to greet any community members that were willing to learn more about ways to acquire safer driving habits. Once the meeting began, Marissa Legnini, the membership secretary of the Sociedad,

spoke to welcome everyone. She let them know that by becoming more aware, the community could decrease the incidence of car accidents. A few of the guest speakers were Mrs. Leah Gindes and Mr. and Mrs. Ulanmo. Audience members were shown short video clips. One clip illustrated how dangerous a daily activity, such as texting, can be when combined with driving. Another video pointed out that the leading factors contributing to teen car accidents are inexperience and overconfidence. When the Ulanmo's spoke about how a car accident took their youngest child, the entire audience was brought to tears. The Sociedad members created a forum to be able to ask the parents and students questions about how they felt after watching and listening to stories of tragic loss. This forum developed an open space for

parents to talk about how anxious they felt when their children drove for the first time. At the end of the forum, the Sociedad members made personal pledges. These pledges dealt with changing any bad driving habits they might have had. Some pledges included turning off cell phones or not adjusting the radio while driving. The members then gave the audience the opportunity to say their own personal pledges to make good choices for themselves and their children while driving. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Ulanmo, the Spanish Honor Society members were able to facilitate the prevention of an epidemic that takes nearly 3,000 adolescent lives in the U.S. every year. If everyone were to take a personal pledge to change their bad driving habits, we could decrease the number of accidents in our community.

#### BREAKFAST AT JOHN JAY

If you are not aware, John Jay offers a Breakfast in the Cafeteria every morning from 7:00am to 9:15 am. Options for meals include but are not limited to: Egg sandwiches, French toast sticks, bacon, sausages, bagels, cereal, granola, hash browns, etc. Assorted snacks and other beverages are also available for purchase. The "Grab and Go" breakfast plan for \$1.15 consists of a Bagel (half or whole) with butter or cream cheese, and either apple juice or milk.

JAY NEWS P. 2



Have you heard about John Jay's latest club?

**O**PINION P. 6



Is text lingo taking over everyday speech?

Life P. 3



Can school actually make you sick?

**S**PORTS P. 3



Justin Verlander - Baseball's new MVP!

Life

Mac Miller releases his first album!

other illnesses caused by stress.

it gives a student many horrible

### JAY NEWS

### BU: The Newest Group at Jay

Presumably, many students at John Jay have seen these posters throughout the school -- clever signs on the walls promoting you to be "yourself." Who have been the architects behind these inspiring posters? Allison Serraro and Maddy Troy, friends and

the first meeting returned the are strongly encouraged to join, has had on some members' confidence has been phenomenal. Whether one likes it or not, this group has greatly contributed to the John Jay Student community.

Although I have not yet attended a meeting, I plan to at-



**Photo by: Maddy Troy** 

students at John Jay, formed tend the next one. Allison says BU to help students from various social backgrounds open up to each other and become more comfortable with who they are.

Only recently did I hear about this new group, and before learning more, I heard a lot of negative critique about it. Some people called it stupid. Others didn't care. Many thought it was only okay for girls to join. However, I have also heard loads of positive a "judgment-free zone." Many comments. Everyone who joined and gave it a chance loved it. According to Allison and Maddy,

By: Joanna Shaw

Sumeet Bhinder, 16, a senior

at John Jay, participated in the

that the first meeting began with some ice-breakers. example, everyone said his or her name, age, two positives, a negative, and an adjective.

Allison and Maddy said that many students told them they hated school, but looked forward to BU. Some kids didn't necessarily want to talk (just yet) but listened to other people who were already open. BU is described as room 220 or in the main office people choose not to speak up listen to Allison's words: "We because they feel awkward; they could talk up here for hours about feel some things are just so- what goes on, but you have to join all the members who came to cially unacceptable. Also, guys to understand the experience."

If you would like to ask the Guru

a question, e-mail him/her at

JOHNJAYTHEGURU@HOTMAIL.COM

John Jay Student Wins Pageant

Title

event and won the title of Miss

Teen India New York. There

second meeting. Some people with a whopping two so far. Almay dislike BU, but the effect it lison says, "Guys think it's a girl thing. You don't have to be a 'man' or 'warrior' here. [On the contrary], BU is [a club] where students can be honest and open, without the worries of being judged by their words, opinions, age, or gender. All information is strictly confidential. Stories and problems that are told are taken seriously and maturely." Allison mentioned that even she herself was tearing up by the end of the meeting. Some friends of the two girls made comments, describing BU as a "large heart-to-heart."

However, that's not to say BU is a circle of members who just exchange depressing stories. Allison and Maddie want to emphasize that their motive is the exact opposite—to have a mix of happy and sad, and for members to have a positive gain from the rather gloomy conversations. They think that regurgitating somber thoughts every Tuesday and Thursday would be futile and boring, as most would agree.

