

Fullback enjoys freshman season at H.S.

Mitch Bracke '10

Uriah Brickhouse '10 has become a noteworthy Minutemen football player with an outstanding season on the freshman team. He gives credit to his coaches and the other backfield players when speaking of his success.

"Jim McCabe is a consistent quarterback for the team, and Chris Grabbe, our other quarterback, is known for his great arm. One of the halfbacks, Rasheem Boatwright can blow by most defenders. Mike Straubmuller, another back for our team, is very strong. And Christian Curtain is the ultimate weapon. He has amazing speed," explained Brickhouse as he continued to praise his teammates.

With all this talent on the field, Brickhouse's goal this year was to not lose another game after an emotional loss to Pennsauken.

Brickhouse described it as, "just a fluke."

This season Brickhouse has enjoyed everything about his football



Mitch Bracke '10/The Patriot

Uriah Brickhouse plays fullback on the freshman team.

team. He loves the new field put in at the high school and describes it as,

"the nicest field I've ever played on."

When Brickhouse leaves WTHS, he definitely wants to college. He says that college is going

to be a very important part of his life.

"I want to go to college because without it it'll be very tough to have a good career and a good life," he says.

After college Brickhouse would like to be a pilot and fly planes. He says that he has always enjoyed planes since he was a kid. Even though he would like to be a pilot very much, he feels it would be even better if he could possibly play football.

Since he was young, Brickhouse has loved the sport of

football.

He describes it as, "different than any other sport. You can hit people with aggression and take out your anger and it is just part of the game."

Throughout his life, Brickhouse

has had a person to look up to in his athletic family: his cousin Keith Robinson. Robinson plays football for Winslow and is the reason Brickhouse is the player he is today.

Robinson has kept Brickhouse on his toes by talking to him about his plays and skills, making him strive to get better.

"He is great person who has taught me so much and has helped me in every aspect of my game," said Brickhouse of his cousin.

Despite his confidence on the football field, Brickhouse was just like any other freshman in being over-whelmed when starting high school. But after adjusting to the school, he has found to like it a lot.

Explained Brickhouse, "Most of the teachers are pretty cool and I like how I get to see more kids, not just the people I'm used to seeing in middle school. With all of these good things at the school, they are still not the best."

When asked to describe the best aspect of school in one word, he replied, "girls."

Frosh hockey star looks forward to future

Sarah Kurtz '10

When most young girls are playing with Barbies and playing dress up, Lisa Patrone '10 had other things on her mind. She was interested in one thing and one thing only, hockey. She started off by playing in a league with all the boys at the age of eleven.

"I hated it. I was the only girl, and they thought I was bad because I was "a girl", but I was really better than all of them," she stated.

She eventually quit regular hockey, and moved on to bigger and better things, field hockey.

Lisa Patrone is more than just a field hockey player. She's an amazing, dedicated, true-blue nice person. It all started back in sixth grade. Her mother was a field hockey coach and Patrone realized that she wanted to play. So she signed up for her school's team and a Gloucester County team as well.

"I really liked it, I mean I really liked it!" says Patrone.

She would practice countless

hours on her own and really get into the sport.

Her mom really stood behind her and showed her the game.

"Sometimes it's hard to have my mom know so much about the game. I mean don't get me wrong, it's great having a mom who can help you with every little pull, but it still can be annoying at times."

Running is a big part of field hockey. players have to be in tip-top shape for it. Everyday you run a massive amount. Lisa runs about four miles, a day. Not during the school year of course, she needs time to do her homework.

"Sometimes it can be hard trying to juggle all of the games and pressure of hockey and homework at the same time," stated Patrone.

Lisa being a starting player on



Rob Cavella '07/The Patriot

Lisa Patrone played varsity field hockey this season.

varsity, you would assume that the girls might give her a hard time. But in Lisa's opinion, it was the exact opposite.

"At first it was kind of intimidating--them all being older than me and me being a freshman,

but they're so nice, kind of like my older sisters," Patrone said.

Even with all of the hard work she puts in at practice, she still manages to take advanced classes, and excels in all of them. Patrone said that sometimes the stress can get to her, just then she realizes that people are counting on her to always do her best. That's just what she plans to do.

"It just stinks on the days when there's a ton of homework, then you have to go straight home, do the homework, then shower and go to bed. Like there really isn't time for much of a life. But I really love the sport, and lots of my friends are at field hockey with me, so it's not so bad."

In striving to do her best, Lisa set goals for this year, which she already achieved. She wanted to make varsity and be as good as she could possibly be.

"Ever since eighth grade, I've worked my butt off to get where I am today."

But she is not stopping. In Lisa's eyes, there's always room for improvement.

07's Class Act

Mullen "shocked, excited" by senior selection

Laura Marder '07

Homecoming Queen for the class of 2007, Kayla Mullen, was crowned during halftime of homecoming game on October 20th, 2006.

The winner was revealed when each nominee was given a flower box to be opened in unison. The winner would find a red rose within.

"When my box was opened it was opened stem first so I didn't even know it was me being announced until I saw the whole rose, then I was really excited!" said Mullen.

The suspense of the slow opening of the boxes seemed to last years to the homecoming court. The moment the winner was announced all the girls rushed over to Mullen with hugs and congratulations.

Kayla was in "absolute shock" when it was announced she was a nominee for homecoming.

"I didn't even know they were announcing the names that day and then I heard my name over the loud speaker. It was pretty cool," explained Mullen.



Laura Marder '07/The Patriot

Kayla Mullen (right) smiles after being crowned 2006 Homecoming Queen.

Kayla was caught unexpected, but the nomination was definitely not unappreciated. Being nominated was exciting but it didn't come close to the moment she found out she was going to be crowned.

After the game the parents of the newly crowned queen threw Mullen a family-and-friend party to celebrate.

"My parents are very strong people. They have taught me to be the person I am today," she said. Mullen looks up to her parents as the biggest role models in her life.

As Homecoming Queen Mullen realizes that she may be a role model to other girls in Washington Township. Her biggest advice to younger girls aspiring to be in the homecoming court is to just be themselves and not to change for anyone. She feels if they are true to themselves people will respect them for it and they will respect themselves.

parade it all around school," explained Mullen.

Kayla is planning on attending the University of Delaware and getting a degree to teach elementary school Spanish. She also plans on one day getting married and having a family.

"My biggest life goal is to just to be happy and have a happy family that loves each other," said Mullen.

Mullen looks back on her years at Washington Township with a smile. She has been an active member in WTHS by being a participant in Girls' soccer, Class Council and DECA.

When she graduates, Mullen said she will miss her friends and acquaintances she sees daily. She will also miss all the activities and events that kept her constantly busy.

"I love this school because of the fact that there is something for everyone and everybody gets really into the events," she said

Mullen will miss the school she is leaving behind but says, "The memories that have been created during these years will last me forever."

Inside...

- Commentary p. 6
- Letter s p. 8
- Features p. 9
- Halloween pictures p. 11
- What's Happening p. 12
- Odds & Ends p. 13
- Tech Talk p. 14
- Entertainment p. 16
- Sports p. 18

Township spirit shines in parade



Erin McFadden '07/The Patriot

The Spirit Parade brought out the creative side of many WTHS clubs. See story page 2.

Back on track

Spirit parade numbers on rise

Erin McFadden '07

On Friday, October 20, before the start of this year's homecoming football game, the WTHS stadium played host to the sixth annual Spirit Parade.

The event gives clubs the opportunity to showcase their spirit, with prizes for the top three. This year, twelve organizations participated by creating floats and choreographing presentations.

Winners were awarded \$250, \$150, and \$100 for the top three places. The prize money comes from participating clubs' \$25 registration fees, with shortfall subsidized by PTO funds.

Respectively winning these monetary rewards for their efforts were tenth grade class council, student council, and junior/senior class council.

While the parade is largely run and organized by WTHS staff, the high school's Parent/Teacher Organization provides and distributes the prizes.

"Seven adult members of the PTO judge on creativity, originality, theme, and execution," explained Mrs. Carol Costello, Spirit Parade coordinator and junior/senior class co-advisor.

The parade tradition was originated by 11/12 Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Joe Bollendorf in 2001.

"After 9/11, Mr. Bollendorf came to me with the idea as a way to bring the community closer together," said Costello.

Over these six years, the parade has undergone changes. In its first few runs, the Spirit Parade was held the night before Thanksgiving, but this timing resulted in low attendance due in part to weather.

"After one or two really cold evenings, it was moved up," said Mr. Robert Gorski, also co-advisor of the junior/senior class council.

The parade's association with the homecoming tradition and a warmer time of the year has led to increased attendance, but other

changes at WTHS have limited participation from internal organizations.

With the renovation of the outdoor track supported by voters in 2004, motor vehicles were banned from the area.

Costello said, "The parade was a little bigger when we were allowed to have cars on the track."

Earlier Spirit Parades included decorated cars and even fire engines and police vehicles. The new restriction has prevented some organizations from participating; no sports teams have registered for the Spirit Parade since the vehicle ban.

Despite this set back, parade participation is on the rebound, with twelve entries in 2006 compared to eight in 2005.

For many WTHS organizations, the obstacle has only sparked their creativity in coming up with a theme and presentation that reflects



photo courtesy of '09 class council

Sophomore class council captured the first place honors.

their school spirit.

While it is still a developing tradition at WTHS, the Spirit Parade has begun to make an impact on the community, with more students, parents, and teachers from across the district attending each year.

"It may be a good ten years before we get big numbers," said Costello, who believes that with Spirit Parade participation and entry creativity increasing every year, the tradition is sure to be steadfast by then.

Minutemen roll at home

Richie Elles '08

October 20th had been a game circled on the Minutemen Football calendar since the beginning of the season. This year's Homecoming game against Pennsauken promised to be a game well-worth watching, and drew the largest audience of the young season.

