

## Rewind to host refreshing fundraiser

Robert Czyzewicz '06

On Thursday, April 27 through Friday, April 28, WTHS's *Monthly Rewind* television production class will be raising money for the Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation.

In keeping tradition started by Season 9 of *Rewind*, the group of seventeen students who are celebrating the tenth anniversary of the show, will stay overnight and work 24 hours to place together segments that will run in telethon from through April 28<sup>th</sup>'s school day.

The Alex's Lemonade Stand Foundation was founded in July of 2000 by Alexandra Scott, at the time, a four year old girl who battled neuroblastoma, an aggressive childhood cancer.

She was diagnosed at six months and lived with the disease for seven and a half years.

Through the years she continued to amaze and inspire all who knew her with her positive outlook and incredible strength.



**Monthly Rewind will look to carry on Alex Scott's legacy during their telethon on April 28th.**

Alex died peacefully at age 8, after her near lifelong battle with cancer. The charity she created has since lived on, and works to raise money for pediatric cancer research. Since it was founded, it has raised millions of dollars nationwide.

"It's such a great charity and an inspiring story", said Alli Leonard '06, a member of *Rewind* and one coordinator of the event. "This telethon is a great opportunity for all of us to do something good for other people and maybe get a chance to let

everyone know how lucky they are to have what they have."

The group of students plans to use the same type of enthusiasm that Alex displayed during her short lifetime. In the coming weeks, they are going to plan out much of their intended programming, as well as do some advertising for the upcoming event.

"We really want to get the word out, because this is a charity that we really care about", said Alex McBride '06, another coordinator for the telethon. "We wanted to do something different than Season 9 [who raised money for TWP Hope] and we're really working hard to keep organized so that hopefully we can be very successful", she said.

Many weeks of hard work and preparation goes into putting together the programming for a telethon of this length.

*Monthly Rewind* hopes to air very diverse programs, which will include the morning announcements

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## "I... on Diversity!" receives award

Justine Jacobs '06

Students who come to the United States from other countries face a series of trials – adjusting to cultural differences, struggling with home sickness, and, of course, overcoming the language barrier. Washington Township has been working for years to help make the transition period for non-English speaking students as painless as possible through its English as a Second Language (ESL) program.

After years of hard work the program was recognized on January 31<sup>st</sup> when its "I... on Diversity!" magazine was awarded the Outstanding Program Award 2005-2006 from the New Jersey Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (NJASCD). To receive the award, a program must be in place for at least two years and must have an impact beyond the classroom.

The publication was created in January of 2004 as a part of the ESL classes' group resolution to educate the larger WTHS community about their various cultures. The magazine features a variety of articles, games,



Justine Jacobs '06/The Patriot

**ESL class works to make transition for non-English speaking students easy.**

and cultural information including translations of popular songs, descriptions of school in other countries, reports on gas prices around the world, and pictures of the flags and currency of various nations. "I... on Diversity!" is put together during ESL class time and helps to develop students' writing and research skills.

"It takes a chunk out of my teaching time, but its learning," says

ESL teacher Ms. Nancy Black. "[None of the students] ask if they're being graded, and I don't grade them. But for some of them, this is their best work."

French exchange student Juliette Richefou '07 enjoys writing for the magazine.

"I just like to share [my] experiences," she says.

According to Black, the writing  
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# Riley masters 5 Ds as Dodgeball tourney nets \$2K

Dave Zappacosta '06  
Robert Czyzewicz '06

WTHS offers so much to its students, dances, shows, sports, community service, and now, dodge ball. The 2nd annual dodge ball tournament was more successful than the first. With more organization, this year's tournament could only be described as a success.

41 eight person teams signed up to play in both the old and new 11-12 gyms. Games were played in each gym simultaneously. The event, organized by Student Council, moved along quickly, keeping the crowd's interest.

"I was really proud that we were able to raise well over \$ 2000 for autism research", said Student Council advisor Mr. Paul Spadafora. "The tournament was better than last year because we used both gyms, got teachers to referee the games, and it moved much quicker [than last year]."

The tournament action itself was intense. Teams like "Back In Black", "Team America", "Mr. WT", "The Has-Beens", and "Legends of the Hidden Temple", were among the elite that lasted at least four games.

The final match between "Back In Black" and "The Has-Beens" ended in stunning fashion. The best-of-three game finale required all three to decide a winner, and it didn't go without some amazing play by individuals.

Sean Riley '06 was the last man on the court for "Back In Black" and his team was facing elimination against six members of "The Has-Beens". Riley battled back and eliminated all six opponents to force a third game. The deciding game ultimately ended in a "Back In Black" victory.

"I just tried to use the energy of the crowd to lift me up", said Riley after the victory. "I didn't think I could do it, but the crowd got my adrenaline pumping. It was an awesome feeling", he exclaimed.

It was his single-handed effort that took "Back In Black" to the promised land. Riley's performance was much appreciated by the crowd.

"His play was unbelievable! It got the crowd to chant his name; it was so cool", exclaimed Christina Vassallo '06. "The entire crowd was pulling for his team."

# ESL celebrates cultural differences

FROMESL Page 1

begins as a class project where the students generate ideas and choose their own topics. The class tries to incorporate a language lesson in each issue.

Editor-in-Chief Yang Yang '06 feels the magazine is important for WTHS students to read "because [we're writing about things] they don't know. Or they do know, but [what they know] is wrong. We're telling the truth."

The high school ESL program currently consists of seventeen students from a variety of countries including France, Germany, India, China, Ecuador, South Korea, and the Philippines.

Some are exchange students, others came to escape war in their homelands and seek opportunity in America. Most go on to become U.S. citizens.

"These kids really befriend each other," says Black. "They look out for each other."

Black has been teaching ESL for twenty-four years, but originally started out as a Spanish teacher. She developed her interest in teaching English while staying home with her own kids and watching them learn how to speak.

"The three of them each developed English differently," she says. "Language acquisition itself is a

very interesting thing."

When a job opened up for a part time ESL teacher, Black was interested in the position, but had to go back to school to earn another teaching degree before being hired. She's been working in the ESL department ever since.

"[American] kids don't know how lucky they are to speak English [as their first language]," says Black. "English is so important now. It's becoming a second world language."

Students interested in reading "I"...[On Diversity!](#) can get copies from members of the ESL program or can pick up an issue in the Guidance office, IMC, or Main offices.

# Telethon to benefit cancer research

From REWIND Page 1

read live, music video countdowns, *Rewind* blooper reels, and clips of the talent show and Mr. Washington Township, among others.

The group will also work to put together a *Rewind* 'Whose line is it anyway?' to showcase their talents in improvisational comedy. In addition, the class is organizing a bachelor auction into a dating game in which the proceeds will go to the charity.

Despite the amount of work that

it will take to put these shows together, the seventeen students all seem to be looking forward to the event.

"All of the work is worth it. Everybody knows someone who has been affected by cancer. This is such a great cause and the money is actually going to benefit people in need", said Marc Siciliano '06, the producer of *Monthly Rewind*. "It's going to be fun and I can't wait to just spend 24 hours with all of the people in *Rewind*

that I've grown so close to over the last six or seven months", he said.

The members of *Monthly Rewind* will look to carry on Alex's legacy as they prepare to set up lemonade stands throughout the school, namely in the core lobby and in the cafeterias.

They all hope that the school population will generously give of themselves and give what they can to what they feel is a terrific cause.

## Commentary

# Model UN delegates accept positions

Michelle Scott '07

Every year, during the first full weekend in January, the Washington Township Delegation attends a three-day conference in Hershey, PA to discuss international politics.

And although that sounds kind of boring, it's not at all. During this conference, the 50-some delegates from our delegation get to be part of something bigger- and to be exact, that 'bigger' is the 1000 plus students who attend this conference to try to solve international problems from all over the tri-state area. And it is amazing.

This year, new advisors Ms. Kristin Harner and Mr. Todd Oberholtzer did a great job organizing the whole trip, being as they haven't seen most of the internal dealings of the club before.

But I have to say, the Washington Township Delegation completely cleaned up this year.

I mean, we always go for the good experience of debating and meeting new people, but Township has a reputation for being one of the best

schools in attendance at the conference.

Keeping this in mind, it's funny being pretty much the only school to arrive in yellow school busses only to later completely own the rich private schools who arrive in coach busses.

It certainly shows that we have talent, and in addition, are very amicable people.

But enough of blowing our own horns; here are the facts. In a very heated race, Tori Gilbert '07 won the honor of being next year's Secretary General, which is the student who runs the entire conference.

In addition, John Mason '07 won President of the Security Council, I won Chair of the Political Security Committee A, Jerry Cedrone '07 won Vice-Chair of the Political Security Committee A, Laura Dixon won Vice-Chair of the General Assembly, and Laura Marder '07 won Editor-in-Chief for the M.U.N. Press Corps.

But it doesn't stop there! Andrew Bunting '07, Doug Tonkinson '07, Ryan Kinch '07, Laura Dixon '07, Christie Mason '06, and I were

all chosen as premiere delegates of their respective committees.

Not long after, Gilbert, Marder, and Greg Springsted '06 were all selected for the Conference on National Affairs to happen over the summer. Mason, Dixon, and I were all chosen as alternates to the conference.

Everyone else who didn't necessarily win a position did phenomenally well. Township was the name that was heard the most throughout award procedures because everyone did that well. Overall, we cleaned up.

Gilbert, the Secretary General, said, "Everyone did an amazing job this year! I was so impressed with everyone. Between what happened during session and everything that happened in between, this year is definitely one to be remembered."

In the end, great memories were made, and I know next year, we will do even better. With such a firm hold over leadership positions, Washington Township will sure give the conference and the delegates a run for their money.