BU encourages you to be open and share your ideas with others, be more self-confident, and positively gain from things like ice-breakers and solemn conversations. Here, you will learn more about friends and strangers alike. Along with money to make a banner, Allison and Maddy have gained permission to paint a mural on a wall of their choice in John Jay, perhaps on the wall of the basement door. If you decide you would like to join BU, check it out! Its members meet every Tuesday and Thursday either in conference room. On a final note,

were four portions to the pag-

my first pageant, and I aspire to

less judgmental school environment where people are able to be themselves without being bound to a specific category or 'clique." One of the issues they focus on is bullying. Bullying has become a fearful reality for most students, both the tormenters, and the victims. It can be in person, over Facebook, or through texting. People just don't know how to treat each other well anymore. According to bullying statistics from www.stompoutbullying. com, and www.how-to-stop-bullying.com) 25% of teens are bul-

okay to make mistakes. So from now on, think twice about turning away when you see someone get bullied or judging a person you don't know. It's the little things that can change a generation

### Where Have All the **Snow Days Gone?**

By: Xiaoying (Sharon) Zhao

Winter break has flown by, and the Wappingers School District has only issued one snow day (not even for snow, but mostly for 2012 school year. And as midterms quickly emerge from the horizons and stress quickly builds up, I can't help but wonder: Where have all the snow days gone?

This year may be another extreme winter. New York, along with much of the entire U.S., experiences unseasonal lows in autumn and unseasonal highs in

ing does not simply increase the participate in more in the future." | temperatures of weather forecasts | bite more than we can muzzle.

The extra heat (which shows a trend of increasing the planet's average temperatures) can presently disrupt weather systems in unpredictable ways, causing stronger power outages) so far in the 2011- hurricanes, and sharp, alternating

evenly throughout every season:



- though I have a feeling they'll

"We are committed to helping students communicate, relate, and open up with each other." These are the words of Maddy Trov and Alison Serraro, the founders of the new club "B.U." Perhaps you have seen the colorful hand-drawn signs in the hallway with inspirational messages else is taken." This is a brand new club, and personally I think

lied, 77% of students are bullied mentally, verbally, and physically, 43% of students have been bullied online, and 53% of students have admitted to saying something hurtful online. This new club aims to change these heartbreaking numbers. "Our group strives to bring people of different social backgrounds together to talk," says Maddy. "We plan on holding such as, "Be yourself, everyone events that bring people together and make people realize that we all aren't that different from one the principles it preaches are out- another." This can make a differ-



Be YoUnique

standing. According to Maddy ence. The goal of the club is to Troy, "The main idea of B.U. is to change the way people in Jay talk create a more socially accepting,

#### about each other, and act towards each other. Hopefully this will inspire other schools, all across the country, to imitate. You never know. B.U. helps bring people out of their comfort zone. There is no negativity. You can vent, or slowly reveal things about yourself, as you learn about people vou never knew. It reminds us all that we're human, and that it's

key phrase, "the days he pitched." This was around every five days. Technically this means Verlander sat on the bench and watched his team play four-fifths of the year. Which, if you do simple math, equals out to one fifth of total playing time, or 20%. I find that to be a little unfair. Here is an example that might be a little bit easier to understand. Say you have a well established nonpitching position player. He is in the prime of his career, but prone to injury which leaves him constantly injured at different times

completely different parts of the game in almost every aspect, and the scenarios are not a direct relationship, but the games played are practically the same percent wise.

a total of 50 games in the whole

season, which is a little less than

two fifths of a regulated 162 game

season. Within the 50 games, this

player bats .338, with 85 hits in

251 at-bats, 18 homeruns and 24

stolen bases. Quality numbers,

yes, even more amazing numbers

if you multiply them all by 3.24,

which is the number you would

use to multiply 50 games to make

162 games (a full season). This

player in my opinion (and prob-

ably all your opinions), is not an

MVP because he only played two

fifths of the season. Now don't

Along with winning a World

Series, every player dreams of

winning a Most Valuable Play-

er award. In 2011 the honor-

ees of the award were the AL

ace Justin Verlander and the NL

slugger Ryan Braun. I have no

problem with Braun winning

the NL MVP -- he obviously

helped the Brewers during the

season and also helped them

win their first postseason se-

ries since 1982. Verlander win-

ning the AL MVP is what I

Tigers, went 24-5 with a 2.40

ERA and a total of 250 strike-

outs. No doubt a Cv Young win-

ner (which he won). Winning the

MVP is the controversial part.

able Player," which Verlander

was when he pitched. That's the

MVP stands for "Most Valu-

find to be "bush league." Ver- get me wrong, I know that a posi-

lander, the ace of the Detroit tion player and a pitcher are two

**Justin Verlander in action** 

Bottom line is that the 24 games Verlander won were not all just due to him. In order to win those 24 games, his offense (led by Miguel Cabrera and Victor Martinez) had to create more runs than the other team's offense. This means that Verlander only did half the work needed to win a ball game while a regular position player, no matter his skill level, played both halves of the inning to help his team win. As frustrated as this makes me sound, I think extremely highly of Justin Verlander, and his pitching is something that a person sees once in every generation (if ever). He deserves every bit of respect, throughout the season. He plays and a tip of the cap to his work.



2. The Artist

3. The Descendants

4. Moneyball

10. WarHorse/Harry Potter/The Help

### The MVP Controversy | Can School Really Make You Sick?

love to say school is a horrible place that annoys those who but sit through six hours of classes. The truth is students can get sick from the amount of work given in school. Many

ing deadlines of different as-Well, of course some of us signments as well as jobs for clubs and practices for sports, it's hard to avoid falling victim would enjoy doing anything else to a stress related illness. Chronic fatigue can lead to diseases such as mononucleosis. Many people know mono as a kissing disease, which is how it could students attempt to take on sev- be spread, but it can also can be eral AP classes a year, while caused by close contact to some-



multiple clubs and out of school let's face it, when you're walking activities, but when do these in the halls at Jay, you're brought students get a break? It has be- into close contact with just about come more and more common everyone. This disease develops that John Jay students become in adolescents mostly from ages ally worth it in the first place?"

