

## Township accepts Governor's Award

Mike Jones '06

On October 18th, Washington Township High School was selected to receive the New Jersey Governor's School of Excellence Award for 2005. This year, only 22 schools in the state received the award. Which, when coupled with the great number of school's in New Jersey, is quite an admirable feat.

"I think it's a great honor because what it really says to our community and staff is that other people are recognizing what I believe I've seen for sometime here: that this high school is truly a school of great excellence, and now we've got that official stamp of approval," said Mrs. Rosemary Farrow, the executive principal of Washington Township High School.

Considered an honor to all schools accepted, the award has become something to strive for in New Jersey and contains many perks.

"The award is essentially a 25,000 dollar honorarium given to the schools that win, but more



Photo Courtesy of Mrs. Farrow

**Principal Rosemarie Farrow, Ms. Anne Moore, and Mr. Joe Bollendorf accept award, accompanied by Township Board members.**

importantly, the prestige associated with the award itself," stated Mrs. Farrow.

The Governor's School of Excellence Award is a three-year-old honor given annually to up to 25 schools in the state of New Jersey. Just to apply, a school needs to show and give proof of two years of

continuous improvement in standardized testing. The remaining for such a thing required a school to fit into at least 5 out of nine categories.

These categories consist of: Growth in literacy measures, improvement in parent involvement, reduction of violence and vandalism,

increased and documented involvement with the community, increased use of technology, professional development, successful improvement in special education, and a miscellaneous category that the school could submit anything it viewed as an area of improvement. Also, improvement in one of the following areas: Student attendance, Graduation rates, and/or dropout reduction.

The high school, however, is not the first school in the district to receive Governor's School of Excellence status.

"Last year three elementary schools in our district won this award: Birches Elementary, Whitman Elementary, and Wedge Wood Elementary", said Farrow.

The Governor's School of Excellence Award has proven the superior merit of Washington Township High School. In future years, the school hopes to maintain its educational standing and possibly have a few more district schools receive the award.

## Homecoming celebration shines despite rain

Heather Ale '06

Twelve girls. One dream. That is Washington Township Homecoming. On October 14<sup>th</sup> these twelve girls, who were selected by the masses, lined up, shivering in the cold October rain on the freshly-laid turf and opened the boxes that revealed the Homecoming queen of 2005. The white rose had made its choice, and it was Katie McEnroe.

"All the girls agreed that Katie was the right choice," expressed Nicole Fleming '06.

Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, assistant principal, concurred, "It is comforting that the queen is someone that the student body feels good about being represented by. She really seems to care about her classmates." Judging from the outcome of Homecoming, her classmates seem to care about her as well.

Despite the fact that this year the girls were escorted on foot, due to the new turf field, the crowd's enthusiasm never dropped.

"It is very clear that this is a tradition that everyone enjoys and is really fired up about," Bollendorf stated.

Before the half-time announcement, the Minutemen were out defending their home field. They delivered a crushing 34- 0 defeat to Rancocas Valley. The Minutemen dominated the opposing team throughout the game, with big plays coming in bunches, and consistency from the players.

"The energy was amazing and the team was great. We kicked their butts," enthused outside linebacker, Daniel Camargo, '06.



**In contrast to the bleak weather that would greet them at Homecoming, the 2005 court poses together on a sunny afternoon.**

Prior to the game, the Spirit Parade made its way around the field. In order to entertain the stands, and compensate for the lack of vehicles, this year the floats got creative. The floats with the most impact were those that celebrated their club with a performance or a cheer. The most spirited float was the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade class council, granting them their 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row winning first place in the Spirit Parade. Second place went to the Art Club and third place went to the Renaissance Club.

"Despite the rain, the Spirit Parade was still a wonderful success

and a lot of fun," asserted student council member, Christina Vassallo, '06.

After the Homecoming game wrapped up, the fireworks went off with a bang. "I could hear the fireworks from my house," said Lisa Phillips, '06. They were sponsored by Turnersville Auto Mall and set off by Schaffer Pyrotechnics. The fireworks proved the point that the weather would not take away this year's homecoming. "As damp as we all were, the enthusiasm was not dampened one bit," Bollendorf declared.

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# Local talent shines at Coffeehouse

Justine Jacobs '06

The sweet sounds of tuneful music could be heard throughout the halls of Washington Township's 11/12 wing earlier this month when students gathered for the annual fall Coffeehouse on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The S.U.R.E. headed event, which features coffee and refreshments, thrift, and plenty of places to lounge in addition to great music, returned to an acoustic format in an attempt to shake things up.

"The Acoustic Coffeehouse show is often a venue to show the incredible creativity of our performing students," says S.U.R.E. advisor Mr. Todd Oberholtzer. "Without high volume and sound effects, it challenges the bands to show off their musical virtuosity instead of simply being loud."

Oberholtzer's hopes of challenging student creativity were certainly rewarded during the show. Senior Eric Wang opened the night with a rousing rendition of the Star Spangled Banner – played on the saw!

"His performance received a standing ovation and was the most artistic of the night!" declares Oberholtzer.

The Coffeehouse featured other outstanding acts as well, including

local bands Post Refuge, The Atlantic, and Nascence. There were also a number of solo acts including performances by Melissa Meehan '06 and Kim Hofstader '06.

"The highlights of the night were when The Atlantic played and when Nascence played," says Coffeehouse MC, Elizabeth Bryan '06. "Nascence covered "Wonderwall" [by Oasis] and ["What I Got"] by Sublime, and they were good. Everyone was dancing and having a really good time."

**"It was the smoothest running show ever."  
- Mr. Oberholtzer**

Despite the many excellent performances, there has been talk amongst Coffeehouse attendees that an act was banned from future S.U.R.E. events due to their use of improper language and smashing some equipment. However, Oberholtzer would like to correct these notions.

"The most harm that was done was embarrassment for the offending act," he emphasizes. "Nobody will be banned from the show in the future, so any rumors to the contrary are just that, rumors."

S.U.R.E. members were very proud of the way this year's show

turned out – not only in the performances, but in efficiency.

"I think it was the most organized Coffeehouse I've ever been to," states Bryan.

Oberholtzer agrees. "It was the smoothest running show ever, starting and ending precisely on time."

According to Oberholtzer, all the credit belongs to the students, namely S.U.R.E. manager Jackie Van Orden '07 and Bryan, Master of Ceremonies.

"They ran the show like professionals," he says.

Coffeehouse organizers feel efficiency and quality of the November 2005 show will only be topped in future events.

"We had a lot of underclassmen step up this year, which was great since there aren't many long time senior members," says senior, and three year S.U.R.E. member, Monica Barron.



Photo courtesy of Joe Forte '06

**Local band Nascence headlined the S.U.R.E. Acoustic Coffeehouse.**

"They did an awesome job organizing everything and really kept our heads screwed on straight. I know that they'll do the same for any upcoming shows, and will just get better over time."

Students who missed the fall Coffeehouse can look forward to a similar S.U.R.E. run event in the spring. If it's anything like this fall's experience, it will be, in the words of Oberholtzer, "a great and memorable show!! Woo-Hoo!"

# Students give life by giving blood

Mark Natale '06

Saving lives is an action that is always glorified. Beginning in our infancy, everyone has an innate desire to be a hero. Recently at WTHS, we all got that chance.

The blood drive isn't a typical fundraiser. Most fundraiser's raise money for great causes, but the blood drive actually **saves lives**. Many Township students fail to see this, until one realizes the impact it has had on some of our very own Washington Township students.

"I've had to sit in the hospital and be told I wasn't allowed to go home until they could get me blood. I had to wait, not knowing when I could leave, simply because they ran out of my type.", explained senior Bob Bernardo. Bernardo began his battle with leukemia last year, and has since recovered enough to come to school, as well as play on the varsity football team.

"I lost a few friends I met during rehab, and the weakness caused by blood transfusions that are too far apart could have been the difference. With better blood supplies, they might have survived", Bernardo further explained, making the importance of



Photo by Mark Natale '06/The Patriot

**Senior Christopher Kalitz gives blood with a little moral support.**

the blood drive all too evident.

Luckily, the importance of the blood drive is something that Township students have always recognized. After great success last year, the Interact club reached for even higher goals with the 2005 drive.

"Our goal was to raise 250 pints, and beginning today we had over 300 people signed up", explained Mrs. Nuval, the supervisor of Interact.

Many students are familiar with other Interact activities such as the buddy walk, pace setters dance, and the dance-a-thon. But as far as fundraiser's go, Interact sees the blood drive as its most important.

"The blood drive is great because you know it is going to help save lives, a lot of people get involved, and it gives the students great satisfaction", explained Nuval.

Holding an event as big of the blood drive certainly takes a great deal of work from the Interact staff. With hundreds of students involved, and the activity taking up an entire school day, organization was key to a successful blood drive..

"A lot of work had to be done when it comes to recruiting people, scheduling everyone, and just making sure everything runs smoothly," explained Chris Caruso '06, Interact chairperson for the event.

But in the end, all the hard work and effort put forth from the Interact club was well worth it. The blood drive was more successful than anyone could have asked, surpassing the 250 pint goal. Even so, there is more work to be done.

About 60% of the population is eligible to give blood, but yet, only 5% do so every year. Interact will try to close that gap as they host another blood drive in the spring, aiming to improve on their 250 pint goal of the fall. That means another monster effort from our high school is needed, but as Caruso so plainly states:

"In the end, it's all about saving lives," and that should be inspiring enough.



# Seniors defeat juniors in Powderpuff 2005

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The storied tradition of the Powder Puff game was showcased on Tuesday, November 22, when the girls of the junior and senior classes participated in the annual football game. Because Powderpuff is a game that is so rich in tradition, there was an abundant feeling of anticipation present throughout both the junior and the senior classes.

"The game means a lot to us. It definitely brings everybody in the class together and we all learn to play and have fun making our teams", said Sam Carfi '07.

Mr. Andy Holmes, the junior head coach, echoed the sentiments of the players.

"I think it is a deep, deep tradition. I think we have very competitive games, and the girls put a lot of time and energy into it. It is their chance to shine in a game that is usually designated for men, football" he said.

Well before the ball was kicked off to begin the Powderpuff game, the senior class appeared to be heavy favorites over their junior counterparts. That being said, the two opposing coaches had very

different approaches to their practice methods.

