



THE DRS STAR



A DRS Publication Written By the Students For the Students

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

BY YITZCHAK CAROLL

As high school students, we have the opportunity to be “takers” on a daily basis, as we absorb the knowledge and techniques imparted to us by our teachers. However, the feeling of “giving back” far surpasses that of any academic success. It is that very impetus which causes great things to happen and transforms the seemingly impossible into a reality. The feeling of volunteerism is an incredibly powerful one, which is essential in the formative and influential high school years.

Fortunately, there are an array of volunteer opportunities available to interested high school students. Be it secular or religious, be it the physically or mentally disabled, or be it academic or service-based, the organizations and agencies are out there, waiting for civic-minded high school students to chip in.

G-d created different individuals, with varying skills and abilities. Some individuals are created with “normal” abilities, whereas others have special needs. Helping those who have different needs is an incredibly rewarding experience, and numerous organizations exist to service special needs individuals. Whether it be getting involved in the Orthodox Union’s Yachad division, or the Cedarhurst-based Kulanu Center for Special Services, the opportunities to help out individuals with physical or mental disabilities are out there and are looking for dedicated individuals to assist those in need. *(Continued on page 2)*

BATS BLOG: MLB 2015 SEASON PREDICTIONS

BY EYTAN ARYEH

Spring training is officially underway and you all know what that means! That’s right – baseball is back! 2014 was a great year for baseball, starting with the additions of rookies Masahiro Tanaka, Jose Abreu, Jacob Degrom, and Javier Baez. The season continued with Jordan Zimmerman’s no hitter, Albert Pujols’ 500th career home run, and Derek Jeter’s walk-off hit in his final game at Yankee Stadium. The Kansas City Royals had a Cinderella story throughout the postseason, but the shoe didn’t fully fit and the San Francisco Giants won the World Series in the do-or-die Game Seven. This fantastic season of baseball came to a close in February during the awards ceremony. Clayton Kershaw and Mike Trout each won a well-deserved MVP Award, while Cory Kluber surprised everyone with his Cy Young Award. The question is, who will win these awards this year? Here are my predictions:

NL MVP: Last year’s NL MVP, Clayton Kershaw, can’t be counted out as a finalist for NL MVP. However, in the past 20 years, only two pitchers have won the award, so it will more likely go to a position player this year. You can’t rule out the Washington Nationals’ infielder Anthony Rendon, who won the Silver Slugger award last year and is set for a breakout year. But even with Kershaw and Rendon, my vote has to go with the All-Star outfielder, Giancarlo Stanton. With his second place finish

for the MVP last year, complemented by 37 home runs and 105 RBIs, Stanton is my favorite to take home this award.

AL MVP: Mike Trout won the award last year without any competition. Trout led the league in runs and RBIs last year and finished third in home runs with 36. He finished in the top two in each of his first three seasons in the MLB, and 2015 should be no different.

NL Cy Young: All indications seem to show that the Dodgers’ ace, Clayton Kershaw, will take home his third consecutive Cy Young Award. Kershaw had a lights-out year in 2014, leading the league in ERA and wins. It’s hard to believe that Kershaw will be anything less than spectacular in 2015, which should result in another Cy Young Award.

AL Cy Young: The AL Cy Young Award in 2015 will be a close call. Felix Hernandez, who the majority of fans expected to win the award in 2014, and Chris Sale, will most likely be competing for the award. King Felix has been remarkable over the past 6 years, as he finished in the top 10 for the award and led the league in at least one category each year.

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Dodgers’ ace Clayton Kershaw (above), is a favorite to win the AL Cy Young Award this season.

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THE POWER OF COMMUNITY SERVICE

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Every community has service-based organizations which provide for the various needs of community members.

In the Five Towns, Achiezer, Tomchei Shabbos, I-Shine and Community Chest are just some of the incredible agencies which provide assistance to various segments of the community and fill a vital capacity in the community. There is no greater source of satisfaction than giving back to one's neighbors, and service-based agencies are the best way to do just this.

We don't give a second thought to our quality of life in our communities, expecting it to magically come. However, much of it is due to the efforts of volunteers. Many local fire departments in Nassau County have a special unit comprised of teenagers who assist in various auxiliary, non-hazardous functions, while learning the ropes of firefighting and emergency medical services. In New York City, teenagers 17 years and older can patrol the community as part of the local auxiliary police unit. Local libraries are always looking for volunteers to help out in various capacities as well.

In DRS itself, there are a plethora of opportunities to help out the less fortunate. Organize a coat drive, tutor underclassmen or middle school students, or help mentor Kulanu students on Thursday nights. There are so many opportunities to help out, whether it be in DRS or our communities at large.

It is thanks to the work of volunteers that the plethora of services

and the incredible quality of life we experience on a daily basis is made possible. But you can be more than just a recipient. Get involved and be a giver – just make the call!

TECHNOLOGY CORNER: DRIVERLESS CARS

BY DAVID HERMAN

Google has never failed to amaze this planet. Ever since Larry Page and Sergey Brin created this amazing company, the world has changed incredibly. Google is used by hundreds of millions of people every day, and has 3.5 billion searches per day. Google has invented its famous search engine, its own types of cell phones, and Google Glass. And now it has invented the driverless car. These cars are incredible pieces of technology, and are also extremely beneficial on several levels.

There are three things that make a driverless car what it is. The first is the GPS system, which is very similar to the type found in regular cars. This GPS calculates the route of the car, from start to finish. It looks at the maps and decides the best route, usually better than humans can. The second is a system that recognizes dynamic conditions on the roads. This system uses certain sensors, such as radar, cameras and lasers, in order to detect the space around it. The cameras let your car see its surroundings, the radar enables the car to sense up to a hundred meters around it, and the lasers scan the world around it in order to provide the car with a 3D image. The third and final thing is a device that processes the information from the GPS and the scanner into commands such as accelerate, brake, and steer. When all three components are combined, a driverless Google car is formed.

