

# BAD EDUCATION



**TOMMY LOVE**  
ART DIRECTOR

**MEREDITH LIPPINCOTT**  
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

**MICHAEL NALLAN**  
SET DECORATOR





I read the script for *Bad Education* in early 2018 and was immediately drawn to it. The story feels quite straightforward at first, showcasing an affluent Long Island school district in the early 2000s. What's underneath the surface of these characters' outward presentation is where it gets intriguing. It's also where the design functions to significantly advance the story — a very exciting challenge for any production designer.

It was these preliminary conversations with the director, Cory Finley, that really created this initial spark. It was exciting to collaborate with Cory who had already proven to be interested in taking visual risks with his first feature *Thoroughbreds*. We started off by working with a very limited color palette that most superficially and obviously reinforced the school colors, but more subtly referenced the technology of the time and the general melancholy of a newly post-9/11 community driven by capitalism and an ultimate desire to keep property values high.

The interior lives of the characters are highlighted in the design and in the specificity of the period and location. This was especially important to me as someone who came of age in the early 2000s and made me more excited to bring these characters' worlds to life. The embezzlement scandal is literally shown through the characters' spaces.

With *Bad Education*, I had the advantage of working with the writer Mike Makowsky, whose script was based on his first-hand experience at Roslyn High School and with Dr. Frank Tassone. I did extensive research on the school and scandal for months, scouring old VHS tapes of PTA lunches, early 2000s Roslyn yearbooks and speaking directly with faculty who were present during the era. My team and I researched down to the minutia of what books Frank Tassone had assigned for his book clubs to what artwork was hanging on his office walls. Rather than do a 1:1 recreation, I worked with the mundane basic layer of reality and reinterpreted it in a very stylistic, heightened and cinematic way, while always faithfully upholding the truth of the story.





*"Production design by Meredith Lippincott and costumes by Alex Bovaird further add to the suburban authenticity, turning Bad Education into a paeon to bad taste and even more questionable morals."*

***-The Hollywood Reporter***



# ROSLYN PUBLIC SCHOOLS CENTRAL ADMINISTRATION

The Roslyn School District's Central Administration office was the most challenging set of the film, as the story hinged on the specificity of the design, as well as the layout of separate spaces and their relationship to each other. My budget was limited and made building the office on a stage an impossibility. We spent months looking for the right location that gave us the correct bones to work with, while adhering to the logistics that plague any mid to lower budget film: finding spaces close enough to each other, manpower, materials costs.

I ultimately found a space in Long Island when we were only weeks away from shooting. The space was raw, empty and open, but had enough room to work. We ultimately had to completely build out the space while making it seem organic— the conference room was created to give a view into the bullpen and we created an unscripted back bullpen area to double the depth of the set. Many of the scenes relied on the view of one room in relation to another through use of tandem windows. The constructed conference room and its' windows served as the fulcrum of the office at large, which drove the narrative and motivated character movement through the space.













