

THE PURPLE PAW

APRIL 2011

Japanese Relief Fund

Kali Oaks



Most of us know of the horrible tragedy that has recently happened in Japan. First, it was the earthquake, then a tsunami and finally the nuclear disaster. The students at Cortland Jr. Sr. High School have been asked to bring in money to support the people who have endured this happening. It is asked every morning on the announcements that students bring in at least \$1 to the Japanese Relief Fund jars in their social studies classrooms. The staff, as well as, has been asked to provide money. As of Friday, April 1st (the last day for raising money), the students and staff at Cortland High School raised \$1007.28 and will be sent to Japanese Relief Effort groups. Although this fundraiser is over we will continue to support Japan.

After note:

After writing this, I learned that Japan was having severe problems with the aftershock of the quake.

Baseball is Back

Brian Barnes

Take me out to the ball game take me out to the crowd, when you hear this song you know what's coming, baseball. The smell of hot dogs, crackerjacks, and peanuts make your taste buds tingle. The stadium lights shining down on the field, with the sights of the perfect game, double play, and the striking out of players are everything you will encounter at a ball game.

The Cortland Modified Baseball team is getting ready for the 2011 season. Dylan Brown, a 7th grader on Team 2 told me this, "My goal for this season if I make the team, is to bat a .250 average or higher."

With this goal, comes long hours of practice, the ability to try your hardest, and never give up. That is what makes a baseball player.

For its 1, 2, 3 strikes you're out in the old ball game.



PURPLE PAW WANTS YOU!

Openings for reporters, reviewers, editors, photographers, artists, writers, Or teens who want to display their creativity. Meetings are on Wednesday in Room 169. See Mrs. Rice & Mr. Lee for details and to sign on!

PURPLE PAW WANTS YOU!

Stupefied Shirley by Muse

NOT SO Magic Powers



Message from Muse

For my last comic I introduced a character with the description of an overweight boy scout. I was informed by our supervisor that one of his colleagues was worried that someone might take offence with the term "overweight." I would like to say that I am sorry if I did offend anyone. I didn't mean to make fun of or make anyone feel bad. This comic is not about emotionally hurting people. It is about making people laugh and being entertaining.

I admit that when I was first told that my Shirley character might be offensive to some people I was surprised. It made me think about the reason the term overweight would be offensive.

Our society today has become increasingly sensitive about many topics and words. Over the years the meaning of words change and some can even become somewhat taboo. Words relating to race, gender, sexuality, religion, physical appearance, and learning abilities are often problematic. It is hard to write a piece that will please everyone. It's true; people do use words from these topics offensively, sometimes to the point where things will become dangerous (Dangerous as in fights or school shootings).

In the case of the Stupefied Shirley comic, I thought it would be more appropriate to use over weight to describe a character that is over the average weight than, perhaps, fat or chunky. If I had had a completely normal person with perfect qualities I'm sure that nobody would have a problem with that. So is that saying that perfect people are better?

Our world is made up of a very dynamically, diverse population. Everyone is different, and you should be proud of who you are. We all have different, unique qualities and beliefs. That's what makes the world such a beautiful place. That is what we need to remember. If we don't, we are only hurting ourselves so, accept people for who they are.

-Katie Musci (Muse)

One Crazy Mr. Aspinwall!!

Rachel Vestal

Mr. Aspinwall is one very interesting 8th grade science teacher. Before 8th grade, he was a 7th grade teacher and has taught 1 year of college. Altogether, that's 28 years of teaching for him. His science class is an introduction to chemistry and physics.

Mr. Aspinwall has had his fair share of excitements in his teaching career. A student had dropped a hot penny into the waste basket before Mr. A and his class went to an assembly. They came back to a burning waste basket. The fire was put out immediately.

In his class, there are a lot of hands-on projects. There are chemicals, high voltage shocks, mini-roller coasters, balloon cars, and more! His favorites are making brass pennies and soap bubbles that turn into flame balls.

At home he has 2 sugar gliders (flying squirrels) named Nika and Echo. He also has 7 kids and 5 grand children.

Before his interview he had an important note that he wanted me to share. "Mr. Lee should shave."



Singing in Skaneateles

Gabrielle DeFranco

On April 12, 2011, the Cortland Jr. High's 7th Grade Girls Chorus performed in Skaneateles for NYSSMA Majors, conducted and set up by Mrs. Jennifer Rafferty, their chorus teacher. After missing almost a whole day of classes, they came back with a silver medal from being judged. Mrs. Rafferty was inspired when she first heard about the trip. She said she had never done this before, and neither did the girls; it was a new experience for all of them. Mrs. Rafferty's advice to the girls was to "do your best." With that advice and some practice, the girls left with pride and a silver medal.

