

TARMAC

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Flyers Make Music on Aircraft Carrier

Band and Glee Club Perform at the Reopening of the *USS Intrepid*

by Alex Kamath '09 and Joey Tompkins '09

The last notes of "God Bless America" echoed across Manhattan's Pier 86 as the members of the Gold Band concluded their program on the stern of the *USS Intrepid*. The crowd that had gathered on the fantail burst into applause.

"As we played 'God Bless America,' I could see the pride on people's faces, especially the handful of veterans who attended our concert," said clarinetist Mike Murphy '11. "It was a solemn moment. I truly felt that I was adding to the honor and tradition of the *USS Intrepid*."

Forty-eight hours earlier, the Glee Club had stood on the aircraft carrier's hangar deck, side by side with members of the Marine Corps and the United States Navy, to sing "The Star-Spangled Banner" at a dinner whose guests included former President Bill Clinton, Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton, and eight-time Grammy Award winner Anita Baker.

Chaminade High School had the honor to provide some of the music and entertainment for the six-day rededication ceremonies for the *Intrepid* Sea, Air, & Space Museum. The festivities ran from November 6 to November 11.

The *Intrepid* was commissioned in 1943 and served in World War II and the Vietnam War. The aircraft carrier also took part in several NASA recovery missions.

The 29,000-ton ship had returned to its former Midtown home after a two-year, \$120 million restoration in dry dock off Bayonne, New Jersey, and later, Staten Island. The renovations to the *Intrepid* included work on the exterior, several new exhibits inside, and the placement of four additional aircraft on the ship's flight deck.

The existing planes on the flight deck were refurbished, and Pier 86 was outfitted with new exhibition space and park benches.

Mr. Bill White '85, president of the *Intrepid* Sea, Air, and Space Museum, arranged for the Chaminade Glee Club and Band to perform at various points during the rededication events.

"The Chaminade connection is what motivates me to serve and what motivated me to start *Operation Support*, to benefit military families of the troops killed in *Operation Desert Storm* in Iraq," said Mr. White. "That has led to my being at the *Intrepid* for 16 years and raising over \$300 million for these efforts."

According to Mr. White, "The Band and the Glee Club blew the guests away with perfect harmony and their performance of the National Anthem. It was great to have them present and to be able to see, learn, and experience the new *Intrepid* and its critically important national mission."

On Thursday, November 6, the Chaminade Glee Club performed for an invitation-only crowd of 1,100 guests and dignitaries at the 17th Annual Salute to Freedom Dinner. The highlight of the evening was the keynote address, delivered by former President Bill Clinton and United States Sen. Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The 102 members of the Glee Club opened the night at this dinner for donors and honored guests with "The Star-Spangled Banner." Every two Glee Club members were paired with a serviceman bearing the nation's colors.

"When we sang, I tried to keep in mind the sacrifices made by the thousands of Americans who served on this ship," said baritone Chris Sullivan '09. "I could see the

emotion on the faces of all of the veterans and active servicemen present. Our singing really meant a lot to them."

"It was a real privilege to perform on the *Intrepid*, but I was unsure about how we would sound in such a big room," said

See "*Intrepid*," page 5.



As visitors on the flight deck look on, Dimitri Moise '10 and the Gold Band perform "The Star-Spangled Banner" at the reopening of the *USS Intrepid* to the general public.

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Marching Towards Equality

America Has Made Great Strides, But More Work Remains



by Philip Lettieri '09

“Regardless of their stand on the issues, Americans of every political persuasion can and should be proud of an election that says yes, all men are created equal.”

We hold these truths to be self-evident: That all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

These few lines, penned by Thomas Jefferson in the summer of 1776, laid out the principles on which the new American experiment in self-government would be built. Jefferson’s words continue to guide and inspire the country that we know today.

Over two-and-a-quarter centuries later, the American people are still trying to realize Jefferson’s lofty goals. They have achieved some notable successes. They have also been guilty of some notable failures. That mixture of success and failure has characterized American history. It even holds true today.

At the time of the Revolution, and for some time afterward, only white men could vote; only white men enjoyed full participation in the fledgling United States government. In some places, an individual’s faith – even a white man’s faith – prohibited him from holding office and excluded him from certain land-ownership rights.

All men created equal? Well, not quite yet.

And then there is the question of equality for women. Until women were given the right to vote in 1920, the United States did not even come close to equality for all. Some would argue that women have still not broken through the highest glass ceiling, although Hillary Clinton would contend that it now has 18-million cracks.

Back in 1848, at the Seneca Falls Convention, suffragette Elizabeth Cady Stanton drew her inspiration from Thomas Jefferson when she drafted her own Declaration of Sentiments regarding women’s rights. “We hold these truths to be self-evident,” she wrote, “that all men *and women* [emphasis added] are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.”

This country’s progress towards full and equal rights for women is a testimony to America’s dedication to the Jeffersonian ideal. Hillary Clinton, Condoleezza Rice, Madeleine Albright, and Sarah Palin are all pioneers for women’s rights and, more importantly, equality for all.

Just as Jefferson’s ideal has inspired generations of women, it has also inspired generations of African-Americans. On the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on a hot, humid August day in 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called upon his fellow citizens of all colors to make good on the promise of the Declaration of Independence.

“I have a dream,” his voice echoed across the Washington Mall, “that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: ‘We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal.’ ”

King’s speech, the 19th Amendment extending voting rights to women, the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* Supreme Court decision overturning “separate but equal” status under the law were all benchmarks in American history. These and many other events have marked America’s gradual evolution from the ideal of equality to its reality.

On Tuesday, November 4, America reached another benchmark on the march towards equality. The election of Barack Obama as the first African-American President of the United States is a milestone of enormous proportions, something that most African-Americans sitting at the back of the bus in the Jim Crow South would have found almost impossible to imagine. Regardless of their stand on the issues, Americans of every political persuasion can and should be proud of an election that says yes, all men are created equal.

Or are they?

A mere four days after the election of America’s first African-American president, an Ecuadorian immigrant, Marcelo Lucero, was brutally murdered by a gang of seven teenagers in Patchogue.

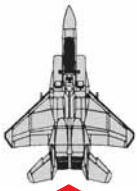
The tragedy serves as a grisly reminder of just how far this country still has to go to realize that “all men are created equal” and that “they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights,” life among them.

See “Created Equal,” page 4.

TARMAC

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Physics Students Prevail at Yale

by Fred Cucciniello '11

I was using a pirate telescope, but instead of seeing a desert island, I was looking at an eye chart, just like the ones you read at an optometrist's office," said Spencer Schwacke '09. *Pirate Vision* was the name of the game, and the Flyers saw considerable success, capturing second place out of 48 teams.

This was just one of six events in which eight Flyers participated at this year's Yale Physics Olympics, held on Saturday, October 18. Each event lasted 35 minutes and tested the participants' knowledge of matter, energy, motion, and force.

The eight seniors divided themselves up into two groups. Team Gluon consisted of Bobby Connell, Steve Dachert, Spencer Schwacke, and Mike Strandberg, while Team Quark included Rob Eslinger, Alex Kamath, Phil Lettieri, and Byron Smith.

In the event *Marbles*, teams had to figure out how many marbles could be found in a given container, and they had to do so by calculating, not by counting. "It required hard work, but we kept trying, and, in the end, we captured seventh place," said Rob Eslinger.

Other events included *Synchronicity*, which tested each team's ability to match up cylinders with holes in them

so that a light could shine through the holes. *Gas Balloons* challenged each team's ability to determine the density of gases in two balloons, one filled with helium, and the other filled with a gas heavier than air.

In addition to these events, teams also participated in two others: *Electromagnets*, in which participants competed to create the strongest magnetic field, and *Fermi Quiz*, which required competitors to make estimates using the powers of 10.

An awards ceremony capped off the day. Team Quark finished third overall out of 48 teams. This marked the first time that the Flyers placed overall in a Yale Physics Olympics competition.

"I enjoyed applying the science that we learned in school to these events," said Alex Kamath, "and finishing in third place was a great experience."

Team Gluon also did very well, finishing seventh overall.

"It's exciting to see students from the Northeast enjoying a learning experience related to a difficult subject," said science-department chair Mr. Salvatore Trentacoste, who coached Chaminade's two teams. "The competition encourages teamwork and gets students to think outside the box." ➤



At the Yale Physics Olympics, seniors (l.-r.) Phil Lettieri, Alex Kamath, Rob Eslinger, and Byron Smith calculate the density of helium in a balloon.

Musicians, Singers Set for All-County

by Franco Spadafora '11

Recently, band moderator Bro. Karl Hornberger announced those members of the Chaminade music program who have been selected to perform at the All-County Concert in January, to be held at the Tilles Center at C.W. Post University. Sixteen juniors and seniors were selected.

For the Orchestra:

- Lukas Bentel '10 – Cello
- Gregory Dick '10 – Violin
- Alex Kamath '09 – French Horn
- Dylan Sinnickson '10 – Double Bass

For the Chorus:

- Anthony Fradella '10 – Tenor
- Brendan Harrington '09 – Tenor
- Michael Neal '09 – Bass
- Daniel Papa '10 – Tenor
- Alex Signorile '09 – Bass

For the Band:

- Patrick Bender '10 – Tuba
- Christopher Dmuchowski '10 – Clarinet
- Vincent Marchetta '09 – Tenor Sax
- Christopher Rypl '09 – Tenor Sax
- Charles Steinman '09 – Trumpet
- Christopher Wallace '09 – Clarinet

For the Jazz Band:

- Kevin McGowan '09 – Vocal Jazz Rhythm

In addition, 17 freshmen and sophomores were selected.

