



SPECIAL EDITION: ELECTION 2012 & HURRICANE SANDY

Obama Narrowly Wins Student Popular Vote in Election Poll

By ALYSSA BAUM (V)

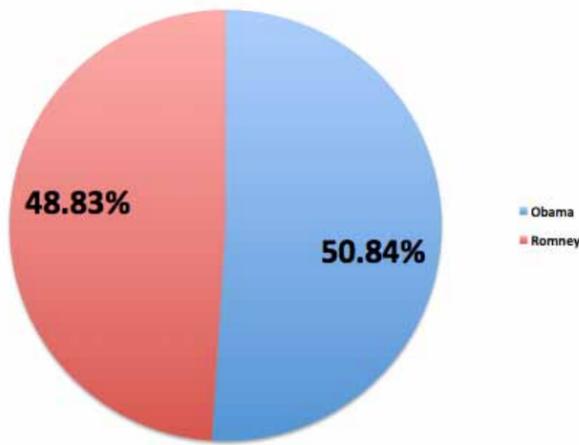
On Wednesday, October 24th, the Pingry Record held a mock presidential election in anticipation of America's actual presidential election on November 6th. In real life, President Barack Obama easily won New Jersey's fourteen electoral votes, beating Governor Mitt Romney by over a half a million votes. But at Pingry, the results were much closer.

Among the 299 high school students that participated in the poll, 152 (50.84 percent) voted for Obama, while the other 146 (48.83 percent) voted for Romney. When the faculty vote is factored into the results, Obama's win percentage is increased to 53.04 percent.

When the results are broken down by grade, the percentage of Obama votes increases with voters' ages. 47.95 percent of participating freshmen, 48.15 percent of participating sophomores, 51.76 percent of participating juniors, 57.64 percent of participating seniors, and, finally, 75 percent of the faculty supported the president.

Just as in the actual election, the majority of Pingry's female voters supported

Presidential Results: Students



Obama. Including teachers, the majority of males supported Obama as well, but after factoring out the teacher votes, the result was that only 48.03 percent of male students voted for Obama.

Besides asking voters to indicate their gender, grade, and who they supported for president, additional specific questions were asked. One was, "What do you think is the most important issue in this year's election: the economy, healthcare, taxes, women's issues, abortion, Social Security & Medicare,

or national security?"

An overwhelming 82.14 percent of school voters chose the economy as the most important issue in the 2012 election. The Obama-Romney vote was evenly split among those who claim the economy is the most important issue in the election, with Romney receiving six more votes than Obama.

Among those who chose women's issues and abortion as the most important issue in the election, 100 percent of them voted for Obama. Other than the economy, the only issue where more voters sided with Romney than

Obama was Social Security & Medicare, where Romney received two-thirds of the votes.

Another question asked voters to rank their political ideology on a scale from one to five, with one being very liberal and five being very conservative. Almost one-third of the Pingry community categorized themselves as moderate. Of that group, exactly half supported Obama.

Unsurprisingly, as voters categorized themselves as increasingly liberal, they tended to vote for Obama, and as the voters categorized themselves as increasingly conservative, they tended to vote for Romney.

An additional question asked participants to weigh in on the statement "parents' political views influence their children's political views" by voting on a scale from one to five, with one being strongly agree and five being strongly disagree.

The majority of voters agreed (but did not strongly agree) that parents'

political views influence their children's political views. Only 3.97 percent of voters strongly disagreed with the statement, claiming that children's political views have nothing to do with their parents' political views.

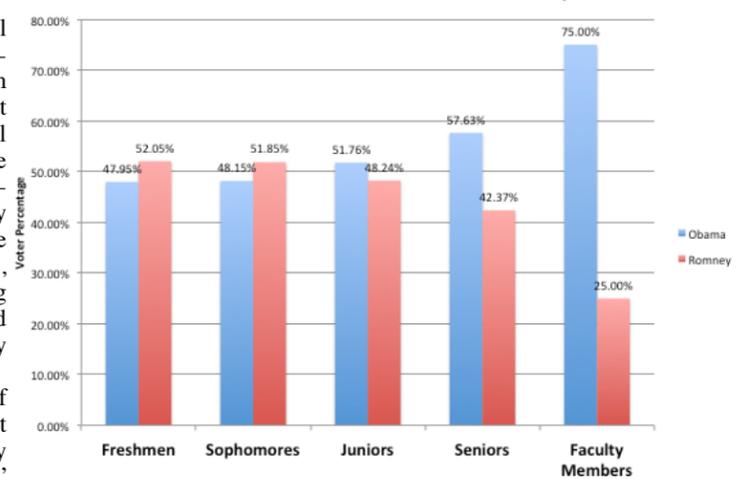
The vast majority of students (91.92 percent) who voted in the Record's election watched at least part of one of the three presidential debates or the vice presidential debate. Most of those indicated that they believe that the debates influenced their vote.

There is no question that the Pingry popular vote among students was very close, since Obama only won

50.84 percent of the vote. But even though Obama received 124 more electoral votes than his opponent in the national election, he only received 50.76 percent of the popular vote.

If an Electoral College were applied to Pingry with each grade receiving one vote, Obama and Romney would be tied, each with two votes. But once the faculty is given an electoral vote and factored in as well, teachers' overwhelming support for Obama tips the scale in favor of the president. Therefore, he would win Pingry's Electoral College three votes to two in addition to taking the popular vote.

Presidential Results: Students and Faculty



Inside The Record



Courtesy of Mr. Delman

In one of Pingry's most remote and beautiful forested areas, old trees were toppled and left in splintered heaps. Some of the lumber will be used to build traditional structures around the Pingry campus.

Journal Club Meetings are Fun & Educational

Mr. De's 2-year-old club grows exponentially. P. 2

Did Hurricane Sandy Affect Election?

Vinita Davey analyzes the hurricane's effect on what went down at the polls. P. 5

Varsity Football Wins Friday Night Lights Game

For the first time in 6 years, the boys won their final home game of the season. P. 6

"On the Razzle" Insider Story

Matthew Marvin gives inside scoop on preparing for a performance amidst Hurricane Sandy. P. 7

Fall Sports Season in Review

A recap of all eight fall sports teams' fantastic seasons. P. 8

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Frankenstorm Affects Pingry Community

By HUNTER STIRES (IV)

It would be a lie to say that not all of us were affected by the destruction wrought by Hurricane Sandy. For many of us, it was the first time the images of destruction on the news were not from some far-off land, but right at our front doors.

At least 80 percent of Pingry faculty, staff, and students were without electricity and other services for at least some period of time. To many people, it was reminiscent of life in the cold, dark, and sometimes-grim eighteenth century. The basic routines of life started to collapse as people became desperate for fundamental necessities like food and water that generally are taken for granted in America.

Pingry's response both before and after the storm was truly remarkable, especially considering the sheer number of families without power, and the raw devastation that barred the roads and ensnared the power lines. Yet in spite of this daunting challenge, our school managed to open before most other schools in the area.

Assistant Headmaster Mr. Jonathan Leef said, "The maintenance crews basically had to batten down the hatches, bringing inside anything that might get blown away and tying down anything they couldn't take indoors." Mr. Leef went on to say, "Beyond that, there was little anyone could do about much of the core infra-

structure except hunker down and hope for the best."

After the first week of the power outage, the administrative team had to take into account several critical factors before making the decision to call school into session. After assessing the safety of both campuses, each of which had thankfully sustained only minor damage, the most important issue was the administration's ability to communicate with families. Upper School Director Dr. Denise Brown-Allen said, "Many people might only have had access to just one form of communication, so contacting people was the biggest variable we had to deal with."

To get in touch with faculty, the administration used the Honeywell Instant Alert System and almost every other device they had to get a clear understanding of the staff's ability to come to school. "I probably sent more text messages in that one period of time than I had ever sent before," Dr. Brown-Allen said. Her persistence paid off as the overwhelming response from the faculty, many of whom were staying with relatives out of state, was "If you need us, we'll come in."

With the staffing question solved, the administration then determined whether school could be reasonably conducted with limited power. With the help of

the skylights and windows, along with the topped-off fuel reserves in the Martinsville Campus's generator, Pingry was able to meet the basic requirements to run the building: heat, light, and hot water.

"After the Halloween snow storm last year, the administration put a plan together for the scenario of having school with limited power. So this year, we knew we could do it because we had prepped the year before," Mr. Leef said. Ironically, the

a new "disaster recovery plan" for the worst-case scenario: a total loss of one of the campuses.

Art teacher Mrs. Jane Asch, who is also the Coordinator for the Office of Emergency Management in Warren Township, said, "We're just starting to analyze the disaster response so we can improve next time. With three 'storms of the century' in 14 months, we've got to be prepared for more to come. We need people to buy generators so they can stay at home and off the



Debris on the Bugliari World Cup Field.

E. Jensen (VI)

generator-power days were a success, with better attendance than most regular days of school.

Now that the recovery effort has begun, it has become apparent that the storm has caused some fundamental changes in Pingry's perception of disasters. Dr. Brown-Allen said the administration is halfway complete with

roads for at least 72 hours the next time around."

Above all, Pingry's response to Hurricane Sandy united us as a community. With a better showing than many municipal governments, the school successfully brought everyone together so we could support each other in the aftermath of this crisis.