# Here she was...Miss America

## Miss America stresses dangers of drinking to students in CBAC

Robert Czyzewicz '06

The cliché phrase, "I wish for world peace" was not at the forefront of her mind when newly crowned Miss America, Jennifer Berry, stated her concerns of underage drinking to several hundred Township students Commerce Bank Arts Center.

By sharing a personal experience, Berry, 22, was able to show Township students how important it is to make conscious decisions.

"Maybe during high school, these kinds of decisions don't seem important, but they will affect the rest of your life", Berry told the group of students.

As a 15-year-old high school sophomore in Oklahoma, Berry suffered through a life altering hardship. One of her best friends, Kristen – whom Berry described as a hard working, intelligent person – went to a party and drank alcohol for the first time. In what would prove to be the biggest mistake of her life, later that night, Kristen got into a car with other drunken peers. There was an accident, and Kristen was killed instantly at only 16 years of age.

"Because of the impact [Kristen's death] had on my life, I realized how important the decisions that I made during my high school years would affect the rest of my life", said Berry in an exclusive interview.



Robert Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

### Miss America, Jennifer Berry, noted the importance of good decision making in her address to Township students.

"I feel as though I have to share that personal story so that I can get the message out and no other lives would be lost".

Berry felt as though the visit to WTHS was extremely important, especially as Township's juniors and seniors begin to prepare for the upcoming prom season.

"I think that in one assembly of students, if I can save one life, then I have been a success. I want to help people to make good decisions so that they can reach their goals and become a success", she said.

Despite Berry's very busy schedule (which includes over 20,000

miles of travel per month), she believes that taking the time out to talk to students is very rewarding.

She visited WTHS on her way to Atlantic City partly due to the persuasion of Art McMaster, who is the C.E.O. of the Miss America Organization, as well as a parent of a Township student.

"As Miss Oklahoma, I had more of a chance to speak to students. I visited 85 different schools in two months, and I grew to love speaking to students from elementary to high school", she began. "Now that I'm Miss America, I really think that [in a school] is where I have the most

impact".

Berry's visit unintentionally coincided with Township's telecommunications classes as they were creating public service announcements about underage drinking and driving.

One announcement, which Berry had the opportunity to view, was created by seniors Marc Siciliano, Marc Buono, Dan Rozmes, and Bill Matthias. It portrays the night of a teenager, as he goes to a party without his mother's permission and eventually dies in a car crash on his way home.

The announcement culminates with the voice of a police officer making the phone call that no mother ever wants to receive: one in which she is informed of her son's death.

"Alcohol can have a ripple effect on a lot of people", said Siciliano. "It really makes you think twice before you do something like that because someone else can be affected if something bad happens, just like the mother was affected in our PSA", he explained.

In an environment in which teenage drinking is a concern, Berry implored the students to remember one important item out of her speech: true friendships are everything when one is young, and as the new Miss America put it – "Friends will always have to look out for each other".

## Students showcase talent

Margaret Bonanni '09

Where in New Jersey can you go to see spectacular talent of all forms? If you went to the annual WTHS PTO Student Talent Show on February 16th, 2006, then you saw some of the most breath taking talent on the New Jersey coast. With singing, dancing, martial arts, bagpipes, local bands, and a fabulous balancing act, the Talent Show was something completely different from the ordinary.

In the first half of the Talent Show, certain acts were really eye catching. "Mayor Que Yo", an act preformed by Jackie Morales '06, Jesus Colon '06, Orlando Martinez, Stephanie Encarnacion, Carlos Burke, Tamara Mendez, Kamille Gibbs, Charles Reid, Giselle Morales '09, and Junmar Bourrel, gave the crowd a taste of Latino culture with saucy, dancing, and salsa.

It was a break from the usual singing acts, shaking things up a bit.

Bernadette Rocks '06 followed

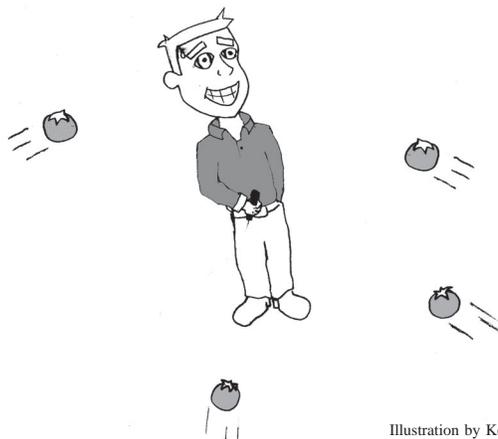


Illustration by Kevin Ernhoffer '08

this act with a stunning rendition of "I Dreamed a Dream," preformed with unprecedented style.

In the Second Act, "Amazing Grace" and "Scotland the Brave" played by Tim Dollarton '07 on bagpipes defined perfection. It was the true crowd pleaser of the Talent Show.

Not only did it stand out from every other act in the show, and was

perfectly executed and entertaining, but it sent the entire crowd into an uproar of cheering, applaud, and standing ovations. This act was truly amazing by all standards and gave the audience a taste of Scotland.

"Cruisin' Together", a duet preformed by Jamie Dunn and Justin Huckel, was also an enjoyable performance. Not only was this act

romantic and exceptionally harmonic, but it was also something everyone could enjoy. They took a classic favorite and made it more pleasant.

The depth defying and daring Balancing Act preformed by Matt Valentine '07, accompanied by Nick Rogers '07 on guitar ("The Clown Song") was one of the most popular acts. At first, it was eye catching because of the concept.

How many people can actually balance anything at all, let alone on their chin?

What really stole the show, however, was when Valentine took a full size painter's ladder, which is quite heavy, and balanced it on his chin, without strain or hassle. This act deserved one thumb up for effort, and two thumbs up for entertainment.

It will be tough for next year's show to top this year's talent. With acts from balancing to singing, it had variety, flare, and was a pleasure to watch. The PTO once again, has outdone itself.

# Commentary

## Industry pros need not apply as teachers

Justine Jacobs '06

It has long been a matter of some concern that American students are not stacking up well against their foreign counterparts.

Disheartened with mediocre math and science scores and displeased with the constant struggle American schools face in trying to find highly qualified teachers for these subjects, the Bush administration has conjured up a new strategy to fill teaching positions and boost test scores.

The plan is a simple one: to borrow professionals from industry to work as adjuncts teaching math and science classes in our nation's schools. However, while the proposal sounds like a quick fix, the issue is much more complicated than it seems.

Mathematicians, scientists, and

engineers certainly *know* their subjects – but can they *teach* those subjects? Mathematical skills and communication skills do not always go hand in hand, and as all students know it is very frustrating to have a teacher who can't convey the information he obviously knows.

It's for this very reason that this new strategy is illogical, not only from a common sense standpoint, but according to government policy as well.

Borrowing industry professionals to teach in schools goes completely against the basis of the federal No Child Left Behind Act, the education initiative Bush enacted during his first term.

No Child Left Behind sets high standards of qualification for teachers – namely, that they must be state certified in the subject they teach. The adjuncts will not be certified and,

therefore, not qualified.

While representatives from the U.S. Department of Education insist that No Child Left Behind was enacted to guarantee that teachers know their subjects and that industry adjuncts have already demonstrated this knowledge, the education required to obtain a state certification includes instruction in lessons most industry professionals haven't received – how to handle a room full of noisy, disinterested teenagers.

Controlling a high school class is not an easy feat, and many professionals (used to working in labs and offices) will be going in completely blind.

The more obvious and logical approach to filling math and science positions in our nation's classrooms is one that may never be attempted – making education a more appealing

profession.

A teacher's salary, even in high paying districts, does not compete with the profit to be made in industry.

America could very easily fill teaching positions and provide its children with a quality education by raising the standard salary for new teachers.

A higher salary would certainly attract more brilliant young math and science majors on the verge of graduation to consider entering the field of education.

No matter how many efficient remedies to the problem the current administration conjures up, nothing can take the place of good, old fashioned, competent teachers.

Perhaps if they work to acquire more of those, they'll get the test results they seek.

## Talkin' 'bout my generation

Justine Jacobs '06

A few weeks ago, during a particularly acute bout of Senioritis, I sat in my living room flipping through the endless sea of channels and

stumbled upon an interesting documentary. Made prior to the 2004 election, the PBS special followed the lives and careers of President George W. Bush and Senator John Kerry. As I watched Kerry represent the

Vietnam Veterans Against the War in front of Congress not only was I filled with the typical liberal pang of regret and injustice over the last election, but I felt a strange, unfamiliar sensation as well – a hatred of my generation.

Raised by a pair of left over quasi-hippies, I had long been instilled with a desire to speak out against injustice and take my job as a citizen seriously.

However, it's rather apparent that my peers don't feel the same sense of responsibility.

Born in the era of the PC, we are the Myspace generation. We drink Starbucks coffee, plug ourselves into iTunes, and chat up friends close enough to walk to on the internet – losing track of the world outside our digital universe.

Where our parents stood to meet prejudice and inequality head on, we shirk our civic responsibility to follow our conscience out of sheer laziness.

All throughout the halls of Washington Township people declare their opposition to the current president and promote their anti-war mentality.

Yet in the fall of last school year I knew many a WTHS student who, despite their status as legal adults, didn't even register to vote in the presidential election.

When asked why, these formerly outspoken students merely shrugged their shoulders and muttered, "I don't know. I just didn't have the time."

It's this apathetic attitude that has thus far characterized my generation, and I'm ashamed of it. As strongly as many claim to feel about gay marriage, a woman's right to choose, the breakdown of separation of church and state, and the war in Iraq, there should be demonstrations in the streets.

