

## They shook it all night long 17 survive the Madness; Dance marathon raises \$7,700 to fight ALS

Justine Jacobs '06

Music filled the halls of Washington Township's 9/10 wing on Friday, January 13<sup>th</sup> as over 225 delirious and exhausted students danced the night away at Interact's third annual Monzo Madness. Students signed up in partners for the twenty-four hour dance-a-thon which helped to raise money for the ALS Association.

Interact members considered Monzo Madness 2006 a real success; the event raised about \$7,700 for the ALS Association, exceeding their goal of \$7,000. The unique event was covered by Action News, The Philadelphia Inquirer, and The Gloucester County Times.

"It was definitely amazing to see that this event has grown so much these past three years, going from participation of fifty people to almost five times that," said Interact Club co-president, Sajaa Ahmed '06.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), more commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease. It affects nerve cells in both the brain and spinal chord and is often fatal.

Donations to the ALS Association help to fund research done to find a cure for the disease, as well as provide a better quality of life for those living with ALS.

Over the past three years, Interact has raised almost \$10,000 for



Photo courtesy of Alli Leonard '06

### Vince Brindisi '06 busts a move at Monzo Madness.

ALS research through the dance-a-thon that was named in memory of advisor Ms. Tracy Naval's sister who suffered from ALS.

This year students Chris Caruso '06 and Tori Gilbert '07 were the main chairs of the event, with co-chairs Lauren Seserko '06 and Amanda

Bulley '07.

Advisors Naval and Mr. Tony Bucca as well as Presidents Ahmed and Karen Martin '06 also supervised the dance-a-thon, with senior Dan Rozmes DJing the event.

While the concept of dancing for twenty-four hours straight may seem

a little extreme to some, Monzo Madness participants did get ten minute breaks every hour and most considered the event to be a great experience.

"I wanted to see if I was up to the challenge of dancing for 24 hours (which it turns out I wasn't), and I knew that we'd be raising a lot of money and doing a lot of good for people who really need it," said senior Monica Barron.

Senior Brendan Comfort agreed, "There are your friends at school and then there are your friends who haven't slept in 30 hours," said Comfort. "I think it was a great experience...you really get to know people a lot better."

Most students, like Barron, didn't last the whole twenty-four hours. However, seventeen participants did dance all the way through to one o'clock Saturday afternoon.

In the past, the last students standing all got prizes, but because so many people lasted through the night,

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## Inductees honored to join society

Dave Zappacosta '06

The National Honors Society had its annual induction ceremony on January 12<sup>th</sup> in the CBAC. The prestigious organization initiated juniors and seniors from our high school.

"It was an amazing experience and a great honor" said Heather Ale '06.

To be admitted, one must have a 93.0 average in high school, and there is no rounding up from a 92.5. One must exude leadership experience, and community service to even be considered for the NHS.

The induction ceremony took place for over an hour and a half and the keynote speaker was teacher Mr. Robert Callaway. He spoke to the students about that honor that is being placed on them.

Callaway made his point to the students through a story of his experience with former Eagles head coach Dick Vermeil and how he inspired him in his own life. Callaway took Vermeil's advice and relayed the message to his students. Callaway was followed by members of the schools chorus which sang the song, "Seasons

of Love".

"I thought that the song was sung beautifully and couldn't have been done better", said Shalin Patel '06.

All inductees were called up to the podium where they were given pins and shook hands with the principals of the school and directors of NHS, Mr. Christopher Lawler and Mr. Raymond Anderson.

The seniors were asked to choose sponsors that they felt inspired them to excel in life and get them into NHS.

When the student's name was announced, his sponsor shook hands and bestowed on him a red sash that the student will wear at graduation.

The students had to prepare a thirty word statement for the sponsor that thanked them for their help in getting them ahead in life.



Rob Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

### Mr. Robert Callaway delivers his keynote speech at the NHS induction ceremony.

"It was hard to put the gratitude that I felt for my sponsor into only thirty words but I managed to get my point across", said Lindsay Jenkins '06.

The ceremony was very emotional for both the veterans and newly inducted members.

"The ceremony was special because I got to share a moment with someone that helped me become the person I am today", said Bethany Messick '06.

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# Students unite to promote peace

Rob Czyzewicz '06

History has taught Americans the importance of racial tolerance and the perils of hate-driven terrorism.

However, as we still struggle with racism and worry over possible attacks, teenagers across the globe are coming together to fight a millennium old battle against religious intolerance and hate.

A group of Jewish and Arab students from various schools came to WTHS to promote religious tolerance and understanding, as well as stress their message of hope for peace in the Middle East. Their play, entitled "The Other Side", focused on bullying, teasing, and demeaning others because of variations in race, religion, or beliefs.

The differences between the two cultures goes back generations to the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, called the "War of Independence", which was the first in a series of modern wars in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

In the wake of those conflicts, the state of Israel would be viewed as an independent state, dividing remaining areas of the British Mandate of Palestine into areas controlled by Egypt and Transjordan.

"This project really means a lot

to us because so many Arabs and Jews in Israel don't know how to live together. We have suicide bombers and attacks and it's important to make people realize that it is important to live together in peace", said Avishag Yosefyan, a 14 year old girl who attends the A.D. Gordon school in Tel Aviv, Israel.

However, the play was not the only reason that these students came to America. They also came to enjoy themselves and become sightseers of this country for a week.

Their advisors took them on educational field trips to the Franklin Institute and City Hall, as well as more leisurely ventures to the Deptford Mall for shopping.

The Israeli students worked hard to get to know their American peers from the Changing Our World (C.O.W.) Project.

By playing games with the members, and simply through conversation, the Israelis quickly got to know the Americans.

"The people here in America are my favorite part", said Mya Smulian, who attends a Hebrew school in Israel. "We spent a lot of time just walking around, and we didn't get a lot of time to just talk, so the interaction with others was the best part."



Rob Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

## Peace Child performers gained a new perspective of America.

This led to a more comfortable setting for their performance.

In the play, the Jewish students congregated on one side of the stage and the Arabs collected themselves on the other, divided by a wall.

In essence, the actors suggested that the struggles in their country are pointless and unnecessary.

They portrayed a small seemingly insignificant fight to symbolize the greater troubles that are experienced in Israel, such as the

religious squabble over the holy land.

The skits were flawlessly performed in the CBAC on January 18, and a meet and greet took place soon after.

The message from the Israeli students and the C.O.W. Project were the same and can be summarized by the original song written by Deb Chamberlin, a C.O.W. Project advisor, and her husband that was performed:

"The time has come for the world to see...The time has come for peace."

# Peace Child samples American history

Brittany Tartaglia '09

The one and only Changing Our World (C.O.W.) Project has been sponsoring Peace Child Israel (PCI) for over a year now.

Many of the students here in Washington Township High School have seen the PCI students for the two of the ten days that they were in the United States.

The other eight days consisted field trips, some of which were with the C.O.W. Project.

**"I never thought this project would be so amazing...[it] has changed me for the better..."**

**- Karly Phillips '08**

On January 21, 2006 they held a "Farewell to Philly" by visiting the Liberty Museum.

Afterward the PCI and C.O.W. members had a closing workshop where heart felt words were shared, and everyone told what they enjoyed most about their stay in New Jersey.

"When I went to Israel," said Deb Chamberlin, one of the advisors of C.O.W. and Peace Child. "I felt like I found my soul and I have become happy ever since. I now have a



Photo courtesy of the C.O.W. Project

## Israeli students and their hosts had the opportunity to see many classic American sights in Philadelphia and Washington D.C.

purpose, and I feel that I should spread my happiness and give it away."

When the workshop was over, the National Constitution Center held a small concert, which featured an Israeli band.

For the finale, the C.O.W. and PCI teens all sang "The Time Has Come", a song written by Deb Chamberlin and her husband. The song was performed in Hebrew, Arabic, and

English.

That was the last day they would all be together. That Sunday, PCI and only four C.O.W. members went to Washington D.C. for the day.

They saw the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the White House. After they all had all eaten dinner, they met with members from the JCC.

The day had been long, but it

was bittersweet. They all had such a fun time, and the DC trip was among the teens' favorites, but it was also one of the worst days of the ten days they were here.

That night, it was raining, and if that wasn't depressing enough for the groups, it was the last time the C.O.W. Project and the PCI teens were going to see each other.

They all said their good-byes, tears were shed, and to most, it felt like a really weird dream.

Karly Phillips '08, a dedicated member of C.O.W. said, "I miss them all so much, they are like my sisters now, I never thought this project would be so amazing. This experience has changed me for the better as a person."

The C.O.W. Project is determined to raise money so that they can fly out to Israel for a few weeks so they can see their friends again.

"None of you really thought I could pull this off last year, but it happened, so trust that you can do this. It's not a question of if you can do this, but a question of will you", said Chamberlin, who has inspired the members of C.O.W. Project to raise the funds for the future trip.



# Induction ceremony business as usual

Simone Miliareis '06

The Business Education Honor Society Induction ceremony was held on January 24, 2006 in the Commerce Bank Arts Centre.

This event was held in order to distinguish students "that should be recognized for their business skills," said Mrs. Pat Chiaro, the BEHS advisor.

The ceremony was held for "the cream of the crop of the business department to be inducted in an elite society," stated Dr. Jean Brodie.

The highlight of the night was Brodie, the keynote speaker and the Business Department's Supervisor.

Her inspirational words were about entrepreneurs such as Oprah, Donald Trump, and Sean 'P. Diddy' Combs, who took business courses while in high school.

She gave informing statistics about success rates of business students. Brodie put a smile on the audiences' faces when telling the witty guidelines for success previously stated by comedy legend Bill Cosby.

The purpose of this ceremony was to induct 24 new members. Along with this, the six new officers gave speeches about the Business Education Honor Society and the importance of it.

Each officer lit symbolic black and red candles that represented the characteristics of honor and value.

"I feel honored to be part of this organization because I have

gotten to know many of the business students that I haven't had in class," said Chiaro.

In order to be eligible for this society students must have an A average in at least two business classes. Five hours of community service is also required.

At the end of the year, two members will be chosen for

scholarships.

"The goal of this organization is not to compete with National Honor Society because it is so broad, but rather acknowledge those who have special skills," explained Chiaro.

This ceremony was short and sweet. In just over a half hour, it still managed to make students feel

praiseworthy.

"It was not dragged out as most ceremonies are. I think that is what makes the BHS induction ceremony unique," said Lindsay Jenkins '06, the vice president.

With parents, students, teachers, and administrators all present, the night was viewed as a huge success.

## Opinion

### Peace Child an eye opener

Mark Natale '06

In a month where racial tolerance is held at utmost importance, one type of discrimination is often overlooked.

There is no proverbial finger to point for this, as many times it is confused as something seen as noble in our great country.

Appreciating the country we live in is fine and indeed appropriate. But often enough, patriotism extends to innate ideas of discrimination.

Many righteous people fall victim to this. Americans grow up believing their country is the greatest in the world, that other countries are simply lesser, and that all foreigners are slightly...different.

After signing up to cover Peace Child Israel, I fell victim to that very stereotype. I walked

over to the CBAC worried at how I would relate to these kids, what I would say, and what we would talk about.

When we were eating lunch, I asked them simple questions such as how they liked our mall, and if they had French fries in Israel.

These questions were all honest and didn't mean to have any negative connotation (I seriously didn't know they had "chips" in Israel too). But then the kids turned to each other, said something in Hebrew, laughed, and hit me with an eye opener.

"Do you think we live in a desert or something?"

I stumbled to apologize quickly, telling them I knew that Israel was a very developed country. They laughed it off in time to stop me from putting my foot in my mouth, and I decided I had asked enough questions. From then on, I just listened.

They talked about how big our school was, how it was like "every

American movie they'd ever seen", and they even puzzled at why our girls wanted to be so tan.

They didn't want to talk about religious intolerance, terrorism, or suicide bombers.

They were more concerned with the clothes they saw in the lunch room, how nervous they were for their upcoming (incredible) play, and repeatedly poked fun at each other.

They were teenagers, *just like us*, and it's a real shame that I couldn't see that in the first place. Many people involved in the project felt the same way, and I don't feel that we are alone.

Americans are brought up to feel that everyone is different (and dare I say, inferior). But when it gets right down to it, kids are kids, people are people.

It doesn't matter whether they are from these 50 great states, or another fine country.

# ASL course offers new perspective on language

Jennifer Kinee '06

Are you looking for an elective for next year? American Sign Language could be for you. The course teaches students about deaf culture and how to properly communicate with the deaf through their language.

If speaking another language isn't exactly your "thing", ASL could broaden your horizons through a completely different form of communication.

Mrs. Jennifer McKenna-Daily has been teaching ASL 1 and ASL 2 for the past two years and will be adding ASL 3 next year.

This will allow her current students to continue to expand their knowledge of ASL.

"I'm taking ASL 3 next year because I want to further my knowledge of sign language and I want to learn it to use it later in life", said

Jessi Meisel '07, a current ASL 2 student.

McKenna-Daily would say to students considering taking up ASL, "It's a great language, an American language, and it's challenging so be prepared to work and have fun."

McKenna-Daily works hard to keep her students interested. She makes her students CD's to study from and communicates with her students through email with helpful studying websites and other ASL information.

Nicole Weil '06, an ASL 2 student said, referring to McKenna-Daily, "She's nice, interesting, fun, and not boring."

Students have also had the chance to communicate with the deaf in class.

In January, a representative from Gallaudet University, a university targeted to deaf students, attended McKenna-Daily's three ASL classes to present the university to the

students, as well as answer any questions the students had about deaf culture and what it is like to be deaf. These kinds of experiences help students put their knowledge of the language in action.

The ASL classes of WTHS also involve themselves with school activities. In the past they have participated in the Spirit Parade, signed the National Anthem at different events, and signed Christmas carols.

ASL can even open up new career opportunities for students. There are many different careers that revolve around the knowledge of ASL, such as interpreting, teaching hearing impaired children, becoming an ASL teacher, and many more.

"I want to be an interpreter, because I'm really interested in deaf culture," said Shanna Erskine '08, an ASL 2 student.

In ASL classes, students are graded on class participation, homework assignments, quizzes, and tests.

Homework generally consists of writing sentence structures to sign or summarizing a story about deaf culture.

Quizzes are often written, in which McKenna-Daily will sign and the students will translate the signs.

Tests usually consist of two parts, a written section and a signed section. The students will translate some signs and then sign with a partner or by themselves with McKenna-Daily.

ASL can be a great class for students who are willing to work hard and have fun doing it.

If you are interested in deaf culture and being able to communicate with the hearing impaired, the high school's American Sign Language course is definitely worth a try.

# Step on it

## Marketing classes anticipate run on spirit-based footwear

Cristina Lanzilotta '06

The Township sandal craze has been sweeping the halls of WTHS lately with what seems like hundreds of red white and blue posters everywhere telling us to "slip into Township spirit."