For the Orchestra:

- Nikolas Bentel '12 – Viola
- Timothy Cole '11 – Violin

For the Chorus:

- Michael Adam '11 – Tenor
- James Agolia '12 – Tenor
- Richard Barakat '11 – Baritone
- Kevin Berry '11 – Bass
- Ryan Glass '12 – Bass
- Timothy Magalona '11 – Tenor
- John Magovern '11 – Tenor
- Brendan Michaelis '11 – Baritone

For the Band:

- Joseph Connors '11 – Snare
- Declan Hart '11 – Baritone Horn
- Robert Landhauser '11 – Alto Sax
- Michael Murphy '11 – Clarinet
- John Vermaelen '11 – Trumpet

For the Jazz Band:

- Scott Goldberg '11 – Trombone
- Eric Walpole '11 – Guitar

In addition, juniors Dimitri Moise and Dylan Sinnickson were chosen to perform in the New York All-State Conference in Rochester, from December 4 to 7.

Lukas Bentel '10 and James Mingrino '09 were chosen as All-State alternatives. ➤

Christopher Dmuchowski '10



Kevin McGowan '09



FROM THE Pilot's Seat

Lessons Learned on the Links

"Joe the Caddie" Teaches Flyer About the Game of Life



by Kevin Doherty '09

"... look at all the good that has happened to you, count your blessings, and move forward into the future."

Every summer for the past five years, I have worked as a caddie at the Huntington Crescent Club. At the end of each school year, I set aside a "relief" period after comprehensive exams. During that time, I relax and unwind from the stressful school year.

Once that time is over, however, I begin working at the club. There, I have learned many important lessons.

I cross paths with people and personalities from all walks of life at the club. Among these, as you might guess, are the caddies, and some of them, called "lifers," have been working at the club for as long as their name suggests.

Although some of the more self-impressed members of the club barely acknowledge the caddies with even a smile or a thank-you, one of the lifers has taught me some of my most important life lessons. For the sake of this story, and taking my cue from the recent Presidential elections, I'll call him Joe – Joe the Caddie.

From what I've learned during my time on the golf course, social class has little to do with real class.

Joe is a classy guy; in fact, he is one of the classiest guys I've ever met. His speech may not be polished, but it is always full of simple, homespun wisdom. He may not be the most important person in the club's pecking order, but he is personable to everyone he meets. He doesn't have a seat in the club's front office, but this kind and caring gentleman definitely has a place of honor in the hearts of his fellow caddies and in the hearts of many club members as well.

In short, Joe's 30 years at the Huntington Crescent Club have given him a wealth of experience that he draws on frequently to advise golfers and, from time to time, young men like me.

One day last summer, I took a loop with Joe. He showed me the intricacies of the course and helped me understand the ins and outs of caddying more clearly.

At the fifth hole, Joe and I got into a conversation about our personal lives. Joe, a movie buff, joked that he had spent the majority of his high-school years watching movies instead of attending class. Nevertheless, Joe seemed pretty happy with his lot in life.

Soon, the focus of the conversation turned on me. Joe asked what I was interested in and what made me happy. I touched on a few of my interests, including snowboarding, sports in general, and hanging out with my friends.

Then, Joe told me something I will never forget.

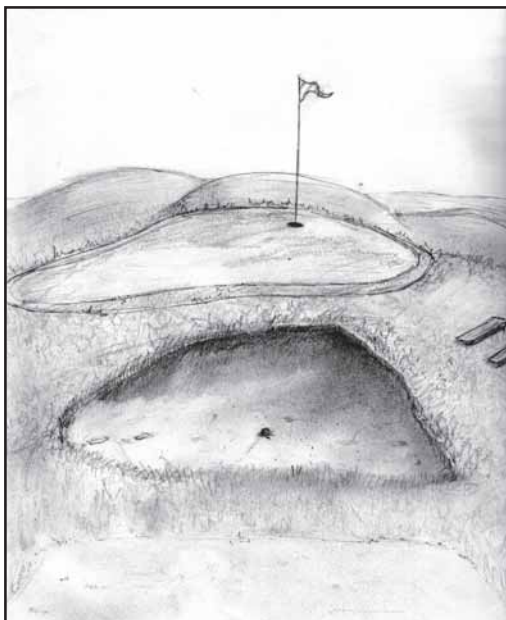
"Kev, as you go through life, you'll get to some rough spots and have some success, and hopefully the successes will outweigh everything else. One thing you need to know is that, even when you have problems or feel down, you always have to look ahead. If there's one thing I've learned from my own life, it is not to dwell on the bad, but to celebrate the good and to keep on moving along in life."

Joe added that I should choose a career path that will bring me happiness, not necessarily a big paycheck. "Since we will all have to work," he explained, "we should choose a job that we enjoy doing. Think of yourself waking up at the age of 45, and imagine

your reaction to how you are making a living. If that reaction is satisfying, you are in the right career path."

As we seniors start choosing our colleges and our careers, as we all move on to the next phase of our lives, we will, no doubt, all have our problems, but we will all enjoy plenty of success as well. We will be challenged in every way: socially, academically, and economically. I hope we will take our experiences and learn from them. I hope we will build on the opportunities given to us by our parents and this school.

As Joe so eloquently put it, "Don't dwell on the problems you might have. Instead, look at all the good that has happened to you, count your blessings, and move forward into the future." ➔



"Created Equal," continued from page 2

Mr. Lucero, a resident of Patchogue for 16 years, was, in fact, an illegal immigrant, and illegal immigration undoubtedly raises a whole host of questions about which reasonable men and women may differ. Illegal immigration does not, however, justify the denial of "unalienable rights" to all men and women, who are, as the Declaration of Independence plainly stated some 232 years ago, "created equal."

Regardless of which side of the debate Americans find themselves on – whether they favor an open-door policy or strict immigration regulations – one thing is indisputable: Marcelo Lucero, as well as the millions of other illegal immigrants who cross our borders, was a human being.

We may argue over what Constitutional rights illegal immigrants have. We may not see eye-to-eye on whether illegal immigrants should be issued driver's licenses. We may not agree on whether illegal immigrants should have access to public, taxpayer-funded services like education and healthcare.

We can argue about all of these issues and many more. But the one thing that remains indisputable is that America's illegal immigrants have the same basic rights as its citizens: life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These rights derive not from our citizenship, but from our humanity.

As Americans, we have an obligation to safeguard those rights. All men are created equal and are endowed by

their creator with certain unalienable rights that transcend gender, race, religion, and nationality. We have gone to war, at home and abroad, to preserve that bedrock principle.

On November 4, Americans took one more step towards understanding what "all men created equal" means. Barack Obama's election will always serve as a turning point in America's history and is a symbol of this country's dedication to one of its highest ideals.

Let us consider Marcelo Lucero's senseless murder, then, as a reminder of just how much more we must do. Even though seven killed one, they attacked all of mankind when they trampled the most revered principle of our nation. ➔

CHS Musicians Anchor Aircraft Reopening

"Intrepid" continued from page 1

Gold Glee Club director Bro. Robert Lahey. "My fears were groundless; we did a great job for a good cause."

Mr. Haig Mardrossian, director of the Crimson Glee Club, agreed. "It was an experience for the Glee Club that they will look back on proudly for the rest of their lives."

Before their performance, the Glee Club had the opportunity to visit the *USS Bataan*, an active Navy multipurpose amphibious assault ship that had come to New York for the rededication of the *Intrepid*. "I really liked our visit to the *USS Bataan*," said bass Charlie Hamparian '09. "The sailors gave us a tour of all the weaponry on board. That ship is 11,000 tons of military might."

Two days later, on Saturday, November 8, 58 members of the Gold Band performed for the *Intrepid's* official opening to the public. The band spent the day at the museum and performed two concerts – one on the pier and one on the stern of the ship.

Second tenor Dimitri Moise '10 introduced each of the pieces and sang along during several of them. Some of the notable songs from the Gold Band's repertoire included "The Star-Spangled Banner," "Battle Hymn of the Republic," "Amazing Grace," "God Bless America," and two John Philip Sousa marches – "Stars and Stripes Forever" and the "Washington Post March."

Intermittent drizzle in the morning limited the size of the crowd that stopped to listen to the Flyers. A steadier, heavier rain forced the second concert to the smaller, covered quarters of the fantail deck.

"Our audience consisted mostly of family members," said Bro. Stephen Balletta, who spent the day taking photographs of the performance.

"Still, when the band started playing and Dimitri belted out 'The Star-Spangled Banner,' you could see visitors crowding around the starboard side of the aircraft carrier to get a glimpse of the performance. The band played well, and Dimitri's voice definitely carried across the pier and the *Intrepid's* flight deck."

What the crowd lacked in size, they made up for in heartfelt emotion. According to alto saxophonist Mike Perlowitz '09, "As we played the National Anthem, I could see some of the sailors stop their patrols and salute the flag until we finished. During our first performance, a World War II vet and his wife stopped to listen to our concert. They were obviously moved."

Band moderator Bro. Karl Hornberger also noted the emotional impact of the



Their big debut: (l.-r.) Kevin Lawkins '09, Vinny Marchetta '09, and Brandon Babwah '09 arrive at Manhattan's Pier 86 to perform two concerts on board the *Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum*.

day, as well as the many last-minute changes to the program necessitated by the inclement weather. The day was "hectic," according to Bro. Karl, but "the Band adapted quite well" to the circumstances.

"It was certainly was a memorable and historic opportunity for the Band. After all, how often do you get to play at the rededication of an aircraft carrier? The boys did a fine job," said Bro. Karl.

"I think the band did a great service for the *Intrepid* and for our nation as a whole," said Dr. Stephen Johnson, father of trumpeter Matt Johnson '09 and one of the many family members in attendance. "They really inspired those present with their patriotic music. Our family definitely enjoyed our daylong visit to the *Intrepid*."

"It was an honor to be asked to perform at such a historic venue," said Gold Band conductor Mr. Brian Lewis. "The Band performed, as it always does, with great enthusiasm, spirit, and passion."