On that bitterly cold and windy fall night, the home team came to play and set a tone for the rest of the season. The Minutemen rolled to a 35-0 victory over the Pennsauken Indians, completing a fun-filled night at the Township Stadium.

The Minutemen offense was clicking all night, making it seem as if the defense was non-existent. Quarterback Pat Moffitt '07 threw for two touchdowns, including a 67-yard score to Anwar Sanders '07, who had a solid game himself. The other touchdown pass was to Matt Bosnjak '08, a 15-yard fade pattern to the corner of the endzone.

But Sanders '07 stole the

spotlight on offense with 106 yards on the ground including two rushing touchdowns, using his speed to get to the sidelines and around the Pennsauken defense. The senior back added two receptions for 77 yards, including that 67-yard touchdown catch, which sent the sea of Township fans into frenzy. With three scores and what would amount to a career night for some, Sanders torched the Indians on the way to a Minutemen victory.

The Minutemen defense was seemingly unbreakable on every play. Forcing turnovers on nearly half of the Pennsauken offensive possessions, the defense gave the high-powered Township attack numerous chances to score. The solid defensive unit earned their first shutout of the season.

Terrell Mack '07 provided the spark that carried the defense with a spirited effort. Mack compiled a total of ten tackles, two sacks, and a pair of fumble recoveries to lead the Minutemen to victory. Breaking

away from blocks throughout the game, Mack spent about the same amount of time in the backfield as the Indians' running backs.

The win improved the Minutemen to 6-0 on the season, continuing their solid play that had the team seated at the top of the conference. With a strong mixture of veteran leadership and young talent, the Minutemen Football program can use each win to build on for positive outlook for the future.

Since the win at Homecoming, the Minutemen have fallen victim to a tough schedule in the second half of their season. After two losses to perennial powerhouse Cherokee High School and a last minute defeat at the hands of Seneca, the Minutemen have been eliminated from playoff contention. Despite stumbling at the end of the season, the team kept their massive fan base cheering and chanting with every touchdown run and long completion, making the season unforgettable for both players and students.

Undefeated team seeks championship

A.J. Nisbet '08

With last years 2006 championship title hanging on the banner of champions above the glass at Holleydell Ice Arena, the Washington Township varsity ice hockey team took to the ice this season with one thing in mind; a repeat. With that in mind, the team has looked dominant early on. An explosive front line, solid defense, and consistent goaltending leaves Township on top of the standings in second place with an undefeated (6-0-1) record as of November 13th.

"We started this season right were we left off last season," said assistant captain Cameron Rowand '07, who is ranked number one in the league in assists (17) and total points (27). With just seven games under their belt, Township leads the league in goals scored by 18 with 58, with five of the top ten scoring leaders being Township players.

While the team leads most of the scoring categories in the league right now, goalie Joe Scafisi '07 leads

all goalies with more than 10 minutes played in the Save percentage column. With 120 minutes played, Scafisi has 0.75 goals against average.

"Even though we were so strong last year, I think we are even stronger this year," said the team captain, Chris Biscardi '07 who leads the league in goals. "We got stronger on our front line with the addition of Colin [Davis '07], one of our most dangerous players with the puck."

The team is not only atop the league in goals scored, they are also standing alone in the goals against category with only 11 in seven games played. Erik Forgrove '08 has been managing the blue line on the varsity team since his sophomore year.

"Last year Forgrove was our only sophomore on the varsity team. He really controls the defense. Our whole offense trusts him back there, letting us do our jobs," Biscardi said.

While the team is on this winning streak, the team is looking forward to its game against Moorestown, who is always right behind them in the standings year



A.J. Nisbet '08/ The Patriot

Jonathon Paulo '07 heads up ice looking for a pass.

after year.

"This is almost like our first real game of the season. None of the other teams have been able to compete with us. We know this game will be tough," said Biscardi.

This season, the team has blown out most of it's opponents besides Clearview, their bitter rival. "We had a bad game.

Sometimes everything goes your way, and then sometimes it doesn't. We got that game out of our way and now we can look to be dominant for the rest of the season," Rowand said. While this season already looks promising for another championship, the team hopes it can keep up its dominating play for the rest of the season.

A View from the Stands by Richie Elles '08

A Cowboys Fan in Hostile Territory: T.O.'s Return

Terrell Owens. For any Eagles fan, hearing the name brings back the disgust and frustration that suffocated the Philadelphia Eagles, destroying their 2005-2006 season and leaving the team to finish with a dismal 6-10 record.

Since the signing of the controversial wide receiver by the Dallas Cowboys, calendars throughout both the Philadelphia area and the nation have been marked for October 8, 2006, Owens' first game at Lincoln Financial Field against the team he single-handedly destroyed.

As a fan of the Dallas Cowboys, I was ecstatic when the tickets to the game arrived. I would have the opportunity to see both my favorite team and the game of the year. After traveling by bus with a bunch of Eagles fans. I was ready to enter the belly of the beast, Lincoln Financial Field.

I reached my seat and hour before kickoff to see the Cowboys practicing and to witness the taunting and harassment of Terrell Owens. I was not easy to remain calm



Stephanie Mordente '08

surrounded by sixty thousand screaming fans mocking my team. After remaining silent during the vulgar chanting at the Cowboy's entrance and the cheering of the Eagles' introductions, the game was ready to begin.

The crowd was deafening as I watched the Birds build a 10-0 lead in the first quarter on Cowboy miscues and a Brian Westbrook run.

I felt helpless, unable to cheer, yell, or boo at the risk of being verbally and physically attacked by the wild game-crazed fanatics.

Even after the Cowboys scored two quick touchdowns to take the lead, I could not celebrate and show my joy in thinking that my team could defeat their hated rivals. Leading 21-17 at halftime, the Cowboys seemed destined to pull

out a victory on the road.

The third quarter was highlighted by a eighty-seven yard McNabb touchdown pass to formerly unknown receiver Hank Baskett, sending the crowd into a frenzy. My hopes silently began to dwindle. To make matters worse, Terrell Owens dropped several passes, one out fear of the big hit, and the fans simply continued to chant and jeer at the once-prized player.

Later, with the home team leading 31-24, the Cowboys received a gift in the form of a penalty that set up a potential game-tying score. Drew Bledsoe dropped back on his second play near the end-zone only to find Eagles cornerback Lito Sheppard who took it one-hundred and two yards for the touchdown as I drowned in a sea of green.

Eagles chants were heard and insults were thrown. In the end, the game had gone to the Eagles 38-24 and I exited the Linc feeling dejected and frustrated. But after all, there's always a next week and another game to be won.

Girls' wins conference

Lauren Meloni '09

With Girls' Varsity Soccer at the end of its regular season, Coach Shane Snyder sets new goals for the girls to accomplish.

In the beginning of the year, their goals were big.

"Our original goal was to make the state tournament and the coaches' tournament and to bond as a team. We achieved all three of these goals," said Coach Snyder.

"As the season went along we set higher goals and we were able to win the conference, but we lost in the South Jersey finals in the state tournament."

This season the girls' varsity team came out with many strong wins. The team made school history being only the third to win the conference. They also won three play-off games before their loss to Eastern in the state tournament.

"I would like to go back and replay our last game of the year, against Eastern, because we didn't play well and it was our last game of the year, we lost 2-0," said Coach Snyder.

As many sports go, when there's a loss, it's important for the team to try even harder the second time around to win.

Aside from them winning the conference, the team had a good season this time around with a record



A.J. Nisbet '08/The Patriot

Shawna Wert (12) battles for ball against Lenape

of 15-5-2. It was well agreed that Lenape and Eastern were two of their proudest wins.

Being on a varsity team was a big accomplishment for the few

freshmen who made the team this year: Lauren Cicatiello (goalie), Janine Valerio, Kim Krauss, and Karen Bellinger.

Fall Sports Records

As of: November 24, 2006

- Football 6-4
- Field Hockey 12-5-4
- Boys Soccer 9-5-4
- Girls Soccer 15-5-2
- Gymnastics 9-4
- Boys Cross Country 5-2
- Girls Cross Country 3-4
- Girls Tennis 12-5
- Girls Volleyball 7-10

High school team captains take on tough task

A.J. Nisbet '08

While a captain is a vital position on most teams in professional sports, it is the same for teams here at Washington Township and for other teams in high school sports.

While most people have the perception that a teams captain is always their best player or highest point getter, in most cases it is just the opposite.

"The captain doesn't always have to be a points leader, but lead by example. A captain should be vocal and also be there for the team,"

said Chris Biscardi '07 captain of the Washinton Township ice hockey team.

"In hockey, the captain is one of the only players that can talk to the refs about a call. The ref respects the player with the C on the jersey more than anyone else. We are also responsibly for relaying the information to our coaches and the rest of the team when questioning a ref's call," he added.

When Kate Montgomery '07, captain of the Minutemaid's field hockey team summed up her thoughts of a captain's duties.

"I think that a captain is able to

bind her team together and make everyone feel like a part of the team."

"They have to be listeners and also take action for what the team needs," Montgomery continued, "A captain needs to be strong for her team because the team looks to them and when a captain looks scared or isn't giving their best effort the team follows that example."

Montgomery got some of her motivation from a famous sport movie.

"In the movie *Remember the Titans* one of the players said that attitude is a reflection of leadership. I think that's true. The captains set

the mood of the team we have to motivate and inspire our team. A captain doesn't have to be the most athletic person on the team they have to be personable though."

Sammi Jones '08, captain of this year's sectional winning gymnastics team, has similar feelings about a captain's duties.

"A captain should be the one that is there for everyone no matter what and can pump the team up no matter how low or how high they are," Jones said.

This year, various captains here at Washington Township look to lead their team to championships.

Getting the point

Township goes above and beyond to save lives

Laura Marder '07

More than 400 students filed through the 11/12 Gym on October 6th, 2006 as they donated blood to the American Red Cross. This year, Washington Township broke a personal and state record by donating 302 pints of blood.