EDITORIAL

Living Sans Necessities: From Horror to Happiness

In my previous editorial, I wrote about two significant aspects of my life. First, like my peers at Pingry, I have an insanely busy schedule. Second, in spite of everything I've got on my plate, I always find some way to take things easy while still managing to work pretty hard.

Basically, I do my best to find the good in any situation. But when Hurricane Sandy raged through New Jersey, my family, along with so many others, lost power. Initially, I found that mustering a positive attitude about anything (other than the fact that school was canceled for six days – sorry, I had to) proved to be a difficult task.

I know a lot of other people felt the same way that I did, and who could blame us? Heat, light, refrigerator, Internet... the list of things that seem so vital to us in everyday life goes on and on. Every time a household loses power, the ability to use these supposed necessities is taken away. Personally, my household had not lost power for ages; our lights stayed on during both Hurricane Irene and the snow storm in October 2011. But our luck ran out, and we lost power the night of Sandy.

Because I had never really experienced a power outage in my lifetime, as dramatic as this sounds, I literally had no idea what to do with myself. Even though it was only eight o'clock, I went straight to bed feeling depressed and worried about how long it would take for the electricity to return.

The morning after Sandy hit, I woke up with new resolve. I was ready to make the most of my day without electronics and do the things I hadn't done in a long time: hang out with my family, read, play with my dog, and clean my room.

None of these activities sound particularly thrilling, but I felt really good about myself after doing them. Hurricane Sandy gave me several days to get a lot of stuff done. Not hearing my phone buzz every few minutes was strange at first, but after a while, I realized that without technology, I was even more productive and relaxed than usual. I didn't feel like I had to keep checking for new messages and responding to them instantly so as not to keep my friends waiting.

Now that I'm back at school and my to-do list is ten feet long again, I look back on my time without power as peaceful and valuable. Being so disconnected from everything made me realize how important it is for all of us to take some time out from our hectic lives every once in a while and rejuvenate a bit.

In my previous editorial, my wish was for everyone to learn to take things one step at a time and just focus on the task hand; life is so much more relaxing that way. I said it would be hard at first but ultimately worth it, because the greater the challenge, the greater the reward. The kind of lifestyle that I lead and that I think everyone should lead is both productive and relaxing.

But it doesn't mean we can't all use an actual day or two off every once in a while, so now I am making another wish. I would like all of you to take at least one full day during the upcoming Winter Break and allow yourselves to disconnect from the outside world. You'll be able to focus on the things you hadn't been able to focus on in a while. You'll be ready to kick off the new year with fresh energy and resolve.

That, and your parents will be happy you finally decided to clean your room.

—Kasia Axtell

Washington and Colorado Vote to Legalize Marijuana in an Effort to End War on Drugs

By DEREK HSUE (V)

On the same day President Barack Obama was reelected to a second term, another smaller but notable event occurred. Residents in Washington and Colorado voted to legalize marijuana for recreational use for people over the age of 21. Shocked citizens across the nation wondered, what does this legalization mean? Those over 21 will be able to possess up to one ounce of marijuana, and grow up to six marijuana plants in their homes. It will still be illegal, however, to sell marijuana to minors, drive under the influence of marijuana, or use marijuana in public places like restaurants.

Marijuana legalization has been long touted as a potential source of income for state and federal governments. Amendment 64,

passed in Colorado, states that marijuana is to be sold in a manner similar to alcohol. Purchasers must present a photo ID showing proof of age and are required to pay tax on the purchase.

Initiative 502, which was passed in Washington, mandates that marijuana must be taxed at a rate of 25 percent each time it is sold, a process that begins with the grower. The bill could potentially provide millions in additional revenue to the state government, probably a major reason the majority of the population decided to support it.

Nevertheless, the legalization of marijuana in Colorado and Washington presents a unique issue: the drug is still illegal under federal law, which ultimately overrules state laws. The Drug Enforcement Administration stated that possessing, using,

or selling the drug is still a crime. The federal government, however, is extremely unlikely to devote federal agents and other resources to these states to arrest people for minor possession.

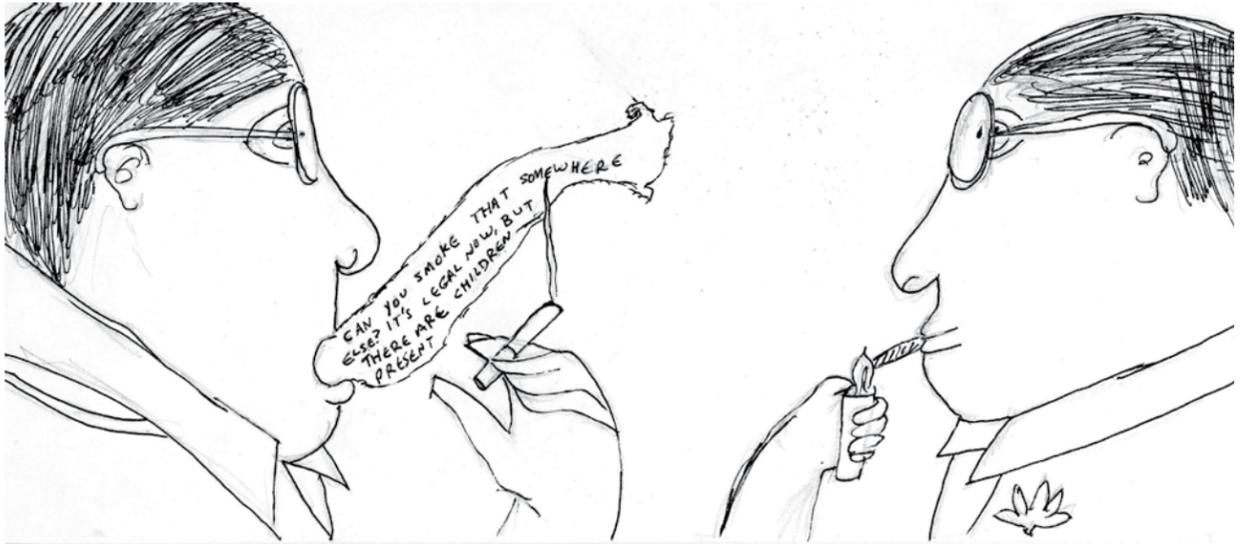
Eventually, this conflict could lead to a Supreme Court battle between the states and the federal government. A similar situation occurred in 2005 when the Supreme Court overruled a California law that legalized medical marijuana in the state because the federal government had supreme authority.

Some other states had initiatives involving marijuana on their Election Day ballot. An effort to legalize marijuana in Oregon failed to pass. Voters in Massachusetts legalized the use of medical marijuana, raising the number of states that allow the use of the drug

for medicinal purposes to seventeen.

Perhaps this historic legalization will reverse the country's failed policies of drug prohibition. Since the 1970s, the War on Drugs has cost our country billions of dollars with few results. Addiction rates have remained constant, and drug violence in Mexico is now exploding and spilling over our borders. Supporters of legalization believe that when the government should be rehabilitating and fining minor drug offenders, jails are flooded with them. Currently, 26.4 percent of the inmates in jails are drug related offenders.

Although it may take a long time, the legalization of marijuana in two states may help jumpstart a trend to decriminalize minor drug possession throughout the country and end the failed "war on drugs."



M. Aliamer (VI)

Food for Thought: How Pingry's Journal Club May Eat Away at Your Brain

By HARRISON HOMER (VI)

"Eighty Percent of Poop is Alive and Might Try to Kill You," "Defeating the Dementors," and "Why Maxwell and De Shouldn't Be Allowed to Teach" are common titles of presentations at Journal Club. If that doesn't catch your attention, I don't know what does.

The club, which meets once a week at 7:30 a.m., creates a collegiate atmosphere where students

and teachers, along with occasional outside visitors, gather to discuss and present scientific papers published in distinguished journals. The purpose is to try to gain more knowledge of the world by discussing recent discoveries. Members attempt to dissect and understand an article, and also discuss topics that are interesting and relevant. Mr. Luke De, who started the club two years ago, wants both the presenter and audience to take away one thing: the presenter should come out a better presenter than when he came in, and the audience should take away at least one important new fact or idea from each presentation.

Don't worry, you don't need to be a brain scientist to attend (unless, of course, your presentation is on Synaptic Dysfunction and Depression), but simply someone who wants to further his or her understanding about what is going on in the modern world of science.

Waking up earlier than usual every Thursday morning is annoying but worth it. The best part of Journal

Club is giving your own presentations. Presenting gives you a sense of gratification that is hard to find in other activities. It isn't easy, and you'll mess up, but simply getting through the presentation is a reward in itself.

My first presentation was execrable: I stuttered, failed to engage the crowd, and did not convey the gist of the paper, which incidentally did not have one of the catchy titles mentioned above. (It was "Functional Genomics in Zebrafish Permits Rapid Characterization of Novel Platelet Membrane Proteins.")

After the presentation, Mr. De and I had a serious talk. Successful presentations, he confided, required skills that went beyond mastering and reviewing the material. They were part-theater as well as part-science, similar to teaching. The message had to be delivered, but first you had to grasp and keep the audience's attention.

Mr. De recommended that I improve my slides so that they appeal more to my viewers' interests. Instead of starting the way

I had, formally identifying how platelet proteins would provide new targets for pharmacologic manipulation, I should have just put the information simply.