Bro. Robert Lahey agreed: "I think I can speak for all of us when I say that this was one of the Glee Club's most memorable performances. We were honored to be invited and honored to perform. I think – I certainly hope – we rose to the occasion and brought honor to the school and to the *Intrepid*." ➔



Jonathan Faglione '11 (left), Casey McGinley '11, and 100 other members of the Glee Club opened the 17th Annual Salute to Freedom Dinner, which featured former President Bill Clinton (above) as the keynote speaker.

Right: Two days after the Glee Club, the Gold Band performed on the *Intrepid*, to the delight of family and friends.



Home for the Holidays

Patchogue Parade Beats Big-City Tradition Any Day



by Liam Ray '10

"I could spend all day at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and not learn a thing about the people around me. I spent a mere two hours on Main Street in Patchogue, and I felt like I had lived there all my life."

I woke up late on Thanksgiving morning, but luckily still in time to catch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on television. I watched dozens of huge balloons, innumerable floats, marching bands from around the country, and thousands of other costumed performers march past a sizable and enthusiastic crowd.

Later, on the Saturday after Thanksgiving, I dressed warmly and set out for the Patchogue Christmas Parade. And while the parade's attendance may only number in the thousands, it is an 86-year-old tradition that is just as important to the community as any Macy's parade.

Patchogue's annual parade this year featured live music, classic cars, karate, pirates, race boats, and dozens of other attractions that provided a fascinating cross-section of the local community.

I began my evening in Patchogue the way I end most of my travels: looking for a parking space. I finally found a spot about a half-mile from the parade – a testament to the event's popularity.

As I walked to Patchogue's Main Street, I was expecting to run into departing parade-goers discouraged by that night's particularly cold weather.

Instead, I found a cheery, vibrant crowd of around eight thousand taking in the sights and sounds.

The parade began at six with a procession of several local fire departments. Next came a group of Knights from the local Knights of Columbus chapter, complete with a small "Keep Christ in Christmas" float.

Three boats from the local Offshore Boat Racing circuit made appearances, as well as a private yacht filled with waving "pirates."

I took a break from the parade after a while to seek out the much-vaunted "live entertainment."

I was not disappointed. Several local bands performed popular modern Christian hits and even threw in Christmas classics like "The Little Drummer Boy." Local churches provided free refreshments for the group gathered in front of the stage.

Perhaps the best part of the parade was the sense of community; I saw representatives from a number of

local organizations, including the Lions Club, the Kiwanis Club, and several Boy and Girl Scout troops.

A highlight of the night came when Patchogue's New York State and World Champion Double Dutch Jump-Rope Team gave a demonstration of one of its award-winning routines.

Following them was a group of Ecuadorians performing traditional dances from their home country. Their appearance represented a glimmer of hope, a stubborn

faith in Patchogue's rich ethnic diversity, even after the brutal murder of an Ecuadorian immigrant only weeks earlier.

As the parade wound down, I headed over to the Patchogue River to check out the Holiday Boat Parade. Unfortunately, the fireworks show planned to follow the event was canceled after the Grucci Company pulled support over naming issues. Nevertheless, an intrepid group of on-lookers stayed to watch the festively decorated boats circle the docks.

By the time the parade ended, I had arrived at an important realization: there's something about a local parade like the one in Patchogue that you just can't find at major events like Macy's Thanksgiving festivities. And this something is a feeling more than anything else — a feeling of camaraderie with the people around you.

The people who attended the Patchogue parade weren't there because they wanted to be on TV or because it's something that "everybody should do at least once." They were there because they wanted to be — because it's a tradition that children, parents, couples, and everyone in between can share.

The Patchogue Christmas Parade is an important tradition not because it's especially large or well-attended, but because of what it is: a two-hour distillation of community. I could spend all day at the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade and not learn a thing about the people around me. I spent a mere two hours on Main Street in Patchogue, and I felt like I had lived there all my life.

Thanks, Mr. Macy, but I'd trade an armchair in Times Square for a spot in the crowd in Patchogue any day. ➔



Senior Blood Drive Not in Vain

Class of '09 Contributes 132 Pints to L.I. Blood Services

by Brendan Tully '09

It was only first period, but Darby Auditorium's lobby was already filling up with seniors ready to donate blood. As is always the case on blood-drive days, some of the donors were a bit apprehensive.

"I wasn't as nervous as I had been when I donated blood for the first time as a junior," said Jack Spitz '09, "but getting poked with a needle is never easy."

On Friday, November 14, three "Bloodmobiles" from the Long Island Blood Services arrived on the corner of Jackson Avenue and Saville Road. Over the course of the day – the first of three annual blood drives held at Chaminade – Long Island Blood Services collected 132 pints of blood, one more pint than last year's total for the November blood drive.

Sponsored by the National Honor Society, the drive was coordinated by NHS moderator Mr. Thomas Dillon. NHS president Chris Dooley '09 and vice-president

Tom Ciavarella '09 helped out, as did generous volunteer Bryan Hehn '09.

The blood drive was open to all senior NHS members. Participation was not mandatory, but that didn't stop the senior Flyers from showing their true colors as they turned out in full force.

"Any time I have the opportunity to donate blood, I sign up without hesitation," said Rich Meares '09. "It's

such a simple process, and it can help save a life in need."

"As seniors, it's important to set an example of charity and willingness for the underclassmen," said Desmond McWeeney '09. "The seniors will have one more blood drive, and then it will be up to the Junior Class to roll up their sleeves and donate blood."

Donating blood did not go unrewarded. Seniors were treated to fruit juice, Cheez-its, Oreos, and Lorna Doones. They also received tiny blood-drop dolls as a souvenir of their donation.

More important than the snacks and the souvenirs, however, was the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile for someone in need. Kevin Harrington '09 explained it well: "It's always a great opportunity to help a person in need by giving the gift of life. The feeling is unparalleled." ➤



Above: (l.-r.) Mr. Thomas Dillon, Bryan Hehn '09, and John Hannan '09 review the list of donors for the Senior Blood Drive.

Left: Dan Miller '09 gives the gift of life.

Flyers Give Gifts, Elderly Give Thanks

Annual Queen of Peace Thanksgiving Drive a Success

by Tyler White '10

When I entered Queen of Peace with other members of Emmaus and Junior G.S.O., I immediately heard people cheering and somebody playing the harmonica," said Eddie Parisi '10. "It felt like I was walking into a surprise birthday party."

There were no candles or cake, however, nor was it anyone's birthday. Instead, the residents were "cheering the students as they went in," according to Bro. Peter Heiskell, moderator of Chaminade's Emmaus Outreach Program.

The date was Wednesday, November 26, the afternoon before Thanksgiving, and some two-dozen volunteers from Emmaus and Junior G.S.O. [General Student Organization] were delivering over 60 cardboard boxes filled with toiletries to the Queen of Peace Residence for the Elderly in nearby Queens Village.

Organized by Junior G.S.O., Chaminade's annual Thanksgiving Collection began on Monday, November 24, and concluded on Wednesday, November 26. "Everyone was conscious that we are undergoing difficult economic times, so this drive indicated that people will rally to a cause whenever there is a significant need," said Mr. Brian Anselmo, Junior G.S.O. moderator.

According to both Mr. Anselmo and Bro. Peter, this year's drive was slightly more successful than last year's, netting two or three more cartons of donated items. Those items included mouthwash, soap, lotion, shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and denture cleaner.

Each Thanksgiving, the Little Sisters of the Poor, the religious order that runs Queen of Peace, solicits toiletries to make up Christmas gift packages for the residents. "I personally brought in a few boxes of Dove soap," said junior Pat Spagnuolo, "but that paled in comparison to how much my homeroom brought in. Our basket was overflowing."

Forty-six homeroom representatives brought up their homerooms' baskets during the offertory procession at the annual Thanksgiving Mass on Wednesday, November 26.

At the end of Mass, Sister Patrice thanked the student body for its generosity. Three residents and a lay assistant attended the Mass with Sister Patrice.

At the end of the day, the Emmaus and G.S.O. volunteers sorted out all the toiletries by category and delivered their stash to Queen of Peace. There, they met up with several students from Kellenberg Memorial

High School, which held a similar drive.

"From the moment we walked in, the residents made us feel that we made a difference to them," said Matt Poppe '10. "It was great to know that we were able to help out and spread some holiday cheer as well." ➤



Sister Patrice, from Queen of Peace, thanks CHS students for participating in the Thanksgiving Drive.

Flyers Find "the Way" by Candlelight

Junior Evening of Recollection Focuses on the Coming of Christ

by Samuel Wigutow '10

What if we gave everything for God?" Bro. Joseph Anthony Genovese issued this challenge to the 75 CHS juniors congregated in the Chapel of Our Lady's Assumption.

They had gathered for "Advent '08: A Junior Evening of Recollection." It was an event that Bro. Peter Heiskell, director of apostolic activities, called "a good way to kick off the Advent season," a time of preparation for the birth of Christ.

The evening, held on Wednesday, December 3, began at 5:30 p.m. with dinner in the cafeteria. About 25 faculty members joined the juniors for the event.

Afterwards, the participants headed to the Chapel of Our Lady's Assumption. There, each student and faculty member received a votive candle in either a red, gold, blue, green, or clear plastic casing.

Several junior religion teachers shared their reflections with the group. Recorded religious music, matching each speaker's theme, followed the various reflections.

CHS president Fr. James Williams introduced

the evening of recollection, whose format would be a 90-minute guided Eucharistic Adoration. At the center of the chapel was an eight-foot-tall, pyramid-shaped, four-sided tower, with five



Candlelight helps Mike LaSala '10 reflect on Christ's light at this year's Junior Evening of Recollection.

shelves on each side and a platform on top for a monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament.

Once the participants had lit their candles, Fr. James explained that the red candles represented the love and sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Placing his own red candle on one of the shelves of the "Adoration tower," he addressed the congregation.

