



# THE DRS STAR



A DRS Publication Written By the Students For the Students

700 Ibsen St., Woodmere, NY, 11598

## Being Inspired, Appreciating Their Religion

By Yitzchak Carroll

Students received a dose of inspiration and a sense of pride in their religion while having a good time at the Davis Renov Stahler (DRS) Yeshiva High School's Shabbaton. The annual weekend retreat was held at Hotel Somerset-Bridgewater on Nov. 7-8. "Our sophomores, juniors and seniors will have the opportunity to spend a ruach (spirit)-filled Shabbat together, experiencing creative learning and social opportunities," said Student Activities Director Rabbi Eli Brazil about the Shabbaton.

Students eagerly boarded the buses early Friday morning, and after dropping

their belongings off at the hotel, headed to nearby Colonial Park for the Woodmere - based school's flag football tournament, a yearly highlight of the Shabbaton. Following the tournament and lunch, students returned back to the hotel to check in and prepare for an inspirational Shabbat.

The theme of this year's Shabbaton was "focusing on Jewish pride," and Alan Veingrad was the guest speaker. A former professional football player and member of the Dallas Cowboys during their Super Bowl XXVII winning season, Veingrad rediscovered his Jewish roots while playing for the Green Bay Packers, when a local

(Continued on page 2)

## Domestic Violence: Should We Differentiate For Athletes?

By Avishai Samouha

According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, nearly 20 people are victims of violence, abuse, and/or assault every minute. This demonstrates the severity of the problem of domestic violence, which has engulfed sports in a series of scandals and court cases. Research shows that in the NFL alone, 21 out of the 32 teams have a player that has either been suspected or convicted of domestic violence, yet it is rare that an appropriate punishment is delivered. This is undeniably something that **must** be changed. Even though athletes don't bear actual power like government officials or other influential people do, they

wield the power to induce the thoughts of millions of fans, who will utilize the precedent put in place by athletes as a way of taking domestic abuse haphazardly. Therefore, it is imperative that when an athlete commits a crime as serious as domestic violence, he or she be dealt with as much severity as anyone else would. When athletes get off the hook for crimes due to their professional status, it promotes the idea of corruption in our society. And when their fame continues to expand despite the allegations against them, it encourages people to take domestic violence frivolously. On Feb. 15, NFL

(Continued on page 2)

## Stereotypical Baseball: The Art of Misconception

By Justin Weiss

It's 4:30 a.m. in Portland, Maine. Jon and Anne Crawford lie fast asleep on the corner of Park Avenue, along with the rest of the state. But just across the street, outside of a rundown, poorly maintained apartment building, Jim Buckley is exhaustedly chasing ground balls in his self-installed pitch-back machine. More importantly, he is chasing the dream that he has possessed forever, but which will likely never come to fruition.

Jim, like many others, was born to play baseball. He dreamed of going to the ballpark when he was just a few years old, and had aspirations of one day becoming a professional ballplayer.

After all, the innocence and purity of being that young allowed him to think those thoughts. Never would he have thought that he would dread doing this task.

Yet in time, baseball would turn into a profession rather than a job, and for the former 25th round draft pick, like so many others, AJ Cartwright would end up recoiling from the deprivations that baseball would provide him.

In the United States, a \$30 thousand salary buys you independence, no extraneous spending or saving, and very little wiggle room.

But it's still living.

Dirk Hayhurst, a former minor and major league pitcher, recently released a compelling narrative of life in the minor leagues. In one paragraph, he correctly summed up the prominent issue haunting minor leaguers every day:

(Continued on page 6)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 2

## Being Inspired, Appreciating Their Religion

Continued from page 1

businessman invited him to services on Rosh Hashanah. Shortly afterwards, Veingrad retired from football and became a Torah-observant Jew. Veingrad inspired students with his story and exemplified the Shabbaton's theme by discussing the pride he has from his Jewish identity. "My favorite part of the Shabbaton was the keynote speaker, Alan Veingrad, because he helped me appreciate how special my Jewish identity is," said senior Eli Goldberg. "I really admire him," he added.

Shabbat was kicked off by beautiful davening (prayers), followed by a festive meal. After the meal, students and their Rebbeim (rabbis) sang together and shared words of Torah at a tisch (religious gathering). Students heard from a panel of DRS Rebbeim tackling an array of questions posed by the audience regarding inspiration and Judaism. At the conclusion of Shabbat, the school got together to sing inspirational songs and to hear words of motivation from Rabbi Yisroel Kaminetsky, the school's principal. Following Shabbat, a barbecue dinner was held, followed by lively singing and dancing. The senior video was

shown, and ping pong, trivia and video game tournaments were held.

The Shabbaton also gave students an opportunity to build relationships with both their peers and teachers. "The Shabbaton was a fantastic way to bond with classmates, interact with teachers and further connect with Judaism," said sophomore Justin Weiss. Rabbi Eliyahu Wolf, a veteran teacher, agreed that the Shabbaton was a great way to foster relationships with students. "The Shabbaton was a very enjoyable experience and a great way to connect with students," he said.

*(See photos on page 18.)*

*A version of this story first appeared in the Nassau Herald and The Jewish Star newspapers.*

## Domestic Violence: Should We Differentiate for Athletes?

Continued from page 1

player Ray Rice was arrested after he struck his fiancée multiple times in an elevator. After committing this horrible act, Rice was accepted into a program, which upon completion, could lead to the charges being expunged. In the end he only received a two game suspension. In Sept., Adrian Peterson of the Minnesota Vikings was indicted of a felony charge for abusing his child, which by Texas law is punishable by a \$1,000 fine and two years in state prison. Peterson made bail at \$15,000 and was paid to leave the NFL. Despite his actions, the NFL Players Association is asking for his immediate reinstatement. In summation, while we admire athletes for their remarkable abilities, they must be held accountable when they commit

heinous acts. We must work together to end domestic violence, and to rid it from a society as reputable as ours.



Visit us on the  
web at  
[drsstar.com!](http://drsstar.com)

Voice your  
opinion! Send  
your letter to

Both Ray Rice (above, left) and Adrian Peterson (below, left) have been charged with serious offenses relating to domestic violence or child abuse.

-Photos courtesy ESPN.com

# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 3

## TECHNOLOGY TURNPIKE BY DAVID HERMAN

Recently, Facebook has gone on an extremely expensive shopping spree. Among its purchases were Instagram, a photo-sharing network (\$1 billion), WhatsApp, a mobile messaging app (\$19 billion), and Oculus Rift, a virtual reality company (\$2 billion). That's a total of \$22 billion for just three of the companies that Facebook bought, not to mention its other purchases. To put that into perspective, that's almost 26 million iPhone 6s. While most people in the modern world know about Instagram and WhatsApp, not many know about Oculus Rift and what it does. They don't realize how amazing and revolutionary this technology is to the entire world.

Nowadays, the most popular video games involve first-person gaming, where the player experiences the game through the eyes of the protagonist. These games obviously need the player to be sitting in front a television with a handheld gaming device and a central console.

But Oculus is different. Oculus revolves around the same concept of first-person gaming, but does not involve a television or any gaming console. Oculus has invented virtual reality goggles that can display any scenario the player wants, allowing the individual to be fully submerged in the game. Now imagine playing as the quarterback of your favorite football team and winning the Super Bowl on a regular television. Imagine being fully submerged in the same game, with no distractions, just wearing a pair of visual goggles, and holding a controller. If you, as the quarterback, would turn your head to the left, then the visual display would turn to the left and you would see all the receivers lined up to your left. If you would turn right, so would your player. These details contribute to the feeling that you are in the actual game, acting as the quarterback.