All blood donated to the American Red Cross from Washington Township will be used in the Penn/Jersey region. High schools in the region donate 16% of the blood used in the Penn/Jersey area hospitals.

WTHS had a huge turnout. With 302 pints of blood collected, WTHS students saved approximately 900 lives in a single day.

"We are number one in the state for most blood donations and our region is number one in the nation which pretty much puts us at the top!" explained Caitlyn Chew '07. As the Interact coordinator of the blood drive at Washington

Township, Chew has worked hard along with advisor Mrs. Tracy Naval and the rest of the Interact Executive Board. They signed up volunteers in all of the senior homerooms. They also worked during the blood drive to calm the nervous donors and keep everything flowing and organized.

"One of the reasons we received so many pints this year is because more people participated in the *Automated Red Cell Collection*," said Chew.

This is the newest type of blood collecting technology allows donors to provide two units of life saving red blood cells during one donation process by returning the plasma to the donor. Though longer, the process is said to be more comfortable because a smaller needle is used. Certain requirements need to be met in order to be a double red blood cell donor. Next time you give blood, ask for more information on this process or visit the web at www.pleasegiveblood.org.



Laura Marder '07/The Patriot

Amanda Matticks '07 comforts Sean McCarthy '07 as he gives blood.

Last year was the second year Interact held this function and they

collected 137 pints of blood. Washington Township's Interact program recently won a trophy from the American Red Cross for having a 212% increase of donors from last year. Interact is very happy with this award but would like to do even better in the spring blood drive.

"We are going to need more people in the spring. Remember, it saves lives!" said Chew. The spring blood drive will be a two day collection held in both of the 11/12 gyms. The first day will be on a full day school and the next day will be only a half day. Many more teachers will have the opportunity to donate. The change will allow Interact to accept all WTHS donors without running out of room as they did in this fall drive.

In the meantime, students can be content with what they have given back to the community. "Honestly, I did it to get out of class, but it's a great thing to do so I feel good about it," said first time donor Scott Gardner '07.

Many students walked out of the fall blood drive with mild pain in their arm and a huge sense of pride in their decision to donate.

How to save lives

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Every minute of everyday, someone needs blood. The need for blood, especially in the southeastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey area, is rapidly increasing. Thousands of blood donors are needed in our region each week. According to the American Red Cross, over 100 hospitals in this area order 2000 blood products everyday.

According to the American Red Cross's web site, hospitals strive to have a five-day supply of each blood type for optimum safety. This allows for the daily needs of

blood to be met and also provides for unexpected emergencies. The minimum supply is a two-day advance, but our region is at a low. Only A+ and AB+ blood types meet this requirement, reaching a little more than a three-day supply. The need for blood is continuing to outgrow blood donations. Only

about 5% of Americans that can donate actually do.

There is no need to wait for an emergency to give blood. Everyday there are personal emergencies in which blood could support a treatment that will save a patient's life. Donated blood helps all types of people such as surgery patients, trauma victims, cancer patients, and premature infants.

"I donate blood because just this year my grandfather spent two days in the ICU constantly receiving blood. If the blood supply were low, he might not have made it. What some people don't realize is that their blood directly affects people like me," said Jaclyn Petruzzelli '08.

To donate you need to be at least 17 years of age, weigh at least 110 pounds, and generally be in good health. When you arrive at a blood drive, a Red Cross staff member will fully determine your eligibility to donate. After you donate blood, it is

tested and then divided into red cells, platelets, and plasma. Each meets a different, vital medical need, so you are saving a maximum of three lives with each donation. You can donate blood as many as 6 times a year.

When donating blood, you are not only making a difference by saving lives, but donors feel a difference within themselves. First time blood donor Allison Bittner '08 stated, "I sort of felt like a hero. There is a great gratification in knowing you're saving someone's life."

Giving blood is one of the easiest ways to give back to your community. There are 150 weekly blood drives and the Red Cross also operates seven community donor centers in our region. To find out more go to the Red Cross website <http://www.pleasegiveblood.org> or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE.

Anyone could need blood at any time. You might not just be saving a stranger. By donating blood, you could be saving a relative, a friend, or even yourself!

"I sort of felt like a hero"

-Allison Bittner '08

Dance features friendship, fun

Alyssa Figueroa '08

On October 27, 2006, over 250 people in Halloween costumes filled Cafeteria C-D to attend Interact's Fall Pacesetters' Dance.

Years ago, parents of mentally challenged children founded a social group called Pacesetters. Now invitations are extended to the adult Pacesetters in group homes as well as those living on their own or with family.

The Interact chairperson of the event, Andrew Wood '07, revealed that there was a lot of planning involved with hosting the 3 hour dance.

"I was mainly involved with planning the invitations, making the decorations, deciding what food was to be served, and hiring of the DJ," he said.

Volunteers for the Halloween theme painted pumpkins, hung black and orange balloons, and created wall decorations of scary monsters. Drinks, hot dogs, chips, pretzels, and cookies were served and the DJ



Alyssa Figueroa '08/ The Patriot

Pacesetter Albert Safko enjoys the halloween theme with the event's co-chair Adam Stern '09

played a variety of music to keep everyone moving.

Interact Co-President Kaitlyn Fernandez '07 stated, "The good thing about this dance is that it allows the parents of the Pacesetters to have the night off to relax. At the

same time, the Pacesetters get to have their own party!"

Judging from the number of people on the dance floor, they did indeed have quite a blast. Erin McFadden '07, fellow co-president, agreed that, "The Pacesetters are

really enjoying themselves and we are too."

Students and Pacesetters alike seemed to be having a great time.

Kenny Swartz's mother helped found Pacesetters more than fourteen years ago. He helps Interact member organize the dance for the Pacesetters point of view. He said he enjoys "everything" about the dance.

Interact member Jennifer Stowell attended her first Pacesetters' this year. She said, "Everything about this dance was great. It was one of the best in WTHS because everyone just wanted to have a good time and make sure the Pacesetters were having a good time too."

According to Wood, the Pacesetters' Dance is a great achievement that becomes more popular for Pacesetters and students each year.

"This dance was definitely a success," said Wood. "Almost every Pacesetter we invited came to the dance."

It seems participation was up on all levels.

"We had the most volunteers this year!" said Vice President, Amanda Matticks '07. "The dance gives the Pacesetters a chance to get out of their environment. They like to celebrate Halloween with the high school students and vice versa."

Celebration seemed to be Interact's goal.

"When the dance ended, everyone was happy," said Fernandez.

Band puts on *Wicked* show

Darrel Cowan '10

On Saturday, October 21st, the Minuteman Marching Band went "SOARING" into their Home Show.

This year's show is called Soaring and features music from the Broadway musical "Wicked." The Home Show is a season's highlight, and everyone looks forward to it. It provides the chance to perform in front of fans on the home football field.

In past years, the band has performed in exhibition at the Home Show. This year, the USSBA (United States Scholastic Band Association) offered the band director, Mr. Casey Corigliano, an opportunity to put the Minutemen in direct competition.

Because Corigliano is always looking for ways to make the Minutemen better, he gladly accepted this opportunity.

"Mr. C's decision gave me more motivation to do my best. I think it did the same for the members of the band," said Drum Major Lindsey

Barnes '07.

The Minutemen Marching Band was indeed motivated. They took home many awards: 1st place Group 4, 1st place in the entire show, Best Color Guard, Best Music and Best Effect.

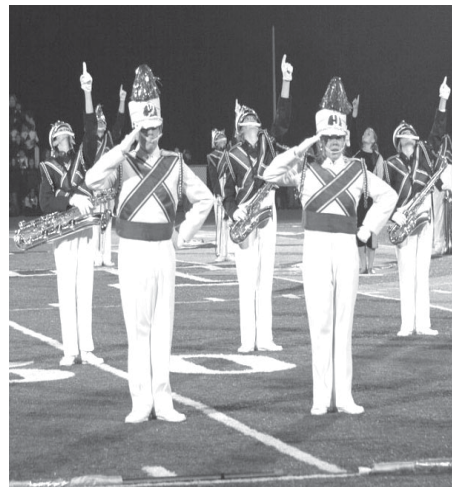
"The performance at the home show showed alumni that TWP is back and that the band has a lot of potential to be on top for a long time coming," explained Brass Captain Matt Mauro '07.

This year's marching band has matched and even surpassed the greatness of its reputation. At a competition after the home show in Allentown, Pennsylvania, the band was placed 11th out of 14th.

"I am proud of what has been accomplished this year, and I've had a lot of fun in the process, I can't wait to see what will happen next year,"

said Amanda To '08.

Marching Band underclassmen promise to keep the great traditions going as they bid farewell to the senior members. Washington Township has had a very successful season this year and everyone is very excited to see what they have planned for next year.



Drum majors, Mike Petruzzelli and Lindsey Barnes, salute the crowd during the performance of "Requiem for Evita".

Senior Trip Info

1. Make sure to hand in roommate forms with friends so you're on the same plane.
2. All health forms and permission slips are due to Room A-26 by Dec. 15th
3. The last payment is due the week of 1/8 - 1/12
4. Anyone looking for a full refund, must hand in form by 12/21

Getting hooked on *Lost* experience

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Whether you watch the show or not, the title alone suggests what state you will be in when you sit in front of the TV for one hour each week. Just as the characters are left bewildered, so too are the millions of *Lost* viewers.

At 9 o'clock on Wednesday, October 4, 2006, ABC's third season premiere of *Lost* succeeded again in making audiences...lost. *Lost* takes place on an unknown island where Oceanic Flight 815 crashed. In the action driven drama, the 48 survivors of the crash struggle to unveil the mysteries of the island. The island seems to be a living force in itself—filled with illusions, secrets, and even polar bears! It whispers to the survivors, calls for them, and constantly evokes memories from their past.