"Say, 'I know how most of you are going to die,'" he suggested. "Then pause for dramatic effect. Say, 'You will die of heart disease,' and explain that the findings in the paper might ultimately prove useful in preventing that from happening."

Honestly, just hearing him say that line made me laugh, but I took his advice, and I'm so glad I did – it worked.

None of my presentations have been close to perfect, but that doesn't matter. Nobody's perfect, and in Journal Club, nobody cares about your imperfections. It is a welcoming and supportive environment fueled by a spirit of inquiry.

Oh, and my other favorite part? The more time you spend hanging out at Journal Club meetings, the more you'll want to come up with titles like, "Food for Thought: How Journal Club May Eat Away at your Brain."



The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXIX
NUMBER 2

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New Political Analysis Club Sparks Debate

By MATT FROMM (IV)

Our country made a decision on November 6, a big one. The 2012 presidential election was one of the most-hyped single-day events within recent memory, maybe ever.

It was also one of the most inclusive. With the advent of Facebook, school-wide laptop usage, and powerful smartphones, Pingry teenagers were more involved and well read than we've been in a long time. People around the school seemed aware of every update that defined this national drama of an election. And, almost everybody had a thought to add.

As a school composed of opinionated teenagers, Pingry offers a wide range of political and societal views. There are students who wanted Romney to win, students

who wanted Obama to win, and people getting psyched for Palin 2016. Not actually.

Pingry prides itself on its student body being smart, well educated, and more sophisticated than the average group of high school teenagers. It's no surprise that many of us tuned in to listen and debate the election.

A month before the election, a new club at Pingry was founded to offer an organized setting for students to debate each other on certain topics. It's called the Political Analysis and Debate Club, and as you might expect was dominated by election talk over the last month or so.

The founder of the club, Peter Rothpletz (IV), writes on the club's Facebook page that the club is "Structured from some of the most successful public affairs programs on television [and]

examines current social, political, and economic issues in a round table format."

I attended a few debate sessions, and I encountered a situation I didn't expect: the club is decidedly conservative.

I'm a Democrat, so it was surprising to walk into the meeting room and detect an overwhelming right-wing voice behind most of the conversation. It shocked me that there is a small pocket of strong, teenage conservatives within the very blue state of New Jersey.

I think the natural diversity of Pingry encourages that disparity between parties. And I give credit to the club for mixing up the topics it discusses, from taxes to welfare, and from teachers' unions to Mitt Romney's hair.

However, I did notice a few strategies the club em-

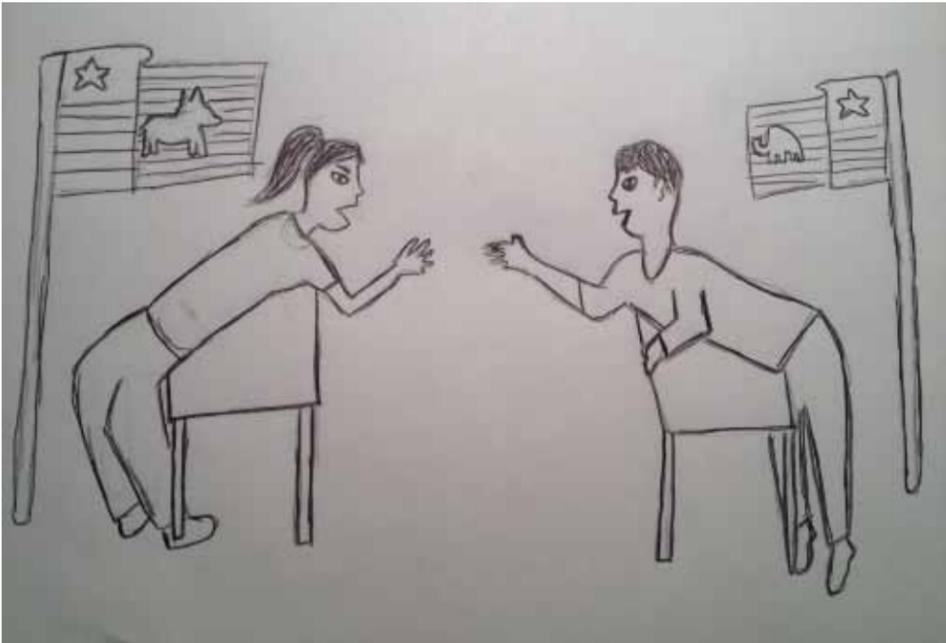
ploy that seem counterintuitive to a debate group, and I felt as though some of these were hampering the overall neutrality of the discussions during the meetings. For example, the club has established "fact checkers," who offer verified facts to throw into the debate. But these "fact checkers" are also participating members of the debate and are actively arguing for one side. Thus, the "facts" that are generally thrown into the ring often favor one side of the argument, and so these facts indirectly skew the playing field of each debate.

In addition, the weekly moderator often argues for one view, which isn't how a legitimate debate works. A moderator is supposed to, well, moderate—not simply further the views of one side.

But despite these limitations, the club is still fun and interesting to attend. Although the Democrats can sometimes feel outnumbered, the debates remain cool and engaging.

The fact that many of us are well-informed presents an interesting dilemma: we develop mature political views through following the news and functioning as a part of American society, but most of us cannot vote.

We are left with the opportunity to "vote" with our opinions. The poll that the Record created encouraged students to actually put their views to use and fill out a ballot, albeit one that bears no influence on the November 6th election. But in a few years, our vote will actually count.



C. Zee (V)

Dirty Politics Keep Citizens From Voting

By NATALIE MULLINS (IV)

When in doubt, suppress the voters, right? It may seem ridiculous that anyone would attempt to hinder citizens from exercising such a basic constitutional right, but during the most recent election, voter suppression tactics were on the agendas of many state officials across the country. Efforts to prevent or make it more difficult for voters to reach the polls were employed in a number of key swing states like Florida and Ohio.

Aside from the reelection of President Obama, one

other big story on election night was the unusually long lines. Voters in cities across the nation were forced to wait up to seven hours to cast their votes. It seems a little ridiculous that voters should have to wait for so long, especially in states where early voting is accessible to many.

Since 2010, five states, including Florida and Ohio, have cut back significantly on early voting days. In Ohio, the last weekend of early voting was cut due to legislation passed by the state's Republican lawmakers. Early voting is known to help voters

living in urban areas avoid the long lines that can prevent people from reaching the polls on the formal election dates. Because urban voters make up a large portion of the Democratic base, these kinds of limiting laws sparked many questions about the true motives of the Republican officials behind them.

Florida's Republican legislature not only cut down early voting from fourteen days to eight, but like Ohio, took away the weekend before election day. The Sunday before the election is an extremely important day

for groups like 'Souls to the Polls,' a project that encourages African-American churches to bus their members to the polls ahead of election day in order to avoid lengthy lines.

Although many counties in Ohio have seen harsh cuts on their early voting days, some have seen little to none. *The Nation* magazine reported that solid Republican counties such as Warren and Butler saw absolutely no early voting cuts, but rather extensions. Both counties were given additional hours on nights and weekends for their

EDITORIAL

Don't Forget the Devastated

When Hurricane Sandy or the more aptly named "Frankenstorm" pummeled our region four weeks ago, no one anticipated the extensive and lingering effects of the storm. While most of us experienced lengthy power outages, many people living in shore areas suffered substantial devastation.

During our impromptu break from the storm, I had the opportunity to volunteer in Staten Island—a borough of New York City located only 24 miles from Pingry that was completely ravaged during Sandy. It not only received strong winds like the ones that battered our area, but a storm surge of around 16 feet flooded a large portion of the island.

Together with my mom, a couple of other lawyers in my mom's organization, and a friend of mine, we worked in a FEMA tent in one of the hardest hit parts of the island to give legal advice and help people apply for emergency food stamp assistance.

Although many of the people we helped had the ability to put food on their kitchen table on October 28, these individuals did not have the means to feed their families after the Frankenstorm destroyed Staten Island in its path. These individuals' entire lives were uprooted—their homes were either severely damaged or deemed uninhabitable, their work was closed indefinitely leaving them without a source of income, they lost their clothing and lacked basic necessities, and they had no way of getting around other than walking.

We helped around 150 people and their families that day secure their fundamental human need for food. Assisting these people after they endured so much was definitely invaluable. The experience really hit home for me. I know it sounds cliché, but helping these people truly made me appreciate how fortunate I am.

Imagine not being able to return to your home because it is no longer there any more or having a plethora of food one day and no food the next day. Any one of us could have their lives uprooted because of a natural disaster like those who lost everything in Staten Island.

Last year, in an op-ed in the May issue of the Record, I discussed the significance of doing community service because we are fortunate to attend a school like Pingry and have a moral obligation to aid those who are less well-off than ourselves. I know many of us lost power during the storm for days-on-end, but there are people in places like Staten Island who are continuing to suffer. It is at times like these when we need to realize how lucky we are and take action to help others.

Now that a chaotic election has passed and the holiday season is approaching, it is time for us to come together as a community and help out our neighbors who are less fortunate than ourselves, whether they live 24 miles away or on the other side of the world. So donate that extra dollar at the next dress down day or do some more community service hours. If the Frankenstorm has taught us anything, it has taught us to be thankful for what we have, reinforcing our obligation to assist those who are not as lucky as ourselves.

