

# The Patriot

Issue #2

December 17, 2004

## Devine choice for Homecoming Queen

Ashley Horan '05  
Stephanie Staskin '05

On Friday, October 29th, 2004, at halftime of the football game, Senior Makenzie Devine was crowned Homecoming Queen.

"I was really shocked. It took me a second to realize I had won," said Devine.

Although many predicted her to

win the title, even Devine had been shocked when she initially heard the news of her nomination on October 8th.

"Honestly, when I heard the first couple girls nominated I wasn't that surprised," said Devine. "Then all of a sudden, people were cheering for me. I was just like 'What? Was I nominated?'"

Nomination was the beginning of a busy two weeks for all of the girls, but before they knew it, homecoming had arrived. Dresses were bought, escorts chosen, nice cars picked out, hair appointments made and a multitude of family members informed of the event. Most of the girls agree that they were filled with a mix of emotions that school day.

"I was feeling a little bit of everything. Stressed. Anxious. Excited,"

stated nominee Christine McGuire.

Stressed is definitely the word to describe it. After getting through the long school day, most of the girls rushed home to get ready for the event. Before the start of the game, cars needed to be in the Acme parking lot, and escorts had to arrive by seven. The girls were expected to have their things in O'Brien Hall and to begin getting ready by the end of the first quarter.

With twelve girls, most of their mothers, and perhaps a sister or friend or cousin or two, not to mention the nerves, it seems as though the locker room would have been nothing less than chaotic.

However, Devine admits that it



Photo courtesy of Makenzie Devine '05

### Homecoming Queen Makenzie Devine and escort Neil Hlawatsch.

helped that all the girls knew each other pretty well.

"All the girls just got along great," said Devine. "There was just a lot of respect from everyone."

See **HOMECOMING** p. 2



Jamie Recchino '05/ The Patriot'

Nominees and their escorts prepare for the big announcement.

## Spirit Parade displays pride

Greg Stern '06

WTHS held its 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Spirit Parade on Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2004. The stadium was packed, and although the price of admission also included the football game, the crowning of Homecoming Queen and the fireworks show, one of the best shows of the night was the Spirit Parade.

Student Council, Dance Club, Interact, and Spanish Club were just a few of the many organizations that participated in the parade, and many students toiled for weeks and weeks preparing their floats.

"The Spirit Parade is great because it really brings out the creativity in people," said Kara DiPinto '05, a member of the committee that puts together the parade. The participants wore matching outfits, sang, danced, threw candy, waved flags and even rode bicycles and ponies.

"[Being in the parade] was an unbelievably fun experience!" exclaimed Ian Hopkins '06.

The Spirit Parade is also an opportunity for many organizations

to showcase what they do. The Fire Company brought a truck to the parade, reminding us what an asset they are to the community.

The Spirit Parade was judged by a panel of teachers unaffiliated with any of the clubs involved. The judges are nonbiased and vote for the entrant they think is the most spirited. While all the entries were full of spirit and showed plenty of effort, eventually the winner was decided upon and received the \$100 prize. This year, Junior/Senior Class Council won first place and the prize, and Student Council was runner-up.

Yet, even with all the good spirit and fun, complaints have still arisen. Some students and faculty say they feel that the competition is discriminatory against smaller clubs.

"It's unfair that clubs with limited budgets must compete with clubs which can spend more than the prize money on their floats," remarked a

disgruntled participant who wishes to remain anonymous. While it is true that some clubs cannot afford the more extravagant decorations, all of the floats were very well presented.

"Everyone really put a lot of time and effort into their floats," said Mrs. Naval, the Interact advisor. All in all, the competitive aspect of the spirit parade took a backseat to the exhibition of school spirit, and Township spirit was in full display all night.



Photo courtesy of Christine McGuire '05

Student Council displays Township spirit with their float.

### Inside...



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# Good Friends, Good Music, Great Coffee House



Darby DeCicco '05/ The Patriot

## Tom Reed '05 playing drums for Anguish In Her Eyes.

Darby DeCicco '05

"I wanted to get out on a Friday night," said Cathy Beatty '08, while she and friend Stephanie Foran, also '08, hung out at the SURE club's Coffee House on Friday, November 12. Beatty, Foran, and plenty of others like them turned out at the year's first coffee house and found it to be a Friday night well spent.

"It brings a lot of people together," said Robin Cagey '05, who was helping to run the "thrift store" section of the event.

That sense of togetherness seemed to be stronger than ever this year, due to the fact that the Coffee House was held in honor of Ian Stout.

"So many people came out and volunteered," stated Jes Johnson '05, who was a stage manager at this year's event. "We put a lot more effort into making this one a success."

With half the proceeds of ticket, thrift, and concession sales going to a scholarship fund founded in Stout's name, success was more important at this event than any before.

"It's great for everybody to get together," said SURE advisor Mr. Todd Oberholtzer. "Raising money for a good cause makes it all the better."

## The large turnout, variety of music, and opportunity to help the Ian Stout Scholarship Fund made this Coffee House a big success.

And get together people did, whether it was to support the scholarship, hang out with friends, or check out the music.

"I was interested to see what bands were playing," said Angela Buziak '05, who, like many others, was hoping to hear something she liked.

With a lineup that ranged from the sweet, laid-back covers sung by Kimberly Hoffstetter '06, to the energy-driven songs of local band Acidium, to senior Brian Malvey's heartfelt, acoustic sound, there was bound to be something to fit everyone's style.

"We wanted to share our music with other people," said Steve Taylor '05, whose band, Perhaps She'll Die, played at the event.

"It's a place to play shows where everyone can have a good time," agreed Rudi Saldia '05, who performed with his band, Anguish in Her Eyes.

Yet many wondered if some people were having too much of a good time.

"I thought the violence was disrespectful," Johnson said, speaking about the pushing, shoving, and violent dancing that she and other SURE members had specifically requested the audience avoid.

Johnson explained that any injuries or damages that occur on school grounds can land the SURE club in big trouble and make the administration reconsider allowing future Coffee Houses to take place.

"It was just really disappointing," she said.

In spite of these minor problems, however, both SURE members and other students agreed that the large turnout, variety of music, and opportunity to help the Ian Stout Scholarship Fund made this Coffee House a big success.

"It's awesome," Saldia concluded simply.



Darby DeCicco '05/The Patriot

## Amanda Kennedy '05 and Archemere Academy student Jeana Allan '05 enjoy the music and their friends.

# Art Club explores new forms

Lillyan Ling '08

This year, the Art Club is learning new things.

The club this year is focusing its theme on having students discover and learn new ways of art. This is done by separating the club into different committees, each with its own topic. The areas to explore include: crafts, drawing, and painting. A separate committee was focused on creating a patriotic float for the Spirit Parade on October 29th.

"I think the art club is a great place for students who are artistic to express their creativity, and to meet others that share their love for art," says Ms. Smith, who is the advisor of the club.

With the option to explore new ways of art, students this year get to express themselves in even more creative ways.

The crafts committee, for example, is working on making candles and Christmas ornaments. The candles are painted with holiday figures such as angels or nutcrackers. Glass Christmas ornaments are etched with decorations. They are to be sold as a fundraiser and the money will go towards a possible trip to the Art Museum in Philadelphia.

The Illustrators group, another committee, mainly consists of artists that enjoy or are skilled at drawing. Some pictures that have been drawn by this committee's members will be submitted to *The Patriot* and *Pieces*, the literary magazine, and published there.

Painters, meanwhile, are currently finishing up projects that remain uncompleted from the previous year. The paintings include pictures from children's books such as *Miss Spider*. When finished, they will be hung in the district elementary schools' IMCs to be admired by everyone.

Other future projects may include painting benches in Quay Way, and decorating parts of the school with permanent artwork. Origami and making other crafts and jewelry are other little activities

the club will be doing as well.