Fr. James's reflections focused on the image of a hammer as a symbol of the Crucifixion. "The driving of nails into Jesus," said Fr. James, "must have been the toughest moment. If I were Jesus, that's when I would have jumped down from the Cross and run away."

According to Fr. James, the hammer also has a symbolic meaning in the life of the typical Chaminade student. "Sometimes in life," he said, "we nail people to a figurative cross, mocking them when they fall. Instead of using a hammer to knock people down, we should try to free the people we know from their burdens and anxieties."

Bro. Joseph Genovese spoke about the symbolism of the gold candles. "They represent the gifts each one of us receives from God," he said.

See "Recollection," page 9.

Sophomores Stage a "Divine Comedy"

Class of '11 Takes a Humorous Look at the Works of Mercy

by Anthony Tripodoro '11

Come on, Woop! Run! You're never going to beat Slattery jogging like that!" said Dan Pinto '11. According to John Reali '11, Dan did "a spot-on impersonation" of track coach and English teacher Mr. Patrick Slevin as he "coached" Matt Woop '11 and several other sophomores running across the stage of the Activity-Athletic Center's Hearst Auditorium.

Entertaining scenes such as Dan's impression were the memorable moments of the Sophomore Evening of Recollection, held this year on Monday, November 10. Nine groups of student performers demonstrated the Corporal and Spiritual Works of Mercy – in Matt and Dan's case, the Corporal Work "Visit the sick."

At 5:00 p.m., over 150 sophomores gathered in the Chapel of Our Lady's Assumption to begin a night of reflection and spiritual growth. "The evening is great because it allows all kinds of students – football players, Glee Club members, yearbook staff, and all the rest – to come together as a division and create a great memory," said Bro. Peter Heiskell, the evening of recollection's organizer.

The evening began with a brief outline of the night's schedule from CHS president Fr. James Williams. After the students had

divided themselves into nine separate groups, Fr. James explained that each one would be assigned one of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy – "Shelter the homeless," "Bury the dead," "Clothe the naked," "Feed the hungry," "Give drink to the



Chris Coletta '11 and Antonio Mistrion '11 combine comedy and catechesis as they enact the various Works of Mercy.

thirsty," "Visit the imprisoned," and "Visit the sick" – or one of two selected Spiritual Works of Mercy – "Counsel the doubtful" and "Comfort the sorrowful." These would serve as the evening's central themes.

Fr. James told each group to explain its Work of Mercy by acting out a Bible story

and also by creating a sketch about life as a sophomore. He said of the skits, "They must be holy; they can be hilarious."

Aided by teachers and upperclassmen, the groups separated and formed their presentations, making sure to "be ready for dinner at 6:24 and 30 seconds," as they had been instructed by Fr. James.

Following dinner in the cafeteria, the sophomores proceeded to the Hearst Auditorium. Every skit began with an opening prayer composed by the group and closed with a Hail Mary, an Our Father, and a Glory Be. Much to the delight of all of the students and teachers present, many of the performances were quite comical.

At the end of the final presentation, Fr. James took the Hearst Auditorium stage and addressed the division to conclude the evening. He ended on a reflective note, calling on all of the sophomores to "choose one of the Corporal or Spiritual Works of Mercy and apply it to your life in the next few days."

The members of the Class of 2011 left the AAC feeling closer to God and more in touch with their own souls. "I had tons of laughs with my classmates, and I discovered a great deal about my faith as well," said Bobby Wallace '11. "What better way to spend an evening?"

Star of Wonder, Star of Night

Advent Prayer Service Urges Students to Seek the Christ Child

by Marino Pawlowski '10

A shining star illuminates a midnight-blue sky. Led by the light of this newborn star, three astrologers, dressed in turbans and royal robes, trek across the desert, searching for an infant king.

Another king, alarmed by this apparent threat to his authority, paces in anger, lashing out at all who will listen to his tirades. In another corner of ancient Palestine – far removed from the palace of the king – a stubborn innkeeper refuses to find room for a pregnant Jewish girl and her anxious husband.

These were some of the images presented by this year's Advent prayer service, staged in Darby Auditorium on Thursday, December 4 for juniors and seniors, and Friday, December 5 for freshmen and sophomores. The prayer service combined music, acting, prayers, and gifts to remind students of what CHS chaplain Fr. Garrett Long called "the spiritual dimension of a season that is often co-opted by the secular culture."

Several volunteers from the String Orchestra started off the service with a rendition of Tomaso Albinoni's somber and reflective *Adagio*. The group consisted of Desmond McWeeney '09, Lukas Bentel '10, Donald Derham '10, Greg Dick '10, Adrian Fekula '10, Eddie Parisi '10, Nikolas Bentel '12, Dan Donovan '12, and Matt McMahon '12.

With the orchestra's last notes still resonating throughout the auditorium, the curtain opened, revealing two separate scenes. Stage left featured the inn near the manger of Jesus' birth, with a star shining over the city of Bethlehem. King Herod's throne and royal chambers occupied stage right.

The narrator (Brendan Quinn '10) began by describing the purpose of Advent. "Advent is a time to wake up and search for God," he said. "We are called to search, look for, and seek God."

Putting Brendan's words into action, the three wise men took the stage next. Balthazar (Jake Kerrigan '12), Gaspar (Mike Adam '11), and Melchior (Luke Torre-Healy '11) presented themselves to the King (Mike Rinere '09), telling him of the birth of Jesus. They explained to Herod that this baby would be the Messiah – the King of the Jews. Fearing that this "King" would usurp his throne, Herod ordered the death of all recently born male babies in Bethlehem.

Herod sent out these three astrologers to follow the star pointing to the birthplace of Jesus. When the three Wise Men reached the inn, they asked the innkeeper (Joe Connors '11) if the Messiah had been born there. The greedy innkeeper chose not to help the visitors, instead insisting that they rent a room.

Undeterred, the astrologers kept searching, eventually learning that this new king had been born in a nearby manger.

Soon after finding Jesus' birthplace, the Magi discovered Herod's treachery, and, wanting nothing to do with the cruel tyrant, returned home by an alternate route. But not before they left their gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh and vowed to preach that the Messiah had been born.

When the curtain closed, a brass quintet of Gold Band members – seniors Joe Gallagher, Alex Kamath, Mike Lucarelli, Mike Prate, and Charlie Steinman – performed the *Hallelujah Chorus* from Handel's *Messiah*.

To conclude the prayer service, Fr. Garrett addressed the students. "Advent is both a season of surprises, as well as a season of quiet," he said. "With 10 minutes of quiet, or just a few minutes at the Eucharistic Adoration services we have before every lunch period, you can make room for Jesus in your hearts."

Fr. Garrett then blessed hundreds of Advent pins, all in the shape of miniature of Christmas trees, given to all the students and teachers in attendance. The tree's distinguishing feature is that its trunk is in the shape of a cross. "This unique lapel pin reminds us that Jesus Christ and His Cross is at the core of everything we do," explained Fr. Garrett. "Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ, who, through His Cross and Resurrection, brings us to eternal life." ➤



With the Star of Bethlehem shining brilliantly in the background, Balthazar (Jake Kerrigan '12), one of the three Wise Men in this year's Advent prayer service, speaks about the birth of Christ.

"Recollection," continued from page 8

To illustrate his point, Bro. Joseph showed the juniors a coffer filled with gold coins (actually, coin-shaped chocolates wrapped in gold foil) to represent God's abundant gifts to His people. "But I want to focus on three of those gifts that God has given to us: Jesus Christ, His only Son; the Eucharist; and finally, our talents. Strengthened by the Eucharist, we can all use our unique talents to serve God and one another."

Bro. Patrick Sarsfield spoke next, discussing the significance of the blue candle, which represents the Virgin Mary. He talked about the difficulties and challenges that bearing the Son of God must have brought into her life.

"The announcement that she would give birth to God's Son must have frightened Mary. Mary was pregnant, and she was bear-

ing the Son of God. It must have been a time of excitement for her, but also a time of confusion and anxiety," said Bro. Patrick. "She got through it because she knew who to turn to and who to trust in – God."

Bro. Joseph spoke a second time to explain the significance of the green candles, which represent hope. Citing the story of American missionary sisters murdered by soldiers in El Salvador, he invited his audience to consider how much they could give to God.

"That's an enormous sacrifice," he said, "and probably most of us are not ready to give our entire lives. But maybe this Advent, we can make small sacrifices, like giving to toy drives and food drives. Even if we can't give our whole lives for Christ, whatever we give is bound to give hope to others."

Fr. James then concluded the series of

talks with an encouragement to "let the light of Christ in," when he spoke about the clear candles, symbolizing honesty.

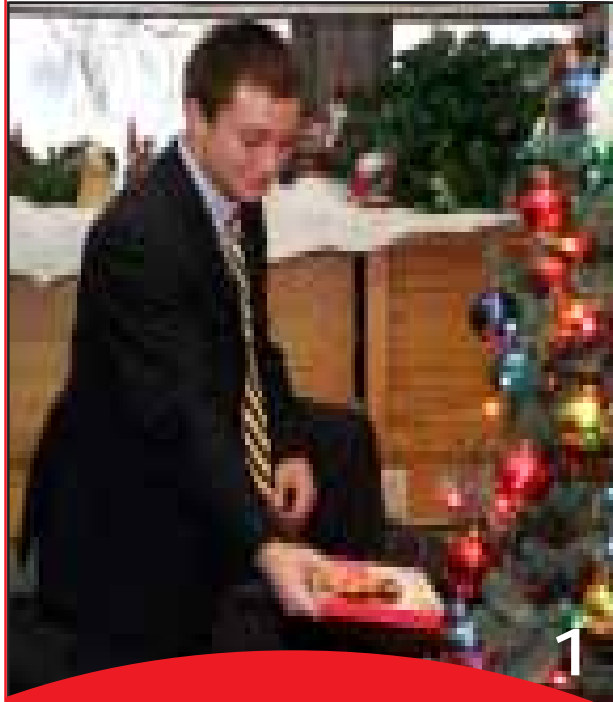
Following Fr. James's talk, each participant placed his candle on the Adoration tower, giving concrete expression to the theme of "the light of Christ." The lights dimmed, the candles glowed softly, and the congregants prayed quietly in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. That period of private prayer marked the conclusion of the evening.