These sandals were the idea of Mrs. Gill's hospitality, sports, travel and entertainment marketing classes.

The athletic-style flip flop is a popular new trend used to boast school pride. They were recently promoted in a USA Today article and have also been found in the US Lacrosse magazine as a rising trend in college sports.

Schools such as Lenape High School and many colleges have already joined the popular trend with their own brand of flip flop.

Each of Gill's HSTE marketing classes came up with their own idea's

for what the sandals should look like using the obvious red white and blue color scheme and the infamous "Twp."

Then they did some market research, which included surveying just about anyone with a lunch period.

After all the surveys were completed, all of the HSTE classes decided on one final proto-type.

The design for the footwear can be seen on almost every one of the posters hung up around WTHS.

Gill's students then handed out order forms to jut about anyone who crossed their paths.

Over 500 pairs of sandals were ordered, which anyone could say was a great achievement.

"After we saw the feedback we knew this was the perfect project for us", said Nicole Morrone '06.

Morrone, along with Joe



**Township sandals on sale for \$25.00 in G-206 or G-229.**

Comerford '06 and Bill Bradley '07, have adopted the Township sandals epidemic as their DECA "Learn and Earn" project for their next DECA State competition.

All of the profits from the sales will go towards the DECA Fund for future DECA activities and fund

raisers.

If you have not ordered a pair, you still have a chance!

The sandals are still on sale for \$25, and plenty of extras have been ordered.

Orders can be brought to Mrs. Gill in G-206 or Mrs. Olivio in G-229.

## Winter Concert Series concludes

Laura Marder '07

The Washington Township last section of the Winter Concert Series was held January 18th in the CBAC.

Seats were filled with proud parents, siblings and former band members watching and applauding the performances.

Sixth period Concert Band, Jazz ensemble, and second period Symphonic band performed an array of selections.

Concert Band, directed by Mr. Casey Corigliano, opened the show with four selections. "Choral Prelude on a German Hymn Tune", "Symphonic Overture", "Where the Black Hawk Soars" and "Chimes of Liberty", were the pieces played.

"My favorite selection was "Symphony Overture", commented

flutist Emily McElvaine. Many of the musicians had favorites in this band, but overall liked all of the music they played.

Jazz Ensemble, directed by Mr. Frank Appello and Mr. Gregory Janicki gave a nice swing to the concert, they performed three selections.

"Watermelon Man" featured soloists Lou Palena '07, Rob Dougherty '08, Mark Angelo '06, Michael Young '08, Andrew Williamson '09, and Craig Hobbins '08.

Their second selection, entitled "Frankie Found Cuba," was written especially for their ensemble. Their final selection was "One for Woody".

"I like all the solos and getting the chance to use improvisation" stated Jazz musician Andrew Williamson.

Jazz ensemble isn't a class like

the other bands, the participants practice outside of the school day.

"Tuesday's and Thursday's after school for two hours practice are definitely worth it!" said Williamson.

Symphonic Band led by Mr. James Beyer completed the concert. They performed "Fanfare and Flourishes", "Night Dances", "Bacchanal" and "Amparito Rocca."

The percussion ensemble from Symphonic Band and Wind ensemble

performed "Friend like Me" from Walt Disney's "Aladdin".

"Bacchanal was my favorite, and a lot of the other flute players really liked it too", said Kristin Chericco '07.

"I think we did very well at the concert, for the most part everything sounded as it should".

"The concert was as good as it could be, but I think the spring concert will be better because we have more time to practice" commented McElvaine.

## Students raise money for ALS awareness

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winner had to settle for unlimited bragging rights until next year's event.

"It was more of a challenge to themselves to see if they could last the whole time," said Ahmed. "It was really good to see people wanted to last the whole time, even without a prize."

Winner Rob Jordan '07 said that prizes had nothing to do with motivating him - friends, fun, and the physical challenge drove him to dance all night.

"All 24 hours were amazingly fun, largely due to having many friends all around me, and the music was great the whole night," said Jordan.

Monzo Madness may be an exciting twenty-four hours of fun, but the ALS Association needs help year round to help battle this debilitating disease.

Students interested in learning more about ALS or donating to the ALS Association can visit <http://www.alsa.org>.

*The lighter side of WTHS*

## Folding under pressure



Photo courtesy of Mr. Evangelisti

**A special Patriot shout out to the juniors in homeroom D-8. Issue after issue, they continue to "volunteer" their effort by collating pages.**

# Commentary

## Players remember Coach Brown

### Passion was his finest attribute

Tom Cotton '06

He looked like a football coach. That was the first thought to cross my mind the night I met Tom Brown. He had the confidence and hid it behind a laid-back swagger. There were two Coach Brown characteristics I was to be introduced to during the open house that evening. One, he was decked out in his Minutemen Football clothing. The other, he was very open about how he was feeling. In this case, he was furious that the visiting soon-to-be freshmen had been divided into two groups, and he would have to give the same presentation twice.

But that was typical Brown. He told it like it was, and never brought sugarcoating out to the field with him. In a sport so utterly defined by toughness, he was the perfect man to lead a football team. It's a common misconception that we football players feared Coach Brown. Fear was certainly an emotion we were accustomed to, but this was the fear of letting him down. No one wanted to be the person to tell him, "Sorry coach, I messed up." This was because his response would most likely be, "Yeah, you did. Don't embarrass yourself like that again on my field."

Despite his small stature, he had the innate ability to make even the biggest lineman feel like a scolded toddler. Nothing else holds a team together like a head coach's knack for this; we football players are, after all, used to having our way in arguments. This was not true when the one on the other end was "Brownie". No matter how big and tough you saw yourself to be, you were a puppy with your tail between your legs when he caught a mistake.

This is not to say my only memories of Coach Brown are of him in full disciplinarian mode, or even that these are even the most vivid ones. Looking back on those most precious to me, I don't even see him angry at all. I see Coach Brown, a few days before we were to play an undefeated Shawnee team for the sectional championship in 2004, telling us that of all the teams he had ever coached we were the only ones that could beat the powerhouse the Renegades had assembled that year. I see him dancing around the field (that's right, dancing) and shouting at the top of his lungs that he could shake

it better than half the kids in our school.

I see him sprinting out of the locker room onto our snow-covered field, yelling back to the huddled mass behind him, "It's a great day to be alive!"

And I see him dragging his weak, sick body up into the booth to coach us through another game this season, while everyone else wasted their energy saying his condition wouldn't allow it.

### Brown inspirational on many levels

Bob Bernardo '06

When I thought about writing something about the late Tom Brown, I believed it would be easy. A man who had touched so many lives, especially mine, the thoughts should just flow.

But that is the problem, and fixating on just one theme or event is so difficult.

I became afflicted with Leukemia during my junior year of high school. Before I left school, I had allowed my grades to slip, and started to miss school rather frequently. Coach Brown proceeded to call me up and tell me that only I can take that next step.

That step to go from good to great, he can't take it for me, my parents can't, my girlfriend, etc. He told me whatever I was doing wrong I had to stop, and I had to begin to act like a man. He made more than a few stops to my teachers and more than few calls to my house.

When I was finally diagnosed and hospitalized he was one of the first people in to see me. One day in the hospital, Coach Brown came to visit me with Coach Wechter. He sat there and I questioned him, why are you here so much? He told me "Well they are cutting things out of me here and there; I have to get this done and that done."

He never let on that he was fighting a losing battle with cancer. I hung around a lot that year and Coach never made me feel like I wasn't supposed to be there.

When I was told I had been granted a fifth year of eligibility, coach called again.

He reminded me about a talk that took place the year prior. He said that step into manhood still needed to be

A lot of people thought Coach Brown's play calling was outdated and predictable, thought he was an antique kept around because of his legacy. These people, all of whom never played a down for the man, are the same that think pride is a sin.

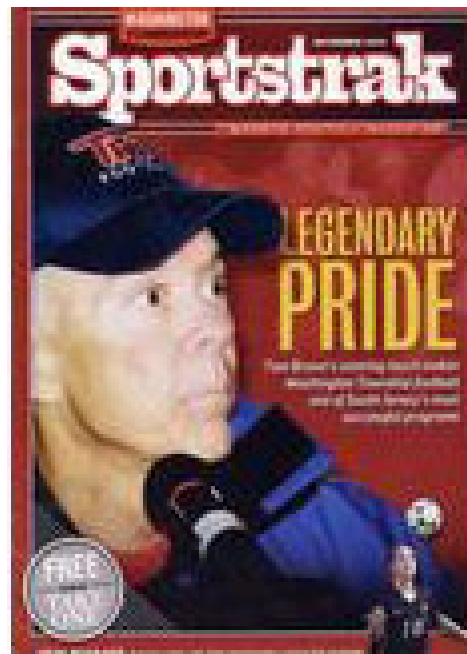
To them being proud is thinking you belong on a plane above all others, that you are the best of the best. But it was Coach Brown who taught us that pride is something different.

Being proud means you know you

can be the best through hard work. And that's why we ended every practice, every game, and even his funeral service by gathering in a huddle and shouting "Pride": to remind us that the best we could be was right around the corner.

This didn't solely apply to football, as "Brownie" knew, and that's why he was such a great coach.

Not for the rings he won, but for the men he sent into the world to show others the true meaning of pride.



Coach Tom Brown was featured in the November 2005 issue of *Sportstrak* which acknowledged his contribution to WTHS football.

reached, and that just because it hadn't happened on the field of football it still needed to happen on the field of life. He always thought of his players as men, not as kids. He always wanted to see us grow up as men, not just win football games.

When Coach Brown became sick, I began to visit him at his house. The first time I was there he introduced me to his daughter's boyfriend as that young MAN who had been through so much. I was blown away, by two things.

was proud of me.

He had said it before, but this time I could sense something different. It was almost like he knew it was the last time we would talk. He wished me luck in wherever I went to college, and he knew I would be successful as long as I continued to do my best.

It will take Coach Brown a long time to die, because the amount of people he has touched or changed for the better will live on and remember him until they themselves pass.

PRIDE!



# Torture policy contradicts ideals

Justine Jacobs '06

Since its formation, the United States has prided itself on its reputation as a land of freedom, justice, and human rights. Yet lately that reputation has been tarnished by repeated accusations of the use of cruel and unusual punishment in the war on terror.

This form of "torture lite," a method that the Bush administration formally told the CIA included anything short of causing the pain that accompanies "organ failure" or "death," has been credited with gaining valuable information for the United States in its fight against terrorism. But are the ends worth the means?

The gruesome images of Iraqi and Afghani detainees such as the ones from the Abu Grab fiasco have been broadcasted all over the world, and the global audience is paying attention. America's standing in the world has taken a devastating blow due to this negative publicity.

At a time when the country has declared war on guerilla organizations that can be found all across the globe and has officially bit off more than it can chew, scaring away potential allies with our inhumane behavior is not exactly an ingenious political strategy. After the accusations that Iraq possessed weapons of mass



The CIA stands by its "torture lite" policy.

destruction fell through, the Bush administration's entire basis for the war in Iraq became liberating its people from the evils of Saddam Hussein's regime.

Yet by utilizing torture we've lowered ourselves to the level of the very dictator we removed from power. Not only is the use of torture lite an embarrassing addition to the laundry

list of global offenses the U.S. has committed under the Bush administration, but the entire concept seems fairly ineffective. A terror suspect undergoing torture will tell his captors anything to make the pain stop; it is a basic part of human nature.

In fact, it is so basic that sheer common sense makes the very notion that U.S. intelligence officials would rely on information they received from a detainee who was just paraded around naked on a leash rather disturbing.

With all of the negative effects of employing torture in fighting this war, one would think there would be no need to debate it. Still, the Bush administration, with Vice President Cheney leading the pack, has been lobbying against legislation aimed at thwarting the use of torture.

**By utilizing torture we've lowered ourselves to the level of the very dictator we removed from power.**

Last month Arizona senator and former Vietnam POW John McCain's bill to ban the use of "cruel, inhumane, or degrading" interrogation techniques passed 90 to 9 in the Senate, and a recent Newsweek poll showed that 73% of Americans believe the allegations of torture have significantly hurt America's international image.

The people and their representatives are united in their view of torture. Perhaps it's time the executive office followed their lead.

# Allowing students to choose

Ashley Walsh '07

On Tuesday December 20<sup>th</sup>, according to CNN.com, U.S. District Judge John Jones ruled that teaching Intelligent Design would violate the constitutional separation of church and state.

Intelligent Design is the idea that an intelligent designer (God) played some role in the creation of the Earth.

It is totally ridiculous for a judge to do such a thing. When will the government stop worrying that certain things taught in schools will offend some people?

The key word here is 'teaches', not stresses. Teachers of Intelligent Design don't stress that it is the right thing to believe. They teach it as a theory. A theory is defined, as something only believed to be true.

Teachers teach many theories about such things, like how the Earth was created. There are alternatives to the theory of Intelligent Design, such as the Big Bang Theory.

Which brings me to my next point. Why is it okay to teach something like the Big Bang Theory and not Intelligent Design?

As a person who believes in The Bible and God as our creator, I personally don't believe in the Big Bang Theory. So, why isn't the government afraid of offending people like me?

The Intelligent Design debate isn't the only example. What about when it comes to teaching religion? It seems that it is such a crime to teach the belief system of Christianity!

But, it's acceptable to teach, let's say, the belief system of Buddhism. How about the beliefs of Islam or even the beliefs of Jews?

The discussion of any other religion, besides Christianity, isn't such a controversy!

Again the key word here is teaches. It is important to teach ALL different theories and religions, so we, as adults, can choose what we believe. In fact, it's vital.

So, the government should just relax because things like Intelligent Design shouldn't offend anyone.

If judges like John Jones choose to take such things away from the curriculum because the teachings are based on religion, then he's taking away part of my right as an American.

That is my right to learn.

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# Bullying still a big problem

Bethany Messick '06

You may not think bullying is a big problem in high school, but it is. It isn't your traditional scenario of a big muscular kid going up to a little skinny kid and saying give me your lunch money. It is much more than that.

In high school your typical bullying involves the usual name calling, physical abuse, and rumors. The only difference is that since kids are older, they are smarter and know what they can get away with and what really upsets others.

In elementary school you may have called someone a butthead or a nerd, but in high school students use profanity and other more hurtful terms. Kids also used to spread rumors saying that Jack kissed Jill on the lips. Now the rumors are vulgar and detrimental to a person's reputation. The physical fights that occur in high school are much worse as well; students end up in hospitals and are seriously hurt because of meaningless name calling and silly rumors.