Altogether, Ms. Smith is happy with how the club started out.

"We're really getting many things accomplished," she comments. "I'm looking forward to a very productive year!"

Sound interesting? The Art Club is always open to new members. It is not required that you be enrolled in any art class if you want to participate. If you have any new ideas, the club is open to suggestions. As long as you enjoy art and have some sort of skill, you are welcome.



Trina Chan '08/ The Patriot

## Art Club members work on a poster for the upcoming dance marathon.

# Nominees Enjoy Experience

HOMEcoming from p. 1

With five minutes left in the first half, the girls moved from O'Brien Hall to their cars, which were in line with their escorts and drivers waiting patiently. Devine chose her friend Neil Hlawatsch.

"We have been friends for a while, and he just seemed like the perfect fit," she said.

Most of the girls would say that riding on their cars in front of family, friends and their fellow students was something to remember.

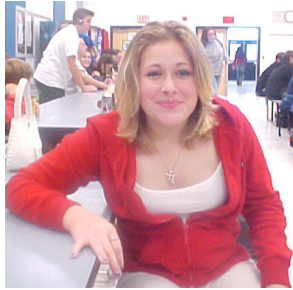
"The most exciting part was driving around the track in my car with Bob [Bernardo], my escort," said nominee Christine McGuire. "Everyone was screaming our names and trying to get our attention. It was one of those times where you just have to sit back and live in the moment because I will never experience anything like that again."

All the girls agree that homecoming was a once in a lifetime event of which they were lucky to be a part.

# Roving Reporter

Dimple Kothari '08

## “What’s your favorite thing about Thanksgiving?”



“Eating tons of turkey and spending time with my family.” - Amber Mastrogiacommo '08



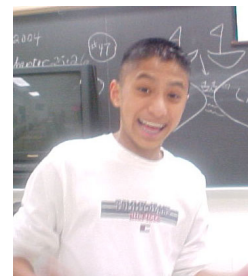
“I like the part that involves no school and lots of food.” - Kurt Pflugfelder '08



“Actually having a great time with my family and having a wonderful holiday.” -Chelsea Oliver '08



“Spending time with my family, having off from school, and having time to relax.” - Alaina Renz '07



“I like being with my family and friends for the holiday. I also like all the turkey.” -Charles Gayagoy '08

## Buddies walk to aide Down’s syndrome

Heather Ale '06

On Sunday, October 3rd, hundreds of people gathered at Washington Lake Park to participate in the annual Buddy Walk.

The Buddy Walk is arranged by an organization called Buds, which is in charge of the entire event. They control the walk itself and the games that visitors can partake in.

WTHS' Interact club, a club devoted to community service activities, gives Buds a helping hand and runs game booths like the dinosaur bounce, slide, ball pit, and football toss.

Many Interact members helped out with the occasion. While some helped set up in the morning, around 7:00 am, others worked in shifts running the game booths.

All agreed that it was an exciting event.

“It took a lot of work to keep the Buddy Walk running smoothly, but it was a good time,” Leanne Ryan, '06, said.

Although the Buddy Walk turned out well there were still some small problems. Some volunteers felt that some parents of children with Down's

Syndrome were a bit controlling in the way they allowed their children to play the games. A few made sure that their children were first in line, regardless of the other children.

This small annoyance may have disrupted a few people, but it was easily overlooked.

“[I think that] all of the Interact members had a great time that they can share throughout the years,” enthused Lauren Seserco '06.

All agree that the Buddy Walk is a great act of community service that people can feel good about taking part in, and that most people, children and adults alike, walked away a little more giving and much happier.

Ashley Horan '05

For the second year in a row now, Student Council's annual Senior Kick-off Dance was moved from its original location in Quay Way, to the 11/12 gymnasium due to the weather. That aside, the dance, held on October 15, was a hit among the seniors once again.

This year's theme was “Enchantment under the Sea”. Cut-out fishes covered the walls, blue streamers hung from the bleachers and balloons that spelled out “2005” were placed on the dance floor. Student Council members arrived at school a

few hours early to set up for the event, which turned out to be a great time.

Even if dancing wasn't their thing, many seniors came out to support their friends in the homecoming court. Every year the court is presented, along with their escorts, for the first time in front of the senior class.

Most of those who did attend would agree that Senior Kick-off Dance is a great event in which to participate.

As WTHS senior Matt Godish put it, “I went to the dance because it's senior year and you don't get too many chances to boogie oogie on.”

## Seniors boogie at Kick-off Dance

**Wind Ensemble and Concert Choir  
Winter Concert  
December 21 in the CBAC  
7 PM**

# Commentary

## Referendum deserves support

Lauren McGuire '05

Here at Washington Township High School, we are known for our athletics. It should be no different for our facilities. We have beautiful baseball, soccer, and softball fields, not including our brand new tennis courts installed in the summer of 2003. So why do we continue to have a track from the 1960's circling our old football field.

The track that WTHS has now is over 40 years old, this dusty cinder track that opened with WTHS in 1962. Many would agree that over 40 years is along enough wait for renovations to our track and stadium field. Yet it's nearing the end of 2004 and both remain.

Within the past couple years local students, athletes, and parents, have petitioned for the installation of a new "outdoor all-weather track", and in December we'll find out if all that hard work will finally pay off. Since the end of the 2003-2004 school year the Board of Education here in Washington Township, has put together our December Referendum, which is broken down into two parts

that will benefit our school district and community.

Part one consists of the very important installation of 2 HVAC systems at Chestnut Ridge Middle School, and Orchard Valley Middle School, for the resolution to the mold situation. Part two contains many aspects starting with security devices in all schools, renovation of the 11/12 auditorium for a more relaxed yet intimate setting, the building of a new storage area at the High School, and the installation of an all weather track and 2 synthetic turf fields. As voters go to the polls on December 14<sup>th</sup> many will question the necessity of our athletic facility renovations, but there are many important details that need to be shown.

Throughout our state, many Group IV schools have already stepped up into the future and installed nicer facilities than the ones here at WTHS. In fact, WTHS is the last competitive Group IV School in the state without an all weather track. Eastern High School is the newest high school to join the reigns of renovations and install their new synthetic turf field. The biggest

outcomes of installing an all weather track and a turf field will be obvious once instated. Presently our track meets, soccer games, and field hockey games, have to be cancelled after a hard rain. All that can change with these improvements, less cancellations, and less schedule conflicts.

Many events happen on our stadium field now, but with the turf fields we can jump from 30 to 200 events a year, and make WTHS the place to be not only indoors at our CBAC, but also outdoors in our own stadium. The track will be open for community use and will improve training and education facilities for our school district. These among with many other points are the benefits that will be noticed and admired by many with in the schools, town, and community as a whole.

WTHS athletic history has echoed throughout the community, the state and in some aspects the nation. Names such as Todd Dutch, Michelle Rowan, Hugh D'Imperio, and Mike Koerner, have been recognized and remembered in WTHS history. Just imagine the ability of these alumni if our school had better facilities. Look

at the facilities through the eyes of the students or speak to the faculty in the physical education program or athletic department, and they will all be in agreement that it's time for better facilities.

After a long and tiring venture we can only hope for one outcome on December 14<sup>th</sup>. It's important that students interact with those who can voice their opinions in the polls, because even though many of us can not step into a school and fill out a ballot, we will be the ones that this decision will directly impact. Throughout this process I have attended meetings, interviewed Board of Education members, and put the information out there through television, word of mouth, and now our own school paper. Many have questioned my involvement with this referendum, seeing that I graduate with the class of 2005 this upcoming spring. As an involved student the only answer I have is full of confidence and pride. I truly care about the future of our school district and want to see WTHS students, faculty, and Washington Township community members get what they deserve.