The Junior Evening of Recollection was aimed at helping the Junior Division focus on the true spirit of the Advent season, preparing for the birth of Christ. "It was a great experience to have so many juniors participate in a service dealing with the themes of Advent," said junior Kevin Weiss. "This evening has helped me to spiritually prepare for the coming of Christ." ➤

A Christmas to Remember

Flyers Deck the Halls

by Franco Spadafora '11



Chaminade Toy Drive

by Kevin Harrington '09

The festive, 14-foot-tall Christmas tree stood in the lobby of Darby Auditorium. Slowly at first, and then in leaps and bounds, the pile of gifts grew under the tree. Toys – including an assortment of board games, dolls, action figures, and stuffed animals – comprised the mound of unwrapped gifts – gifts that would bring joy to the face of many a young child.

The annual Christmas Toys for Tots Drive, sponsored by the General Student Organization and held from December 3 to December 17, was aimed to benefit the children of underprivileged families right here on Long Island. The goal was to fill the lives of children in the surrounding communities with the joy of Christmas.

Throughout the drive, students brought their unwrapped gifts to the lobby of Darby Auditorium. "I have been blessed with great Christmases my entire life," said Matt Virgilio '11. "Giving a toy to the less fortunate is a gift in its own right, and I think that's the true meaning of the Christmas season."

"The toy drive truly demonstrates what the Christmas spirit is all about," said senior Nick Bortolussi. "This drive in particular is one that I enjoy participating in because I can imagine what it feels like to not have any presents for Christmas. It's only a small token, but, for these kids, it means the world."

G.S.O. volunteers brought the toys to various Long Island charities, including the U.S. Marine Corps Toys for Tots Drive and St. Brigid's Parish Outreach in Westbury. The recipients of these gifts were children ranging in age from toddlers to 12 years old.

"Without us, these children would not have Christmas presents," said senior G.S.O. moderator Mr. Casey Giordano. "The G.S.O., with the help and generosity of the student body, wanted to make a difference in these children's lives, and I think we have done that." ➤

1. Elf? Not really. It's Frank Soler '10 contributing to the Toys for Tots Drive. 2. Dan Sprotte '10 spreads some Christmas cheer. 3. Sophomores Dan Michel, Kevin Miller, and Tom Mozer are rockin' around the 2J Jedi Christmas tree. 4. Lights, Action, Christmas Tree: Tom Ciavarella '09 gets the Christmas spirit goin' in his homeroom.



When students entered their homerooms on Tuesday, December 2, they saw their classmates setting up artificial Christmas trees; stringing lights; and hanging holly, Santas, and stockings anywhere and everywhere they could find space. A morning assembly period, running from 8:20 a.m. to 9:14 a.m., gave these students-turned-Santa's helpers ample time to work their yuletide magic.

Under the direction of moderator Bro. Joseph Genovese, homeroom 3K transformed room 233 into a winter wonderland. Nestled on their windowsill was snow-covered village consisting of houses, a train station, snowmen, reindeer, and a Nativity scene.

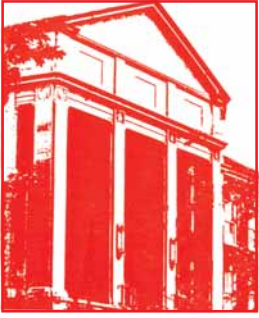
Another original feature of homeroom 3K's decorations was their Jesse Tree, whose ornaments are all symbols tracing Jesus' ancestry. As a finishing touch, each homeroom member appeared on corner bulletin board in a wallet-sized, digitally altered photograph – all wearing Kap'n Krunch (their homeroom name) outfits and Santa Claus hats.

A few doors down the hallway, Mr. Joseph Caso and homeroom 1M created a holiday display that freshman Eric Werneburg described as "present perfect." The doors of room 236 were covered head to toe in Santa and Frosty the Snowman wrapping paper.

Inside, the homeroom affixed Santa Claus faces over some of the authors and characters who are part of the freshman curriculum, including Edgar Allan Poe, Mark Twain, and Scout from *To Kill A Mockingbird*. Santa hats and stockings also surrounded the room. As Kyle Walker '12 said, "Our homeroom is like the present Santa left under the tree."

Two floors down, in room 15, it seemed as though Santa Claus himself might have paid a visit. The home of the 2A Aviators was filled with Santa Clauses and covered with stockings, including a six-foot-tall stocking hanging on the back wall. There was, of course, the usual Christmas tree standing at the front of the room, but, in a slight variation from tradition, the tree was surrounded by gold stars dangling from the ceiling.

In all, 46 homerooms were decorated for the holidays, each with a Christmas tree, and many with Nativity sets, wreaths, candy canes, and stockings as well. With Chaminade's classrooms so festively decked out, it was easy to see why so many have considered the Christmas season "the most wonderful time of the year." ➤



TARMAC

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Check out *Tarmac's* Next Issue, February 2009

The February 2009
issue of *Tarmac* will
feature coverage of:

- The Christmas Concerts
- The March for Life
- Winter Sports



TEMPEST

TAKES CHAMINADE BY STORM

Darby Players Stage Shakespeare's Swan Song

by Cody Abbey '10

We are such stuff / As dreams are made on, and our little life / Is rounded with sleep," said Brendan Quinn '10, reciting one of the more famous lines from William Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

For the average teenager in the 21st century, this type of language is little more than a vestige of the past. This past fall, however, Brendan and the rest of the Darby Players had to tackle the task of reciting Shakespeare with eloquence and conviction for their production of *The Tempest*.

"What I found particularly difficult about this play was not memorizing the lines, but understanding them," said Brendan, who has had a part in every Chaminade play since his freshman year. "For the first few weeks, we had to dissect each line and scrutinize it to really figure out what Shakespeare was saying."

"Shakespearean plays demand a lot from both the actors and the audience," said Mr. Michael Bruno, the play's director. "The actors have to speak clearly so that every word is audible, and the audience is forced to actively watch and listen."

Audience member Lukas Bentel '10 did just that. "In my junior English class, I found *Macbeth* to be a difficult read," said Lukas, who drew the artwork for *The Tempest*'s promotional flier and for the cover of the program. "But when I saw *The Tempest*, the language made sense. Don't get me wrong: it was still a challenge, but seeing the action on stage added another dimension to the words. The actors did a great job of reciting Shakespeare and emphasizing key words."

Brendan Quinn '10 portrayed Prospero, a magician and the exiled Duke of Milan who has been stranded on an island for 12 years with his daughter Miranda, played by Lexie Lowell (Sacred Heart Academy '09). One day, Prospero spots his traitorous brother Antonio (Spencer Schwacke '09) on a ship with Alonzo, the King of Naples (Dimitri Moise '10), and conjures up a violent storm to shipwreck them and their crew.

What follows is a storm of interaction between the shipwrecked sailors and the island's inhabitants. King Alonzo's son Ferdinand (Rory O'Connor '09) falls in love with Miranda. Meanwhile, the king's jester, Trinculo, played by Mary St. Angelo (Kellenberg Memorial High School '09), and the drunkard Stefano (Joe Connors '11) provide comic relief as "Such stuff as dreams are made on." Dave Mammina '10 plays one of the spirits inhabiting Prospero's enchanted island.

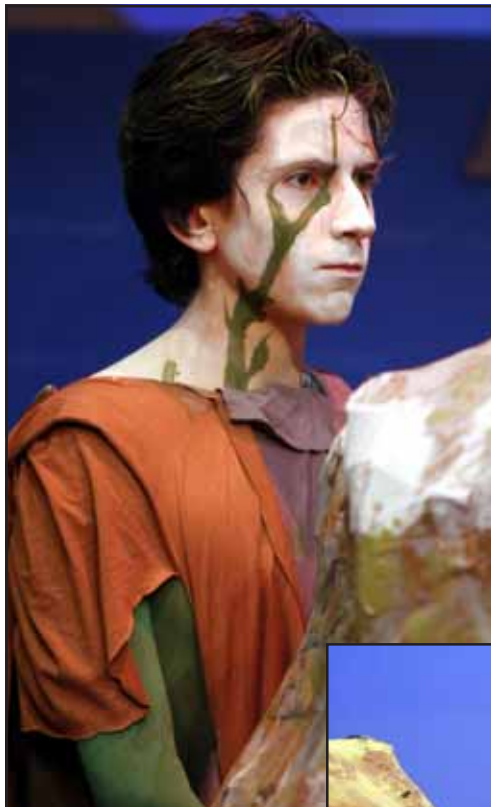
We are
such stuff



As dreams
are made
on, and our
little life



Is rounded
with sleep.



Kindred spirits: For this production of *The Tempest*, Luke Torre-Healy '11 (l.) and Lauren Milo (SHA '10) teamed up to play one role – Ariel, the chief spirit on the island and Prospero's principal agent of magic.





they plot with Prospero's slave, Caliban (Mike Rinere '09), to kill his master.

"The jester and the drunkard were hilarious," said Ryan Minett '10, who saw the second of the show's two performances. "Each of their lines was some wisecrack or joke."

To carry out much of his magic, Prospero relies on the services of a spirit named Ariel. For this production, Mr. Bruno experimented with a rather novel casting idea. Two students, Chaminade's Luke Torre-Healy '11 and Sacred Heart's Lauren Milo '10, played Ariel, twin spirits who speak with one voice.

The play concludes as Prospero forgives Antonio and Alonso and regains his title as Duke of Milan. "The *Tempest* is a story about forgiveness, and that's why it's different from most other Shakespearean plays, which normally focus on revenge and power," said Mr. Bruno.