Each episode offers flashbacks into one character's past life. But when one question is solved, five more appear. The survivors must also watch out for the "Others" who inhabited the island long before Flight 815 crashed. These "Others"

appear to be watching the frightened survivors. There is also the puzzling Dharma Initiative, an old, abandoned science experimental group which conducted various tests on the island.

As peculiar as everything about this show sounds, *Lost* never fails to captivate viewers. Lovers of an action-packed thriller put this show on a pedestal. The show probably has more fan speculation than any other show currently on television.

Lost's ratings have continuously stayed in the top ten viewed shows on television. According to Variety TV, it usually takes the top spot each week with an average of 16 million viewers. Its prime age group is those of 18-49 years of age (clearly seeking pure fictitious confusion).

The third season began with the opening of an eye and the revelation that the "Others" island is huge. After the long summer, viewers were finally able to see the psychological enclosures of the three main characters: Jack (Matthew Fox) is held captive in a strangely designed dungeon; Sawyer (Josh Holloway) is trapped in an outdoor cage; and Kate (Evangeline Lilly) awakens to



Lost's Matthew Fox plays Dr. Jack Shepherd.

find herself in a locker room.

The new season's episodes are without a doubt the strangest ones thus far, continuing to open doors.

So why do viewers of *Lost* keep getting lost?

This remains unanswered; most viewers are so lost that trying to answer this question leaves them lost for words.

If ratings are any indication, getting lost in *Lost* is apparently worthwhile. One hour once a week is barely strong enough a dose for those who wish to escape reality and travel to the mysteries of the eccentric island. Unfortunately for these fans, they're going to have to wait until February for another installment.

No one eats cake with *Marie Antoinette*

Alanna Pyle '10

If you are looking to be entertained and mesmerized by a movie this fall, you might as well cross *Marie Antoinette* off your list. This movie is like a train wreck, but less interesting.

The storyline begins in 1769, with an alliance created between France and Austria with the betrothal of Marie Antoinette, the fourteen year old archduchess of Austria, to Louis XVI, prince of France. She is expected to give an heir to the French throne. As easy as that task may seem, it is quite a challenge for Antoinette to entice her cold husband.

With the court rumors over their marriage and pressures of a nation, times are difficult enough for the young girl. To make things more difficult, the king dies. Marie and Louis are given the crown of France at the age of nineteen.



Kirsten Dunst as the title character of *Marie Antoinette*.

Taking place at the same time is a little war called the American Revolution. The Americans are seeking aide from the French. As France falls more and more in to debt, her people become entirely fed up with the king and queen, and a rebellion begins.

Fascinating, right? With Coppola's signature independent film style. This back-story could have been made into quite interesting film, but director Sophia Coppola seriously dropped the ball. Her work in the movie would be best described as "lazy."

Instead of simply presenting the complete picture of Marie Antoinette's life, audiences are forced to sit through each and every disjointed day. The film is not well-executed and the plot is choppy, drawn-out, and entirely too long with a running time of 2 hours and 3 minutes.

Marie Antoinette leaves much to be desired. The unfinished ending is both awkward and noticeably historically inaccurate.

Overall, the film is not worth the nine dollars and hours of sheer torture. For star Kirsten Dunst, this is one film that she will not be able to brag about. In fact, if you are anything like me, you will find yourself constantly looking at your watch and begging for the movie to end. This is no *Spider-Man*.

At least Coppola can be satisfied with the accomplishment of making such a generally interesting topic so boring.

CGI scenes intensify new war films

Randall Beatrice '08

Despite war dramas being common within the film industry, two recent films, MGM's *Flyboys* and Dreamwork's *Flags of Our Fathers* are both very nice editions to the genre.

Flyboys follows a unit of American pilots who volunteer to fight for France in World War I before the U.S. officially enters the conflict.

The absolute best parts in the movie are the dogfight scenes. The film manages to bring photo realistic special effects to a whole new level, making it nearly impossible to tell the CGI sequences from the live-action shots. The echoes of gunfire and plane propellers sound as if you were there.

Sadly, the special effects are not enough, as the story itself feels a bit incomplete. Some characters are explored in ever scene while the viewer never really gets the chance to fully understand others.

James Franco and Jean Reno give solid performances. But

unfortunately, the script is filled with abundant war cliches and is not as original as it could be.

It is frustrating to watch a realistic plotline beginning to piece together when a sudden love scene is thrown in at random. While writers would claim that this was to balance the story, it achieved the opposite effect.

This film does, however, have it's heart in the right place and should appeal to a wide audience range.

Flags of Our Fathers has a lot more to it. Based on the James Bradley best-seller of the same name, *Flags of Our Fathers* is a powerful and intense film.

Even as victory in Europe was finally within the reach of the Allies, the war in the Pacific continued to rage. One of the most crucial and bloody battles was the struggle of land at Iwo Jima. This action culminated with what would become one of the most iconic images in world history when six soldiers raised a flag atop Mt. Suribachi.

The inspiring photo capturing the moment became a symbol of



The flyers prepare for battle against a german zeppelin.

victory to a nation that had grown weary of war and made instant heroes of men involved.

Some would die in battle soon after, never knowing that they had been immortalized. The surviving flag raisers had no interest in being held up as symbols and did not consider themselves heroes. They wanted only to stay on the front with their brothers in arms who were fighting and dying without fanfare or glory.

The narrative style is different than the majority of Hollywood movies.

Instead of having the battle take place in the first half of the film and the drama in the second, director Clint Eastwood blends them together telling the story through flashbacks and foreshadowing visions. This is clever and innovative but also confusing especially when trying to follow the plot chronologically.

As with *Flyboys*, the CGI brings the battle to life. It's almost eerie how extremely realistic the technology team can capture the chaos of war. There is more going on in one frame in *Flags of Our Fathers*. Thousands of soldiers are dashing onto the battlefield while tanks and other war vehicles land on shore, the ocean is filled with battleships and the sky is full of fighter planes.

The combat scenes can be gruesome, and call to mind the violent opening D-Day battle in *Saving Private Ryan*.

Another unique aspect was the fact that the producers didn't hunt down the most popular A-List actors in Hollywood to play the roles, but instead cast unknowns who almost look identical to the actual veterans.

I recommend both of these films to mature fans of the genre looking for an entertaining flick to keep them thinking about the pros and cons of war and the effect it has on the lives of so many people.



The trainee (Kutcher) has a word with his instructor (Costner).

and his trainer (Kutcher). Together they learn that they can't always be the hero and bring everyone home.

The film conveys the human turmoil of rescue workers as they are forced to make tough decisions in difficult rescue situations, essentially deciding who lives and who dies. It illustrates how they must learn to cope with the memory of those who are lost to the unforgiving sea.

Director, Andrew Davis, makes

the movie personal and draws the audience into the characters' struggles. With a shocking ending and a touching message, this movie has it all.

The film explores the fine line between life and death, and shows sheer will necessary as the characters save lives for the good of humanity and to make amends for the past.

So if you're ready to experience the roller coaster ride, buckle your seatbelts and enjoy the journey.

Kutcher learns rescue ropes

Alanna Pyle '10

Have you ever seen a movie that was so unbelievably amazing that it steals part of your heart?

The guardian will do just that.

Now, girls are usually stereotyped as ones not to go to an action-type thriller movie. Ordinarily they go to and enjoy what most people refer to as "Chick Flicks". Well going to this theatre, not knowing much about it, I thought it was going to be a movie to see and never of again.

Boy, was I wrong.

This fast-paced action comedy with just a touch of romance will steal your heart and tour your soul. It will make you laugh until your sides split, and make you cry until your eyes are red. This was without a doubt, a Kevin Costner and Ashton Kutcher masterpiece.

This movie reels you into the ups and down in the life of training of a Coast Guard instructor (Costner)

Threat prompts chilling evacuation

Laura Marder '07

Shortly after the start of 1st period on October 23, 2006 a bomb threat was detected. Immediately administrators used an evacuation plan to get staff and students safely out of the building. It took approximately 20 minutes to get everyone settled in the cold, windy stands of the football stadium.

"People moved with incredible efficiency and huge cooperation," said

Mrs. Rose Marie Farrow, Executive Principle of Washington Township high school. Farrow said she was extremely pleased with the way such a large number of students performed the evacuation.

"It's like moving a small city," explained Farrow. There are about 3600 people on campus during the day. Outside in the stadium is the only spot that will hold everyone. Farrow said that if the weather had been terrible, students would have

been sent to the bus yard.

The evacuation was a lot smoother than the one two years ago on Valentine's Day. Since that threat, new plans have been devised to fit any possible situation.

According to Farrow, there was only one glitch in this evacuation process. One of the weight rooms did not have a loud speaker in it. Therefore the class in it at the time was not informed of the threat, although they did eventually get

word. The room has been around since 1995 and since then there has never been an issue that caused the school to notice the absence of a speaker. Now that it was brought to the school's attention a loud speaker has been installed.

Once out of the building people had other problems with which to contend. Many people were not dressed fit for the weather, or didn't have time to grab a jacket from their locker.

"I was so cold, I only had jeans and a t-shirt on that day," said Vicky Byrd '07.

It took WTHS police and firefighters, as well as the Camden County bomb squad approximately 40 minutes to search the entire school. After the search they concluded it had just been a threat.

"This year has been very bad in New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with having bomb threats, I don't know what to attribute it to," said Farrow.

According to Farrow, Washington Township has only had a few bomb scares throughout the years; however some surrounding schools have them many times each month. The reason for Farrow's immediate loud speaker announcement after the return to the building was to assure the students that the perpetrator would be found.

"Charges for a crime like this are very heavy and could be life changing," explained Farrow. "Society has changed," now, in post-9/11 world, bomb threats are seen as "terrorist threats," not just a prank.

Farrow believes that people who call in bomb threats feel like they will not get caught. She refers to drunk driving as being similar to the thought process of a threat.