Spring Break

Gabrielle DeFranco

Everyone is talking about it! It's Spring Break! From April 18th to April 22nd, have fun in the (hopefully) sun! But do not forget important information you may need to know about tests or papers that you might have after break. So grab a few friends or may be go on vacation and have a great and safe time!

Purple Paw Debate

Amanda Reyngoudt

Do you know those people that don't do anything but disturb others around them? Everyone had an opinion about these people so I went out and asked a few. I'll be starting with my own personal opinion.

"People like that really get on my nerves. Sometimes it's so bad that not just the one person gets in trouble but rather the entire class! I don't think that's fair."

- Amanda Reyngoudt

"It makes me frustrated because we have to go to school for a reason and if they disturb people then they aren't learning anything."

- Caitlyn Ruggero

"I feel like our learning environment is hurt and therefore we can't learn."

- Kimberly Conway

So as you can see just about everyone have the same feelings for these situations. **FRUSTRATING!** So the next time this happens, **POLITELY** ask the person to stop. It will do us all some good.



MOVIE REVIEW

SCREAM 4

★★★½
Seamus Mulhern

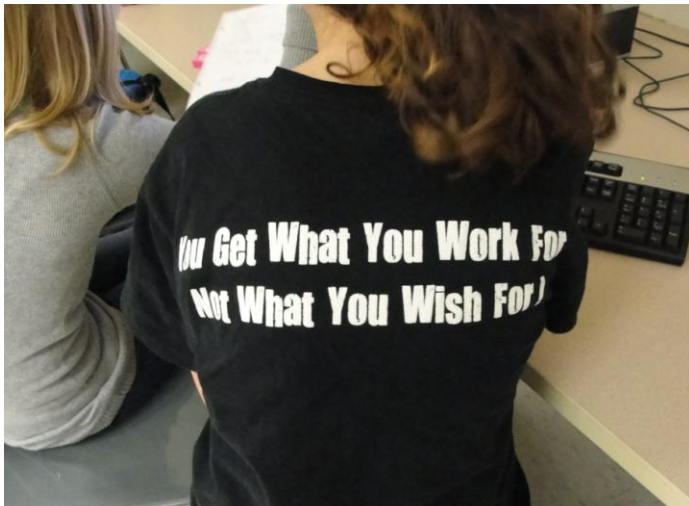
Scream 4 is a bloody good time. It retains the gore and mayhem of *Scream 1* but with a modern setting for the next generation.

The story begins eleven years after *Scream 3* ends. Sidney, played by Neve Campbell, is writing a book about how to cope with events such as in the last three movies. Gale Weathers, played by Courtney Cox, is married to the new sheriff, Dewey, played by David Arquette. When Sidney returns to Woodsboro to promote her new book; two teenagers are mysteriously murdered. Sidney believes that her past is coming to haunt her . . . again. She is most worried about her much younger cousin, Jill, played insanely well by Emma Roberts, and her friends, played by Hayden Panentiere and Kieran Culkin.

The rest you probably understand. People live, people die, blah-blah-blah. What makes this film so great is the mystery of it all. Constantly trying to guess who the killer is really puts you in the movie and makes you have fun with it. When the actual killer(s?) is revealed, it really just makes you want to shake the writer's hand. This movie is of course directed by horror mastermind Wes Craven who also directed the *Last House on the Left*, *Nightmare on Elm Street*, and the *Hills Have Eyes*. This guy really knows how to scare you. But what's really surprising about this movie is the comedy. You wouldn't guess it, but this movie is hilarious at some parts. Especially from some of the teenagers, this movie is hysterical. And if you're familiar with the *Scream* franchise then you would probably guess that this movie is filled with horror references. This time around it is filled with references mostly focusing on reboots. There's even an opening sequence with Jessica Biel and that girl from *Degrassi* making fun of the repetitiveness of horror movie franchises that just won't stop.

Overall, *Scream 4* is a bloody, gruesome, hilarious, geeky, horror movie/horror movie homage that is the best movie of the year so far

“You Get What You Work For Not What You Wish For”



7th Grade Survey

Kali Oaks

I recently surveyed some kids in the seventh grade at random. The question posed was, “What do seventh graders do in their free-time?” I surveyed 15 people with 5 choices to pick from. The results are:

RESULTS:

Playing Video Games - 3
Texting - 5
Hanging with friends - 5
Playing Sports - 1
Babysitting - 1

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