From the second week of September to the two performance nights on Friday, November 21 and Saturday, November 22, the production was an "all-hands-on-deck effort," as described by Drama Club moderator Mrs. Sally Zehnter. While the 25 actors and actresses reviewed the script, the stage techs coordinated the lighting and the sound.

"It was the most technically advanced show we've ever done," said Mr. Bruno, who doubles as the moderator of the stage techs. "We used every microphone we had, as well as a few smoke machines and water guns to create the storm at the beginning of the play."

Junior English teacher Bro. Stephen Balletta was sitting towards the back of the auditorium, under the balcony, during Friday night's performance.

"The stage techs who were up in the balcony and shooting water pistols down on us did a very credible job. I actually felt as if I were being rained on. That, combined with the strobe-light lightning effect and the soundtrack of the howling wind, made this theatrical tempest seem like the real thing," Bro. Stephen said.

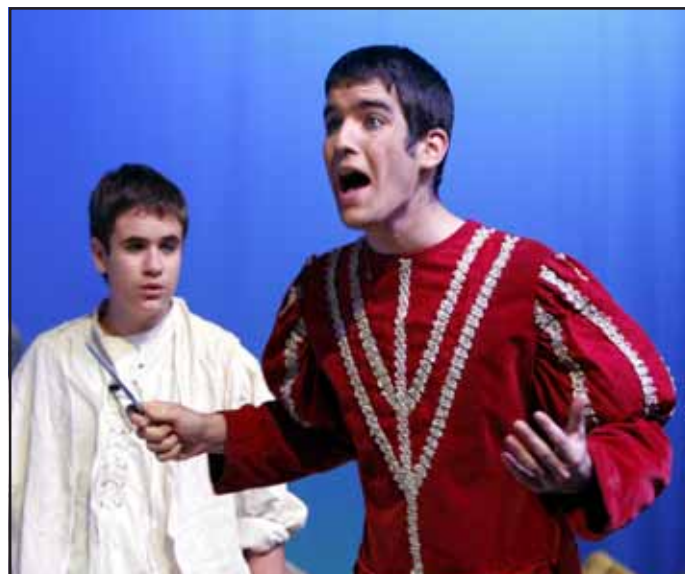
The play's opening scene was not the only showstopper. So was the set. Under the supervision of Fr. Ernest Lorfanfant, the set-construction crew used mounds of papier-mâché to build the island's high promontory that stood center-stage during the entire production. The stage was transformed into a rocky coast, complete with seagulls and seashells – not the product of Mother Nature, but the work of the set-construction crew.

"The striking stage design and impeccable acting tied together with the special effects to brew up a storm of a performance," said senior Marco Piscitelli. "I can't wait to see what the actors and crew are going to come up with for *Les Misérables* in the spring. If *The Tempest* is any indicator, it should be spectacular." ➔

Amid rocky cliffs, sandy shores, and wandering spirits, the magician Prospero (center, Brendan Quinn '10) plays the protective father as his daughter Miranda (Lexie Lowell SHA '09) falls head over heels for the handsome Prince Ferdinand (Rory O'Connor '09).



Above: What can you do with a drunken sailor? The drunkard Stefano (Joe Connors '11), the court jester Trinculo (Mary St. Angelo KMHS '09) and the slave Caliban (Mike Rinere '09) brew up a plot to do away with Prospero.



Left: Liar, Liar - Caught red-handed, Sebastian (Patrick Kennedy '09) vehemently denies any part in the plot to kill King Alonso.

Flyers on Track for a Dynasty

Cross-Country Nabs Third Consecutive League Title

by Daniel Hinton '10

The Chaminade Cross-Country Team entered the 2008 season with high hopes and lofty aspirations. After all, the Flyers were coming off two consecutive NSCHSAA championships and a number of individual accolades.

One glaring difference, however, burdened this year's team: over three quarters of last season's runners had departed for college.

"With so many of the guys from last year gone, we considered this the year of the revival," said Mike Kiley '09. In fact, "The Year of the Revival" became this year's team motto.

This revival would not be complete, however, without a few struggles along the way. One of the team's more disappointing finishes occurred on Saturday, September 20, when the varsity team finished in sixth place at the Briarwood Meet in Philadelphia.

"These early-season struggles, coupled with other coaches' lowered expectations of Chaminade, actually gave our team the valuable experience and motivation to rebuild itself," said head coach Mr. William Carriero.

This additional inspiration was exactly what the Flyers needed to regain and sustain their previous levels of success. The varsity and junior-varsity teams both finished their seasons undefeated in NSCHSAA dual-meet competition.

Early local victories paved the way for even bigger and better things later in the season. At the Nassau Coaches meet in Bethpage, for example, the Flyers' took first-place finishes in the Select Varsity, Classified Varsity, and Junior Varsity races.

"After winning all of our dual meets and finishing ahead of Nassau County's top-ranked public school, Wantagh High, we felt

prepared for the late-season championships," said JV runner Kevin Sutcliffe '10.

The Flyers' preparation was put to the test on October 11, at the Manhattan College Invitational, the nation's largest high-school cross-country meet. Competing against over 10,000 runners from more than 300 schools in 12 states, the varsity team finished second overall in the 4k race and had five top-25 finishers.

The junior-varsity team finished in first place in their 4k race, with Conor Nickel '10 as the top individual finisher and three other runners in the top 10. The sophomore squad duplicated these winning efforts, buoyed by four top 10 runners.

The Flyers' performances in the season's final championship races cast aside any remaining doubt about their year of revival. They earned four of five team and individual titles in the NSCHSAA and CHSAA meets combined, including varsity and junior-varsity "A" titles in both meets.

Highlighting this impressive showing was senior Mike Kiley's come-from-behind victory in the 5k race at the NSCHSAA championship on Sunday, October 26. The 5k proved pivotal in snagging the league title for the Flyers' varsity squad.

The JV team notched a league title of its own, as the Crimson and Gold filled the first eight spots. The freshman team joined in the glory under the leadership of individual champion Tom Awad '12 and first-year coach Mr. Brian Hayes '99.

The results of the CHSAA championship were just as impressive. Five Flyers finished in the top 18, scoring 33 points more than their nearest competitor. In another set of impressive performances, Mike Kiley won the varsity 4k race, and William Slattery '11 finished in 13:22, good enough for seventh overall and fourth on the all-time Chaminade sophomore list.

The JV team – led by top-five finishers Stephen Smith '10, Peter Kechejian '10, and Dillon Schwartz '11 –

scored 30 points and captured another championship title. And although the JV "B" squad lost in a tie-breaker to St. Anthony's, George Starkie '11 earned an individual title.

Students were not the only members of the team to earn individual records and accolades, however. Coach Carriero tied the record for most CHSAA titles, 13, as the varsity squad snagged their third title in a row.

Crowned both NSCHSAA and CHSAA champions, the team was finally ready for the climax of their season: the New York State Federation Race in Wappingers Falls. Competing against a conglomeration of New York's top public and private high schools, the Flyers ended their season with a bang. The team finished as the top Catholic high school, second overall on Long Island, and tenth overall in the state.

Despite the loss of key players, the 2008 team still emerged on top. "When the season began, most teams counted us out, but we managed to return to the Federation Race and repeat a top-10 finish," said Stephen Smith.

"We were ranked second or third for much of the season, but we knew we were better than that," said varsity MVP Mike Kiley. "This truly was the year of the revival." ▶

The comeback kid: Varsity Cross-Country MVP Mike Kiley '09 comes from behind to win the 5k race at Sunken Meadow State Park.



There's no competition in sight at Sunken Meadow for varsity runner Andy Hayes '10.



Flyers Opt for an Aerial Attack

Varsity Football Rides Spread Offense into the Playoffs

by Louis Stokum '09

Along with *bailout* and *recession*, *change* was undoubtedly one of the most most often used words of 2008. Candidates of every political persuasion promised change, and President-elect Obama now faces an economic landscape entirely changed from when he first announced his candidacy.

Closer to home, the Varsity Football Team implemented a change of their own, although admittedly of much less historical significance.

Traditionally, the Flyers' offense has been a run-oriented campaign, comprised of rushing plays like "the Power" and "the Belly."

This year, however, Chaminade made the changeover to "the Spread" – a pass-dominated offensive system. Instead of keeping multiple running backs in the backfield, the Spread offense positions no more than one of them there, leaving more players eligible to run pass routes.

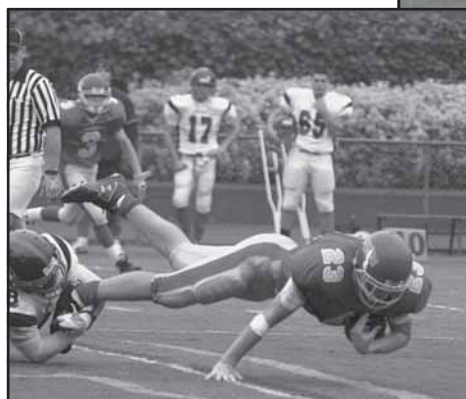
"There are a lot of reasons why we decided to make the change," said head coach Mr. William Basel. "Many of the teams in our league run the Spread. By running it in practice, we prepared our defense for the games. In addition, we wanted to stray away from 'power football' this year. We didn't have a particularly big team, so we wanted to take advantage of our athleticism."

Of course, some things never change, like tryouts on a hot and humid day in mid-August. Tryouts began on Monday, August 18, and after an arduous week, the team traveled to Camp Green Lane in Pennsylvania. During the five days there, the coaches polished the newly initiated offense.

Camp was also a bonding experience for the team. "There was definitely a gap between the seniors and the juniors on the team," according to linebacker Brendan Fowler '10. "After working and living together for a week, however, any differences between us were erased, and we returned home a cohesive unit, ready to put our new offense to work against the other teams in the CHSFL."