(continued on page 6)

## The Humor Hub By Noach Levy

Welcome to another issue of DRS's finest Humor Page! The success of this page greatly depends on my readers (you guys), so please send in jokes to be added to the page! I will try to put in as many of your jokes as I can. So if you have jokes, you can email them to me at [noach.levy@drshalb.org](mailto:noach.levy@drshalb.org).

Let's start with some puns, shall we?

What did one ocean say to the other ocean? Nothing, he just waved! Did you sea what I did there? Are you shore? Are you tide of these puns? Because I understand that after a whale they get annoying. I'm doing this on porpoise though. Shell I stop these horrible puns? Alright, I won't sand anymore.

### The Old Dog

Once upon a time, there was an old dog chasing a butterfly. After a long time of running around, it suddenly realized that it had gotten lost deep in a forest. So it wandered around, trying to find its way out.

A panther came along and saw the dog in the forest. "Oooh," it said, "That dog looks delicious. I'm going to go eat it." And so, the panther started sneaking up on the dog. The dog noticed the panther, and knew that he was in trouble. But he found at his feet a bunch of large bones, so he sat down, picked one up in his mouth, and started chewing on it. When the panther came within hearing distance, he said loudly "Mmm that panther was delicious." He then got up and made a show of looking around. "I wonder if there are any more around."

Needless to say, the panther fled. But a squirrel saw what happened and figured it out. So he went after the panther. When he found him, he told him everything he saw in exchange for protection. And so, the panther and the squirrel once again went back to the dog.

(continued on page 6)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 4

## Positive Psychology: Empathy For Others

By Natan Alper

What makes empathy such a worthwhile characteristic that it's looked upon by many as such a positive trait?

Empathy is the ability to feel and share another's emotions. When we see other people suffering, most of us have the desire to help them in some way. Because of this, some of us assume the best way to help them is to feel empathy for them; feel their suffering, understand what they're experiencing, whether physical or emotional pain, and lower our states of mind and energy to their level of pain.

If we look at this from an energetic perspective, feeling empathy is the LAST option one should choose!

By feeling empathy, one furthers others people's suffering since one is expressing how *awful* and *sorry* he feels for them, which puts them in an inferior and lower position than they would normally feel. Not only is one possibly hurting them, but the individual is also harming his own state of mind. A person can't help others by lowering himself to their level. That's similar to saying that the way to help a drowning person is to jump in the water and drown oneself with them! If one focuses on another's illness or emotional pain, and proclaims how terrible their situation is, it only contributes to their suffering.

If one wants to help another who is in pain: 1) Picture the person in pain at their best. Don't look at them in a condescending way

and make them feel lower than yourself nor their normal self. 2) Take action from a positive angle. Instead of agreeing with the person about how horrible their situation is, try to distract them from the reality and tell the person some jokes. Talk, laugh and switch to positive topics, unrelated to the person's discomfort. 3) Acknowledge their upset feelings and validate that they have a right to feel the way they do. People like to be validated and you can do that without joining in on their "rant of complaints". 4) Don't explain to them *this article* about how empathy shouldn't be felt and your methods of making the person feel better... Whenever you see someone in pain, remind them who they are or simply remind yourself for them, and use the above methods to cure their unhappiness.

## From the Heartland: E-Bikes Irk Pedestrians

By Chaim Alper

Recently, the Electrical Bicycle, also known as the e-bike, has become a popular method of transportation in Israel. However, this year, a problem is beginning to rise over the danger posed to pedestrians by drunk or simply careless drivers of e-bikes. While not as dangerous as cars can be, e-bikes have been involved in more than 90 accidents this year. Because of this, police and activists have begun pushing for the enforcement of traffic laws against e-bikes, but the process is being slowed down by bureaucratic

delays as it is transferred to municipal officials. Due to the holdup of the new laws, police have decided to enforce it themselves for the time being, although they only intervene to ensure the safety of both pedestrians and e-bikers. These actions came shortly after the institution of certain regulations last September that forbade anyone under 14 from riding e-bikes in Israel. In addition, drivers aged 16 are required to bike only on paths designated for bikers. However, other laws

(Continued on page 11)

## Wildcats Football Not So Wild

By Ruvie Sturm

The DRS Wildcats, the reigning Mesivta Football League champions, suffered a devastating loss to Yeshiva Darchei Eretz (YDE) to open the season. When asked for his thoughts on the game, Coach Yitz Mendlowitz said, "[I am] disappointed in the loss, but [there are] a lot of bright spots that we will work on for the rest of the season." The Wildcats' offense was stagnant early on, throwing two early interceptions. The Wildcats' secondary wasn't too strong either, giving up a couple of deep touchdown passes. The defensive line was outstanding

(Continued on page 5)

# THE STAR COLUMNS

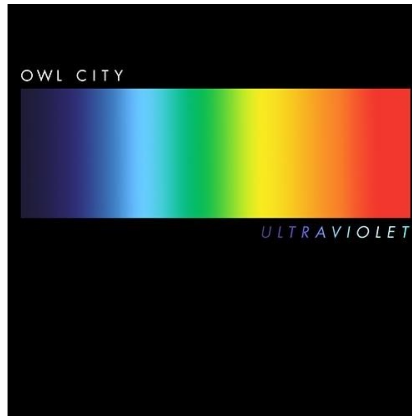
PAGE 5

## Ultraviolet (★★★)

By Calev Sanders

Not to be mistaken for a band, the artist Owl City is a single mastermind behind the curtains of his exquisite work. Starting out independently, Adam Young began his music career by posting his homemade electronic songs on MySpace under the pen name "Owl City." There, he gathered a following and in 2007, Adam released his debut album, *Of June*. More than seven years and five albums later, Adam Young presented the world with his latest creation, the four-track long EP *Ultraviolet* as well as two accompanying singles, *Tokyo* and *You're Not Alone*.

Starting with the pre-release single *Beautiful Times*, Young reemerged in the music charts in late spring earlier this



year. This song, along with the single *Tokyo* as well as the other tracks on *Ultraviolet*, *Up All Night* and *Wolf Bite*, all fall under Owl City's classic style of fast paced, hyper surrealistic, synth-riddled electronica, thus showing that he has yet to shed the non-dance, electronic music style that first made him popular in 2008 with the hit *Fireflies*. Not to say that

this music in the past has gone stale or has in any displeased his fans; it simply shows a lack of deviation in an era in which the music industry is full of artists crossing over to other genres. The three albums, *Ocean Eyes*, *All Things Bright and Beautiful* and *The Midsummer Station*, have served as proof of the stagnation in his music with their monotonous, repetitive sound and almost identical, dubstep, electronic beat.

One redeeming quality Owl City has retained through his career so far is his lyrics. Having written practically every one of his songs, save for *The Midsummer Station*, where most of the songs were written in collaboration, Adam Young's poetic, whimsical and very unique lyricism has served as his trademark in the music industry. Additionally, two of the Ultraviolet tracks, *This Is Not The End*

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Wildcats Football Not So Wild

Continued From Page 4

though, putting tons of pressure on the opposing quarterback throughout the game with the help of Heezkeyahoo Burstyn ('17), who recorded five sacks, and Gideon Kadry ('15), who recorded two sacks. The offense started clicking in the second half, as quarterback Ephraim Mammon ('15) threw three touchdowns to wide receiver Yoni Eichler ('15). But two more interceptions thrown by the Wildcats proved the deficit insurmountable. The game was near its end when Eichler, who was put in as quarterback, threw a touchdown pass to receiver Ezra Alyeshmerni ('15), cutting YDE's lead to eight. But it just wasn't enough to bring them back, as DRS went on to lose by a score of **32-24**. Unfortunately, DRS had an even more disastrous game against their rivals, the HAFTR Hawks. The Wildcats' offense couldn't get anything going to start the game. The offensive line wasn't able to hold off the Hawks' pass rush, giving up numerous sacks, and the defense gave up three early touchdowns to put them down 18-0 at the end of the first half. But the Wildcats came out with fire in the second half, as quarterback Sammy Miller ('15) and the Wildcats' offense put together an 80-yard drive, capped off by a 20-yard touchdown pass to Alyeshmerni. The defense also came out determined to come back, forcing the Hawks to punt on their opening drive. The Wildcats then put together another nice offensive possession, but it ended in the red zone as Miller threw one of his three interceptions, and the Hawks went on to score another touchdown just a few minutes later. The Wildcats tried forcing a late game comeback, but failed to do so yet again, losing **25-7** to start the season 0-2.