—Ben Kaminoff

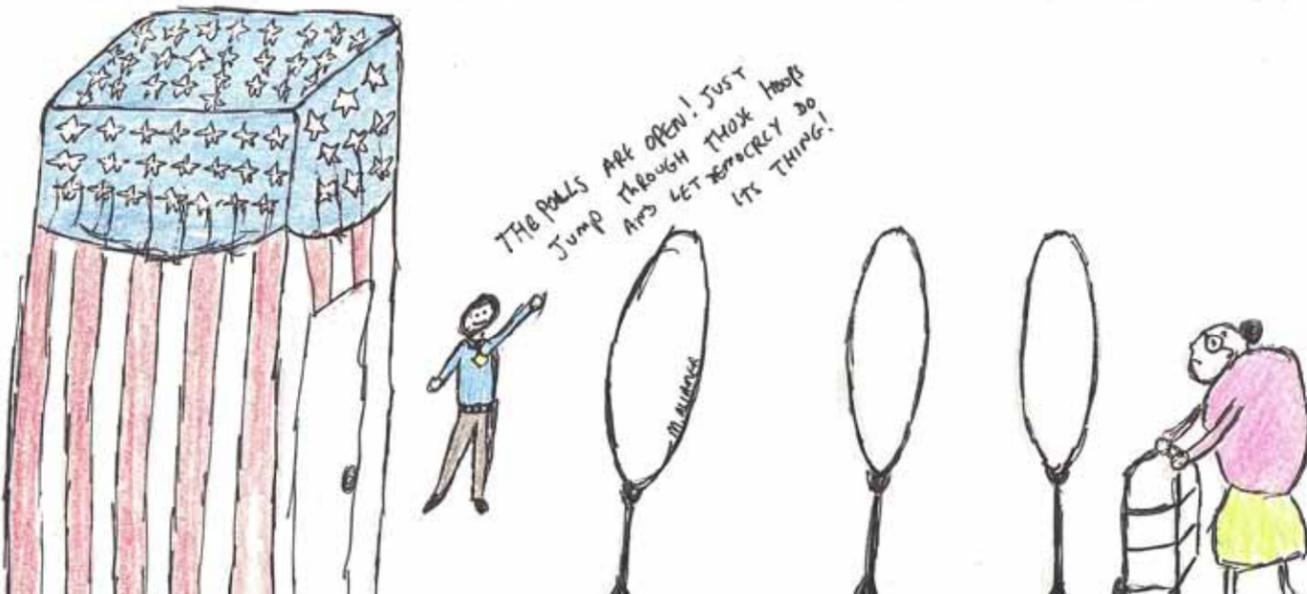
citizens to get to the polls and cast their ballots. Meanwhile, places like Cuyahoga County received no extra early voting days.

Cuyahoga County is Ohio's most populous county, and is often decisive in selecting which presidential candidate wins Ohio. In 2008, Barack Obama won 95 percent of the African-American vote in Ohio, and according to NOVA (Northeast Ohio Voter Advocates), African-Americans make up just 28 percent of Cuyahoga's population but accounted for 56 percent of the county's early voters. Ohio Secretary of State Jon Husted told *The*

Nation that he "cannot create unequal access from one county board to another," yet he and his Republican colleagues did just that.

Forcing people to wait in such long lines to vote is not only morally wrong, but also completely unacceptable in a country that prides itself on the beauty of its democracy. American citizens should not have to sacrifice work hours and/or school to have their voices heard. Our country's elected officials should be doing everything in their power to facilitate the voting process, rather than hindering certain voters just because of partisan ties.

Although the lines on election night were inconceivably long, they were a reminder of how incredible democracy can be at its very core when every voice is heard and not suppressed.



M. Aliamer (VI)

Kim Argues Women Will Fare Better Under Obama's Leadership

By LORI KIM (IV)

As the final polls closed on Election night, the result of the 2012 presidential election became clear: President Obama had won a second term. The Democratic campaign focused heavily on women's issues and their hard work had finally paid off.

According to CNN's exit polls, women voted 55 to 44 percent in favor of Obama, while men preferred Romney by a margin of 52 to 45 percent. Considering that women comprised about 54 percent of the electorate, the 18-point gender gap significantly helped the President win.

According to studies from the New York Times and CNN, Obama was a clear favorite among women even before voting began. Some Democrats even stated that the Republican Party and Mitt Romney were conducting a "war on women," a phrase sparked

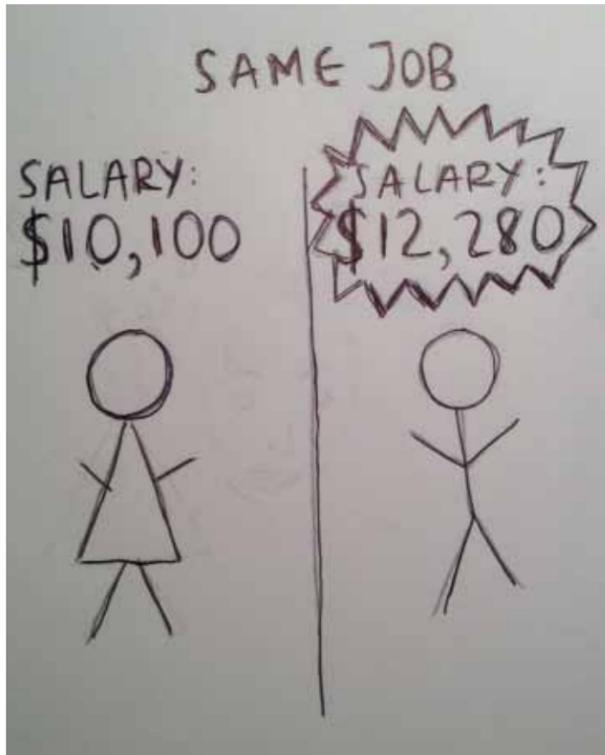
by their conservative views on abortion, contraception, and women in the workforce.

Obama's support among female voters was greatly increased in 2009 when the President signed the Lily Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law. The act calls to amend the Constitution and allow equal pay for women without discrimination.

Governor Romney's senior advisor Ed Gillespie admitted that Romney was not in favor of the law when it made its way through Congress, and his running mate, Congressman Paul Ryan, voted against it in 2009.

Romney's negative stance on such a major issue was detrimental to his campaign, when considering that the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the current median annual income for women working full-time is 23 percent lower than their male counterparts.

The election also exposed



C. Zee (V)

controversial topics of importance to women including childcare, Planned Parenthood, and the Healthy Families Program. While serving as the Governor of Massachusetts, Romney vetoed funding for childcare providers and drastically reduced spending for the Healthy Families Program, which supports and counsels first-time mothers. The Governor also vetoed a bill that would require hospitals to offer emergency contraception to rape victims. Romney additionally planned to eradicate funding for Planned Parenthood in an attempt to repair the federal deficit.

Mitt Romney's substantial loss among women has raised questions about the future of the Republican Party. During an interview with the Huffington Post, Former Republican House Speaker Newt Gingrich said that the GOP "has to modernize in a whole range of ways" and that it is "clearly

wrong on a whole range of fronts."

It is easy to blame impolitic statements made by Republicans during the course of the campaign, including Senate candidates in Missouri and Indiana on rape, for the lack of female support for Romney. However, many Republicans—and non-Republicans alike—agree that the GOP must change its views on many social issues, namely abortion and healthcare, in order to earn female votes.

Although it seems unlikely that the Republican Party will craft a new image anytime in the near future, they need to get with the times. Members of our generation, whatever our political affiliations, want more equality for women. Unless the party changes its conservative views on social issues, the GOP has little chance of winning the female vote and, ultimately, the next presidential election.

Constantly Tired? Not Being Productive? Here's How to Fix Your Problems: Sleep

By GAURAV GUPTA (IV)

For English class, I had to write a persuasive essay about a topic of my choice. I could not for the life of me tell you how I came up with the idea to write about teenage sleep deprivation. All I know is that I'm glad I did, because in researching the topic, I learned that teen sleep deprivation is a vicious cycle that many are unable to escape, even when they are adults.

I, for one, do not consider myself sleep deprived. I get the proper amount of sleep a teen needs: about eight and a half hours. But, unfortunately, not all teens do. 85 percent of the estimated 21,690,000 teenagers in America do not get enough sleep.

As I began to write my essay, I asked myself, "So what if someone is sleep deprived?" But the more I read about teen sleep deprivation, the more horrified I became. It turns out that, according to a 2008 study conducted by Qiushuang Jin, psychological implications of sleep deprivation include depression, aggression, difficulty

relating to peers and parents, and use of alcohol and illegal drugs.

Sleep deprivation also reduces the functionality of the prefrontal cortex, which is the part of the brain that is responsible for judgment and decision-making. Good judgment is especially important when driving. According to the New Jersey Motor Vehicle Commission, a tired driver can be as dangerous as a drunk driver. Teens aren't the best drivers to begin with, and when fatigue is added to the mix, you have a recipe for disaster.

According to Frontline on PBS, teens can maximize the amount and quality of their sleep by "dimming the lights at night and getting lots of daylight in the morning. Also, it helps to turn off music, the Internet, and televisions to eliminate bedtime distractions."

It's also important to maintain a consistent sleep schedule. Sleep expert Mary Carskadon says, "Teenagers catch up on lost shut-eye by 'binge sleeping,' which doesn't help replenish stores

of sleep." Rather, "a consistent sleep schedule will help you feel less tired since it allows your body to get in sync with its natural patterns."