Anyone who has ever driven a car, or even been a passenger in a car, knows how much of a hassle it is to drive. Knowing what all the meters mean, how much you should push the gas pedal, and how far to turn the steering wheel is just overwhelming. But with the driverless car, there is no steering wheel. There are no pedals. Just you sitting back and relaxing in the backseat while the car does all the work. Commutes will be less stressful and much quicker with the computer going at a steady pace while avoiding traffic. And once all cars are driverless, it will be more fuel effective, because cars can bunch together and maintain steady speeds. The Rocky Mountain Institute estimates that the reduction in wind drag alone from vehicles traveling closely together could reduce fuel use by 20-30 percent. Also, without humans having to drive and search for parking, the car can figure it out and park right away.

And perhaps the most important reason of all to have these cars is for safety. Already more than 33,000 people die each year in the US from crashes, and 40 percent of them are from human error. Without humans driving, roads will be safer and more reliable places.

MLB PREDICTIONS (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

Chris Sale has finished in the top six in the Cy Young voting in all three of his seasons as a starting pitcher and has been slowly advancing to the top spot, improving from sixth in 2012 to fifth in 2011 to third last year. There is going to be a fight put up by both of these star pitchers, but I think King Felix will take the award.

A LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONER: IT'S TIME TO PUNISH THE UMPS

BY JUSTIN WEISS

Dear Commissioner Manfred,

Do you remember Jerry Meals' blown call at home plate in 2011 which gave the Atlanta Braves a game-winning run in a 19-inning game against the Pittsburgh Pirates? How about the brutal infield fly call in last year's National League Wild Card game? How about Marty Foster's horrid strike three call from earlier last season? Also, are you forgetting Angel Hernandez's gruesome non-home run call in which he failed to call a homer not once, but twice?

Even with the recent installment of the instant replay system to Major League umpires, the officiating at the highest level of baseball has been dreadful. Managers and players are being tossed from games left and right. Some of the worst calls in the history of baseball are being called. Umpire – manager feuds have become such an integrated part of baseball now that fans readily expect ejections when they go to the ballpark.

Of course, there is always the aspect of human error. It's possibly the only thing that prevents Major League Baseball from fully overthrowing their umpiring crews and revitalizing them. But even with that quite plausible defense of umpires, what goes on in the big leagues is insanely lackluster for professionals. Nobody exemplifies this message more than 23-year veteran umpire Angel Hernandez, who has redefined umpiring blunders forever.

The 52-year-old has been the laughingstock of the league for years

now. It is due to baseball's inability to punish its umpires that Hernandez is currently in the Major Leagues. In March of 2013, Grant Brisbee, a talented writer on SB Nation, wrote an article titled "Searching for a defense of Angel Hernandez." The verdict: well, he couldn't find any defenses for the abysmal umpire. *(Continued on page 5)*

HOCK OF THE HALLWAYS: ACING YOUR FINALS

BY DOVI SCHLOSSBERG

Now, as we enter the last stretch of the school year, we release a sigh of relief. But wait – then we realize that there are still finals, Regents, and AP exams. Wait – before you panic, think about it like this: You've already learned and have been tested on all the material and have made it this far, so this is just a review.

In order to ace your finals, you need to study – a lot. Cramming the night before an exam really isn't an effective way of studying. Studies show that there is much greater retainment of memory over intervalled periods of time. The reason is because your brain recognizes the information and works harder to retrieve it from recent memory. This strengthens the memory of the information. Therefore, start studying as early as possible.

For subjects like Gemara, Halacha, Chumash/Navi, English, and History/Social Studies, review previous tests. Just look them over. Often, teachers and Rebbeim of these subjects will put previous test questions onto finals. For Regents math, science, and history subjects, the key to success is practice with real regents questions from resources like Barron's, Problem Attic, JMAP, NYSED and Regents Prep. These websites/books contain

authentic previous test questions, and in my opinion, are the best regents preparation sites/books.

For short definitions and concepts, flash cards are definitely the most effective study method. I know from personal experience, as well as my peers' experience, that flash cards are the best for memorizing vocabulary words and concepts.

After extensive research as to why this is true, it comes down to four major components. Firstly, the action of writing out the words greatly helps the brain retain the information and associates the action with the information. This type of learning is called kinesthetic learning. Kinesthetic learning is learning through actions (i.e. writing). The second reason flash cards are so effective is because, in addition to the kinesthetic learning, there is also visual learning – that is – seeing the information. When using flash cards, aside from writing out the information, you also see the information every time you read it. This is also very helpful in retaining the information. In addition, flash cards utilize auditory learning as well, because when you read the information to yourself, your brain associates the information with the word on the front of the card. Lastly, flash cards are simple to use, don't contain too much information individually, and are small enough that they can be taken anywhere. It is for these reasons that for studying with flash cards is so effective.

Take these study tips, study hard, and ace your exams!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT DRSSTAR.COM FOR PREVIOUS ISSUES!

THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR POWER

BY JORDAN EIDLISZ

Although it may seem appealing in terms of producing energy, there are many inherent dangers associated with nuclear power.

The first and most dangerous is the risk of a nuclear meltdown, such as what happened at Chernobyl. Thirty-one people died just from the actual meltdown and that's not including all the victims who died later on from radiation-related diseases such as cancer. To top that all off, there was a devastating impact on the environment. Although people who are pro-nuclear power would like to say that this event occurred a long time ago and improvements have been made, meltdowns such as the recent one at Fukushima continue to occur. If there is a power outage at a nuclear plant, in a matter of days, it will melt down and have horrible consequences. Nuclear plants are a major target of extremists and terrorists. If a terror group manages to seize control of a nuclear power plant, there is no telling the horrors that can happen.

Another danger of nuclear power is the actual toxic waste that it produces. This harmful waste includes radioactive isotopes that have long half-lives, meaning that they will contaminate the world in one way or another for generations.

Uranium is also a very scarce resource, and only exists in a few select countries. This makes it very expensive to buy, and along with the actual tremendous cost of building a nuclear power plant, it costs far more than the energy and major risks that it produces. Uranium is also a non-renewable resource, meaning that once we run out of it, we can't make any more. This will render all nuclear power plants useless, and unless we develop other forms of energy now, we will be stuck with minimum to no power in the future.