## No pep rallies, no loss

Michelle Scott '07

Pep rallies; two words that make some students start bubbling with school spirit and make everyone else emit a little groan of dislike. For many people, pep rallies are seen as a waste of time or just another opportunity for administrators and the athletic department to force school spirit on you.

However great it may be for those kids who have friends who are involved in athletics and/or enjoy the shows that the cheerleaders put on, for the kids whose friends are in the local band instead of on the local football team... well; most are left sitting there wondering when it's going to be over.

After going on an information chase around the school, I was able to find out that the last time Township had a pep rally was two years ago; it was melded with the Spirit Parade and held in the football fields where a decent-sized crowd of people attended.

Unlike some high schools, pep rallies aren't really a tradition for Township, but instead are held if scheduling allows and if it can be organized.

Once I started talking to a few administrators/teachers/guidance counselors, it hit me: no wonder they don't have during-school rallies for the entire student body. Where would they put us all? Certainly not in the CBAC; it's only designed to seat about 2,500 people, and that's if you use the balcony seating. With a little over 3,000 students, it's just impossible to put us all in there; plus, there's no way administration would allow students to sit up in the balcony. There's always going to be that one kid who thinks it's hilarious to hang over the railing, and most of the time it is, until one of their friends smacks them on the butt and sends them flying to meet the people seated directly below.

Some might be saying:

"Well, just hold it in the football fields. It works well enough for the spirit parade and stuff." Yeah, let's just herd 3,000 students out of the school and make sure they all get to the football fields. With limited security, a good handful of students would probably end up ditching the event and just walk home. The rest would suffer though a speech by an assistant principal about school spirit

and the importance of attending these things, all while sitting in uncomfortable bleachers outside and sitting closer to people than you ever really wanted.

I guess when boiled down, pep rallies are just an unneeded hassle. Between the people who can't stand sitting through them, and the people who get headaches organizing them,

they end up being more work than they're possibly worth. Although some may argue that it would increase school spirit or be a "bonding" experience for students, more than likely, a spirited assembly isn't going to bring peace between social groups or make them more enthusiastic about school.

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# Eagles' season of dreams, a nightmare for non-fan

Jamie Valentine '05

I can never remember how much I hate fall until it gets here. Sure, the leaves changing colors are pretty, and being able to break out the sweaters is cool, but you have to deal with endless nasty political advertisements, and of course, football season.

I despise football season like Kerry people hate Bush. I hate hearing about scores and stats and football parties on my eleven o' clock news, taking up airtime that should be used to inform us about something that matters, like, say, the mass genocide in Sudan or terrorists trying to free Chechnya. But I guess local news is a supply and demand business, and if the Philadelphians are raring to watch yet another "newscaster" out at someone's tailgate party, then that's what they're going to show.

And, good gravy, the chanting. I don't think I would mind football as much if the Eagles didn't have that god-forsaken chant. I don't think people realize how, frankly, uneducated, it makes people from this area appear. We look like absolute morons to the rest of the country, and we don't care as long as our guys are kicking butt.

Another little annoyance of mine is that fans insist on calling it "my team", as in, "My team is doing great. We are going to the Superbowl."

You aren't going anywhere, buddy. Having a fantasy football team and religiously watching every game in no way makes you a pro football player.

I think the reason Philadelphia fans are so fanatic is because in the back of their minds, they know it can't last. The thinking is, hop on the bandwagon fast, before the bandwagon crashes and burns, and let's make it the loudest and most obnoxious bandwagon there is!

I know! Let's have a fight song and have *mummers* play it! Because, to quote my grandfather, one of the biggest Eagles fans I've ever come across, "If the Eagles are winning, don't worry, they'll find a way to screw it up."

So it's nothing to get all worked up over, and I think everyone needs to take a deep breath and maybe even pick up a book this Sunday.

# Lions and Tigers and ... Us? Oh My!

Joe Comerford '06

When rooting for your home team many fans get pretty raucous whether it be heckling certain players, or chanting obscenities at the other team. Sometimes it does get out of control as in the case of the Washington Township High School's hockey game against Clearview on Friday, October 1<sup>st</sup>.

The game had to be stopped with seven minutes left to play in the third

**"The main problem is those kids in Washington Township High School. They're animals."**

**-[Hockey League] President Michael M. Pontonio Jr.**

period because several fights between Clearview parents and Washington Township Kids had broken out. Several police officers had to be called in, and everyone was thrown out of the arena and into the parking lot.

"The main problem is those kids in Washington Township High School. They're animals." This is a direct quote from South Jersey High School Ice Hockey League president Michael M. Pontonio Jr., of Magnolia. The quote appeared in an article in the

Darby DeCicco '05

We all spend our high school careers looking forward to it. We wait for it, dream about it, and complain that we can't have it. It's the coveted senior privilege of being able to drive to school, and we all spend a lot of time as underclassmen dreaming of how fantastic it will be.

For those of you who are still underclassmen, take it from me and keep dreaming while you can.

While driving to school can be convenient if you need to stay after school or maybe come in early, I've learned from first hand experience that it's not all it's cracked up to be. And from what I've seen so far, it's pretty much all our own fault. As far as I can tell, we as a senior class are not careful, considerate, or thoughtful drivers.

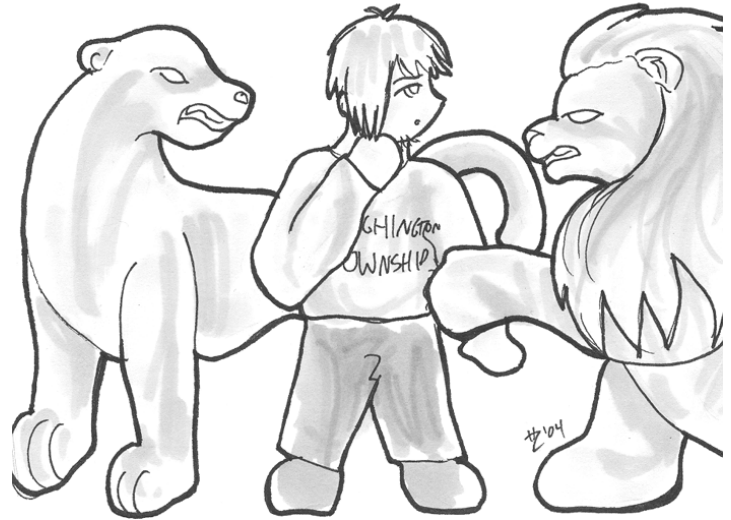


Illustration by Helen Zeng '05

*Gloucester County Times* at the beginning of October shortly after the game took place.

I admit the fans were a little bit rowdy, but so were the Clearview fans and most of them were parents. There was reportedly a fight between a parent and a WTHS student, but it's only the WTHS fans that get criticized. Even though the fans were boisterous where does someone, in this

case the president of the SJHSIHL, have the right to call a group of dedicated students "animals" when that person was not even at the game.

I was angry and disappointed when I read this statement; I felt that in order for Mr. Pontonio Jr. to make such a broad generalization of a student-body three thousand strong, that he would have to spend time with all three thousand of us.

## Parking lot pandemonium

To begin with, I can't take much more of this cutting people off and not letting people in. The after school traffic in the parking lot is horrendous enough and I understand that a lot of people have places they need to be. If everybody were to let just one person into line ahead of them, don't you think we'd all be on our way a lot more quickly?

Of course, it's not just good manners we need to work on. It's also simple things like doing the speed limit and following the flow of traffic.

I'll never understand why anyone needs to whip around corners and speed through parking spaces, but I see people doing it every morning. I know nobody's flying through the parking lot because they'd like to get to homeroom

twenty minutes early, so I'm not sure what the big hurry is.