also committing themselves to one else who has had it -- and

symptoms. Aside from some of the more common signs of illness, there is also lymphadenopathy, which is an enlargement of lymph nodes. This partially closes the throat and makes it harder to do simple things, such as drinking water. Some ways to prevent contracting a stress related illness are to get more sleep and take breaks more often Most of us tend to procrastinate. leaving those five page essays or outlines to the night before, which leaves two hours of sleep. Maybe. Well, as hard as it is to break the habit, it is much better to stay healthy and not have to experience chronic fatigue symptoms Students can also eat healthier to allow their bodies to maintain stress better. Doing homework doesn't always have to relate to stress: The stress can be limited by changing classes or losing one of the extracurricular activities to have more time for oneself. When one gets sick with an illness like this, one can be out of school for about two weeks at the least This will cause work in class to pile up, causing more stress, and making one wonder, "Was it re-

### **Hugo Review**

By: Peter Carellini

There are few instances where I have experienced true magic in a movie theater. Hugo is one of those exceptional moments - a film I'm still trying to fully absorb, a true masterpiece. Being a huge fan of the film's director, Martin Scorsese, I (along with many others) was surprised when the master of gritty street tales announced he would be doing a 3D family film based on the children's story The Invention of Hugo Cabret by Brian Selznick. However, when I heard the plot revolved around the turn-of-the-twentiethcentury development of cinematic special effects, my faith for this movie began to grow - I knew Mr. Scorsese, a cinema aficionado could turn this into something great. And when I got the chance to see it in early December, my faith was truly, truly rewarded.

acting newcomer) lives in the nooks of a train station, operatwonderfully deep and emotion- a work of art. Nonetheless, even as possible would go see this.

ally powerful portrayal), now a without the 3D this movie would broken old man – implies the automaton is stolen from him, Hugo and George's adventurous goddaughter Isabelle (Chloe Moretz, always a reliably versatile actress for her young age) team up to discover the secret behind this puz-



**GK Films** In 1930's France, a young or- indulgent for a legendary director phan named Hugo Cabret (Asa to make, I can pleasantly say this Butterfield, an emotive and tragic ode to the movies substitutes all pretentious knowledge for wonder and awe through use of, I (played by Sir Ben Kingsley in a of inspiring, a work of art within

will love the cinema-based storyline, but normal moviegoers will still be whisked inside Scorsese's vision for a charming and extravagant journey. This isn't a simple goofy children's story - the themes of loss, memory, loneliness, and regret are reverberating and deeply profound. These are all bolstered by the excellent. And ya know, despite this being a family orientated film the emotional moments (tear inducing particularly in the powerful final act) never approach schmaltz by being raw instead of theatrical. And yes, Asa Butterfield's masterful

still be as magical. Film lovers

Being a fan of oldies French music, I found the soundtrack to amusing and allowing for the film's light-hearted atmosphere to be adequately expressed. And the sets were nothing short of brilliant – like the practically crafted movies of the 1900s that the film depicts, the movie itself had grandeur reminiscent of classic Hollywood. Plus, there's also a great cameo that anyone is gonna love. As for the direction, it's Scorsese's signature knack for character that

crying helps with that as well.

acting to the music to the directing, compliments each other like cogs inside of a clock. This felt like one big wonderful attraction ...man, I wish as many people

helps this movie in so many ways. This may sound like I'm way too overenthusiastic but, well: 1 can't find one flaw in this movie. Every bit of filmmaking, from the set to the camerawork to the

#### eant: Indian wear, formal wear, ing the station's clocks after the daresay, the best 3D I have ever talent, and question and answer. The Fourth annual Miss Teen winter. Scientists predict that this 5. Midnightin Paris seen: it's like watching a visual death of his father, avoiding the In addition to winning the title of fluctuation will result in large India New York Pageant was held station constable who wishes to storybook than watching a video Miss Teen India New York, Suin conjunction with the Miss Insnow storms and record breaking Jezzbean.wordpress.com **CHUED** place him in an orphanage (Sacha game, like most other 3D flicks dia New York Pageant on Octomeet also won Miss Best Talent. cold temperatures before spring Baron Cohen, whose twitchiness feel, and it never felt superfluous. ber 30th, 2011 in Flushing, New "This pageant was really imcomes around. So, our hunger for periods of rainfall and drought. serves for both good ole slapstick It invites you in for two hours of portant to me in the sense that I was These conditions explain the un-York. The oldest Indian pageant sleeping in and making snow an-7. Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy true escape, and the 3D does not and a wonderfully pitiable perforable to represent my love for the gels may be satisfied very soon. seasonal temperatures. The suroutside of India, the Maaza Miss disappoint the hype built up by mance). The sole remnants of his prising winter storm right before India New York Pageant was full Indian heritage through my per-However, these temperature father are an automaton he had many saying the movie itself is a of young ladies displaying pride formance," Sumeet commented. Halloween seemed to have "used extremes are not caused by mere 8. Margin Call left his son and a notebook de- innovator of 3D filmmaking. The "I am ecstatic with the fact that I up" all last year's snow and might chance. It seems that these disrupfor their heritage and culture. tailing it; when a grouchy store-silent pre-title sequence of Hugo am able to represent young Indian reappear this year with the same tions in the weather systems all Produced by the IFC, this pageant keeper – revealed eventually to be scurrying around the labyrinth of 9.The Tree of Life ferocity. So don't worry, we'll teenagers in New York -- the opdrew in contestants ranging from stem from the increasing effects cinematic pioneer George Melies the train station is nothing short Photo by: Joanna Shaw portunities are endless! This was of global warming. Global warm- get those snow days eventually ages 13 to 16 in the teen category.