There are many safer and more eco-friendly ways to produce power, such as solar or water power. If we invest in these forms of power now, we will not only eliminate all of the dangers of nuclear power, but also ensure that future generations will be able to produce power that is non-hazardous and virtually unlimited.

THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR POWER FAR OUTWEIGH THE RISKS

BY SIMON HEIMOWITZ

In the 21st century, it is only logical for us as a nation to promote nuclear power. The benefits of nuclear power are staggering, and the risks are minimal. Before anything, there's a simple fact of life that needs to be realized: The United States consumes a huge amount of energy. Despite Americans comprising a mere 5 percent of the world's population, we consume 24 percent of the world's energy. That energy needs to come from somewhere.

Nonrenewable energy sources, such as gas, coal and oil are awful for the environment, and we simply cannot rely on renewable energy sources, such as hydroelectric dams, wind turbines, and solar panels. Burning gas and coal releases huge amounts of greenhouse gases. And for renewable energy resources, they are simply not viable. Hydroelectric dams are limited to very few locations and have a large effect on the ecosystem that they're built in. Wind turbines are also limited to very few locations and produce much less energy than other energy sources. Lastly, solar panels are not viable since they too are limited to very few locations and like wind turbines, they do not produce a large amount of energy. The reality is that nuclear power is the answer to the growing demand for energy in the United States.

Nuclear energy does not release greenhouse gasses, is inexpensive, produces huge amounts of energy, and can be built in a large variety of locations. There is really no reason to keep on using energy sources that are so detrimental to the environment, or that are so limited, when a viable and green alternative exists.

Granted, nuclear power does have some huge risks – a meltdown can always happen; however, it is extremely easy to avoid a meltdown. All it takes is competence. There's a reason one of the worst nuclear accident in history, the Chernobyl Meltdown, was in the USSR, a country notorious for its incompetence. According to an investigation conducted by the International Nuclear Safety Advisory group in 1986, the accident was caused by gross violations of operating rules and safety regulations.

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ISRAEL REPORT: APOS THERAPY

BY CHAIM ALPER

According to the US Census Bureau, over 1.7 billion people suffer from chronic knee, back, or hip pains worldwide. This makes it the second most widespread cause of disability and the fourth greatest concern for world health.

To face this problem, an Israeli company has created a novel way to "walk out" these pains. Headed by Dr. Amit Mor and Dr. Avi Elbaz, this therapy has become known as APOS Therapy. Strangely enough, the main component of the treatment is walking around in strange looking shoes. The shoes are fashioned in a way to prevent concentrated pressure on a specific area of a joint, which would lead to it wearing out and aches. Instead, they cause the impact of each step to be spread out over the entire area to avoid extensive pressure on any given point. Furthermore, the bottom of these shoes are shaped so that the user's leg muscles stay perfectly aligned, which averts muscle cramps and overuse of certain muscles while the neighboring muscles remain unused. Fortunately, the shoes only require one hour a day of usage to procure the desired effect. So the idea of putting them on and walking around with them isn't that embarrassing after all.

A notable fact that makes APOS Therapy so unique is that the therapy is based on the patient's individual needs, as the shoe is custom made for each patient. This gives a task to every therapist to figure out every patient's method of walking, and therefore how the bottom of the shoe must be made to create the ideal results.

Dr. Mor and Dr. Elbaz founded this revolutionary therapy while studying in medical school. Originally, they had to accept patients into their own apartments, but as it began to garner critical acclaim, they expanded and now have over 50,000 patients all over Europe and Asia. In 2014, shortly after its founding, APOS Therapy was nominated for "Israeli Company of the Year," together with multinational companies such as Teva and Israel Chemicals. Although it only recently arrived in the United States, the treatment has already been used and recommended by numerous NBA and NFL players who have benefitted from its methods. Dr. Mor has expressed confidence that APOS Therapy will soon be acknowledged worldwide.

A LETTER TO THE COMMISSIONER (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)

It's frustrating though to realize that his inability to call a good game started way back when he was in the minor leagues. NBC Sports' Hardball Talk Blog recently uncovered this from a Buffalo Newspaper:

"We're talking two decades ago, but Mike Harrington of the Buffalo News uncovered this article from way back in 1991, which notes that 'Hernandez is reputed around the league to be an umpire who yearns for the spotlight.'"

The investigation wasn't over just yet.

Here's more, from NBC Sports:

"He attracted notice in Saturday's series opener by calling a phantom balk on 13-year big-league veteran Rick Sutcliffe. Hernandez attracted more attention Sunday with a call at home plate that replays proved blatantly incorrect."

MLB fans aren't the only ones displeased with Hernandez's umpiring performance. "Just bad," Texas Rangers manager Ron Washington labeled the ump. "That's all there is to it."

Future Hall of Fame third baseman Chipper Jones said last season on Twitter, "[that] I will not watch a game, any game, officiated by Angel Hernandez! His incompetence amazes me and I'm tired of MLB doing squat about it! Nite." Even though he claimed that his night on twitter was over, the legend returned for more. "Our only recourse, as fans, is to turn the station whenever he, or his crew, are on the field. When viewer numbers go down, MLB will notice," he noted.

The game produced such bad calls that it triggered Zach Pratt to say this:

"How bad of a job is Angel Hernandez doing? He was trending in Minneapolis. For a Braves-Phillies game. That bad."

The displeasure for the veteran doesn't end there. Former Bears Defensive End Steve McMichael was infamously ejected from a Cubs game for calling out Hernandez before he sang "Take me out to the Ballgame." Better Know and Umpire, a section on Deadspin, released a statement saying that they too see why Hernandez is constantly voted by the players as one of the worst umpires in baseball. A broadcast of a game on YouTube even has the announcers saying that he went to the C.B. Buckner School of Umpiring – Buckner being the other most hated umpire in the game.

So this is where Rob Manfred's office is supposed to come in. This is also where the highly asked question of "Where are the penalties?" comes into play as well.