Of all the things a teen can do to ensure that he or she gets enough sleep, not procrastinating is the most important. I know it's easier said than done, but it really does help to get an earlier start on assignments. We all know how it feels to pull an all-nighter the day before an assignment is due, and I think it's safe to say that most people don't thrive off of the stress and exhaustion that comes as a result. If you actually sit down and do the work early and don't procrastinate, you'll thank yourself in the long run.

That being said, homework does play a big role in students' lack of sleep. Whether it's true or not, it seems to many students that some teachers feel their class and homework is the most important. Do they understand that we are getting homework in all our classes? If not, the workload will keep increasing and the time we

get for sleeping will keep decreasing.

While it has sparked a lot of controversy, Pingry's move towards block scheduling may be more beneficial than we think. Although classes in a block schedule are much longer than they are in our current schedule, there would also be fewer classes each day. This could allow us to distribute the homework from each class much more evenly throughout the week. In other words, if I had math on Monday, I wouldn't have it on Tuesday, and I therefore get an extra day to do my math homework. This would reduce the stress caused by having to complete homework in five different classes each day.

With more competition to be the best in academics and athletics, and more distractions like texting and Facebook, teens are getting less and less sleep. But there is hope. As Sun Tzu once said, "Know thy enemy." In this case, knowing how to prevent sleep deprivation is the first and most crucial step in actually solving the problem.

What's the Future of Education in USA?

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (IV)

On Tuesday, November 6th, United States citizens voted for a new president. As I sat at home watching the election results come in, I realized that the reelection of Barack Obama could prove to be an issue concerning education. He favors more scholarships in order to get more kids in college, which comes at a cost of higher taxes and more national debts.

According to the New York Times, President Obama is a proponent of expanding aid programs like the Pell Grants for millions of people. The Pell Grants are awarded to young adults who cannot afford college. The Huffington Post reports that the Obama administration has increased the number of Pell Grants from \$15 billion in 2008 to \$40 billion in 2012. Supporters of increased funding argue that more kids will be able to attend college.

However, critics point out that this increase comes at a time when the United States is deeply in debt. Therefore, they conclude, an increase in grants would drive the country deeper into debt. Plus, if more students compete for admission, the colleges can increase tuition, which would negatively impact the kids who are self-financed.

Many conservatives have also criticized Obama for giving more money to skill-based training colleges. In order to get the economy moving again, they say we need better-educated students and more funding for the research institutions.

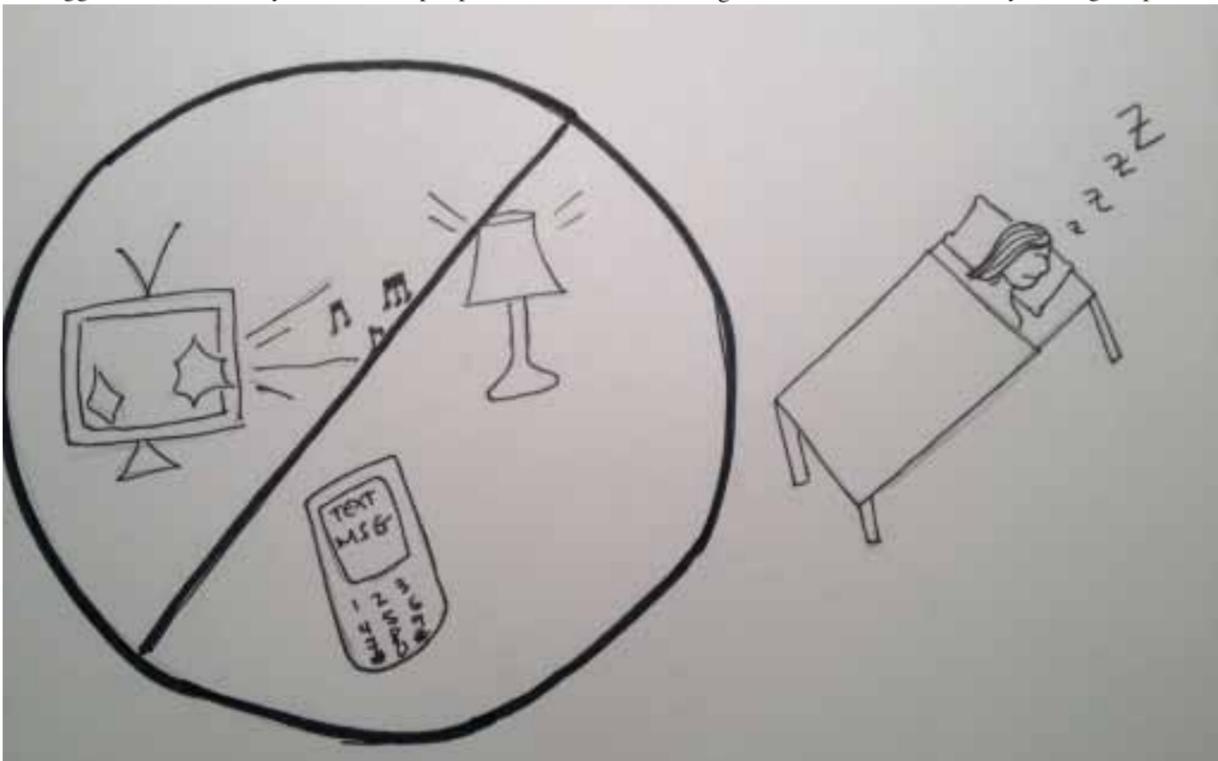
The issue of student loans is also a touchy subject. President Obama has made it easier to request a federal student loan and has been able to put the money saved from lender fees toward Pell Grants. The problem is, according to a recent New York Times article that many parents are unable to repay their children's student loans. Some declare bankruptcy and move in with their children, unable to support themselves. The children feel guilty and the parents are embarrassed to rely on their children. Student loans have even driven a few parents to suicide.

President Obama has sought to alleviate this problem by waiving loans outstanding for more than twenty years and increasing the amount of grants. Even with these increased grants, however, many college graduates are unable to find jobs and repay loans that were taken out in college. Instead of finding ways to improve the economy and create more jobs, the President has reduced the monthly payments of these loans, allowing students to prolong their payment to the government.

Again, conservative critics object that this approach provides no incentive to reduce the amount of loans taken out by students and increases the deficit of the country. Based on Obama's previous four years, it is unlikely that this gross overload of spending is going to be decreased, an issue that could be detrimental to the future of our country.

After Obama's reelection, many people have begun to ask the question, "How will the next four years be any different from the previous four years?" Well, if the standoff continues in Washington, many analysts from both sides of the political spectrum agree, not much. Education has been sidelined since the election by the upcoming fiscal cliff and recent violence in the Middle East. The issue of the fiscal cliff has worried many proponents of better education, as the spending cuts will affect proposed programs. In Massachusetts, for example, around \$25 million is going to be cut in education if no deal is reached by January 1, 2013. The amount of Pell Grants given out may also decrease, and it may be quite some time before we see an improvement in the American education system.

For those of us at Pingry who will be finishing high school and leaving for college within the election cycle, our biggest concerns will be doing well in our classes and getting into the colleges of our choice. However, with rising tuition costs and more preference being put toward the less fortunate, the college process will become much more stressful. The next four years are going to be a roller coaster ride of compromises and cuts, and education may be the first to face the blade.



C. Zee (V)

Christie Crosses Party Lines During Hurricane Sandy Recovery

By ABHIRAM KARUPPUR (IV)

After the devastation of Hurricane Sandy, news networks focused all of their attention on the hard-hit states of New Jersey and New York. One of the key figures in the spotlight was none other than our very own Governor Chris Christie. Both Democrats and Republicans have praised Christie's efforts during the hurricane, as he traveled to the most devastated areas to meet and console displaced residents.

Chris Christie has also been praised for his plan to recover from Hurricane Sandy. According to the New York Times, Christie plans to raise taxes in affected areas and use federal aid to help rebuild the Jersey Shore.

However, Christie has faced backlash from Republicans who

have criticized him for praising President Obama. According to the New York Times, Mitt Romney and his campaign staff became irritated with Governor Christie after he praised the President's pledge to allocate funds to rebuild the New Jersey coast. Christie lauded the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) efforts in the state, a program that Romney had been willing to cut.

Despite the criticism, many believe that Governor Christie did the right thing in this situation. He was concerned with aiding New Jerseyans, and political calculations were not the main issue in his mind.

Aside from the hurricane, many New Jersey residents question Chris Christie's effectiveness as a governor when he's not facing a natural disaster. According to his supporters, Chris

Christie has produced three balanced budgets during his term in office and is working to reform New Jersey's education system. Christie is well known for cracking down on teachers' unions and avoiding verbose, complicated answers to tough questions.

At the same time, according to Bloomberg News, New Jersey still struggles to meet its budget needs, as it has the highest property tax in the nation and an unemployment rate greater than the national average. In fact, property taxes in New Jersey have increased 20 percent since Christie took office. New Jersey also has the fourth highest unemployment in the United States, which affects the amount of revenue the state picked up this year. Christie's projected revenue missed the actual fiscal revenue by \$540 million, reflect-



A. Vella (V) and M. Aliamer (VI)

ing the high unemployment rate. Tax payments have been coming in slower and slower, and revenue is not expected to grow

in the coming year.