Photo by Ruvie Sturm/DRS Star

# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 6

## TECHNOLOGY TURNPIKE

### Continued from page 3

It is an amazing feeling like no other.

But Oculus can be used for so much more than just gaming. Architects and engineers can use Oculus to build a life-size 3D model of their project. They would then be able to look inside and fix any problems that they may have overlooked. Or they can visit ancient structures, such as the Coliseum in Rome, to fully grasp the marvelous architecture. Teachers and educators can use Oculus to bring students to historical events like the

signing of the Constitution. Airplane pilots would be able to put themselves in a virtual plane, and they would be able to fly in certain hazardous scenarios they could have otherwise never done before. Oculus can significantly change the professional world.

If someone would want to visit any city around the world, be it ancient or modern, Oculus would be able to take them there. There would be no need for an expensive plane ticket to China or Italy, just a pair of Oculus goggles. No more crowded touring, just you and the world, with an infinite

number of possibilities.

Oculus Rift is such a revolutionary technology because it contributes to more than just one field. It provides change for the gaming world, the professional world, and the world of travel. Children and teenagers can now experience the feeling of total submersion. The professional world will forever be altered for the better due to Oculus. And finally, you can explore the world, the way you like to. That's the power of Oculus Rift.

## HUMOR HUB

### Continued from page 3

The dog noticed them coming, and knew the trick was up. Or was it?

He sat down and gnawed on the bone again, and when the panther and squirrel were in hearing distance, he stood up and said loudly, "Where's that squirrel? I sent him to find me another panther to eat hours ago!"

And there, gentlemen, is a perfect example of a BAhs!

### Email Gone Wrong

An Illinois man left the snow-filled streets of Chicago for a vacation in Florida. His wife was on a business trip and was planning to meet him there the next day. When he reached his hotel, he decided to send his wife a quick e-mail. Unable to find the scrap of paper on which he had written her e-mail address, he did

his best to type it in from memory. Unfortunately, he missed one letter and his note was directed instead to an elderly woman whose husband had passed away only the day before. When the grieving widow checked her e-mail, she took one look at the monitor, let out a piercing scream, and fell to the floor in a dead faint. At the sound, her family rushed into the room and saw this note on the screen:

DEAREST WIFE,  
JUST GOT CHECKED IN.  
EVERYTHING PREPARED FOR  
YOUR ARRIVAL TOMORROW.  
YOUR LOVING HUSBAND  
P.S. SURE IS HOT DOWN HERE

## Stereotypical Baseball: The Art of Misconception

### Continued from page 1

"They have mouths to feed, mortgages to pay, bills to weep over. You have baseball, the dream, the game, and the joy, the crack of the bat and the roar of the crowd. You fly over all in a fantasy land where money has no value. How dare you talk of such trivialities in the face of all you have, you acquisitive minor-league swine! Take your player appearance sign-up sheet and shove it!"

The salary in minor league baseball is mediocre at best. Contrary to public belief, minor leaguers don't make an ample amount of cash. In fact, most players are forced to work a second job to pay their bills.

(Continued on page 10)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 7

Ultraviolet (★★★)

**Continued from page 5**

and *You're Not Alone*, stand out prominently as they seemingly do not follow the aforementioned trend of Owl City's music. *This Is Not The End* is a sad, tear-jerker of a song about a girl overcoming the trauma of her father's suicide. It is among the very few of Young's works containing a somewhat morbid theme as such. But despite the melancholy way this song starts out, the story of it progresses into a positive conclusion and leaving off with a heartwarming message about inner strength.

On the other hand, *You're Not Alone*, featuring Britt Nicole, is still more similar to the usual feel of *Owl City*, musically, with its pulsing, rhythmic drums and beat drops. However the lyrics, as well as the song as a whole are extremely irregular in contrast to other of Young's works. With "you rescued me, and I believe that G-d is love, and He is all I need," as the first line in the chorus, this single is an interesting and unusual song to be released by Owl City, about faith in G-d and His always being with us. While some fans, particularly in the atheist and agnostic groups, may be offended by this song, others are excited by this new direction Young has taken, and most simply love it just like all of his other music. Either way, it seems that Ultraviolet could just be another brick in the road. he's led his career in thus far, or it may be the first step towards something new for Owl

City and his future music releases. As he wrote in the EP's third track: "It's just the beginning, this isn't the end."

Starting with the pre-release single *Beautiful Times*, Young reemerged in the music charts in late spring earlier this year. This song, along with the single *Tokyo* as well as the other tracks on *Ultraviolet*, *Up All Night* and *Wolf Bite*, all fall under Owl City's classic style of fast paced, hyper surrealistic, synth-riddled electronica, thus showing that he has yet to shed the non-dance, electronic music style that first made him popular in 2008 with the hit *Fireflies*. Not to say that this music in the past has gone stale or has in any displeased his fans; it simply shows a lack of deviation in an era in which the music industry is full of artists crossing over to other genres. The three albums, *Ocean Eyes*, *All Things Bright* and *Beautiful* and *The Midsummer Station*, have served as proof of the stagnation in his music with their monotonous, repetitive sound and almost identical, dubstep, electronic beat.

One redeeming quality Owl City has retained through his career so far is his lyrics. Having written practically every one of his songs, save for *The Midsummer Station*, where most of the songs were written in collaboration, Adam Young's poetic, whimsical and very unique lyricism has served as his trademark in the music industry. Additionally, two of the Ultraviolet

tracks, *This Is Not The End* and *You're Not Alone*, stand out prominently as they seemingly do not follow the aforementioned trend of Owl City's music.

*This Is Not The End* is a sad, tear-jerker of a song about a girl overcoming the trauma of her father's suicide. It is among the very few of Young's works containing a somewhat morbid theme as such. But despite the melancholy way this song starts out, the story of it progresses into a positive conclusion and leaving off with a heartwarming message about inner strength. On the other hand, *You're Not Alone*, featuring Britt Nicole, is still more similar to the usual feel of *Owl City*, musically, with its pulsing, rhythmic drums and beat drops. However the lyrics, as well as the song as a whole are extremely irregular in contrast to other of Young's works. With

"you rescued me, and I believe that G-d is love, and He is all I need," as the first line in the chorus, this single is an interesting and unusual song to be released by Owl City, about faith in G-d and His always being with us. While some fans, particularly in the atheist and agnostic groups, may be offended by this song, others are excited by this new direction Young has taken, and most simply love it just like all of his other music. Either way, it seems that Ultraviolet could just be another brick in the road. he's lead his career in thus far, or it may be the first step towards something new for Owl City and his future music releases. As he wrote in the EP's third track: "It's just the beginning, this isn't the end."

Support your business! Support our publication!

For more information on placing an ad here, email [sponsor@drsstar.com](mailto:sponsor@drsstar.com)

Follow us on Twitter (@DRS\_Star)! Like us on Facebook (DRS Star Newspaper)!

# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 8

## The SAT: A Sword Looming Overhead

By Brian Chernigoff

The Day of Judgment is imminent. All high school juniors' lives are hanging in the balance. Those who find favor in The Great Tribunal's eyes on this fateful day will be granted life, while those who fail to do so will be subject to the tribulations of Hell. Students' entire fates and chances of successful lives all depend on this awe-inspiring day. The Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) is approaching quickly, and those who are not ready shall perish. This is the test that will determine whether or not we will lead happy, successful and productive lives. This is the day of fate.

Until now, the College Board has successfully brainwashed us with propaganda and this false idea that our entire lives depend on our success on the SAT. This is perhaps one of the greatest fallacies of Americans today. Although standardized tests are quite important factors in every student's acceptance to college, nevertheless, too much importance is placed on them by colleges. because they are inaccurate conveyors of a student's intelligence and overall success in college and life in general.

Because of the abundance of college applications received by colleges, students must make themselves look impressive and stand out if they are to be noticed by colleges. As a result of this, colleges need something with

which to test each student's ability "equally." Therefore the SAT is used. It is a quick way for admissions officers to distinguish between a strong student and a weak one without investing much effort. However, it is not an equal way of determining a student's chances for success in college nor does it actually portray his or her intelligence.

Studies have shown that students coming from well off families often score higher on the SAT than those coming from lower class families because they are able to afford resources such as tutors and review courses for it. If the SAT were really an "accurate" predictor of one's success in college and a correct indicator of his or her intelligence, then all students, even those from lower socioeconomic classes, would be granted equal opportunity to do well on it, not just the upper classes.

A common misconception many students have is that the SAT accurately predicts one's intelligence and chances for prosperity in their careers, and has monumental effects on the rest of their lives. There are a few things that the SAT tests, such as how well one can guess between two choices on a multiple choice question, but there is a plethora of information about students that the SAT does not test. Perseverance and self-discipline are essential qualities that one needs to succeed in college and beyond, yet the SAT does not

indicate these attributes in its takers. Granted that it tests one's abilities to focus on one test for four hours straight, despite this fact, it still does not test a student's ability to be successful in an intense college course which requires perseverance on his or her part to read and study every day for weeks and months at a time. Furthermore, creativity and innovation, qualities essential for America to be a productive and competitive society in the future, are not tested on the SAT. There could be an extremely innovative student with the potential to change the world, but his ideas never come to fruition because of his poor mark on the SAT. What a shame!

Although the SAT is a futile portrayal of one's success in life because the score is usually dependant on one's family's financial situation and because it doesn't assess character traits essential for success in life, we nevertheless have an obligation to take it. Despite being encumbered with this burden, we must realize that it is only the first step of a journey of a thousand miles. If we do well, we must realize that we have a long way to go with a lot of hard work to reach our goals, and even if we don't do well, it is only the first step in our lives and we will have plenty of other opportunities to achieve success in our ventures.



# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 9

## Hock of the Hallway: New Cell Phone Policy

By Dovi Schlossberg

With the new cell phone policy in effect, students came into school this year with a new fear that their cell phones may be confiscated. There are some students who were confident that this policy would be a joke from the start, some kids who were unsure about the policy's outcome, and others who had a feeling that this new policy just might be what it was claimed to be; a policy that if one has his phone on him and uses it at any point during the day, from the beginning of Shacharit in the morning until dismissal, excluding lunch and gym, his phone will be taken away from him.

Everyone has a different

opinion regarding the new policy. There are those who favor it and there are those who are against it. In response to being asked questions along the lines of, "How do you feel about the new cell phone policy?," "How serious do you think it will be?" and "Do you think it will last?," students offered various answers. Zev Lowy ('17), said that he doesn't feel that the phone rule is very effective since kids are still using their phones in school, but are being more secretive and discreet about the usage to avoid getting caught. Yehuda Shetrit ('17), said that he thinks students should be allowed to use their phones between classes. He feels that regarding the social issue the school mentioned, this isn't the way to solve it. Gabriel Kalter ('17) agrees with Yehuda, and feels that the proper way to fix the problem of student's

social skills depreciating because of overuse of technology would be to have more entertaining grade-wide events, in which all students would be involved in such a way that they wouldn't feel the need to be virtually social, but would rather be social in person. Gabriel also said that the teachers could just collect all the students' cell phones prior to or at the beginning of class, and then have the students take them back after class. Some kids just said, "I don't mind it so much, although I would rather be allowed to have my phone on me during school." Netanel Yom-Tov ('16), said that he understands the functionality of the rule, and feels that it is beneficial to all the students who will now be that much more capable of listening and focusing on school than be engrossed in all the potential distractions of their phones

(Continued on page 10)

## Global Warming: Does it Exist?

By Simon Heimowitz

In recent years, the existence of Global Warming has been one of the most hotly-debated topics. I'm here to tell you why Global Warming is real and why it needs to be stopped. Global Warming is influencing the weather, as seen by Hurricane Sandy, as well as the extinction of certain species and a myriad of other issues.

Before going into specifics, I'd like to point out that 97% of climate scientists agree

that Global Warming is real. This isn't 97% of a randomly selected group of people, but rather this is 97% of people who have spent their entire lives and careers focusing on one thing: the Earth's climate. If such an overwhelming majority of climate scientists have all come to the same general consensus, their opinion must have some validity to it.

The way I see it, there are two main facts that prove the existence of Global Warming. One is that Carbon Dioxide traps heat, and two is that according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the

amount of carbon dioxide-emitting fuels that we burn annually has only been increasing. When sunlight passes through the Earth's atmosphere and warms the earth, the heat is reflected back towards space, and is then trapped by Carbon Dioxide molecules, which we put there. The trapping of heat increases the average temperature of the Earth. This is known as the Greenhouse Effect. Currently, Carbon Dioxide levels are at an all-time high. The current concentration of atmospheric carbon dioxide is about 396 ppm (parts per million). A media release by the

(continued on page 10)

# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 10

## Global Warming: Does it Exist?

Continued from page 8

NOAA (National Oceanic and Atmospheric) supports this evidence. This study, along with many others, has shown that Carbon Dioxide levels in the Earth's atmosphere have been increasing, along with the average temperature of the Earth.

When the overall temperature of the Earth rises, glaciers melt, and when glaciers melt, ocean levels rise. Studies have shown that over the past century, the average temperature has increased by around 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. While that may not seem like much, the rate

of temperature increase has nearly doubled over the past 50 years. According to NASA's study on global climate change, over the past century, ocean levels have risen 6.7 inches. In the past decade, they've rose nearly double that amount. Studies have shown that over the past century, the average temperature has increased by about 1.5 degrees Fahrenheit. While this may not seem like much, the rate of temperature increase has nearly doubled in the past 50 years.

How does the rise of ocean levels affect you? For one, according to the National Wildlife Federation (NWF), "Global warming is making hot days hotter,

rainfall and flooding heavier, hurricanes stronger and droughts more severe." The most recent event that this can be seen in is Hurricane Sandy. Additionally, animal and plant species going extinct not only disrupts ecosystem equilibrium, but also destroys potential cures for diseases. A cure for cancer could exist, and we are destroying it.

Global Warming is real, serious and is happening right now. The world is warming, glaciers are melting and ocean levels are rising. It is our affecting our everyday lives. By doing simple things, such as recycling plastic bottles and driving less, you can help stop global warming.

## Hock of the Hallway

Continued from page 9

One student even said that it's important to have breaks from our phones because quite frankly, nowadays, lots of people are addicted to their phones. He compared the policy to Shabbat, on which, we get a mandatory break from technology to learn, spend time, talk and rest. However, with the level of addiction that some people have towards their phones, 25 consecutive hours a week may not be enough. He feels that by instituting this policy, it may help a lot of teenagers rehabilitate from this addiction.