I would, however, take a dozen speed-demons who know what they're doing over any number of people who are simply unsure of their driving skills.

Let's face it; some of us are just bad drivers. But in a crowded parking lot of newly-licensed teens, a bunch of bad drivers is a really bad idea. So if you *know* you have trouble parking your car straight, or if you can't back out of your spot because driving in reverse confuses you, or if you've had four accidents in the past three months, maybe driving to school is just not for you.

Driving to school as a senior is supposed to be a privilege. Hopefully, bad driving won't turn it into a year-long nightmare.

*We would like your input!*  
 Submit all stories, ideas, or responses to:  
**WTHSPatriot@gmail.com**

# Entertainment

## Video Review

### A movie to get you out of hard times

Hannah Desmond '08

Only Tim Burton could pull off a film in black and white. Ed Wood is one of those movies. It's about a lonely director, Ed Wood, played wonderfully by Johnny Depp (*Secret Window*). Depp blends Ronald Regan, the Tin Man, and Casey Casem to create Edward D. Wood Jr. Sarah Jessica Parker (*Sex and the City*) plays his girlfriend, whom he wholeheartedly steals angora sweaters from.

Martin Landau, who achieved an Oscar for his role, stars as Bella

Lugosi, the washed up movie star who seeks refuge in Ed Wood by starring in some of his movies, including *Glen or Glenda*, *Bride of the Monster* and others.

Throughout the whole movie, I was really entertained, particularly by Martin Landau's swearing in a Hungarian accent, and by Johnny Depp's angora fetish. It's really a great movie, and though not many people saw it when it was released, I don't think that matters.

Ed Wood is really a movie that can get you out of the hardest times, simply because there's no one who

could have had it harder. He was so driven at something he was so bad at. All he wanted to do was 'tell stories', like he says in the movie. Wood is an eternal optimist and wants to be



Johnny Depp stars as offbeat director Ed Wood

photo courtesy minadream.com

## New Release

### Disney's new adventure is a treasure

Scott Grandrino '05

Over the Thanksgiving break, I was fortunate enough to see Nicolas Cage's new thriller, *National Treasure*.

As a history freak, I thought the movie was excellent. It kept me on the edge of my seat. It was funny, action-packed, and exciting. It reminded me of a modern day version of *Indian Jones*, except it all took place in the comforts of home (Washington D.C., Philadelphia, and New York) instead of places in India and Asia.

Nicolas Cage plays the role of architect Benjamin Franklin Gates. The Gates family is a well-known family with a history-filled past, that believes in a secret society called the Masons, which came into existence during the Crusades. The society's members consisted of people like Benjamin Franklin, George Washington,

Thomas Jefferson, and many other of our founding fathers.

The Masonic society was formed to protect treasure that was stolen from Egypt thousands of years ago. This was exceptionally valuable treasure that kings in Egypt fought over for many years. After the

#### The movie is an exciting and fun thrill-ride.

fighting, the last king to have the treasure hid it in a secret temple.

During the Crusades, knights from England came across this hidden treasure and created a society to protect their find.

When the American Revolution occurred, all of the Mason's members were fighting on the American side. They all made a pact to hide the treasure, and never see it again, so that the British would never find it.

assured that he's a good director even though so many people think otherwise.

Unlike his main character, Burton is a brilliant director, no matter what he does. Ever since *Beetlejuice*, I've been a fan. He's done so many good movies; it's hard to pick which is the best.

*Beetlejuice*, *Edward Scissorhands*, and *Ed Wood* are the best movies he's made. Of course there are many others, but those stand out in my mind.

Johnny Depp is a fabulous actor and can do anything, so in my opinion, he could have been in drag the whole movie and it would have worked.

Ever since his first partnership with Burton in *Edward Scissorhands*, the two clicked.

Depp continued to work with Burton on other movies such as *The Man Who Cried* in which he played the poet William Blake.

In between starring in Burton's movies, Depp has starred in numerous films such as *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *Benny & Joon*.

These movies only solidified his place as the best actor there is in my book and *Ed Wood* only made his mark permanent.

The Masons' members passed down clues, of the whereabouts of the treasure, from generation to generation. Ultimately, the Gates family were the only ones left with the clues.

Most people in the film believe that the story of the hidden treasure is a myth. However, Nicolas Cage's character is determined to find the treasure by any means necessary. To assist him in his endeavor, Cage has the last clue remaining to the treasure's location.

Along the way, Cage finds more clues, which lead to even more clues, and makes it seem like an endless journey. The other problem Cage faces is trying to find the treasure before his ex-partner finds it and sells it.

The movie is an exciting and fun thrill-ride. I enjoyed every minute of it. Nicolas Cage gave an outstanding performance. This is definitely a movie worth seeing in theaters.

## Video Review

### More than a sequel

#### Shrek 2 amazing in more ways than one

Cheryl Supernavage '06

The dispute about whether sequels are better than original movies is still questionable, but *Shrek 2* definitely contributes to the view that they are just as good.

Compared to *Shrek*, *Shrek 2*'s plot is just as exciting. In most sequels, the original story idea is replicated, but *Shrek 2* brought a whole new feeling to *Shrek* movies. Instead of needing to rescue Princess Fiona, maybe *Shrek* is the one who needs the rescuing when he is faced with a new challenge, meeting Fiona's parents.

The actors and actresses chosen for the vocal roles were the perfect picks. Even though they could only use their voices to bring their characters to life, each actor fits the part perfectly.

*Shrek* and Princess Fiona seemed like a real married couple, and *Shrek*'s in-laws were even more convincing because they acted just as any parents would who were skeptical of their son's or daughter's chosen mate.

Aside from the acting, the film is visually amazing. So much detail was used with the characters and scenery that only the fact that you are seeing ogres and talking animals brings you back to the reality; that you are watching an animated movie.

Fiona's home town, the Kingdom of Far Far Away, was one of the most enjoyable aspects of the movie. When first introduced to the town, you could pick out restaurants and stores familiar to Americans, only with minor name changes.

For example, Starbucks was called Farbuck's Coffee, and when the fairy god-mother stopped for fast food, instead of going to Burger King, she went to Friar's Fat Boy. The similarities brought fun and amusement to the movie.

The resemblance to contemporary Hollywood is also relevant because in the world of fairy-tales, kings and queens, princes and princesses hold the same appeal to the public as actors and actresses do in the U.S.

*Shrek 2* is an incredible movie in more ways than one and deserves to be viewed as more than a sequel.

# Youth choir creates “Unlimited” possibilities

Trey Miller '05

In our generation, people recognize music as a form of expression. Many individuals express themselves differently through music. Many people who are musically inclined may play in the marching band, form their individual group or band, or perform as a soloist.

Pursuing singing as a profession takes time and patience. If you believe your dream is to pursue music, then you need to gain as much experience as possible.

Nothing excites 17 year old, Brandon Saunders '05 more than being an active member of the youth-centered Joy Unlimited Mass Choir.

Saunders' talent was evident at a young age. His grandmother noticed that he had a gift. He had the gift of song.

She recognized his vocal ability and suggested that he sing for their church. He always wanted to be a part of church functions as a little kid.

As a youth member of Metropolitan Baptist Church in Philadelphia, Saunders had many different responsibilities involving his church. His main focus was to be a part of his youth choir.

Gospel music not only fascinated him, but eventually became his passion. His father is skilled at playing certain instruments, but he didn't necessarily influence Saunders.

Saunders states, "Gospel music in general has always been my influence and has always been in my life... it's what moves me."

During mid 2003, Saunders became a member of the youth gospel choir called Joy Unlimited. Joy Unlimited Youth Mass Choir is a group of over 100 young people, under the age of 21, from different churches, who enjoy ministering through song.

There are no specific requirements to become a member.