Although there has been some debate over the validity of Chris Christie's budget, his supporters note that he managed to cut \$1 billion in 2011 and \$86 million in 2012. They also believe that spending cuts are evidence of Chris Christie's ability to work across the aisle because a Democratic majority in the legislature approved the budget. More money was also pumped into education and pension funds.

In fact, Pingry students — like many of their peers — benefit from Chris Christie's policies. In September of this year, Chris Christie transferred two medical schools and a research institute to Rutgers University.

This move aims at attracting more scholars and educated people such as scientists and engineers to New Jersey, which will hopefully bring more jobs with it. He also aims to restore thousands of jobs by attracting many healthcare companies that left the state last year. Christie, in addition, allocated \$750 million for higher education funding. All of the state's 31 public higher education institutions will receive an increase in funding, which will help lower tuition costs and increase grants.

Hopefully, these policies will serve to benefit all of New Jersey in the long run and will appease the 9.8 percent of people who are currently unemployed in the state.

Did Sandy Affect Presidential Election?

By VINITA DAVEY (VI)

Currently, there is a conspiracy theory floating around cyberspace that postulates that either President Obama or his Republican opponent, Former Governor Mitt Romney, engineered Hurricane Sandy to make his opponent look incompetent. While I think

most people, except for the die-hard government conspiracy theorists, agree that that's not the most plausible reason we were cursed with the hurricane that ravaged New York and New Jersey, the idea that the hurricane had a profound effect on the election is not so far out of the mainstream.

In the days immediately

preceding the storm, Sandy was projected to disrupt the voting process in the key swing states of Virginia and New Hampshire. The damage caused by the hurricane was not severe enough to deter that many voters in those two states as the bulk of Sandy's might was leveled at New Jersey and New York.

Sitting in my house, shivering under a pile of blankets, and wondering when I'd get power back, voting was the last thing on my mind. My parents had actually gone to get gas the day before just so they could vote. Across the state and in New York, others like them made an effort to get to their polling stations to vote despite their lack of basic necessities such as heat, hot water, and gas for their cars.

Many polling stations that lay in Sandy's path were damaged, so some polling centers had to be moved or combined with others. In fact, the New Jersey Democratic chairman, Assemblyman

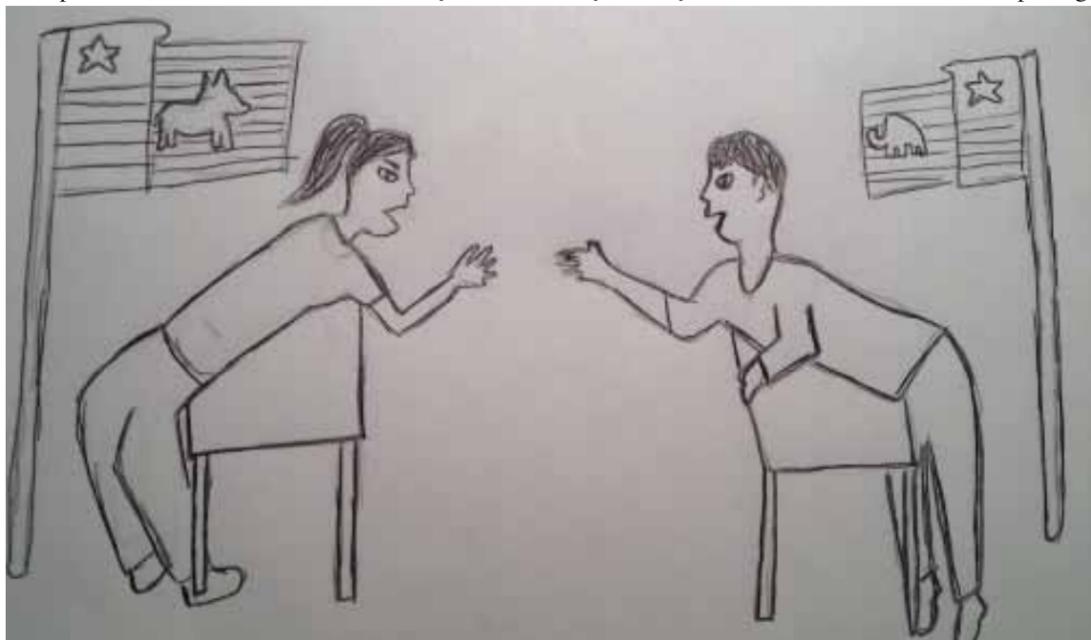
John Wisniewski, reported that Sandy had damaged one of every four of the state's polling locations in one way or another. As a result, Governor Chris Christie decided to instate online ballots, even though people who voted via email had to later send in a paper ballot when they received it in the mail.

New York and New Jersey voters were permitted to vote at any polling place they chose with a provisional ballot. However, this didn't solve the problem for people who fled the state, like my own family.

For many people on both sides of the political divide, Hurricane Sandy was perceived as an Election Day present to President Obama. He was given the chance nine days before the election to demonstrate to the nation his capability to step

up and handle a crisis. Essentially, Romney was caught in a bind—if he continued campaigning during the relief efforts, he would seem cold and calculated for worrying about furthering his campaign while millions were in the cold and dark. Our Republican Governor Christie's praise of the President didn't exactly help either, as he lauded Obama for his "outstanding" response to the crisis.

This vision of Obama as a captain at the helm of the nation during a turbulent storm was enhanced by the media coverage of him visiting affected areas and allocating funds to help people recover. When it came down to the wire, the nation's captain, President Barack Obama, steered his ship to safety in the eye of the storm and took action when his nation needed it most.



C. Zee (V)

Using Lessons from the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars in Our Foreign Policy Agenda

By DEREK HSUE (V)

As the world constantly changes around us, so does America's role in global affairs. It is a sobering reality for most Americans that our country is not infallible. Its policies of nation-building and military interventionism are unsustainable and must change and adapt to the realities of the world around us. The events of the last decade have shown that despite America's efforts, it lacks the ability to shape the world's events without an acceptable cost. In fact, the government must find new, more economical ways to demonstrate American influence around the globe.

In 2003, the American-led invasion of Iraq was met with high anticipation, as many American citizens and the media falsely predicted that

the mission would be completed in a matter of weeks. The military strength of the United States, after all, was unmatched anywhere else in the world.

While the toppling of the Iraqi government occurred within a few weeks, costly guerilla fighting against insurgency forces continued for seven more years. In addition to the thousands of American lives lost, estimates of the complete financial opportunity cost of the war ranged from \$850 billion to over \$3 trillion. Nobel Prize winning economist Joseph Stiglitz said, "There is no question that the Iraq war added substantially to the federal debt." He also suggested, "The global financial crisis was due, in part, to the war."

We can learn important lessons from the Iraq War—the

same lessons that we should have recognized from the Vietnam War. While our military effort is unparalleled, the United States must amend the methods it uses to influence other countries. The conventional idea that America must lead from the front, where we take control in all the decisions, must be changed. Our military operations in both Vietnam and Iraq intended to spread democracy but proved to be too costly. In both cases, the public sentiment turned against the war because of how costly the wars were in terms of money, length, and most of all, lives.

Recently, the United States military intervention in Libya proved to be an imperfect, but much better model for how America should intervene in foreign affairs. In response to the protests against Muammar

Gaddafi and the government in Libya in 2011, America helped establish a NATO coalition to aid the rebels, and to provide aerial, naval, and tactical support. Six months later, the rebels took control of Tripoli and killed Gaddafi.

The United States spent less than one billion dollars on Libya with minimal casualties. Although the situation in Libya is far from stable and there was a recent terrorist attack on the American consulate in Benghazi, America liberated Libyans at a relatively small cost compared to liberating Iraqis.

I believe that America has to follow this type of model in cases of foreign intervention from now on. We must be more prudent in the expenditures and deployments of our troops. If there is a foreign issue not vital to our national

interest, America should not take the lead and spearhead a military operation. Our nation has neither the economic strength nor the public will to engage in such major military operations in its current state.

If there are foreign crises where our intervention will help, we should participate in combined NATO efforts like those in Libya. Certain groups in America believe that such a policy — intervening less — is a display of weakness and encourages our enemies. As shown in Iraq, however, it is no longer realistic for America to invade countries that act against our interest. We must use alternative methods.

The recent presidential campaign was a positive sign for the future of America's foreign policy. Both candidates, Mitt Romney and Barack Obama, preached a

more reserved and less active foreign policy agenda.

On the issue of Iran and its effort to acquire nuclear weapons, both men emphasized using sanctions and diplomatic pressure as preventive methods. A military intervention would only be a last resort if all other options failed. Both political parties now realize that active military interventionism is not vital to our national security, and it is not politically or economically feasible.

As other countries like China gain power, America has to accept that it will have to play a smaller role and become more selective in its use of military force. The lessons from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the last decade have come at a great cost. Hopefully, we do not forget them anytime soon.

Pingry Community Enjoys SAC Assembly and Comes Together to Help Those In Need for the Annual Rufus Gunther Day

By ANNA BUTRICO (V)

This year's Rufus Gunther Day, a fusion of Halloween festivities and giving back to others through community service, was held on Friday, October 26.