Holmes decided to hold full team practices the entire week, whereas veteran senior head coach Mr. Bob Gorski elected to practice only his skill players for the first two days, and then bring the rest of the squad out later in the week. Gorski felt as though that it was a great opportunity to isolate those players to see who they could potentially be matched up against. That way, the offensive lines could join the skilled players later in the week, and they would be able to pick up from there.

While the girls were practicing very hard to prepare for the game, the boys were working equally as hard to perfect their cheerleading routines for the half time show.

"We had to memorize a lot of sideline cheers to get the crowd motivated. Later, we got the chance to work on our cheer to do at halftime, which we expected to be fantastic" said Ryan Kinch '07.

Much like the girls, the boys experienced their share of growing pains while trying to become accustomed to something that was generally out of their realm. But



David Zappacosta '06/The Patriot

## Seniors set the tone early in the Powderpuff game.

also like the girls, the boys only had one week to prepare for game night, which seemed to arrive very quickly.

The word that best describes the atmosphere on game night: electric. The girls came out of the locker rooms fired up and ready to play. The juniors were thinking upset while the seniors were looking to live up to their high expectations.

It did not take long for the seniors to impose their will upon the juniors. On the first play from scrimmage, the seniors ran a sweep to the right side, and 60 yards later,

the seniors led 6-0. That play truly set the tone for the rest of the game. The 2<sup>nd</sup> year players went on to lead 23-0 very early in the contest.

The girls would soon take a break to watch the cheerleaders perform, but that break would be short lived, and they would have to get back to business.

Coming out of the half time gate, the juniors would not go down without a fight. They orchestrated a 5 play, 65 yard touchdown drive to narrow the lead to two scores. But despite that valiant comeback effort, the seniors would emerge victorious with a final score of 49-33, capped off by a 57 yard touchdown pass by Amanda Jennings '06.

Before the game, it was expected that if there were a few defensive stops in key situations, the team would be able to pull away. The seniors used this theory to their advantage as they held the junior girls to just 6.3 yards per rush, as opposed to the 18.7 yards per rush that their offense was averaging.

Despite the timely defense by the seniors, it was the junior girls that controlled the clock. Their time of possession reaches 54 minutes, including achieving 22 first downs, whereas the seniors held the ball for only 26 minutes, while accumulating only 6 first downs (thanks to Mr. Rob Callaway for the stats). It was ultimately the big plays by the senior that allowed them to be victorious. They had touchdowns of 59 and 92 yards rushing, and the aforementioned 57 yard pass completion.

The seniors became one of a select few graduating classes to finish their Powderpuff careers undefeated. The juniors on the other hand, will look to rebound from their loss when they play again next year.

## Where does the cash flow go?

Matt Kienzle '06

We all know where the proceeds from professional sports ticket admissions go. They count towards improving the stadium and basic upkeep. But where do the proceeds from high school admissions go?

Well, according to 11-12 Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Bollendorf, and he would know, the money does not go to the booster clubs, the high school, or towards concessions for the next game. All revenue from ticket admissions at

sporting events here at WTHS go into a general district account for various expenses throughout the district.

Essentially, the money generated is used the same way that taxes are. All taxes from Washington Township citizens are put into two accounts. One is used for municipal expenses such as parks and snow removal, and the other is used by the school. The admissions money is sent to the second account.

So, the money could be used to pave potholes in the 11-12 parking lot.

Right now, you're probably wondering how money generated by high school sporting events can possibly have an important effect on our schools. Well consider this, for the four home football games this year; the school generated \$4690 vs. Winslow, \$4949 against Cherokee, \$3747 for homecoming against Rancocas Valley, and \$3723 on October 21, versus Shawnee.

That's \$17,109, not counting miscellaneous expenses, for just four games, not to mention the proceeds from basketball and wrestling, which while they don't generate as much per

game, there are many more home games than football, and since both those seasons are here, much more cash will be coming in.

Another issue concerning funds and our high school sports teams was that of concessions. Most teams here at WTHS have them and most of you have purchased something from them at one time or another.

Well, none of those candy bars or sodas are being bought by the school. Each and every snack bar from basketball to volleyball is run and stocked by their sport's respective booster clubs; with all proceeds going there as well.

However, as usual, football remains the one exception. The very profitable snack bar at Township football games is staffed and supplied by the Interact club, and all the revenue generated is put towards club activities, such as the Festival of Friends and Pace Center Dance, and club trips.

So Township, now you know. The question that has been on your mind for at least ten years (well, maybe not) has finally been answered, and now you can sleep soundly.

**New Winter Twilight  
Date**

**February 10,  
2006**

**This Time it Counts.**

# Commentary

## Lack of student political awareness appalling

David Zappacosta '06

John Corzine, Frank Lautenberg, and Robert Torricelli. Do these names set off any bells in your head? Get any images or ideas or even anything in your head? If you don't then you have just joined the majority of the student body in this school. These men are your Senators and you're Governor.

I have an idea for high school kids. Next time you're talking to your friends when you're all just hanging out at someone's house, and don't lie because you know that that's what you do on weekends, ask your friends who is our State Senator? Or even the more general question of who is our governor.

The scary truth is that unless you have the political buff in your group of friends no one knows. They all just look around and stare, and then the usual phrase is, "who cares." I think that this is really embarrassing.



**Who is this guy?**

High school students are full of opinions. They love to argue about things and most of the time they have no clue what they are talking about. Understandable of course because that's how you learn about a lot of topics and lets face it its fun. However, it really bothers me when students brag on our government and have no clue what or who they are talking about. I guarantee, however, that those same

students could tell me who the new Batman is.

After going around the high school and asking ten random students

**It seems a little cynical to criticize a government you know nothing about.**

in the halls nine did not who their governor was, and none knew who the senators of New Jersey were. The funny part of this every student seemed to have something negative

to say about them anyway. I don't know about you but it seems a little cynical to criticize a government you know nothing about.

We as students so easily jump on the people that make the decisions for our country. But the truth of the matter is we have no idea why they made those decisions or the worse of the two is the fact that they probably don't even know who made them. So next time you find nice and convenient to criticize our leaders make sure you know who they are.

Commentary is one of those sections that is run by a complete madman. In short, it's just like every other section. However, if you feel as though you can benefit this travesty of a newspaper by contributing one of your amazing pieces of literature, the Commentary section advises you to feel free.

Our Email is:

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## Time to police parking lots

Justine Jacobs '06

Perhaps the most exciting element of senior year is exercising the coveted right to park in the high school's lot. Unlike prom, Project Graduation, and even senior trip, the student parking space is the gift that keeps on giving. Suddenly, teenagers who depended upon crowded buses to get to and from school feel a new sense of independence with the ability to come and go as they please.

However, *getting* to the parking space is a totally different story. Should one stand outside the 11/12 wing of Washington Township High School on the average weekday morning, the line of cars waiting along Hurffville-Cross Keys Road to simply turn into the parking lot would rival a Thanksgiving Day parade. People who could normally reach the school in ten minutes are often forced to leave their homes twenty minutes before homeroom, merely to compensate for the massive amounts of traffic.

Any student at WTHS knows that the school employs policemen during the day. They conduct drug

searches, help break up fights, and generally walk around looking imposing. So why aren't they outside at seven o'clock in the morning, directing the constant build up of traffic in front of the building? And what about the end of the day? The utter chaos created by hundreds of students making the mad dash for home at the same time results in accidents, the number of which could be greatly reduced if a police officer were there directing traffic.

Administrators warn kids they need to leave early to be on time for classes, but they could do so much more. If the district would simply pay the salary of one traffic cop to be employed during the morning and afternoon commutes, it would make the world of difference to driving students. High school is stressful enough without the added concern of hectic morning travel.

The school is certainly generous in its decision to supply seniors with spaces at all, especially considering how crowded we are, but in an institution that emphasizes safety, traffic control should be a factor of some importance. All morning

commuters would benefit from the addition of a traffic cop, not only WTHS students and faculty.

It isn't often that high school students want police officers around; the administration should take advantage of this opportunity.

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## Local rock stations laid to rest

One only needs to turn on their FM radio on the way home from school to realize how terrible the demise of radio in the Delaware Valley has become. The Philadelphia area now has but one real rock station to turn to. Gone is Max95.7, a solid rock station that likely disappeared before any of us listened to radio with regularity; gone is Y100, the region's only alternative rock station; and finally, gone is 94.1 WYSP, a decades old station and perhaps the single most popular station of all genres in the entire area.

It began last spring with the death of the popular alternative rock

station Y100. Y100 was owned by the larger national radio conglomerate RadioOne which elected to move the Beat, a hip hop and R&B Station from 103.9 to 100.3, and add a gospel channel to 103.9; thus bringing the death of our beloved Y100. Despite sixty thousand names on a petition on Y100rocks.com, the death of Y100 seems but an irreversible ordeal.

In my opinion, the end of Y100 wasn't too big of a loss to the area, since we still had 93.3 WMMR and 94.1 WYSP. While neither of these were true alternative stations, they still played some. Moreover, both

WMMR and WYSP have been around for decades.

Driving home from the shore one evening this summer I tuned to 94.1 and first learned of the addition of Kidd Chris, a vulgar, profane shock jock with too much to say, to the broadcast schedule. It was then I realized maybe things weren't going right at WYSP but looked passed it, thinking maybe the station was trying to appeal to a younger audience with crude, obnoxious humor.

But then on October 15<sup>th</sup>, I realized I underestimated the

changes at the station. The classic 94.1 WYSP had been reformatted by its owner, Infinity Broadcasting, to what is now 94.1 FreeFM, a talk show oriented station part of a national project by the corporation in preparation of the departure of Howard Stern to satellite radio. The station will still play rock after 7pm but only until January, when FreeFM nationally gets into full swing.

Howard Stern in the morning will be replaced by former Van Halen front man David Lee Roth, and other notable radio personalities will have their own hours of useless talk on the station.

The demise of WYSP has clearly illustrated how dire our radio situation has become. The Delaware Valley has but one rock station that appeals to all generations, 93.3 WMMR. Has the market in the area changed that drastically that rap stations now outnumber rock ones three to one? WMMR is here to stay at least, but I also said the same thing about WYSP at the time of Y100's end. Where has all the rock gone?

