

Minutemaids continue success on court

Richie Elles '08

Year after year, the WTHS Girls Basketball team has bolstered their reputation as a consistent winner and a top program in South Jersey. The 2006-2007 season only added to the team's impressive history, as the Minutemaids dominated in both conference and tournament play.

Led by first year coach Ms. Jen Natale, skilled senior Kate Montgomery '07, and several rising stars on the perimeter, the basketball team claimed a share of the Olympic Conference Championship and gave a solid effort in the State Tournament.

The Minutemaids finished the season with a well-earned 21-7 record, including an 8-2 standing in the Olympic Conference American Division, which was enough to secure a tie for the division title with rival Lenape High.

The players succeeded in smoothly adjusting to the new coaching staff as well, as head coach Natale took over the bench and led the team to their accomplishments.

Natale could not have been more impressed by her young team

as they stormed to the top of the conference. The head coach commented on the Minutemaids' success over the long season and spoke positively about the team's character.

"They were an incredibly talented group, they all had exceptional work ethics, and they responded well to the changes we made as a new coaching staff," said Natale.

As the coaches change, the players also depart for their futures. However, Montgomery, the team's veteran and Senior Captain, provided the experience and leadership needed to guide the younger players.

Montgomery led by example, as she was the team's most prolific scorer with 11.4 points per game and an exceptional defensive presence.

But as big of a leader Montgomery was on the court, she was the emotional leader also, guiding the young squad to victory in a tough conference. The Senior Captain talked about her responsibility as the team leader and



The basketball team bonded over the 2006-2007 season.

what it meant to be captain.

"I was very proud to lead a team of young players and take on the role of senior captain," said Montgomery, "I thought we really had a great season. We came together as a team, and it showed on the court."

The team's character stood out at several times this year, including a third match-up against Cherry Hill East. After beating the Cougars by

thirty points in both games this season, the Minutemaids found themselves down with two minutes remaining. However, with several quick shots and a few key, pressure free throws, the team prevailed in a critical tournament contest.

The squad was made of only a couple seniors, and featured many underclassmen who had worked their way into the starting lineup.

Shawna Wert '09 was the team's second leading scorer and was counted on for her three-point shooting ability, leading the team in percentage beyond the arc.

Her twin sister Dana '09, the starting point guard was a leader on the court, calling plays and organizing each offensive possession. Both young starters were counted on to defend the opposition's best offensive player.

By the end of the season, the Minutemaids had finished tied for first in their conference, but had been eliminated in the semifinals of their group in the State Tournaments. The team had given its best efforts, and had a great deal of success over the course of the year.

The girls had made their first-year coach proud and upheld the tradition of winning basketball at WTHS. With a young team of upcoming stars, the girls basketball team should be fun to watch for a long time.

Joe Devito, Matt Romand, Jake Whitten, Ryan Hersch, and Hoffmann, the golf team has another prolific point scorer in Dan Zeiders, '09. This is Zeider's second year on varsity, and he consistently puts up some of the best numbers on the club.

When asked about the season and the progress that the team has made, Zeiders said, "So far this year the team has been playing pretty well. We're 4-2. The tournament Carl Arena is coming up on May 3rd and the team and I prepare ourselves by just practicing everyday. The team is also working towards qualifying for states."

Everyday, the team can be seen at Wedgewood Country Club perfecting their respective games and getting better as a unit. The golf team wants 2007 on their banner in the 9/10gym.

Winning the conference has been their goal from the beginning of the season, and that is just what they plan to do.

Seniors provide team leadership

Nick Verrillo '08

The 2007 Minutemen golf team has their sights firmly set on one goal this season, and that is to capture the Olympic Conference title. The solid play thus far in their first six matches and their senior leadership should help to achieve the conference crown.

"As seniors this year, we are a little more excited about the season than last year, the '06 leaders were a little more laid back. I think this team is the tightest I have seen since the '04 squad that won the conference," said Corey Hoffmann, '07, a two-year varsity player.

"The top six or seven guys are all real close friends and hang out a lot outside of golf. We usually can pick up for one another if someone is playing bad and we have been putting up some of the most competitive scores in all of South Jersey. We all know that we have a legit shot at the Olympic Conference



Corey Hoffmann '07 takes some practice swings in physics lab

crown, especially with our favorable schedule."