Just last season, when the Twins were *(Continued on page 6)*

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playing the Yankees, umpires failed to get a home run called overturned, even though they looked at instant replay. This expresses the incompetence of these umpires who did not know the rule in calling Justin Mourné's two run home run a home run. The penalties issued by Bud Selig's office: absolutely nothing. But it's all a little too ridiculous. When asked if he thought there should be repercussions, Yankees manager Joe Girardi said, "Everyone has to be accountable."

In this case, simply not knowing the rules, there's just no excuse. Blowing a judgment call may come with the territory, but not knowing the ground rules is simply being unprepared to do your job.

And for that there should be consequences.

On top of the blown calls, it was only a year ago or so ago that Tigers manager Jim Leyland said he thought the relationship between umpires and players/managers was at an all-time low.

With all of this in mind, here was the perfect opportunity for Major League Baseball to send a message that incompetence won't come without a price. Not that the umpire should have been fired, but certainly a three-game suspension seemed to be in order.

Now to return to Chipper Jones' comment about baseball failing to punish its umpires. His explanation for the lack of repercussions seems to be the most accurate theory. Part of the reason why baseball hired Joe Torre to its staff was so they could have a highly

respected figure deal with the umpiring (or lack of it, for that matter). Jones said that baseball has failed to penalize the umps because it's all about the money and the views. Hopefully, somebody will teach them that this actually part of the reason why some people don't like baseball.

It shouldn't be too much to ask for umpires to be punished for failing to do what they are supposed to do. Players are punished all the time by their coaches and take the heat from the fans. Baseball should do the same to their incompetent umpires. The time has come to punish them. Selig went out of his way to get instant replay, so why can't he find the time to make guys like Hernandez pay for their actions?

Thank you,

A loyal fan of the game of baseball.

INSPIRATIONAL MOVIE QUOTES

BY NATAN ALPER

Movies have one of the most powerful impacts on children and adults alike. Whether it's a gory, violent film or a family classic, inspirational quotes always arise to create a dramatic effect within the movie.

I've come up with a few that I found especially inspirational and relevant to our society today.

1) "Oh yes, the past can hurt. But you can either run from it, or learn from it." – Rafiki, from *The Lion King*

This lesson is incredibly crucial because it teaches us that nobody is perfect. When we do mistakes or mess up, one should learn from this mistake so he can avoid them in the future!

2) "We are who we choose to be." – Green Goblin, from *Spider-Man*

Every person has a choice. We choose who we want to become and what to do with our lives!

3) "All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given to us." – Lord of the Rings: *The Fellowship of the Ring*

We only have one life. Make every moment count and enjoy your life!

4) "After a while, you learn to ignore the names people call you and just trust who you are." – Shrek

Believe in yourself and have confidence. Don't let others bring you down!

5) "It is not our abilities that show what we truly are... It is our choices." – Dumbledore, from *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

People define themselves as smart, handsome, etc. But ultimately, we admire the decisions we make and what we accomplish in our lives!

HUMOR HUB

BY NOACH LEVY

As many a DRS student knows, some jokes are really stupid, but are still funny. Here are some examples of such jokes.

If you are ever feeling chilly, go stand in a corner. They're usually about 90 degrees! — Why do you never see elephants hiding in trees? Because they're really good at it! — I think I want a job cleaning mirrors. It's just something I could really see myself doing! — What's orange and sounds like a parrot? A carrot! — Two fish are in a tank. One is driving and the other is operating the gun! — What's red and bad for your teeth? A brick! — What's blue and smells like red paint? Blue paint! — What's grey and can't fly? A parking lot! *Continued on page 7*

SMOKE DETECTORS: THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

BY AVISHAI SAMOUHA

There are countless lives that could be lost if we are not prepared for household fires. According to New York State law, single- and multiple-station smoke alarms to be located as follows:

1. On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements and cellars, but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics.
4. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

We should not take this haphazardly. There can be serious repercussions and ramifications if we do. I write this article hours after witnessing a tragic and catastrophic event. Living in the Midwood/Flatbush area of Brooklyn, there is a strong orthodox unity that is ostensible throughout the streets. That is why when we heard of the fire, the ripple of conjunctive sorrow spread throughout the community like wildfire. An NBC News article stated, "A Brooklyn house fire likely sparked by a hot plate, killing seven siblings trapped inside the home," is an "unbelievable tragedy," New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said.

The childrens' mother and a single daughter managed to escape the flames, which gutted the home hours

earlier and sent smoke billowing through the Midwood neighborhood as witnesses heard their desperate cries for help.

"It is unimaginable what you see in there," de Blasio said. "You can literally see what was once a home for a large and strong family, is now wiped out. A family fully vibrant just a mere 24 hours ago, is now no more. Every room empty, burned and charred."

All seven children, ages 5 to 16, died at a local hospital. Their mother and a 14-year-old daughter fled through second-floor windows and were in critical condition, suffering from burns and smoke inhalation, the surviving daughter passed away hours later; their father was in Israel at a conference, officials said.

The most unfortunate part of this occurrence is that it could have been easily avoided. Apparently, the house had only one smoke detector, in the basement. Had there been more, could this have been avoided? Maybe. But consequently, we must use this to learn to safeguard ourselves and our families. If we do not defend ourselves from unforeseen flames, we may all go "up in smoke," so to speak. A less perturbing, yet equally fundamental incident happened earlier that day. A house, less than 100 ft. away from mine, also succumbed to a fire. The entire first floor was burnt to a crisp from a fire that emanated from the kitchen. The common denominator in both cases is that there were no smoke alarms. We must become conscious of the fact that these rules were enacted for a reason – to save lives. If we don't take them seriously enough to follow them, we are putting ourselves in harm's way. In short, smoke detectors should be utilized – not just for our own safety, but for the safety of our loved ones.

THE BENEFITS OF NUCLEAR POWER FAR OUTWEIGH THE RISKS

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It is simply ridiculous to not promote nuclear power in the United States because of a possible risk that can be ultimately removed by having competent technicians and operators.

