

THE ELRO PAWPRINT

“If I must choose between righteousness and peace, I choose righteousness.” ~ Theodore Roosevelt

BATHROOM LOCK DOWN

BY PERRI HAYNES

In the recent weeks, we have all witnessed a huge change at Eleanor Roosevelt High School. Our precious bathrooms that are always available for use have been locked up for the most part except for the fourth floor and first floor bathrooms, though the floors sometimes alternate. This change is not a welcome one by the ElRo students.

“We are wasting precious class time due to the line being so long. It’s unbelievable that only five stalls are open for use in the girl’s bathroom for over three hundred female students. And because of this, there is always no toilet paper.” - Anna Pasieka.

The great thing about this school is the fact that it is unbelievably well-kept in comparison to most other New York City public schools and even private schools. Compared to most of the middle schools that we have attended, going to ElRo is like being educated in a cleanly environment. Learning is easier because we do not have to dwell on poor surroundings. Recently, unknown students have decided to vandalize the school, especially the bathrooms, by cutting into the walls of the bathroom stalls and leave their marks in other ways. The school has decided to take severe action by locking the bathrooms and making students comment as to whether they are clean. The school has also held assemblies to discuss the present state of the situation.

“It’s really ridiculous how this whole thing started. But it’s really those who vandalize the school that I’m really angry at. You know? Why let the innocent pay for the things that they’ve never done?” - Anonymous

ElRo is doing a good job of nipping this vandalism problem in the bud, but many feel as if things are going overboard. The bathrooms serve as an integral part of a student’s day, and not just to go to the bathroom. There are many girls and boys who are very self-conscious and rely on the second floor bathroom to change in and out of their gym clothes, and many are complaining that the arduous trip to the first or fourth floor bathrooms is annoying and embarrassing. Many students also worry about what they would do if they felt ill and a bathroom was not close enough to them. Many are annoyed because of long lines at the bathroom and lack of toilet paper by the end of the day.

“I believe that the bathroom issue is unnecessary in a certain way because you can not stop people from doing graffiti and scratchiti.” - Kevin Fung

In order to remedy this new situation that is putting a strain on the students and faculty we all need to keep our school clean and the small amount of people that have done the vandalism to come clean and we will be able to resume our normal bathroom activities as young adults should.



Science Olympiad

By Kyra Gembka and Isabel Stern

Ever since 2004, Eleanor Roosevelt High School has competed in the Regional Science Olympiad. This event consists of a variety of scientific competitions testing students’ abilities in numerous scientific fields in strict time limits. This year, the school competed in 8 events: The Wright Stuff, Food Science, Write it Do it, Experimental Design, Physics Lab, Chemistry Lab, The Sound of Music, and Cell Biology. The team came back placing in almost half of the events that it competed in.

The events that ElRo placed in were: The Sound of Music, Physics Lab, and Experimental Design. Nicole Parada and Catherine Daddario placed 5th for Sound of Music, Kathy Naco and Ying Kang Duan placed 7th in Physics Lab, and Kasey Hamilton, Kyra Gembka, and Isabel Stern placed 9th in Experimental Design. The representatives in these events beat out many academically competitive schools such as Stuyvesant, Townsend Harris, Collegiate, and Dalton.

Perhaps the most memorable part of the exhaustive day (which lasted from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m.) were the stylish outfits worn by the Experimental Design Crew (The Stylin’ Scientists), the cheer competition with a rival school, or the three-eyed stare off between Teammates Kasey Hamilton and Ying Kang Duan.



Kasey Hamilton and Ying Kang Duan stare each other down in preparation for intimidating other teams

... Continued on Page 3

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

Dear ElRo Students, Staff, and Families,
It’s March! Despite the lack of breaks and such that will be taxing us students and staff members for the next month, this month does have a lot of really fun holidays such as Easter (I love the parade), Saint Patrick’s Day, and the start of spring. I’m sure everyone notices by the constant reminder of ElRolympics, but the end of the school year seems so close. Yet it is still exhaustingly far away. I’m not sure if I have “hit the wall,” but school work seems to be loosening up a bit (don’t get any ideas about adding more, teachers!).