The SAC club, led by Justin Sullivan (VI), Will LaCosta (VI), and Conor Malloy (VI), opened the performance in Hauser Auditorium with a musical theatre number. The rest of the assembly

was run in a Saturday Night Live-style "Weekend Update" format.

SAC pleased the crowd with the famous "Teacher Tweets" segment and several short video clips. Hits included "Camtics," a video that featured Cameron Gensch (VI), and "The Code," a humorous video with a James Bond theme.

The Dry Yams, a student

band that includes Michael Arrom (VI), Cole McCollum (VI), Alec Kaisand (VI), and Andrew Benito (VI), played during the assembly as well. They got the crowd involved by inviting students to dance along to the music. A few seniors were bold enough to get on stage and participate, while the rest of the student body enjoyed the performance from their seats.

Once SAC had concluded their portion of the Rufus Gunther Day assembly, it was time for the costume presentation, narrated by Mr. Bugliari. Students, faculty, and sports teams alike arrived to school in costumes and got up on stage to present them to the crowd. Un-

fortunately, "not a lot of people dressed up," observed Rachel Davis (V). "Those who did, though, had really funny costumes." Highlights included Josh Creelman's (V) "Gingerbread Man," Sam Ricciardi's (VI) banana suit, and the field hockey team's several renditions of bunny costumes.

At the conclusion of the assembly, Sullivan, the head of SAC, remarked, "The Rufus Gunther Day assembly is one of the most stressful and fun times of the year." Pingry students agree that the SAC's hard work is worth it. Sullivan closed the



Students volunteering at 100 LEGACY Academy Charter School.

Courtesy of Pingry Communications



Students volunteering at Grow-A-Row potato farms. Courtesy of Mr. Delman

assembly encouraging both faculty and students to "do good work today" at their charitable endeavors.

After the assembly, students changed out of their costumes and prepared for the community service portion of the day. Mrs. Hartz, the Director of Community Service, sent all high school students and faculty to twenty-six different locations, including

given lunches to eat on site.

"I think the community service portion of Rufus Gunther day is a great tradition," said Vineeta Reddy (V). "We get to combine both Halloween and good charitable work."

Mrs. Hartz said, "I thought the day went great. Twenty-three buses left Pingry filled with students and faculty from the Middle and Upper Schools. Our

Pingry's Varsity Football Team Wins First Friday Night Lights Game in Six Years

By ERIN BUTRICO (V)

On Friday, October 26, a variety of students, faculty members, and parents came to support the boys'

tailgate was held before the game as well; desserts, hors-d'oeuvres, and hot beverages were served.

The night began with the

season and that we decided we were going to show everyone who we really are."

Although Hillside flaunted an undefeated record, the

be a tough game and that we had to play some of our best football to win."

Landers scored a 7-yard run in the third quarter to raise the final score to 14-7.

"This was our first Friday Night Lights win in 6 years," Ryan O'Reilly (V) said. "It felt really good to make Pingry history, especially for our seniors."

The team showed their pride by singing "Old John Pingry" at the end of the game, taking off their helmets and celebrating their victory.

After the game was over, Palmer said, "For the senior players it was a pretty bittersweet moment. That was the last game that we'll ever play on our field. The support of the school, especially the Blue Army, made it sweeter than bitter."

"This was a big stage for us," Captain Evan Key (V) said. "The seniors and all of the players and coaches will remember and continue to talk about this game long after they [leave] Pingry."



Lexi Chang and George Zachary (V) at St. Justine's Pre-school.

Courtesy of Pingry Communications

Pingry's Upper Campus itself. All freshmen went to assist with the Food Bank. Students were

efforts helped twenty-six different organizations. What a spectacular way to spend the day!"



The football team lining up before the game.

R. Davis (V)

Varsity Football team in their game against Hillside High School at Friday Night Lights. Wearing red jerseys, which were introduced during last year's Sesquicentennial game, the team was determined to make Pingry history.

Senior players were introduced with their parents before the game began. A

Women's Glee Club's rendition of the Star Spangled Banner at 7 p.m. Glee Club member Allie McManus (V) said, "I loved being a part of it and it really got me into the Pingry spirit."

Team member Tim Landers (VI) said that the team "decided the night before the game that we weren't going to be ignored in this post

boys took their opponent head-on. John Dugan (VI) gave the school a 7-0 lead in the first quarter. He ran ten times for 75 yards, including his 37-yard touchdown carry.

The game intensified when the score was tied in the third quarter. Captain Adam Palmer (VI) said, "We knew it was going to



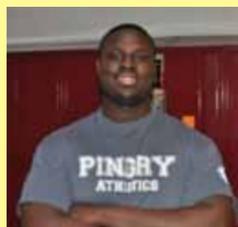
A. Butrico, R. Muller, and M. Boone (V) at Friday Night Lights.

R. Davis (V)

Word in the Hall: How Do You Feel About the Election Results?



AVNI MEMANI (III)
"Yay Obama!"



ADEDIRE FAKOREDE (V)
"I fear for the future of my retirement fund."



CHARLIE WOLLMUTH (V)
"We are heading towards a socialist agenda."



HAYLEY ADVOKAT & TEMI BUTLER (VI)
"Happy Obama won."



HALEY EICHER (VI)
"Women's rights are safe!"

A Talented Cast Performs in Tom Stoppard's "On the Razzle"

By SAMANTHA KORN (V)

On November 9, 10, and 11, members of the community performed Tom Stoppard's "On The Razzle," directed by Drama teacher Mr. Al Romano.

Leading up to the show's opening night, the cast and

While missing an entire week of rehearsals was definitely not ideal for the cast, they made it work. Stephanie Lipper (V), who played the lead role of Marie, said, "It was amazing to see the cast commit to something that seemed so far out of

acters actually going 'on the razzle,' a British saying that means going off the grid and doing something crazy, usually involving the influence of alcohol.

Although Pingry's performance of the play did not involve alcohol, it did

Latin teacher Mr. Tom Varnes were responsible for the fantastic set, along with the help of student volunteers.

On a stage showcasing a fantastic set, the actors did a great job of portraying their characters and also looked like they were having a great time doing it.

Many audience members, such as Sara Gagnon (V), who saw the show on opening night, said, "The high spirits of the actors were visible on stage, and the show was also really funny!"

The audience consisted of people of all ages who came to watch the production.

After such a great performance, the community is highly anticipating the winter musical, "Dirty Rotten Scoundrels," which has just been casted and will be on stage in February.



Courtesy of Pingry Communications



Courtesy of Pingry Communications

crew found themselves in a conundrum.

The untimely arrival of Hurricane Sandy was at fault for most of their stress, but as it often does, their stress motivated the actors to make up for lost time.

reach."

"On The Razzle" is the third adaption of a Viennese play, titled "Einen Jux will er sich machen."

Stoppard's version is a comedy that revolves around the idea of two char-

acters in fact revolve around two characters having a carefree day off from work.

The set for "On the Razzle" mimicked the streets of Vienna, where the play originally took place. Art teacher Mrs. Jane Asch and

Despite Sandy, The Show Must Go On

By MATTHEW MARVIN (V)

I'm sure that, for many of you, the Sunday, October 29th Honeywell alert call from Assistant Headmaster Mr. Leef evoked deserved outbursts of joy. The now infamous Hurricane Sandy had already started brewing outside our homes, and although there was not yet rain, snow, or hail, the impending forecast was enough to cancel the first of many days of school.

For the cast of the fall play, Tom Stoppard's "On the Razzle," the actors and directors experienced several different reactions. There were tears, brawls, and the lingering fear that the show would not come together without the seven rehearsals scheduled for the week of Sandy. Tensions rose as the days wore on while we waited for some simple sign of hope—a sign that we'd be allowed back into the theater to start and finish our technical rehearsals. There was so much that needed to happen in so little time.

Monday came easily. I had suspected we would have a day off for the storm, and the cast had been prepared as well. It was a critical rehearsal, as is every rehearsal near the end, but we would be fine. We would go back on Tuesday and pick up where we left off.

So much for that optimism. Another Honeywell alert notified the cast that the school would be closed on Tuesday, too. The fall play's Facebook group became a hub of busied nervousness as notification after notification revealed that the cast was trying to schedule a rehearsal

in order to somehow keep the show running. We all offered places to rehearse: basements, studios, anywhere. We were desperate.

My phone rang, and I picked up warily. It was Mr. Romano on the other end, sounding tense. He had heard through the grapevine of our plans to rehearse on our own. He explained that with a show like "Razzle," it was too difficult to rehearse without the set or director. It would be impossible to practice without him, and he was going to try to push the play back a week. He asked me to report this via the Facebook group.

When I delivered the news, Facebook blew up. Cast members had conflicts, major ones, the next week-end. They were flying to Houston, visiting colleges, or just not up for another week of technical hell.

So Mr. Romano constructed another plan. The play would not be moved back a week, but we would have to add a considerable amount of hours to the week we had left.

The show miraculously came together. And it was a hit.

Looking back, it is obvious that we had a major challenge on our hands, but we rose to the occasion—the storm actually helped us propel our production to a new level. Because we had four rehearsals instead of eleven, we had to get our best work done—fast. We did better work in those four rehearsals than we might've done had we had the eleven.

And I thank Sandy for that; she really busted our butts.