Another nuclear meltdown that has happened more recently is the 2011 Fukushima disaster. But this meltdown could also have been avoided. Many investigations have found that the power plants could have been built to withstand tsunamis. Additionally, it took a tsunami caused by a 9-magnitude earthquake to take out this plant. On average, a natural disaster of this capacity occurs once a year, and the chances of it affecting a nuclear plant again are even lower.

The risk of a nuclear meltdown actually happening is so minimal that it is simply ridiculous to refrain from using nuclear powering because of it. With competent oversight, this risk is only minimized. There's a reason there has never been a nuclear catastrophe in the United States. Nuclear power is the future of energy production in the United States, and it should only be promoted.

HUMOR HUB

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My grandfather had the heart of a lion and a lifetime ban from the zoo! — What kind of bagel can fly? A plain bagel! — How does a train eat? It goes chew chew! — How is imitation like a plateau? They are both the highest form of flattery! — Two drums and a cymbal fall off a cliff. Ba dum tsss!

THE DRS FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

BY DANIEL GREENFIELD

It is nearly impossible to explain how important achdut is. Achdut brings us all together and helps us learn more about each other. DRS exemplifies this idea all throughout the school year with trips, Shabbatons, and many more fun and unifying events. And that's what makes the DRS experience so amazing and great.

Before the year even started, the freshmen got to know about one another and became friends. Throughout the whole year, many events transpired to give us the opportunity to befriend the kids in our grade. One of these events was the Freshmen Shabbaton, a grade-wide, mid-year experience that let us get out of our comfort zone and our "crew" and try to become friendlier with the other kids in our grade.

With school wide events such as the Chanukah Chagigah and the Purim Shpiel, we had a chance to have some fun and share some laughs with other grades. One of the most useful trips was the Senior-Freshman Mentoring Day. It was tons of fun and gave us the opportunity to have a mentor and a friend to begin the high school experience.

Throughout the course of my freshman year at DRS, I learned a lot of things – especially the theme of DRS: Achdut. I've learned so much and have realized that no matter the shape, size, or background of a person, we're all Jews and we can all get together and live in unity.

DRS wasn't always a time for fun and games. Sometimes it came down to serious moments where we really had to pay attention and listen up. Sometimes it came down to serious moments where we really had to pay attention and listen up. But these moments were also memorable ones. My first midterm for example, was stressful, yet I will always remember the relief and sense of accomplishment that I felt. It was one of those moments where the pain felt good and that it was all worthwhile at the end. Being in DRS has taught me not only how to grow so that I can be a good friend, but how I can also be a good Jew, and a good person who accomplishes their goals, and strives to be the very best that they can be. My first year as a freshman, as a student in high school, as a person who is beginning to find out who they really are – has been one of the most amazing and memorable moments of my life.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: ISRAELI ELECTIONS

DRS ISRAEL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

After three terms as Prime Minister, on Tuesday, March 17, 2015 Benjamin (Bibi) Netanyahu captured a fourth term in office. The polls and political experts thought Issac Herzog's Zionist Union party would defeat Bibi and become the new force in Israeli politics. But with only a few hours left to the election, Bibi made an announcement calling for all Israelis to cast their vote in the historic election, claiming that otherwise, the Israeli Palestinians (who are citizens of Israel and have the right to vote) would secure more seats in the Knesset than usual. The Israeli voters not only

listened to Bibi and headed out to the polls, but those who went out to the polls after his announcement were so impressed with Netanyahu that a majority of them voted for him and handed him a clear victory in the election.

Netanyahu, who has headed the Likud party for over two terms, is passionate about the defense and security of Israel against Iran. Iran is a rogue nation that has caused problems for the United States and threatened to destroy Israel for decades. For the past four years, Netanyahu has been warning the world about how dangerous it would be not only for Israel, but also for the whole Europe and the United States if Iran were to go nuclear. Because of Netanyahu's passion for this topic, House Speaker John Boehner invited Bibi to address Congress about the dangers of a nuclear Iran. But the problem with this was that President Obama, who already had a strained relationship with Bibi, wasn't informed about the invitation Speaker Boehner extended to Netanyahu (In fact, President Obama was still so offended by Netanyahu's decision to address Congress several weeks ago that he waited two days to congratulate him on the election victory). Herzog used this issue to campaign against Bibi, stating that he would do his best to work with the United States and Europe to prevent a nuclear Iran. He claimed that it was stupid of Netanyahu to bypass President Obama and address Congress because now, Israel might have lost its most critical friend.

Since his surprise victory, one of Netanyahu's biggest challenges is to create his government. Netanyahu fired most of the ministers from his previous government, and now President Reuven Rivlin has *(Continued on page 9)*

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8)

given him just three weeks to form a new government. Under Israel's parliamentary system of government, a party needs to have control of a majority of the Knesset in order for the leader of that party to be the Prime Minister.

The Knesset, Israel's law-making body, has 120 seats, which is divided amongst Israel's ten most powerful parties. Right now, Netanyahu's party controls 30 seats, but they need to get 31 more seats in order to reach the minimum of 61 seats they need to govern. Joining with other political parties in order to together reach the magic number of 61 seats is called forming a coalition. Netanyahu's Likud party needs to find political allies from among the other parties that also won seats in the Knesset. Experts say this will be very difficult for Prime Minister Netanyahu. Netanyahu is currently Israel's second longest serving Prime Minister. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's founding leader, is the longest serving Prime Minister of Israel to date.

—Dubi Fischman ('18)

OBESITY?

BY DANIEL ROSENTHAL

It is very scary to think that right now, 32.8 percent of adults in America are obese (a 13 percent increase from 2010). This overwhelming statistic has led to the creation of many organizations and a total of \$147 billion spent annually to treat obesity. However, many people do not really know the little, nitty-gritty details about obesity. Many people

know that obesity is commonly associated with having an excess of body fat. On the other hand, most people do not know that to technically be considered obese, you need to have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of 30 or more (your BMI is obtained by dividing your weight in kilograms by your height in meters squared). With its title, obesity can come with any of the 40 medical conditions generally connected to obesity. This list includes high blood pressure, high cholesterol, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and various cancers. Fortunately, there are many things one can do to treat or prevent obesity.