## Hallway hogs should step out of mainstream

Nicole Stefano '06

The one thing that bothers me more than anything in our whole school is the hallways. There is nothing more annoying than a crowd of people standing in the middle of the hallway talking, and not moving for anyone. They see us trying to get by, and what do they do...stand there and continue talking!

This is a simple request; if you're in a group talking, just stand to the side please. If everyone just stood to the side, we wouldn't have such a big problem with hallway traffic.

We have 5 minutes to get from point A to point B and it's just physically impossible. When we're late and tell our teacher our reason, we get yelled at and told to try harder to get to class on time.

How can we successfully get from class to class with 3,000 students in the hallways all standing in their own little groups? There is only one solution, stand to the side.

Let's try to help fix this. If we all would stand to the side of the hallway, and listen to the teachers when they ask us to do something, hallway traffic, and many more problems could be corrected.

## Inside the Mind of Mark Natale

# P.D.A.s should be K.O.'ed

Ah... high school romance.

Something about seeing teenage sweet hearts hand in hand while walking each other to class, puts a warm feeling inside all of us.

Or sometimes, a rather nauseating one.

Now don't get me wrong, I don't have any problem with some public display of affection. If you want to walk that special somebody to class, put your arm around them, and give them a little kiss as you part ways, then there's nothing wrong with that. But unfortunately for all of us that occupy the halls of Washington Township High school, there are couples out there that abuse the privilege.

We've all seen it before. One minute you are walking to get your books, laughing, socializing with your friends, and the next, there is some strange couple making out on your locker with enough fervor to make you think their lips will fall off during the next 45 minute period. Of course that is not the case, and the same couple will rush out of their class a mere 3/4 of an hour later, and begin the cycle again.

Why?

I never understood this. I mean, its not that I don't enjoy kissing of the French variety, but I have enough respect to know that my fellow students don't want to see me sucking off some (lucky) girl's face. Do they really miss each other that much during their classes? Are they trying to prove their love to the world? Are they trying to compensate for some lack of confidence by displaying to the school that they can, like the rest of us, kiss someone? I don't know what the motives for this are, but I know enough to say that I am not alone in requesting this to stop.



Illustration by Cassy Matos '07

What I truly don't understand is: Aren't these people embarrassed? How many times much teachers break them up, before their pride is tarnished enough to change their ways? I mean here they are, doing things mothers would scoff at, but they see no problem in displaying it in front of their 6<sup>th</sup> period physics teacher. Am I the only one that would cower in shame everyday during class? Maybe I'm just not as secure as those that go at it in the

hallways, or maybe, I'm just normal.

So with 6 months left of my tenure at Washington Township, I send out this one desperate plea: Just stop. Chances are, these couples are going home and doing things I can't write about in this paper, so simply wait until then. Don't turn D-Hall into a teenage brothel, and save us all from the nauseating feeling that results from it.

# Twilight's last gleaming

Dave Zappacosta '06

Senior year, the best year of our lives. The year where everything is made for us, senior prom, senior trip, Powderpuff, Mr. Washington Township, Homecoming, Winter Twilight...wait scratch that last one.

Its pretty sad that in our senior year about half of the seniors that wanted to attend the winter gala have been put on a waiting list, a.k.a. you're not getting in list. You'd think that after the last few years where Auletto's has been jam packed with kids to the point where dancing on the tables is your last resort they'd get the hint.

**GET A BIGGER HALL!**

What people also need to realize is that this responsibility falls on our student council. Shocking it may seem that these students would not realize this catastrophe in the waiting; lest we forget...they have reserved tickets

**DO SOMETHING!!!**

You're our student council, you represent us in everything and you get alot done for us and yes we appreciate you, but please after several years of this, the excuses are running thin.

The truly ridiculous part of this is that we are allowing sophomores and freshman to go as well. No offense to the freshman and sophomore classes, but this is the junior and senior dance, not the "hey lets get the whole school to come so none of the juniors and seniors can go!" dance.

Unfortunately this is not the first time this has happened. The Winter Twilight dance has been going to Auletto's for several years, and outrage is usually what follows the ticket sales.

The only thing that I have to explain this amazing pattern of behavior is simply the organizers loves to be bashed or loves to see students who sneak in get suspended. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to realize that there is going to be trouble if only 600 tickets are being sold for a school with 1500 juniors and seniors.

Does the student council expect the students that don't get to attend to sit back and go "Oh gee willickers I didn't get a ticket. Well I guess I'll just stay home with ma and pa tonight".

**Come on...COME ON!!!!**

I would continue but I'm afraid that the student council, in all their wisdom, will only ask us to print 20 issues of this paper to the 3100 students. After all, the same method worked for Winter Twilight, right?

Keeping up with Jonesy by Mike Jones '06

# Red nose traumatic to youth

Prior to a time when I had any say in what went on in the basic decorating of my room, – that was my mother's domain – it was covered with clowns. Now, as most will agree, clowns are terrifying creatures as it is, but to have one's place of rest and relaxation smothered by clown propaganda was nothing short of traumatizing to a five-year-old.

Before I continue, I feel an explanation is in order. I'll never know what scared me so much about clowns, but anything that smiled that much, in my opinion, simply could not be trusted. Why do you think no one ever seems to suspect ax-murderers of chopping people up in their spare time? It's because they just seem too nice and too happy to be real people! This is why I hold clowns in only the deepest of contempt.

As I was saying, my room was positively decked out in clown merchandise until I was old enough to demand a change. Rest assured, this is no over-reaction, on a daily basis, when I walked into my room – the cave of terror – the wallpaper would dance around me menacingly, just awaiting an opportune moment to strike, leaving me never to face one direction for more than a minute in all the time that my room had clown wallpaper.



The most terrifying aspect of the room, however, was not by any stretch of the imagination the wallpaper – though it was up there on the list. It was the 20-some odd ceramic clowns strategically placed throughout the room to have a clown-eye on me at all times.

It was this sick form of Chinese torture that gave me the biggest fright, so much so, in fact, that I started turning them to face

the wall in order to rid myself of the stare.

When my parents realized that the ceramic clowns in my room seemed to be committing suicide off of my highest shelf, they were finally moved from the room and placed in the basement (where they still face the wall at all times).

As for my room, well, needless to say, the wallpaper met its end the minute I was given authority to decorate my own room.

# Silencing Powderpuff critics

Mark Natale '06

Every year before powderpuff, the cheerleaders are addressed with the same speech. Just minutes before the game, blue and red alike are gathered to be warned. Time and time again they are told:

*"Watch what you do out there"...  
"Nothing that could be deemed offensive"...  
"There are people out there that want Powderpuff to end"...  
"Don't screw this up for next year"*

While just about all of these warnings are needed and well justified, there is one that burns me to no end.

*"There are people out there that want Powderpuff to end."*

Of course, that is not the extent of what we are told. The main point is elaborated with the facts that there are teachers in our school who think Powderpuff is a waste of time, a distraction, and completely unnecessary in a school environment.

These are the teachers you see scoffing at the signs we put up, yelling at cheerleaders to turn off their music between classes, and giving the

students glaring looks when they start their chants. This attitude leaves me with one question.

Are they serious?

Do some teachers really feel this way? Are they actually that stiff that they want to eliminate one of the dearest of Township traditions? Are there really teachers that hate fun enough to complain about the whole event?

Wait. Maybe I'm being a little too harsh. Maybe I just don't see how bad it is to have students up, involved, and active in something. It must be horrible to have kids excited about a school event. Apparently, these teachers have seen the light! School spirit is a plague infesting the minds of Township youth! IT MUST BE STOPPED!

Let me take this time to turn off my raging sarcasm.

Any teacher that fits my description needs to wake up, and realize there are beneficial things in life BESIDES schoolwork. I don't know what made them decide to promote a life of unadulterated

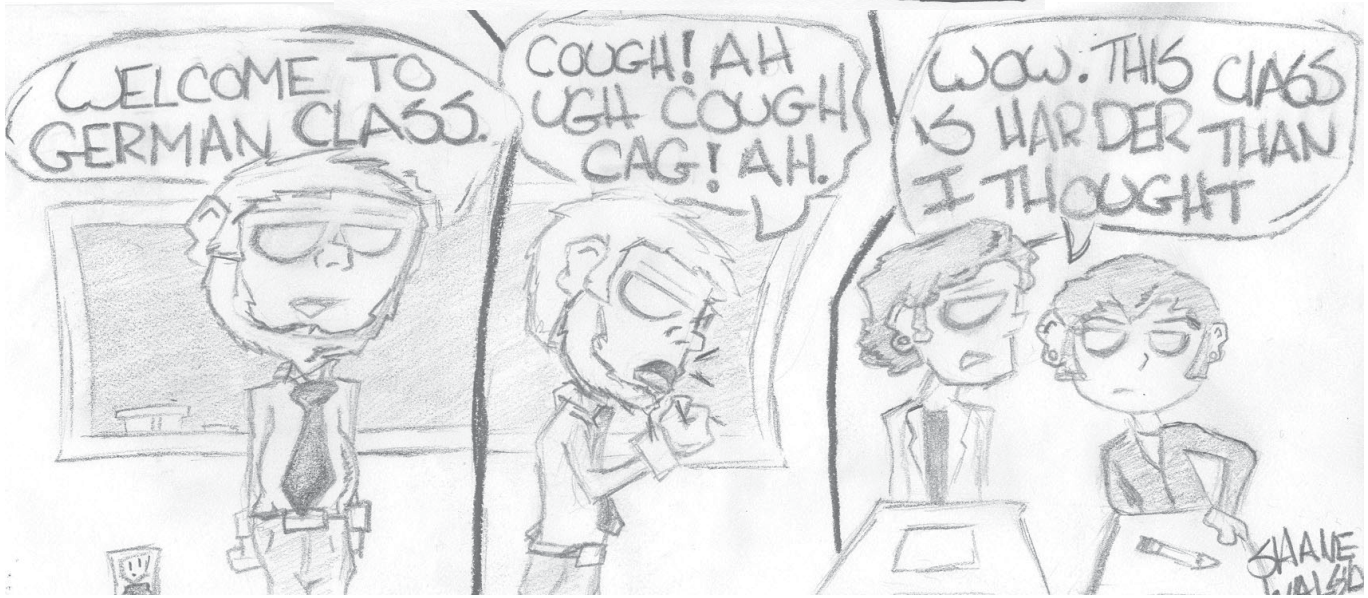
education, but it is too bad that they can't see there is more to school than simply learning. These teachers need to realize that when they ignore the social institutions running through the Township hallways, they are ignoring what truly makes kids tick. Forgive me, this isn't North Korea. But luckily, it is only an ocean away. Buy a plane ticket.