"The drunk driver thinks they are fine until they get into an accident," she said. She believes that if they only thought ahead and saw how it could ruin their lives they wouldn't find it worth it.

Police have arrested the alleged perpetrators. Farrow is glad that those responsible have been apprehended.

She finds safety the most important and stressful part of her job.

"The safety of everyone in this building is a very serious matter," said Farrow.

BUDS walk it out

Melissa Cheng '07

On October 1st, 2006, Interact did its part once again in hosting the annual Buddy Walk at Washington Lake Park.

People from all over come to raise money by joining in on this walk for Down syndrome. It starts at 7 in the morning and goes until you're done enjoying yourself with games and refreshments in the afternoon.

In South Jersey, Bringing Up Down Syndrome (BUDS) is a non-profit organization. Their purpose: help families of children with Down syndrome by offering them a collection of programs and services. There are over 300 families in the BUDS organization covering the surrounding counties.

Started by BUDS, it's just getting better every year.

"This was the best out of the four years I've been here because of the great organization and cooperation skills put into it," shares Kaitie Fernandez '07, president of the Interact Club.

Interact doesn't exactly walk the miles of park itself, but they do provide the volunteers to man the game stations. There, participants can partake in activities like the duck pool, sliding down inflatable slides, taking a train ride, and even getting your face painted.



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/The Patriot

Interact executive Board gathered before the Buddy Walk with the event mascot.

"I think I was having more fun doing the activities and helping out than the people that the activities were for! They were interesting," explains Kate Louie '09, "and easy to do. My favorite was the train ride."

Besides activities, there's also tons of free food to pull in the volunteers and participants. There's the cotton candy and popcorn machines, displays of hoagies and chips and the normal tubs of water bottles.

Volunteer Meagan O'Kane '07 adds, "We all had a lot of fun and I'm always glad to help out."

Another '07 volunteer, Jay D'Ambrosio agrees, "I love helping out with the Buddy Walk. I've done it all four years now and it never gets old."

But what is Down syndrome? It's a common genetic variation where the occurrence of an extra chromosome 21 is present. This often causes delays in physical, intellectual, and language development.

Down syndrome is one of the biggest leading clinical causes of cognitive delay around the world. It's not race, nationality, religion, or socio-economic status related.

About 5,000 children born every year around the United States alone, will have Down syndrome.

There's no reason not to participate. "I think everyone should come help the cause," says Jerry Cedrone '07.

Join the Game Club.

If you are looking for something fun to do after school, the game club meets every Thursday at 2:20 in cafeteria B. New members are always welcome.

Commentary

Editorial

NBC's hypocrisy of "no-see TV"

Over three years ago, on the eve of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, lead singer of the Dixie Chicks, Natalie Maines, in London during their worldwide tour, stated that she was ashamed that President Bush was from her home state of Texas. The usually conservative country music group had caused chaos. Their songs were driven off the charts, as well as their music off the radio. People protested and threw Dixie Chicks' CDs in the trash. Maines even received a letter containing a death threat.

On November 10, 2006 the Dixie Chicks' new documentary "Shut Up & Sing" that covers the group before, during, and after Maines' infamous anti-Bush statements, will be released nationwide.

NBC has refused to nationally air ads promoting this film claiming that the network "cannot accept these spots as they are disparaging to President Bush."

Since when does the media care

what's reproachable to whom? The media offends a variety of people in a variety of ways all the time! NBC



Nate Gutoski '07

the president is sad and profoundly un-American."

Weinstein could not have said it better. America is a democracy, not a communist country. We all have the right to criticize the government. NBC's fear of running the ad is a reminder of the Sedition Acts of 1798, which fined or jailed people whose opinion hurt the government. A characteristic, of a time period in America where the government could easily take control of all the aspects in the nation, should never appear again in today's society.

It is every American's right to be able to express any opinion they feel, whether it is pleasant praise or harsh condemnation. President Theodore Roosevelt once said, "To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public."

As a prominent media outlet, NBC needs to reassess its loyalty to the people, not the President.

does not find it a problem airing Saturday Night Live (SNL), which criticizes celebrities, politicians, and others, including President Bush. SNL is the perfect example of freedom of speech in the media. Yet, NBC will not air an ad for a documentary expressing the Dixie Chicks' experiences and their thoughts toward the President.

Freedom of speech is one of the most vital rights to any American citizen; hence it is in the First Amendment. To oppress this right in the media gives people the idea that disapproving attitudes towards the President are unacceptable. In reality, people will form opinions about Bush based on his actions as a president, not by watching a short ad of a documentary they may or may not choose to see.

Harvey Weinstein, whose production company is distributing the movie, issued this statement: "It's a sad commentary about the level of fear in our society that a movie about a group of courageous entertainers who were blacklisted for exercising their right of free speech is now itself being blacklisted by corporate America. The idea that anyone should be penalized for criticizing

The Patriot

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Game Review

New Bully on block

Matt Neuteboom '08

On October 17th, Rockstar Games debuted *Bully*. This pushed the envelope even further than its already phenomenally popular *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*

(GTA) '04 release, which was already an extremely controversial target.

The game starts you off as 15 year old delinquent Jimmy Hopkins. Fed up with your attitude, your mother drops you off at the most

strict private school in the country, Bullworth Academy (pun intended).

At its core, *Bully* is essentially the controversial GTA in the schoolyard. You have the choice of doing your missions to further the plot, or do anything else you want, such as go to class, beat up kids, pull pranks, or traverse the city.

The gangs of GTA have been replaced by the stereotype school cliques: the nerds, the bullies, the greasers, the jocks, and the preppies, as well as the townies. You have certain standings with each group, which will rise and fall depending on who you work for.

The plot of the game is driven by the missions you do for your friends. Unfortunately, they're not as grandeur as GTA's, which had you barreling down highways and partaking in massive gunfights and infiltrations. After all, it's sort of hard imagining school kids pulling a casino heist, right?

Besides missions, you also have to attend classes. These will unlock new abilities, such as new fighting moves from Phys Ed. You can also try to cut, and risk getting caught. Like GTA, you also simply have the

option to do the free-roaming part. You can do anything you want, such as pick locks, bully any students, and plant stink-bombs.

The characters have very colorful personalities and feel much more vibrant than those of San Andreas. Around the school, you can see students talking to each other, bullies picking on nerds, and prefects busting students for vandalism.

The students also seem to act more realistically. If you get in a fight, they'll crowd around and start chanting "Fight", and when the bell rings you can see all of the students run to their classes. You can even meet familiar NPC's (non-playing characters) wandering around the school.

Bullworth Academy definately seems like its got that odd charm to it. Rockstar got the school feeling and atmosphere perfect, making it easy to get drawn into. And despite its lack of violence, it still remains an incredibly addictive game.

If you try it, you can be assured that you will not want to put it down.

Bully deserves a 9 out of 10.



Rockstar Games gets a leg up with their new sandbox game *Bully*.

Event

Electronic Entertainment Expo

Randall Beatrice '08

Every year more than 60,000 journalists and professionals within the gaming community attend the Electronic Entertainment Expo, also known as E3.

It is usually held for a week in May in the Los Angeles Convention Center. Many video game and software designers show off their upcoming games and hardware to eager fans awaiting what could be the next hit in the industry.

Announcements by the "big players," such as Nintendo and Sony, are made either on the show floor for the public or behind closed doors. Awards are even given out to winners of several categories to praise and further advertise their product. And in the long run, this could even make or break a company.

Unfortunately, after 12 years of phenomenal gaming showcases, E3 will never be the same again. On July 31, 2006 it was announced that the expo would be downsized. The 2007 show will not be as grandeur as previous years, is going to be very limited and will only allow up to 5,000 guests at a time - invite only.

The media buzz suggested that larger companies had become frustrated with the high cost of attending E3 and decreasing benefits of marketing and advertising at the show. Additionally, preparing games for E3 means taking development teams away from work on final versions while many demonstration builds are polished which is a costly process.

This was first seen as a severe blow to smaller gaming publishers and developers, as they relied on it's

mass-market popularity and may have to leave the event and advertise independently if a new format becomes too exclusive. Also harmed is the city of Los Angeles, which experienced a huge economic boom from the influx of gamers and industry employees during the week of the event.

However, there are a few benefits. Many gaming publishers and developers have decided to work together and have their own traveling tours from city to city, open the public. This enables them to advertise on a tight budget and allows fans to follow the progress of software advancements.

It remains to be seen how these changes will affect the ability of smaller companies to compete in this field of technology.

24 At The Core!

Junior & Senior Class Councils are holding the annual Toys for Tots Drive on December 5th - 8th!

From Dec. 7 - Dec. 8, CC '07 & '08 will spend 24 hours in the Core.

New toys & games will be accepted, along with cash donations for gift certificates.

All donations go to individual families in WT, Gloucester County, Camden County, Philadelphia, and the Ronald McDonald House.

Game Review

Madden continues to impress

Richie Elles '08

Electronic Arts (EA Games) has always impressed fans with their broad spectrum of sports games, ranging from Tiger Wood's Golf to Arena Football to MVP baseball. However, through all the trials of turning popular sport into video games, one game has always reigned supreme. This year is no different. *Madden NFL '07* returns the Franchise to the top of the gaming world with new rosters, better graphics, and a few new controls.



Still shot of a Madden '07 cinema scene to a touchdown.

Before adding new features for the latest installment, EA was charged with the task of fixing old problems. Making sure that the ball didn't go through the chest of a receiver and fall incomplete and making the CPU a more intelligent opponent were top priorities for remodeling the old version.

After improving upon old miscues, *Madden '07* designers bring new controls to the table. This year's game puts the spotlight on the running game, allowing players to take control of an offensive lineman to clear a path for the running back. The enhancement of the running game improves game

play all around allowing the user to pass more freely.