I am sort of getting tired of a lot of other things, too, such as the Hillary-Obama see-saw that the news channels insist upon using as a filler when they could be reporting real news (such as the shooting of eight Jewish students in Gaza city and Hamas’ on again/off again claiming of the blame). Nevertheless, Kaplan keeps me busy so I cannot dwell on the shortcomings of the media, nor my own. If you have any ideas on how to improve the newspaper, would like to comment on any articles, have any questions for me, or have any articles to contribute yourself, all work is gladly accepted at Elropawprint@yahoo.com.

We are actually looking for people that would be interested in cartooning and illustrating for the paper, so if anyone is interested I can also be contacted at The ElRo Pawprint email (mentioned above). All articles are solely the opinions of the individual writers and noth those of The ElRo Pawprint, its associated teachers, nor any endorsing parties.

Sincerely,

Isabel Stern, Editor-in-Cheif

IN THIS ISSUE:

School Sports:

Page 3



Getting the Ball Going this Spring

The Dollar is Tanking— So What?! And More on U.S. Politics and Healthcare

Page 2



Entertainment!

Page 4



Local Plays and DVD Releases!

Students Talk Politics:

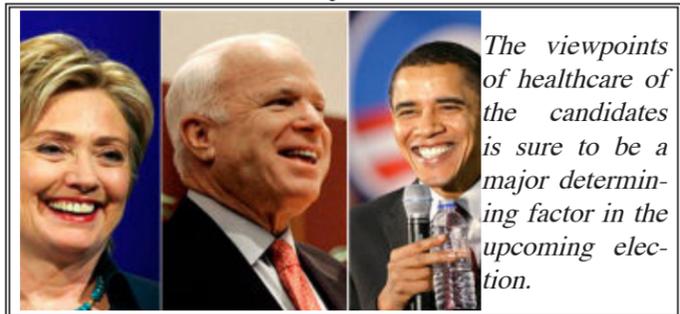
HEALTH CARE & OUR CANDIDATES FOR THE ELECTION OF 2008

BY ARIEL HENRIQUEZ

Health Care in America has been a huge concern to every American city in the country. Whether or not the individual believes that there should be universal health care, if it happens, it affects their lives as well.

Universal Health Care is the belief that every citizen of the United States should be granted and extended health care coverage. It is publicly funded. Health care is definitely a huge domestic issue in this presidential race, so knowing which candidate supports what surely helps decide whom you truly support.

Firstly, Democrats evidently support health care more than Republicans do. Republican views of health care generally believe that the individuals yearly payment should be the factor in having health insurance or not. Democrats however, believe in universal health care, which covers every citizen of the U.S. There are about 47 million uninsured citizens in the U.S. today.



The viewpoints of healthcare of the candidates is sure to be a major determining factor in the upcoming election.

What does Hillary Clinton believe? Clinton believes in universal health care, covering all citizens. Both public and private insurance is covered, allowing anyone to have a much more affordable, if not free, health care.

What are Barack Obama's views on health care? Well, Obama believes in affordable coverage, whereas Hillary would prefer having universal coverage, disregarding yearly wages.

Now what would the Republican candidate possibly think on this subject? John McCain would eradicate insurance which sponsors the employer and give tax credits to families.

This presidential election will almost definitely change the path that the U.S. will take in political direction. Will we follow the European road to high taxation for free healthcare and social programs (though we may not have the capital to support it) or will we continue on the road of American fundamentalism and purely capitalistic ideals?

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Do you agree or disagree with anything on this page? Send in your comments at Elropawprint@yahoo.com or drop off a letter or article to The Pawprint dropbox in the main office! Contribute to The Elro Pawprint and let your voice be heard!



IT'S RAINING, IT'S POURING, THE DOLLAR IS FALLING — BUT CAN IT BE GOOD FOR THE AMERICAN ECONOMY?

BY ISABEL STERN

Most every teen knows that the value of the U.S. dollar is decreasing. We have heard it through tidbits of the news, brief flirtations with confusing graphs, and probably some expatiated rants from our parental figures. However, few of us are informed as to how such a thing is happening, or precisely what it means for this country on a global level. Firstly, the dollar's worth is determined by a system of world-wide compared values. It depends upon the recent U.S. performance in global markets.