• The world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it.

HELEN KELLER

The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us.

~VOLTAIRE

Opportunity follows struggle. It follows effort. It follows hard work. It doesn't come before."

~SHELBY STEELE

• You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it. -JIMMY DEAN

### "The Thirteenth Tale"

Margaret Lea -who happens to

be suffering from her own past -

these two women reveal the his-

tory that has been kept in the dark

and was originally intended to

stay there. Diane Setterfield tells

a story within a story. Vida Win-

ter's storytelling capabilities draw

readers into a whole other world.

Vida lives up to her reputation

with detailed and out-of-the-or-

dinary endings. Setterfield's gift

of writing was unlike any other

I've encountered in a while. She

describes the characters with such

detail, you can envision them

very clearly in your mind. The

character's dialogue reflects their

personality and feelings spot on.

Even though while reading this

book the characters actions made

me a little apprehensive to contin-

ue (especially in the beginning),

I'm glad I did. This book is a sus-

penseful love story in many ways.

It identifies the meaning and bond

of family, and the truth (which as

we know is of most importance).

By: Christina Akroush

Do people tell the truth all the time? In a single word, no. Certain people have their reasons for lying, or hiding the facts. But, how far - and equally important, how long - do these said people keep it up for? Well, that all depends on the person and the situation they are in. For Vida Winter, famous novelist of fifty-six published works, her time has finally come to reveal her secretive past to all whom have been so desperately craving it. Winter has been known to, as she says, "...inch them in the direction [she wants] to take [them]... towards a prettier story than the one they had their eye on." Over the years she has succeeded in doing just that. However, due to illness and a certain interviewer who flat out said "Tell me the truth," Winter's will to contain her past is near its breaking point. Requesting the assistance of amateur biographer

Best Sellina Teen Books

The Hunger Games Suzanne Collins

2. Catching Fire Suzanne Collins

3. Mockingjay Suzanne Collins

4. Longitude Dava Sobel

5. Flowers for Algernon Daniel Keyes

Source: amazon.com

### How I Met Your Mother

By: Pawan Angara

This winter break. I donned my slippers, put on my house robe, pulled out my pipe (Just kidding kids, tobacco is bad for you), and sat down with one of my best friends: That is, Netflix. Lo and behold, How I Met Your Mother had finally been made available on Instant Play. It was as if this meeting were fated to happen. I began watching with anticipation -I'd heard that the show was funny, but I couldn't judge it before seeing it.

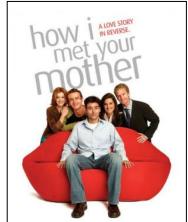
A few minutes into the first episode, I was already cracking up. The entire show cleverly plays with traditional sitcom style. Ted Mosby (Josh Radnor) tells his children about his epic romance quest that ultimately led to him marrying their mother. Somehow, he recounts minute details as he jumps from one failed romance story to another -chronicling not only his hilarious mis-

the **BiG** 

GAME OF HRONES

AMERICAN HORROR STORY

adventures, but also (thanks to his unusually sharp memory) those of his best friends. Aside from getting themselves into hilarious situations, the gang themselves



Moviepostersdb.com

have an innate chemistry that has surely contributed to the show's massive success. Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) is a womanizing rich man who never reveals his real occupation; Marshall (Jason Segel) and Lily (Aly-

TOP TEN MOST POPULAR TV SHOWS

son Hannigan) are a long-time couple with hilarious pet names; Robin (Cobie Smulders) is the attractive, career-driven friend. Together, the gang makes one of the weirdest, most outlandish sitcom teams that I've ever seen.

Although How I Met Your Mother is really funny, it isn't for people who don't like sex jokes, risqué situations, and mature themes. I would recommend that if you have a kid in the room, you cover their ears. Or better yet, just make them leave (Why would you want to cover a kid's ears for twenty-two minutes?). If you don't like crude humor, then Barney will probably make you vomit.

In my opinion, the racy topics are really what gives How I Met Your Mother a lot of its character and humor. While it's no Friends (Cobie Smulders could NEVER reach Jennifer Aniston levels of hotness) or Seinfeld, How I Met Your Mother is an interesting show with an engaging, comical plot.

6. WALKING DEAD

**Breaking** 

Vampire Diaries

DOWNTON ABBEY

Source: imdb.com

# Doetry

### Things To Remember

**By:Shannon McClintock** 

The first day of kindergarten, as sweet as that was. To the first boy you kissed, underneath the jungle-gym The time it got awkward, when you got "The Talk" But life doesn't always work out, How you think it should. To the first day of middle school. as the mean girls laughed. To getting wedgies, from the insecure boys. to the first heart break, that even made your body ache. The lie you told your mom about. where you were that unforgettable night The first time of falling in love, with the boy of your dreams. To the first time of having, your "first time". To that magical moment, of saying "I do". Your first born, Oh how he cried. All of these sweet memories,



#### Billboard's Top 10 Songs of 2011

1. Rolling in the Deep - Adele

2. Party Rock Anthem - LMFAO

3. Firework - Katy Perry

4. E.T. - Katy Perry

5. Give Me Everything - Pitbull

6. Grenade - Bruno Mars

7. Forget You - Cee Lo Green

8. Super Bass - Nicki Minaj

9. Moves Like Jagger - Maroon 5

10. Just Can't Get Enough - Black **Eved Peas** 

cover. After the first section, there

is a brief calm-before-the-storm

before a massive deep bass rum-

ble strikes with no warning at all.