Clearly, there is an immense amount of feelings about this rule.

Personally, I feel that the policy is understandable, although I believe students should have permission to use their cell phones during breakfast and should just be required to turn off and hand in their phones prior to class and Shabbat, and get them back

## Stereotypical Baseball: The Art of Misconception

Continued from page 6

Cody Decker's after-tax signing bonus as a 22nd-round Draft pick in 2009 certainly did.

Cody Decker, a 22nd-round Draft pick in 2009, proclaimed at his mediocre contract while slowly enunciating the terms of his bonus. "Six hundred and thirty eight dollars," he said. "I was able to get a nice steak and that's about it."

And just think about how many

players turn out like Buckley. There are just under 200 teams in the minor leagues. Each team has approximately 23-24 players who are just like Buckley. They are, as one scout once put it, considered "necessary expenses."

Because every team needs to fill their minor league rosters. And they need players to do that.

Contrary to public beliefs, baseball is a job for these players. They don't make the money that stereotypes say they do. They don't enjoy the game like the stereotypes think they do. And they can't live their lives like everyone else because they are away from their families, unlike the stereotypes which try to make you believe that it's a fantasy life.

At a Portland Sea Dogs game this year, a lady walked over to me on an

(continued on page 11)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 11

## Stereotypical Baseball: The Art of Misconception

Continued from page 10

autograph line and proclaimed, "I have been a season ticket holder for 19 years! Guess how many players have made it to the big leagues from here?"

"100?" I guessed. "No," she exclaimed. "10! Isn't that amazing?" After nineteen years of watching a countless number of players step on this field, there managed to be a mere 10 players that would one day play in the Major Leagues? This is double-A, not rookie ball!

"I had a couple of times where I had to dig for quarters, literally, in High-A, just to buy some food to cook at home because I really just didn't have any money," said Edwar Gonzalez, who signed with the Yankees as an undrafted free agent in 2002.

"Especially for the guys that don't sign for that much money, with no signing bonus, they don't have anything to fall back to. I'm lucky, a couple of times my family helped me out. Besides that, you're on your own. If you don't have any food, you've got to borrow from somebody or something like that."

Minor League baseball is not what you think it is. It's not what your friends think it is, or what of half the media thinks it is. Most players are being paid below the minimum wage, are traveling away from their families, and are getting used to the uncomfortable hotels and apartments that they are stuck with.

It is not easy in the Minor Leagues.

## From the Heartland: E-Bikes Irk Pedestrians

Continued from page 4

and regulations, which include the obligation to wear a helmet and the prohibition against driving on the sidewalk, are pending legislative decision. Even though one might consider that the Israeli police are going too far, it is important to note that the former mayor of New York City, Michael Bloomberg, supported legislation that forbade the use of e-bikes on the city's streets, as they posed too great of a danger to pedestrians. In New York City, individuals who ride their bikes on sidewalks, as opposed to the bike lane or in the street, can be ticketed as per the city's administrative code.

The main reason for the major danger of e-bikes is that they, unlike regular bikes, make no squeaky or creaking sound that alert nearby pedestrians and drivers to their presence, culminating in even more accidents. The only question now is if Israel will reach the same conclusion as New York City did in this regard.

*Freshman Perspective: A Fresh Start*

*By Daniel Greenfield*

There's nothing harder than starting all over again, especially when it comes to school. Starting school all over again may be tough, but at the end of the day, you'll know you've accomplished something great. In fact, when you enter high school, you don't really feel like you're starting all over again, but rather feel more like you are advancing onto another level. And sure, it might be harder, but that's the only way to accomplish

anything in life. It's like when you play a video game, you start off on a normal mode which isn't too hard nor too easy, but once you delve deeper into the game, you make the difficulty level harder so you can push yourself more, and if you don't, you won't feel like you are accomplishing anything. However, once you beat the game after failing many times and after putting in a lot of hard work and effort, you feel like you've achieved so much. This was the exact mindset I had entering into my first year at high school. Going into DRS, I had one thing in mind; to get involved. If there's one thing that I learned from all my preparation for DRS, it is the necessity of getting involved by signing up for clubs, trying out for teams, and even trying a new instrument. Not only did I learn that I need to get involved, but that I would deeply regret it if I didn't. So when I stepped into DRS, I knew I would get in there and get involved, and that's exactly what I did. I signed up for a club, tried out for a couple of teams, and got involved in whatever I could instead of staying at home and watching Netflix, and losing the opportunity to not only learn more about other people, but to learn more about myself and what I'm capable of. Being a freshman isn't the easiest thing in the world, but it isn't the hardest either. All you have to do is know what goals you want to achieve and have a good mindset about them and never give up. For example, have you ever had one of those days where everything just goes wrong and you just want to give up trying? Well, you can control how

(continued on page 12)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 12

## Freshman Perspective: A Fresh Start

Continued from page 11

those days go by not giving up and having a good attitude. Your perspective is what determines how your day goes. You've just got to keep an optimistic mindset. Everything is up to you with regards to what you can do and what you can accomplish, and that's exactly the mindset I need to have going through high school. These four years is where I will build the most character and become the person I truly want to be. All I have to know is in what direction I'm heading in and what goals I am striving to achieve. This will ensure that my high school experience will not only be enjoyable, but the results will be that much better.

## Combating Concussions and ACL Tears

By Zack Lowinger

In the past few years, there have been a series of injuries in professional sports, such as concussions, anterior cruciate ligament tears (otherwise known as ACL tears), and paralysis. In the National Football League today, there have been harder hitting players than ever before, going for the most critical parts of the body: the head, spinal cord, and knees. When an NFL player dives at another player's knees, spinal cord, or head, the intense amount of contact tears the anterior cruciate ligament, causes a concussion to the other player, or gives them long term paralysis. In the NHL and MLB, there is a lot of running or skating, and defenders often go straight for the knees and head so they can injure the other player and take them out for the game, a few days, a few weeks, months or even longer in

severe cases. When defenders go for players' heads, there is a ton of contact at the point of collision that can result in severe injuries. There have been a lot of professional sports players that have lost their careers to injury. Some of the more famous people that have had career-ending injuries include Eric Legrand and Steve Young. Eric Legrand has one of the saddest stories in the history of college football. On Oct.16, 2010, on the second-half opening kickoff, one of the better special teams members of Rutgers University, Eric Legrand was running down the field to tackle the kick returner, but got blindsided by a blocker and was suddenly was unable to get up. The doctors soon realized that he would have long-term paralysis. Since then, he has been making progress in his rehabilitation and we all hope and pray for him to have a speedy recovery. Steve Young also has a really sad story. If you were to watch the NFL in the early 90s, there was a far superior quarterback to anyone else. His name was Steve Young. He was a lefty and won a Super Bowl during his playing career. He may have won more, but we will never know what could have happened because of the multiple injuries he suffered over the years. Young suffered seven concussions before retiring in 1999. Worried he was wading in dangerous waters, Young retired from the game of football. These injuries can be life-altering far beyond the realm of professional sports. It is the responsibility of professional athletic associations, including the NHL, NFL and MLB to

minimize these injuries as much as possible, and to ensure that athletes can lead normal lives after their respective careers end.