# SUCCESS





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|    | A                                       | B   | C              | D              | E             |
|----|---|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 1  | ACCOUNT                                 | DESCRIPTION                                 | 2001-02 Budget | 2002-03 Budget | Dollar Change |
| 2  | A 1010.424-03                           | BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAVEL & CONFERENCES     | \$14,000       | \$0            | -\$14,000     |
| 3  | A 1010.450-03                           | BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPLIES                 | \$8,000        | \$1,950        | -\$6,050      |
| 4  | A 1010.451-03                           | BOARD OF EDUCATION BOOKS & PERIODICALS      | \$500          | \$1,000        | \$500         |
| 5  | A 1010.455-03                           | BOARD OF EDUCATION STATIONERY               | \$1,000        | \$0            | -\$1,000      |
| 6  | A 1010.457-03                           | BOARD OF EDUCATION POSTAGE                  | \$500          | \$0            | -\$500        |
| 7  | 1010...BOARD OF EDUCATION A 1040.160-03 | ANTWOOD TRANSPORTATION                      | \$24,000       | \$2,950        | -\$21,050     |
| 8  | A 1040.421-03                           | PORTO OFFICE SUPPLIES                       | \$27,820       | \$33,243       | \$5,423       |
| 9  | A 1040.424-03                           | HIERARCHY SCAFFOLDING                       | \$50,000       | \$75,000       | \$25,000      |
| 10 | A 1040.450-03                           | BLUE BELL PAINT COMPANY                     | \$600          | \$0            | -\$600        |
| 11 | 1040...DISTRICT CLERK                   | CLERK SUPPLIES                              | \$1,000        | \$780          | -\$220        |
| 12 | A 1060.423-03                           | KAY AND DAUGHTERS FILTER CONSULTANTS        | \$29,920       | \$34,023       | \$4,103       |
| 13 | A 1060.433-03                           | DISTRICT MEETINGS ADVERTISING               | \$5,000        | \$15,000       | \$10,000      |
| 14 | A 1060.447-03                           | DISTRICT MEETINGS EQUIPMENT RENTAL DISTRICT | \$2,000        | \$0            | -\$2,000      |
| 15 | A 1060.448-03                           | BENIADA BUFFERING COMPANY                   | \$5,500        | \$68,000       | \$62,500      |
| 16 | 1060...DISTRICT MEETING                 | NIKOLAI VANYO CONSULTING                    | \$1,000        | \$5,000        | \$4,000       |
| 17 | A 1240.150-03                           | JALUM ROOFING AND PLUMBING                  | \$12,600       | \$83,000       | \$70,400      |
| 18 | A 1240.160-03                           | PORTER OFFICE SUPPLIES                      | \$199,956      | \$240,000      | \$40,044      |
| 19 | A 1240.161-03                           | BOOMER CEMENT COMPANY                       | \$123,630      | \$101,051      | -\$22,579     |
| 20 | A 1240.162-03                           | CHAMPION PRODUCTS                           | \$12,000       | \$24,000       | \$12,000      |
| 21 | A 1240.421-03                           | H.G. CONSULTING                             | \$85,667       | \$69,547       | -\$16,120     |
| 22 | A 1240.424-03                           | AIR VENTS AND CIRCULATION LLC               | \$1,000        | \$0            | -\$1,000      |

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# FRANK'S OFFICE

The number of scenes in Frank's Office — along with a scene of a ceiling pipe flooding and destroying the office — required us to build Frank's Office on a stage. We worked backwards from the design of the main Central Administration office to create an appropriate and cinematic office set, perfect for a man with an excess of self-importance and a taste for the finer things, yet bogged down by the bureaucracy of working for a public school system. The office had to showcase Frank's taste without calling attention to the money he was embezzling from the school. But sometimes he couldn't help himself and slipped a couple nicer pieces into his office decor. Since Frank is someone who is very self-admiring, we hung a multitude of awards, plaques, and framed certificates in his honor, including a photo of him posing with Geraldo.