In addition to its improvements and new controls, *Madden '07* for the XBOX console returns with game play and modes that are both familiar and loved by the Madden nation. Create-A-Team is as good as ever, providing preset team types with randomly generated rosters to let the player have their own team. Franchise mode is also similar to previous years with roster updates and a tremendous 120 year play limit that will have gamers gripping their controllers for hours at a time.

And of course, the game boasts

its namesake, the king of football commentary himself, John Madden.

Madden seems to know just what to say to keep your momentum going or add insult to injury after a bad play using colorful team and player specific phrases. On the '07 edition, he teams with Al Michaels in the broadcast booth, with original dialogue between the broadcasters as the game is going on, for a tv feel.

For any sports gamer, buying *Madden '07* for XBOX is a definite must. The solid game play mixed with the in-depth features and many game modes is a dazzling concoction for one great gaming experience.

Hardware

Nano dances its way onto shelves

Matt Neuteboom '08

The iPod has undergone many changes since its creation. Starting out as just the iPod, it was upgraded to the Mini in January 2004, and then once more in September 2005 as the Nano.

On September 12, Apple yet again altered its iPod, upgrading the Nano to its "second generation."

The new Nano sports a sleeker look and added functions from the mini that had to be taken out due to memory constraints.

The second generation Nano now has double the memory space of earlier versions, changing its 1, 2,



and 4GB drives to hold 2, 4, and 8GB. Despite the fact the amount of memory has changed, the pricing for each has not. 2GB models will sell for \$149, 4GB models for \$199, and the 8GB models for \$249.

Consumers also don't have to worry about forgetting to charge the battery anymore. On their website, Apple claims the battery will now last 24 hours when fully charged.

The new Nano still retains the same ridiculously small size as the first generation. However, Apple has added new colors to its line-up. Besides the original silver or black, you can now also order one in pink, blue,

green, and a special edition red. With its dramatic and solid improvements, the new iPod Nano has consumers lining up, waiting for the new hardware. The new iPod is sure to please many music fans.

Opinion

Computers take control

Julia Hahn '10

How common do you think computers will be ten or twenty years from now?

In past years, computers were only purchased by a selective few and cost quite a lot of money. Seventy years ago computers weren't even in use, and now they're in almost every single home in America!

Computers have developed much like other technology. When the light bulb was first invented it was so expensive, it was rarely used. Then, it became cheaper and more available to the public. Soon enough, each family had several lights in every room, in each house, in the entire world!

What's to stop computers from advancing in the exact same way? Who's to say that in ten, twenty, or thirty years computers won't advance in a way that we couldn't imagine.

It is important to consider whether or not this advancement would be beneficial. Should the human race be able to access computers so freely?

Computers have already made people less active and more dependent on technology. This makes me wonder if computers should be even more easily accessible.

Most people would say that such a thing sounds ridiculous. How could computers become so common? I'm sure everyone felt the same way about the light bulb, but look what happened. Thinking of such things can be quite overwhelming at times, but no one can really say how we will advance in the coming decades.

Maybe predictions will prove wrong and this technology will become more irrelevant, but for now I believe that only time can tell if computers will be available to unprecedented majorities.

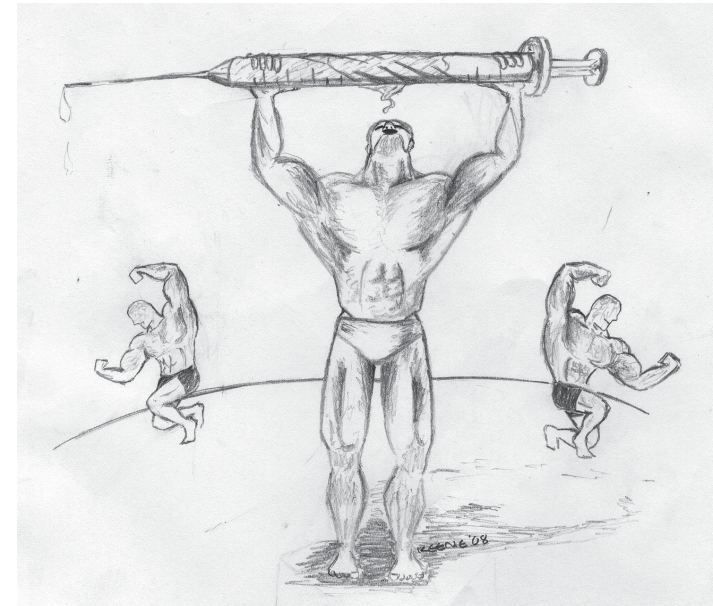
Opinion

Supplement users gambling with future

Rob Cavella '07

In this great country of 80 gig I-pods, carb diets, and high speed everything, Americans have come to expect bigger and faster results. Doing things the "hard" way has somehow quickly evolved into a practice just about deemed un-American. Self Checkout, Easy Pass, and other time savers have made the acceleration and ease of getting where we want to be a necessity. Our lives are all but centered around convenience and having an edge in dealing with the hardships we face everyday in the U.S.; such as waiting in lengthy food lines or clawing into your pockets for a quarter and dime at a toll to "advance to go". But where else does this American pastime of impatience extend to?

In the name of haste many teenagers, jock or not, are applying this philosophy to how they treat their bodies. It appears that every year some new product or supplement emerges that triggers quiet but plentiful murmurs among the athletes and numerous students who want to get noticed by taking up even more hallway space with



Kwabena Keane '08

newly added muscle. This seems like a dream to some, but in reality you might be wishing it really was a dream; instead of the nightmare you could be faced with later in life.

To be honest, I think gaining 15 to 20 pounds of muscle in a couple of marking periods is very appealing... at a glance. I've seen the results walking the halls many times.

At first I was impressed with the difference a little artificial help can make, but then the more I saw it the more comical it became.

The products usually start with "M-1" or end with "Drol". There hasn't been a lot of research done on these miracle supplements that accomplish accelerated physical transformation. You can take that

Opinion

I scream over ice cream

Alyssa Figueroa '08

With all the new, strict rules on food served in the cafeteria, it was exciting to learn that self-serve ice cream machines had been placed in each cafeteria to enjoy during lunch.

However, that fantasy quickly dwindled away after realizing the \$2 price for the small amount of ice cream you receive.

Regardless of its "low fat" title, the premium ice cream, flavors consisting of chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, mint marble, and cookies & cream, generally taste the same as regular ice cream. The quality is not the issue, but the quantity you receive for 200 hard earned pennies of your money is not worth it.

According to food service director, Ginny Bowden, Washington Township High School is the only school on the East Coast

with these machines. The money received from consumers, not from taxpayers, pays for the machines and their shipment costs from California. Getting the ice cream shipped from the West Coast is the cause of the high price.

However, the ice cream profits are not thriving. The steep price is causing this well-intended luxury to become somewhat of a failure. To ask for \$2 from students who may work for their own money, and/or already have to pay for the low-sugar, low-fat, low-sodium school lunch, is a bit much.

Most students who have tried the ice cream so far have enjoyed it. Some would apparently, "get it everyday" if it was only a buck. A true profit would shine through if the small bowl of ice cream had a similar small price.

The least we can do is to lower

the price and observe. If worse comes to worse, the same profit will be made, but at least more students will be enjoying the ice cream, which I am certain is the key point.

Since the machines were placed in the cafeteria, rarely do more than five students each lunch period purchase the ice cream.

However, I truly doubt that a larger profit will not be made if the price was lowered, and it is the profit that is important in making the ice cream a success. If the profit continues to not do well, the ice cream machines could eventually be removed.

This extreme action is uncalled for. The added indulgence of the ice cream is a great addition to our lunch. The price should be lowered in order for the ice cream to be here to stay.

piece of information as a good thing or a bad thing. Personally, it scares me. Either way you're rolling the dice with the health you will hold in the future. Taking a supplement raises a person's testosterone, or produces artificial hormones to help you lift more weight than you would naturally. Both situations can create long-term consequences for messing with the already high hormone levels teenagers possess.

Using these supplements to help out in the weight room can leave you with some unfixable loose ends later on in life such as diabetes, an enlarged heart, and cancer growth just to name an intimidating few.

I'm not writing this to judge, but you need to consider the question that's now at hand. Is it worth it? Will it get you that extra touchdown or base hit, build more confidence, or help you get the girl? Maybe all you will gain is that one extra push on your health that you'll have to deal with after high school. We're old enough to weigh the pros and potential cons of a situation. But the fact remains that nothing can replace hard work and earning what you reap.



Alyssa Figueroa '08/The Patriot

High prices often leave the ice cream machines lonely.

WTHS needs ballot drive

Twice a year, our school holds a blood drive. Once a year, it's election time. I'm curious because both are very important in their own ways. People are obviously in need of blood at all times, and our country is in need of good leadership just as much. While we promote having students sign up to give blood, our school fails to push seniors into voting.

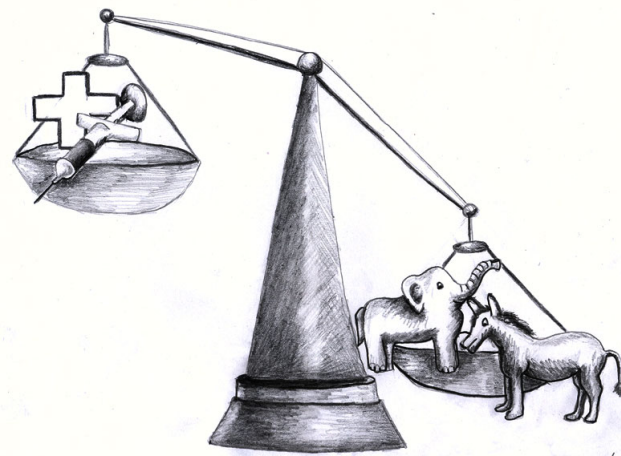
I've thought about it, and there are a few reasons but nothing too solid.

First of all, you have to be eighteen to vote.