## Op-Ed: With a New Year Comes New Opportunities

By Yitzchak Carroll

Now that Sukkot and the High Holidays have passed, we have settled into the new year at DRS with much fanfare and excitement. By now (or by the time this paper goes to print), we are well-acclimated to the new school year and our friends and peers. Many of us in high school experience a "down" from time to time. We feel "left out" of the action going on in school and feel an internal urge to get involved. High school and life in general can only be an enjoyable experience if one feels as if he has a "place" in his community. DRS is a community of students and faculty members from diverse backgrounds coming together to learn and grow as one. It is never too late to get involved in the school and play a role in our united community of learners and thinkers. Despite the fact that the tryout season for most academic and athletic teams has passed doesn't mean it's too late to get involved. DRS's fantastic Israel Advocacy Committee is always looking for new volunteers. So are many clubs in the school, covering a wide range of talents. Just stop by the Student Activities Office and ask the tireless Rabbi Brazil what you can get involved in. Have a good idea for a club that doesn't (continued on page 13)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 13

## Op-Ed: With a New Year Comes New Opportunities

Continued from page 12

yet exist? Simply ask Rabbi Brazil and it will become a reality. That's how this newspaper and countless other school projects have gotten started. The doors for involvement and opportunity are always open and are just a minute's walk away. Involvement doesn't end at the doors to DRS. It extends to our communities, be it the Five Towns, West Hempstead, Queens, Brooklyn or wherever else we may hail from. Get involved in tutoring younger students who need help, volunteering to babysitting for a family that may be financially struggling, or helping out with kiruv activities in your area. Or maybe mentoring special needs students, or working with senior citizens may be your niche. The opportunities for involvement are endless and are waiting for your talents and skill set. So what are you waiting for? Get involved! We would be remiss without publicly acknowledging Rabbi Eli Brazil for all that he does for the students of our yeshiva. From organizing Shabbatons and trips to school-wide contests and events, he works tirelessly to ensure that every student has a niche in in DRS and a fun time is had by all. Despite his myriad of other responsibilities, including managing a large sleepaway camp and serving as the business adviser for The DRS Star, not to mention his role as a husband and father, Rabbi Brazil works unflinchingly to ensure that high school is both enjoyable and productive for every student in DRS. With that in mind, the windows for involvement extend to this newspaper as well. We urge every student to get

to get involved. Read the paper when it comes out. Write letters to the editor (send them to editor@drsstar.com) and voice your opinion. Don't be surprised if you are approached by a Star reporter or research associate in the hallway or at a game to be interviewed or polled on an issue. Feel free to join us weekly during Club period in Room 105 for the Journalism and Media Club, to learn more about the influential field of journalism, while improving your writing skills. The opportunities for involvement are boundless, and if you haven't yet taken advantage of some of them, I strongly urge you to do so.

## Bring Back the Honest Highway Bandits

By Eli Lauer

I'm all for safe driving, especially near schools where children might be playing, but you have to admit that the new truck-mounted cameras in school zones are ridiculous. While the government has a right to monitor safe driving and protect children, most seem to agree that the new camera trucks are nothing more than a money-printing machine for county government. If the government really wants children to be safe near schools, let them add more crossing guards and set reasonable speed limits. As I was recently reading the local news, I came across a report of protests on Mill Road, a rather busy street. The report read, "Many people drove with their hazards on, at a maximum of 10 m.p.h. to protest the insanity of the camera trucks placed near the school on Mill

Road." Not long ago, I overheard my parents speaking with a friend who received three camera truck tickets. Their friend simply drove to the mall and back, somehow receiving the insane amount of three tickets in one trip. That's quite an expensive shopping spree, right? My father also has a friend who got six camera truck tickets in the span of three weeks. This friend should own that truck by now! Let's start with the basic problem – the established speed limit for a school zone is way too low. On Mill Road, for example, traffic practically comes to a complete stop when cars slow down to the posted 20 m.p.h. speed limit. Seriously, 20 m.p.h. on Mill Road is like going 75 m.p.h. on the Autobahn! I would suggest that the speed limit be increased to 30 m.p.h. – reasonable, yet safe. Second, the trucks do not generate a safer environment for children; they simply generate thousands of dollars, if not more, for the government. If we really want to ensure safety, the government can hire more crossing guards to monitor school zones. Those crossing guards would actually keep kids safe rather than allow the kids to be used as pawns in this bad game of speeding camera chess. Third, I would like to suggest that causing cars to slow down on a busy street actually creates a greater hazard for the drivers, as well as pedestrians, because accidents will occur when cars slow down unexpectedly. Finally, it's time for

(continued on page 14)

# THE STAR COLUMNS

PAGE 14

## Bring Back the Honest Highway Bandits

Continued from page 13

I'm all for safe driving, especially near schools where children might be playing, but you have to admit that the new truck-mounted cameras in school zones are ridiculous. While the government has a right to monitor safe driving and protect children, most seem to agree that the new camera trucks are nothing more than a money-printing machine for county government. If the government really wants children to be safe near schools, let them add more crossing guards and set reasonable speed limits. As I was recently reading the local news, I came across a report of protests on Mill Road, a rather busy street. The report read, "Many people drove with their hazards on, at a maximum of 10 m.p.h. to protest the insanity of the camera trucks placed near the school on Mill Road." Not long ago, I overheard my parents speaking with a friend who received three camera truck tickets. Their friend simply drove to the mall and back, somehow receiving the insane amount of three tickets in one trip. That's quite an expensive shopping spree, right? My father also has a friend who got six camera truck tickets in the span of three weeks. This friend should own that truck by now! Let's start with the basic problem – the established speed limit for a school zone is way too low. On Mill Road, for example, traffic practically comes to a complete stop when cars slow down to the posted 20 m.p.h. speed limit. Seriously, 20 m.p.h. on Mill Road is like going 75 m.p.h. on the Autobahn! I would suggest that the speed limit be increased to 30 m.p.h. –

Autobahn! I would suggest that the speed limit be increased to 30 m.p.h. – reasonable, yet safe. Second, the trucks do not generate a safer environment for children; they simply generate thousands of dollars, if not more, for the government. If we really want to ensure safety, the government can hire more crossing guards to monitor school zones. Those crossing guards would actually keep kids safe rather than allow the kids to be used as pawns in this bad game of speeding camera chess. Third, I would like to suggest that causing cars to slow down on a busy street actually creates a greater hazard for the drivers, as well as pedestrians, because accidents will occur when cars slow down unexpectedly. Finally, it's time for the government to find transparent and honest ways to generate income. These camera trucks are simply a hidden form of taxation without representation, something our Constitution prohibits. The trucks are likely generating thousands of dollars a day from people who are not driving recklessly at all. Driving at 21 m.p.h. is hardly reckless. I think the time has come for people to stand up for what is right. We're all for safe driving and safe schools but, come on, who are you kidding? Why not just replace the trucks with highway bandits with masks and guns who rob us openly, effectively, and "honestly." Nassau, you're better than that – stop with the unfair shortcuts, get rid of the camera trucks and do something to really ensure our kids' safety at school – and do it now, before an innocent high school kid gets nailed by your speeding cameras!