Aside from strong contributions from the '07 class that consists of

The Patriot

Issue 6

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

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Getting the point

Record-setting blood drive could save 1000 lives

Katie Mount '09

Records are made to be broken and when it comes to blood drives, Washington Township High School seems to set a new mark with each one.

On May 1 the Interact Club organized the annual spring blood drive in the 11/12 gym. More than 480 volunteers signed up to donate, and 334 pints of blood were collected. Each pint of blood saves 3 lives, so more than 1000 lives will now be able to be saved.

With the fall drive, WTHS became the largest high school donor in the Pennsylvania-New Jersey Region, but this time we surpassed even our own record.

"I was surprised at such an amazing turnout of people donating," said Gina Parker '09, of the Interact Club Executive Board.

In fact, there were so many volunteers, that some were turned away. During the second half of the blood drive, as more students entered the gym, they were asked to return to their classrooms.

"When I showed up, a lot of people were there. They should have had both gyms open," Eric Mount '08 claimed.

Students and organizers alike

felt that having both gyms open would have allowed more to donate.

However, some volunteers were turned away because of other concerns. Before anyone can donate, they must go through a questionnaire process. They must answer certain questions in order to see if they are eligible to donate. For example, if you have been tattooed in another state within the last six months, then you will not be able to give blood.

To donate blood, a donor needs to be seventeen years of age or older, and must weigh at least 110 pounds. It is also important that they be free of disease. The volunteers are asked beforehand whether they are in danger of having diseases like malaria and various STDs.

Still, to keep the supply as safe as possible, the blood is screened. If the blood turns up positive for an STD, the donor is informed and the blood is discarded.

The Red Cross also tests the iron of potential donors. The test is administered by pricking their finger, and clarifying that their iron level is high enough.

Several of the volunteers claimed that the finger pricking was more painful than the actual donating. To help calm the students, members of Interact walked around offering



Photo Courtesy of Vicki Carberry '08

Christian Britt '07, Nick Smith '07, and Kevin Smith '07 display their numbers as they wait to donate blood.

comfort. Parker was one of these consolers, but she was surprised to find that most donors actually helped each other.

"Everyone there was so strong and supportive. Looking around at the tables, people were holding hands, and donors were making new friends," Parker said.

As strong as they were, many donors later felt faint. Some students claimed they felt dizzy and needed to sit down. In order to prevent this,

volunteers are advised to eat a healthy breakfast the morning they are due to give blood.

With another record drive behind them, the organizers hope to surpass this year's amount at the next drive and feel that the student body appreciates the importance of their generosity.

"It's such a good cause because something could happen at any minute, and you could be the one needing the blood," said Parker.

WTHS earns honors

Rob Cavella '07

Washington Township High School has always been recognized as a venue for superior education. It is a reputation that's been noted with numerous accolades and high regard from the citizens of the area.

This week the school added to its list of honors when it was selected as a Just for the Kids New Jersey Benchmark School for 2006.

Over the past four years the Business Coalition for Educational Excellence has distributed the award

based on standardized test (HSPA) performance.

This year was the first that WTHS gained "benchmark" status. Unlike many awards that high schools have to apply for in order to be eligible, this special award assesses HSPA scores, school size and other demographic factors.

Out of all the schools in New Jersey, sixty-nine were designated as Benchmark Schools. Washington Township was one of only three nominated in South Jersey. Unlike the Governor's School of Excellence

Award that Washington Township received for the '05-'06 school year, no monetary award was granted to supplement the acclaim.

"Getting recognized for the continuing excellence here at Washington Township High School is reward enough," stated WTHS Principal Mrs. Rosemarie Farrow.

The Business Coalition for Educational Excellence is a national movement that represents the efforts of major American corporations.

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Spring Musical sails smoothly

Margaret Bonanni '09

Every year WTHS students anticipate the spring musical. And, every year the Way-Off Broadway Players stun us with an amazing performance. This year was no different as they, and director Mr. James DiGennaro, presented Anything Goes with music and lyrics by Cole Porter.

This hysterical musical was set on board the S.S. American, a ship that set sail from New York, to England. With an odd array of characters that could not help but create trouble, the voyage was not a usual one. Billy Crocker (Robert Smith '07) is a stowaway aboard the ship, who meets up with his long lost friend, the famous nightclub singer Reno Sweeny (Christie Garcia '08). While on the ship, Crocker doesn't only meet up with Reno, but also finds out that his long lost love, Hope Harcourt (Katie Hughes '07) is aboard the ship as well.