Yet we can't even inspire ourselves enough to make a decent turn out at the polls.

It's time for the Myspace generation to make a stand. To show that we truly have more interest in national affairs than in Paris Hilton's love life. To show that we mean business.

It's time we turned off the computers, unplugged our headphones, and made a difference – even if it's just with a single vote.

### The Patriot

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Please send all correspondence to: [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

See  
*Perpetual Motion*

WTHS Dance  
Department  
Production

Wed. April 26  
CBAC 7:00 PM

General Admission: \$5

# Slow it down

## Fast-paced lives fuel stress

Simone Miliareis '06

Everyone is familiar with that irritable sound of your alarm clock waking you up in the morning. Once we manage to pull ourselves up from bed, we take a quick shower and get a quick cup of coffee and continue rushing through our day.

More than 47 million Americans do not get enough sleep. Look around you right now, and you will probably see at least one person yawning.

We all have hectic schedules that include working long hours, waking up early for school, and just taking care of life's daily hassles.

Our motto is live to work instead of work to live. We are so consumed with the almighty dollar that we would rather give up sleep than not live according to our standards. 9-5 jobs no longer exist and people tend to bring work home with them, causing less sleep at night.

Even from an early age, teenagers inherit this mentality. Students wake up early, participate in sports, go to an after school job, do homework, and still must find time to enjoy themselves.

We have embraced a lifestyle and culture that forces us to sleep less because of too many things on our agenda. We as Americans bring this tiredness upon ourselves. We are constantly on the go and refuse to take breaks.

It seems as though we never just sit back and enjoy. Instead of taking pleasure in the little things, we are stressed and tend to overlook many aspects in life. Our constant fatigue makes it difficult to focus.

In order to feel more alive during the day, we should cut ourselves a break. Many countries in South America and Europe take siestas, which are mid afternoon naps. Why can't Americans do this?

These breaks would allow us to persevere throughout the day. This would allow us to feel the same way we did at 9:00am as we do at 9:00pm.

This exhaustion is a universal feeling. The next time that you are yawning during a meeting or in class, think about how much better you would feel if you had just taken a nap.

# Poppin' off on popped collars

Rob Cavella '06

When you think about all the special characteristics that make up a modern American high school student, one of the most apparent and visually illustrated is self-expression.

There are numerous ways for a teenage scholar to portray their version of this trait to the world; the most popular and expressive being the clothing they wear. Not only does this pertain to what clothes, but also how they are worn.

You may see a kid in the halls wearing Nike sneakers with color and fabric combinations you didn't even know to exist. Or maybe you might see students walking into class with scarves and mittens on. Even though these fads are arguably bizarre, they do at least make sense.

While the in-school winter wear serves the purpose of warmth and the crazy sneakers of originality, there's one school style in the corridors of WTHS that's neither original nor practical: the infamous popped collar.

It only takes one popped collar for an on looker to wonder what exactly is going on. After extensive research, it appears that along with seemingly being a cool kid maker, it's also a good way to fend off the elements your neck may encounter such as gale force winds, sunburn, and thunderstorms.

Additionally, if you bump into a vampire or two during a social outing, you will surely be grateful to have your cotton armor defending the jugular.



Illustration by Stephanie Valentine

But other than these circumstances, the existence of the pop collar remains pointless. It was originally a fashion from the fifties; you need to wonder would the world be better having left it there?

Trying something new to be expressive and unique is totally different from turning up the collar on your polo after noticing the manifest of this style within the "cool" crowd. Conforming to a fad with several others makes you anything but closer in relation to the more popular people. There's always the chance that you actually like the look of incorrectly worn clothing.

That's fine, but I'm reasonably sure it would be less of a stretch that

many adolescents do this for the building of confidence, and to achieve the feeling of acceptance by the admired kids of the school.

There's absolutely nothing wrong with taking a fresh idea as this once was, and using it to stand apart from the students around you. It's only when an idea that was once fresh and distinctive becomes clichéd and abused for conformity that it should be severed from the teen culture that we're all exposed to.

In the simplest, easy to swallow message: Don't ever sacrifice your individuality and instead follow others in the desire of popularity and in the pursuit of social recognition. Be yourself no matter what.

## Spend an evening at the theatre

**ACTORS' STUDIO and THEATRE PRODUCTION are pleased to present *The Remarkable Incident at Carson Corners*, a play by Reginald Rose. This is the first show to be presented in our newly refurbished 11/12 auditorium,**

**The show premieres 7:30 PM Thursday, April 27 with a second performance Friday, April 28.**

**Mr. Rose is best known for his compelling television drama, *Twelve Angry Men*. *Remarkable Incident at Carson Corners* was also written for television in the 1950's when outstanding live drama was performed on a regular basis. It is a sour-stirring play about average Americans and some difficult contemporary issues. The play has a powerful message and we believe you will leave with something to think about.**

**Strong characterizations provided the cast with rich opportunities to display their acting skills. Our technical crew also faced the daunting challenge of preparing to present in several venues in the event the auditorium renovations weren't completed. They have both absolutely proven worthy of the challenge.**

**We would like to thank the Board of Education for its vision and support in providing a framework for expanding the Performing Arts Department. The Actors' Studio and Theatre Production courses continue to afford students a chance to further develop their theatrical skills. We also are thrilled to perform in this beautiful facility.**

**We also thank the administration, staff and parents for their help. Their contributions to this production were invaluable.**

**We hope to see you there. Enjoy the show.**

**Mrs. Cheryl Silverman  
Performing Arts Department**

## Martin sets positive example for drill teammates

Ashley Walsh '07

Freshman year for Ashley Martin '06 was all about trying new things. Martin happened to be enrolled in ROTC and decided that she would try out for the ROTC Drill Team.

"I was so horrible at drilling my freshman year," notes Martin.

However that didn't stop her from becoming determined to do better. At the end of her sophomore year, she was awarded most improved, a recognition that was given to her by the Drill Team advisor, Mrs. Taylor.

"After that I fell in love with drill and the Drill Team became my thing," says Martin.

During Martin's junior year she was assigned the roll of being the Color Guard commander, which is a part of the Drill Team. Finally, during her senior year she became the Drill Team commander.

"Leading has always come naturally to me and it's what I like to do", says Martin.

**To Your Health** by Steve Dunn '06

## Driving drunk a bad idea for all

Most of us have been there before, well those of us that drive at least. You're at a party, not allowed or unable to sleep out, and need to find a way to get home.

You drove your car there so if you come home without it, your parents will find out what you were doing and you'll get in trouble. You don't want to risk it, so what happens?

## April is time for autism awareness

Kelly Lathrope '06

April is a month that brings the springtime. It is a sign that winter is really over, things are being born and growing. Rebirth and life are happening everywhere you turn.

When you think of April, what usually comes to mind? April Fools Day maybe or Passover, some may also be reminded of Earth Day or National Holocaust Month.

Much over looked is the fact that April is National Autism Awareness month.

Autism is a neurological disorder that has been around since the 1950's. Often called the "invisible disorder" Autism is hard to detect when simply



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

**Ashley Martin brings a cheery attitude to her everyday activities.**

Martin puts a lot of time and effort into being the Drill Team commander. As commander, she has to be at every practice, which is on Mondays through Thursdays immediately after school. The practices usually run for a little over two hours. Not only that, but for

competitions she has to do a lot of paperwork. Such paperwork includes writing permission slips and attendance sheets. Other preparation for the competitions involve of course getting the busses and calling up each school to confirm the Drill Team's attendance.

"The most stressful thing about the job, is managing the dedicated members versus the slackers," Martin says, "I hate when the people who don't care, bring the real dedicated members down."

Martin's favorite thing about being a leader, especially the commander of the Drill Team is being a part of a family.

"My biggest goal is that each member has confidence in their team. At the end of the day, if I accomplished that, I know my job is done," she says.

Martin wants to become a special education teacher after college and believes that her role as Drill Team commander will help her with her future. "Every time I step up and become a leader, I'm benefiting my future", she says.

From being the worst driller, to becoming the Drill Team commander, Martin has come a long way. She believes that she should set a good example for others who strive to become leaders as well.

You eventually persuade yourself to believe that you're sober enough to drive and take to the road, putting yourself, anyone you're driving with, and other drivers at a serious, perhaps deadly risk.

In a teenage society where drinking every weekend seems almost ritualistic, driving while intoxicated is an extremely serious and common problem. Above smoking, above

unprotected sex, and above most drugs, in my opinion, the danger posed by drunk driving trumps all.

Most adults claim that teenagers are among the worst drivers of all, and throwing alcohol into the mix will certainly hamper their ability to drive even further.

So what's the worst that can happen?

For starters, an accident could

leave you, your passengers, and others involved in the accident dead or severely injured.

Not only are you subject to the steep fines and strict penalties of a DUI, but by getting a DUI or in an accident while drunk driving you subject yourself and your family to the strict financial demands of your insurance company and a likely lawsuit by the other person involved in the accident, not to mention the turbulence such an accident would likely cause at home.

Whenever you're out, there should be at least two of your friends who haven't had anything to drink. Get one of them to drive you home, call two of them so you can have your car moved back to your house if it makes you feel better.

It's a safe bet to say that your friends would rather take a little time to go out of their way to help you than to have to deal with something terrible happening as a result of a bad decision.

Worst case scenario, call your parents. You'll get in less trouble from them finding out that you were drinking than them finding out that you got a DUI or caused a major accident because you got behind the wheel after drinking.

# Choosing college a long process

Finding the right college is probably one of the most stressful and important decisions that a high student will ever make. When the idea of senior year is brought up, thoughts of hanging out with friends and partying all the time is what comes to mind, not visiting colleges or sending out applications. Although, yes, senior year is supposed to be one of the best years of your life, it also comes with responsibility.