## The Right Way to Stop Ebola

By Aaron Koffsky

Over the past few months, the countries of West Africa have experienced a plague of epidemic proportion due to the parasitical virus known as Ebola. Despite the thousands of deaths occurring within the African continent, Ebola primarily began entering the public eye of the western world once it began spreading to more modern first world countries. Although this originally brought Ebola into the center of public view, many were still skeptical about its danger. Much of this skepticism comes from the known nature of the virus itself. The only way to catch Ebola from an Ebola-infected patient is from direct contact with the patient's bodily fluids. This makes it relatively easy for one to avoid catching Ebola if they are mainstream, as opposed to being a crazy lunatic with cravings of consuming diseased bodily fluids. However, there are heroic individuals who purposely put themselves in danger of catching the virus in order to help save those infected. The unfortunate irony of the situation is that because doctors are in constant contact with their patients, it makes them the most likely candidates to become the next victims to spread the disease. In order to minimize contact between patients and the doctor, the

(continued on page 15)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 15

## The Right Way to Stop Ebola

Continued from page 14

Center for Disease Control (CDC) put a strict protocol in place regarding the attire and procedures that doctors are allowed and prohibited to perform on an Ebola-infected patient. Unfortunately, in West Africa, there is a dramatic lack of medical supplies, clean water, vaccines, medicine, food, and any other potential item a doctor may need in order to properly treat an Ebola-infected patient. This lack of supplies results in often-broken protocols, which contributes to the spread of the disease rather than the inhibition of it. Fortunately, in more modern countries, where there is an abundance of medical staff and supplies, it is much easier to quarantine and treat the infected than it is in West Africa. However, the problem still remains within the less developed region of West Africa, due to a lack of even the most standard medical equipment. An appropriate solution to this would be for first world countries such as the United States, Canada, France, and Britain to fund West Africa with the needed medical supplies and educate the native population to seek medical help when they show symptoms and to stay away from those who do show symptoms. To conclude, Ebola is and will continue to be a dramatic threat to the future of mankind if it goes unchecked. People need to be cured, supplies need to be given doctors, and awareness needs to be raised. However, if the appropriate precautions are put into place, we will be able to overcome this challenge that we have been posed with. Ebola is not the equivalent of a zombie apocalypse

or the end of modern civilization as we know it. It is also not something that can be cast off as unimportant or something that will go away on its own. Ebola is a serious threat that has already claimed thousands of lives and will continue to do so if nothing is done stop it. The simple fact that we are fortunate to live in a first world country at the peak of medical technology. However, this does not give us the right to ignore those who do not have those advantages. Rather, it is our obligation to help those who are less fortunate than us, not for the sake of obtaining something in return, but simply because it is the right thing to do.

*Fantasy Football Freeway: The Playoffs*

By Baruch Weissman

As the fantasy playoffs approach, these next few weeks are crucial for all fantasy owners. This is the time of year when the fantasy men are separated from the boys, when every play of every game can make or break your season, when those who were destined for fantasy success are granted entry to the playoffs, and those who were destined for failure are shown the door. This is the time of year when depth at every position is crucial, which is why we'll now take a look at the abundance of unowned players that can help get you through this pivotal stretch. Here are some players that can help your squad:

- 1) Jonas Gray, RB, New England Patriots. Gray is coming off of a 200 yard, four touchdown performance – good for a whopping 44 fantasy points. He's earned the trust of the Patriots' staff and will continue to score regularly. Expect big numbers from the

225-pound back.

2. C.J. Anderson, RB, Denver Broncos. Anderson is by far the best pick up if he's available in your league. Running for one of the best offenses in the league, C.J. has a ton of potential and will begin to produce immediately.

3. Jordan Matthews, WR, Philadelphia Eagles. With four touchdowns in his last three games, Matthews should be fired up as a WR2 in all leagues. The rookie has earned the trust of his staff and has developed a tremendous amount of chemistry with new Eagles' quarterback Mark Sanchez. Scoop him up if he's available.

4. Ryan Tannehill, QB, Miami Dolphins. Tannehill has slowed down after a strong start to the season, but he's due for some big numbers. Expect no less than QB1 numbers the rest of the way from Tannehill as he continues to play behind this high-octane Dolphins' offense.

5. Mychal Rivera, TE, Oakland Raiders. Though Rivera severely lacks talent, the trust and the high number of targets he's earned from quarterback Derek Carr turn this unskilled tight end into a must-own, especially in PPR leagues.

6. Heath Miller, TE, Pittsburgh Steelers. With the Steelers' offense booming, you can rely heavily on Miller to fix up your tight end needs. The big tight end gets red zone looks, and

(continued on page 16)

# THE STAR ARTICLES

PAGE 16

## Fantasy Football Freeway: The Playoffs

Continued from page 15

there's plenty of volume to keep his owners happy.

Good luck making the playoffs!

## Political Roundup

By Yitzchak Carroll

Republicans took the Senate majority and full control of Congress, while Democrats dominated the local races in our region during the 2014 Midterm Elections. While Midterm Elections tend to have a lower voter turnout than Presidential Elections, according to Social Studies teacher Mr. Randy Trupin, voters sent a clear message that they are unhappy with the Obama administration. In the local House of Representative race for the Fourth District of New York, Democrat Kathleen Rice beat Bruce Blakeman, the Republican candidate. According to Mr. Trupin, Rice had the advantage from the start, due to the name recognition she had from her position as Nassau County District Attorney. Blakeman, who was active in politics more than a decade ago, served as a Port Authority commissioner as well as a Nassau County legislator. Despite Blakeman's tremendous support for Israel, he did not take a stance on many controversial issue, leading the regional newspapers to endorse Rice. Never the less, Rice's tough stance on crime earned her Carolyn McCarthy's seat, who did not run for re-election. For the Governor's job in New York, incumbent Andrew Cuomo defeated Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, who ran on the Republican ticket. New Yorkers showed their support for Cuomo's progressive leadership and

decided he deserved to keep his post. "Thank you for four more years. We're going to do more great things. We're going to take this state even higher," Cuomo said in his acceptance speech, given in Manhattan. Incumbent Attorney General Eric Schneiderman and Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli retained their posts as well. In more local races, Democratic candidate Todd Kaminsky beat Avi Fertig in the 20th New York State Assembly District by a slim margin. "I have a very small announcement — we won!" said Kaminsky, a former federal prosecutor from Long Beach, in his acceptance speech at a bar in Long Beach. Fertig expressed his disappointment in losing the race, but said he intends to run again for the post in two years. "I'm disappointed, and far from alone in that respect, but know full well that most great careers in political leadership begin with at least one loss. So for now, my view of last week's election result is of me getting that loss out of the way," he said optimistically. State Senate Majority Leader Dean Skelos beat political newcomer Patrick Gillespie by an overwhelming majority. In Queens, incumbents Phil Goldfeder in the 23rd District, and Michael Simanowitz in the 27th District, both ran unopposed. New this school year, Nassau County placed stationary and mobile speed camera units in every school district in the county. The cameras, which are operated by Arizona-based American Traffic Solutions (ATS), mail an \$80 summons in to the registered owner of every vehicle clocked at more

than 30 m.p.h., 10 m.p.h. over the school zone speed limit of 20 m.p.h. Similar to the county's red light cameras, which are also operated by ATS, the registered owner of the vehicle, not the driver, is penalized. These cameras have caused much uproar among residents, who claim that the devices are there to make money, not to save lives. Recently, the county announced that they will install flashing lights next to all speed cameras by 2015. In a recent survey of 30 DRS students, 57% of respondents replied that they are aware of the cameras, while 60% said they opposed them.

-Research associates Yehuda Posner and Shmulik Roth performed the survey.

*Have a comment about this story? Want to voice your opinion on this matter? Send your letter to editor@drsstar.com today!*



Todd Kaminsky (above) and Kathleen Rice (below) both won seats in this year's election.



# THE STAR SPORTS

PAGE 17

## DRS Wildcats Varsity Basketball

Record: 5–0, as of Nov. 26

First Place in MYHSAL Eastern Division

Oct. 28: **DRS** beat Derech HaTorah is season home opener.