The most crucial part of dealing with any disease (obesity was recently voted a disease by the American Medical Association) is addressing the issue and talking to a doctor. It is also important, whether you have obesity or just want to prevent it, to make a serious commitment to change your lifestyle. This includes changing your eating style and increasing physical activities. Changing your dietary habits can be as simple as having a turkey burger instead of ordering a heavy sandwich from Carlos and Gabby's. You can also find some extra health tips by going to the bulletin board on the second floor, where The Healthy Choice advertises their tips to stay in shape. Increasing physical activity can merely mean joining one of the many school sports teams. You can also just go to the gym after you finish eating lunch to try to burn some calories. However, this generally will not be enough to fulfill the recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Fortunately, now that it is still bright outside by the time most of us get home, there is nothing stopping you from going outside to play through

those extra minutes. Whether or not obesity is a concern in your life, it is always worth it to eat healthy and stay in shape.

MARCH MADNESS

BY ZACK LOWINGER

On Thursday, March 19th, the whole school went crazy over the fact that March Madness was happening. March Madness is the college basketball playoffs, and the 16 best teams from each division compete with the other teams in their division until there is one team left. But it isn't so easy for the number one or two seeds to just dominate everyone else in their division, as the 10 through 14 seeds often win. Just this year, on the first day, there were two 14 seed teams, an 11-seed team, and a 10-seed team who beat out two 3-seed teams, a 6-seed team and a 7-seed team.

After each division winner beats out the other teams in their way, they face the winner of the division above or below them (depending on what division they're in). This is known as the Final Four. The final Four usually consists of the best team from each division, but sometimes it's the "Cinderella team" that takes home the win after upsetting multiple higher seeded teams. We can only wait and see as to what happens next in these crazy games of March Madness 2015.



The Kentucky Wildcats celebrating their SEC Title victory that capped off a perfect season.

THE DRS STAR

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SPORTS: MODERN IDOLATRY?

BY BRIAN CHERIGOFF

Although idolatry is viewed as an ancient cult with little prevalence today, nevertheless, there is one sickening form of idolatry that still exists to this day – obsession with sports. Although sports have many benefits and positives, nevertheless, what they have evolved into today would truly horrify their original creators. Despite appearing as a rather trivial issue, obsession with sports is actually a very serious one and has had negative effects on us all. Even though sports have great potential to be extremely positive, unfortunately, they have turned into a modern form of idolatry that must be tempered.

An obsession with sports is similar to idolatry in that both are used as excuses for loose morals. The Talmud asks how it was possible that the Jews in the era of the First Temple worshipped idols of sticks and stone. Did they really believe that inanimate objects were deities of some sort with otherworldly powers? Rather, the Talmud explains that the Jews only worshipped idols to permit to themselves illicit sexual relations. What this means is that the Jews fooled themselves into thinking that idol worship is okay so they would then be free from Torah observance and permitted to indulge in their desires. The same is unfortunately true of sports teams. Letting the fondness fans have for them get to their heads, athletes often fool themselves into thinking that they are infallible and subsequently lower their moral ethic and act in immoral ways.

The worship of athletes is a form of idolatry in that it psychologically motivates a person to

behave in an obscene manner. In ancient times, idols were often aggrandized humans that faced the same challenges and desires that humans faced. Take for example the Greek gods. The Greek gods were like “super humans,” who faced many of man’s dilemmas, such as those of love, fear, jealousy, greed and pride. The very mistakes of these gods were condoned and even admired by their followers, who subsequently imitated their atrocities. The same is true of sports. The very legendary figures we admire are just as susceptible as we are to stumbling morally, if not more. When we hear that our heroes have stumbled with immoral actions or illicit behaviors, we become desensitized to these horrors and unintentionally, the possibility for doing these actions creeps into our minds.

Although the administration of DRS successfully blends religious observance with Western culture, nevertheless, the worship of sports in our school is highly palpable and excessive. Players, teams, scores, statistics, records, fantasy leagues – the list is endless. Students at DRS have a serious addiction to sports that distracts them from doing school work and studying Torah. Additionally, aside from addiction to professional sports, students at DRS are overly obsessed with DRS’s teams. Although the support fans provide for their fellow classmates at games is truly astounding and reflects the great unity our school prides itself in, nevertheless, the support of some students is excessive and unnecessary. Attending every possible game and thereby neglecting one’s studies is overindulgence and is practically idol worship.

Although sports may provide an large distraction and obsession for many people, nevertheless, they provide positive means for families and

friends to get together and have fun watching them. However if one allows sports to desensitize him morally, or allows them to dominate his life, then he has turned sports into an unspeakably horrible idol worship. We, as fortunate, privileged people, cannot sacrifice our minds and work ethics for this futility. Although sports are great, our dedication to them must be tempered and balanced.

THE WONDERS OF MANKIND

BY AARON KOFFSKY

Throughout all of human history, humans uniquely identified themselves as a species with a unique ability to think, reason, communicate and build. It is due to these attributes that mankind has been able to survive for thousands of years and ultimately become a propionate and thriving species on Earth. These core attributes of humans have stuck with them to this very day. However, there is one particular attribute that has managed to contribute more to human survival than any other.

Mankind appears to have an instinctive desire to never be satisfied with their state of living. As a result, humans continue to make dramatic changes to themselves and to the world around them. This desire has ultimately led mankind to all of the achievements that it has managed to accomplish. One of the more iconic moments that mankind has achieved in its short history is having a man step foot on the moon. This is truly a testament to humans’ success and ability to systematically act on their quest for growth as a species. The greatest part about mankind's search for knowledge is that it appears to be endless. The human race can continue to grow until the end of time, or at the very least until it decides to stop.