Later in the song, a very dubstep

bass melody takes over. I recom-

mend listening to this album with

headphones or good speakers, as

I wasn't even aware of any of this

bass until I listened to it in my

friend's car. Blake clearly knows

and this shines through in his

inversion-laden chord progres-

sions and complex vocal harmo-

nies - especially those of "I Never

Learnt To Share" and "Measure-

James Blake gets 8 surpris-

When I saw first Battles play

Battles - Gloss Drop

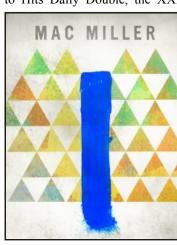
This is Blue Slide Park

By: Mike Aurrichio

Rap fans rejoice; Mac Miller fans celebrate. The time is now. Alas, the wait is over. Young rapper Mac Miller has released his first ever CD entitled, Blue Slide Park. The 19-year old rapper released his debut album on November 8, 2011. "Mac Miller is the future of music," said one Pro-Bowl football cornerback. Did I happen to mention that the Pro-Bowler was Darrelle Revis of the New York Jets? One famous celebrity said, "So in one way, I'm proud of him. I haven't actually seen the language - it's a little hard to understand on the song itself. Probably, it's not the cleanest language you've ever heard, but this kid is the new Eminem." This was THE Donald Trump regarding Mac Miller after his song "Donald Trump" hit the 20 mil-

lion viewed mark on YouTube. This Mac Miller isn't just the average rapper: He is one of the most regarded artists in the game.

XXL Magazine had this to say about the album, "According to Hits Daily Double, the XXL



**Rostrum Records** 

Freshman's recently released Blue Slide Park is expected to land on top of the Billboard 200

with sales estimated between \$175,000 and \$185,000." They predict this amount of money will be earned in just one week. Currently, Blue Slide Park is sitting on the number 60 spot on iTunes, but expect Mac Miller's album to be on the rise as the week goes on. On the debut day, Blue Slide Park was the top album sold on iTunes, and the day before it was out in stores, it was number three. Mac Miller's album was number three before it was even out. Blue Slide Park was ahead of albums from artists such as Adele. Coldplay, and Justin Bieber.

The sixteen song LP includes tracks like "Frick Park Market," "Smile Back," and the song that inspired the album, "Blue Slide Park." The Pittsburgh native is slowly but surely making his way up the musical ladder. It's only a matter of time until Mac Miller hits number one. Good luck to Mac.

### Music With James

By: James Greene

James Blake- James Blake Electronic, Soul, Minimal

I've had this album for a while since a friend sent it to me and I thoroughly enjoyed it. A couple weeks later, I was in an awful mood and I went with my friend up to New Paltz, where he bought it for me on vinyl. The vinyl has two bonus tracks, which I won't talk about, since they won't apply to most of you. Anyway, I'm just now deciding to write about it, since I think it deserves a review. Blake is a producer, pianist, and singer (a very good singer at his fair share of music theory, that), relying on his own voice in



**A&M Records** 

certainly a welcome change of excited to see what the UK pro-sound, taking queues from minitronic music, and I hope to see it Standout tracks include "Un- to drummer John Staniers unfalbecome a trend in coming years. luck," "I Never Learnt To Share," Evident throughout the album and "Limit To Your Love." was the repetition of lyrics, but an important thing to consider here ingly soulful white kids out of 10. is that this is not a "singing" act, this is an electronic act. Vocals are simply another instrument in *Post Rock, Experimental*, the mix, and should not be faulted *Electronic* over repetition, especially because of the repetitive nature of minimal electronic music in gen- on Later...with Jools Holland, eral. His voice is very developed I sat there mesmerized for all 7 and soulful: I remember my mom minutes of their song Atlas. I had remarking "Is this guy black or never heard anything quite like it. white?" and then being surprised It was tribal, robotic, and really that he was, in fact, white. The good. Back then, Battles owed vocal melodies are all extremely a lot of their creative output to infectious, which is clearly pro- front-man Tyondai Braxton, who moted by their repetition. Right had about as big an image as any with crooning indie pop vocals a couple occasions he dips into and memorable hooks. off the bat, you can tell he takes instrumental post rock band front- by Kazu Makino. Outro's song other styles, like the ghetto-bass

the sparse arrangement of the first hair easily likened to that of Omar most prolific guest, Yamantaka Star," and on a few tracks (most track, "Unluck," chugs along in Rodriguez-Lopez of The Mars syncopated triplet time, and then Volta. So, after listening through at almost one minute in, a wob-Mirrored a fair amount of times, bly metallic synch enters the mix. Another obvious example is in "Limit To Your Love," a Feist



it came as a great disappointment

that Braxton was leaving the band

Warp Records

to pursue his solo career. He was such an integral part of the band, how could they carry on without him? Well, from the moment I heard their first single from Gloss ments." The former presents a Drop, "Ice Cream," featuring vocal melody, then places another 