**"I couldn't ask for a better experience."**

**- Brandon Saunders**

Brandon exclaimed, "The door is open for anyone who enjoys singing for the Lord."

According to Saunders, the choir's goal is "to save souls and inform people who don't believe about the goodness of the Lord".

The choir was founded in 1990 by the late, John B. Samuels. Throughout its 11 years of existence, nearly

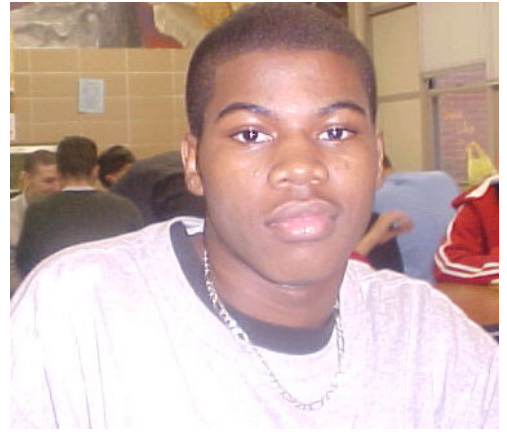
1000 young people have participated in the choir. They have performed with well-known gospel artists, made television appearances, completed an album, and competed with other choirs around the US. This past summer the choir traveled to Florida to compete in several concerts over the course of three days.

Saunders said, "I couldn't ask for a better experience."

The choir rehearses every Wednesday night. Saunders attends every week because rehearsals give him the chance to do what he loves to do.

According to Saunders Joy Unlimited plans to record a new CD and continues to strive to recruit more individuals who are willing to praise the Lord in song.

Saunders is going to continue participating in this active choir. "Music will always be in my heart. My joy comes from music."



Trey Miller '05/The Patriot

**Brandon Saunders is an active member of Joy Unlimited Youth Mass Choir.**

Music has been a big part of Saunders's life. He learned how to express himself through music and it has given him priceless experiences.

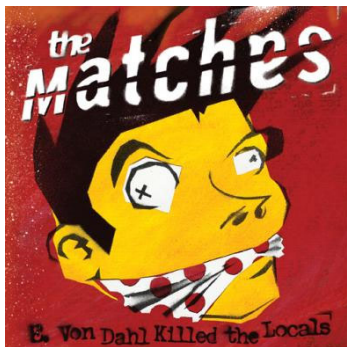
This what he enjoys most. He believes that having a gift, such as a talent for singing, is one thing you shouldn't keep hidden.

Everyone has dreams to follow, and he feels that Joy Unlimited is a great start for any aspiring gospel artist.

## Matches' debut lights up your CD player

Tina Sisto '08

Way back on Tuesday, May 11, 2004, a punk rock quartet known as The Matches released their very first album entitled E. Von Dahl Killed the Locals.



To rid your confusion over the title, E. Von Dahl was the guy who signed this California band to Epitaph records, thereby killing their locality and exposing them to the world.

Their first major gig was at Warped Tour 2004, but enough about that; let's discuss the CD. All 12 tracks are jam-packed with originality and creativity. A rather interesting song is track 12, whose title is literally

scratched out. On the CD it is entitled "Scatched Out," yet if you look it up on the Internet, in most cases, you'll see that it is called "Track 11."

Despite its title peculiarity, the song is one of the most original I've heard. Including lyrics such as "toothpaste makes my orange juice sour" and "compulsively charging CDs to my account," the song most probably will be one of your favorites.

Track 2 is entitled "Audio Blood," which expresses the thrill of going to shows. I especially adore this song, and it was actually what triggered my interest to purchase the CD. "Destination: Nowhere Near," track 10, represents the life and memories of touring on the road.

These and all other catchy tunes on this album are sure to grab your listening interest immediately, so why not reward your ears and grab your copy of E. Von Dahl Killed the Locals today? Finding it in stores may be a tad difficult, so check out smartpunk.com to purchase it. To learn more about the band, go to thematches.com.

Warning: This CD will reside in your player for a long time.

## New horror flick may leave you holding a Grudge

Julia Verniero '05

If you've been reading all the hype about the new Japanese horror flick *The Grudge*, don't be fooled; this isn't your normal horror movie.

When I entered the theater I was expecting the horror flick of the year. Instead I experienced a slow, disorienting beginning leading into a nonlinear, predictable story line lacking greatly in plot.

This movie skips around to different time periods, which makes it difficult to follow. It takes place over a course of three years and does

not specify which scene takes place at what time. The nonlinear scenes resemble the movie *The Butterfly Effect*. The difference is several elements of *The Grudge* were never explained. The lack of transitions between the scenes makes it difficult to follow.

To sum up the basic idea of this movie, it's scary, but lacks a plot. If you are the type of person who goes to the movies purely to be scared, then this movie should satisfy you, but if you are someone like me who desires more from a movie, like a plot, save your money.

*The Grudge* is a bland and predictable ghost story with a little extra blood. It won't keep you guessing.

Spending money on *The Grudge* is a waste. Although it does contain some mildly scary and gory scenes, the story line is weak and the plot is predictable.

It seems that between here and Japan, something got lost in translation.



photo courtesy imdb.com

**Scares from *Grudge* get lost in translation.**

# Green Day still going strong

Rachel LaBattaglia '06

"Don't want to be an American Idiot" were the first words Green Day fans heard when they popped the new disc into their CD players on September 21, 2004. They were listening to *American Idiot*, the 9<sup>th</sup> full-length release and the 7<sup>th</sup> studio album from the Berkeley, California based trio. Singer/guitarist Billie Joe Armstrong, bassist Mike Dirnt, and drummer Tre Cool have released an ambitious, politically charged, yet thoughtful punk rock opera.



Green Day has clearly shown a more ambitious and mature side without losing their punk roots.

The first song "American Idiot", is also the first single off the album. "American Idiot" and anti-war "Holiday" present a more political side of Green Day. This part of the album is Green Day's response to the feelings of fear and insecurity that have recently been stirring in Americans.

The second track, titled "Jesus of Suburbia", is one of two nine minute songs (each comprised of five mini songs) on the album. In this song, Jesus of Suburbia, one of the characters on the album, is introduced. Other characters include St. Jimmy and Whatsername.

These characters are developed throughout the album. All of the characters share the same feelings of being outcasts and have trouble finding their places in the world. The use of reoccurring themes and characters are some of the qualities that give *American Idiot* that punk rock opera feel. The transitions between both the mini-songs and the tracks are very smooth.

Although Green Day has taken a different approach, the album undeniably sounds like the pop-punkers that are loved by so many. Green Day does mellow down in a few songs like "Are We The Waiting" and "Wake Me Up When September Ends".

However, most of the album is filled with classic Green Day sounds similar to those of the earlier albums. Ten years after the release of *Dookie*, the rockers still have not lost their edge and attitude that emerges through the charging guitar and Billie Joe's melodic vocals. *American Idiot* also features the rare vocals of Mike and Tre which are heard on the other nine minute song, "Homecoming".

In this album, Green Day has clearly shown a more ambitious and mature side without losing their punk roots.

# A game you'll play forever

Mike Nagle '08

Does this remind you of anything? Incredible sound, addictive gameplay, good voice over work, and a game that you'll play forever? No, it's not *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* or is it *Halo 2*. It could easily be a sleeper for Game of the Year. The game I'm talking about is *Katamari Damacy*.

You must be wondering, what do you do in this game? It's simple; you roll a ball and pick stuff up. The story is that your dad destroyed all the stars in the sky, and it's up to you to make them again. You roll around and start picking up small things like dice or Legos; as you get bigger, you'll pick things up like cars or animals.

This might sound stupid to a lot of people, but I could not put down the controller because the game is just so addicting.