Dr. Frank Tassone  
Superintendent of Schools











# ROSLYN HIGH SCHOOL





*"The student journalists' computer software is spot-on turn-of-the-aughts."*

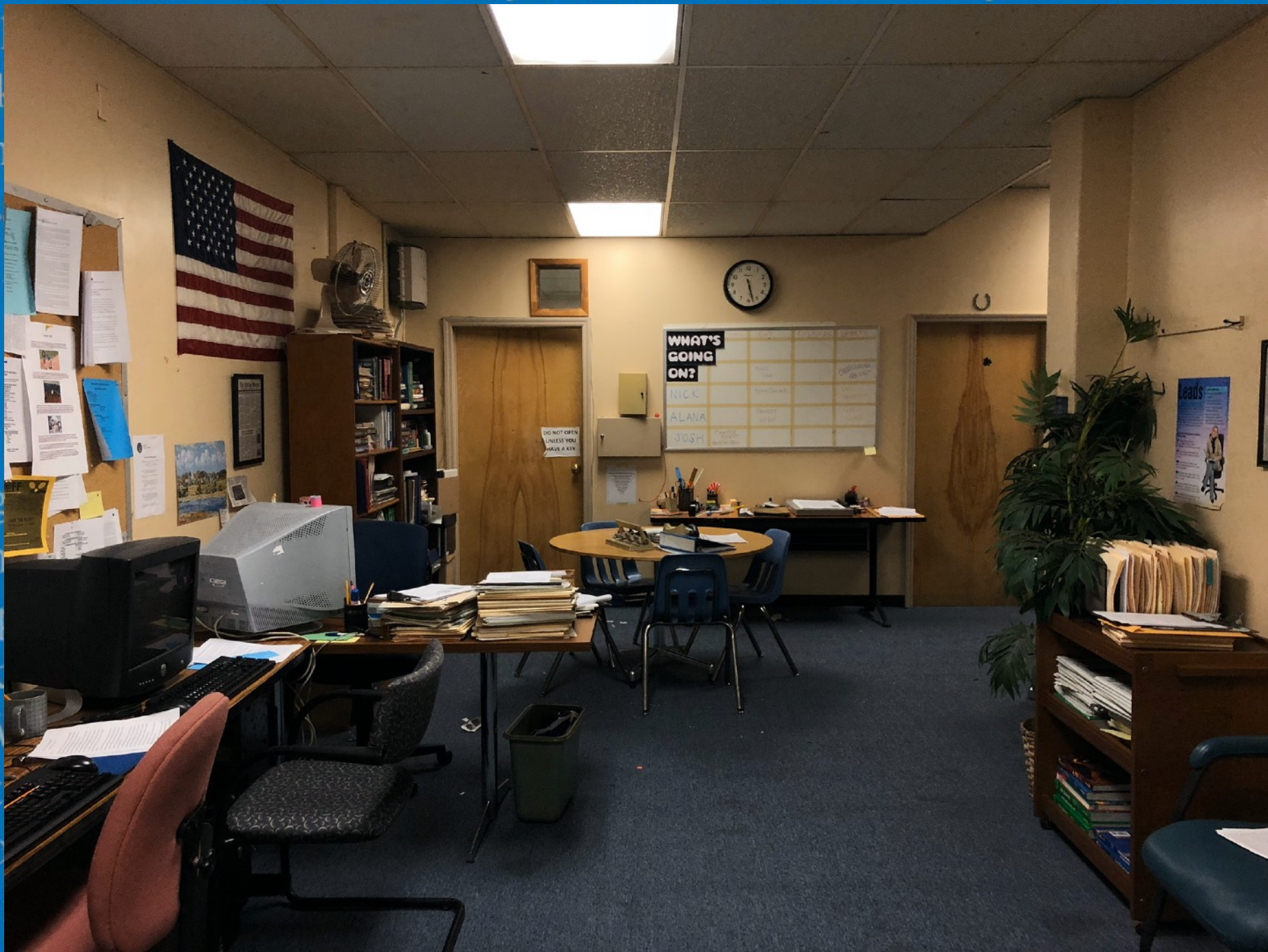
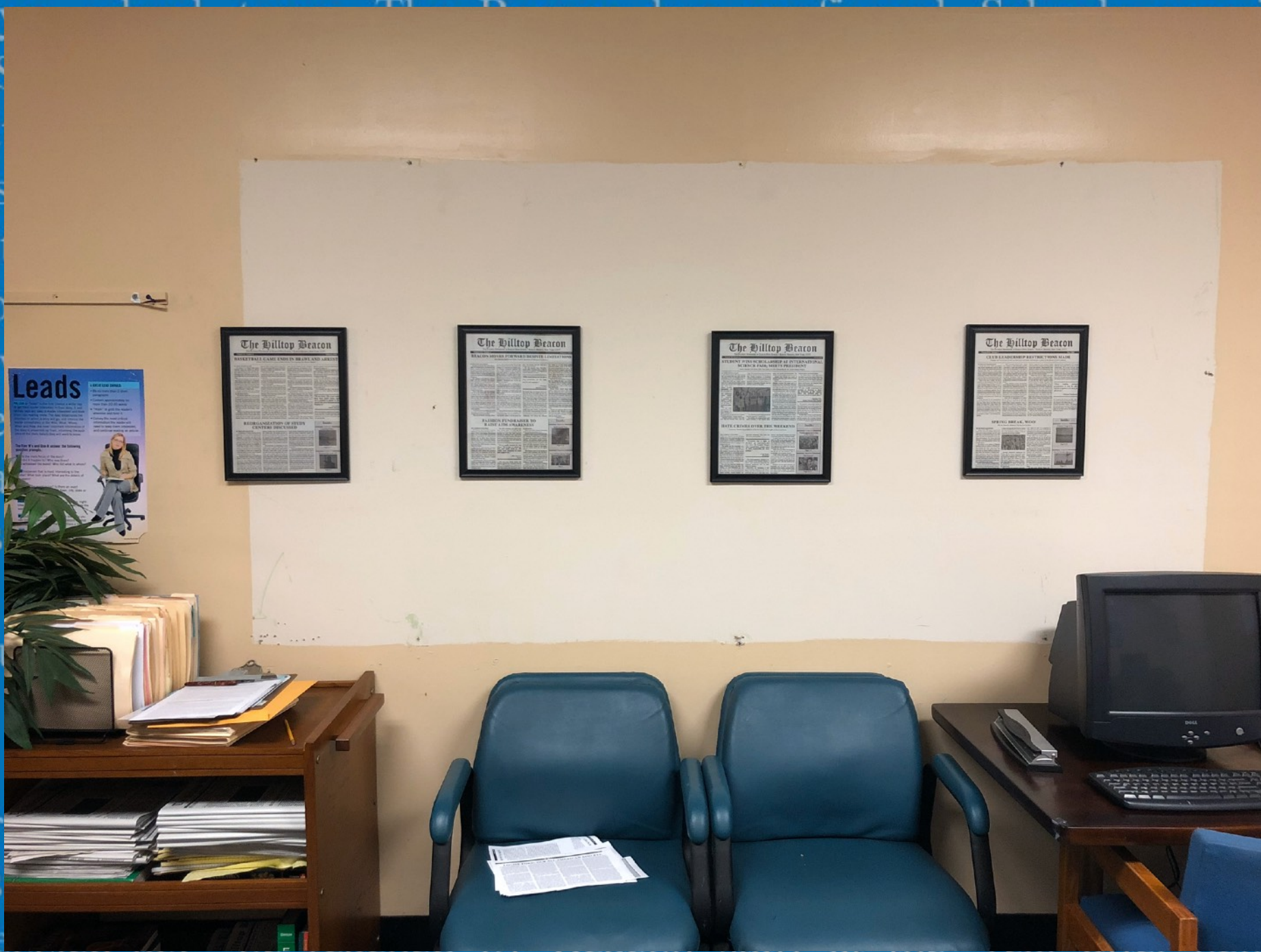
**-The New York Times**