There are a few good ways to find the type of college you are looking for. Your best bet is at a college fair. Go around and find the colleges that suit the specific criteria you want in a college experience and pick up a brochure of each one.

These brochures will be handy later when it's time to narrow down your choices.

Another way to search for colleges is a website called collegeboard.com. It provides a search engine where you answer all of its specific questions about what you want in your college and at the end of the process it gives you a list of schools that meet your needs. It asks questions like what kind of sports you might want to play, what

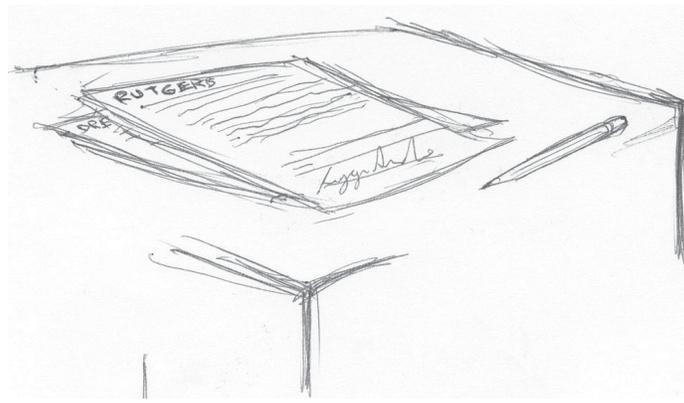


Illustration by Ringgo Ancheta '06

## College applications can be daunting and tedious.

major you would like to pursue and even what size and price range you are considering.

Collegeboard.com is a great tool because it covers all schools within the area you are looking, as apposed to a college fair, where it is not possible for every school to be there.

Although, college fairs and collegeboard.com, are both great ways to gain the information you need, collegeboard.com provides a quick and easy solution to your college search problems.

Word of mouth is also a very good way to find out about different schools. You can talk to your guidance counselor or teachers about any schools they or their kids might have attended, that they know a lot about.

Also, talk to your friends about their college plans. If you're not sure what criteria you're looking for in a school, the best way to get an idea is to talk to friends who have similar interests as you. See what schools they're looking at and go visit a few with them.

After you have acquired all the information for all of the schools you are considering, sit down with your parents and go through it all.

Eliminate all of the expendable schools that may not appeal to you as much as the rest. Then once you have narrowed down your choices to a decent sized list, go and visit as many as you can.

Visiting schools is that best way to get a feel for what the school is really like. Also, try to do a few overnight visits where you stay with someone who has the major you want or is on the sports team you want to play on so you can truly get a feel for the school.

Although this is all easier said than done, try it and see what comes out of it. Give yourself every possible option you can for college.

Don't settle for the easy or the close by school, go for the one that feels right for you. Make sure you can see yourself at the school you pick for the next four years.

You want to be able to get everything you can out of your education so all of the money you and your parents spend on college doesn't go to waste.

## Surviving High School by Julie Sherwood '06

# Tests can be a trying experience

Test. The very word can send a regular, cool and collected student into a panic. Palms may become clammy, heart rate may increase.

But what causes this anxiety? Surely the word "test" is not so scary. It isn't the word, it's the idea.

Hours being devoted to sitting under a little lamp trying to memorize dates and last names, your grade riding on your performance...sometimes the pressure can be a bit much.

I have found that with just a few simple tweaks to your regular studying habits, the anxiety of a future test can be almost completely eliminated.

First off, repetition and memorization go hand and hand.

If you work out some time each day to just glance at the notes you've taken for a class, you'll learn the information and it won't even feel like studying.

This way, the night before the test, you won't have to study *everything* because some of the information you'll already know.

I also find that copying down the notes an extra time is extremely helpful.

By just jotting down the main



Illustration by Ringgo Ancheta '06

points, you'll at least have the gist of most of the information.

The last studying tip that I have for you is one that is most convenient.

Note-cards are the most simple and easy way to study.

Contrary to popular belief, note-cards are not reserved for only vocabulary in English class.

Names, dates, places,

mathematic equations, note-cards can be used for just about any class.

The plus is, you only have to actually sit down and devote real time to them once: to write them.

After you have written out your key words and phrases you can pull your cards out at anytime.

In the morning on the bus, between classes, right when you get

up or right before you go to bed; just flip through your cards.

After just a few days of this, you'll know the information from front to back. (Tip: don't just read the cards one way. Ex. If you have a date on one side and the event on the back, read it from date to event and

## ...sometimes the pressure can be a bit much.

then event to date.)

This way, no matter which one shows up on the test, you'll know it.)

If you are sick and tired of long nights bent over books, try out my tips for cramming for a test.

Fear of those little scantron bubbles will be a thing of the past.

This really does work but in order for your test anxiety to be abolished, you have to put my plan into action.

You really have to *want* to prepare yourself for the test before it'll ever happen.

Hopefully now, you will no longer dread studying and put it off.

Studying doesn't have to be an unpleasant thing, there is nothing unpleasant about an "A".

# Read Across America Recap

## Librarians create festive day in IMC

Heather Ale '06

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the library held its fourth annual Read Across America Day.

Founded by the National Education Association, Read Across America was created to honor the memory of Dr. Seuss. Although this festive occasion typically takes place in elementary schools, the librarians at our high school decided that they needed to do something to encourage reading.

**“We’re not the old stereotype of the stuffy library.” - Ms. Gaughan**

This event was the perfect opportunity to make the library a fun place and showcase teachers and students.

“We wanted people to see that we’re not the old stereotype of the stuffy library. We’re very active and have something for everyone,” expressed Ms. Stephanie Gaughan, a WTHS librarian.



Mark Natale '06/The Patriot  
**WTHS librarians oversee the festivities at Read Across America.**

That was certainly true of this year’s Dr. Seuss Day. There were dramatic presentations, student discussions, music, author visits, and much more. Ms. Hill stated that the most well-attended activity was a book discussion where George Sands, Jr., a

Glassboro author, discussed his latest novel, *Glassboro: American Images*. This book took the students on a tour of what historical Glassboro was like.

“We turned people away [from the discussion] because we didn’t have enough room!” exclaimed Mrs. Kathy

McNally, a teacher and librarian.

In addition, Mr. Jack Kirkwood’s students performed musical renditions of books they read and Ms. Honora Kelley taught the masses the art and story-telling history of hula dancing.

There was also a bookmark designing contest held. Gretchen Ramos’s design won first place and Kristen Blome and Brad Grandino won second and third, respectively.

Other highlights included T-shirts designed by Ryan Finley '07 and students presenting overviews of books.

“I like it when the students are involved. My favorite part of the day was the student involvement,” stated Gaughan.

This year was very successful, generating the biggest crowd and most participants yet. This was due to the better focus on reading and the increased number of teachers that took their classes to the library.

Next year the librarians hope that their budget allows them to hire more authors to speak to the students. They also plan to hold more student-oriented activities.



**Tim Dollarton '07, displays his piping talents.**

## Variety spices Read Across America



**Robert W. Sands Jr, author of Glassboro, speaks to students in the IMC.**



**Students present a project on the book The Ambler Warning.**



**A student portrays Martha Washington in a dramatic reading.**



**Mrs. Farrow discusses one of her favorite books.**

# Students bring literature to life

Esther Gill '06

On Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, our library was taken over by Dr. Seuss, and the Cat in the Hat. There were many different activities in the IMC from hula dancing to book readings. One activity certainly to be noticed, was dramatic representation.

Mrs. Cheryl Silverman picked out scenes from various stories and assigned them to groups of her students to perform in the IMC for Read Across America.

During first period there were a total of four acts performed.

The first scene performed was from the story, *Dr. Higegger's Experiment*. Five students performed, with an introduction by Matt Ford '06. The scene had to do with drinking water from the fountain of youth, and how it affects those who drink it.

The second scene performed was taken from the story, *The Necklace*. The scene dealt with a French husband (Chris Anamenti) and wife (Erin Dunphy). The wife felt as though her life was no more than mediocre. After

she loses a friends necklace and spends many years paying it off, she learns a valuable lesson.

Next, was a scene from the novel *Pride and Prejudice*. Two girls, Nicole DiPietro and Amanda Burghart, performed this scene. It was all about who will marry Mr. Darcy and the disapproval of certain people.

**"I wasn't that nervous, but I laughed a lot."**

**-Katie Taylor '09**

First period closed very nicely with a scene from, *Butterflies are Free*. It dealt with an issue that many parents have after their child moves out. A caring, yet overly protective mother just wants her son to move back home, even though she won't say it.

*Cyrano DeBergerac* was next. Donovan Morane, Jessie Culley, and Katie Taylor '09, were involved in this scene. It was a love triangle that works its way out. The group couldn't stop laughing.

"I wasn't that nervous, but I

laughed a lot," said Taylor.

*Antigone*, the story of the daughter of the legendary Greek king Oedipus, was the next act. The rebellious teen, Antigone will listen to no one, not even her own sister in this comical scene.

Most were familiar with the next performance from *Little Women*, the story of five sisters from a once-wealthy family. The scene dealt with the girls, played by Brielle St.Clair and Maggie Pape, being upset over not getting any presents for Christmas. By the end of the scene they show how generous they are, and how they only want their mother to be happy on Christmas.

After the sad scene from, *Little*

*Women* came a little comic relief in a scene from *Huck and Fin*. The students (Josh Bartoz, Sierra Johnson, Kyle Piddington '08) worked very well together. When Huck dressed up as a girl named Sarah Johnson, the audience couldn't keep from laughing.