In the graphics department, its not a Halo-style game. In fact, this game looks like a PlayStation One game. That might sound bad, but I really didn't mind the poor graphics. In fact, you'll see a lot of detail, which makes up for the graphics somewhat. A good example of detail is buildings, when you first start small you'll get a feel of how huge they are. until you get bigger and they start looking puny. It doesn't help the graphics that much, but it's a nice touch.

The biggest problem with this game is the controls. You basically move your character with both analog pads. Now the problem with that is it's sometimes a bit difficult to move

your guy. I had some difficult times moving him left or right. But the controls are pretty simplistic overall, so I didn't mind it that much. I just wish controlling the character wasn't so frustrating.

Lets get away from the problems and go to the best part about the game This has got to be the best music in a game ever. When you pick objects up, you'll hear the sound for that particular object. From phones ringing to dogs barking, and cars honking to people screaming; you'll hear all of it

The best part of the audio is the soundtrack that goes with it. With a lot of Japanese Pop music to techno beats in it, you won't understand a word that the people are saying. But you'll still get these songs in your head because it just so catchy.

Overall, I've got to say, for a kid who's played video games for ten years; I am really surprised by this game. I was totally blown away by this game. It's surprizing how little attention this game is getting. To me, its easily up in the ranks of *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* or *Burnout 3* for Playstation 2 Game of the Year.

There are, however, some problems with the game. The controls are a bit stiff, and since the game is so crazy and insane to look at, it can be hard to get into it. But, with great detail in audio and graphics, addictive gameplay, a great soundtrack, and the \$20 dollar price tag, I cannot see how anyone who loves video games can't pick this game up.

Believe me, this game will blow your mind and leave you wanting more.

# New show breathes life into high school dramas

Cheryl Supernavage '06

Problems and situations teenagers face everyday are usually of great interest to high school students. ABC's new show, *life as we know it*, displays common occurrences in real, yet funny ways.

The show revolves around the lives of three boys and three girls. The twist is that you get an inside look on the boys' thoughts and feelings by freezing the moment and allowing them to talk directly to the audience.

Each student portrays a stereotypical character. For the boys, there is the good-looking athlete, Dino (Sean Faris), who struggles with his beautiful girlfriend, Jackie (Missy Peregrym) by asking her for sex. The witty and intelligent Ben (Jon Foster), who is pressured by his parents in school, has fallen for his teacher, Ms. Young (Marguerite Moreau). This dangerous attraction makes Ben run

off to see Ms. Young rather than focus on school, resulting in a drop of his grades. Lastly, the unconfident, creative Jonathan (Chris Lowell) is dating the unusual Deborah (Kelly Osbourne), causing him to get teased by his friends making him even more insecure.

As for girls, there is the sporty, beautiful, smart Jackie who works hard for her future on the field as well as in school. Sue (Jessica Lucas), the musical and fashionable writer, pushes herself to the limit in school, participating in plays, sports, music, debate team and a variety of other activities. In her mind, Sue has her dream set with aspirations for writing in the magazine, *Vanity Fair*. Deborah, eccentric and funny, helps her boyfriend break out of his shell with her open-mindedness and confidence.

*Life as we know it* is extremely well-written. Compared to *Dawson's Creek* and *One Tree Hill*, it seems more accurate with situations actual high



photo courtesy of tvtome.com

## Young stars of *life as we know it*

school kids would face instead of interesting storylines that make for an unrealistic but enjoyable show.

Even though the characters look older than their age, their acting skills

don't let that affect the believability of the show. The characters say and symbolize what high school students think and feel but are just too afraid to admit.

*Life as we know it* is full of drama and comedy as you grow to like and respect each individual character as well as get caught up in the show.

With the show's current performance and ratings, it is likely to be around for a while.

Tune in every Thursday night at 9 o'clock on ABC to watch these high school students learn and grow. We can only hope that these six new friends fill the spot of the "Friends" we recently lost.



# Features

## Blood drive succeeds despite delays

Mallory Heimlich '05

October 15<sup>th</sup> was a day of problems for Washington Township's ROTC and the senior in charge of running the blood drive, Cadet Captain Sarah Toomey '05.

The corps successfully had 130 donors sign up to give blood at this year's American Red Cross and ROTC blood drive, and pledged to donate 100 pints of blood.

"We were pleased with the student turnout and the amount of donors who wanted to participate," says Cadet Lieutenant Colonel Valerie Smaldone '05, the commander of the ROTC corps.

Unfortunately due to the American Red Cross's lack of workers and supplies, not everyone was able to donate.

"The cadets did an outstanding job of planning and staffing the blood drive," says Senior Master Sergeant Vincent Stover. "All the problems can be attributed directly by the understaffing of the Red Cross."



Bruce Dombrowski '05/ The Patriot

**As with last year's blood drive, turn out was greater than expected.**

An announcement made around 11:45 AM told students who had a pass to donate blood with a time from 11:45 AM and on were not to report to the gym; a total of 30 people were turned away.

"They didn't even get a chance," said Stover. "Based on that, the blood drive was not as effective as it should have been."

The Red Cross staffed according to their project manager who expected a 20% no-show rate.

The American Red Cross brought only enough supplies and personnel

to collect blood from three people every fifteen minutes or 12 people an hour.

"We planned to have five people processed every fifteen minutes, which is why we got backed up. By the end of the first hour we were already eight people behind. It would have gone well had it not been for the Red Cross," says Toomey.

In addition to understaffing, some students were also turned away after waiting for more than an hour. Some of these students were turned away due to low iron in their blood and others due to vein size, both of

which are determined in the screening right before you are to donate.

"I think there should be more tests for qualification that way they don't have to turn as many people away. In addition to weighing 110 pounds, the nurse should also do an iron test and check your vein size before the day of the blood drive," said Stephanie Staskin '05. "I was disappointed that I wasn't able to give blood. With more preliminary tests someone else could have been put in my place, and they could have donated blood."

**Confessions** by Darby DeCicco '05

## ... of a basketcase

My fingernails are a mess.

For every college application that remains unfinished, every math problem that remains unsolved, and every novel that remains unread, they suffer a few more bites.

You're all probably familiar with the feeling I'm experiencing right now. It's the one kind of like something heavy has landed on your chest to keep you awake at

one in the morning. It's the one that keeps your mind busy thinking of what you haven't done, what you need to do, and what you wish you'd done better.

For me, it's also the feeling that keeps my poor nails in constant disrepair.

With school, work, activities, and family obligations I'm starting to feel like I might never get ahead. The stack of college applications that are still half-empty on my desk and the notebooks full of half-done homework in my book bag are enough to turn anyone's stomach. But add that to a part-time job, a bunch of extracurriculars, and the fact that this column is definitely not writing itself, and things start to become a bit overwhelming.

Of course, it's not just me. Lately it seems like everyone I talk to has more going on than they can handle. While some of us try to bring

up grades we've let slip, others are trying to balance school with work. And while some people are preparing for their first SAT, others are faced with trying to choose the right college. It seems like we've all got a lot going on, and if any of this sounds like you, trust me, my cuticles and I feel your pain.

Still, it's not a completely dire situation. High school is supposed to be fun, and while the pursuit of that fun can seem hopeless in the face of so much work, it's a lot closer than you think. After all, once you've written your paper, taken your test, played your big game, or sent your applications, you might just get a couple of minutes to stop, celebrate, and let yourself relax.

So, go ahead. Just imagine what you're going to do when you finally get everything done. I, for one, intend to get a nice, long manicure.



Illustration by Helen Zeng '05

*The lighter side of WTHS*

## Double Vision



**On Halloween, Audio Visual Coordinator, Mr. Rick Huff was shocked to find himself faced with...himself (in the form of Tech Crew member, Brent Bartosiewicz '06).**

# Fall Sports 2004: A season of achievements

## Gymnasts continue winning ways

By *Richie Elles '07*

Led by first-year coaches Ginnie Elmore and Nick Tomasette, team captains Lindsay Busarello '05 and Lauren Basile '05, the Washington Township High School Girls' gymnastics team soared to a near perfect 11-1 competition record this season.