The reason why the dollar is decreasing is a multitudinous formula. One of the major causes is trade deficit, in other words, foreign debt. We owe more to countries through borrowed or imported money than we are able to produce and export. Another reason is a reversal in mercantilist fundamentals—that is, we are currently importing more goods than we export, and the value of imported goods exceed those of exported goods. Some main imports are oil, automobiles, toys and technology, food, and clothing.

In addition to the outward cash flow due to trade, there is a lot of outsourcing of jobs that is occurring. American companies are hiring cheaper labor in other countries rather than hiring domestically competitive labor at home. On the global scale, other companies and individuals abroad stopped investing in the U.S. market, possibly due to the lack of faith caused by such scandals as that of Enron, WorldCon, and Tyco. While foreigners were pulling out of our market, or thinking about doing so, the U.S. economy was doing well. When investors finally withdrew, it became clear that there was mass overspeculation in the American market, causing debt to increase and housing values to decrease.

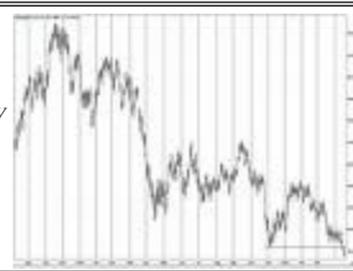
All of this obviously does not sound good. It seems to match up with the information that we get stating that this is the worst thing that could possibly happen, that we need to act immediately and issue government handouts (issued last month with no purpose), and that we need to stop being “arrogant Americans” and face a bad market. But while all this was happening, and the dollar was decreasing, America's chief importers were getting American money — at the American value that was equal to the Euro. The chief countries that contributed to U.S. trade deficit were China, Japan, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Venezuela, Malaysia, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Italy (in order, by increase in U.S. debt owed).

Now, the dollar is worth a small amount on the national scale, yet these countries have billions of our dollars in capital worth almost half of what it originally was. Which means that some countries are very angry with us. China, in fact, threatened to sell off huge amounts of U.S. holdings back in September. A Chinese economist, Zhang Ming, responded, after President Bush pretty much brushed aside the threat as “foolhardy,” that “As long as there are no big upheavals in the American economy and there is no serious dispute between China and the United States, the Chinese government will not sell off U.S. dollar assets in any major amounts.”

The Bush Administration has directly come out and stated that it was in favor of the decreased dollar, and though many people (especially in liberal New York City) may scoff at this, I believe that the Bush Administration is right in this case. As the dollar plunges, capital from around the world is attracted, which can help to make up for the trade deficit. The low dollar is attracting numerous foreign companies to build and expand in the U.S., with an American workforce.

In Greer, South Carolina, BMW is investing \$750 million to expand its production plant, which will make 500 new jobs over here. It stated two weeks before the release of that statement that it would be laying off 5,000 German employees and 600 other ones over the next two years. Germany, I remind you, is fourth on the list of U.S. trade deficit increases. Airbus already has a contract with the United States Air Force estimated at \$35 billion and its parent company, EADS, plans to also set up shop with medium sized companies placed in the American market.

An unpromising graph of the U.S. Dollar Index may be deceiving in predicting future economy



These new companies not only mean more jobs; they mean more U.S. exports. The increase in exports will add to a financial stability, much better than the consumer, import-based economy that we have subjugated ourselves to. I am not saying that soon we will run the world, but what the dollar is helping America to achieve is similar to what Rockefeller did to oil: plunge prices, buy everything up because there is no competition, and then allow the value of the product to rise as is its normal course. It may be a bit risky, but if it works, which it seems to already be doing, then it can work big. Unlike *Dr. Strangelove*, in which we “learned to stop caring and love the atom bomb,” it is about time that we learned to start caring and love the low dollar.

Sporty Spice-ing It Up At EIRO!