Last but not least was a scene from the variation of, *Tarentino* and involved three freshmen, David Samsei, Alec Swiecinski, and Kenny Jenkins. They had a little bit of trouble setting up, but in no time they had the whole room hysterically laughing.

"We're all really good actors," said Jenkins.

All the students involved, even those who missed valuable rehearsal time due to the "plague," did a great job.

## Spotlight: Glassboro

Steve Dunn '06

The IMC provides the students and faculty of Washington Township with a chance to experience literature in several different and creative ways during its Read Across America festivities.

Robert W. Sands Jr., author of the 2004 book, *Glassboro*, provided us with a descriptive flashback into local history.

*Glassboro* gives readers the chance to read about and see through numerous pictures what the area was like in the past. In his presentation, Sands used a slide show which featured numerous photographs from his book and spent a lot of time explaining each in vivid and descriptive detail.

I bet you are wondering, "What is so interesting about Glassboro?"

Chances are you didn't know that in World War II, Glassboro was the site of a prisoner of war camp that housed five hundred captive German soldiers, or that Glassboro indeed was the site of a large glass factory, which in its prime, was the third largest producer of glass products in the entire country.

Believe it or not if you lived in Washington Township from the 1930s to the 1960s, chances are you went to high school at what is now Glassboro Intermediate School

located on the corner of Fishpond Road and Delsea Drive.

The book itself is chock full of interesting facts such as these, and Sands' slide show gave students visuals of these several interesting facts.

**"Go For it. Do it... It can only better somebody."**

**- Robert W. Sands Jr.**

Robert Sands wrote this book because of history in the town. His inspiration for writing it was "from growing up there, knowing that a small community has a rich history, and the changes its gone through."

He now is attending Rowan University working for his bachelor's degree in history and wants to teach history or work in a museum.

For aspiring writers Sands says, "Go for it. Do it. Because this book has changed my life and allowed me to meet people. It can only better somebody." If you have a great idea for a book or story, don't be afraid to put it down and share it.

Its fascinating to know that Glassboro, our smaller, often overlooked neighbor has such a rich and interesting history. For anyone wanting to know more about the history of Glassboro or even a little about Washington Township itself, Sands' *Glassboro* is a must read.

## Images from a fun-filled day



A student as the Cat in the Hat catches up on some reading.



Two students (right) perform a Hawaiian dance demonstrated by Mrs. Kelley.



Day care students (l-r) Shannon Gasparovic and Samantha Gehringer show their enthusiasm for Dr. Seuss.

## Restored *Final Fantasy* compels

Matthew Starner '06

1991 started the RPG revolution. With the original release of Final Fantasy IV (Final Fantasy 2 in the U.S.) on the Super Nintendo Entertainment System, jump-started one of the most successful video game franchises ever. Re-released and restored on the Game Boy advanced makes it even better.

The story follows a black knight, Cecil, from the city of Baron which is the most powerful city in this world. Cecil is the commander of the Red Wings, the elite Royal Air Force of Baron. Sent by the King to attack another city in order to get a crystal. Cecil and his men wonder why the king would have them attack another city in cold blood and have them slaughter many to get a crystal. When he confronts the king about it he is demoted from the Red Wings and sent to another city to deliver a package which, unknowingly to Cecil was going



**Final Fantasy IV has been re-released and restored for the Game Boy advanced.**

to end up destroying the entire city when he gets there.

He finds a mysterious girl who has the power to summon monsters and protects her from Baron forces. Now on the run he must fight against an evil sorcerer Golbez who now has control of the Red Wings. Meeting with other characters, Cecil and his

group must stop his evil and restore the power of the world.

The graphics are amazing for what it is, a 2-D RPG. The battles and magic spells the characters use look great on the Game Boy Advanced. The story is deep and very complicated.

The characters are all introduced with some back round and it easily makes you understand the characters. With each character represented so well it makes the story even more involved, and since it is all reading you better make sure to read through all of it or you can easily get lost and confused very fast.

With this game re-mastered on a portable system you can take the adventure anywhere you want. With a great involved story and understandable characters you will easily enjoy this game, especially if you are a fan of the Final Fantasy series. I give Final Fantasy IV Advanced for the Game Boy Advanced 9 out of 10.

## Big names anticipated at E3 2006

Matthew Starner '06

The biggest Video Game Expo is less than two months away now. Starting in May 9-12 Entertainment Software Association (ESA) will host its 12 Annual E3 Expo at the Los Angeles Convention Center.

At E3 all the video game developing companies will all show off the games and game systems they plan to release. Right now there are quite a few big titles that will or possibly be previewed at this years E3 expo, especially since according to IGN.com states that all 540,000 square feet are sold out spreading out through five different halls. There will be over 400 exhibitors in this years E3 which can make it the most impressive showing of games in the expos 12 year history.

The biggest thing wondered about are the remaining next generation systems. Sony will no doubt reveal its new Play Station 3 system with playable demos. In last years E3 they revealed trailers of some of the games like Metal Gear Solid 4 which looks very realistic on the new system.

The other system that is leaving fans wanting is the Nintendo Revolutions preview with playable games. Right now no one even knows what exactly is coming out on the new Nintendo system, but what many people know is that this is do or die time for the Nintendo consol run. They will need a good showing at E3 in the up coming months.

Right now the biggest games that have many high hopes will also be previewed at E3 this year. The X-Box 360 will showcase its powerhouse shooter game developed by Bungie, Halo 3 this year, which many fans of the X-Box have been waiting for. Sony's Play Station 2 will again show off the beauty of Final Fantasy 12 by Square Enix which will be featuring a different play system than the previous Final Fantasy games. Then the big thin on Nintendo side of the fence game Cube's Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess which should have come out last year, but Nintendo wanted to tweak the game for the release.

Those are only a couple games that are or could be revealed in this years E3. A full recap of E3 will be in a later issue of the Patriot.

## Online gaming: sudden boom?

Josh Bennett '07

Since the introduction of the first video game system in the 1970's, gaming has become a revolution in itself. Everybody is aware of it, and most have engaged in it. However, until about ten years ago, gaming was only known as a single-player experience, or one versus one for that matter. Generally over time, things tend to change and change they have. Now in the twenty first century, gaming has once again begun a second revolution, online gaming.

Years ago, players were, to put it simply, very limited. In order to battle off against each other, they would have to be right next to each other at an arcade or on a console in their homes. Nowadays, players can compete against millions of others worldwide, and in most cases for free. Gaming was big in the past, but with online gaming becoming the "new experience," it has become even more amazingly large.

Why?

Well, first of all, in the early to mid-90's, most people were stuck with an awful slow dial-up connection. But due to console gaming still being at the top of the market, this really wasn't a problem. However, some PC games with online capability did in

fact begin to emerge, and some began to engage in this activity.

With this and as time went on, online gaming began to expand and as this happened, the genre itself did as well. With newer games coming out with much more complex graphics, dial-up was no longer going to cut it. Often times because of these advancements, and the speed of dial-up, your game would often freeze up or become unplayable. So, with these games came the need for a faster connection to process much more data more efficiently and at a faster speed. The solution, of course, was an affordable broadband connection which was fifty times faster than that of its predecessor. To put that into prospective, downloading a song in a matter of seconds was, well, easy.

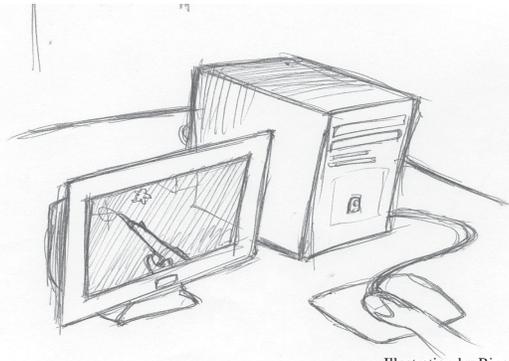


Illustration by Ringgo Ancheta '06

Now that's just an introduction on one of the reasons of how online gaming began to grow. The more important aspect here is why it has gotten so big. Gaming has always been a fun ordeal, but playing online made it so much more.

Gaming in general has always been something people in their youth have taken up, but they don't always have someone around to play with. Let's face it, single player just doesn't cut it after a while. It's too repetitive and will just get old. Online play is the answer here as there's always going to be somebody on to play with or against. In fact, because of this, people tend to play the same game online for years. That'd be rare for a single player game with the new generation of games.

# Entertainment

## Shockless debauchery in *The Libertine*

Justine Jacobs '06

A libertine is defined by Webster's New World Dictionary as "a man who leads an unrestrained, sexually immoral life." With a meaning like that, the word should by all logic be associated with all things shocking, scandalous, and provocative. However, the noun has received a harsh blow to its former wild and crazy status through its association with *The Libertine* – a new film which so skillfully manages to turn the morally base into the mundane and the erotic into the unappealing that its no wonder it sat on studio shelves for a year.

*The Libertine* tells the story of John Wilmot, the Second Earl of Rochester (Johnny Depp) under King Charles II (John Malkovich). Wilmot proclaims to his audience in the opening monologue "You will not like me," and it's true – you won't. The rude, promiscuous, bisexual poet and playwright is not a likable fellow. He brings his wife (Rosamund Pike) to London with him so she can helplessly watch his exploits, falls in love with actress Elizabeth Barry (Samantha Morton), and generally hangs around with a group of writers in a drunken stupor.

When Charles commissions a play to glorify his reign, Wilmot produces a vicious attack on the monarch himself, reducing the great work Charles was expecting to a sexual farce. Wilmot is banished and slips into a downward spiral of drunkenness and syphilis.