*"On a desktop computer that's open to page layout software that will look familiar to anyone who worked on a student paper in the '00s..."*

**-Slate**



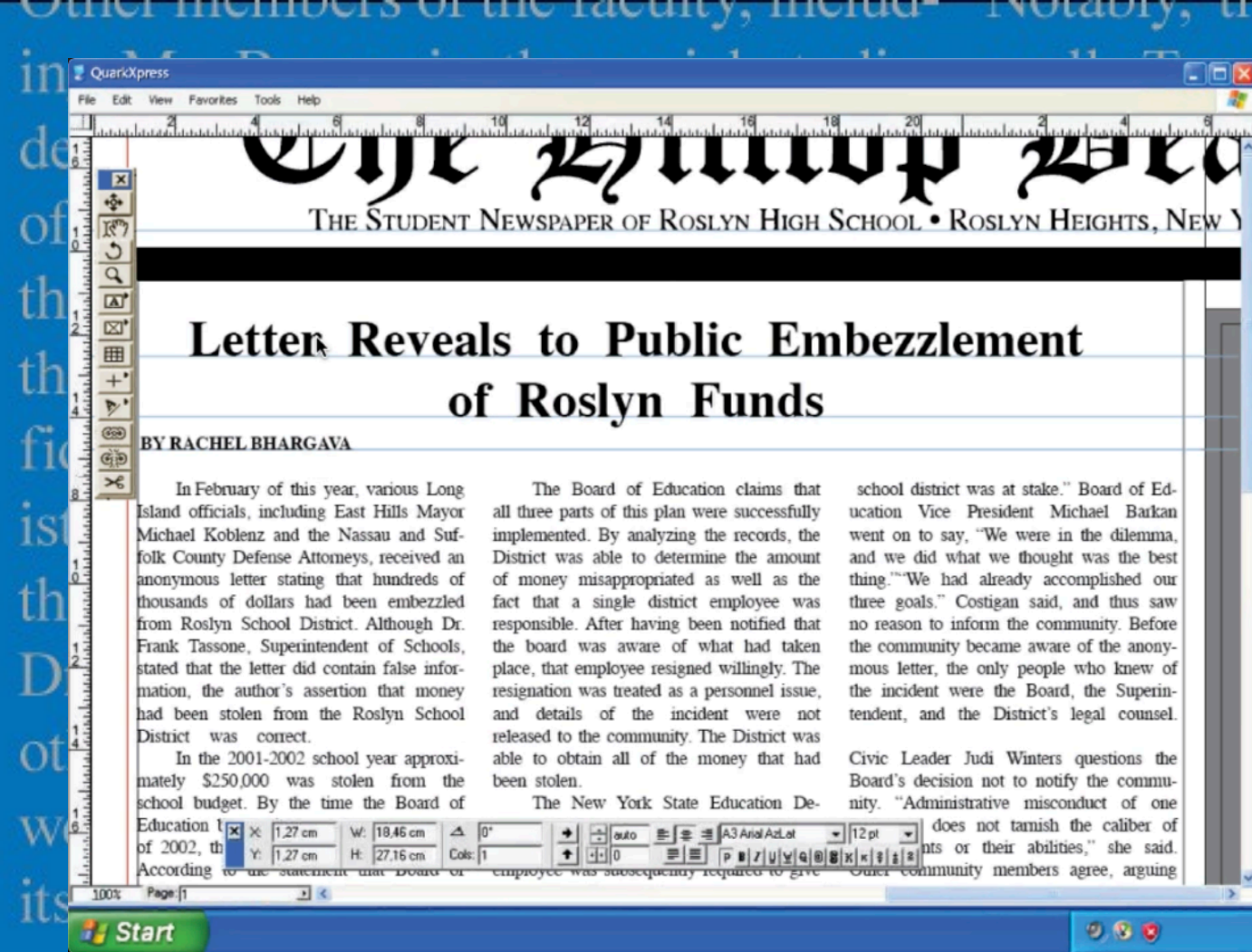




past week, various Long Island officials, including Roslyn school board president Robert Spicer, received an anonymous letter stating that hundreds of thousands of dollars had been embezzled from the Roslyn School District. The Beacon has conducted an independent investigation

into the budget expenditures. The Beacon has confirmed with the company, a lab materials corporation, that no such payment was ever received or even invoiced. When questioned about the expenses, science department chairperson Mr.

Dr. Francis A. Tassone. To the best of the Beacon's knowledge, Dr. Tassone has failed to report this as a conflict of interest, as he is required to. In all, over twenty-five vendors



Notably, the handwritten letter claims in the letter is obvious at first glance is able to determine the materials expenses of vendors of school including Sargent-Welch Mifflin, cannot be traced to the actual vendors. In Sargent-Welch, for instance, orders estimated to well over one million dollars,



number of materials expenses attributed to vendors of school supplies, including Sargent-Welch and Moughton-Mifflin, cannot be traced back to the actual vendors. In the case of Sargent-Welch, for instance, a series of orders estimated to total

the beneficiary of roughly \$750,000 in school funds over the course of the past nine years, could not be reached. WordPower alleges to be a printing firm responsible for servicing the district with pamphlets and handbooks. The owner of the company,

"It is important for Beacon and other journalists to always be scrutinizing institutions with independence without prejudice. I hope to be able to get to the bottom of these discrepancies soon."

current school superintendent, was taxpayer funds varying



# PAM'S BEACH HOUSE

Pam's Beach House was certainly the most fun foray into the exploration of where the embezzled school funds were going and showcased the excess of spending, not to mention the personal taste (or lack thereof) of Pam Gluckin, assistant superintendent. The scandal initially came to light — both in the film and in reality — through the recovery of Home Depot receipts for materials for the renovation of Pam's second home, a gaudy and hyper contemporary late-90s Hamptons beach house meant to show she was above the means of her peers. I referenced several interior design books of the era and reinterpreted them through the lens of Pam's eye to create the mish-mash of various references that she would bring together in designing her space.