But in those teacher's defense, Powderpuff participants aren't doing much to help their cause. Just this year, one could see a disappointing abuse of the privilege of decorating the hall ways. Several times the girls were warned, and several times they crossed the line. This simply provided more ammunition to the nay-sayers, and did nothing to help prove that Powderpuff is a good tradition.



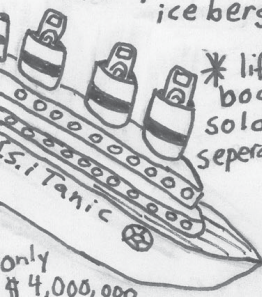
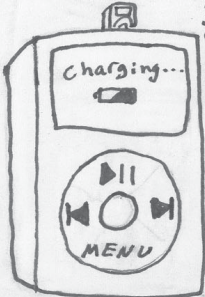




I won't argue that what happened was wrong, but I WILL argue that the students came together to atone for their mistakes, and took care of the situation. Does Powderpuff deserve to be abolished because of it? Not at all, but one can expect uptight teachers to call for it.



# COMICS



By Shane Walsh '06

|  |   |   |  |
|--|---|---|--|
| <p>NEW<br/>iPOD PRODUCTS</p>  <p>FROM<br/>APPLE®</p>  | <p>There are new stylish ways to listen to your iPod!</p>  <p>Only \$2,999.95<br/>*iPod not included</p> | <p>Warning: Keep away from icebergs.</p>  <p>* lifeboats sold seperately</p> <p>only \$4,000,000</p> |  <p>measures 4ft tall!</p> <p>*NOT a real iPod</p>   |
|  <p>this side up<br/>iGIANT HEADPHONE SET</p> <p>And for the ii Podi Bigi Podpod, buy a set of giant headphones which really serve no purpose at all!</p> | <p>Call Now!</p>   | <p>Who would waste 4 million bucks on a stupid iTanic?!</p>   | <p>Hi, I'd like to buy 3 ii Podi Bigi Podpods and an iGiant Headphone set!</p>  <p>Sigh</p> |

By Brad Grandrino '08



# Features

## State trims fat from school lunch

Bethany Messick '06

Lunch time is usually a student's favorite time of the day. You can sit back, talk to your friends, do some homework you forgot about, and enjoy some good food. Lately however, the part about the good food has slowly been shifting. Students can no longer enjoy the infamous "big cookies" and decadent Tastykakes.

Many kids think that the school is to blame for this, or that the lunch ladies are to blame, but they are not. The government is to blame for the new low fat and baked goods selection the cafeteria now offers. Each year the government audits the prices and the items that school cafeterias are selling.

The government puts certain demands on the cafeteria. Each week the school lunch has to contain a certain amount of protein, fiber, sodium, vitamins, fat, and carbs. This is why students now receive only one hotdog instead of two. With two hotdogs kids are taking in too much protein and too many carbs. The cafeteria sells smaller rolls in the cold lunch line to cut back on carbs as well. To further cut back on fat and carbs the cafeteria has been using whole grain pizza, low fat cheese, low fat mayo, and other diet products.



Photo by Bethany Messick '06/The Patriot

### The government is gradually eliminating all junk food from our school cafeterias.

The government also puts restrictions on the types of snack the cafeteria sells. The cafeteria cannot sell any product where the first ingredient is sugar. The cafeteria is also restricted to baked goods or reduced fat items.

Now you may say "Why do we have to eat baked chips, but are still allowed Tastykake Honey buns every once in a while?" This is because the

government is phasing in the elimination of all junk food. In two years there will be no more Tastykakes or sweets. Sorry freshmen and sophomores. In addition, the government plans to take away all fried foods and anything that is high in fat. Sadly, the government is also trying to make school vending machine healthier as well.

The food isn't the only thing that kids complain about, it's the prices too. Some students say that school lunch is way too expensive, but is it?

The cafeteria does not use any money the school receives from taxes. It is almost like the cafeteria is its own separate entity. The money that the cafeteria receives from students and teachers pays for the food, the condiments, the paper products, the soaps and cleaners, and the lunch ladies' services. When you think about it that is a lot of expenses. The cafeteria also does not make a profit so all of the prices are as low as they possibly can be.

Each year the head of food services, Ginny Bowden, goes to each vendor and asks how much each item costs. She then sits down and divides up all the costs and expenses to determine the prices. She tries to keep the prices as low as possible; in fact the price of regular lunch did not go up from last year.

The government is making all of these changes to the cafeteria because of the increasing rate of obese kids. The government believes that school cafeterias are not only there to feed you, but also to educate you to make smart, nutritious decisions.

## McEnroe wise choice for Queen

Simone Miliareis '06

Most students attended the homecoming game on October 14, 2005 and saw the twelve girls of the court walk out on the field anxiously in hopes of winning. After all the talk and votes, Katie McEnroe was the winner.

While opening the box and realizing she had won, McEnroe explains, "I was so shocked and thankful that all of my friends had voted for me!"

McEnroe received much support from her family and friends. Her mom ran out on the field to congratulate her.

"It made me feel so good that my family and friends were there cheering for me," she said.

After the announcement, McEnroe's family and friends left at half time to decorate and throw her a party.

"I walked in to see thirty of my closest friends waiting for me and my name spelled out in ribbon."

Homecoming was one of McEnroe's favorite memories thus far. She said becoming closer with the girls was a great experience. Even when she won, she thought about the other girls and how they all deserved it.

McEnroe is a hardworking student who takes challenging classes, most of which are Advanced Placement and Honors courses. She maintains an A GPA and was accepted into the National Honor Society last year, which she says is one of her greatest achievements. McEnroe is involved in the French Club, Project 540, and is the girls' soccer manager.

"I take all pretty hard classes, but I manage to get it done," commented McEnroe.

Her favorite aspect of the class of 2006 is that it has a lot of school spirit.

"We are a closely knit class where everyone is friends."

Now that homecoming is finished McEnroe plans to represent Washington Township High School by keeping her school spirit, staying in National Honors Society, and not

allowing her grades to drop. She is looking forward to Powder Puff and "being undefeated again!"

McEnroe's favorite aspects of school are getting to see her friends everyday and knowing that eventually all of her hard work will pay off. Her favorite teacher is Mrs. Merckle, her childcare teacher.

"She prepared me for the rest of my life and taught me all of life's lessons," said McEnroe.

Currently, McEnroe does not work and instead is spending her time concentrating on college applications, school activities, attending football games, and enjoying the best time of her life with her friends.

"Graduation will be a big step for all of us," McEnroe stated. She is excited for the future, but is reluctant to leave all of her great memories behind.

After high school, McEnroe plans to attend either University of Delaware or Towson University to major in early education and minor in psychology. Her ultimate goal is to become a child psychologist and move out to the West Coast with her family.



dennis kelly

Photo Courtesy of McEnroe family

### McEnroe plans to attend the University of Delaware.

McEnroe recognizes that the steps towards achieving her lifetime goals began in high school. Her advice to underclassmen would be "do well, get involved, and enjoy it. These are the best four years of your life."



# Taking your education seriously

I would first like to acknowledge that this is a very touchy subject and I apologize to anyone whom this may offend. Perhaps more relevant and prominent than all other health topics on the minds of teens is sex.

Every day all people, especially teenage students, are exposed to the flaunting of sex on television, movies, and daily conversation. It is important that students are aware of the options, risks, and consequences regarding sexual activity.

Students receive “Sex Ed” three times during their run in the Washington Township school district, first in eighth grade and then again in tenth and twelfth grade. Though information is available, few teens take it seriously.

I am not preaching abstinence, but there are several risks and consequences of engaging in sexual activity. One runs the risk of contracting STDs, pregnancy, and intense emotional stress. The best way to not have to deal with these things is to not do it at all, but I know that is an extremely difficult decision; to make and such a decision runs against “the grain” of high school social life.

Abstinence is the best option, but realistically, most students need to be informed and utilize birth control in order to protect themselves from the potential problems resulting from sexual activity. There are several ways, though none as effective as abstinence, in which people can be safer.

The least expensive and most widely used method of birth control is the use of condoms. Condoms are easy to attain and just as easy to use, and also provide reasonably good

protection against pregnancy and STDs.

If used correctly, condoms are 85 to 95% effective in preventing an unplanned pregnancy, according to the World Health Organization. However, a new one must be used every time you have intercourse, and are not guaranteed to prevent pregnancy or STDs.

More and more girls as they get older are using birth control pills. This is the most effective method of preventing pregnancy; if used

correctly it reduces the risk of pregnancy to “practically nil” according to Avert.org. It is also recommended that other forms of contraception be used in addition to the pill.

However, as with condoms, the phrase “if used correctly” is key.

With any form of contraceptive, whether condoms or the pill or “morning after” pills, it is extremely important that they are used correctly. Misuse and improper use drastically reduces the

effectiveness of any method birth control.

Being responsible for a baby or getting an STD will drastically change the course of any person’s life no matter whom they are and what kind of life they lead.

The best way to not bear the brunt of any resulting consequences of sex is to not do it.

If you’re going to have sex, be smart about it, and at the least, make sure you are protected and know what you’re getting yourself into.

## The man behind the monitor

Mikala Marsh ‘07

You know those people who sign your pass when you leave the bathrooms? Those people we never really talk to but you know they are always there? Well I had the chance to talk to one of the many people who help out, Mr. Walter David Rodman Sr.

Rodman, who is known to many as Walt, was born in Camden, New Jersey on June 11. His hobbies include watching and playing sports.

“I love all the Philadelphia sports teams”.

He enjoys spending time with his family, including his wife Dorris, his two sons, and his 4 granddaughters.

Nine months after Rodman graduated from high school he went into the army. He spent two years in the service and was stationed in Germany.