Czech Artists Display Nature and Freedom Themed Pieces in Hostetter Arts Gallery

By MATT BARRICKMAN (V)

This October, world class artists Pavel Banka and Jindra Vikova came all the way from the Czech Republic to visit Pingry. Banka and Vikova visited classes to speak to students and set up an exhibit, which opened on October 16th, in the Hostetter Gallery.

A little background on the artists: Banka's early figurative work consisted mainly of an exploration of the face, but as his work matured, he focused more on seascapes, skies, meadows, and birds. Much of his later work was taken through the process of either a long or double exposure. He said that this photography technique helped him bring out a different side of the otherwise mundane landscapes. The most well received photo in the exhibit was a picture of birds flying over the ocean shore. "It is by far my favorite," Isabella Barrionuevo (V) said, "because it really brings out a more

beautiful side of something so simple, something we see every day."

Banka's wife, Jindra, is a sculptor. She spoke to some Art Fundamentals classes and to Mr. Richard Freiwald's Clay classes. She uses different materials to sculpt like clay and wire. Much of her work in the exhibit was inspired by relationships and freedom. "Freedom is very fragile," Vikova said, "and I think that in trying to express freedom in my art, my art has helped me to become more free."

After visiting Pingry, Banka and Vikova both had many positive things to say. "I love people's enthusiasm here," Vikova said, "and it's so great to see how much the students love art."

Banka wishes he could have spent more time with students. "I wish we

weren't working so hard on the exhibit," he said. "I really wanted to do some activities with the students."

Pingry students were captivated by the magnificent art in the exhibit. "Having the artists come visit has been so inspirational to me and their artwork has really opened my mind," said Charlie Wollmuth (V).

Speaking on behalf of the Art Department, teacher Mr.

Miles Boyd said, "There is so much inspiration coming out of this, and I am so happy that the artists have not only inspired me, but my students too."

Banka said that he would love to return to Pingry someday because the experience he had while visiting was very fulfilling. He said, "I feel as though I was not only giving, but I was gaining at the same time."



Pavel Banka and I. Barrionuevo (V) at the gallery opening.

S. Taylor (VI)

Word in the Hall: What Did You Do During Sandy Break?



GRACE WOLLMUTH & ABBY BAUER (III)

"Stayed blocked in our houses."



BRANDEN PHILLIPS (IV)

"Played cards by my fireplace."



SIMONE MOTEN (V)

"Lots of homework and studying."



MICHAEL O'REILLY (VI)

"Played Risk."



KELLY MAO (VI)

"College applications."

By KASIA AXTELL (VI) and
ANDREW DELLAPINA (VI)

Boys' Cross Country

Boys' cross country has made a name for itself as one of the top non-public teams in the state, thanks

back it up," he said. At no point was this more evident than during the Conference Championship, as Pingry steadily improved and beat the two teams to whom they had lost during the regular season.

Witte (VI) and Nicole Arata (VI). "We enjoyed a lot of success this season, and a big part of that is due to how hard we've trained from the first day of preseason," Witte said. "We also owe our success to the strong

ready to take the next step. The team traveled to Holy Cross and handed them their first ever loss in the first round of the playoffs (now a 29-1 record) thanks to an early score and defensive turnovers. This was the latest in a run of successful games that began at Homecoming on October 26 against Manville. The team rallied together after a 0-4 start and now sits at 4-6. Next up is a match against Holy Spirit, who may or may not stand in the way of Pingry's appearance at MetLife Stadium for the State Championship.

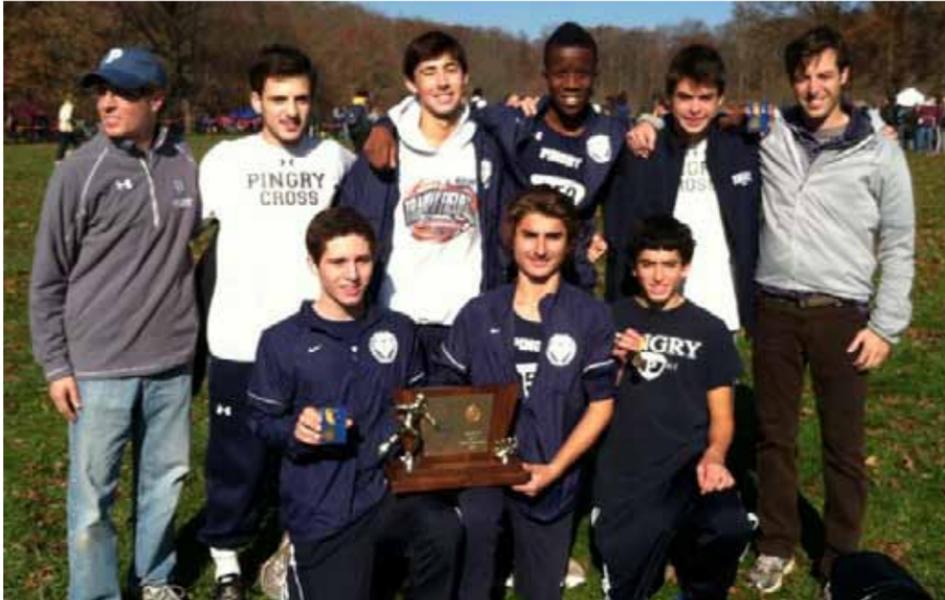
Girls' Soccer

Girls' soccer, thanks to a thrilling overtime victory over Bishop Eustace, will be playing for a second straight Non-Public A State Championship. Captain and senior defender Dani Temares (VI) scored a header early on in the game to put Pingry ahead, and after Bishop Eustace tied the game up, fellow



B. Bruno (VI) playing field hockey.

E. Butrico (V)



The Varsity boys' Cross Country team after they won the state title.

C. Gensch (VI)

bonds all of the teammates formed with each other. We

Girls' Cross Country

The girls' cross country team enjoyed a successful season led by Head Coach Timothy Grant and captains Ellen Cahill (VI) and Anna Butrico (V). Their record was 8-4. "Every last one of the girls on the team improved dramatically from the first meet of the season to the last. This year's team was closer knit than ever, and I am going to miss it so much," Cahill said of the last of her four seasons with the team.

Field Hockey

The field hockey team ended its season with a record of 13-6. The girls were led by Coaches Lee and Alexander and captains Nikki

to the hard work and improvement of this year's team and the strong leadership skills of Head Coach Matt Horesta and Captain Cameron Gensch (VI). The team finished its season with a 7-2 record and captured both the Skyland Conference Championship and the Prep A Championship. In the Conference Championship, all 19 team members broke personal bests and star Liam Mullett (V) set a course record for fastest time. Mullett also placed 4th in the Meet of Champions. Gensch aptly described the fundamental difference between this year's team and past seasons. "In years past, we've come into seasons with ridiculous expectations, but this year, we had the talent and work ethic to



R. Corboz (V) in the middle of a corner kick.

R. Davis (V)

played so well together because we got along, we knew each other's strengths and weaknesses, and that worked really well for us," she added, summing up the 2012 season.

Football

Led by captains Adam Palmer (VI), John Dugan (VI), and Evan Key (V), and Head Coach Shilts and Assistant Coach/Defense Coordinator Jon Leef, the football team is enjoying the most success it's had in years. It won its first playoff victory in 15 seasons, and now Pingry is

captain Carly Rotatori (VI) finished a cross by Rachel Corboz (V) mere minutes into overtime and ensured a match-up with Immaculate Heart on November 28th at TCNJ. Under the leadership of Temares and Rotatori and Coach Andrew Eggington, the team has retained its reputation as one of the most consistent and talented groups in the state with a 13-4-2 record.

Brian Costa (VI). Boys' Soccer has an 18-1-3 record and finished as Co-Champions of Somerset County as well as Skyland Conference Champions.

Girls' Tennis

Under the leadership of captains Kelly Mao (VI) and Stephanie Carr (VI), and Coach Lou Castelli, the girls' tennis team was undefeated until the last two

matches of the season, which they finished with a record of 17-2. The final matches were against Haddonfield and Bridgewater-Raritan. The girls won their first match against Bridgewater 3-2, but, unfortunately, the second time around, they lost 2-3. "The whole team stayed unbelievably strong throughout the entire season, but we never let our record get to our heads. It was unfortunate that we lost the last two matches, but those losses did not break our spirit. I'm so proud of the girls for that," said Mao.

Water Polo

Even though this year's coed water polo team was very small, all of the players brought important skills to the table. The team's record was 4-7, but Coach Jeffrey Jenkins and captains Will LaCosta (VI), Adam Fraites (VI), Michael O'Reilly (VI), and Sebastian Lutz (IV) remained positive throughout. Although the team will lose the majority of its players to college next year, underclassmen who will remain on the team are optimistic that they will attract more players, and the team will enjoy an even stronger season in 2013.



Football players running with the ball.

Courtesy of Pingry Communications

Boys' Soccer

After a disappointing loss to Delbarton in Penalty Kicks last season, the boys' soccer team vowed that it would go all the way this season, and all the way it has. With a match-up against Delbarton for the State Championship. The first title game ever between these two rivals took place the night of November 26 at TCNJ. The team is led by Head Coach



A Pingry water polo player passes a ball.

R. Davis (V)

Unfortunately, Hurricane Sandy's impact prevented us from putting out our intended election issue on November 5, but we hope you enjoyed this post-election/Hurricane Sandy-themed issue!

-The Editors