For all its attempts to shock, the film's major flaw is its tediousness. The entire movie is shot in tones of grey and grainy, unrealistic smog; the dialogue is not so much conversation as it is quasi-philosophical ramblings recited in the presence of others; and for all its promise of passion and debauchery, no real sparks fly between its main characters. *The Libertine* simply drags on with neither direction nor purpose.

If the film fails to impress, it is not due to lack of effort on its star's part. Depp gives an admirable performance as Wilmot, maintaining the character's wit and cynicism as he decays with disease. It's astounding that this man has yet to be given an Oscar – especially after seeing his valiant attempts to salvage this doomed film.

The supporting actors give it their all as well. Rosamund Pike shines as Wilmot's frustrated wife. Reserved for most of their marriage, she lets it



Rosamund Pike and Johnny Depp star in the shockingly unoffensive film, *The Libertine*.

all out, shouting at her sickly, alcoholic husband at the end of the film.

Also, John Malkovich (hidden somewhere behind an excessive prosthetic nose) gives Charles an intellectual air as well as a royal one – never banishing Wilmot because he is offended, but because it is in his best interest to *appear* offended.

Yet all its respectable performances cannot breathe life into

this aimless film. Visually displeasing and lacking in focus, *The Libertine* would have benefited from crisper cinematography and a stronger script – after all, performances have little impact when the foundation of a good film is noticeably absent.

Despite the cast's effort, *The Libertine* doesn't live up to the scandal of its name. In fact, the only thing shocking about this film is the ten dollars it cost to get in.

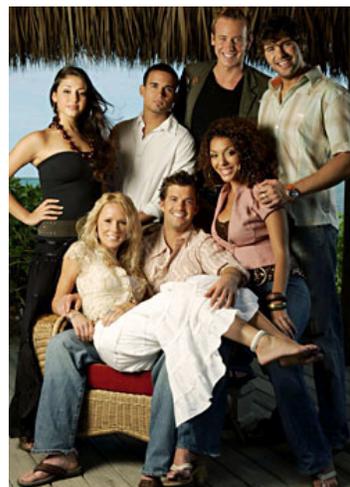
## Real World brings drama to Key West

Bethany Messick '06

According to the intro when seven strangers are picked to live in a house and have their lives taped, you find out what happens when people stop being polite and start getting REAL. The rolemodel realty TV show, *The Real World*, has taken on its seventeenth season. This season's house is in the beautiful Key West, Florida and filled with juicy gossip and drama.

In just the first two episodes, we find out that Paula has an eating disorder, and weighs only about 95 pounds. The roommates try helping her by boosting her confidence and telling her to eat more, but it just seems to make things worse. The episodes leave you wondering if her problem can be fixed with just the roommate's help or if she needs professionals to step in.

There is also the conflict between Svetlana and Tyler. Tyler says whatever he wants whenever he



The cast of *The Real World: Key West*.

wants and doesn't realize he hurts people's feelings. He constantly taunts Svetlana about being whiney and annoying. Svetlana is very hurt by this and feels badly about herself.

She tries ignoring him, but his over-the-top personality might cause a big blow up in the house.

Svetlana is also perplexed by her situation with her boyfriend, Martin, who lives in Richboro, PA. They have been going out for almost three years and she is already debating whether or not she should break it off, or if she should stay with him.

She flirts with John and Zack more than she should which could cause her to do something she might regret.

Svetlana could also cause some tension between Zack and John since they both are attracted to her. Right now it's all just harmless flirting, but you don't know what will happen later in the season.

The gossip queens, Janelle and Tyler, will definitely cause some fights in the house. They are constantly talking about the other roommates and excluding themselves from everyone.

Their conceited personalities are

sure to clash with the other roommates.

Like every other season, the cast members have to work together. This season they are opening up a sunless tanning salon. This could cause a lot of problems. Svetlana and Tyler are handling the finances.

They don't even like each other and they have to work together. Some people in the house are a little lazy too. If they all don't work together they are bound to start fighting.

If all the drama isn't enough to make you want to watch the show, the house they live in is at least worth seeing. The house is huge and it is right on the water.

It is filled with cool colors and gadgets. They live in an upscale community with Duval Street, which is filled with clubs and bars, is nearby.

With all these problems arising in just the first two episodes this season is sure to be exciting.

Each episode leaves you wanting more.

# Albom's feel-good, spiritual novel

Lillyan Ling '08

The internationally acclaimed author Mitch Albom dares to write possible answers to the questions "What is the meaning of life?" and "Where do we go when we die?" in the New York Times Bestseller *The Five People You Meet In Heaven*, a profound and heartwarming novel that rotates about an ordinary character named Eddie.

Eddie is a war veteran wrinkled with triumphs and hardships of every man's life. On his eighty-third birthday, he still works at Ruby's Pier, an amusement park that he has tried to detach himself from for so long.

After all this change, his life seems to be a tired cycle of loneliness and insignificance, and Eddie is convinced he will remain this way until his death, which arrives quickly at the first chapter entitled, "The End."

## Albom shows a meaning to life by displaying how everyone is connected.

An average day at the pier tumbles into the last day of Eddie's life when a dangling cart aims to fall on a little girl. Eddie jumps to her protection and feels two tiny hands in his before he is transported to Heaven.

There, five selected people await his arrival whether they are complete strangers or familiar faces. Slowly, he unravels pieces of the most diverse people's lives and fit them together to understand the reasons things were the way they were in his life.

Throughout the novel, Albom uses an interesting cycle of events beginning with the end of life and start of life in Heaven.

Between chapters, he enters in passages titled "Today is Eddie's Birthday" to give the reader a glimpse at his situation at different periods of his years, pieces that will link later on.

This twist of time sequence is a fascinating way to tell the story and works out well for surprise occurrences.

In a mysterious way, *The Five People You Meet In Heaven* will open your mind to the concept of life, death, and the afterlife without digging deeply into strict religion.

It shows a thoughtful meaning and purpose to life by displaying how everyone affects one another and is connected to those who have died, are alive, or have yet to be born.

# Finding substance in scrolling headlines

Joe Albanese '06

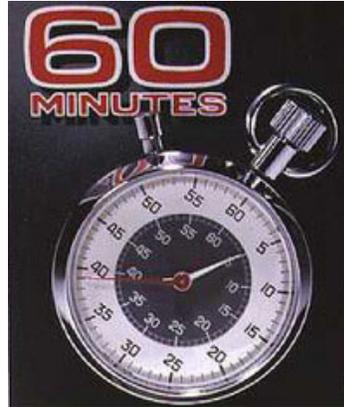
The news never sleeps, nor does the media that covers it, which is one of the reasons why there are so many different news shows. But most of these shows are extremely lame and of no value. There are very few news programs which are both entertaining and offer some form of knowledge.

One of the best news shows is *60 Minutes*, which covers only two or three news stories in each show. This allows for better dissection of the story and helps the audience understand the topic.

What makes *60 Minutes* so useful is that it covers the most important stories, both foreign and domestic. Each show ends with Andy Rooney talking about... whatever is on his mind, which combined with his subtle comedy makes him the best part of the show.

The 24-hour news channels like CNN, CNBC, MSNBC, and FOX NEWS are similar in that they cover more important issues, unless they don't and decide to interview Ronald McDonald instead.

Although stocks and investing are no laughing matter, a personal favorite of mine is *Mad Money* hosted



**60 Minutes is currently one of the few news programs worth watching.**

by Jim Cramer, one of the craziest men on TV. On this show he talks about different stocks and if they are going to perform poorly or do well. While doing this he walks around the set constantly and yells his analyses for the entire show.

Being both educational and very comical, *Mad Money* is easily one of the best shows on any 24-hour news channel. In the words of Cramer himself, Boo-Yah!

*Larry King Live* is another

quality show, but there are many occasions where he wanders away from actual news and move into entertainment instead, like the time he interviewed Pamela Anderson.

However, it looks as if Larry King could bite the dust at any minute, which means his retirement is getting close; so he might not be around as long as we would hope.

For any news junky, the best way to end you day is with *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart*. *The Daily Show* has the best political satire one can find on television. Along with his supporting "reporters", Jon Stewart hosts this "fake news" show. *The Daily Show* has some of the best comedic segments around, including the infamous "This Week in God."

*The Daily Show* has led to other shows like it, but no other compares. It has the perfect mix of news and comedy that will keep it around for many years to come, along with putting Jon Stewart down in history as one of the best personalities in television history.

The news is never really fun, but put in the right shows like those mentioned, it can help to appeal to the younger audience that never really had any interest in the news before.

# The Wallflowers: A forgotten favorite...

Mike Jones '06

Bob Dylan. Enough said. Words cannot describe the majesty of Bob Dylan. Few names in music can even be mentioned in a sentence involving or referencing Bob Dylan. So, when this triumphant symbol of music had a son, Jakob, the kid was bound to be brilliant.

Jakob Dylan debuted with his band, The Wallflowers, just when main stream music seemed to be going steadily downhill. The band's first popular album (second total), *Bringing Down the Horse*, was a stunning display of songwriting from the promising son of a GOD. Songs like "One Headlight" and "Three Marlenas" demonstrated songwriting at it's finest, while the rest of the album itself didn't have a bad song.

## The Wallflowers truly defined a one-hit-wonder.

After the smashing success of *Bringing Down the Horse*, The Wallflowers sunk below radar to write, what fans anticipated to be, another dazzling bit of music. Unfortunately, they never quite reappeared in main stream music. Come to think of it,



**The Wallflowers showed great promise with their hit album *Bringing Down the Horse*, but later fell into relative obscurity.**

The Wallflowers basically fell of the face of the planet.