By Samantha Matthews

When people think of Eleanor Roosevelt they often think of our outstanding academic achievements. With our good reputation, it is no wonder that people think our students work more than they play. Yes, our students are dedicated to their studies and our curriculum seems to be getting better and harder by the year, but so do the other aspects of our school are also growing and improving. Not only is our school broadening its academic structure, but it is doing so in athletics, too.

Despite the fact that our school opened just six years ago, the students have come together and developed many different sports teams. These sports teams have been growing each year as the students come together and express interest physical activities. In the past years, our boys' soccer team has made it into the playoffs two years in a row, our boys' tennis team that has made it into the playoffs twice (winning the division B championships once), and our girls' tennis team has made it into the playoffs three times. In addition to this, girls' and boys' basketball teams improve every year, and we have always had girls' and boys' track. These teams have all shown great dedication and progression through the years.

As of this year, our school has added on to our already existing teams. Our school now has baseball for boys and softball for girls. Both interest meetings had a big turnout. So many people want to participate in these sports that they are having tryouts. The seasons, which both started at the beginning of March, are going to be a big success. The start of these new teams means that they are going to need the support of the EIRO student body. As everyone knows, trying something new for the first time is not easy, so the more fans we can have for these teams, the better. That does not mean to forget about our other pre-existing sports, such as the tennis teams and track. The more support the students show towards our athletic teams, the more teams we will be able to create in the future.

I know that school is very important to everyone at EIRO. However, getting involved with extracurricular activities is also important. Sports are a perfect way to meet new people. Most the teams in our school will allow you to play regardless of the level of skill you demonstrate. The most important thing is that you try your best and give a hundred percent. Who knows, trying something different just might turn out to be the best thing you ever did. Go Huskies!

... Continued from Science Olympiad, Page 1

Despite the loads of fun had at this year's competition, the team sadly did not come home as victoriously as it had planned—for it had lost the coveted Spirit Award to the hosting school's Dean (the dean of Grover Cleveland High School). The Spirit Team, coached by Belinda Boxer and Anne Marie Suchanek, had worked rigorously to prepare for a day of school spirit, and unfortunately, their efforts fell a little short.

The school's coaches, however, were not at all let down, as Mr. Lutrell R. Nickelson pointed out, "they didn't want other teams to get jealous because we won [The Spirit Award] last year." As the day came to an end, Eleanor Roosevelt High School successfully walked out with high hopes for next year.



The Stylin' Scientists show off their competition get-ups before entering the lab room to compete

We'd like to give a special thanks to all the Science Olympiad coaches: Mr. Lutrell R. Nickelson, Ms. Angela Sterling, Ms. Adrienne Rubin, and Ms. Yeou-Jey Hsu.

GO ERHS!

Interview with a Teacher: Mr. Strasser Interviewed by Jade Polay

Mr. Strasser is well known for implementing innovative and creative methods in his physical education class. He is also credited with inventing such games as "Pillow-Polo" and "Strasser-Ball." I recently sat down with the physical educator to learn more about his motivations for becoming a teacher, and how he feels about our school's current physical education department.

Q: How did your interest in sports evolve?

A: Being on the football team, track team, and basketball truly made my high school experience. I was captain of the football team at my college. My passion also evolved when I played for the Norkopping Panthers in Sweden. It was an incredible experience, and I also taught English while I was there.

Q: Why did you want to become a Physical Education Teacher?

A: It's just who I am, who I am in spirit. I was inspired by my coaches and teachers as a kid. I could relate to these figures, and that's why I am at where I am today.

Q: What do you enjoy most/least about teaching at our school?

A: I like the way the students at EIRO are able to adapt to different scenarios and activities presented them. The one aspect I dislike the most about teaching at this school would be the space available to us. All Manhattan schools are limited in terms of this issue. I feel that the most beneficial aspect of my job is bridging the gap between education and real life application.

Q: On that note, what would be your ideal fitness studio?

A: My ideal fitness studio is one where I would be able to create more of a health club setting. I would also like a weight room for our school.

Q: What do you feel are the most relevant issues facing teens today in regards to their health? How do you think EIRO students can improve their health? What are your health concerns for our school?