Chilean techno producer Matias on top of it, changing its appar- Aguayo (who works so well with ent tonality as quickly as it was the band that if he were to beestablished in the first place; The come the permanent front-man of latter is essentially an exercise the band it would be a welcome in layering vocal lines, that also addition), I had high hopes for the shows off his impressive range, album. In short, Gloss Drop did both high and low. James Blake not disappoint. Battles still has his music over samples. This is is a great debut album, and I'm their distinctively stiff robotic Dubstep-is getting labeled (often pace from much of today's elec- ducer and musician will do next. mal techno, and owing largely though Rustie leans closer to the the same formula for many of his tering precision, and infrequent use of the ride cymbal, which he keeps high above the rest of his set. Oddly, they may sound even more full on this record than Mirrored, despite being 3/4ths of the band they were. For an experimental band, Battles grooves surprisingly hard - evident on tracks like "Futura," "Inchworm," and "My Machines". The guest vocal tracks on this album are surely a

highlight, such as the impossibly

catchy, funky aforementioned

"Ice Cream" with its cartoony

guitar riffs and oddball Chilean

accented singing. "Sweetie and

Shag" is a more laid back track

Eye of Japanese weirdo noise band Boredoms, who shouts out what is either Japanese, or total gibberish to a grooving rhythm. The last  $\sim$ 2 minutes of the song, and especially the riff that comes in at about ~6:43 are what I imagine playing in a movie as people in a convertible drive down a long stretch of road lined with palm trees next to the ocean on a tropical island. Battles have really outdone themselves with Gloss Drop, proving that they can function as a powerful and unique band even without Tyondai. Standout tracks are "Ice Cream," "Futura," and "Sundome."

Gloss Drop gets 8 loop pedals

**Rustie - Glass Swords** Electronic, 2-Step, Funk

In recent years, electronic music has been emerging in more and more ambiguous forms, partly spurred on by Dubstep's acceptance into the mainstream. The effect of this seems to be that a vast amount of electronic music - even with only very loose ties to primarily) as Dubstep. So, even Dubstep side of things, to simply call him that would be misleading and not fully representative of his

Rustie, a Glaswegian electronic music producer, is fairly new on the scene of the infamous party city, but is already receiving a lot of hype. With this debut album on Warp Records, he brings to the table a mixture of some somewhat disparate styles, tak- tracks. Another minor issue is that other similar sounds reminiscent some influence from dubstep, as man could have, with his wild "Sundome" has probably the gangsta rap melody of "City out of 10.

prominently the title track), he explores the searing guitar leads of 80's hard rock. Rustie's sound is at times complex and lavered. with subtle changes and additions being made to hooks with each repetition, but he also knows when to strip an idea down to its basic components to provide contrast. This, coupled with the hard hitting nature of his hooks in songs such as Ultra Thizz and After Light, ends up being a recipe for effectively energetic pumpup songs. In between hooks, we are treated to glistening layers of build up, and sometimes ambiance. In fact, tracks like Glass Swords and Ice Tunnels, which serve as an introduction and interlude respectively, are good examples of his softer, sparkly sections. The album is, sonically, like being hit over the head with a bat - a glowing bat made of diamond that causes you to hallucinate.

Rustie relies on a similar structure for most of his songs, with sections building in intensity until they reach a breaking point and unleash a torrent of sound While effective, this can give his songs all a similar feeling, and one could wonder if he in fact uses



Warped Records

ing the synthesized slap bass and the last two songs, while not bad, lack the intensity of some others, of funk and disco, the buzzing and the album would have felt 16-bit synchs of old Super Nin- less anticlimactic were he to end tendo games and chiptune music, it on a song like "Ultra Thizz." and the half-time kick patterns Though not perfect, the album and quick hi-hats of 2-Step. On has its fair share of high points

By:Anonymous

### OPINION

#### LOL CHAT ACRONYMS

Skimming through my phone's inbox, I sigh wistfully as I read "lol" or "omg" in nearly every text message. The use of chat acronyms in texts, facebook statuses, instant messages, and emails has become increasingly common in today's world. Although some view the use of chat acronyms as a harmless streamlining of conversation, the flood of chat acronyms into nearly every form of communication will have detrimental effects on human-to-human relations and the English language. Chat acronyms restrict emotional expression, convey almost no meaning, and will harm future generations' ability to think.

Chat acronyms limi t the ability for one to articulately express something. There is a big difference between a message that says "That joke was hilarious!" and one that says "lol." The former insinuates laughter

AT&T 3G

Messages

town!!!

Messages

today.

myself!

I love u

Love Love xmas music!

Santa Maria's comin' to

No - I urinated my pants

I urinated my pants.

I am trying to say un

hemmed! I did not pee

Yup. Its my favorite vowel.

AUTOCORRECT

BURNE

kim

YEARS!

Do you still need help

sewing? I can come over

I heard you. Why?? Are

Awwwh!:) You do?

Mom

on Sunday.

you ok?