Although the band never reemerged, it has stayed productive in its recording. Just last year, The Wallflowers released a promising new album *Rebel, Sweetheart*, unfortunately, nobody knew about it. It was a great album, but simply did not get enough - excuse me, any - radio play. Its strongest song, "Nearly Beloved," could have easily been a hit single.

The Wallflowers truly defined a

one-hit-wonder. They had their 15 minutes, won their Grammys, and then ... pleh. Maybe the band just didn't like fame, maybe it was too much pressure, but I'll never know.

The one thing that can be said about The Wallflowers, short as their career might have been, is that their music had that certain something about it that made it fun to listen to. "One Headlight" remains, to this day, one of my favorite songs and I guess Jakob Dylan did his father justice by giving him one solid hit.

# Sports

## Cheerleaders win 7th national title

Bethany Messick '06

This winter season at WTHS has been very successful. The boys and girls basketball teams did well in playoffs, the wrestling team crowned an All American, and the winter track team sent six people to the National Championship, but the real success came from the cheerleading team.

They seized their seventh conference title in a row and dominated the Battle of the Capital.

The girls were very determined to win conference this year. They practiced six days a week for many hours. They listened to their coach's directions and gave 100% each day.

"Winning conference means a lot to us because we have all the pressure to keep the streak going, and there are personal rivalries there like Cherokee," said Jaclyn Ciavarella, '06.

The seniors were a big part in the team's success.

"We tried to be positive role models and lighten up the intensity of practice. Joking around takes the stress away, and we are able to practice



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

**The cheerleading squad is now a 7 time national champion.**

better," said Lisa Calabrese '06.

After the girls won conference, they couldn't relax. They had to start preparing for the Battle of the Capital, held about three hours away at William Mason University. The girls stayed in a Marriot hotel down in Virginia.

Sure enough, the girls' hard work paid off. They won first place over

Cumberland Valley who had won the past few years.

Competition wasn't the only thing on the girls' minds. This was their last competition, so they wanted to make it a memorable one.

The girls had a pizza party and sung karaoke. Mr. Bolendorf even jumped in to sing Brown Eyed Girl.

They had a nice dinner and went bowling. The girls also shopped and hung out around the hotel.

"This tournament helped the girls get closer to each other. It was definitely a great way to end the season," said Kirstin Bradley '06.

The girls weren't the only winners. Their coach, who they call Ms.

**"Winning conference means a lot to us because we have all the pressure to keep the streak going, and there are personal rivalries there like Cherokee."**

**- Jaclyn Ciavarella '06**

Civ, was nominated for best coach.

"Our coach can take any team and make them win. She works us hard but it is definitely worth it," said Gina Pagliaccetti '06.

Although the girls are sad that this season is over, they have high hopes for next year.

"As long as Ms. Civ is there, they will win," said Calabrese.

## Heads Up! Highlights From the 2006 Dodgeball Tournament

Photos by Rob Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot



**"The Juggernauts":** unified before the tournament began.



**Sean Riley '06** gets lifted by teammates from "Back in Black" after his performance in their come-from-behind victory.



The action quickly became intense when the Mr. WT contestants took the floor.



Both players and fans enjoyed the tournament action.



**"Team Suave"** all smiles before their first round match.

# Senior led volleyball team looks toward successful season

Esther Gill '06

Coming off of last year, the boys volleyball team here at W.T.H.S. can hope for nothing but a fantastic season.

This year, the squad is led by the team's six seniors, Andy Ong, Marc Buono, Matt Kienzle, Tom Carola, Doug Griese, and Brian English. Tom Carola is one of this year's captains, along with junior Mike Bradley.

The head coach, Mrs. Barbara McBrearty has high hopes for this year.

"I expect to have an outstanding season," McBrearty said.

She has been a volleyball coach for ten years, and head coach for two.

The boys had four scrimmages before beginning their rigorous schedule.

At print, the team was sporting a 2-1 record, with wins against Woodrow Wilson and St. Augustine. The loss came courtesy of a strong Williamstown team.

"We lost to them the first time but we can definitely beat them," says Kienzle '06, "if we play to our potential, we'll beat them."

They also face Cherry Hill East, Cherry Hill West twice, all of whom are in the top ten. Not to mention chief rival Eastern, the defending conference champs.

Says Bradley, "I would say Eastern is our biggest rival since they are defending champions of our conference."

The team will be playing their rival at home on April 24, 2006.

According to McBrearty, the team, both varsity and junior varsity seem to get along very well, perhaps due to their practice regimen.

For the first 40 minutes of practice, varsity and JV conduct the same drills and conditioning together. Then the teams practice separately.

"Yes, the team jokes around with each other at times to keep it

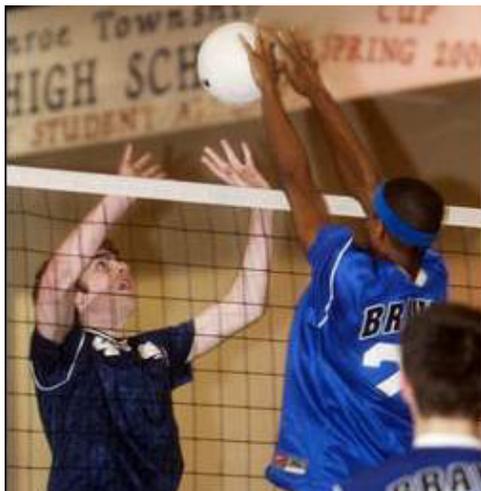


Photo courtesy of Courier Post

**Matt Kienzle '06, attempts to make a play against Williamstown.**

fun, but everyone gets along," says Bradley.

McBrearty along with her team seem to have high hopes for this season.

"These boys know what it means to be a team," commented McBrearty, "they should have a good season."

# Baseball team geared for title run

David Zappacosta '06

It's that time of year again, the sun is brighter, the air is warmer, the flowers are blooming, and more allegations of Barry Bonds being on steroids...yup its baseball season, and in township its time for another winning season, at least we hope.

Township baseball went 21-6 last season with a conference title but a loss in the Group IV finals to rival Cherokee.

This season they expect nothing less and a lot more.

"We expect to play at the highest level and win conference and state titles this season", said head coach William Alvaro.

With returning players Ryan D'Imperio '06, Mike Rescinito '06, Dan Betteridge '06, Bill Rice '07, and Kenny Stanley '07 back in the lineup, the task of returning to the group four championships is a true reality.

These hitters provide a great balance of speed, average, and power.

Although coach Alvaro believes that the teams strong point is fielding and hitting this year he also expects great things from his pitching staff.

"We have more depth this year than in the past and seniors that have returned (to the rotation)."

The Minutemen have 12 different pitchers at their disposal this year for either starts or relief.

However, in the big game he'll be looking to returning starter and senior Matt Schliecher who had a 5-1 record last year for the Minutemen.

The team itself has high expectations for the season.

"We look and feel better about this year than last year, our power in the lineup is strong and so is our speed, and our pitching staff is going to be hard to wear down", remarked senior Brandon Boucher.

Township baseball has been successful in past years and looks to be primed for another run at the conference title and the Group IV championship.

Like to talk sports?  
Join **S.T.A.T. Pack**  
See Mr. Holmes in G 222 for details.

## BA5K

First Annual Brian Anderson Memorial 5K Run/Walk

Sunday, May 14, 2006, Mother's Day

Washington Lake Park

7:00 am - Registration begins

8:00 am - Kids Fun Run

9:00 am - 5K Race

5K walk - Immediately following

**5K Run/Walk: \$15**

**Family Walk: \$35**

Proceeds benefit: Brian Anderson Memorial SADS Foundation (Sudden Arrhythmia Death Syndrome Foundation)

The first annual Brian Anderson Memorial 5K run, or the "BA5K", is an event organized to remember Brian Anderson. On May 8, 2005, Mother's Day morning, Brian passed away at age 21 as a victim of an undiagnosed heart arrhythmia. Brian was known for his dedication to family, friends, his academic success, and for living life to the fullest.

# Lacrosse draws on experience

Ally Martelli '07

Entering its fifth year of competition, the WTHS boys' lacrosse team is looking forward to a new start in '06.

This coming year many of the players are looking forward to two games in particular: Shawnee and Eastern.

"Our varsity team has never beaten Shawnee," says mid-fielder, Matt Cutrufello '07.

That is one of the many goals of the team this year, along with chalking up a regular-season win over Eastern High School and advancing further in the state tournament. The players agree they will have to really concentrate on controlling the ball and playing outstanding defense against their top offensive opponents.

Many of the players are excited to start playing on our new turf field this season.

"I think it will definitely benefit us when playing at home, where we can practice on it everyday. Most teams will be used to playing on grass, and that will be a huge advantage for us," says Keith Schmidt '07, a varsity defenseman who made Second Team All-Conference last year.

One of Schmidt's personal goals this year is to really learn from some of the team's senior players whom he admires. Among these are captains Wayne Sartorio, Tom Verchio, Joe Caltibiano, and Dan Rozmes.

Schmidt had a variety of reason for looking up to them. He describes Sartorio as an all around great player and one of the toughest guys on the team, and views Tom Verchio as one of the strongest and most determined players.

According to Schmidt, dedication is a strength of Joe Caltibiano who he feels never lets anyone quit. A teammate since freshman year, Rozmes, is admired by Schmidt for his defensive skills.

All in all this season promises to be a good one for our boys' lacrosse team. They are pumped up, energized and ready to be out on the turf, and it's been showing during the preseason captains' practices.

Schmidt says, "Everyone is looking great at the practices. We are determined to be better this year and we have a lot of young players in key roles, and they're doing a great job."

# Shoots into the record books

## Betteridge is 7th Minuteman to reach 1000 points

Bethany Messick '06

Senior starting shooting guard, Dan Betteridge '06, scored his 1000<sup>th</sup> point on Friday Feb. 24th against Deptford High School.