“It was a huge part of my life” he says about being in the service. After he left the army he went to



Bethany Messick '06/The Patriot

**Mr Walter Rodman always has a pleasant greeting for the WTHS staff and students.**

Temple University in Philadelphia on a G.I Bill. He left school after a year and half and went to work for the government at the New York Shipyard. At the ship yard is where he

met his wife, Dorris.

“It was love at first sight” says Rodman.

After a year and half of dating they decided to get married. A few months later Rodman left the Ship Yard to work for a finance company in North Philadelphia. After two years in Philadelphia he was later transferred to North Carolina.

“It’s so beautiful down there, everyone is so friendly”. After two years in North Carolina he was transferred again to Maryland.

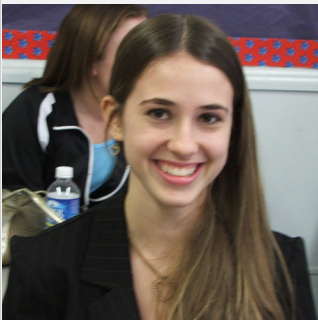
After five years he came back to Philadelphia and worked as Vice President of the First Pennsylvania Bank. He later retired from there after twenty two years. He then came to Washington Township and has been here for the last nine years.

Rodman is a positive influence on Washington Township and the people inside. He greets you with a smile as soon as you turn the corner, and a “No smoking” reminder before you enter the bathrooms. Without him, Washington Township would not be the same.

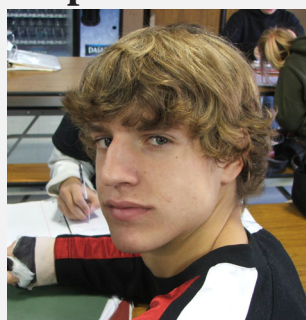
Roving Reporter Heather Ale ‘06

Photos by Matt Kienzle ‘06

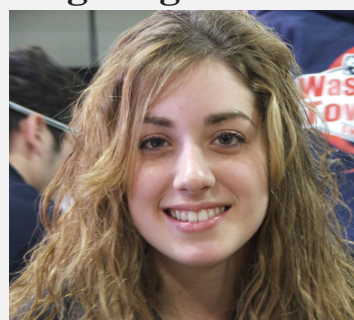
### What should the high school do with the \$25,000 grant which the state will provide for winning the governor’s award?



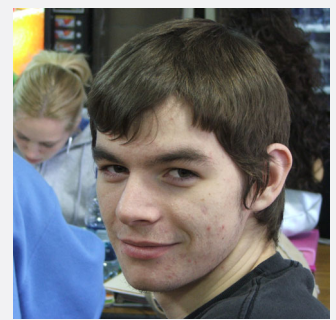
“Institute a program that motivates the children and teachers and excites them about learning.” -Christie Mason, ‘06



“New gym equipment.” -Chuck Sakenas, ‘07



“A water slide for Quay Way.” -Nicole Montecalvo, ‘06



“Hire a new Auto Shop teacher.” -Kyle Ellingsworth, ‘07

# Senior actors take charge

## Megan Bearint

Cristina Lanzilotta '06

Anyone who knows Megan Bearint '06 can tell you what an enthusiastic, funny, friendly and often seemingly insane person she is. She is a stand out in Washington Township High School's drama program and really enjoys acting.

"I grew up on stage," says Bearint. She is passionate about acting and plans to major in theater and minor in education in college.

Her main goal in life is to become a famous actress and be on SNL, but if that doesn't work she would love to be a theater teacher.

**"I grew up on stage."**

She was in her first play at the age of 4 and hasn't stopped since. Bearint has been in almost every play, musical and senior directed at WTHS since her freshman year. She has also been in productions outside of school such as "Brighten Beach Memoirs" at Rowan University. Bearint also received an "excellence in acting" award at the annual Bucks County Playhouse in 2004.

This year, along with fellow senior actress Kelly Karcher, Bearint will be one of the directors for the annual Senior Directed show. It is usually held in the 11/12 auditorium at WTHS but because of renovations it is going to be held at Chestnut Ridge Middle School, which is going to be a first for the Senior Directed

program and a huge challenge for the seniors.

Senior Directed is a show comprised of skits and "show fillers," which are basically on stage TV commercials, completely put together by two seniors who were voted on by the previous year's Senior Directed cast. Skits are usually taken from plays, TV shows or movies and the directors create the show fillers on their own. There are an equal amount of skits and show fillers to keep things flowing smoothly.

The whole point of Senior Directed is to keep everything a secret so that on the night of the show the audience has no idea what to expect. Bearint is not allowed to share any information about the show until after roles are given out to about 30 students; even then those involved are the only ones allowed to know. The objective is to have creative and original ideas for every skit, nothing repeated from years past.

Bearint and Karcher want to make this year's Senior Directed show the best ever and with their theatrical talent and flair it very well could be.

The show runs from January 19<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> in the Chestnut Ridge Middle School auditorium. Also, if you want to catch the directors in action they will both be featured in this year's fall production "Play On," which, as usual, should also be a pretty good show, here at Washington Township High School.



Rob Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

**Kelly Karcher looks forward to taking control of the Senior Directed Cabaret.**

## Kelly Karcher

Rob Davis '06

Senior Kelly Karcher is usually seen on stage either acting or singing in one of the many school performances, but she works just as hard in her life outside of the arts. Her ambitions do not stop at an auditorium's stage - Karcher's class schedule is packed, she is part of several after-school clubs, and does it all voluntarily.

She admits, "Last year I would've said [I do it all] by not sleeping, but I've been doing better with that this year."

Karcher's school schedule can be seen menacing by many others. She has sacrificed lunch this year to include another subject. Her class lineup includes four AP courses (Spanish, Calculus AB, Psychology

**"I'm really passionate about everything I do, and I always want to give everything my all."**

and European History), in addition to Advanced English, Theater Production, Dance 2, Concert Choir, and Gym. Her nine period day leaves her little time to herself.

"Free time is pretty much a foreign concept to me," she says.

Not only does Karcher challenge herself academically, but she is also part of many different school organizations. She is part of the executive board of the National Honors Society, in Drama Club, hoping to be in Dance Club, in Changing Our World, in the Student Athletic-Activities

Committee, in the school plays and musicals, among others.

With all this on her shoulders, Karcher has managed to stay within the top ten of her class, currently ranked fourth. "I'm really passionate about everything I do, and I always want to give everything my all," says Karcher.

Everything she is part of leaves Karcher little room for having a job. During the summer, though, she does have time and uses it.

She says, "This past summer I worked at Mainstage Center for the Art, as an intern for the Summer Stage Children's Theatre program. I helped direct and choreograph the show *Once on This Island* for kids grades 6 through 11."

Karcher puts lots of time into this as well.

"Most days I stayed through until the night, in between either working on choreography or working at the latch key program, when I rehearsed *Little Shop of Horrors*."

Karcher has her own ideas for already-established groups as well. She is enthusiastic when telling what musical she would like to see the school perform.

"*Once on This Island! Once on This Island!* I want it to be the spring musical so bad. There are a lot of shows that I'd love to see the theatre department put on, but I think that one's the best combination of a show I'd love to do and a show that would be good for us to do."

Despite this busy schedule, Karcher will be co-directing this year's Senior Directed Cabaret with Megan Bearint.



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

**Senior Megan Bearint looks to make the Senior Directed Cabaret an entertaining show.**

**See the senior Directed Cabaret.  
CRMS auditorium - January 19 & 20**



# Entertainment

## Not your typical slasher movie

Heather Ale '06

Possibly the most gruesome and disturbing movie I have ever seen is *Saw II*. The entire movie was an adrenaline-rushing, nail biting, gasp fest that had me on the edge of my seat.

The scenes presented in this movie were unfathomable and make you wonder how director Darren Lynn Bousman managed to pack so many gory, nightmarish visions into one movie. The terrifying scenes heightened the intensity of the movie and made it highly original despite the fact that it was a sequel.

In the spirit of *Saw*, the plot of *Saw II* revolves around Jigsaw, a psychotic cancer patient whose motto is "life should not be given to those who don't appreciate it".

Jigsaw kidnaps a group of people and challenges them to escape a lethal



**Serial killer Jigsaw terrorizes victims in *Saw II*.**

gas-filled house. The gas will kill them in two hours if they do not find the various antidotes hidden around the house.

The prisoners locked in the house are a motley crew of deviants, most of whom have seen the inside of a prison cell. Jigsaw tells his victims one thing which could potentially allow them to leave the house alive: play by his rules. This psychological twist takes *Saw II* a step above your average *Scream* and puts it on a more *Silence of the Lambs* level.

Keeping with the horror movie trend, there are a series of unpredictable twists at the end of the movie. Because of the clever twists that dominate the end of the movie, *Saw II* keeps the viewer entertained until the very last minute.

The plot may be a bit deranged but it is undeniably entertaining. The acting in *Saw II* is far better than the acting seen in *Saw*, with stand out performances from Tobin Bell as Jigsaw, who convincingly plays a

psychopath, and Franky G as Xavier, a caveman-like drug dealer.

*Saw II* is rated R for grisly violence and gore, terror, language and drug content and is 93 minutes long. Although I liked this movie, I'm warning you that after viewing it you may have to check under your bed before you go to sleep.

## Emily Rose lacks thrills

Esther Gill '06

The *Exorcism of Emily Rose*, while it was somewhat interesting, if you're looking to watch a terrifying movie, it's definitely not what you want. The previews to this movie gave it way too much justice, and horror quality that was non-existent.

When I saw all the previews to this disaster it looked like it would be a really scary movie, when in reality all it was, was a trial containing information on the exorcism. As for the somewhat frightening parts of this film, they were all shown in the previews. Honestly I was a little bothered by the fact that I had just wasted my time on this non-scary flick.

**I was a little bothered by the fact that I had just wasted my time on this non-scary flick.**

Although this movie wasn't overly predictable, it wasn't a horror film. In a way it could be considered somewhat suspenseful, unfortunately it wasn't suspenseful enough to be thought of as a good use of time. Although the plot was appealing, the way in which it was projected made it all that more distasteful.