Source: autocorrectfail.org

Nice! Because Nina and

pinta have been here for

the humor. The latter, on the suggested laughter of the first

and expresses appreciation for phrases (even simple phrases), chat acronyms rob a message of other hand, is a cheap expres- its meaning and detract from the sion that conveys neither the emotional connection between



message, nor the physical act of out the ability to convey specific emotions through language, laughing. When used in place of

100% ==

Edit

Edit

humans as they converse. With-

that would stymie progress. While replacing phrases with chat acronyms is one problem, replacing silence with chat acronvms is another. Often, chat acronvms are "conversation placeholders" that convey nothing and create the illusion of meaningful conversation. A response like "lol nice," adds nothing to the conversation, and simply takes up space. In this way, chat acronyms partially engender meaningless conversation and emotional dis-

connection between humans. Perhaps the greatest problem with chat acronyms is that the use of chat acronyms may cause humans to lose the ability to think. We think partially in words, and often, we can pinpoint our exact feelings with certain words. Impressionable children who are exposed to chat acronyms as a serious way to communicate will begin to think in terms of chat acronyms. They will be incapable

thought if their language is limprimitive communication style ited to cookie-cutter statements. In George Orwell's 1984, "newspeak" is imposed on the citizens of Oceania to control them. Newspeak, a shortened version of English, makes free thought impossible because humans don't have enough words to properly express themselves. As long as thought is contentious on vocabulary, an excessive use of chat acronyms will cage the human mind and limit communication.

The development of language has taken generations. While a streamlined conversation laden with meaningless chat acronyms does ease one's fingers as one texts or types, it also slowly leaches language of its power. In order to have a free society where one truly express oneself through language, we must limit the use of chat acronyms in all forms of word-based materials. Language has allowed humans to advance to where we are now, and we cannot allow ourof complex and deeply emotional selves to destroy it with laziness.

## What's With All the Clothing Store Theatrical Extravaganza Commercials?

**Bv: Matt McNamara** 

Cecil B. Demille would roll in his grave. Why do clothing stores like J.C. Penny and Kohl's think that holiday-themed musical numbers will make their clothes more appealing to wear? It's like they want you to think if you wear their clothes, you will be happy and glamorous like an actor or pop star. These lip-synched, over-thetop commercials don't appeal to me, they just annoy me. They're probably wasting more money on these commercials than they are making profit. What happened to clothing store commercials America--a country whose media



promote a product of clothing. always better: Simplicity is key. Just film a celebrity wearing your Companies should just make their clothes and saying how comfortbeing simple and cheap? I guess able they are like every smart way. No big musical numbers, no advertising company does. What over the top ideas, just the prodpraises spectacle over substance- we have learned from commer- uct, and what it represents. Com--is okay with having a bunch of cials lately is that Americans will wannabe actors run around while watch funny commercials. How Michael Bay action flick, more singing a cheesy and poorly cov- about a fake reindeer wearing like a Martin Scorsese movie, ered holiday classic. I'd rather your clothes? I would definitely classic and enjoyable to watch.

#### Source: AP **Iowa Caucus Results** Vote % Name Votes 25% Romney, Mitt 30015 25% Santorum, Rick 30007 21% Paul, Ron 26219 Gingrich, Newt 16251 13% Perry, Rick 12604 10% Bachmann, Michele 6073 5% Huntsman, Jon 1% 745 No Preference 135 0% 0% Other 117 Cain, Herman 58 0% 0% Roemer, Buddy 31

### TOP TEN NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS FOR TEENS

- 1. Get healthy
- 2. Get happier
- 3. Be a better person
- 4. Find love
- 5. Show more love to your family
- 6. Be a better friend
- 7. Get better in school
- 8. Learn something new
- 9. Be a role model

I am by no means a neat freak:

I eat in my room (sometimes,

disgustingly, in my own bed),

I leave dirty clothes all over the

place, I keep things that I don't

really need to keep, and I stave

off cleaning until the last minute

before company arrives. Howev-

er, I'm not proud of my habits for

more than just hygienic reasons,

and I'm trying to change them.

want to get up and do things. Not

only do I feel more capable, but

I actually am more productive on

days when my room is clean. As I

By: Anonymous

10. Make some money

Source: teenadvice.about.com

Sometimes, Taking Care of

Yourself Can be Cool

a long way, I've also noticed that

dressing well and grooming my-

self increases productivity. After getting a job, I've spent nearly a

quarter of the money earned on

new clothes. It's actually hard to

look nice and not get something

done. It also feels great to get a

compliment on an outfit from a

friend. Although it really is a bit

superficial, dressing nice has in-

creased my self-esteem and other

people's ideas about who I am.

from eating too many cookies

and I've taken to getting snacks

from Nature's Pantry (a health

food store near the Ocean State

# My Complaints About the Holiday Season

By: Matthew Travagline

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. Halloween to midway though January. It's that time for holiday cheer and happiness. toys and candy. People holding doors, strangers helping strangers just because, dogs traversing their snowy neighborhoods to give bones to a dog in need: That's what I want to see in the Holiday season. I really couldn't care for (and I'd like to speak to anyone who really enjoys) the millions of dollars worth of nonstop Santa Claus commercials because companies want to look festive. It's obviously not the real Santa -he doesn't show up in pictures (just like Chuck because I guarantee the same Norris). As you may have been number of people would have

don't eat an occasional mozza-

rella stick -but primarily, I've

switched to healthier, more filling

foods. To top it off, I recently got

a gym membership (the thing that

really started this whole change

of lifestyle) and although I've

been too busy to attend it daily,

the few days a week that I can at-

tend it are extremely satisfying.

You don't need to be super buff or

athletic to go to the gym -exercis-

ing is a healthy habit that clears

your mind and gives you more

stamina to get through the week.

ing nice, eating healthy, and ex-

ercising related? It's simple -all

have to do with your general

physical wellness. When you take

care of yourself, you feel like you

can do anything...and with the

right mindset, you probably can.