There are many reasons why people terrorize others. Sometimes kids do it for attention. Other times they do it to look tough. In some cases a person will bully another person so he can fit into a certain crowd. Many times a student will bully another student they are jealous of. If a student who is unintelligent makes fun of a person who is intelligent, usually

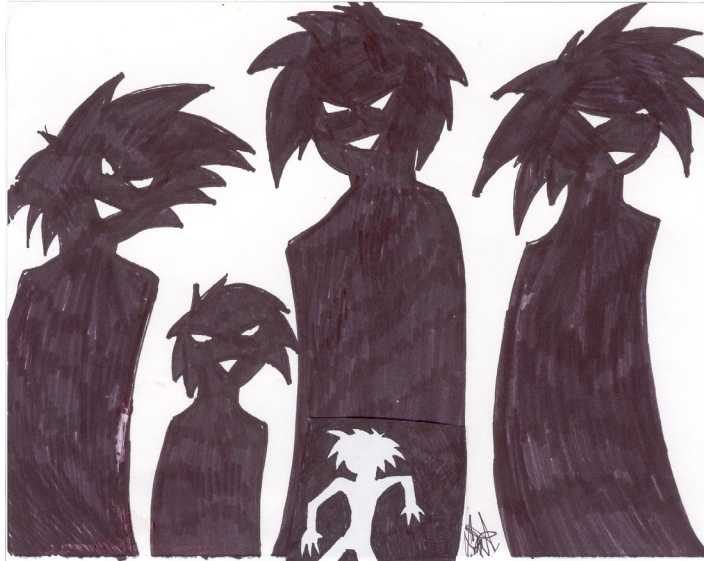


Illustration by Casey Matos '07

the unintelligent kid is jealous of the bright kid. The dull kid will make fun of the gifted kid just to bring him down and make him feel less confident in himself.

The students who usually get bullied are the students who are different in some way. They could be very smart, they could dress differently, or they could talk funny. The people most likely to get bullied are the shy and less social students. If a kid doesn't have a lot of friends, it makes it easier for the bully to tease them. There is no one there to stick

up for the kid and help him.

This is where another problem arises. Why don't kids help other kids out? If you see a kid getting pushed around or teased, why don't you go up to the bully and tell him to stop or why don't you go get a teacher? So many kids are afraid to help each other just because the bully may come after them or they may look like a snitch. If a person witnessing bullying doesn't do anything, he is neglecting someone in need and saying he is OK with bullying. This will only encourage the bully to be meaner and bully more

people.

Bullying has gotten so bad because of its consequences. In today's world one out of four kids is bullied according to the Bureau of Justice. In most cases of bullying kids typically suffer from depression and loneliness and do nothing about it. On the other hand, you have kids who will act out by bringing guns to school, making bomb threats, and retaliating against their bullies in extreme ways. There is also the rare case of Columbine, which could happen anywhere and to anyone.

The Bureau of Justice also says that 36% of high school students do not feel safe at school. This number is ridiculously high. High school has enough stressful things like getting good grades, getting into college, and finding a date to the prom. Students do not need the added stress of whether or not they are spending a good part of the day in a safe environment.

The problem of bullying must be addressed by all. The school needs to be aware of such issues and take immediate measures to address it. Parents need to be attuned to their children's moods and problems. They need to ask questions and continue to persist until they get answers. Students also need to be responsible for each other. Step up and demonstrate a new behavior – one that is open to the differences in people and one that is supportive.

## Bigger is better

David Zappacosta '06

Wow this place is soo boring! I can't wait to get out of here! Why can't I be in another town? Common phrases that are heard all too much in Washington Township High School. In all honesty...IT NEEDS TO STOP!

This town is just like every other town. You have certain components that exist almost everywhere, you have your movie theatres, bowling allies, restaurants, and of course that one kids house that you always end up at on the weekends, and if you're that kid you're probably ready to burn your own house down.

But our high school has one distinct advantage over all the other towns: its GINORMOUS!!!

If you cant find something to spark your interest in this high school, truthfully, you're probably the most boring person ever to walk the planet.

This school has so many clubs, that most people don't even realize they exist. You can even create your own club if it's school appropriate, and if it isn't then it's probably something you should keep in your room anyways.

You don't even have to be in a club or sport. You could even be one of those really "cool kids" that go to some of the games and point and make fun of the people that actually do get involved.

We have clubs like Bleacher Creatures where your purpose in the club is to be loud and obnoxious and mess with people's heads. You don't even have to like or know basketball to enjoy yourself.

Alright, so, you have four years at this high school whether you like it or not. There's no way around it, you have to attend. So if you're one of those people that drags their feet around the hallways, think staying after school is dumb, or think that jocks are just stupid jerks that are obsessed with themselves then go ahead and think it.

Just please for sanity's sake, stop talking about how horrible this place is because everywhere else is pretty much the same. High school *is* what you make it, and if you're too lame to try and make something of it then why do you care enough to criticize the people who do?

## Sign up for Creative Writing & Journalism

- \* Write short stories, poetry, and personal essays.
- \* Learn basic reporting techniques, news style, layout and page design.
- \* See your work published in *The Patriot*.

Talk to your counsellor or see Mr. Evangelisti (D-8) for more details.

## Be a part of the Writers' Bloc!

## Shenanigans

by Heather Ale '06 and  
Lindsay Jenkins '06

# Catch me if you can

Remember the days when playing tag was the coolest way to spend recess? The "it" person would scramble around trying to find the right target. After being tagged, the thrill of the chase was over and the kids would scatter.

I have to wonder, are we still playing games even though we've moved on from recess?

Recently, I noticed that the antics played in the halls of Washington Township High School are similar to this playground frolic.

Today, now that cooties have been cured, a different form of tag has emerged in the way that people flirt.

It seems the approach of high school students, in regards to dating, resembles the "now that I got you, let's play again" mentality of our cherished playground pastime.

Although it is an unchanging game, the players may vary. The rules of the game are simple; find a target and catch them. They do not waver from one instance to the next and the game is never played the same because of the different personalities of participants.

Some players run faster than others and are difficult to catch; some would rather hide than risk getting caught; some are so aggressive they go after anyone instead of pinpointing the right person. These prototypes can be compared to high school students when selecting a love interest.

There is nothing wrong with playing tag. Fun while it lasts, it provides excitement without commitment which can be liberating.

Being liberal may be great fun while it lasts but if a meaningful relationship is what you seek, these games hold no purpose.

In the end, all that matters is finding what you truly want and what will make you happy, regardless of what others may think.

It may not be obvious, but everyone has taken part at some point in time. This is not necessarily a bad thing, because you can learn from your unsuccessful attempts.

Sometimes in order to find what you want, you have to stop playing games.

Inside the mind of Mark Natale '06

# Whisper down the lane

Did anyone hear about what happened last night?

You know, that story with the girl that might be in your 5<sup>th</sup> period and that guy you think is in your English class at the place you went to one weekend like a year ago.

Isn't that crazy???

Despite the ridiculous vagueness that filled my intro, chances are you have heard something similar within the recent past. It doesn't matter what your intro or who your friends are. Whether you are a homecoming queen candidate or have the social ineptness of a chair, every WTHS student is victim to the same sanity infecting plague.

Rumors.

For some reason, those far-fetched, completely distorted, minimally truthful tales that seem to fit well into high school life. After all, it wouldn't be a Monday at WTHS without AT LEAST a dozen fables concerning the previous weekend.

Whether its him kissing her, those two guys fighting, or this girl talking trash on that girl, everyone has a story to tell during their Monday lunch break. How many of these stories are actually true? Nobody knows for sure, but the entertainment value is always there.

Until, like many other Township staples, rumors get out of hand. What turns into an innocent exaggeration



Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

Even the smallest of rumors takes on a life of its own.

of the facts quickly turns into a bundle of lies covering one small truthful aspect. What is worse, is that many times these rumors can truly cause harm to subjects concerned, and many times could also get those kids in a great deal of trouble. But still, the rumors live on.

One would think that an average high school kid would have the intelligence to realize when things get out of hand. But it seems to be that part of the brain is often bypassed, and too often then not replaced with idiocy before not seemed possible. So many times I'll be sitting there, hearing someone ramble on some ridiculous rumor they took no part in, wasn't there for, and in general, have no idea what their talking about. Despite all of these, they speak of the incidents

as if they are experts, saw everything first hand, and is positive all the facts are true. After all, people are actually listening to them, and that is something that typically doesn't happen.

In fact, I can guarantee I could spread any rumor I wanted. I could make up the most ridiculous, crazy, unheard of thing, and simply start telling people. Within two days, it'll reach from Cafeteria B to H hall, reigning supreme as the absolute truth. Unfortunately, I do not have the time, effort, or creative ability to come up with such a rumor, so instead I will leave you with this. Next time you hear such a rumor as ridiculous as scribed in this column, have the common sense to laugh, tell the spreader he/she is an idiot, and stop the plague that infests all of us.

To your health by Steve Dunn '06

# How we start our day

How many of you cannot function if you don't start off your day with a cup of hot steamy coffee? America has long been crazed with beginning its day with coffee, and as of late the trend has been becoming more and more prominent among teenagers and younger people.

I myself am not one of these avid coffee drinkers. However I can understand why people have a seemingly insatiable dependency on it.

Waking up in the morning feeling like the living dead often leaves me wanting something to jumpstart my day. But since my parents aren't coffee drinkers and I've been fine without it so far, I just wait until around second or third period until I'm fully awake.

The primary concern most health experts have with coffee is caffeine. It is caffeine and caffeine alone that is responsible for coffee's affects. It perks you up, enhances



your mood, raises your blood sugar, and helps keep you awake.

There are several bad side effects of caffeine, however. It is a drug. Caffeine stimulates the nervous system and raises heart rate. People

feel like they need it more and more in order to function.

Believe it or not, long time coffee drinkers do suffer "withdrawal" symptoms if they are unable to stop by Wawa or Starbucks on their way to work. These "java junkies" will often be irritable and drowsy and can even suffer through severe headaches as a result of not having the normal amount of caffeine in their system that they're accustomed to. Excessive consumption of caffeine can also be the culprit for restlessness and anxiety.

While it is a tall task to tell people to not start their morning off with the "bolt" or whenever they need it, it is important that a person's coffee drinking does not get out of hand. CNN.com Health reports that up to three cups of coffee a day is fine and will yield no long term serious side effects. Moderation is key, so enjoy your coffee but don't let your cravings for it get out of hand.



# Features

## AACC spreads awareness

Matt Kienzle '06

The African-American Culture Club has long been doing worthwhile community service in Washington Township, rarely receiving recognition.

Well, the time has finally come for someone to shed some light on them.

The club, run by Mrs. Shirley Walker, who became advisor after her predecessor stepped down, focuses on bettering the community, and spreading awareness of African-American accomplishments.

Especially during February, Black History Month, during which she plans to meet once a week rather than the standard twice a month.

"We are planning activities to make the school population more aware of African-Americans and their contributions to society," Walker said.

Now, that's not to say that the club is dormant during the other eleven months of the year. Throughout the academic calendar, the club is busy.

For instance, this year, they are planning to donate to and volunteer at homeless shelters, as well as contributing to Katrina victims through funds, and volunteer work.

Not only that, but the AACC is



Matt Kienzle '06/The Patriot

**Club members (l-r), juniors Tameaka Agee, Yvonne Briddel, Melissa Oliver, Vivian Dim, and senior Tia Pierce stand next to the bulletin board they designed in B-hall.**

also constructing a design for the bulletin board in B Hall, next to the cafeterias, to help spread more awareness.

Although they may seem like polar opposite cultures, the Asian Awareness Club, and the African-American club are quite similar at their core.

"Both Asian Awareness and our club want to learn more about culture

and history," Walker says. "Both do service to community and volunteer in any field of interest."

The African-American Culture Club does excellent work in the community, regardless of how many members it has.

Hopefully in the future, it will not be necessary, because there will be no need to spread awareness. Everybody will already know.

## Black history: An American timeline

Bethany Messick '06

In 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson established the first Negro History Week. Over the years, this event has evolved into a major commemoration - Black History Month. Woodson was born in 1875 in New Canton, Virginia, and worked as a coal miner to put himself through college.

In 1912 he earned his Ph.D. in history from Harvard University. Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, the Journal of Negro History, the Associated Publishers, and the Negro History Bulletin.

Woodson was driven by a deep desire that all people needed to be educated about Black history. Before 1926, most textbooks and college seminars did not discuss the importance of black heritage.

To commemorate all of the great African-Americans our country has seen, Woodson organized Negro History Week which, beginning in 1926, was celebrated the second week in February. In the 1960's, this turned into Black History Month.

But why February?

Woodson originally chose the second week in February because of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays. During the 1960's, however, Negro History Week was turned into Black History Month because of the many historical things that occurred in February such as:

February 23, 1868 - W. E. B. DuBois was born.

February 3, 1870 - The 15<sup>th</sup> Amendment was passed, granting blacks the right to vote.

February 25, 1870 - Hiram R. Revels, the first black senator took office.

February 12, 1909 - National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was founded.

February 1, 1960 - Sit-Ins for civil rights began.

February 21, 1965 - Malcolm X was assassinated.

Black History Month was established to commemorate the inspirational achievements of African Americans of the past and the present, from Harriet Tubman to Oprah Winfrey.

## Bleacher Creatures rekindle spirit

Steve Dunn '06

Every winter, our school has two teams that set foot to the hardwood. This year, for the second in a row, another team will be ready to join them; the Bleacher Creatures of Washington Township High School. Last season, the newly reformed Bleacher Creatures created an electric, loud, atmosphere at every boy's basketball home game and every game through the playoffs.

"It's a very positive effect, a lot of support and enthusiasm," Coach Bob Byatt says of the impact of the fan club in the game.

"All teams have times when things get rough. They inspire us to play through when times get rough; the enthusiasm spreads through the team."

The Bleacher Creatures are an organized fan base of students, often seen as a howling, rowdy red mass at the back of the 9/10 gym, intent on

making the game atmosphere as "pro-Township" as possible and having a good time. From harmless jibes to large organized chants, The Bleacher Creatures definitely make their presence known at whatever game they attend.

It is some of the notable personalities of the Bleacher Creatures that are responsible for the rejuvenation of the "senior section" at this year's football games.

The commercials for the Bleacher Creatures, which have included the likes of pig hats and chanting while Greg Prince is taking a test, accurately depict their rowdy, creative, and ludicrous nature.

Last year the loyal Bleacher Creatures followed the Boys Varsity Basketball team through its epic playoff run, including to hostile foreign environments such as Cherry Hill East and Atlantic City.

They were often greatly outnumbered by rival fans at the

venues of other high schools; however, they were never intimidated.

Right now, there are approximately sixty to seventy members in this school-spirited fan club, and as word of their comedy and creativity gets out, the number is expected to grow.

One will instantly recognize the creativity of this group upon looking at them.

Whether they are setting up multiple tents and naming the temporary settlement "Byattville," distracting opposing players in new and inventive ways or simply chanting the traditional "Town-ship," the Bleacher Creatures do it all.

This year, the ranks of the Bleacher Creatures swelled to double last year's size.