Above: Denis O'Leary '09 cuts back and rushes for a huge gain for the Flyers' offense.



Left: Diving to get the first down, junior Frank Soler keeps the chains moving for the Flyers.

The Flyers played their first game on September 6, at home, against Kingston High School. After what offensive line coach Mr. Kevin Parente described as a "brilliant" offensive display, the Flyers walked off with a 35-9 victory. Change, it seemed, had paid off.

"I felt pretty confident after our first win," said senior quarterback and captain Steve Chmil, who threw for one touchdown and rushed for another. "It was our first time running the new offense against an opponent, and we did a really good job."

The team's success carried to the next week, when the Flyers' defense stifled Mount St. Michael's potent offense. After a hard-fought contest, the Flyers came away with a 14-7 victory.

The following week, the team's fortunes changed for the worse when the Gaels of Iona Prep handed the Flyers their first loss. Despite this setback, the players knew that they couldn't give up on the season. "It was a really tough loss," said offensive lineman Mike Van Roten '09. "But we knew that, if we wanted to stay in contention for a top playoff spot, we would have to bounce back and win our next few games."

And bounce back they did.



Senior quarterback Ryan Higgins escapes a Stepinac defender to complete a pass and add to Chaminade's lead.

Ryan Higgins '09 propelled the Flyers to the 14-13 victory.

The team's season then took a turn for the worse, starting with a 24-6 loss against the Friars of St. Anthony's. The Flyers added two more losses to this disappointing defeat in the following two weeks.

The Flyers entered the playoffs as the sixth seed. Despite a less-than-stellar close to the regular season, they were eager to take on the Knights of Holy Cross.

"We were coming off three bad games going into the playoffs," said offensive lineman Joe Goss '10, "but we knew that we couldn't let the regular season stand in the way of our championship aspirations. By the time that Saturday rolled around, we were ready to play."

Even though the Knights fought valiantly, it wasn't enough to overcome the Flyers. Down by one point with little time remaining in the fourth quarter, Holy Cross lined up for what they hoped would be the game-winning field goal. With the season on the line, the Flyers, led by captain Chris Dooley, blocked the field-goal attempt, sealing the 16-15 victory for Chaminade.

"It felt great to step up for the team when it mattered," said Chris. "After the win, we were happy to hear that we would be playing St. Anthony's. We really wanted the chance to avenge our previous loss."

That change in fortune, however, was not in the cards. The Flyers played hard but lost the semifinal match to their long-standing nemesis, St. Anthony's, 37-15.

Even though the Flyers came up short in the postseason this year, Coach Basel is confident that next year will bring even bigger and better changes in the Flyers' fortunes.

"We had a lot of juniors play for us this year, and three of them even made all-league," Coach Basel said. "When you combine that with the incoming championship J.V. team, it looks like we are going to be right in the running next year." ▶

Varsity Soccer Fails to Three-Peat

by Julian Gocksch '10

The Chaminade Flyers entered the 2008 varsity soccer season as the team to beat. The squad's goal was crystal clear: to win a third consecutive CHSAA State Championship.

But instead of completing the three-peat and lifting the NSCHSAA League Championship plaque on the crisp autumn evening of November 1, the Flyers were forced to watch the trophy presentation from the sidelines. Chaminade had come up just short, falling in a tough overtime contest to archrival St. Anthony's, 3-2.

"It was really tough to deal with the loss," said Steve Pearn '10, "but there was a lot more to our season than just that one game."

At the close of the season, the Flyers' resumé boasted achievements that nearly mitigated the disappointment of the championship loss. Scoreless ties against New Jersey's top team, Pingry (who finished the season ranked #11 nationally), and against the PSAL Manhattan A Regular Season Champs, Beacon (ranked as high as #18), proved that the Flyers could compete on the national stage.

Chaminade also gave #6 ranked St. Anthony's their only blemish of the season: On September 30, both teams drew 0-0 in a game during which, according to *Newsday's* Joseph Staszewski, "the Flyers outplayed the Friars."

Over the course of the season, the Flyers compiled a 15-3-3 record, finishing as the #7 team in New York.

But as the preseason #15 team in the country, Chaminade was in the national spotlight right out of the gate. Wins over two perennial public-school powers, Hicksville and Massapequa, 3-0 and 2-0 respectively, proved the Flyers were the real deal.

Their first real test, however, would come on September 11, when the Flyers traveled to West Islip and St. John the Baptist's Cougar Field. There, the Flyers were immediately forced to prove their mettle after falling behind, 2-0, early in the first half.



3

1. Air Caputo: Senior Carl Caputo elevates to win a header.



2

2. Putting everything into it, goalkeeper Mike Gallagher '09 bombs a goal kick downfield.

3. All-Long Island and All-State senior captain Pat McCann corrals a loose ball.

that posted shutouts in 11 straight games, a streak which ran from September 16 to October 14.

After the shutout run was broken, the team traveled to Queens on October 18 to take on Martin Luther King, Jr. High School, the #2 ranked team this season. Decimated by injuries that sidelined senior captain Steve Stefanak and two-year starter Matt Ward, the Flyers were forced to turn to their substantial team depth.

With several players playing out of position or receiving more minutes than usual, the Flyers matched the eventual PSAL Division A Champions for 85 minutes. Finally, in the 87th minute, captain Pat McCann slipped through the MLK defense to break the deadlock. Senior Frank Codispoti slammed home an insurance goal in the 90th minute to seal the heart-pounding 2-0 victory.

The team's on-field accomplishments were reflected in the awards received by many individual players. Sean Monsees '09, team MVP Don Anding, Pat McCann, Steve Stefanak, and Conor Mercadante '10 were each selected for the All-League Team.



1

Senior Matt Ward poked in a trademark Pat McCann '09 corner kick to pull the Flyers within one before the end of a disappointing half. The second half, however, would belong to the Flyers.

Don Anding '09, the Flyers' leading scorer with 11 goals on the year, broke through the Cougar defense to notch the equalizer midway through the second half. Anding would again be the hero when he curled an ambitious, swerving shot into the top corner with 15 minutes remaining.

The 3-2 thriller propelled the Flyers to an 8-0-1 start. The September 23rd NSCAA/Adidas National Rankings saw the Flyers climb to the #5 spot in the country, and they were consistently ranked in the top 25 throughout their season, until late losses to St. Anthony's and St. John the Baptist knocked them out of consideration.

The Flyers were led by a stingy defense

but Still Enjoys Successful Season

Anding and McCann were also named to the All-State Team. In addition, McCann was selected for *Newsday's* All-Long Island Team. Ryan Neugebauer '09 was chosen by his teammates as the Most Improved Player.

After dropping two of their final regular-season matches to St. Anthony's and St. John the Baptist, the Flyers entered the NSCHSAA playoffs determined to assert their place as the league's best. They drew a tough semifinal match-up, forced to take on the Cougars at home in another chapter of the storied rivalry. However, the Flyers had an x-factor on their side that would prove to be critical to the match's outcome: the Red Army.

"During one game, St. John's had a whole group of boys who came and were just relentless in their chants and cheers," remembers senior Paul Cammarata. "After that game, we decided that no one could come to our home turf and out-cheer us again."

Paul worked tirelessly to assemble the ultimate group of soccer fans who would attend all of the team's remaining games, acting as a "twelfth man." The Red Army's first appearance, at the Flyers' semifinal tilt with St. John the Baptist, would prove to be memorable.

Mother Nature proved to be almost as formidable a foe as the Cougars on the afternoon of October 28. Rain, sleet, and hail all accompanied gray skies and freezing temperatures in making for miserable game-time conditions.

But the Flyers would let nothing stand in their way. With the deafening roars of the Red Army behind them, Chaminade quickly went on the attack. After 10 minutes of play, Pat McCann blasted Matt Ward's cross into the bottom corner of the goal.

The lone tally would prove to be



Senior Matt Ward leaves a Friar defender in the dust and heads towards the net.

enough, as the senior goalkeeping duo of Brandon Saldana and Mike Gallagher preserved the shutout. When the final whistle blew, the Flyers jubilantly celebrated their triumph with the Red Army.

Unfortunately, the Flyers could not continue their run in the finals, falling in heartbreaking fashion to St. Anthony's in over-

time. And while the Flyers may not have brought home the hardware, they will certainly not be forgotten anytime soon.

"Even though we caught some tough breaks at the end," said head coach Michael Gallagher, "we had a great season that the boys can be proud of. The team worked hard, and their record shows it." ▶

Flyers Honored for Fall Achievements

by Conor Mercadante '10

The Chaminade Family gathered on Tuesday, November 25 to honor the many athletes who competed in interscholastic sports this autumn. The Fall Athletic Awards Dinner, hosted at the Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury, celebrated the achievements of Chaminade's teams and standout individuals.

The following took home special honors: (seated, l.-r.) Rob Tirrito '12, Frosh MVP Crew; Andy Hayes '10, Student-Athlete Var. Cross-Country; Thomas Awad '12, MVP Frosh Cross-Country; Matt Morenzi '10, Jr. MVP Crew; Chris Kanaval '12, MVP Frosh

Soccer; Ryan Neugebauer '09, MIP Var. Soccer; Tom Roulis '11, MVP JV Soccer; Conor Mercadante '10, Student-Athlete Var. Soccer; Mike Wysota '10, Student-Athlete Var. Football; John Hannan '09, George Toop Award (MIP) Var. Football; Matt Bellesheim '11, Soph MVP Crew; (stand-

ing, l.-r.) Don Anding '09, MVP Var. Soccer; Mike Kiley '09, "Spike" Daly Award (MVP) Var. Cross-Country; Chris Dooley '09, Terzi Award (MVP) Var. Football; Ryan Higgins '09, DeJesu Award (Second MVP); Mike Kelly '10, Co-Student-Athlete Crew; Dylan Siegfried '09, Sr. MVP Crew; Phil Sidoti '10, Co-Student-Athlete Crew; Joe Grieco '09, MIP Var. Cross-Country; Pete Kechejian '10, MVP JV Cross-Country; Will Slattery '11, Soph MVP Cross-Country; Rob Vassallo '11, MVP JV Football; Tim Pond '09, Benyo Award (MOP) Var. Football. (Not pictured: Mike Conroy '12, MVP Frosh Swimming; John Desepoli '12, MVP Frosh Football.) ▶





Senior moment: (l.-r.) Kyle Textor, Matt Johns, Brian Sweeney, Vinny Marchetta, John Palmer, Dylan Siegfried, Greg Oprea, Kurt Walas, and Jack Checca – seniors all – practice on the waters off Bar Beach.