# RACHEL'S HOUSE



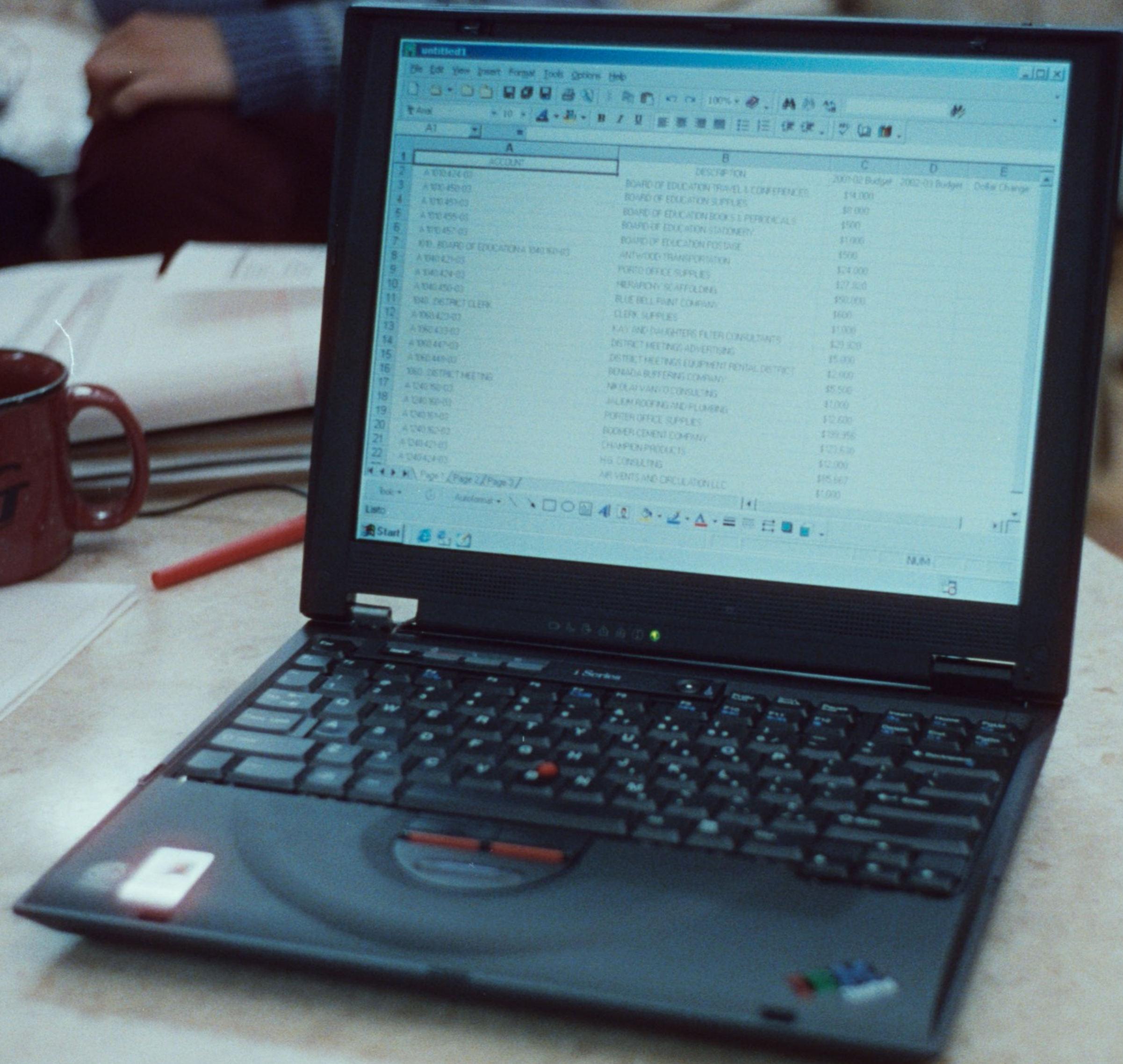












| ACCOUNT      | DESCRIPTION                                 | 2007-02 Budget | 2002-03 Budget | Dollar Change |
|--------------|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|
| A 100 424-03 | BOARD OF EDUCATION TRAVEL & CONFERENCES     | \$14,000       |                |               |
| A 100 450-03 | BOARD OF EDUCATION SUPPLIES                 | \$1,000        |                |               |
| A 100 451-03 | BOARD OF EDUCATION BOOKS & PERIODICALS      | \$500          |                |               |
| A 100 452-03 | BOARD OF EDUCATION STATIONERY               | \$1,000        |                |               |
| A 100 453-03 | BOARD OF EDUCATION POSTAGE                  | \$500          |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | ANYWOOD TRANSPORTATION                      | \$24,000       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | PORTER OFFICE SUPPLIES                      | \$27,500       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | HERAPONY SCAFFOLDING                        | \$50,000       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | BLUE BELL PRINT COMPANY                     | \$600          |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | CLERK SUPPLIES                              | \$1,000        |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | KAY AND DAUGHTERS FILTER CONSULTANTS        | \$29,300       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | DISTRICT MEETINGS ADVERTISING               | \$5,000        |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | DISTRICT MEETINGS EQUIPMENT RENTAL DISTRICT | \$2,000        |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | BENAGA BUTTERING COMPANY                    | \$5,500        |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | MAKEL VANDY CONSULTING                      | \$1,000        |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | AILEEN ROOFING AND PLUMBING                 | \$12,600       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | PORTER OFFICE SUPPLIES                      | \$109,356      |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | BOOMER CEMENT COMPANY                       | \$123,630      |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | CHAMPION PRODUCTS                           | \$12,000       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | HIS CONSULTING                              | \$85,667       |                |               |
| A 100 424-03 | ART VENTS AND ORCULATION LLC                | \$1,000        |                |               |