With new shirts and nearly seventy members in all, the Bleacher Creatures are enjoying themselves and rallying around a pair of competitive and talented basketball teams.

# Online shopping sign of times

Rob Cavella '07

One of the passions we share as Americans is the continual battle for convenience. The inclusion of internet shopping to our American culture is apparent and understandable. Looking back on the recent holidays, it is apparent that many shoppers were able to cross off their Christmas lists with a few mouse clicks.

This year, Forrester research recorded a twenty billion dollar increase in online sales from 2004 from 89 billion to over 109 billion. The only aspect of online sales that has been state is the clothing industry.

New technologies and advancements are being harnessed presently that will alleviate the worries of buying your clothing online. One of these new advancements is being worked on at Nottingham Trent University. It's an online program that allows you to carefully look at every aspect of the clothing you may decide to buy online.

Whether you were aware of this small tidbit of information, if you perform your duty as a consumer online you may be beating the government on their beloved sales tax. Because of the *Internet Tax Freedom Act*, if a retailer or company doesn't have a warehouse or store in your state, you can buy items from them online tax-free.

Because of this you can buy items without being charged sales tax. Amazon.com is a perfect example because their only warehouse is in Washington; allowing people in the other forty nine states to buy things

without tax along with the online discounts from Amazon.

Along with these beautiful conveniences, there are also the negative properties of making online purchases. You never really know what will happen when you take that leap of faith in divulging your credit card information, but there are laws and security procedures being created

*College Prep by Cristina Lanzilotta '06*

## Stressing over college search

Filling out and sending applications is probably one of the most difficult and tedious parts of the college search process. The application itself is a confusing page of section upon section to fill out. Figuring out what sections apply to you and who signs where can be quite overwhelming.

One aspect of the application process that can turn students off from applying to certain schools is the application fee. Paying anywhere from twenty to fifty dollars just to fill out an application for a school that you may or may not get into seems like a waste of money to most students. It is especially difficult for those students who don't have the money to pay for multiple college application fees.

An almost sure-fire way to get your application fee waived is to visit the colleges you want to apply to. Go to the school, take a tour, talk to an admissions rep, and they will almost always give you an application that

constantly to take away the jitters of giving up this data. Another popular concern, be it less factual, is the paranoia that one may have considering that they bought that isn't yet tangible. It could get lost in the mail, be defective, or it may be absolutely nothing like you observed on your computer monitor.

With these various concerns and

tribulations that come with internet shopping, you can be certain that as time goes on, e-commerce will only prosper.

With something as convenient as buying from your home computer, online purchases will continually be improved by technologies and carefully tuned so that money will be made and customers satisfied.

*Surviving High School by Julie Sherwood '06*

## Want to worry less? Get organized

Whether you're a freshman or a senior, a neat freak or laid back, each person has their own system of organization. "To each his own" they say, but is your system the most efficient it can be?

If you are completely organized, school work will become much more efficient and what can you do with the extra time? The possibilities are infinite.

Back in the day when the back of the bus was cool and this whole "high school" thing made me feel so grown up I started off the year prepared for what lay ahead.

I had a huge binder for each class filled with dividers, each section color-coded (notes, homework, ect.).

By the middle of the first marking period, my binder had papers hanging out of it and it was a lucky day that I found anything in my

locker. The rest of the year continued like this.

By sophomore year, I was sure I had everything figured out. I got one large binder (with the dividers ect.) and just carried the one around.

This too eventually led to my organizational doom. By junior year I figured out the most efficient way to keep things in their proper place.

Even now, in the middle of my senior year, I still use this strategy.

At the beginning of the year, attend your classes and find out what your teachers want.

Some have specific things they want you to have for your class. Most prefer their own notebook or have no preference.

Then I suggest buying a spiral notebook and a folder for each class. By doing this, all your notes stay in the same place and you have a place

to put all your handouts and worksheets. (If you want to go the extra step, you can color-code your notebooks, binders and book cover, so for each class you can just grab all the books of the same color.)

Also, by just having a folder and notebook, I have found that I don't have to lug around a big binder, I can carry books for multiple classes and I don't have to go to my locker as often.

When you know where everything is, and papers aren't escaping your grasp, work gets turned in on time, and time isn't wasted searching through all your things to find a worksheet or a set of notes.

I've also found that a "homework" folder or a "take-home" folder helps me become even more efficient.

Every time you get a worksheet

really sat down and carefully thought about your answers. Having someone else, such as a parent, fill out the application for you and send it to the college shows that either you're not interested enough in your school to fill it out yourself or they are too dependent on others to do things for you, neither of which are good first impressions. Filling out your own college application is a sign of maturity and readiness to take the next step into the college experience.

Yes, the college application process may leave you with a hand cramp by the time you're done, but in the end it will prove to be a worthwhile endeavor. Also, once you've finished with the application process, it's easy sailing until you get your acceptance or rejection letters. Although filling out your own application is not a guarantee that you will be accepted into every college you apply to, it does leave a lasting first impression that can lead colleges to a better idea of who you really are.

for homework or when you find out you have to study your notes, you can just place it in your "take-home" folder.

This greatly reduces the amount of things you have to take home. Everything seems a little more manageable. After you have turned it in and it's been graded you can return it to its prospective folder.

Hopefully, whether you are a freshman or a senior, these tips can help you prepare yourself for the rest of the year.

Maybe, after hearing my personal account, you too can become efficient in studying and homework.

Beware, once this system is implemented "I lost my notes" will no longer be an acceptable excuse. (Hopefully you won't need one.)



# A few minutes with BNL's Jim Creeggan

Rob Davis '06

The Barenaked Ladies started with vocalist Steven Page and guitarist Ed Robertson. For one performance, the two played with brothers Jim and Andy Creeggan. While Andy was away on a trip to Ecuador, drummer Tyler Stewart filled the position and remained there ever since. Andy Creeggan stayed with the band, however, until 1995. Kevin Hearn joined as the keyboardist in 1996.

Their name stemmed from a night when Robertson and Page attended at a 1988 Bob Dylan concert. Immaturely laughing at the phrase "barenaked lady," they decided to name the band as such on a whim.

Before the group's December 3 concert began, I had the pleasure of meeting their bassist, Jim Creeggan. Clad in a pastel-colored shirt, khakis, and Chuck Taylor-style sneakers, he generously spent some time with me to answer a few questions.



Photo Courtesy of Glen Nebel

## Jim Creeggan (right), plays his trademark upright bass.

**Q:** Most rock guitarists play only a bass guitar, but you use an upright one a lot as well. Why is that?

**A:** I started playing bass in fifth grade in school. It's what I was taught on. The double bass is a deeper, more physical, more challenging instrument, as well. It really allows me to dig in.

**Q:** How much formal training have you had?

**A:** I played in the school orchestras as well as pit bands. I've done some variety shows too.

**Q:** Who do you look up to, as a bassist?

**A:** [Jazz musician] Jaco Pastorius. Not only was he a virtuoso on bass, but he was a great arranger and composer as well.

**Q:** On a related note, what music are you listening to at the moment?

**A:** Mostly people I've heard about from Toronto. People like Mike Evin, Buck 65, and singer-songwriter Kurt Swinghammer.

**Q:** The band has a reputation of giving great live performances. How do you keep it fresh for so long?

**A:** We do a lot of improvisation and joke around all the time. Usually we'll sing about whatever makes us laugh or the day's events.

**Q:** Did it take a lot of work to improvise things smoothly, or was there a natural chemistry among the members?

**A:** Things pretty much flowed easily. But to grow, we've had to try new things. We have a willingness to risk sounding ragged for our benefit. It still takes a lot of group work – things don't always just fall into place.

**Q:** Do you have any future aspirations for yourself or with the band?

**A:** I've always wanted to teach music to people, whether it's with the others or not. It doesn't matter to who – kids or adults. I like giving back to the community.

**Q:** What was it like to play at Live 8 in Toronto?

**A:** It was really inspiring. It gave a chance to bring people together in hope to put pressure on the G8 (Group of Eight – the group of eight leaders of governments who meet annually to address international issues). We all wanted to help with the relief of debt and trade. It was very exciting to be part of such a big push to reduce world poverty. It was not just about raising money. It felt good to be part of something that can make a difference.

**Q:** Lastly, what do you think of the CBAC?

**A:** It's pretty awesome. I wish I had this in high school.

# Martial artist shines in Hong Kong

Sean Miller '09

Shane Meinhart '08 returned to WTHS on February 14 with a chest full of gold medals, not from Torino but from Hong Kong, where he had competed in a martial arts tournament.

Meinhart and eighteen other students went to Hong Kong with their instructor, Li Pei Yun, the owner and operator of Li's Martial Arts. Yun himself did not compete.

## Meinhart competed against teams from 20 other countries.

Meinhart competed in seven different areas. He captured first place in Double Broadsword, Broadsword, Tiger Form, Sanshou (a form of sparring). In addition to individual honors, he was part of the group which took first place in the

Wushu Team Demonstration. He also competed in Long Fist form, but due to technical difficulties, he was not sure as to how he placed.

In the normal team demonstration, which included things other than Wushu, Meinhart's team placed second. The other eighteen team members competed in different areas that Meinhart himself did not.

Meinhart spends about 5-8 hours a week at Li's Martial arts. During this time he works on Wushu, in which he is a brown belt, and Tai Chi where he is a yellow belt.

Within these disciplines, Meinhart employs a variety of weapons. In chronological order of his learning to use them, Meinhart uses a staff, a broadsword, a whip chain, twin broadswords, and a straight sword.

Meinhart also enjoys playing video games. He'll play almost anything, although he prefers games that require thinking.



photo courtesy of the Meinhart family

## Shane Meinhart '08 (left) and his martial arts instructor Li Pei Yun. Meinhart won first place honors in several events.

Reading is also one of Meinhart's hobbies.

"I like to read anything I can find," Meinhart said.

Not surprisingly, his house is stuffed full of books, everywhere from the room where he enjoys his video games to his work-out room. His preferences are books that stimulate the imagination, books on Wushu, government conspiracies, and anything on the physics of the brain.

For one of his career choices, Meinhart is possibly looking into becoming a Wushu teacher himself.

"[I would want to do] just about anything that gets me into a seat of power," Meinhart said.

He has many dislikes, although he says that some of his least favorite things are our government, most TV commercials, and anyone who gets in his way of learning new things.

Meinhart described himself as an enigma. He said that he didn't want everything stated about him.

"It's hard to tell people things about me without revealing things that I don't want to reveal," Meinhart said for his reason to be reserved.

# Kelley skates for love of sport

Ally Martelli '07

Figure skater and full time student at Washington Township High School, junior Rachel Kelley's future looks promising. A recent National Honor Society inductee, Kelley has a lot to balance between skating four to five days a week every other week, working the snack bar at Hollydell Ice Arena where she skates, and coaching younger skaters on Wednesday nights and Saturday mornings.

During the time she has off from skating, she takes a conditioning class and does off-ice training. On top of that there's the added pressure to succeed in school, where she takes advanced classes and studies hard whenever she has time to.

"I spend a lot of time at [the rink]," says Kelley, "so sometimes I'll leave my school work in the figure skating closet to avoid carrying them back and forth from home. I usually have time to get my homework done."

For Kelley, dedication is the name of the game. At age nine Kelley saw the professional skaters on television; she watched in awe and expressed a desire to her mom to be like the skaters. Within the next few weeks, Kelley was signed up for group lessons at Hollydell. Within a year, Kelley was taking private lessons and competing against skaters like 2006 Olympic team member, Emily Hughes.

Kelley also played WTPR softball for nine years as well as cheerleading during the basketball season her freshman year in high school, but chose to give up both and continue skating.

"I've been doing it for so long even taking time off feels weird. It's a part of my life," says Kelley.

As far as squeezing in some down time, Kelley says, "I fit 'self' time in whenever I can. I stay up really late during the week, and when I have days off, I hang out with my friends."



Melissa Novak '06/The Patriot

(l to r) Bianca Rivera, Rachel Kelley, Olivia Dahlgren, Michele Dahlgren.

Kelley has four coaches, including Donna McAllister, who she's been with for five years. McAllister works with Kelley on all aspects of skating and is a big motivator.

"She pushes me to my limit, and I'm thankful that she does," Kelley

says of McAllister.

Other coaches include Karen Gooley, who trains Kelley on jumps and moves. Her favorite jump is called the double salchow. It's her self-proclaimed best jump, and she uses it frequently.

Another coach, Michelle Dahlgren, covers spins and choreography, while Tiffany Scott does conditioning with Kelley.

In her five years of skating, sixteen year old Kelley has won over 30 medals, many of them being gold. Her most memorable win was her gold medal at one of her favorite competitions, the Princeton Open.

"I had been competing for a while and just couldn't win," says Kelley. "I kept coming in second and third, and then one day I was on top. It was a confidence booster; after that I just kept winning."

Olympians Tara Lipinski, who Kelley met at the Stars on Ice show in Atlantic City, and Sasha Cohen are two of Kelley's biggest inspirations in figure skating.

After discussing it with her family at a young age, Kelley decided against striving to be an Olympic figure skater because she would have had to be home-schooled in order to train properly, and she didn't want to miss out on a normal childhood.

Kelley has no regrets about her decision; she just loves what she does.

## Dedicated to the Corps

Ashley Walsh '07

In senior Angelina Anastasi's eighth grade year, ROTC cadets came to recruit the eighth graders into joining.

Anastasi signed up...for all the wrong reasons.

"There was a boy I had a crush on and in order to impress him I joined ROTC. I knew there could be a possibility that he could be in my flight," says Anastasi.

Although she joined for a guy, she ended up staying for a lot more reasons and what she got out of it was a lot more. She became the second wing commander, the person basically in charge of the whole organization, for the 2005 - 2006 school year.

Anastasi credits her current position to all her hard work she has done throughout her years in ROTC.

"I volunteered a lot of my time, helped out with most of the service events, stayed after school, and had various jobs and tasks that were given to me," notes Anastasi.

One of those tasks included being in charge of logistics. Anastasi had to make sure that over 200 ROTC cadets were sized for and got a uniform. She also had to keep track on a daily basis how much of each item of clothing the ROTC had.

She was in charge of telling Senior Aerospace Science Instructor



Ashley Walsh '07/The Patriot

Angelina Anastasi (right) with Colonel Wolozyn.

(ASI) Colonel Wolozyn if ROTC needed to order a certain item.

Another contribution Anastasi made was making up a lot of the tests and quizzes for the curriculum. She even wrote, with help from cadet Lauren Shabazian '06, a textbook and workbook.

"I wanted to prove something in becoming a commander; I wanted to prove that I was capable of achieving this great goal of mine," Anastasi says.

"Taking charge hasn't always been easy. I have to not think about my friendships. I have to dictate to

people what they need to get done, and sometimes even be strict with them," she says.

Anastasi is thankful that she joined ROTC because, "It helped me get accepted into college and it will help prepare me for the real world," she says.