Most seniors, in November, are still only seventeen. However, some of them are indeed eighteen. I myself am not eligible to vote until the end of this month. While it is disappointing that I can't vote until next year, I have friends who have already reached voting age and they should most definitely be being encouraged to induce change in our society.

We hear all this talk about how individuals can make the difference, the school should push voter registration.

Although it's undoubtedly



K. Bodman '07
Kate Bodman '07

true that a lot of students just don't care, they need to be made aware so they do care.

I figure the school just doesn't want to get involved in politics. It makes sense. It's not like this establishment would be pushing a specific candidate.

Really, the school wouldn't be getting involved in the politics. They're simply getting seniors involved and registered to vote, which is good. This country needs more voters. According to Wikipedia, an online encyclopedia, based on the 2000 census, only a

mere 42.45% of the population voted in the 2004 presidential election. Need I say more?

I am not alone in wanting the school to take a stronger position informing and registering voters.

"The school should promote voting for the seniors," states Justin Cluderay '07, "but only if they're letting people know what's up with both candidates or parties."

With that said, should the school actually step in, it shouldn't be as simple as "register, and go out and vote." All parties should be promoted equally and with no bias, so that all the new registered voters actually know what's going on.

There are too many people in this country that simply vote along party lines.

Voters need to be encouraged. The school can help. After all, it works for blood drives.

- Josh Bennett '07

Vegetarians need more options for lunch

When I say the word vegetarian, what kind of food automatically pops into your mind? All kinds of meat substitutes! There are tons of food alternatives out there for people who refuse to eat meat. Unfortunately the cafeteria in WTHS doesn't offer any of them.

Some vegetarians do not eat meat, but do consume dairy products and eggs. Others do not eat both; and then there are many variations in between.

With all of the vegetarians out there, it is hard to imagine that our school does not offer much food for them. Even the salads have chicken! And although some lunches like grilled cheese and pizza are vegetarian, only certain types of vegetarians may eat them. Out of all the meat substitutes I can name a few favorites that I know some meat-eaters themselves would love. There not-dogs, chicken-less nuggets, fake sausage links, and burgers made from real vegetables.

Many vegetarians in this school, myself included, would like their own choices when it comes to eating lunch. Having more available food choices would also offer healthier foods for the rest of the student body! I, myself, am a veggie and compared to the rest of my friends, I consume much healthier foods. In no way do I receive any less protein or nutrients because of my eating habits. The soy products I intake are more nutritious than a piece of meat.

If the school cafeteria offered more vegetarian type choices, more people would enjoy eating their lunch everyday, having foods that suit their lifestyles.

-Julia Hahn '06

Class clashes

I just wanted to share my thoughts on the article written by Kelly Gallagher about the class of 2007 ("Time to make a name for ourselves" Issue 1 - October, 2006).

First of all, I thought the article was absolutely ridiculous. She sounded like she was paid by someone from the class of 2006. She basically said that the seniors

shouldn't bother trying to be better than 2006 because it will never happen.

The article promotes bad school spirit. I think she's right in the sense that we shouldn't be told by administration that we need to be better than the previous year.

However, for example, I don't think we should be told not to bother tailgating because we didn't do it first

and 2006 was better than us.

I think every senior class has their own identity and they don't need to fill another class's shoes.

If 2007 wants to tailgate, it doesn't matter why or where it came from. It's also ridiculous that the sign in the cafeteria was changed two months into the school year.

-Danielle Mattio '07

The Patriot welcomes any letters from its readers. *The Patriot* reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, content, and space. Letters should be limited to 200 words.

Please submit all letters to wthspatriot@gmail.com

Pasta Parties: The Mystery Solved

Jaclyn Petruzzelli '07

How many times do you see friends' away messages talking about pasta parties? Most can connect pasta parties with high school athletes and energy boosting, but what's the real incentive for the parties?

From the outside, pasta parties may seem like a good way to load up on carbs before a big game. Carbohydrates are the body's energizers, and they give the athletes an energy boost when facing up to their opponents, but carbs barely cross the minds of the players as they shove their faces full of noodles.

"Pasta parties are a big part of team bonding," says senior soccer player Kayla Mullen. "They help teams come together off the field."

Most athletes in our school will agree with that statement. As a



Pasta brings the team together

member of the girl's basketball team, and I know first hand what a benefit team bonding is.

Athlete Gina Turdo felt that it

is important to "relax after practice and before a big game with each other. We're all like sisters for three months so it feels like having a fun

Honk if Pluto is still a Planet

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

My Very Excellent Mother Just Served Us Nine Pizzas.

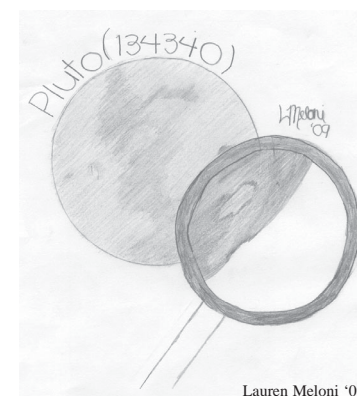
Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.

Many of us remember learning all about the solar system in elementary school. Using mnemonics, or sound devices, such as the one above, helped us remember basic facts that we were expected to know as basic facts. And let's be honest, most of them stuck around.

Unfortunately, something that happened this summer pretty much completely destroyed my elementary school memories. Pluto is no longer a planet.

Here are a few facts: Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh in 1930. For a long time, it was considered the ninth planet. It orbits between 29 and 49 AU (astronomical units) from the Sun, actually moving closer to the Sun than Neptune during a portion of its orbit. It is only one-fifth the mass of the Moon.

August 2006, several hundred



Lauren Meloni '07

members of the International Astronomical Union voted to determine what does and does not constitute a planet. Apparently, Pluto's just not good enough for them. In what was once a beautiful nine planet solar system, we now have a distraught eight planet system. Pluto, and two other small bodies, were classified as dwarf planets. To add insult to injury, it was given a new name, number 134340.

"Pluto is dead," confirmed Mike Brown, a planetary scientist at the California Institute of

Technology.

Or is it? Miraculously, since the announcement, this so-called "icy bore" has become the campaign slogan for many. Who cares about foreign and domestic policies when there is quite literally a bigger picture?

And now, it even has a bit of a cult following. With petitions, bumper stickers, and constant pleas to the IAU to change their decision, the cult is picking up momentum through the press and the internet.

After all, the new mnemonic, "My! Very educated morons just screwed up numerous planetariums," is kind of catchy.

This decision will probably not affect what is being taught in the classroom (or the layout of the planetariums) until revised editions of books are published.

In the meantime, all who still remember the innocence of childhood when Pluto was more than just a Disney character will have to be content with eight planets.

My very excellent mother just served us nothing?

Not nearly as much fun.

dinner with the family."

However, dinner is only part of the equation.

"Afterwards we watched *She's the Man* and played DDR and charades. It helps get all the girls to loosen up so we can get to know each other better," explained tennis captain Amanda Matticks '07.

Some favorite bonding game includes "Never-Have-I-Ever" Psychology, and Karaoke.

There is no set routine or schedule, and I think that's kind of the point. Teams are able to get together freely and entertain themselves with games on-the-spot.

Of course, I have only attended pasta parties for girls' sports. I am pretty sure guys don't watch *She's the Man*.

Senior soccer Captain Kyle McClintock reported that pasta parties are "just kind of a chance for us to hang out outside of practice."

"Pasta parties are one of the best parts of cross country," said senior cross-country athlete Rob Jordan. "I've had pasta parties ranging from a small group of guys just hanging out to 40 or 50 people all playing games and sitting around talking for a few hours. Overall, the pasta part of it seems to be secondary to just team camaraderie and loosening up the night before a meet, which might be as beneficial as the carb-loading."

Parents may spend time cooking up delicious dinners but, sorry mom, the extra helping of inside jokes, team gossip, and ice-breaker games build a foundation for the season.

So next time someone says they're going to a pasta party, don't scoff and wonder why they don't just cook for themselves. Pasta parties are used for a little more than filling an appetite.

Send us your story ideas.
wthspatriot@gmail.com

What's Happening

Students seek admission to NHS

Richie Elles '08

The National Honor Society is back for the '06-'07 school year, ready to induct new members.

The class of 2008 is now eligible to join, with those belonging to the class of 2007 still able to apply. The program offers a chance beyond Renaissance cards and principal's lists for students to be recognized for outstanding academic achievements. But more importantly, NHS gives students the chance to showcase upstanding character, leadership, and their work in the community.

Co-advisors Mr. Christopher Lawler and Mr. Raymond Anderson first met with the students in the first few weeks of school. The process began as the students were required to create a résumé to demonstrate why they belong among the ranks of the WTHS elite. Each résumé would contain an individual page for leadership in extra-curricular

activities, school awards, community service, and working experience.

Lawler is in his final year of his advisory over the National Honors Society and would like to leave his mark with his finest group of inductees yet.

"The National Honor Society wants the best and brightest to represent its values," he said. Lawler made it clear to applicants that it takes more than the 93.0 grade point average to gain admission into the exclusive group.

"NHS gives students the chance to display their achievements both in the school and the community. Entry is a privilege, not a right, and is a continued responsibility," Lawler told the candidates.

The responsibilities of students that are considered for induction play a large part in the selection process. Community service and leadership roles in school are two of the most important

aspects of an applicant. The service examined by the Faculty Council in making the decision of acceptance is simply the beginning service one must take on as a member of the National Honors Society. The added responsibility further proves the quality of the NHS member, who must dedicate ten hours of service and be available for five hours of free tutoring for underclassmen.

The beneficial effects of the NHS are seen immediately. Membership to the elite group looks superb on college transcripts and can help students attain a better education at a university. Also, students feel a sense of personal pride being inducted into the National Honor Society, knowing that all the effort and diligence has paid off.