There were a few parts in this half-witted display which I must admit made me jump, but a scary movie should leave you afraid to go to sleep that night. This movie didn't do that for me. I made sure that I went to see this movie the night that it came out, let's just say I'm upset over the fact that I took of work for this poorly made film.

If you're looking for a trial/drama to watch, then the *Exorcism of Emily Rose* is for you. If not, then I strongly advise you to look elsewhere.

## Boy gets girl, loses audience

Justine Jacobs '06

Cameron Crowe's new film  *Elizabethtown* is one of those movies that defy the laws of nature. It is written and directed by a top notch filmmaker; it stars solid, established actors. Its previews show the promise of a heartwarming, funny, and bittersweet story of love and loss.

By all standards, it should be a huge critical success and a potential Oscar contender. Yet somehow it falls painfully short.

*Elizabethtown* follows the story of Drew Baylor (Orlando Bloom) who is subjected to unemployment and public humiliation after designing a shoe that was supposed to "revolutionize footwear" but ended up losing the Nike-esque company he worked for close to a billion dollars.

Beaten and suicidal, Drew returns to his apartment to learn that his father died while visiting his family home in Elizabethtown, Kentucky and that it is up to him to travel across the country to make the arrangements for his father's memorial. On the flight to Elizabethtown, Drew meets sassy flight attendant Claire Colburn (Kirsten Dunst) who helps him through his difficult time and teaches him a thing or two about life and love along the way.

While the movie appears to stay true to the boy meets girl formula that is common in Cameron Crowe's films, it struggles with the task of balancing the love story and the funeral. *Elizabethtown* feels like two movies simultaneously with each underdeveloped tale fighting for dominance over the other instead of complementing it.

As always, Crowe utilizes his impeccable musical taste in compiling the soundtrack. However, the mix of classic rock and warm acoustic guitars that so deeply enhanced Crowe's superior films seems stale and inappropriate in *Elizabethtown*.

Unlike the powerfully moving musical moments created in *Jerry Maguire* and *Almost Famous*, the well-crafted soundtrack is hidden in the background, droning on behind scenes that call to mind better days in Crowe's career.

*Elizabethtown* does have its highlights. Look out for Alec Baldwin in a humorous appearance as Drew's billionaire boss. Susan Sarandon is wonderful as Drew's mother who has gone into utter



**Star performances by Dunst and Bloom aren't enough to save *Elizabethtown*.**

shock following the death of her husband and has taken up all sorts of new hobbies including tap dancing and stand up comedy. The cheesy wedding party of Chuck and Cindy who are staying next door to Drew's hotel room also provide some temporary laughs. Yet these brief instances of humor can't save this film from its flaws.

Despite abundant potential, *Elizabethtown* never rises above its dueling plot lines. Crowe's extensive writing skills and flair for powerful dialogue are noticeably absent from this script and all of *Elizabethtown* suffers because of it. This sub-par film is even more disappointing considering the talented mind that produced it.

# A 'Wonder' to behold

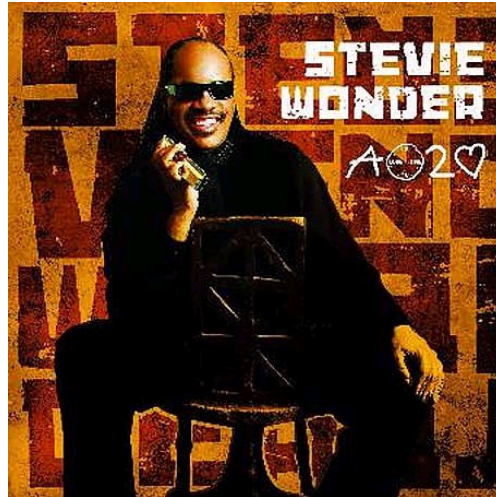
Rob Czyzewicz '06

After a ten year period without a studio release, Stevie Wonder has returned to the music scene with a huge bang. His new album is entitled, *A Time 2 Love*, and it is his first album since the 1995 critically acclaimed compilation, *Conversation Peace*.

Many of Wonder's fans are expecting this album to propel him back into the upper tier of artists and entertainers that he once headlined. Primarily in the 1970s, Wonder was viewed as the most creative and innovative artist on the planet. In fact, it is believed that in the 70s, Wonder could do no wrong, musically speaking.

He released eight albums in that decade, including three Grammy 'Album of the Year' winning LP's that included such classics as, *Innervisions*, *Fulfillingness's First Finale*, and *Songs in the Key of Life*, which many believe to have been his greatest work to date.

For the following 15 years, he released only seven additional studio albums. Then he was uncharacteristically unheard from for ten years. While he did make appearances on the albums of many other artists, he did not put out any new material of his own.



*A Time 2 Love* is Stevie Wonder's first new album since 1995's *Conversation Peace*.

But on October 18<sup>th</sup>, all of that changed. The long awaited 15 track album is available in stores. This album will make Stevie Wonder a household name again, it will undoubtedly make him once again relevant in today's popular music. Not only that, this album furthers the notion that he is more than prominent in every musical category, whether it be rock, soul,

R&B, jazz, pop, or hip-hop.

Wonder felt as though he needed to take his time to make his record "right." He believes that it is important to create collections that work as full concepts, not just a couple of sure-fire hits and some filler. He certainly accomplished his goal with *A Time 2 Love*. The record has been hailed by many critics as being worth the wait. The album included three duets, including *How Will I Know* which features his daughter, Aisha Morris, for whom he wrote *Isn't She Lovely?* 30 years ago.

He is also accompanied by India.Aire on the nearly 10-minute-long title track and by gospel vocalist Kim Burrell on *If Your Love Cannot Be Moved*.

Another song, *Shelter in the Rain*, was originally written about the recent deaths of both his brother, Larry Hardaway and his ex-wife, singer Syreeta Wright.

However, the postponed release of the CD coincided with the Hurricane Katrina disaster, and typical of Wonder's humanitarian work, he is contributing the proceeds of the song to Katrina-relief efforts and organizations.

It is doubtful that Wonder will ever be viewed as a has-been. *So What the Fuss*, the first single from *A Time 2 Love*, which features Prince on guitar and En Vogue as backup singers, debuted at No. 13 on the Billboard Adult R&B Chart, possibly on inertia of the Stevie Wonder legend alone.

Wonder's accolades include being a member of the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame, a Billboard Music Lifetime Achievement Award winner, and he has collected a record 22 Grammy awards in his career. *A Time 2 Love* is expected to contend for yet another 'Album of the Year' award.

To people our age, Wonder will no longer be just the other blind piano player that Jamie Foxx didn't portray in that movie, or the blind celebrity that President George W. Bush allegedly waved at. He will once again be known as a lyrical genius. This album absolutely represents why Stevie is still truly a musical Wonder to behold.

# Apple back in gear with *Machine*

Justine Jacobs '06

After the release of her 1999 album *When the Pawn...* (the one with the ninety word title) and a rather bizarre and public mental breakdown, Fiona Apple seemed to vanish entirely from the world of popular music. Now six years later, she has reappeared on the scene with a new album, *Extraordinary Machine*.

Her absence from music has certainly not been due to lack of trying. *Extraordinary Machine* was



Fiona Apple returns to music with *Extraordinary Machine*.

actually finished in May of 2003, but her label, Sony, wasn't happy with the album and shelved it. Apple, fed up with the process, didn't put up much of a fight, until a group of devoted fans petitioned the label for the album's release. Apple began reworking tracks with a new producer, and the results of both the original and secondary sessions make up the *Extraordinary Machine* that was released last month – her best album to date.

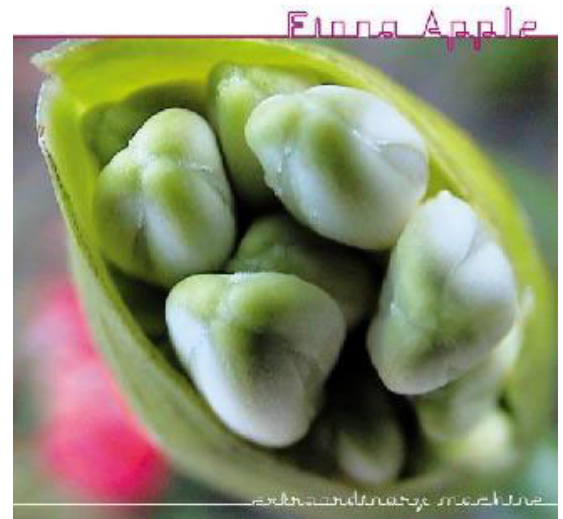
*Extraordinary Machine* is a mature and reflective break up album. Much of Apple's third CD was written following her break up with writer and director Paul Thomas Anderson, and tracks such as *Get Him Back* and *Oh Well* paint a picture of a woman scorned who is determined to get the last word.

Apple, whose music has always been very lyrically driven, has never been so solid in her wording. In *Window*, she compares her relationship with an unfaithful lover to looking through a dirty pane of glass ("Better that I break the window/ Than him, or her, or me"). Apple shows off her wit in *Parting Gift* when she says the man she was kissing looked "Just as sincere as a dog does/ When it's

the food on your lips with which it's in love."

Apple also has shifted slightly away from the r a m b l i n g , jazzy feel of *When the Pawn...* and has adopted a catchier and more diverse sound. *Tymp*s (*The Sick in the Head Song*) features a hip-hop beat in addition to Apple's usual piano. The

title track boasts a quirky orchestration or horns, woodwinds, and plucked strings that is very different from Apple's previous record. *O' Sailor*, the first single, is a catchy, piano driven tune that many fans may recognize from a preliminary version of *Extraordinary Machine* that was leaked on the internet while the album was still hauled up in the Sony vaults.



*Extraordinary Machine* is Apple's best album yet.

*Extraordinary Machine* evolves as it progresses. While it is at times funny, strange, clever, sad, and bitter, the one thing it is *never* is bad. Fiona Apple struggled to bring this record back from the dead, and, in doing so, once again proved herself to be one of our best songwriters. *Extraordinary Machine* most definitely lives up to its name.