One goal that she wants as a wing commander is to get more cadets involved with service events and staying after school to help the ASIs.

Anastasi feels she has worked hard to achieve all her goals and hopes others will, too.

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# COMICS

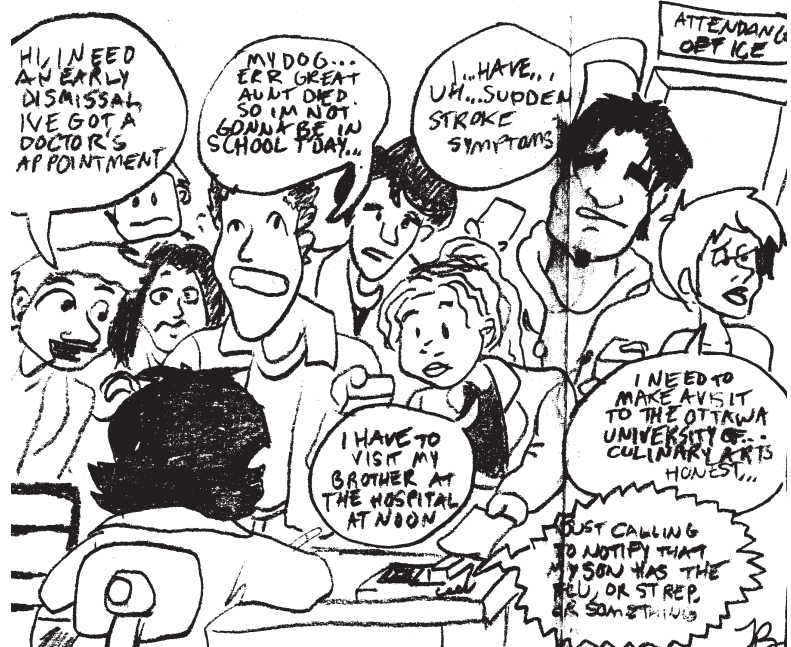


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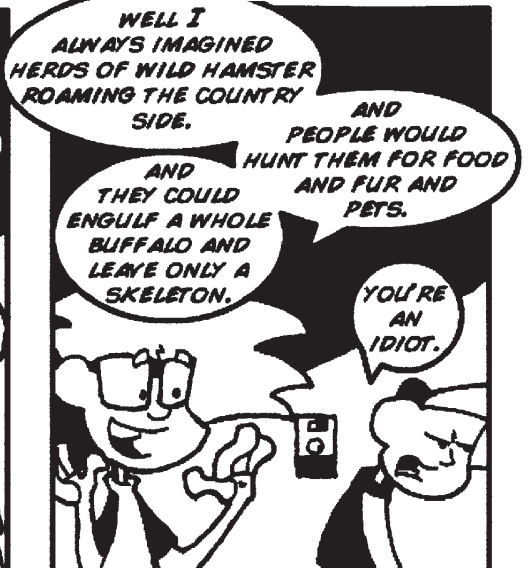
By Jeff Bryan '06



If Osama sees his shadow, The war goes on for six more weeks



By Matt Johnson '06



# Odds and Ends

Keeping up with Jonesy by Mike Jones '06

## Not quite the St. Valentine's Day Massacre...

Mike Jones '06

February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. St. Valentine's Day. A day that will live (in infamy) in the lives of Washington Township students forever. Looking back, St. Val really pulled through for us on that special day.

It was a beautiful setting for a romantic holiday, that cold, dark day, weather perfect for some cuddling.

The halls smelled of roses and cheap cologne – the smell of desire, baby. All was well, here at WTHS, up until about 4<sup>th</sup> period.

Those expecting the usual P.A. announcement (If the fire alarm should sound, please disregard unless otherwise directed via the P.A. system.) received quite a shock on that happy day when we were told to remain seated and await further instruction.

The underlying message was simple – Bomb! – and was followed by the eruption of various tones as cell phones were immediately turned on.

It's a shame students had to shout over their teachers (apparently, radio

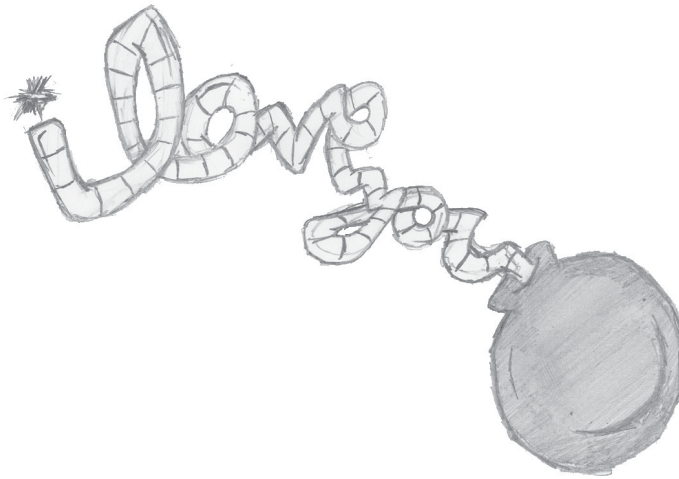


Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

waves could trigger the bomb... or something of that nature) to inform their parents of the scare and, more importantly, their state of being.

After a short period of time, the students of Township then marched a marathon 300 feet away from the

school to the football stadium, (we still couldn't touch the field) in the cold.

Here, good old Val really out did himself by chilling this mass of humanity together with his 30 degree rain. Regardless of how fat, thin, ugly, pretty, good, or bad we were,

everyone had someone to hold on Valentine's Day '05.

After a couple of hours, the unlucky few who missed the first wave of buses were herded to O'Brien Hall where, overwhelmed with a, shall we say, athletic stench, women buried their faces in their new snuggle-buddy's chests.

There, in that red, red room, we sat, waiting for the moment in which we would abscond from our new-found partners when we were informed that the buses had just pulled in.

We were then transported to Echo Plaza (both stores of it) where we were organized into buses to go home. In Valentine's terms, this was a sad time.

As the new couples – who, up until then, had been attached at the hip – were split up to journey home.

Despite all the fear, uncertainty, and...hypothermia, everyone made it home quite alright with a few new friends.

Indeed, when I look back, I'd say last year was the best Valentine's Day of my life. Although it may seem strange, nothing says "I love you" like a bomb scare.

## There's always room for Jell-O

Lillyan Ling '08

It was the most amazing thing ever in that lunch bag of yours that you carried to school when you were little. It was red, green, orange, yellow, and any other color.

But the most insane about this was that it jiggled because it wasn't liquid or solid. That was the whole charm to it. That was the whole amazing charm to Jell-O.

Did you ever wonder how something like this could ever have been invented?

What happens when you put a carpenter, a quest for a cough remedy, and gelatin together? Well, according to history, you get Jell-O.

The finding of Jell-O, something so bizarre, had to be somewhat of an accident. In 1897, a man named Pearle B. Waite, a carpenter from LeRoy, New York, started experimenting with gelatin in search of a cough remedy. Although he did not prove to be successful in reaching his goal, he sure

made a mark on the world by producing a revolutionary gelatin dessert. His wife named it "Jell-O".

However, attempts to market this product failed, as he lacked the experience. In 1899, he sold the recipe to a townsman for the price of \$450. After the recipe was passed around to several other people, Jell-O immediately became known worldwide.

Before this time, any gelatin dessert was considered a delicacy of the rich. They were the only ones that could afford that much time and money for it. However, with this new discovery for a more simple and cheap dessert, Jell-O took no time to be popular.

A museum dedicated to the findings of Jell-O lies in LeRoy, New York, where it was originally made. There, it holds some of the most incredible gadgets used on Jell-O and a few interesting trivia facts.

For example, an E.E.G. machine that tests human brain waves also

# JELLO



Jell-O is used to create hundreds of delicious recipies.

tested the jiggle of the Jell-O, finding it to have identical waves of grown men and women.

The museum also has the Jellometer on display. It was a machine that tested the spring of the Jell-O to see if it was enough or not.

Today, spokesperson Bill Cosby encourages America to eat Jell-O, the

well-loved gelatin snack that everyone has grown up with. It is so successful today in its 158 products that the company sells, 300 million boxes of it each year.

So the next time you open a cup of Jell-O, be thankful that your eating a gelatin snack, and not a cough remedy.



# Man crushes: who's yours?

Mark Natale '06

Just like every year, February rolls around, and love is in the air. Township is filled with many guys who will spend the 14<sup>th</sup> day of this shortened month working on their Romeo quality game, trying to win over any of our multitude of good looking girls. But behind each tank top and sagged jeans, lays a tough guy's real love: His man crush.

Most men have them. It's that one guy that they seem to know too much about. Ask Steve Dunn what Brady Quinn ate for breakfast. He'll answer. Ask Rob Czyzewicz what elementary school Sidney Crosby went to. He'll let you know. All across the media, from John Madden (Brett Favre), to Steven A Smith (Allen Iverson), and even the Patriot's own Mike Jones (Mark Natale), there is always the one guy that every sports fan favors, maybe a little *too* much.

Most girls don't really get it. While there are plenty of girls that oogle over female models or beautiful singers, they don't adore the icons the same way Dave Zappacosta drools every time JJ Redick hits a three. Guys seem to take it differently, and our female counterparts remain confused. What is it about these men, who none of us really know, that causes all the fanfare?

When it gets down to it, it's all about respect. Matt Kienzle doesn't have Adam Morrison's "in-the-gym range", so he instantly becomes a fan. All of previously mentioned have talents that their viewers can't even dream about, let alone realize. So instead, we mortals resort to cheering. We'll spend our free time online looking up ridiculous stats, stop whatever we're doing whenever they show up on TV, and talk trash to our friends who don't appreciate the same athlete. We speak of them as if they're

our friends, because deep down, every guy wishes they were.

"What did I tell you about my boy Vince, he's too nasty", was said by several proud fans on the morning after the BCS championship game. It doesn't matter that Mr. Young never is, never was, and never WILL be that fan's "boy". It's the same way that fans don't realize that "we" didn't win the Superbowl (Sorry Steelers' fans, those 53 men were on their own for that one.)

But I digress, because in the end, why try to stop it? Man crushes are inevitable for any event. As long as there is a game going on, there will be those on the sidelines admiring the players. It's time for every jealous girlfriend and confused valentine to realize that while the sexuality of their partner may be questioned, all they really want is to be something their not. In the end, what's not to love about that?

Support Boy's  
Lacrosse.

Fuddrucker's  
nights on the  
first and third  
Wednesday of  
every month!

March 8th  
March 22nd  
April 5th  
April 19th

The Stars Tell All By Jackie Stanitis '09

## Find your star-matched romance

What's your sign? Or better yet: what sign is most compatible romantic match to yours? Here you can find which people you can flirt with and who might be the real deal.

**Aries (March 21- April 20):** You have a chance to be with Leo, Libra, Cancer, or Virgo, but your perfect match will most likely be with a Sagittarius or Pisces.

**Taurus (April 21-May 21):** You can easily get along with Cancer, Pisces, and maybe Taurus. You're match made in heaven would either be a Virgo or Capricorn.



**Gemini (May 22- June 21):** You may have a chance with Gemini, Libra, or Aquarius, but Leo is the perfect one for you.



**Cancer (June 22- July 22):** There's a chance with Aries, Taurus, and Pisces, but Scorpio is the best choice.

**Leo (July 23- August 21):** Your perfect match is with a Gemini, but you also have a chance with a Sagittarius or Aries.

**Virgo (August 22- September 23):** Your perfect date is Taurus or Capricorn, and you might get along with an Aries or Virgo.

**Libra (September 24- October 23):** You could be with an Aries or Gemini, but your perfect match would be with an Aquarius.

**Scorpio (October 24- November 22):** You might not have anyone that you're okay with, but you do have Cancer or Pisces as your perfect date.

**Sagittarius (November 23- December 22):** Leo is a good one for you, and an Aries would be a match made in heaven.

**Capricorn (December 23- January 20):** Your perfect match would either be with a Taurus or Virgo.

**Aquarius (January 21- February 19):** You get along with Aquarius and sometimes the Gemini, but Libra is the perfect match.

**Pisces (February 20- March 20):** Cancer and Taurus are good, but your match made in heaven would be with either a Scorpio or Aries.



Welcome to  
the new  
*Odds and  
Ends*  
Section!

Feel free to submit any  
of your funny, creative,  
or blatantly random  
stories here.

Our Email  
Address is:

WTHSPatriot@hotmail.com

# Entertainment

## More than *Just Friends*

Heather Ale '06

Have you ever been close with someone and wanted the relationship to be something more, but realized it just wasn't in the cards? That is the story of Chris, played by Ryan Reynolds, in possibly his most entertaining film, "Just Friends." The movie will make you leave the theater still laughing.

The gist of the movie involves an overweight teen, (Reynolds), who is in love with his beautiful best friend, Jamie (Amy Smart). Unfortunately, Jamie puts Chris in the 'Friends Zone' and tells him that she loves him ... like a brother. This slap in the face drives Chris to turn his life around by losing weight and becoming a hotshot producer who treats women like dirt. His latest client is Samantha James (Anna Faris) a talentless singer who is obsessed with him. When an accident lands Chris back in his hometown, he gets a second chance to woo the girl of his dreams and become more than 'just friends'.

### As a fluffy date movie, "Just Friends" delivers.

Although this kitschy comedy is not Oscar-worthy, it does provide an enjoyable hour and a half and a few chuckles as well. This movie differs from Reynolds's usual raunchy brand of humor, as seen previously in the likes of "Van Wilder" and "Waiting." Instead, "Just Friends" showcases Reynolds in a "Meet the Parents" situation where everything that can go wrong, will. Although the plot is predictable it is still amusing. The most outstanding performances were delivered by Reynolds, who convincingly plays a naïve teenager and was likable even when he was a jerk, and Faris, the insanely wacky singer/songwriter whose outlandish personality keeps you laughing the entire movie.

As a bonus, at the end of the movie Reynolds serenades the audience (while wearing his fat suit) with his rendition of "I Swear", which is probably the funniest moment in the movie. If you are expecting fine art, "Just Friends" is not the movie to see. However as a fluffy date movie, "Just Friends" delivers.

## Family chaos in *Family Stone*

Laura Marder '07

Looking for a movie for the whole family that can bring laughter, tears and romance all at once? Then I recommend you see "Family Stone", one of the greatest comedy, romance, and drama films of the season.

Many well known actors and actresses star in this movie. Sarah Jessica Parker plays Meredith, a far too uptight woman who accompanies her boyfriend Everet (Dermot Mulroney) to his family's annual Christmas celebration and finds that she's a fish out of water in their way of life. The Stones are very down the earth people, walking around the house in sweaters and slippers, unlike Meredith in her suit, heels, and tight hair.