He scored the millennial point on a free throw in the third quarter. As soon as the ball went through the net, everyone started cheering.

Betteridge was given the game ball and congratulated by his coaches, teammates, family, and friends.

"I was excited, but at the same time I wanted to get it over with so we could play our game and concentrate on playoffs."

Betteridge's achievement pumped the crowd and the team up. He went on to score 15 to lead Twp. to a victory over Deptford High School.

Betteridge was the seventh player to ever achieve 1000 points for the boy's team in the school's history.

"I couldn't have done it without



Bethany Messick '06/The Patriot

**Dan Betteridge '06 became the 7th WTHS player to join the 1000 point club.**

my coaches and teammates. During the games the coaches would run plays for me and my teammates would set screens and give up shots."

Betteridge worked very hard to

achieve 1000 points. During the off season he would go to the gym, stay as healthy as possible, and practice his shooting.

Although Betteridge has worked incredibly hard to become the player he is, he does not plan to play basketball in college.

Next year, Betteridge will be attending Rutgers New Brunswick with a scholarship for baseball. And though he won't play basketball in college, he will definitely keep a part of his basketball career with him.

"I'm going to miss putting on the uniform and warming up with my teammates the most. Twp. basketball makes you feel like you are a part of something special."

Betteridge is excited about next year. He looks forward to the independence that goes along with college, and he is eager to experience new things.

At the same time, he acknowledges the fact that his experiences at TWP, such as making a 1000 points, will be with him the rest of his life.

# Success despite playoff loss

Mark Natale '06

There is a saying among athletic circles that "you're only as good as your last game". However, there are twelve Township athletes, half dozen coaches, and hundreds of fans that would like to dispute that particular cliché.

While the Minutemen basketball season ended in disappointing fashion at the hands of perennial rival Shawnee, that does not overshadow the many accomplishments the team made along the way.

The Minutemen finished the 2005-2006 season in historic fashion. Their 21-6 record marked the school's first 20 win season since 1996 - a time when the current starting lineup was halfway through the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.

This year's Township squad also hosted the first home playoff game in nearly a decade, a treat not only for the players, but for the school and fans as well.

The Minutemen won the highly contested battle against Southern Regional 43-35 on Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup> in a 9/10 gym packed with Township supporters.

The game started with Township coming up cold, shooting a mere 7-24 from the field in the first half. However, their strong defense still gave them a 1 point lead at half, and

the offense began to find its form as the third period began.

Senior point guard Dan Betteridge scored a game high 20 points, as senior Adrian Galliard chipped in 8.

Senior reserve guard Chris Amador and Dustin Francis also added quality minutes off the bench, contributing to the team's defensive intensity that kept the lead as the offense was sputtering.

The end of the season also brought a huge personal accomplishment for Betteridge, who scored his 1,000<sup>th</sup> point on a foul shot in the final home game against Deptford.

Betteridge is only the 7<sup>th</sup> player in Township history to do so, and the first in five years.

Betteridge will be graduating this coming spring, as well as starters Adrian Galliard (center), Andrew Purafoiy (guard), reserves Dustin Francis (guard), Chris Amador (guard), Doug Griese (forward), and Bob Bernardo (center).

All told, 6 of the 8 players who saw significant varsity action will not be with the team next winter.

While this typically points towards rebuilding, Township is more optimistic.

With players like Greg Prince ('07) and Alonzo Galliard ('07) that already have significant varsity experience, along with a successful JV

program to feed into the varsity roster, the team is looking to reload, not rebuild.

Third year coach Bob Byatt has certainly done much to turn this program around. Since taking the job three years ago, the Minutemen have made strides each year.

First, it was making the state tournament, something the team had not done in the 7 years previous. Next, it was to win a playoff game, which the team did last year by winning 2 and reaching the semi-finals.

This year, the team won 20 games and earned a home playoff game, completing the next logical step in building a program.

All told, this year will be looked back on as a successful one. One of the most talented classes in recent memory left the program at a higher level than it was 4 seasons ago.

**Support Alex's  
Lemonade Stand  
April 28, 2006  
WTHS Core and  
Cafeterias**

# Haight-ing on every opponent

## WTHS tennis star closes in on career milestone

Steve Dunn '06

Will Haight '06 is one of our school's most accomplished athletes taking part in the spring season this year. He has been one of the best tennis players in South Jersey since his sophomore year and will help a young tennis team, ranked twelfth in the preseason polls, attempt to exceed expectations this year.

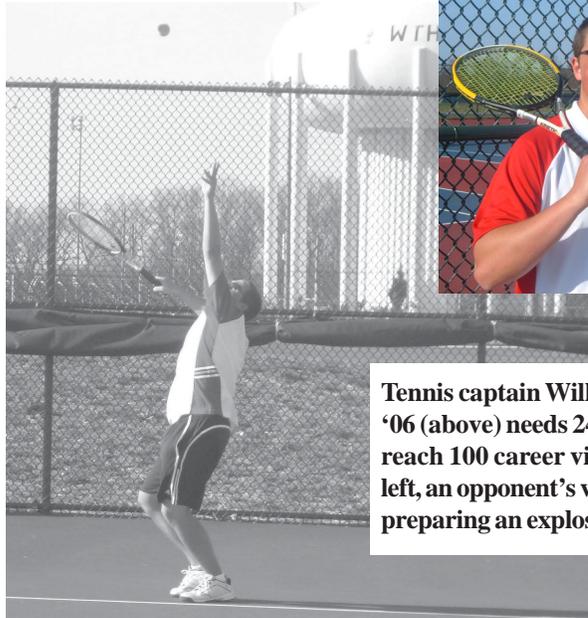
The team is very young, with only Haight and Drew Vitola '06 the varsity's only seniors. The team is projected to finish with a .500 record, but Haight believes the team can achieve more than that.

It's not uncommon that Haight, a four year varsity player, is the only person to win during a tennis match. Even though Haight wins most of his matches, those wins usually have no effect on the record of the team. He's optimistic about the team's performance however.

"I expect us to start winning closer matches as a result of gaining experience."

He's confident that the team will improve and possibly could become a "top ten" team.

Haight's career high school record is 76-13. He has accomplished much during his tenure at Washington Township but still has many goals he



**Tennis captain Will Haight '06 (above) needs 24 wins to reach 100 career victories. At left, an opponent's view of him preparing an explosive serve.**

Robert Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

wants to accomplish.

"One hundred wins is probably my biggest goal, if I could be the [first] one to do it, I'd love to. It's doable and it would mean a lot to me."

The hundred win milestone is an important and elusive one.

While he does have his sights set

on the hundred wins, he does admit it can be a distraction, but his top priority is doing his best and helping his team. He believes that he has the physical and mental tennis experience to focus "on the point at hand."

Haight loves the game of tennis, and has been playing since he was only

four years old.

Haight has made the All Group IV team every year of high school. His sophomore year he won the Gloucester County Tournament and advanced to the round of sixteen in the South Jersey Tournament. He was the first Township player to ever get All South Jersey honors for tennis.

His junior year he again won the County Tournament and received All South Jersey and Group IV honors, placed second in the Olympic Conference Tournament, and advanced to the second round of States.

Both his sophomore and junior years he was named the Gloucester County Times Player of the Year.

According to Haight, his biggest career win came as a freshman. He played a perfect game winning 6-4 and 6-3 and defeated at the time the fifth ranked player in the state. His opponent was infuriated after the match and destroyed and trashed all of his racquets, which cost \$350 a piece. The team took one of these racquets and it can be seen in a trophy case in the high school.

Haight looks forward to his senior season and will be attending Rider University next year on a partial athletic scholarship. He is eager to see how he performs against tougher college competition.

## High expectations for girls lacrosse

Heather Ale '06

The girl's lacrosse team has big plans for the upcoming season. Although the girls shared the title of conference with Eastern last year, this year they expect to win.

The team is lead by seniors Katie Lawson, Nicole Murraco, Kelley Rand, Alex McBride, Ally Kenney, and Lauren O'Donnell.

Their preseason ranking is third in South Jersey, making their goal of winning conference a likely possibility.

As of April 11, 2006, the girl's are undefeated with a 3-0 record. Last season, the girls finished with an 18-3 record and this year they are shooting for an undefeated season.

Eastern is one of their biggest rivals and will give the girls good competition this season.

The girls hope to beat Shawnee, who are ranked second in South Jersey, and, as O'Donnell, '06, puts it, prove what kind of a team they really are.

The official season started on

March 3<sup>rd</sup>, however, many of the girls have already been playing in a winter league.

The practices are considerably long, lasting until about 5, and are challenging with scrimmaging being a frequent event.

"The practices are always intense and the coaches expect a lot out of the team, especially the seniors," stated O'Donnell.

This year, improvements are already being made on the team. The girls are trying to eliminate the drama that sometimes forms and become a more united team; they also are making sure that one player does not do all the work.

"This year, ten seniors start and they are all athletic and talented," claims Stacey Moscufo, junior varsity coach.

This year the coaching staff includes: Sandy Stockl, varsity coach, who won Coach of the year in 2005, Stacey Moscufo, and Patricia McGinty, freshman coach.

With all of the improvements



Robert Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

**Katie Lawson '06 snares a faceoff.**

that the girls have made in the offseason, they have a very positive outlook on their ongoing year.

The girls really hope to finish this season with a record better than last year's stellar mark, and they also hope to win their conference.

**Actor's Studio  
&  
Theatre Production  
Present...**

**The Remarkable  
Incident at  
Carson Corners**

**April 27-28  
7:30 PM  
11/12 Auditorium**

**Be there.**