Coach Elmore set goals high, as she hoped the team could place in the top two in the Sectional competition, and eventually move on to the state level.

## Young runners set sights on 2005

Mark Natale '06

The Washington Township Girls cross country team recently put the finishing touches on what was a very successful 2004 season.

By cracking into the Top 20 rankings for South Jersey Girls Cross country, and earning a very respectable 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish at the Gloucester County Championships, the Minutemaids have proven that they are on the rise and ready to become one of the best in the area.

Most impressive about what these girls have been able to accomplish is how young their varsity

roster is. Although the Minutemaids will be losing top runner Nicole Vallone '04, every other member of the varsity will be returning for next year.

Amy Stinitis '06, Chrissy Wood '06, Natalie Catteral '06, and Carolyn Utrata '06 will lead the way for the Minutemaids in the 2005 season. But they will not have to look very far for help as freshman Stephanie Strucko '08 and Lindsay Brown '08 have earned invaluable varsity experience in their first season.

Although this season has been nothing but successful; Look for even bigger things from the Minutemaids Cross Country team in 2005.

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## Tennis team posts winning record

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The Washington Township High School Girl's Tennis team is on the rise. The team finished the year with 10 wins and 9 losses. This year's team was led by Shontae Smith '07 who had an individual record of 14-4.

"I was disappointed that we did not win the Gloucester County

Championships this year. We came in second," said Coach Donna Costa.

However, Costa was extremely proud of her senior captains Nicole Fasolino and Lindsey Christopher for their great leadership.

The girls will be exciting to watch next year as they have a young team who will be lead by current juniors Nicole Bacher and Caitlin Kelley.

## Boys capture conference title

Joe Comerford '06

Led by first team all conference runners and all county runners Mark Natale '06 and Brett Salmon '06 along with fellow first team all conference runners Steve Dunn '06, Andrew Morris '06, the

Washington Township High School Boys Cross-Country team finished an impressive 6-1 and an even more impressive number 6 ranking in the Courier Post South Jersey Boys Cross-Country rankings.

Unfortunately the boys did not qualify for the State Cross-Country Championship Meet, but the team did end the year on two high notes. First the team won the Gloucester County Boys Cross-Country Team Championships and then the team won the Olympic Conference Boys Cross-Country Championship.

With all of the teams' varsity runners coming back next year, things are looking up for the Washington Township High School Boys Cross-Country team.



Joe Comerford '06/ The Patriot

Varsity runners training.

WTHS

## Future bright for girls' soccer



Scott Grandrino '05/ The Patriot

The girls celebrate a goal against Cherokee.

Scott Grandrino '05

The 2004 WTHS Girls' Soccer team had an extremely successful year. "Besides the wins and losses, the girls came around to play every game and play it well," said Coach Synder on the girl's performance this season.

Synder believes his team had a very successful season, and that it was exciting. The girls finished with a winning record of 16-6-1 and went all the way to the Group IV South Jersey Finals.

Contributing to the Minutemaids success this season was the three senior captains. Lyndsey Reeve '05, Lauren Petruzzelli '05, and Mandy Silvesti '05.

"The captains stepped it up this year," said Synder, "They started all

year when healthy. They really played well."

The three played solidly all year long and truly showed leadership and determination, just some qualities that makes up a captain.

Other than just those seniors, there were others who played well.

Chelsea McFadden '05, Katie Lawson '06, Ally Kenney '06, and Jill Dean '06 are just a few who Synder believes played with loads of talent all season long.

"I'm very excited about next season," said Synder.

He'll be missing the seven seniors, who will be departing, but there will be fourteen Varsity letter winners returning ready to start another thrilling season.

## Football makes it to states

Scott Grandrino '05

The Minutemen football team finished the season at 7-2 and made it to the Group IV championship game, for the third straight year.

WTHS faced rival Shawnee. The Minutemen fell to the Renegades, 26-13. It was the second time Twp. had faced them this season having lost to them in an earlier contest 14-10.

The team had advanced to the championship after two victories over South Jersey programs. The Minutemen ran all over Atlantic City 27-14 to advance to the second round against Cherokee which they won in a hard-fought game 14-12.

Coach Brown said that the team played very well all season and it was a fun ride in the playoffs.

"Some expectations have been met. Not all, but we accomplished two out of three goals," said Brown.

Contributing to the Minutemen's success this season are a few upper classmen that Brown said, "played every game well."

Jesse Cooper '05 had an all-star season just as expected, and Kyle Terry '05 had stepped up playing well as the starting quarterback.

The offensive line was also very productive this season. Players like Matt O'Conner '05, Dave Salera '05, and Ray Johnson '05, were all huge playmakers.

Some of the juniors that Brown cited as playing well were all-star fullback, Ryan D'Imperio, who had 181 rushing yards and four touchdowns in the win against Atlantic City, Dean Hammel, and Nick Baccare.

## Sports Spotlight

# Caprio shines on hockey field

Keith Hallion '05

If you've ever been to a game of field hockey, you'd know what kind of determination and strength goes into the winning the sport. You'd feel the excitement of the teams, the intense power of the crowd and the focus of the players. It's a game that demands not only speed, agility and stamina, but teamwork and cooperation as well.

Jillian Caprio '05, left wing for Washington Township High School's varsity team, is a senior captain. Caprio uses her physical and mental strength to help get the team as far as she knows they are capable of going. Caprio believes the team had a very good and exciting year.

"It's the best we've ever been," she said.

The team finished with a record of 13-5-3, and a secured spot in states fairly early. The team advanced all the way to the second round of the Southern New Jersey playoffs.

Unfortunately for Caprio and her teammates, the Minutemaids season ended with a loss to the number one ranked team in the nation, Eastern.

Caprio is comfortable and enjoys playing left wing. She knows the responsibilities of moving the play up the field.

"We've learned to overcome each other's differences and support one another so that we can always do our best," said Caprio, describing a strength of the field hockey team this year.

Caprio said the bonds between the players improved greatly from the beginning of the season to the end, allowing the team to achieve victory.

Caprio couldn't cite a weakness of the group this year, saying confidently that anything needing improvement had been taken care of game by game. As an example, she pointed out how the defense progressively perfected itself and become so much stronger as a whole.

Caprio said that Coach Jeannine O'Connor commitment to the sport was inspiring.

"[O'Connor] is very dedicated to what she does and wants us to come out doing the very best we can," she said.

This year's roster has three starting juniors that are surely varsity material in the future season.

"They are just as strong as us if not stronger...they will definitely be able to carry the team next year."

Some advice Caprio has for the '05-'06 varsity team is to "always encourage one another, do your best so you can go as far as you can, and most importantly, enjoy every part of playing the game."



Ashley Mackoviak '05/The Patriot

Senior captain Jill Caprio

## Sports Spotlight

# Emily Bill: Setting herself up for success

Angela Buziak '05

Volleyball is not merely the activity played in gym class or carelessly on the beach. To Emily Bill, it is the sport of choice.

Bill, '05, who is currently 18, has been playing for Washington Township's Girl's Volleyball team since freshman year and is still in love with the sport.

Bill's position, the setter, is a pretty vital position. Being the main setter on the team has proven to be a

**"We made it to the 3rd round of States... which is the best our team has ever done."**

**- Emily Bill**

challenge for her, because of the responsibility she has to the team to avoid injury.

She is now one of the three captains of the team, along with Alexis Louie, '05, and Karen Martin, '06. She has been on varsity since Sophomore year, after playing Junior Varsity as a Freshman. In addition, she has been chosen to be Most Valuable Player for 2 consecutive years.