The Stone family is very close knit, and this outsider at their Christmas celebration brings comedy as well as drama. This movie is so easy to relate to because it has every type of characters – the uptight, crazy mother, funny brother, wild grandchildren, calm father, annoying jealous sister and more. If you've ever been an outsider at a family get together you can feel for Meredith as she struggles to be accepted by the



Rachel McAdams and Diane Keaton star in this family comedy.

Stone family.

The casting for this movie was very well done. Diane Keaten gives a heartfelt performance as the mother who doesn't want to see her children leave her nest. Deaf actor, Ty Giordano, gives a life-like performance as Thad Stone, the deaf and gay son.

From the previews this movie looks like a fun light hearted comedy, but it actually has a lot of meaning and sentiment built into it. Expect to

bring out the Kleenex because by the end you'll definitely be moved. Before the holiday is over, relationships will unravel while new ones are formed, and twists of the plot will leave you wanting to see the ending.

Watch "Family Stone" to find out yourself if Meredith will be accepted into the Stone family. I recommend you see this movie with your family; it will make you all appreciate the amount of chaos in your house for the holidays.

## Strokes make lasting *First Impressions*

Mark Mazzeo '07

When I first picked up the Strokes' new album *First Impressions of Earth*, I was expecting it to be something akin to their first two releases, *Is This It* and *Room On Fire*. I had already heard the album's first single "Juicebox" and "You Only Live Once" before, and loved both of these songs immediately. After listening to it once, the album seemed to be very disappointing. But after repeated listenings, it became clear that *First Impressions of Earth* is a great album.

The album's first track, "You Only Live Once" is everything a fan could want from a Strokes song, with a joyful melody, skipping rhythm, and cheerfully snotty lyrics. It's vintage Strokes, reminiscent of some of their older songs like "12:51" and "Someday".

On the album's third track, "Heart in a Cage", vocalist Julian Casablancas manages to sound somewhat like the Doors' Jim Morrison during the chorus, while keeping the Stokes sounds alive.

The next song, "Razorblade", is arguably the best on the whole compact disk, if not their best song ever. The song has interesting and witty lyrics about a girl Casablancas calls 'the razorblade' and the importance of one's feelings and the feelings of others. At the same time, the whole song seems to have mini guitar solos through out the song, which gives it a brilliant quality. And in the song's conclusion, the whole thing comes together, lyrically and musically.

"Ask Me Anything" being a great ballad, took some getting used to. On the first listen, I was completely thrown off by this song. But after several more listens, I realized just how great the song was.

Overall, *First Impressions of Earth* has 14 great songs and has a wonderful over all feel. Just don't



The Strokes' new album is hardcore.

judge it too quickly, your first impressions don't always stand the test of time, but *First Impressions of Earth* sure will.



# Medieval sobfest lacks passion, originality

Justine Jacobs '06

The love story of Tristan and Isolde has been passed down from generation to generation since the medieval ages. It predates William Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet* – a fact that its previews desperately try to remind potential audiences.

"Tristan & Isolde" is the less famous, less faultless version of *Romeo & Juliet*, and this drastically altered rendition does little to distinguish it from its more renowned and respected counterpart.

"Tristan & Isolde" is set after the fall of the Roman Empire – Britain is divided amongst a series of tribes, all of which are oppressed by the prospering Irish Celts led by King Donnchadh (David O'Hara).

Tristan (James Franco) is a young English knight who is raised by the wise Lord Marke (Rufus Sewell) after his parents are killed in an Irish attack. While attempting to prevent Donnchadh's men from taking English citizens as slaves, Tristan is wounded with a poisoned blade, taken for dead, and set out to sea in a Viking-style funeral.

Somehow Tristan miraculously survives not only being poisoned but being burned alive as well and washes



James Franco and Sophia Myles play the doomed lovers in this poor adaption of "Tristan & Isolde."

up on the Irish coastline where he is found by Donnchadh's daughter Isolde (Sophia Myles).

Naturally, the pair fall in love, and, naturally, they are torn apart by the vicious forces of honor, duty, and politics in a rather confused, complex plotline not worth mentioning here.

The film bears little resemblance to the original story, which featured love potions, dragons, and an

infeasible number of love triangles. While having Tristan and Isolde actually fall in love the old fashioned way, without the aid of magical potions, makes the story more realistic, it also takes away the distinctiveness of the ancient tale. Sometime after Tristan washes up on the Irish shore, "Tristan & Isolde" morphs into a distorted, poorly written version of *Romeo & Juliet*.

The plot becomes predictable and boring, and viewers will find themselves eager for the film to end.

Of course, the faulty plotline could have been salvaged by skilled acting and potent on screen chemistry. Unfortunately, those two qualities are noticeably absent from this film. Franco displays the acting chops of a dead fish. He bears the stereotypical face of the strong, handsome, tortured soul for the entire film and is teary eyed for the final hour. Myles is stiff as Isolde, and it is difficult to discern why Tristan is so enchanted with her.

The film does have its high points. Sewell is wonderful as Lord Marke – transforming the troubled leader and father figure into the true tragic hero of the film. He's a more interesting and sympathetic character than either Tristan or Isolde.

The cinematography is skillful executed as well. Sweeping shots of the muddy English landscape make the film visually stimulating, even if the plot is not.

Despite its medieval roots and beautiful images, "Tristan & Isolde" never escapes the shadow of the renowned *Romeo & Juliet*. In this case, it doesn't matter which came first – public opinion has already determined which is better.

# Parent-safe television with *Gilmore Girls*

Ashley Walsh '07

For a few of us, television watching is totally controlled by our parents. Some of us don't even have T.V in our rooms so we have to rely on the tv in the family room. Not only that, but, nowadays, parents can password protect those programs that they don't feel are appropriate for their child. And let's face it; it's totally embarrassing to have our parents there when we are watching programs that have questionable material in it.

So why not watch a family orientated show? Because believe it or not, there are appropriate shows out there that are actually good!

*Gilmore Girls* happens to be one of those shows.

*Gilmore Girls*, which made its debut in 2000, is about a woman named Lorelai Gilmore (Lauren Graham), raising her daughter Rory (Alexis Bledel), who Lorelai had at the young age of 16. Lorelai has obviously made a few mistakes in her lifetime, and she's raising Rory in hopes that she won't make the same ones. The show's main focus is on the extreme closeness that these two share with each other.

In fact, that is one of the reasons

that you should tune in. Their relationship is the sweetest thing ever. Lorelai loves her daughter a lot, but she goes beyond just trying to be a parent; she wants to be her friend, too. Rory can talk to her mother about almost anything and her mother will rarely be judgmental. She can even talk to her mom about boys and sex.

Another reason to tune in, is that the characters are realistic, strong, and independent. Rory is a straight A student who dresses modestly and actually has morals. Most people, like Paris Geller (Liza Weil), a classmate of hers, hate her because she seems perfect and innocent, but she doesn't care what people think of her.

Lorelai actually expresses her frustrations with her mother, instead of letting her mother take advantage of her. Both women are true to themselves and aren't afraid to break down and cry when things aren't perfect in life.

*Gilmore Girls* has a good plot, without being overly sexual or promoting language or drugs. Both Lorelai and Rory always have their relationship issues, whether they are good or bad. Lorelai rarely ever gets along with her mother, which builds the dramatic sense to the show.



Alexis Bledel and Lauren Graham star as daughter Rory and mother Lorelai on the *Gilmore Girls*.

Some interesting things are happening on the show right now. For instance, Lorelai is about to get married to Luke (Scott Patterson), but he recently found out he has a daughter and is delaying getting married to Lorelai so he can figure some things out. Rory is still out of college so she can also figure out who she wants to be and what she wants out of life. Rory

also had tension with her mom and she moved in with her grandmother, but now she's back at home.

You can catch *Gilmore Girls* on Tuesdays on the WB at 8pm. If you aren't already watching it, I suggest you start. Its characters are realistic, the plots are good, and best of all your parents will approve!

# New direction disappoints in latest *Potter*

Josh Bennett '07

Back for his fourth year at Hogwarts in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire", Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe) has been experiencing disturbing dreams throughout the summer as well as aching pain from his scar, the famous result of a death curse gone wrong. In an attempt to get his mind off of this, he attends the Quidditch World Cup.

However, all goes wrong as the sky is scorched with the Dark Mark, the sign of the he-who-should-not-be-named, Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes). The Death Eaters, the ones behind the scorching of the sky, then appear for the first time since Voldemort was last seen thirteen years ago.

Once back in school, Dumbledore (Michael Gambon) announces that Hogwarts will be the host of the legendary Triwizard Tournament. Each of the three schools has one representative who will battle through three tasks to gain eternal glory. In order for students to enter the contest, they must be a seventh-year student

and place their name in the Goblet of Fire.

During the drawing, however, the three selected names are followed by a fourth – Harry Potter, who is only a fourth year student. Potter will now have to battle his way through the most dangerous tournament in the world on top of dealing with the worst of news: Lord Voldemort has returned.

## Fans of the books will probably dislike this film.

Fans of the movies will find this installment much darker than the preceding three. The characters are growing up and are now facing more adult situations with more adult outlooks.

Fans of the books will probably dislike this film. Many key elements that were important in the book are completely left out in this adaptation. It was expected that many parts would be cut out of the film, especially with a new director, Mike Newell. The book was over seven hundred pages; the film was just two and a half hours. However, it would have still been



Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliffe, must participate in the legendary Triwizard Tournament (depicted here with Ron, played by Rupert Grint, and Hermione, played by Emma Watson).

possible to include some of the more important elements.

The music was terrible in all honesty. The beloved John Williams, famous for his work on many great films such as "Star Wars" and "Indiana Jones", dropped out of this film to do work on "Memoirs of a Geisha", which hit theatres December 9th. With

Williams gone, this film found itself without the traditional Potter theme which was replaced by a handful of random, bad songs about wizardry.

All in all, this movie was nothing spectacular. Under the new direction of Newell, this series has tumbled down a spiral staircase all the way through.

## Potter grows in *Half-Blood Prince*

Margaret Bonanni '09

British writer JK Rowling has once again left fiction enthusiast thunderstruck with her new addition to the series, Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince. With the sixth of her seven expected novels completed, she has proven once again that fantasy and wizardry can paint a pallet of amazing reading for all ages.

The introduction of new characters, the death of an old favorite, more magical marvel, new controversies, budding romances, and the last pieces to the Harry Potter puzzle, this novel makes the turning point in the series.

In this novel, Voldemort starts to move openly, causing chaos, fear, and paranoia all over the Wizardry world. People are disappearing daily, and many places, including Hogwarts, are not even safe. Death Eaters are escaping from Azkaban and everyone is a suspect.

This novel also shines a long awaited light on Voldemort's past, and explains his motives. All of these clues lead up to a shocking and surprising ending that will leave fans dumbfounded.

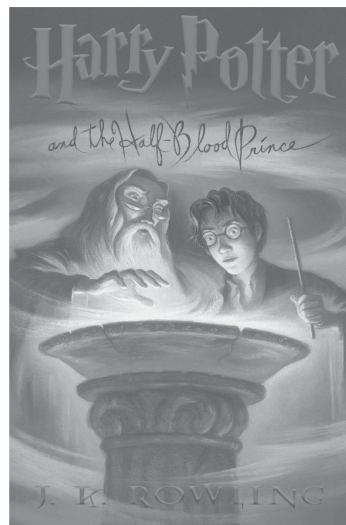
There are differences between the 5<sup>th</sup> (Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix) and 6<sup>th</sup> Harry Potter books. Certain issues are addressed,

and changes between the characters are developed. Harry matures emotionally and mentally in this book; and changes from a young angry teenager of book five, to a sensible intuitive young adult of book six who is aware of his destiny and can better carry his burden. He learns how to deal with his emotions in a more constructive manner and the value of family.

Unlike in book five, he isn't as aggressive. Relationships in the book are also deepened, as Ron and Hermione's friendship takes a surprising turn of events. Relations between Harry and his teachers are also more defined. He and Dumbledore grow closer then they were in the latter book and begin to take private lesson together. Throughout the book Harry is confronted with situations that assess his better judgment and conscience.

As an avid reader, and as fan, I think this book deserves four out of five stars. Rowling took a different road with the writing of this book. Her new characters added a new spin to the continuing tale. The details about Voldemort's past made certain parts of the novel more defined, such as why he's the antagonist of the story to begin with.

The plot line was effectively



The Half-Blood Prince features a more mature Harry Potter.

carried out through out the book, but I feel that sometimes Rowling left readers in the dark on certain details. The book also waited quite some time before reaching the climax of the story, and the romances in the novel, although interesting might push younger readers away. Ultimately, I think the book is worth reading and will better your understanding of the Harry Potter saga.

Want to get involved in the paper...

but too busy to stay after school?

See your guidance counselor to schedule a Journalism I class for next year!



# Tech Talk

## EA's hockey sim revamped for '06

### Calling all techies

Welcome to Tech Talk.

Before the creation of this section, stories about iPods or game reviews were placed in other sections of the newspaper, but now all of that is left in the past. This page will feature all those stories that previously had crowded other sections.

Any reader who is interested in writing about video games, websites, or other technological developments that don't really fit in the other sections, can contact me at [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com).

So if you are interested in writing techno-babble, now there is a place in the newspaper for your stories.

-Matthew Starner '06  
Tech Talk editor

A.J. Nisbet '08

NHL 2006 is undoubtedly the best hockey simulation game on console this year. In previous years, EA Sports had some competition with other makers like SEGA and 989 Sports. This year, NHL 06 pulls away from its competition with its excellent graphics, controls, and surprisingly for EA hockey games, game play feel.

Before 06 was released, I was partial to the ESPN series because of its real game play feeling, something that EA lacked. EA was known for its graphics, rather than feel.

This year EA gives the gamers more control over players skating, stick handling, and shooting. While skating and shooting controls were evident in previous games, this game allows you to control the stick which

makes the game more exciting.

A major plus for this year's EA hockey game is its in-depth franchise mode. In the franchise mode, you can take control as a general manager, coach, and player for years worth of hockey seasons. You can make changes to your team such as editing lines, signing players, making trades, or anything else you need to do to achieve your ultimate goal, winning the Stanley Cup.

Even though the franchise mode is a large part of this EA game, there are other game modes that will keep your hands glued to the controller for hours. Some of the other exciting game modes are the following: Exhibition, tournament, season, and the World Cup of Hockey.

Other strong points in the game, like always, are the graphics and cut scenes. This year, now more than ever, you can tell who a player is by their facial features in the game. Also, each player is using up to date name brand equipment.

Although there are endless strong points in this game, it is not perfect. For one is that the rosters



**NHL 06 is the best hockey simulation game this year.**

are not updated fully. The big disappointment with that is the major rookies entering the league that are expected to make a large impact on the game. Also, some of the player's rating are off, especially the goalies. I give NHL 2006 an 8.5 out of 10.