A: I think the issues depend on the environment. Obesity is not so much of a prevalent issue in Manhattan as it is in rural parts of the country. Walking is one of the reasons why obesity is not such an issue facing teenagers in Manhattan, and EIRO students can improve their health by simply walking more. I feel that students should have a health education class from an early age. The issues discussed in these classes are relevant throughout all of high school, and this is why I feel it is important that we start educating students from an early age. (not senior year)

Q: How would you improve Physical Education at our school?

A: I don't feel that two times a week is enough. We need more opportunities, and more outlets. It would be ideal if we could have P.E. every day. I think lack of school spirit is also an issue. No one really takes ownership of the sports programs here, and a lot of people are unaware of the sports clubs which are offered.

Q: Why do you feel we are restricted to two times a week?

A: There is more of a focus on the core academic classes, however, our health is equally as important.

Q: What would students be most surprised to hear about you?

A: I am the author of the book "Developing Killer Speed". It is basically a manual instructing athletes as to how they can increase their speed. I also have my own website.

Mr. Strasser takes a break from coaching track.

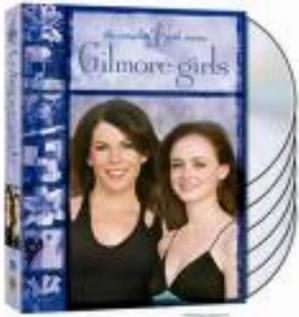


S.M.A.C.
Join the Cause!
Fight the Fight!



Join Student Movement against Cancer and help aide in the fight against this devastating disease. The two designated recipients of the money we make through fundraising and donations will be sent to The American Cancer Society and the Hassenfeld Foundation. The Hassenfeld Children's Center for Cancer and Blood disorders is located at the NYU Medical Center, and is nationally recognized for its excellent medical care and emotional support programs. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please come to the meetings Thursdays in Ms. Morgan's room. Remember, keep donating to your assigned donation box, the winning advisory will receive a pizza party at the end of the year.

Saying Goodbye to the Gilmore Girls The 7th and Final Season



By Chelsea Getz

For the T.V. series of Gilmore Girls, the time has come to say goodbye and wrap up the loose ends. From the first moment the show aired in 2000, viewers immediately identified with the small town of Stars Hollow and the characters wrapped up in their day to day lives. For Lorelai

Gilmore (Lauren Graham), who became a single mother when she was sixteen to her daughter Rory (Alexis Bledel), the town was her refuge from her past disappointments. The quirky residents of Stars Hollow, from oddball Kirk to serious Luke Danes, captured viewers attention while spinning a story of a mother and daughter who have a tightly knit relationship.

The series ran for seven seasons, the last of which recently came out on DVD. Yet all of the fans of the series will never forget Rory Gilmore's first love (and second and third), the multiple fights between Lorelai and her own mother, or the hysterical moments between friends such as studious Rory, repressed Lane, and Ivy League-obsessed Paris. The witty sarcasm and deep emotion wrapped up in each episode demonstrated the full meaning of a mother-daughter relationship, displayed clearly by Lorelai and Rory.

For those who have tight friendships, this series will spark memories and serve as a reminder to hold on when things get rough. If you're having trouble with your parents, watching the struggling relationship between Lorelai and her domineering mother Emily, or Lane and her insanely overprotective mother, will surely put things in perspective. For those who know the jealousy factors of relationships, the stress between Lorelai's boyfriend of later episodes, Luke Danes, and Rory's own father, Christopher Hayden, should strike a chord. And for the Heroes fans, you will be interested to see Milo Ventimiglia (who portrays the character Peter Petrelli on Heroes), who got his first big break as teenage rebel Jess Mariano on Gilmore Girls.

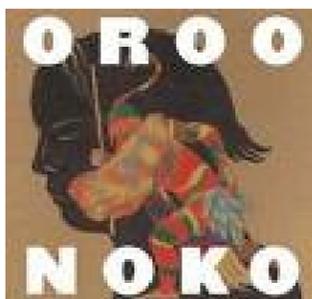
With all seven seasons out on DVD, the series is now complete, and although the mother-daughter duo is leaving the T.V. screen, it is not too late to catch the laughter and tears of Gilmore Girls.