# Greatest Hits showcases Queen's genius

Margaret Bonanni '09

Few bands personified the pure dynamism of the '70s like Queen. Throughout the '70s, '80s and early '90s their flamboyant, mock-operatic, fusion of rock and classical music astonished listeners and brought them dozens of chart topping, number one albums and singles that made them a wildfire in the music industry. With one of the most characteristic, ostentatious, and vigorous front men in music history, Freddie Mercury, it's no wonder that Queen is one of the most influential bands of the century, giving wake to punk, and held only second to the Beatles in popularity. This all shows on their newest greatest hits album *Greatest Hits: We Will Rock You Edition*.

After several feeble attempts of putting out a greatest hits CD, I think we finally found the perfect contemplation of a long awaited, single disc Queen collection. Queen's 2004 release *Greatest Hits: We Will Rock You Edition* has seventeen songs and three bonus tracks including live versions of "Under Pressure", "Tie Your Mother Down", and the Jaguar commercial music, "I'm in Love with My Car". With favorite tracks on the CD such as "Bohemian Rhapsody", "We Will Rock You", "Somebody to Love", and "Killer Queen", this CD, in my opinion, is perfect representation of

Queen throughout the decades and their radical music.

To start off the album right, "Bohemian Rhapsody", Queen's signature song, is featured as the first track on the CD. With its mock-operatic and bombastic structure spiced with metal riffing, this song is one of the most powerful songs on the CD. The lyrics are nothing short of perfection and the song really



**Queen is one of the most influential bands in rock history.**

encases the musical genius Queen is well known for.

What proves the musical genius of the song are the vocals and music which mix operatic choruses, with powerful flamboyant hard rock climaxes. Also, it's what put Queen on the charts at number one, leading

the path for many other number one hits. With its exquisite distinctiveness *Bohemian Rhapsody* is a symbol of later music that was to come from Queen over the decades.

The seventeenth track on the album is *We are the Champions*, another son that made Queen famous.

With a smooth melodic piano and a blazing guitar line, and ostentatious yet humble vocals, I think this song is what gave Queen their reputation for variety.

This song embodies the band's tolerance and acceptance of people no matter what their circumstances. The lyrics again, are nothing short of perfection, revealing a more personal side of the band, and serve as an anthem of open-mindedness towards individuality.

It's a must-listen on the CD along with *We Will Rock You*, and *Killer Queen*.

In a nutshell, *Greatest Hits: We Will Rock You Edition* is the



**Queen's new greatest hits album is inexpensive and skillfully mixed.**

ultimate Queen CD, including all your favorite songs. It's a must buy for any fan and perfectly captures the essence of Queen and they're sensational, influential music. For people who just started listening to Queen, it's the perfect way to preview their music and get a taste for what they're famous for. Inexpensive and superiorly mixed, I think it's a must have for your Queen collection.

# The Atlantic look on to bright future

Evan DeGeorge '06

The average WTHS student enjoys a variety of activities including sports, shopping, video games, partying, and in some cases, even working. But for these musically inclined students, the highlight of their day is getting together and playing music with their band.

This group of students, who call themselves *The Atlantic*, have been playing together since October of 2003. The band is comprised of guitarist Jeff Salkowski '08, bassist Kyle McCloskey '08, drummer Kevin Ferry '07, and vocalist Pat McCue '08.

Though they are best friends now, when the band first got started, they weren't really friends at all and simply joined together out of convenience.

"In seventh grade I was in homeroom with our bass player, Kyle [McCloskey]. I didn't really know him, but he came up to me and asked me if I played guitar and wanted to be in a band. I did, and it's

been that way ever since," says Salkowski.

The members of *The Atlantic* all share very similar musical inspirations, namely *Incubus*. While McCue '08 shares the same musical tastes as his band mates, his list of influences includes one act his friends might not agree with.

"My musical inspirations include the bands *Incubus*, *Saves the Day*, and *Boys II Men*. Yeah, *Boys II Men*. They're beautiful singers...beautiful men," laughs McCue.

Music has become a pivotal aspect of these young men's lives. To them, both playing and listening to music has become as normal a part of their day as eating or sleeping.



**The Atlantic perform at The Trocadero in November.**

"I listen to music when I'm feeling emotional, like when I'm happy or depressed, or just to pass the time. Some people say they would die without music. I just say music can really enhance your life," says Salkowski.

McCue and Salkowski, who do most of the songwriting for *The Atlantic*, say their songs reflect on things that happen in their everyday lives. Relationships and emotions are common themes, but their songs can be about anything that may be on their minds.

"Everyone writes lyrics based on their lives, even if it's political, or anything that emotionally inspires you," says Salkowski. "We write music mostly about things that happen in our lives, like girls and stuff. But we

try to keep it interesting and abstract and try different things."

While the musicians of *The Atlantic* were just acquaintances who only had music in common, over time they've developed a strong bond and a deep sense of friendship that is beyond what they share with other friends.

"These guys are my best friends. We're like a family," says Ferry.

The long term goals of *The Atlantic* all involve having a career in music or, at the very least, somehow keeping music a part of their daily lives.

"My dream is everyone's dream, to be a rock star," says McCloskey. "Everyone wants to be famous. But other than that, I want to be working somehow with music technology."

These talented young individuals plan to continue to make music that comes from their hearts and are excited about seeing their fan base grow as they look onto a bright future in music.

If you'd like to know more about *The Atlantic*, visit their website, [www.TheAtlanticMusic.com](http://www.TheAtlanticMusic.com).

## Team effort holds strong

Cross country squad captures 8th in Meet of Champions

Matt Kienzle '06

With their recent South Jersey title, fifth place showing at the state championships and their first ever qualification for the Meet of Champions, the WTHS boys cross-country team continues to impress and prove to doubters that it is a force to be reckoned with in the cross-country world.

"Any runner who has ever competed in New Jersey has dreamt about qualifying for the Meet of Champions," says senior team Captain Mark Natale, "making the Meet of Champions just exemplifies the hard work and thousands of miles that we've put in over the past few years."

The team began the season ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in South Jersey, and they protected that ranking all season. But they had their eyes on the South Jersey Championship from the start.

"With last year's disappointing sectional performance looming in the back of our minds, we remained focused and looked to win the South Jersey Sectional Championship this time around," said Steve Dunn '06, another senior runner. The team finished eighth in South Jersey, during last



Seniors Andrew Morris, Steve Dunn, Chris Choate, Bill Matthias, Mark Natale, Kevin Williamson, and Mike Jones are seen in the Cherokee Dual Meet.

years sectional meet, which made this year's all senior team that much more determined to get the job done.

And that they did. The cross-country team reemerged in a big way with a first place finish at sectionals, the first in WTHS history, outlasting arch-rival Cherokee with a score of 63, and qualifying for the state championship meet in the process.

The state cross-country championships were a huge event. They took place at Holmdel Park in Colts Neck, New Jersey, which, on this particular Saturday, had been taken over by runners. The park was filled with team tents, and athletes were running in every direction warming up for races.

"It was a surreal day," says Dunn, who finished fourth among Township

runners, who gave a very strong overall performance.

The team was paced by Bill Matthias, who placed 18<sup>th</sup> overall in a field of 143. Brett Salmon and Natale finished next for Township, placing 27<sup>th</sup> and 41<sup>st</sup> respectively. Drew Morris was the final Township runner to qualify for the overall team score which only takes the average of the top five team finishers; he was 50<sup>th</sup> out of 143.

After the dust had settled and the runners had cooled down, WTHS had placed fifth in the state out of the 26 Group 4 schools that had qualified for the race, and had posted a score of 170.

Not only did their efforts yield a fifth place finish, the team was rewarded with an invitation to the New Jersey Meet of Champions, and the MOC is just that. Only the top three teams from each group race and the next top two overall team times will qualify.

"Qualifying for the MOC is the dream of any runner in New Jersey," declared Natale, "standing on the line with all the best runners in the state was an experience none of us will ever forget."

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222 in the core to  
join Mr. Holmes  
and the rest of the  
STAT PACK  
members in a  
lively debate about  
your favorite sports  
news and topics.

## Soccer stopped in states

Mike Dougherty '06

The Varsity Boy's Soccer team had a promising start, but finished with what most players considered a disappointing season. A season that they had very high hopes and goals for, including going far into and winning the State's Tournament. Defenseman Tom Verchio 06' describe the season as, "A good thing that ended too early."

Dropping a couple close games the team felt that they could have won. The team ended the regular season with a 7-4-2, good enough to earn a ninth seed in the State's Tournament and to obtain a 3<sup>rd</sup> rank in the Conference.

The team was at a disadvantage in the first tournament of the year, The Coach's Tournament. Because it entered the tourney with a low rank, the team was forced to play the eventual winners of the event, Rancocas Valley in the first round, losing to them 4-2. Team co-captain, Rob Playo 06' stated that their rank would have been much better if they

had not dropped a "heart breaking game" to Bishop Eustace before entering the Tournament.

Although the team agrees that the season was an overall disappointment they acknowledged that it was full of memorable moments. The significant coming on Senior Night, a night game, played under the lights and on the new turf. The team won 5-0 over Paul VI, arguably their best performance of the season.

They came off this emotional high to enter the State Tournament. Similar to the Coach's Tournament, the team thought that a better rank was obtainable if they hadn't lost some winnable games in the regular season.

The team entered the first round of the tournament on the road against a worthy Atlantic City opponent. The team won this game 2-0, featuring goals by Rob Playo 06' and Jim Bradley 07', and a shut out by senior goalkeeper Joe Demarco.

In the second round of the tournament the team drew another

tough opponent their rival, Shawnee. A team that has always given them trouble and ended their season last year in the same round of the State's Tournament.

With this in mind the Varsity team entered Tabernacle, NJ with optimism to beat their skillful adversary. The team came out and played a decent defensive game, but it was accompanied with an offense that only managed to get one significant shot on goal. The game ended with the team being bounced from the tournament by Shawnee again, by a score of 3-0.

Team co-captain and forward, Rob Playo 06' said, "It stinks losing to the same team every year, it just gets old."

Even though the season ended earlier than the players would have wanted, it still had its high points which the team feels it can improve upon next year. The team is set to lose eight seniors to graduation, but they feel that the under classmen played well and that next year will be a successful one.



# V-Ball finishes 11th in NJ

Matt Kienzle '06

Despite their loss in the quarter-finals of the state tournament, the WTHS girl's volleyball team had a very successful season.