## Relive classic *Star Wars* assaults

Matthew Starner '06

With the end of the Star Wars movies (finally) what would *Star Wars* fans do to get their fix? To put it simply *Star Wars: Battlefront 2* is that fix.

The game play makes it one of the best games that came out this past year. In it you control a normal trooper (or droid) of your choice. Instead of playing as the characters you relive battles as a normal soldier like the clone troopers or battle droids which makes it quite different than all the previous *Star Wars* games.

In the game you win by either eliminating all the reinforcements of the enemy squad or by capturing all the command stations that spawn the enemies (and your own) reinforcements.

If you follow some special rules, you will be able to play as hero characters for your squad like General Grievous, Luke Skywalker, Darth Vader, Boba Fett, even Emperor Palpatine. They are on the field for only a limited time which is

**It is very competitive online and just as much fun as it is against the computer.**

represented by a lightsaber bar that steadily goes down after every hit and as time passes. It regains steadily for every trooper they kill.

While single player is fun, it is very limited. You don't unlock any new modes or characters, or even



**Battlefront 2 is the best *Star Wars* game made yet.**

weapons. It can give you a good feel for the game to play through it and be able to play better online. Really though, there isn't much to get out of the single player mode.

One of the best things about this game is its online play. It is very competitive online and just as much fun as it is against the computer. Though it is fun, the connections vary from game to game. Depending on the connection of the host or other players the game can slow down and end up being very glitchy. Sometimes connection just disconnects for no reason.

Despite these problems this game is one of the best *Star Wars* games made, and if you enjoy online play, it will keep you playing for a long time.

## Sequel continues battle for Soul Edge

Matthew Starner '06

Success. That is what game developers look at when they make a sequel to a game. Well, *Soul Calibur* is now on its third incarnation and it doesn't disappoint.

*Soul Calibur 3* tells the story of all the fighters being dragged into the hunt for the evil sword *Soul Edge*. The knight Siegfried once under control by the evil sword, which turned him into the sinister Nightmare. But Siegfried broke free from *Soul Edge*'s control and shattered *Soul Edge* with its polar opposite *Soul Calibur*.

The two swords now both are being carried by Siegfried. The power of *Soul Edge* transferred itself into the discarded armor of Nightmare. It couldn't move without a body though.

Zasamel, a man that carries a scythe performs a ritual to revive Nightmare to achieve his goal. Nightmare chases after Siegfried to get back his sword and his body.

The game play is very well done. The controls for the fighters are for the most part simple to use. Most of the old fighters have the same moves as the previous games and won't take veteran players long to learn the

controls.

While the moves are the same, the computer opponents are much better than they have ever been where it feels like you are playing a real person to an extent.

Even with the increased A.I. it is still disappointing that there is no online play. It is inexcusable to not have it in this day and age. While multi-player with your friends is great with over 25 playable characters to choose from, but what good is it if you can't test your skills against other players around the world.

Character creation is also very under developed. With high potential they totally blew it. With limited choices for faces which only have slight changes to the other faces. Limited armor and voices also lowers the potential of the mode.

While the game has its bad points, the good out weighs the bad. Challenging A.I., great control and game play, and a decent story help this game.

The online play being absent and the very limited character creation gives this game a huge hit, it isn't enough to make it a bad game. *Soul Calibur 3* gets 8.5 out of 10.



# The Apple iPod effect

Alyssa Muratore '06

With the holidays just passing, many people received bright, shiny new Apple iPods. The iPod is a mini MP 3 player that plays music. The idea of having all your music on one compact machine is very appealing to today's society.

This mini music player has sent the world into frenzy. It seems as if the whole world now owns an iPod. Some of your teachers or perhaps your parents, or grandparents own iPods.

The Apple iPod was not based on a new concept; the idea had been done before by other companies. Apple took it to new level by giving it a sleek and convenient design and also marketing the product in a very smart way, making it more appealing to the public, especially teens.

The idea of the iPod was first released on October 23, 2001. The slogan "Say hello to iPod" reminiscent of the already familiar "Say Hello to iMac", was released a few days earlier to create a stir on one of the most important Apple products ever.

The iPod has come a long way since its release in 2001. Today's iPods are smaller than a pack of gum, can store pictures, and even play movies.

As if the iPod wasn't enough, you can also get accessories for your music machine, such as armbands, colorful cases, car hook-ups, and many other things to help better your iPod experience.

The iPod has definitely taken America by storm. It has defined the way our generation listens to and accesses music. It is by far one of Apple's most significant products.

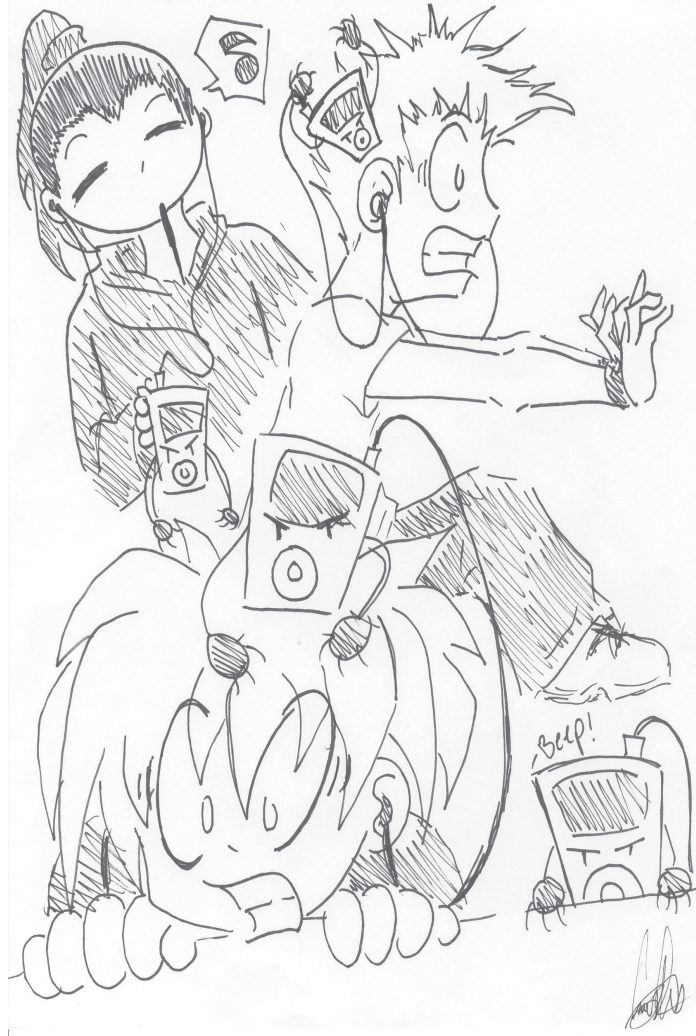


Illustration by Cassy Matos '07

## Dell DJ offers alternative to pricey iPods

Nick Contino '07

If you have any leftover holiday cash and want an mp3 player that is affordable, yet reliable, then the Dell DJ mp3 series is for you.

Dell has better pricing than Apple does on their mp3 players. Apple and Dell mp3 players have pretty much the same functions and accessories, but Dell is easier on the wallet with different mp3 players for any price that fits your wallet the best. Dell's prices run from \$99-\$300\* depending on the model.

The cheapest of Dell's mp3 players is the new Dell DJ Ditty. Its base price is \$99. It has a 512MB of storage for up to 220 songs. The Apple iPod Shuffle can only hold 120 songs. The DJ Ditty has a LCD screen and you can also listen to FM radio. The comparably priced iPod Shuffle does

not have a screen, and you can not listen to FM radio. The DJ Ditty has a rechargeable lithium polymer battery with up to 14 hours of battery life. The iPod Shuffle has a battery life of 12 hours. The Dell DJ Ditty has more than the Apple iPod Shuffle, but it is the same price.

The next in the price line at \$199\* is the Dell DJ Pocket. This is a smaller and lighter version of the Dell DJ 30. It has a 5GB of storage for up to 2,500 songs. The Apple iPod Nano can only hold 1,000 songs. The iPod Nano is smaller and lighter than the Dell DJ Pocket. The DJ Pocket can also let us listen to FM radio. The Apple iPod Nano can not.

The last mp3 player in of the Dell DJ series is the Dell DJ 30. This is the original mp3 from Dell. It has a rechargeable lithium polymer battery with up to 12 hours of constant play.

It has a LCD screen and an FM radio tuner. The best part of the Dell DJ 30 is that it has a 30GB of storage for up to an enormous total of 15,000 songs. Its competition is the Apple iPod. The iPod does not have all the great features that the Dell DJ 30 has. More importantly the Apple iPod is more expensive than the Dell DJ 30.

You can only order any of the Dell mp3 players from their website (dell.com). They have sales when the prices drop even lower. You can pay for everything over the internet. The site also has a large variety of accessories that include things from colorful covers to a new pair of headphones. Most purchases are shipped to you in a couple of days. Just remember, if you want a reliable, affordable mp3 player, go with a Dell.

\*All prices were taken from dell.com and are subject to change.

## Opinion

### Cell phones no distraction in school

Chelsea Morris '09

It's safe to say that if not all, the majority of students at Washington Township High School own a cell phone, toting them around school all day.

As a result of their popularity, I think there should be no violation made against them during the day, especially lunch.

Lunch is the one time during the day where students unwind and are able to chat with friends. I believe this is the time appropriate to be able to pull out the phones.

There is no harm for a student to be allowed to text message other friends or perhaps play games on their cell phones.

To even call a parent during the period to bring in that History Report you left laying in the printer tray.

Most of the time teachers forbid us to use their phones, especially to phone a parent to bring you in work and etc.

I know had I been able to call my mom during lunch I would have saved myself a couple zeros for homework assignments I foolishly left at home.

Not to say that students should be having a full-out conversation in the middle of an algebra lesson, the policy could remain the same with confiscating the phone until the end of the period or day.

However, emergencies should be permitted even during the time in the hallways.

If it is not disrupting class, I do not see how it is distracting anyone. I really believe it should be the same for the use of other electronics such as video games or mp3 players.

Mainly though I want to push the idea of cell phones because I believe they will be useful besides entertaining.

You can argue that some students don't deserve this privilege, and I can't go against it.

If that is the case, then make the cell phone policy something you can earn, just as you would for any other special privilege.

I think it is time to end getting your cell phone taken away for only having it out sometimes for .2 seconds.

Let the students that are responsible be able to use their cell phones at the appropriate times.

# Sports

## Jennings joins Minutemaids elite

Mark Natale '06

In the history of Township basketball, only nine girls have been immortalized into the 1,000 point club. In 2006, a 10<sup>th</sup> member has joined. Senior Amanda Jennings has been a four year varsity player, and has established herself as a Minutemaids legend.

During the long and storied history of Minutemaids' basketball, only nine girls have reached this mark. Kelly Delong was the first to do so in 1982, and most recently Jen Scaffidi got her name on the 11/12 gym wall after the 2001 season.

While Jennings has been playing varsity basketball since her freshman year, she didn't become aware that 1,000 points was a possibility until late in her junior season. Despite the pressures of knowing she is capable of

reaching this mark, Jennings' priorities are clear.

"I didn't put my 1000 points before any team goals, winning basketball games and team wide success are my first priorities", explained Jennings, who is also captain of the team. Despite putting her team first, Jennings realizes the magnitude of what she has accomplished.

"Its amazing to even be considered with the girls that have already done it. Seeing my name underneath my coaches name (Jen Natale) will be cool. It hasn't quite hit me yet, that I will join those girls everyone sees on the gym wall," said Jennings.

One can only imagine the type of pressure that comes with chasing history. With everyone of her points tallied, and every move she makes analyzed, it would be understandable



Heather Ale '06/The Patriot

**Amanda Jennings '06 joins the list of Twp. legends.**

for the pressure to get to a 17 year old girl. But Jennings has been calm through the whole ride, and has a great supporting cast behind her.

"The Coaches were aware that I wanted to get 1,000, but they didn't pressure me and I didn't make it known. Only a few of my teammates really knew about the goal, and my family and friends were all real excited, but didn't add any pressure."

Senior Bethany Messick is one of the few teammates Jennings openly spoke to concerning the thousand point feat from the beginning.

Messick is a close friend of Jennings, having played basketball with her for seven years. Being the starting point guard, Bethany keeps the goal in mind.

"She scored 1000 points in the middle school league, and I was playing with her then. Its great to be able to see her accomplish that again."

explained Messick.

But Jennings is not just a scoring machine. She is a team leader, and somebody that every Minutemaids player can rely on.

"As a point guard, whenever we need to score, I'll look to her. I know I can depend on her when the game is on the line," said Messick.

So as the Minutemaids finished up the season, there were two accomplishments that the Township girls were chasing: A South Jersey Championship, and securing 1000 points for its team leader. One is already accomplished, and the other is on the way. But neither goal interfered with the other, as Messick makes clear:

"If anything, the thousand point feat brings us together. We all want to win, and we all wanted Jennings to get it. Its just adds more motivation to all of us, not just Amanda."

## O'Hara reaches century mark

Bethany Messick '06

Brandon O'Hara, known to most as Webby has reached his 100th win.

O'Hara Picked up his milestone victory at the Regional Tournament held at Overbrook High School on Saturday February 25th.

He is the eighth wrestler in the history of WTHS to reach that mark.

O'Hara has been wrestling varsity for four years. His biggest rival is Dave Gill from Camden Catholic.

"Dave is a really good friend of mine so when ever we go up against each other we push each other to our limits," said O'Hara.

As captain of the wrestling team, O'Hara has some added pressure on his shoulders. He does not only try to win all of his matches, but he tries to be a role-model while doing it.

"The hardest part of being a captain is trying to be perfect all the time. Everyone is looking up to you so you don't want to make a mistake and let the team down," he said.

Although O'Hara will miss wrestling after this season, he does not plan to wrestle in college.

"There are barely any scholarships, and college wrestling is nuts," said O'Hara. "It's worse than a job."

One of the things O'Hara will miss the most are his teammates.

"We have so much fun that it is going to be hard not being with them



Bethany Messick '06/The Patriot

**As of February 27th, Brandon O'Hara had 100 career wins.**

after this season." O'Hara said even though he is not going to wrestle after high school he plans to help out teams whenever he can.

The relationship between O'Hara and the coaches is really close as well. He says that the coaches really care about the kids and want to help them as much as possible.

"They motivate us and push us to be our best."

Being in the 145 weight class, O'Hara has never really had trouble making his weight.

"I watch what I eat and work out a lot. If I'm ever close to not making my weight I usually just go for an extra run at night to work off a few extra pounds."

### Career 1,000 Point Scorers in Minutemaids History

Kelly Delong	1982
Sharon Ross	1983
Karen Healey	1985
Jeanine Reynold	1985
April Auer	1990
Tamara Kaufmann	1992
Karen Alkins	1993
Jenn Natale	1995
Jen Scaffidi	2001
Amanda Jennings	2006



# Captains have TWP diving on the rise

Heather Ale '06

Unlike most meets, where each diver must complete six dives, the Jim Roach Invitational meet requires the divers to perform eleven dives, which is quite a feat.