Not only is she athletic, but she is also very intelligent and responsible. Bill has filled her school schedules with honors classes and AP classes such as Calculus and Anatomy. Most seniors fall victim to "senioritis," but this is not the case for Bill.

"I have worked too hard the past 3 years to start slacking now," said Bill.

Mark Natale '06

Coming into the 2004 season, the Minutemaid Field Hockey team had high expectations. Now, with the end of the season, it is evident that the 9<sup>th</sup> ranked team, in the Courier Post South Jersey Field Hockey Rankings, proved that they can play with the best South Jersey has to offer.

With a record of 12 wins, 4 losses, and 3 ties, the Minutemaids were able to qualify for the state playoffs, also earning a first round bye.

After defeating a strong Cherry Hill West team at home during the second round, the Minutemaids moved on losing to the #1 ranked team in the nation, Eastern.

Although this marked the end of a fine season, several of the team's

players were satisfied with the goals they were able to accomplish in the 2004 campaign

Throughout this season, it was evident that they were a team in every sense. Although many point to Nicole Murocco '06 and Kelly Angstadt '05 as the teams star players, this team was built in a way that everyone had their part.

Going into next year, the Minutemaid's will lose all but 5 varsity players. In some cases, that may be a sign of a rebuilding team, but our Washington Township girls are simply going to reload.

"We are definitely losing some talent, but we have players that are ready to step up and the future is very promising," said varsity left midfielder, Lauren O'Donnel '06.



Jensine McKie '05/The Patriot

**Emily Bill was voted MVP by her volleyball teammates.**

off season at Washington Township's Community Volleyball Center.

Bill, along with some other teammates, trains and plays during the winter, spring, and summer. The Summer of 2002 was even spent at Penn State Volleyball Camp with her team. All of this hard work has paid off because every year since the team has been

See **Bill** page 12.

## Volleyball wraps historic season

Joe Comerford '06

Led by team MVP, Captain Emily Bill '05, the Washington Township High School Girls' Volleyball team had a historic season.

Under the guidance of Coach Barbara Mc Brearty, the team had the most successful season in Washington Township High School history by going 12-8 and making it to the Elite Eight, the State quarterfinals, before losing to Southern Regional High School.

The 10<sup>th</sup> seeded Minutemaids beat 23<sup>rd</sup> seeded Cherry Hill West and 26<sup>th</sup> seeded Irvington.

Karen Martin '06 and Alexis Louie '05 were both named Courier-Post player of the week. Martin and Louie were selected 1st and 2nd team Olympic Conference All-Star respectively.

Martin was also voted Best Offensive Player as well as Best Defensive Player along with Louie. Senior Captain Emily Bill was voted team MVP.

## MVP stars on court, in class

Bill from page 11.

created the girls have made it to States, which Bill believes is an accomplishment.

One word can sum up Emily Bill: dedicated. In a sport where many people do not recognize your abilities and talents, Bill is still there perfecting her game. She takes on extra responsibilities and has high aspirations in her life which, with her will, will inevitably be achieved. So the next time you hear about Washington Township's Girls' Volleyball team, do not brush it off as that same activity you do in gym class. Emily Bill and her teammates will continue to take it to another level.

**Ready to talk sports?**

Join the  
**S.T.A.T. Pack.**  
2:30, Jan. 5  
Room D-5

*The Birds* by Brent Bartosiewicz '05

## Reid all about it

Welcome to the first ever sighting of "The Birds". The Philadelphia Eagles are the talk of the town because they are playing. This season for the Eagles is going to be the one, the year they get to the Superbowl and come home with a ring. This column will explore the Philadelphia Eagle's club inside and out.

One of the most successful coaches in recent NFL history, Andy Reid has completely turned around the losing 3-13 Philadelphia Eagles of 1999 to a team currently boasting an 12-1 winning record.

Reid has been coaching for the past twelve years. The first seven years he was an assistant head coach under Mike Homgren with the Green Bay Packers. Reid's seven years at Green Bay led him to experience the playoffs six times and the super bowl twice, one of which they defeated the New England Patriots for the superbowl. Reid has made the playoffs 10 out of the 12 times, leaving the other two times being the first seasons as Head Coach of the Eagles.

Reid's first two seasons with the Eagles was an improvement compared to previous Philadelphia coaching. He picked the team up at 3-13 and made them bump up to 5-11. But the second

Scott Grandrino '05

Every year I look forward to this time. The time when the weather changes and people are just adjusting to school. But the most important thing that I look forward to is the start of another hockey season, but not this year.

The NHL lockout has completely ruined my life. The one thing that I looked forward to (other than the football season) every year is not happening.

Almost every night I should be sitting in front of my television between seven and ten pm spellbound by my beloved Philadelphia Flyers. Now, instead of that I have to do my homework and my Dad, the only person in my household who also loves hockey, thinks of chores for me to do.

What makes me the most upset about this situation, is that the NHL knew that the lockout was going to occur three years ago. And nobody did anything to prevent it! Why? If you knew that a problem was going to occur three years in advance, you would probably do something to make sure it doesn't happen.

## All Locked Up Over the Lockout



The players knew that the owners were serious about a salary cap, yet the two sides could not reach an agreement. Because of this "childish" argument, the NHL is literally shooting themselves in the foot. In the last few seasons, the NHL's TV ratings have dropped to where more people were watching bowling. Bowling? I didn't even know bowling was on television until I found that fact out.

I had hoped it would be a short lockout, but with the cancellation of the all-star game, a season for this year looks very doubtful. There are some talks of maybe having a season

after Christmas in January, and as much as I would love to believe that, I can't.

Reading more and more news about how the NHL players and owners haven't gotten anywhere in negotiations talks really breaks my heart. I don't understand why professional sports today have to be so much about business.

Whatever happened to just playing for the love of the game. Being a professional athlete isn't that hard to be getting paid millions and millions of dollars.

I would love to be a professional athlete, not for the money, but for the glory. To be out in front of millions of fans playing my favorite sport trying to win and drink out of Lord Stanley's Cup. To me that's being a true professional athlete.

I just hope that the two divided sides of the NHL can come to some common ground soon and just end this self-destructive lockout and play hockey. Because the players may not mind sitting out a season, but the fans sure do. The fans are the ones who are the real victims.

As for me, I'm still looking for something to do during primetime. Anything but chores.



**Eagles Head coach Andy Reid hopes to succeed where his predecessors have failed and bring home a Superbowl ring.**

year was incredible. Considered by many one of the greatest turn arounds in NFL history and the greatest in franchise history, the Eagles landed a respectable 11-5 record with a playoff spot. That 2000 season earned him Coach of the Year honors by the Maxell Football Club, The Sporting News, and Football Digest.

Success carried through to the next three seasons capturing the NFC East division championship every year. But despite not making it to the superbowl they continue to work hard to reach that goal this season.

Reid's road to the superbowl began with a franchise record 7-0 start. Despite their loss to the Pittsburgh Steelers, they rebounded with three more wins to pull themselves to a 10-1 record. The rebound can be attributed to Reid's belief that if you maintain the same edge every week, following a win or loss, you will have the constant production so many other teams lack.

One consistency of Reid is his game plan. He always knows what to do in each and every situation and maintains such a strong work ethic that the players follow suit. The work ethic of the team is evident in the fact that the Eagles have not lost more than two games in a row in the past four years.

Reid's background, personality, and expertise all combine in the winning combination needed for a super bowl team.

**Next time in *The Birds*: T. O.**

**Next time in  
*The Patriot*  
Sports**

**Winter Sports  
previews**

**The teams  
The stars  
The big games**

**The days may be  
getting colder, but  
WTHS sports  
are hotter  
than ever.**

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columns**