At the time of their 2-1 season ending loss to East Brunswick, the girls were ranked eleventh in the state, and they were rewarded with a first round bye in the tournament. After the bye, they handily disposed of an overmatched Old Bridge, in a 2-0 rout.

The team was led all season by first team All-Olympic Conference player Karen Martin, and second teamer, Abby Verillo, who gave huge contributions to their team's 10-11 record.

You may be saying, 'how can a team be 11<sup>th</sup> in the state with a losing record?' Well, it's because WTHS had one of the toughest schedules in all of New Jersey. They played Cherokee, Cherry Hill East, Eastern, and Southern, twice, all of which are top ten in New Jersey.

The team was coached by Barbara McBrearty, a gym teacher at Orchard Valley, and one of the most well-known coaches in the state. She consistently demanded the best from her athletes, making sure the senior heavy team did not disappoint.

The volleyball team's record is deceiving and shadows a season which was loaded with team and individual accomplishments.

Why be an athlete when you can be an athletic supporter?

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See Mr. Holmes in G-222 for details.

# Sibling Unity

## Cregar twins energize Township swimming

Cassie Cregar '07

Mike Lewis '07

In Washington Township High School there is always a lot of hype and excitement surrounding sports like football, hockey, and basketball. With all the excitement they create, some other great sports like swimming seem to get lost in the mix.

You may not have known that one of the state's best high school swimmers attends WTHS. Cassie Cregar is a junior whose accomplishments include placing 2nd and 3rd at the State Swim Meet, and making the time standard for National cut this summer.

Cregar hasn't always been this good. She has been swimming since she was about 5 years old and says to reach the level that she has, you really have to build yourself up. Cregar has never really felt any pressure about swimming.

"Don't fear failure; just try your best, that's all that matters." She said.

Much of her time is spent swimming. She has nine practices a week that last three hours each.

Having so much of her free time going into one thing does not seem to bother her because she loves what she does and the practices are enjoyable due to her love of swimming, her teammates, and her coaches.

Despite giving a lot of her time to swimming, Cregar manages to get good grades and participate in Interact at school. She says her favorite school subject is Biology because she finds it interesting, which makes it easier for her to learn.

Cregar doesn't have a lot of free time to hang out with friends because she is always swimming. She says that it doesn't bother her though.

"I make a lot of friends swimming," she says.

One thing that Cregar really likes about swimming is her coaches.

"My coaches really motivate me to be the best I can be." She says, "I wouldn't be where I am without them."

Motivation is one thing that she definitely seems to have plenty of. She says that she swims because she really loves the challenge of trying to be as good as possible and doing better than she did the last time.

Cregar says that it is good to have another swimmer in the family because they can help each other.



Nick Contino '07/The Patriot

Cassie and Bill Cregar have been swimming since early youth.

Bill Cregar '07

Nick Contino '07

Bill Cregar '07 seems like an ordinary teenage boy. He enjoys hanging out with his friends, golfing, and he's a good student, but that only disguises his greatest talent. He is truly one of the best swimmers in New Jersey.

Last year, he was ranked fourth in state. He swims on a USA club team with Speedo's sponsorship, and on Washington Township's swimming team. He's also been to the Junior Nationals and the Junior Olympics.

Cregar started when he was 4 years old. He always loved water when he was younger. One day, his dad threw him into the pool and he began to swim. Then he met with a swim coach and after trying out, he was accepted to be on the team.

"When my dad threw me in, I just started to swim," he said.

Cregar entered his first swim competition just a couple years after he started swimming.

"At my first competition, I was nervous, but excited."

It wasn't too long until he finished first in one of his races.

"I was very proud of myself, and it felt like all that practice really paid off," says Cregar.

Practicing is a big part of his life. Cregar practices in the mornings three times a week, and practices after school everyday. He plans everything around swimming so he can have the most possible time to practice.

With the remaining spare time he has, he does his homework, and maintains A's and B's throughout the year. His "home field" is the Gloucester County Institute of Technology's pool.

At practice, he swims with his team. "At practice, we are always pushing each other to get better," Cregar says.

Well, all that pushing finally paid off when the USA club team and Speedo decided to take Cregar on board. Speedo supplies the team with free swimming suits every meet.

"It's an honor to be on a USA club team and swim for the best swimming goods brand in the country," says Cregar.

Now that he's on the team, he isn't famous. Sure he has colleges, supporting fans, and teammates who know him, but not everyone knows of him. He hasn't made a splash yet outside of the pool, but that doesn't bother Cregar.

"I don't swim for popularity. I swim because it's fun," says Cregar.

Cregar is now ranked in the top three in the state and is ranked in the top sixteen in the country so people should start to recognize him not only at the pools.

Cregar holds many records, including the four-hundred long course meters freestyle (4 min. 10.2 sec.) and the four-hundred long course meters individual medley (4 min. 37.1 sec.) on the USA club team.

On the high school team, he holds the five-hundred short course yards freestyle (4 min. 38.8 sec.) and many more.

But for Bill Cregar, it isn't about the records. It's about the love of the sport.

"Swimming is very beneficial to you because you can do it for the rest of your life, it keeps you in shape, and all you need is some water," says Cregar.

*Welcome to the Sports Authorities. Throughout the year, Mike Dougherty and Rob Czyzewicz will be giving you our point-counterpoint on various issues in sports. We are two senior editors on The Patriot staff. We are known to disagree with each other about everything, and we want to pass along the debates to our reading audience.*

## Manning: best despite playoff past

Rob Czyzewicz '06

There are certain players in professional sports who are among the greatest in the game, but for whatever reason, are always criticized. The perfect example of this is the Indianapolis Colts' Peyton Manning.

Manning always gets blamed for never winning the "big game", and for that reason, people are quick to say that he is not the best quarterback in the league. However, his play throughout his career proves that not only is he the best quarterback now, but he is probably the best in the last ten years.

Coming into the 2005-06 season, Manning has thrown for 29,696 yards and 218 TDs. He is currently tied with Dan Marino as the fastest player to reach the 30,000 yard mark, and his is the second fastest to reach 200 career TD passes.

For those who refuse to believe that Manning is not the best simply because his playoff record is weak,

does the name John Elway ring a bell? While it is true that Manning is 3-5 in his eight career playoff games, Elway was also ordinary in his first eight playoff games, going 4-4, while throwing five touchdowns compared to seven interceptions. He did not win a Super Bowl for 14 years, but no one ever had the audacity to say that Elway was not the best in the game. Manning has only played for seven seasons in this league. Not to mention the fact he is only 29 years old, so opportunity



**Manning's vision and on-field adjustments make him the best.**

for winning the big game will present itself again.

While the case may be made for Tom Brady, one must take into consideration that Brady has had much more around him than Manning. While Brady does n't have the big name offensive players that Manning does, he has had a true team that is made up for 40 stars in this league. Not to mention the fact he is a product of a flawless system,

and is led by a genius coach in Bill Belichick. One could also claim that the Patriots would not have won two of those Super Bowls without Adam Vinatieri, the most clutch kicker in the game.

There is always the old adage that "Defense wins championships", and since that seems fact, it is imperative to point out that the Patriots have had one of the best defenses in the NFL, whereas before this season, the Colts have had a below average defense in the Jim Mora / Tony Dungy coaching eras.

It is more than unfair to place all of the blame on Manning for not winning the big game, when it is more than obvious that it takes a whole team to win the Super Bowl, and Brady's Patriots are the prime example of that. Manning's vision and intelligence of the game is what makes him the best, and not his postseason record.

## Brady shines when it matters

Mike Dougherty '06

Peyton Manning is not the best quarterback in the league, for one simple reason, Tom Brady exists. While Manning's last year's regular season stats are impressive (49 TDs and 4500 yards), it still doesn't shadow the fact that he has never been to the Super Bowl. Quarterback is a unique position, while stats matter they are not the most important point in determining a great quarterback, it is winning and more importantly championship rings.

For this mere fact it is why Tom Brady is currently the best quarterback in the NFL. Brady's stats in the regular season may not hold water to Manning's, but in the playoffs the two are incomparable. While Manning is only 3-5 in the playoffs, Brady is an unprecedented 9-0.

He has led two Super Bowl winning drives, not to mention one as a first year starter and a 14 point underdog. Manning on the other hand is yet to win a big game in his career,

and early round playoff games don't count as big games, it is league championships and Super Bowls, none of which Manning has won or played well in.

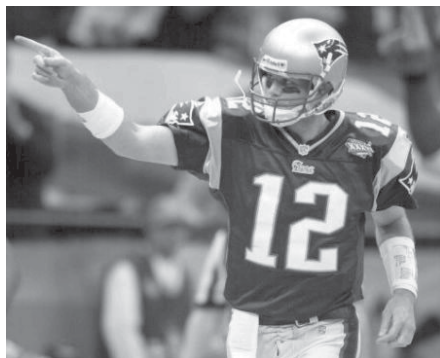
Going back to Manning's college career, he never won a Bowl game, and also failed to beat SEC rival The Florida Gators. All this was done with a great college team Tennessee, who was always ranked among the best in the nation.

The team was good enough to win a National Title; we know this because with basically the same team, now out of the league Tee

Martin won a National Title game with them.

Manning also has a lot more offensive talent around him compared to Brady. Manning has Edgerrin James, one of the best running backs in the league. James also makes the play action sell more when the defense has to honor James' skills.

Also the receiving corps that Manning has is much better than what Brady has to work with. Marvin Harrison is the best receiver in the league, and Wayne is arguably one of the best second option receivers in the league. Also the third



**Brady leading his team to victory at the right time.**

option Brandon Stokley is a very good slot receiver. You could also say that it is a lot easier to throw in dome during November and December, than it is in cold Foxboro.

When you compare Manning to some of the all time greats you can't ignore the association with Marino, a great quarterback with good stats that just can't seem to win the big game.

Another comparison that you can't ignore is the one between Brady and Joe Montana, two quarterbacks that are a little above average during the regular season, but during the playoffs they turn into leaders that win the big games necessary to win championships.

So given all the statistics the choice is yours, as to who is the best quarterback in the NFL. I and most all football historians believe that it is championships and not regular season statistics that make you the best. While Manning has regular season MVPs Brady has Super Bowl MVPs, and those are the one that you are remember great quarterbacks for.