Qualifying for Invitationals consists of each diver scoring one-hundred and forty points or higher in a six dive dual meet.

Justin Huckel '06', Kate Bodman '07', and Elena Verdecchio '08' all achieved this goal.

"I was very proud to be at the meet with three divers that had qualified because there was only one other team with three divers," maintains Coach Daniel Saia.

There are two parts to the Invitational meet, the first being a regular six dive meet and took place on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The second part is the actual Jim Roach eleven dive meet which took place on January 25<sup>th</sup>.

The second meet is more difficult to qualify for because, as Saia said, it is hard to complete eleven dives. The Invitational meet is a 'practice meet', as Bodman coins it, for States and gives the divers a feel for an eleven dive meet.

Of the three that qualified for Invitationals, Verdecchio is the least experienced, being a first year diver. An experienced gymnast, Verdecchio decided to try her talent in the water. This decision paid off, as only one other first year diver made the Invitational meet.

"I felt special that I made it because not everyone can do eleven dives," states Verdecchio.

Verdecchio started off diving well but on her reverse dive she hit her arm on the board and failed the dive.

In the Invitational meet, a diver



Matt Kienzle '06/The Patriot

## Huckel influences younger divers.

can fail one dive but if they fail two they are disqualified.

Fortunately, Verdecchio completed the remainder of her dives

well, even getting her best score in the dive immediately after her failed dive. Verdecchio finished fourteenth out of fourteen divers and her teammates were very proud of her.

"I was very impressed with Elena because it's her first year competing at this level," teammate Bodman enthuses.

The second female diver who qualified for the meet was Kate Bodman.

Bodman had fierce competition from Mary Kate Bonner '08, Stephanie Giontti, '07, and Samantha Rottkamp '06.

Bodman used this competitive edge to her advantage, as she performed well throughout the entire meet, wound up qualifying for States, and finished in tenth place.

"When she qualified she flipped out, she was so excited," gushed Saia.

The last Township diver, and only boy, was Huckel. Although Huckel balked (came to a complete stop in the middle of his dive) on a dive, he still placed fourth out of seven divers.

Huckel's season has been promising thus far, qualifying for States in the second meet, and hopefully States will be another opportunity for his talent to show.

With the upcoming State meet in late February, the divers have time to prepare for their big meet and maybe even learn from each other.

"It's been fun year watching Justin, a senior, helping the younger divers, especially Elena who is new at the sport," declares Saia.

# The boys of winter

## Track team strides to state prominence

Steve Dunn '06

The story of this year's Boys Winter Track team has been dedication met with success. The boys, under Coach Rich Bostwick, have worked hard through the winter and their effort has been paying off. The athletes must make many sacrifices, as they have practice every day in sometimes raw weather and have traveled two hours to New York almost every weekend since mid-December just to get the chance to compete.

In the Group IV State Relay Championships, the boys scored 18 points and placed fourth overall. This was the first time they placed in the meet since they placed fourth with 16 points six years ago.

The meet was highlighted by the pole-vault relay, consisting of Mike Salera '06 and Doug Roccato '06 who jumped a combined height of 26 feet, defeating all other Group IV schools and setting a meet and indoor state record for the event.

Another stellar performance was the 4 x 800m relay. The team consisting of Brett Salmon '06, Bill Matthias '06, Chris Choate '06, and Andrew Morris '06 placed second in Group IV, and were narrowly defeated for the championship by perennial track powerhouse Christian Brothers Academy.

This same relay team qualified to run the 4 x 800m at the Penn Relays this year running 8:15 at a meet in New York earlier this January. They will be the first boys team in recent school history to run the event at the



Photo courtesy of Mr. Rich Bostwick

## Brett Salmon competes at the prestigious New York Armory.

historic and nationally recognized meet.

On Saturday January 28<sup>th</sup>, the team returned to Princeton for the Group IV Indoor State Championships. Four athletes qualified for the Meet of Champions.

Chris Choate '06 placed seventh in the boys 1600m (which is almost a mile) running 4:33, Bill Matthias '06 was fifth in the 800m run with a time of 2:01, and Mike Salera '06 and Doug Roccato '06 placed third and fourth respectively in the pole vault both jumping 13 feet.

These four then competed at the State Meet of Champions, the most prestigious of track meets. Salera's 2nd place finish solidified him as one of the top vaulters in the state, while Chris Choate ran a blistering 4:30 1600m run to place 8th, just outside the scoring.

Many of these athletes will continue on at the Indoor National meet held at New York City on March 10th.

A solid winter season so far will hopefully and most likely carry over into the spring.

Do you love sports?

Consider becoming part of the Patriot team.

Contact us at [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)



# America should stop sending professionals to Olympics

In early February, a larger part of the sports world will be shut down for the 2006 Winter Olympics. In fact, the National Hockey League will suspend play for a few weeks while the history-rich games take place.

But as an avid follower of professional sports, as well as the Olympic festivities, I find that valid reasons for sending our professional athletes of all sports to the Olympic Games are becoming few and far between.

In recent years, the United States has been disgraced by some of its teams that supposedly featured "the greatest players on Earth". Prime example: the 2004 US Men's Olympic Basketball team.

That was a team that was said to contain the 12 greatest players in the world (though Kobe Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal, and Kevin Garnett, among others were missing) and a Hall of Fame coaching staff that included Larry Brown and Greg Popovich.

Basketball, specifically, is supposed to be a game by the Americans and for the Americans. But this did not seem to be the case in the 2004 World Basketball Championships.

That team comprised of NBA stars finished as the Bronze medalists, something they should be ashamed of. They lost their three games to Puerto Rico, Italy, and eventual Gold medal winner,



Argentina, teams that could not be considered powerhouses if they were put into a college basketball tournament, let alone in games against professionals.

Do you hear something? It sounds to me like the footsteps of foreign athletes who are gaining ground on America at a rapid and seemingly unstoppable pace.

Not only are the players being embarrassed, they simply do not want to be there. They do not want to risk an injury that could jeopardize their next seven figure contract.

When did the allure of representing one's country go away? Don't athletes take pride in America's athletic excellence?

The solution to the problem, you

ask? It is quite simple: go old school. The athletes who represent our homeland should be amateurs; college kids.

I would much rather see a basketball team led by J.J. Redick of Duke and Adam Morrison of Gonzaga than selfish, greedy professionals. At least the collegiate athletes would be there for the right reasons.

They would play with incomparable passion and heart; exactly what made the 1980 US Olympic Hockey team so special.

That team had no stars, no individuals. They played as a team, and they were a group of kids that the average American can relate to and cheer for.

The Olympics are truly about the unknowns: Michael Phelps attempting to swim for eight Gold medals, Misty May and Kerri Walsh teaming up for beach volleyball gold, and Jennie Finch leading America's softball team to victory.

The games are not for overpaid and underachieving professionals who do not understand the importance of the history of the Olympic Games.

To truly make these Olympics of the future a spectacle to behold, America must once again send our amateur athletes to represent what the United States is all about: hard work, heart, and determination.

## Palestra: palace of college hoops

Mike Dougherty '06

Some would say that college basketball is the best thing going in sports today.

When this topic is brought up, the casual fan thinks that the big name schools like Duke and North Carolina have the best rivalries, but the real fans realize that the Big 5 and the tripleheaders that occur at the Palestra.

Latin for a public place in ancient Greece for training and practice, the Palestra is where the most historic rivalries are found.

The whole idea behind the Big 5 was to give Philadelphia a chance to present the best basketball it has to offer.

The Big 5 is the purest "conference" in college basketball because of the teams in it: Penn, Villanova, St. Joe's, La Salle, & Temple are all located within a 17 mile radius.

And what better city to host this

wonderful competition than Philadelphia, a city where sports in general is a facet of everyday life. The city is home to basketball legends like Wilt Chamberlain and Sonny Hill.

Another reason for the historic tradition is the arena that the games take place in. The Palestra is basketball; it is a building made only for basketball.

When you step inside it is like walking back in time, where it lacks in luxury boxes, corporate suites, and giant scoreboards it makes up for in intensity and intimacy.

The building itself is very small holding only a little more than 8,000 people. It feels like the fans are on top of the court.

"The Palestra is to college basketball what Fenway Park and Wrigley Field are to baseball," wrote John Feinstein in his book, [A Season Inside](#).

"It is a place where you feel the

game from the moment you step inside", he said.

It isn't just the fans that make the Big 5 what it is; it also can be contributed to the intensity between the players, many of whom are Philadelphia natives, and the coaches. This is a city series that has featured players such as Aaron McKie, Jameer Nelson, Eddie Jones, and Guy Rodgers.

This is also a series that has held tons of coaches with tons of different characteristics, from the fiery intensity of John Chaney to the calm teaching style of Phil Martelli.

It is all of these reasons rolled up into the Big 5 that make it the most unique and storied series in sports.

That is why this is the perfect thing for the perfect city to host the event. With all of its history behind it doesn't look like the Big 5 is going anywhere.

Next  
time in  
Sports...

- An interview with Dan Betteridge, WTHS' latest 1000 point scorer.

- Spring sports previews.

- Cheerleading's 7th straight conference title.

# Future of 'The Answer' questioned

## Iverson has ceased to be an asset in Philly

Mike Dougherty '06

Allen Iverson is having a great season, one of the best in his career. Despite this, the Philadelphia 76ers need to trade him soon.

This basketball team can't win the way it is put together, and since this is the case, the Sixers have to blow up the nucleus. The only place to start is with one of the most beloved players that has played in Philadelphia.

Some things that hurt Iverson have nothing to do with his skills, what hurts him is the fact that he is a very small player, listed at 6'0", although he is likely closer to 5'10" or 5'11".

Because of his size he is a liability on defense. A bigger guard can simply back him down for an easier shot.

Iverson supporters would argue that he is consistently at the top of the league in steals, but this is due to the fact that he rarely guards his assigned man. Instead, he plays the passing lanes, solely looking for the takeaway.

Iverson's work ethic off the

court also hurts. While on the court Iverson is one of the most fierce players in the league, off the court he consistently doesn't show up or is late to practice and in the off season does very little weight lifting or training.

**There has yet to be a player out there who can play with Iverson and be good enough to make this team a contender...**

One more knock against Iverson is that he takes too many shots; this is true as he averaged over 27 shots per game last year.

Because of this it is hard to find other players to compliment Iverson. Countless attempts have been tried; first it was a young Larry Hughes, but there weren't enough basketballs on the court for the two of them.

Others like Tony Kukoc, Matt Harpring, and Chris Webber have all made comments of how hard it is to

play with the over-shooting guard.

There has yet to be a player out there who can play with Iverson and be good enough to make this team a contender, but that wouldn't matter because the team is over the salary cap by an outstanding \$16 million.

Iverson is making too much money, but it isn't just his contract that harms the Sixers. It is players like Samuel Dalembert, Kyle Korver, and Webber, who are making tons of unearned money.

That all falls on the back of the General Manager and President Billy King, who has given out too much money and has failed to turn this team into a legitimate long term contender, but that is another story for another day.

One thing that may have stopped the front office of the Sixers from making this deal in years past is that Iverson's presence alone would guarantee a sold out stadium every night. But with attendance drastically down this year, this isn't an excuse anymore.

Trading Iverson makes sense and if the 76ers are going to pull the



**Despite his talent, does Iverson still have what it takes to put the Sixers in contention?**

trigger on what would be a blockbuster deal, they must do it soon.

Iverson's trade value is decreasing fast. There isn't anything else A.I. can give you that he hasn't already, and no matter what he does, the team is only good enough to linger around the playoffs and get bounced in one of the early rounds.

## In dollars and sense, trade talk without merit

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The casual fan may think that it is time for the 76ers to move Allen Iverson, but when closely examined, such a move would prove very costly for the team. While this squad cannot win a championship as it is currently assembled, it is in no way Iverson's fault.

He has several attributes that are invaluable to any franchise, and the Sixers are fortunate to have him. Running a basketball team is a business, and Iverson is the reason that their business is thriving. Simply put, he is the reason that fans go to the games.

The energy, determination, and heart that he exudes each and every night is enthralling for any basketball fan. It is quite a sight to see when the 6'0" guard slashes his way to the basket without fear.

That being said, the goal of a franchise is to win. At the current time, the best chance for this team to win is to ride Allen Iverson as far as he will take them. If you recall, in 2000-01, the Sixers rode 'The Answer' all the way to the NBA finals. It was the single-handed effort of Iverson that got them there.

As great a season as he had that year, he is currently having the best season of his career, according to his statistics. He is averaging a career high 33.6 points per game, and an impressive 7.4 assists per game, good for eighth in the league.

**At the current time, the best chance for this team to win is to ride Allen Iverson as far as he will take them.**

Instead of trading him now, the Sixers should take advantage of him being at his peak before his skills start declining. At 30 years old, he probably has four or five years left, and if Philadelphia wants a championship, they need to surround him with championship-caliber players.

Though Iverson has never been great at working with others, he has never had winners around him. Keith Van Horn, Matt Harpring, and Dikembe Mutombo were never enough. Chris Webber is no different.

The team seems to be in a bind, however, as Webber's contract does not end for 3 years, and he is owed almost \$60 million over that span,

making it impossible to either move him or sign additional free agents.

As far as trading Iverson is concerned, the move simply would not make sense. The Sixers could not get anything of value for him. First of all, Iverson makes \$16.5 million per season according to the website, InsideHoops.com.

In the NBA, for a trade to occur, player salaries must match on both sides, within 15 % of each other. There are no players of equal or greater value than Iverson, and one could not simply trade him for nothing in return.

GM Billy King needs to try to trade Webber, but if that is not possible (and it likely isn't), he needs to try to package other players such as Kyle Korver and

Samuel Dalembert for a proven, playoff tested veteran (preferably one who can play defense).

The name Mike Bibby would sound pretty nice, as he could handle the ball and allow Iverson to play the shooting guard, which he would probably be better suited to do.

Iverson knows that he is getting older. It will remain a goal of his to win a championship before he retires. It would not make sense to deal him, but it would instead be smart to see if help is available for one last run at a title before it is too late.

The Sports Authorities welcome opinions on this issue. If you have any ideas for future debates. Email them or future debate topics to [thesportsauthorities@yahoo.com](mailto:thesportsauthorities@yahoo.com)

### Winter Sports Results (as of Feb. 28)

Boys Swimming: 7-4  
Qualified: State Team Tournament

Girls Basketball: 19-7  
Qualified: State Team Tournament

Girls swimming: 8-3  
Qualified: State Team Tournament

Boys Bowling: 13-5

Boys Basketball: 21-5  
Qualified: State Tournament

Girls Bowling: 12-5

Wrestling: 8-14