Riding the Wave of Success

But Season Not All Smooth Sailing for Crew Team

by Mike Prate '09

Crew is a sport based on repetition. Most of the members of Chaminade's Varsity Crew Team have spent the past three years working on their techniques and perfecting their strokes. As freshmen, they spent most of their time learning the ins and outs of crew. As sophomores, juniors, and seniors, they battled for a spot on the top boat.

This year, however, provided a whole new set of challenges for the team.

"The coaching staff utilizes the fall season to mix things up and to remove rowers from their 'comfort zone' of rowing only one side of the boat," explained head coach Mr. John Callinan.

In a sport where consistency is crucial to success, the Chaminade team had to learn to adjust, as each rower was forced to learn how to row on both the port and starboard sides of the boat.

"This was a huge adjustment for a lot of us, considering that most of us have always rowed on the same side of the boat," said senior Brian Sweeney.

The adaptations did not end there, however. In past seasons, the team had always raced a top boat, which consisted of the fastest rowers on the team. Instead of putting out one dominant boat this season, all groups were equally talented.

According to Coach Callinan, "The concept of teamwork is reinforced during the fall by rowing boats of equal strength and ability. All boats raced under the label of *varsity*, regardless of a rower's age."

"It was difficult, because most of the other schools we competed against put out a top boat," said Mike Schmidt '09. "We

really had to work hard if we wanted to be successful."

And work hard they did. Chaminade crew members stayed in shape by practicing all year long. Over the summer, they attended camps up and down the Northeast, from Maine to Pennsylvania. The 93 members of the team reunited with coaches Mr. John Callinan, Mr. Larry Muri, and Mr. Colin

The team competed in a number of notable races throughout the Northeast, including competitions in Philadelphia and King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, and in Lowell, Boston, and Worcester, Massachusetts. Since all of these sites are quite a distance from Chaminade, these races always involved an overnight trip.

"The trips are always a lot of fun," said senior Kyle Textor. "We are all really close and have a great time."

The team's high point came in the last race of the season, which served as a preview for the upcoming spring season. The prestigious Bill Braxton Regatta, centered in Philadelphia, was the sole Olympic-style race of the season. An Olympic, or sprint-style race, occurs when all of the boats are lined up, side by side, at the start of the race.

The Braxton Regatta is one of rowing's most celebrated races, drawing competitors from many of the nation's top high schools.

After a first-place finish in one heat, the Flyers went on to finish second overall in the competition. The final standings were a big accomplishment for the team, considering that no one knew the lineups until the night before the race.

"It was pretty intense, not knowing whom we were rowing with until the night before," said senior Greg Oprea. "We did fairly well, considering we didn't have a chance to row together until the warm-up right before the race."

After a winter of working on the ergs, the spring season should be smooth sailing for Chaminade's Crew Team.

"The fall is like a rebuilding season," said team MVP Dylan Siegfried '09. "The spring season is going to be much better as a result of this fall season's hard work." ➤



Rolling on the river: Seniors Brian Sweeney, Matt Johns, and Kyle Textor slice through the water.

Sheehan for the first time during 3-C Week.

"We have to stay disciplined throughout the year in order pick up where we left off last season, especially with the distance nature of the fall season," said Mike Schmidt.

The standard fall race, called a head race, is about three miles long and starts with the competing boats staggered in the water. In a head race, each boat is released at fifteen-second intervals, instead of all at once, allowing as many boats as possible to compete in each race. However, this also makes life difficult for the rowers.

"It's really tough to gauge your speed compared to the other boats," explained Brian Sweeney. "You're mainly racing against the clock."

Covering All Bases

Former Athletes Take a Swing at Politics

President-elect Barack Obama and former Vice-Presidential candidate Sarah Palin may stand on opposite ends of the political spectrum, but they do share something in common: both were high-school basketball state champions.

As a reserve forward for Punahou High School in 1977, Obama has admitted he wasn't the star player of Hawaii's elite team of the time. But it was sitting on the bench that first led him to call for change, which then meant more playing time for the reserves.

Meanwhile, "Sarah Barracuda," as the Alaskan governor was so nicknamed for her aggressive play, captained Wasilla High School's team to the championship in 1982. It was from her basketball experience that Palin says she learned about discipline and teamwork firsthand.

Obama and Palin continue the time-honored tradition of politicians' involvement in sports, both as fans and participants. Stretching back to George Washington's fervor for fishing and John Adams' passion for water polo, the marriage of athletics and politics is no new phenomenon.

In the past century, the sports world has almost become a launching platform for future politicians.

Presidents Dwight Eisenhower, Gerald Ford, and Ronald Reagan all played college football before their ascension to office, with Ford leading the University of Michigan to two undefeated seasons and national titles. Jack Kemp, the Republican Vice-Presidential nominee in 1996, was another football luminary, setting several records over the course of his 13-year career in the American Football League, Canadian Football League, and National Football League.

President George H.W. Bush was the captain of the Yale baseball team and participated in the first two College World Series. His son, President George W. Bush, has ties to baseball as well, having served as part owner and managing general partner of the Texas Rangers during the '80s and '90s.

Bill Bradley nabbed two NBA championships with the New York Knicks and a spot in the Hall of Fame before his stint as New Jersey senator.

Jesse "The Body" Ventura was a WWE wrestler before serving as Minnesota's governor.

Arnold Schwarzenegger terminated his career as a professional bodybuilder and seven-time Mr. Olympia to become the "Governator" of California.

And legendary NBA All-Star and commentator Charles Barkley is hoping that the Alabamian people will elect him as their governor in 2014.

Although it might seem unorthodox, it wouldn't be overreaching to suggest that the athletic pursuits of these figures, as well as countless others, parallel their political careers.

The split-second decisions that a quarterback makes in the heat of the moment mirror the choices that the President must make on a daily basis.

The training a swimmer or a bodybuilder must do before a competition is comparable to the preparation required for any speech or debate.

The teamwork a basketball player needs to succeed is similar to the cooperation the Senate needs to pass a bill.

And the discipline a marathon runner maintains is exactly what a candidate needs during an intense election season.

Sports are the means by which some politicians realize their potential in politics – a training ground to test their mettle. But more often, athletic participation is the medium by which politicians can enjoy themselves and indulge their competitive drive.

This concept of competition is perhaps the strongest link between sports and politics. The desire to succeed impels both athletes and politicians to exert their greatest effort

and pushes them to constantly improve. Determination and discipline can propel ambitious dreams into the realm of reality, whether a person seeks a world championship or elected office.

Hence, it should come as no surprise that such a multitude of sports lovers have developed into politicians. In very few fields can people nurture their abilities and learn invaluable lessons in a pleasurable and competitive way.

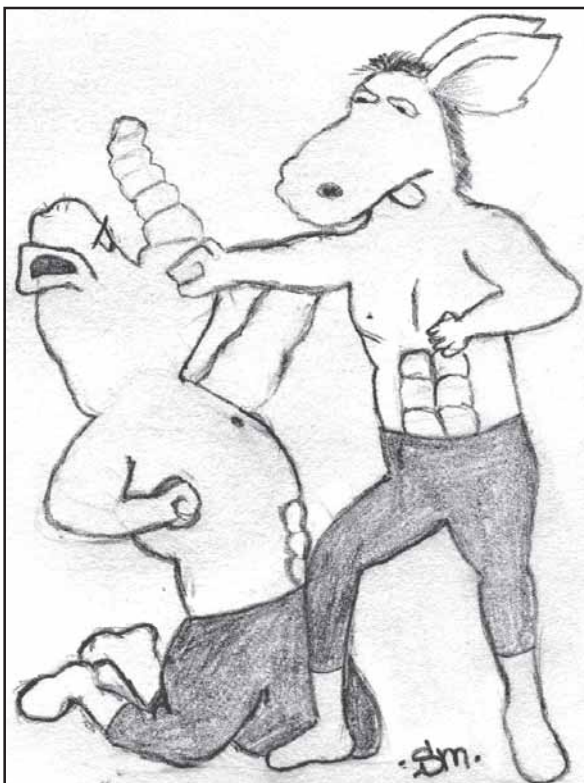
Sports can help to mold character and the ability to make decisions. The training that athletics can provide for a political career can be beneficial in numerous ways.

Boxing teaches that the fight isn't over until the bell rings. Basketball imparts the knowledge that it never hurts to take the shot. Football proves that getting knocked down doesn't mean you can't get back on your feet again.

Perhaps the most important lesson a politician can learn can be derived from hockey. Limitations cease to exist if you never lose sight of the goal, but be prepared for a brawl along the way. ➤



A sports commentary by Matt Hughes '10



"Determination and discipline can propel ambitious dreams into the realm of reality, whether a person seeks a world championship or elected office."

T A R M A C SPORTS

Standing Tall Throughout the Fall



1. MVP Chris Dooley '09 rumbles ahead for a Flyers first down.
2. Team MIP Joe Grieco '09 tears through Sunken Meadow Park, leading the NSCHSAA Champion Cross-Country Team to victory.
3. Matt Bellesheim '11, Craig Wesoly '09, Kevin Cabello '10, and Greg Schiliro '10 row, row, row their boat steadily down the river.

T A R M A C

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