I've only just begun my change

of lifestyle, but it's dramatically

changed my perception of who I

am. I don't think that I can really

sway anyone to change the way

they live –the desire to do that has

to come from within –but I can say

that with a bit of time and effort,

you really can change your life.

But how are cleaning, dress-

able to deduce by now, I loathe shopped at Walmart on Decemrepetitive holiday commercials.

Lexus: Chances are, if anyone us a safe and happy holiday. has the money in this economy to buy one of your cars, they won't need to see your commercial of a mom failing at Guitar Hero to decide. Also, I noticed that in all of those commercials it's always snowing in the background when they show the cars, but there's never any snow on the car. Food for thought indeed.

Any big chain store that wishes my family and I the best holidays is just blowing smoke. You honestly don't care if I have the best holiday ever, or the worst. You just want me to have a good holiday so I continue to go shopping at your store. Large companies can save their money

ber 26th had they not wished

Just because Santa Claus is a jolly old man and makes people happy doesn't mean you have to plaster him all over your commercials. Santa doesn't get back aches because magic courses through his veins. The big man doesn't drive a luxury car (but rather, a simple sleigh) and he drinks Coke, not Pepsi. The only thing seeing Santa everywhere does is force me to despise a time that used to light my face.

If you really wanted to catch my attention, you would do something your competitors are not already doing. Don't think I'm a Scrooge. I love the holidays, just not the incessant holiday commercials. No one needs to be reminded that it's December. We all know

# Says the World Won't End in 2012

Q: Are there any threats to the Earth in 2012? A: Nothing bad will happen to the Earth in 2012. Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than 4 billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threat associated with 2012.

#### Q: Does the Mayan calendar end in December

A: Just as the calendar you have on your kitchen wall does not cease to exist after December 31, the Mayan calendar does not cease to exist on December 21, 2012. This date is the end of the Mayan long-count period but then -- just as your calendar begins again on January 1 -- another long-count period begins for the Mayan calendar.

#### Q: What is the polar shift theory? Is it true that the earth's crust does a 180-degree rotation around the core in a matter of days if not

A: A reversal in the rotation of Earth is impossible. There are slow movements of the continents (for example Antarctica was near the equator hundreds of millions of years ago), but that is irrelevant to claims of reversal of the rotational poles. As far as we know, such a magnetic reversal doesn't cause any harm to life on Earth. A magnetic reversal is very unlikely to happen in the next few millennia, anyway.

#### Q: Is the Earth in danger of being hit by a meteor in 2012?

A: The Earth has always been subject to impacts by comets and asteroids, although big hits are very rare. We have already determined that there are no threatening asteroids as large as the one that killed the dinosaurs.

#### Q: Is there a danger from giant solar storms predicted for 2012?

A: Solar activity has a regular cycle, with peaks approximately every 11 years. But there is no special risk associated with 2012. The next solar maximum will occur in the 2012-2014 time frame and is predicted to be an average solar cycle.

Source: nasa.gov

#### Lately, in addition to clean-After many years of living in an almost constantly messy room, ing my room and dressing nice, I've been eating an assortment I've realized that I'm much more of healthy foods. Instead of eatproductive after the rare cleaning session. When my room is clean, ing the school lunch, I've been making myself a healthy lunch I think in a much more organized watch mannequins talk to each watch that if it talked. My point is of vegetables or a sandwich each way, I feel as though I deserve other in meaningless dialogue to that in commercials, bigger is not day. At home, I've refrained to get work done, and I actually

point in a concise, yet watchable mercials don't have to be like a

# How to Live a Healthy Lifestyle

drift off to sleep in a tidy space of Job Lot). I've also been drinking

my own. I can't help but recount a LOT of water. Believe it or not.

the day's accomplishments. For eating right and drinking water

this reason, I've been trying to gives you a good amount of en-

keep my room clean and refrain ergy during the day so that you

from indulging in my dirty habits. can get more done and sleep well

While a clean room takes me at night. That's not to say that I

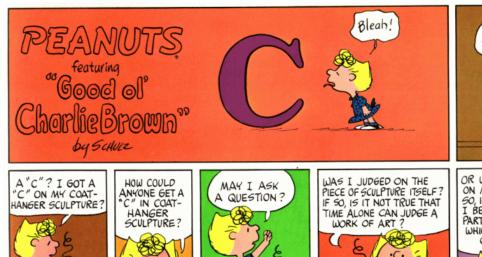
- Eat three meals a day that are low in saturated fat. Don't eat before bed to avoid weight gain and acid reflux.

- Exercise it will boost your self-esteem and self-confidence as well as lowering your risk for heart disease, arthritis, and high blood pressure. Begin exercising in slow amounts and eventually increase to longer workouts.
- Try to get eight to nine hours of sleep.
- Take breaks while working to reduce stress levels.
- See your friends having a strong support system is important.
- Avoid tobacco use as well as alcohol consumption.
- Stop reckless driving and speeding. Do not drive sleep deprived, either.

Source: medicinenet.com

#### **Peanuts**

#### **Charles M. Schulz**







THE SQUEAKY WHEEL



Source: wappingersschools.org

repare for







AM I TO BE JUDGED BY THE QUALITY OF COAT HANGERS THAT ARE USED BY THE DRY-CLEANING ESTABLISHMENT THAT RETURNS OUR GARMENTS? IS THAT NOT THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MY PARENTS? SHOULD THEY NOT SHARE MY "C



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**Answers** 

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ε	9	7	τ	6	S	8	L	Þ

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