WILDCATS ROUNDUP: TO THE PLAYOFFS AND BEYOND

BY RUVIE STURM

Varsity Basketball:

The first of the Varsity basketball games was against Heschel in the Metropolitan Yeshiva High School Athletic League (MYHSAL) quarterfinals. All the fans were pumped and ready to cheer on the team. Heschel took an early lead in the game, but DRS came back and took the lead, which they held for the rest of the game. It was a great team effort, and a dominant performance by Gabriel Leifer ('16). DRS came away with the victory by a score of 54-33.

About two weeks later was the semifinal match at Frisch. There were many fans that came to the game,

excited and eager to cheer on the team.

The game went on, back and forth, and stayed close throughout. In the last few minutes, DRS took a six-point lead – their biggest of the game. Frisch then came back and hit a couple of clutch three-pointers and took a one-point lead. In the final seconds, Yehuda Schein ('15) inbounded the ball to Zev Ben-Ami ('16) for the layup to put DRS up by one. DRS won the game by a score of 46-45. It was an all-around great effort by the team (and the fans) to pull off such an amazing victory.

This win advanced the Wildcats to the championship game at Yeshiva University against DRS's biggest rival, HAFTR. There were more fans than ever before to cheer and applaud their team. Unfortunately, HAFTR took an early lead that was kept for the rest of the

game. But DRS didn't give up and continued to work hard, as they did all season long.

They brought a 19-point lead to within a couple, but sadly could not pull away with the victory and lost 50-45. Even though they lost, it was still an amazing run and a major accomplishment by the team.

JV Basketball:

The Junior Varsity basketball team played against the HANC Hurricanes at DRS in the preliminary round of the playoffs. DRS won by a score of 57-42. It was an outstanding effort by the entire team to pull off the victory. This win forced a quarterfinal game at SAR. Unfortunately, DRS lost the game by a close score of 39-34.

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THE REAL AWARD WINNERS BY THE EDITORIAL BOARD

The past two years at The Star have been nothing short of incredible and exciting for all of us. It has been our pleasure to be the voice of the student community here at our yeshiva, and it was incredible to win multiple awards, including a first place Quill Award at Adelphi University's annual Press Day.

Producing a newspaper is a team effort, which requires individuals of all talents, including writers, editors, photographers, ad salesmen and layout artists to combine their skills to put together an incredible publication. Far beyond our incredible staff, it's the people behind the masthead who are responsible for this award-winning newspaper's success.

Every student here at DRS knows that Rabbi Kaminetsky is the heart and soul of the yeshiva, whose success can be directly attributed to him. But it's not just the day-to-day operation of the yeshiva in which Rabbi Kaminetsky takes a personal interest. Rabbi Kaminetsky has a close relationship with each and every student, faculty member, parent and club in his yeshiva, and The Star is no exception. Rabbi Kaminetsky has been here for us, every step of the way, to ensure that we produce the best newspaper possible, despite the other thousand responsibilities he has. Rabbi Kaminetsky is an incredible menahel and mentor and we wish to thank him for all the help and guidance he constantly provides us.

We're confident that Dr. Kirschenbaum is one of the best General Studies Principals out there. "Dr. K," as

he is known, is a devoted principal who truly cares about each and every student in the school. Beyond his myriad responsibilities running the entire General Studies Department, Dr. K has taken a special interest in The Star, ensuring that each edition gets better and better and the paper operates smoothly and efficiently. From reviewing the layout and all the articles to providing constant tips for improvement, it's pretty clear that the school newspaper wouldn't be where it is without Dr. Kirschenbaum's advice and assistance.

Administrators aren't usually associated with fun and games – that is, unless they are Rabbi Brazil. In addition to the countless other hats he wears, including student activities director,

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WILDCATS ROUNDUP: TO THE PLAYOFFS AND BEYOND

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11)

The players tried their best and worked hard but just couldn't pull off the win, ending their otherwise spectacular season.

Varsity Hockey:

The varsity hockey team finished the regular season coming in second place in the division. Their first playoff game would be against the Kushner Cobras. DRS played Kushner at home in the Quarterfinals. The Wildcats took an early lead that would be kept for the rest of the game. With goals from Moshe Genuth ('15), David Soffer ('15) and others, DRS won the game 4-0. It was a dominant performance by the whole team and especially Ari Gutenmacher ('15), who recorded the shutout.

DRS set out to play TABC on the road in the semifinal game a week later. The fans all came packed onto one bus ready to cheer and root for their team. From the start, both teams played extremely physically – neither team wanting to give any room to shoot. That was, until Matthew Mark ('15) took a tough angle shot that went right passed the other goalie, putting DRS up 1-0. This broke open the game giving more opportunities for both teams and DRS scored another goal to put them up 2-0. A few minutes later, Soffer caused a turnover and had a shorthanded breakaway in which he scored a beautiful goal. DRS eventually won 4-1 to put them in the championship.

In the championship game, held at Lawrence Middle School, DRS came

out with fire, scoring an early goal to put them up 1-0 against crosstown rival HAFTR. Unfortunately, HAFTR scored a period later to tie it. Early in the 3rd period, HAFTR scored again to put them up 2-1. DRS kept applying offensive zone pressure, but was unable to score. HAFTR then scored an empty net goal to seal their 3-1 victory. Although they did not win the championship, the team deserves a lot of credit for all the hard work they put in for the last 3-4 years. The team should be proud of all of their accomplishments and achievements throughout their years in high school.

JV Hockey:

The Junior Varsity hockey team played the quarterfinal game at DRS against the TABC Storm. DRS played a very physical game and were able to apply lots of pressure in the offensive zone. The Storm were not able to get anything going offensively and struggled to keep DRS out of their zone. DRS took a lead that was kept throughout. In the end DRS, pulled through and won 4-0, ending TABC's streak of six JV championships in a row. It was an outstanding performance by both the offense and defense and especially the goalie Jakey Friedman who recorded his first playoff win and shutout in JV Hockey.

DRS then set out to play the SAR Sting in Riverdale in the semifinals. Unfortunately, DRS's run was cut short with a devastating loss. The Wildcats played hard and tried to keep themselves in the game but couldn't pull away with the win. They lost 4-0, knocking them out of the playoffs. Despite their loss, the JV squad had a successful season, and the squad has much potential for a championship run in subsequent seasons.