Nov. 1: Flatbush 36, **DRS 46**

Nov. 11: **DRS 47**, HANC 31

Nov. 15: Rambam 30, **DRS 57**

Nov. 25: **DRS 39**, Flatbush 20

## DRS Wildcats Varsity Hockey

Record: 7–1–0–0 (14 points), as of Nov. 26

First Place in MYHSAL Eastern Division

Oct. 22: **DRS 4**, NSHA 1

Oct. 28: Magen David 2, **DRS 6**

Oct. 30: **Frisch 3**, DRS 2

Nov. 2: HANC 2, **DRS 3** (OT)

Nov. 5: **DRS 5**, Flatbush 0

Nov. 10: **DRS 3**, Rambam 0

Nov. 17: **DRS 6**, Solomon Schechter 1

Nov. 18: North Shore 1, **DRS 5**

## DRS Wildcats JV Basketball

Record: 2–1, as of Nov. 26

Tied for Fourth Place in MYHSAL Eastern Division

Nov. 10: **NSHA 35**, DRS 31

Nov. 19: Shaarei Torah 36, **DRS 64**

Nov. 25: **DRS 40**, Magen David 29

## DRS Wildcats JV Hockey

Record: 3–1–0–0 (6 points)

Third Place in MYHSAL Eastern Division

Oct. 22: **DRS 7**, NSHA 0

Oct. 28: Magen David 1, **DRS 3**

Nov. 5: **DRS (W)**, Shaarei Torah (L)

Nov. 10: DRS 0, **Rambam 2**

Source: Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League

**Left:** Jeremy Brody looks to pass the ball, while being guarded by a HANC defender. Photo by Ari Savitsky/DRS Star

**Center:** The referee drops the puck in a hockey match at the Greenhouse. Photo by Yoni Sacknovitz/DRS Star

**Right:** The varsity basketball team comes in for a huddle during a timeout. Photo by Jakob Deutsch/DRS Star



# THE STAR PICTURES

PAGE 18

Photos by David Itzkowitz and Yoni Gutenmacher for The DRS Star



# THE STAR LETTERS

PAGE 19

## Why Baseball is Better Than Football

The corrupt nature of professional football is becoming more apparent by the day. Just recently, two of the NFL's running backs, Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice, were accused of crimes. Ray Rice allegedly assaulted his wife in an elevator, and Adrian Peterson allegedly beat his son. This is why I believe baseball is far superior to football in terms of integrity.

The most common argument I have heard against baseball is that it is too slow. Yes, baseball is slow. It doesn't have the violent nature of football, or the time-based element of hockey or basketball. Instead, baseball is a sport for the wise man to play and enjoy watching. The pitcher who knows just where to throw the ball on an 0 and 2 count, the hitter who knows exactly where to place his feet to pull the ball, and the fielder who knows how far to his left or right to play are the real athletes. It's not the guy with the fastest legs or strongest arms.

Baseball has also played a key role in many cultural movements, the most famous being Jackie Robinson's entrance in

## Why Should I Eat Healthy?

As you grow older, you'll find your appetite steadily increasing. This is perfectly normal, since your body requires extra nutrients to grow. However, you have to make sure that you're making the right food choices and selecting appropriate portions sizes. Overeating (especially processed foods), and not exercising can lead to obesity, which is the state of being in an unhealthy bodily condition (20% over the ideal body weight for age and height). Being healthy doesn't only prevent obesity, but it could also lower your chances of obtaining diseases such as diabetes or cancer. Additionally, it will provide you with the necessary nutrients to just function and stay alert day in and day out.

On the other hand, there may be people out there who are already overweight and would like tips on how to execute their goals of losing stubborn belly

the game in 1947. I cannot think of any advancement professional football has made for society. If anything, professional football has diminished the integrity of America. For instance, the over-excessive violence and presence of cheerleaders at every game indicate a lack of morals.

To me, the most intense moment in all of sports is when the pitcher is about to throw the ball on a three and two count with the bases loaded, down a run in the bottom of the ninth. There is just nothing compared to that tension in football. Instead, it is whether you'll convert the fourth down. But there is just not enough build up. Blink and you'll miss it.

Baseball has been home to great athletes who were also great people off the diamond. Like Roberto Clemente, the first Latin American star, who always visited hospitals and helped fund poor Latin American neighborhoods in the '60s. Jackie Robinson experienced an inconceivable amount of abuse his first few years in baseball but never fought back. Countless others include Cal Ripken Jr., who had a

fat. As a person who has experienced this first hand, I can tell you that it'll take hard work and dedication to reach your goals. However, you should always remember your goals and why you've set them in the first place.

Let's start off with breakfast. Breakfast is known to be the most important meal of the day, and a healthy meal right off the bat is the best way to start a successful and healthy day. If you get hungry before lunch and feel the need to eat a snack, make sure it's healthy! I know these fast foods ordered by DRS aren't going to make this diet any easier, however, there are plenty of healthier alternatives. One alternative is to make yourself a nice salad or a veggie wrap from home (those are just two of many foods you could bring from home). On the other hand, there may be some people who are

model work ethic, Ernie Banks, the always positive shortstop of the Chicago Cubs, who was so fond of playing, he coined the phrase, "let's play two," and Sandy Koufax who wouldn't pitch Game 1 of the World Series on Yom Kippur.

In conclusion, baseball is not only entertaining, but also a great sporting example, which all Americans should strive to exemplify.

-Jeremy Koffksy ('18)

too lazy or just won't prepare a lunch for themselves at home. These people could always order from school or buy some food from the sushi stand. They have brown rice sushi rolls, which are great, and the rabbis' special, which is a platter of salmon, vegetables and rice.

Then, dinner at home should be the easiest. There's always a healthy choice to make at home, and if your mom isn't used to making healthy dinners, just ask her! I'm sure she'll be glad to support your dietary needs. Finally, try not to eat after dinner or cheat on your diet; you'll be thanking yourself at the end of the day. Eating healthy will serve you well throughout your life whether it's by keeping your body healthy or just improving your overall self-esteem.

-Jo-Jo Fishman ('16)

Co-Founder, The Healthy Choice Initiative

# THE DRS STAR

PAGE 20

*The DRS Star*, the official school newspaper of the Davis Renov Stahler (DRS) Yeshiva High School, is published bi-monthly by the students of DRS, and is distributed free of charge to members of the high school community.

*The Star* serves as a medium for the expression and exchange of responsible opinions. While recognizing the United States Constitution's guarantee of free press, *The Star* does not publish content which is contrary to the educational philosophy of DRS High School. *The Star* accepts letters to the editor, and the writer's name will be withheld at the request of the author. Additionally, while *The Star* accepts advertisements as means to defray publication costs, it does not endorse or guarantee any business, product, or service advertised within.

The *DRS Star* is a student-created, student-run, and student-centered newspaper, designed to provide an independent voice to the DRS High School student community. The Star is the hub for all news, sports, opinions, and entertainment in DRS. We strive to create an interesting, informative, and entertaining paper that focuses on topics important to our student body. To make this paper a reality, we need your participation. For more information, please contact us at [editor@drsstar.com](mailto:editor@drsstar.com), or visit us on the web at [drsstar.com](http://drsstar.com).

## The DRS Star

Yitzchak Carroll, Editor in Chief

Brian Chernigoff, Executive Editor

David Itzkowitz, Photo Editor

David Herman, Columns Editor

Baruch Weissman, News Editor

Reporters: Justin Weiss, Ruvie Sturm, Eli Lauer, Eytan Aryeh, Aaron Koffsky, Zack Lowinger, Daniel Rosenthal

Columnists: Chaim Alper, Dovi Schlossberg, Natan Alper, Calev Sanders, Jordan Eidlisz, Avishai Samouha, David Herman, Shimon Heimowitz, Noach Levy, Daniel Greenfield

Photographers: Yoni Gutenmacher, Ari Savitsky, Natan Davidowitz, Yoni Sacknovitz

Layout Staff: Jonathan Crane, Binyamin Erlbaum, Akiva Thalheim

Technical Staff: Shmulik Roth, Yehuda Posner, Jared Willner

Ad Salesmen: Josh Simanowitz, Gabriel Miller, Josh Lent

Ms. S. Lopez, Faculty Adviser

Rabbi Y. Kaminetsky, Menahel

Rabbi E. Brazil, Business Manager

Jakob Deutsch, Layout Editor

Simcha Sommer, Technical Editor