With the new members anxiously hoping for their letters of acceptance, the members of the class of 2008 are greatly anticipating their inductions in late January.

Lit mag seeks submissions

Each year, a group of students produces a literary magazine containing writing, artwork, and photography for the general enjoyment of the WTHS staff and students. The name of the magazine is *Pieces*.

All of the published writing and art work is submitted by students. The magazine is entirely assembled by the *Pieces* staff.

Mrs. Jennifer Wells is the *Pieces* advisor. She holds meetings every odd Wednesday in K-208 (unless otherwise announced) and is always looking for interested students.

If you are interested in adding your artistic sensibility or technical expertise to the magazine, please stop in at one of the meetings, find more information at the *Pieces* E-board, or get in contact with Mrs. Wells. You do not have to be a member of the staff to drop off work for the magazine!

Student carpenters get the job done



Laura Marder '07/ The Patriot

Beginning in September, the Construction Technology students worked with Mr. David Casey to complete the new Quay Way Stage in time for the Senior Kick-Off Dance.

The group volunteered during and after school to finish the project on time. Materials for the stage were purchased with donations from Student Council and the graduating class of 2006.

Pictured above are first period class members: Greg Kennedy, Paul Cucinello, Rob Stryker, Mike Longfellow, Mr. Casey, Frank Ranzino, Bob Conrad, and Mike Murphy. Not pictured: Joe Hunt, Lonnie Jones, and Vinnie Sbraga.

...right on schedule



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/ The Patriot

The Senior Kick-Off Dance was Friday, October 13th. Organized by Student Council, the dance was a celebration of the start of senior year for the Class of '07. The new stage was used for the DJ, as well as the introduction of the homecoming court.

Pictured from Student Council: President Amanda Esposito, Vice-President Mitsu Asher, and Reema Patel.

Features

Acting out

Students dedicated to class, community

Margaret Bonanni '09

Throughout history, drama has shaped and influenced the lives of many individuals. From the time of the ancient Greeks, to the Renaissance, and even in modern history, individuals have been compelled to represent and serve their communities because of drama.

The students of Washington Township High School's Actors' Studio program and its linked class, Tech Theatre, are no exception. Early in the school year, they have already started to influence the community.

This year, Actors' Studio and Tech Theatre classes put on a children's play, *The Halloween Festival*, in place of the Haunted Theatre. At first, the classes' teacher and director, Mrs. Cheryl Silverman, was not sure how the reaction would be taken by students who looked forward to the Haunted Theatre, but was pleasantly surprised when the production was a hit.

The revenue from this production and other productions the classes do throughout the year



Photo courtesy of Actors' Studio

Actors' Studio students Kayleen Egan (left) and Sierra Johnson perform in *The Halloween Festival*

goes toward scholarships for students in both classes and Drama Club.

In addition to executing *The Halloween Festival*, the two classes also plan to devote their time to other community service projects.

For the next six weeks, Actors' Studio and Tech Theatre are preparing for their much anticipated visit to Grenloch Terrace Early Childhood Center. Every year, the classes take a field trip and do four performances of *The Wizard of Oz* for the children there.

"I can't wait to do *The Wizard of Oz*," says Erin Dunphy '09, who will be performing this play for the second time. "*The Wizard of Oz* is one of my favorite plays, and I enjoy doing things for my community and making every person in the audience feel important."

In addition to children's theatre, the classes are also planning their annual spring production. Last year, *The Remarkable Incident at Carson's Corner* was the classes' piece of choice.

The classes perform their spring production for two nights at the high school, and also enter a competition at the Buck's County Playhouse against other high schools in the Delaware Valley. The class always enjoys competition.

Latifah Sunkett '08, a student in Actors' Studio, is excited for what's planned this year.

"I can't wait to play the Cowardly Lion in *The Wizard of Oz*, especially because I know the kids always enjoy it. I love doing things for the community and knowing that I make a difference."

Colleges invade students' Space

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

What happens on MySpace, stays on MySpace.

Or does it? In 1998, MySpace founders Tom Anderson and Chris DeWolfe registered the website from their headquarters in San Francisco. Originally intended to be a free social website in which users could interact with friends and network with the world, MySpace's popularity has exploded in recent years.

With more than 100 million accounts, most teenagers are bound to either have an account themselves or have friends with one. Most students who go to WTHS know what MySpace is. Generally, student users maintain their accounts as a way to keep in touch, to share pictures, and to show off various achievements.

Unfortunately, there are a distinct number of users whose stories and posts on MySpace are only creating more problems for themselves.

The truth is that some students have faced suspension, expulsion, arrest, job rejection, and, most relevant at this time of the year, rejection letters from colleges.

In the upcoming months, many HS students are doing everything possible to get into their dream colleges. Between filling out applications, creating resumes, and writing essays, college applicants want to create a clear, complete picture to gain acceptance.

One problem—unguarded MySpace pages.

There is no established protocol how colleges should handle MySpace. Should the admissions

office act as a Big Brother? When an application arrives under review, should they search for the student's name on the internet?

USA Today suggests that most educators say no. Many feel this is an invasion of student's privacy. No student posts pictures or comments thinking that it might make or break their application.

Unfortunately, many students do not think of the repercussions of their postings until after they have felt those repercussions. As Cheryl Barnard of Quinnipiac University says, "I've seen a lot being an administrator in my 20 years on a college campus, but just some of the pictures I ran across—I couldn't believe it."

Of course, not all colleges are using MySpace in their admissions process. In fact, most colleges are avoiding it.



Checking the internet activity of an applicant is usually only brought up when notification arrives from the student themselves or a third party. If an applicant mentions a blog in one of their essays, their reviewers have likely reason to check it out.

When admissions officers see the postings on the web of alcohol,

See MYSACE p. 10

Bradley takes care of business

Michael Bradley '07

William Bradley is a very well known member of Washington Township High School's senior class of 2007. He made a name for himself not only on the lacrosse field or in his core classes, but by being one of the most outstanding business education students at WTHS.

Bradley's post-high school and college plans revolve around pursuing a business career. The first step for him was being named president of one of Washington Township High School's biggest student organizations, DECA (Distributive Education Clubs of America), a business club involving all

"I try and push myself to be the best student I can be."

-Bill Bradley

the aspects of marketing.

When Bradley was a freshman, his cousin was then president of one of New Jersey's largest DECA chapters. Although young and somewhat uncertain of his future, Bradley set his goal his first year of high school saying, "My senior year I will be the DECA President."

Three years later, he has met his goals. Not only has Bradley been elected the man in charge of the WTHS DECA program, but he has also earned a tremendous amount of respect from his Business Education teachers by being such a dedicated, scholarly student.

"William just possesses a certain drive that teachers rarely see in most students," said Mrs. Roseline Gill.

Bradley's 3.4 grade point average has also earned him membership in the WTHS Business Education Honors Society (BEHS). But again, just being a member wasn't enough. Early in his junior year, Bradley ran for the BEHS executive board and was elected.

Bradley said, "I don't like to get too comfortable and settle down; I try and push myself to be the best student I can be."

When not devoting his time to his business studies and making sure WTHS has a successful DECA program, Bradley finds time to play on the high school lacrosse team.

He joined the team his sophomore year, and it has remained a passion of his



Mike Bradley '07/The Patriot

Bill Bradley rings up a sale in the school store.

ever since. Bradley was a key member of last year's junior varsity squad, and will play an important role on this year's varsity team.

"I love the game, it helps me take my mind off my school work for a while and allows me to have fun," Bradley said.

Bradley is not just an average student here at WTHS. He has achieved much at a young age. His future plans are to attend Drexel's Lebow College of Business. Bradley has clearly made his mark in Washington Township High School.

College officials check out applicants' MySpace postings

MYSFACE from p.8

drugs, and violence, what choice do they have but to respond?

As teenagers test the boundaries of the World Wide Web, so too do educators test the boundaries of free speech.

Until policies are determined regarding how much authority schools have, students need to start using more common sense. Postings on MySpace, Facebook, Livejournal, and other social websites are free in the public domain.

Despite the original intentions of Anderson and DeWolfe to create a fun, carefree website, today's Technology World is not so innocent. It is the users who have no control over what other people choose to do with their postings.

Oliver juggles club, school, family

Nicole Heath '10

"Okay. Okay." chanted members of the African American Culture Club, as they practiced their dance for the Spirit Parade. The student in the spotlight was Melissa Oliver '07.

Oliver is not only a dedicated member of the African American club, but was also appointed the position of club president last school year.

"I showed the most interest. I was the only one who wanted to have specific meetings," Oliver said.

But now that she is in the office, she feels the pressure.

"A lot of people depend on me," Oliver said. "I have a lot of responsibility." One difficult aspect is that she can't please everybody."

Not many people have wanted to take such a demanding position. In past years, the African American club has not been very active. Oliver saw this a problem and wanted to make a change.

Oliver's foremost goal for the club this year is to raise the profile



Kiersten Heath '07/The Patriot

Melissa Oliver is committed to both her club and her studies.

of the African American Culture Club.

"I want everyone to be aware that there are African American students in school that will represent Washington Township High School," she said.

But Oliver does not determine everything that goes on in the club.

She still has a teacher advisor, Mrs. Shirley Walker, who makes many of the decisions for the club.

"My teacher advisor wants the best for the club," said Oliver. "I understand that. We have to work together, but sometimes we bump heads."

Oliver is also involved in many other activities. She is in track and field, DECA, and FCCLA. On top of all this, she is an honor role student.

Outside of school, she is also involved in ACTSO, an organization sponsored by the NAACP, from which Oliver earned a trip to a national competition for photography.

After all the activities, Oliver finds peace with her parents and sisters. Oliver feels she has made her family proud.

Though she is very determined, Oliver is not sure what she wants to do in life. However, she does have one goal she wants to achieve in her lifetime.

"Just to stay close to my family," Melissa said.



Halloween 2006 Township puts on its Fun-day best