The Wildcats ended their 11-3 Varsity Basketball season with a tough loss to the HAFTR Hawks in the championship.

-Photos by Ari Savitsky/DRS Star



The Wildcats Varsity Hockey team lost to HAFTR by a score of 3-1 in the MYHSAL championship game, held at Lawrence Middle School on March 8.

-Photo by Yoni Gutenmacher/DRS Star

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BLUE DEFEATS RED IN DRS COLOR WAR 2015 BY YEHUDA POSNER

On Wednesday, March 25, shortly after Mincha, the fire alarm went off in DRS. Students rushed outside and were met with a car driving up the grass that was spray painted with the words "Color War." This event started DRS's fourth annual Color War competition, an event which excited the entire school.

The next day students came in all excited for a fun-filled day dressed in their team's colors. After davening and a shortened shiur, the entire school went to the Bait Midrash for a Chidon Torah Bowl-style competition, followed by team time. Afterwards, the students enjoyed various activities throughout the day, such as, dodgeball, Panoply and lineup. The day ended off with an enjoyable "All Out

Basketball Game" in the Greenhouse.

On Friday, students came to school excited for the closing ceremonies and announcement of the winners. Immediately after breakfast, the gym filled up as students were excited for the final day of festivities. Each team presented a shiur, stomp, reverse video, music video, comedy song and comedy video. Various faculty members judged each of these contests. Finally, the time came for the announcement of the scores and winning team.

The whole school sat on edge as Rabbi Kaminetsky announced the scores of each of the events of the day followed by the winner. The Blue team of Shamayim had defeated the Red team of Eretz in this year's Color War. After the results were announced, the school broke into spontaneous applause. The student body looks forward to next year's fifth annual Color War.



-Photos by Yoni Gutenmacher/DRS Star

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THE DRS STAR

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P.M. NETANYAHU DID WHAT NEEDED TO BE DONE

BY ELI LAUER

After much debate and anticipation, the citizens of the State of Israel have spoken and it looks like Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will have the opportunity to form a government and retain his position as the leader of Israel. Prime Minister Netanyahu has led us well and has been a staunch advocate for Israel on the world platform. However, many are asking the obvious question – did Prime Minister Netanyahu’s controversial speech to Congress help or harm him?

At this point, we are all far too familiar with the controversy over Netanyahu’s speech – did he have the right to accept an invitation to address Congress, or should he have backed down when President Obama got visibly insulted by the fact that Netanyahu did not get invited via the normal channels – namely, by the President? In my opinion, friends should treat one another a lot better than the way President Obama treated the Prime Minister of Israel. I could understand if a freshman gets upset when a kid shows up at his house uninvited – but, the last time I checked, neither President Obama nor Prime Minister Netanyahu are in 9th grade! Given all that is going on in the world around us, don’t we have other priorities to take care of? Some think Netanyahu insisted on the speech before Congress simply as an election ploy. He wanted the exposure and world spotlight, some allege. I think the Prime Minister’s speech was brilliant, and the things he said needed to be said. The situation in Iran is dire and Netanyahu should yell it from the rooftops if he must. I think the whole thing was blown way out of proportion and is an embarrassment to

all parties involved. So let’s try to put the politics aside – both here and in Israel – and grow up. The true story is not about Netanyahu – it’s about two countries that need one another and one country that wants to destroy us both.

That being said, I am happy the Prime Minister appears to be the person who will lead our beloved Israel in the coming years. Netanyahu is smart, polished, and articulate, and cares deeply about the survival and the future of the State of Israel. He is a strong and fearless leader and advocate. We need not agree with all of his policies, but overall, he wants to see Israel remain strong, vibrant and most of all, safe. So I for one wish Prime Minister Netanyahu much luck and success as he begins to build his government and prepares to continue to lead our beloved Israel. If he reads the DRS newspaper, I want to invite him to visit DRS on his next trip to the United States so he could tell his side of the story and share his vision for the future. Hey Mr. Prime Minister, you’re okay in my book!

THE REAL AWARD WINNERS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

yearbook adviser, and sleepaway camp director, Rabbi Brazil took a special interest in our newspaper this year. Although his title was “Business Adviser,” he did far more than spearhead our business department, managing several ad salesmen and bringing in funding. Rabbi Brazil advised us every step of the way using his expertise in publications to guide us through the entire process.

But above all, the students and parents of our yeshiva – our loyal readers – are the ones who made us a true award-winner. The interest shown by you – the entire student body – whether you are a staff member, write letters to the editor, get interviewed for a story, or just read the newspaper when it comes out – is the true impetus for this student publication’s success. Although our names may be on the masthead, it is you guys – our devoted readers – who are the real award-winners.



Illustration of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu addressing Congress by Calev Sanders.

THE STAR WINS AWARDS AT PRESS DAY

BY THE DRS STAR STAFF

The Star, DRS Yeshiva High School's student newspaper, attended Adelphi University's annual Press Day on March 25, winning awards while getting new ideas to further improve the newspaper. Twenty-six public and private schools from across Long Island and Queens attended the conference, held at the university's Garden City campus. First, a panel of seasoned journalists and professors discussed several issues regarding the media in today's day in age. Next, students and advisers broke up into smaller groups to exchange ideas about their school newspapers. After lunch came the Quill Awards presentation,

as top high school journalists were honored for their work. DRS Star Editor in Chief Yitzchak Carroll won first place in "Best Freelance Work," and Executive Editor Brian Chernigoff won honorable mention in "Best Opinion Piece." "I'm really proud of the awards our newspaper won at the Quill Awards, which are a reflection of the great work done by our entire staff," said Carroll. "I also want to thank our devoted faculty adviser, Ms. Stephanie Lopez, as well as our Menahel, Rabbi Kaminetsky and Principal Dr. Kirschnebaum, for all of their hard work, and the advice they provided, which was instrumental in making The Star an award-winning newspaper."

THE DRS STAR

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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.

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.

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