Oroonoko

A Play Review

By Perri Haynes

Oroonoko was originally written as a short novel by a Dutch man named Aphra Behn in the late 1600's. Over the last four hundred years or so, the story about Oroonoko, the royal slave, has been rewritten into many different plays. This time around, the novella has been adapted by Nigerian playwright Biyi Bandele. The play Oroonoko was originally running on the London stage for several years in the 1990's, and has just recently come to the American shore at The Duke Theater on 42nd street.



The play begins in Africa in a made up coastal country. It tells the tale of bravery and honor while focusing on a group of African warriors and all of their travails. The leader within this group of warriors is Oroonoko. He is the best warrior, the bravest fighter, and the most handsome conquest. Oroonoko then meets princess Imoenda, but of course in this tragedy, she is promised to the elderly king of the country. The second act begins in America, where the once revered Oroonoko and his warrior comrades get sold into slavery by their own people. Unbeknownst to Oroonoko, his true love Imoenda was also sold into slavery, even though he thinks she has been killed. They reunite happily (or as happily as they can) under the slave conditions. Oroonoko makes several deals with the white men so that he can be set free with Imoenda, hence him being referred to as 'the royal slave'.

This play is a tragedy and the ending is not very pleasant, but it is a play that really makes you think about honor, honesty, love and betrayal. One minute you can have everything, but as quickly as you have gained it, it can disappear as Oroonoko sees. Another reason to see this play is because my older brother is one of the stars!

Ask Alayna

Dear Alayna,

So, the 11th grade is going on a Boston trip soon and we are picking room assignments. It was going to be me and my four other friends but then we found out that there are only 4 people to a room!!! Oh, gosh! What should I do? I mean, we all want to room together and one of us will have to be separated from the group. I certainly hope it's not me. I don't know who I would end up with. Anyway, what do I do???

Sincerely,

Bunking Blues

Dear Bunking Blues,

Your situation certainly seems difficult. One thing to remember is that the Boston trip is only for one night. It's not as if the person who is separated from the group has to live with their new group forever. I understand it's hard to be separated, but I think the fairest way to do it would be to put all 5 of your names in a hat and draw one out and whichever name you draw out is the one who has to find a new room. Just remember, I'm here to help!

Xoxo,

Alayna

Valentine's Day Dance

By Kayla Cooper

The Valentine's Day Dance took place on February 8th 2008. Most people found it memorable because it was considered the best dance so far. The dance's success was largely contributed to the massive turnout of people from the school, as well as their guests. Some contributed the success of the dance to the longer time fame, while others contributed it to the theme of the dance, as well as the prizes.

Congrats to the King and Queen of the dance Tevin Jackson and Ting Chen. The dance was a huge hit, and thanks is due to everyone who helped make it possible. If you missed the last dance don't feel bad, because another one is coming up. Mark your calendars people, the next dance is April 11th, and the theme of the dance is Spring Fling. More details will be available as we approach the date. Make sure you come, and bring your friends so that the Spring Fling can be even more successful than the Valentine's Day Dance.

A LUNCH SUGGESTION:

PYRAMIDA

BY ANNE MARIE SUCHANEK

If you're craving unique Mediterranean/Egyptian cuisine, then Pyramida is the perfect place to eat! Located on 78th street between First and York Avenues, Pyramida is conveniently accessible to ELRO students. From chicken and lamb gyros to hummus and even rice pudding, you can't go wrong with anything from this take out spot. All of the ingredients are fresh and delicious, especially since they are made directly on the premises.

All of the food is reasonably priced, especially considering considering the amount and quality of the food! For about \$5-\$7, anyone can eat a filling meal. The restaurant is very cozy as well, and fitting for the type of food. The staff is also incredibly friendly and welcoming. It is a great environment to be in. The food is also made very quickly, so waiting for long periods of time won't be an issue. There is always something new and delicious to try at Pyramida. but no matter what you get, it is always delicious and a great lunch time choice.

Thanks for Reading!

Sincerely,



The ELRO Pawprint Staff
Editor-in-Chief: Isabel Stern
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