Regrettably she is engaged, to Sir Evelyn Oakleigh, a wealthy Englishman (Michael Young '08). Crocker doesn't let this, or Hope's mother, stop him though. With the help of Reno, a gangster named Moon-faced Martin (Joey Contino '09), and some friends aboard ship, he



photo courtesy of Mr. DiGennaro

Michael Young, Katie Hughes, and Jackie Nagle aboard the S.S. American

wins her back, and manages to not get arrested once they dock in England.

All of this occurs while several other plots unfold. While he's helping Crocker, Moon-faced Martin goes aboard the ship disguised as a priest, and tries not to get thrown in the brig. Also, Sweeny tries to make a name for her and her singing Angels in England, which is

made more complicated when she falls in love with Sir Evelyn. The different plots gave a variety to the play, and provided something that could interest everyone who saw it. "My favorite part was when they [Crocker and Moon-faced Martin] were singing in the jail cell," said Augustine Kim '08.

A considerable amount of work

went into the producing of the musical. Weeks of exhausting rehearsals after school started immediately after Winter break, and didn't stop until before the week of opening night.

Certain rehearsal dates were dedicated to different components of the show, such as singing, acting, choreography, and tap dancing. Then rehearsals started to become scheduled everyday, until the show started coming together.

"We had dance rehearsals at least once a week which took a toll on those who didn't want to dance," said Garcia, "I know that I was really exhausted."

While working relentlessly on the musical, the cast also bonded. Every practice brought them closer together, like a family. This enabled them to pull together and to have fun with the musical.

"I think the casting DiGennaro did was great. We're like family, and it was a pleasure to be casted with them," said Contino.

The musical went over well with the crowd, and received an outstanding reaction from the audience. The hard work from the Way-Off Broadway players really paid off. With talented dancing, acting, singing, and a comical plot, it was one of the most entertaining musicals yet.

Game Fest offers competition, prizes

Tom DeYoung '07

Are you prepared to show off your new skills at the first ever Game Fest at Washington Township High School? Well it's almost here so you better get ready. The first Game Fest will be held on Saturday May 19.

The fest will consist of many types of games and all different types of game systems; including the popular games Halo, Guitar Hero, Super Smash Bros., and even stuff for the newer systems like Nintendo Wii and Xbox 360.

This event will last about four hours and will cost twenty five dollars per person. the money is going to a great cause as well.

It is going to help pay for the costs of the Festival of Friends that

was held by the Interact club. Interact is running the fest but all the games, systems, televisions and all other necessary equipment will be provided by the Game Stop Company.

Many gamers of the area will be attending so if you think you have the skills to compete, come out and try. You can set up your own tournaments if you want when you get there to see who is the best gamer around.

It may be you.

Also, everyone that buys a ticket is eligible to win a prize. As of now, prizes have not yet been announced, but will definitely be awarded. there will be food and a DJ attending.

The organizers hope to guarantee that everyone attending

will have a good time.

There will be plenty of televisions, games, and people with whom participants can have a great time. The organizers would like to see the student body support this great cause so it can go on for years and a become a tradition at our school.

Tickets are \$25 and are being sold by Mrs. Naval in room I-103. They will be sold up to the day of the event.

Bring your favorite video games and game on!!

Sports

Pitching leads way for Minutemaids

Blaise Lacca '07

The 2007 WTHS Minutemaids Softball season that has been highly anticipated after last year's successful run is off to a strong start. The girls have been faced with the challenge of bringing up new players to fill in some big shoes to follow in the foot prints of the past.

With a lot of seniors graduating from the 2006 Minutemaids' varsity softball squad, many key positions needed filling. Tracy Berkhart, the Minutemaids' head coach, filled in the open positions with a mix of this year's seniors and juniors.

To get the new team ready for the season, practices are held daily after school. During these sessions the team goes through all aspects of the game with split practices of both offense and defense. Offensive practice is to work on batting

technique, bat speed, and learning to set up their base runners into scoring positions. Defensive practice is then used to help every position fine-tune their skills, running through all kinds of various defensive situations that could happen in a game, calls and signals that will be used in a game, and learning to play as a unit.

"The team is really adjusting to the varsity level very well and is doing a great job," praised Alyssa Maiese '07.

With the team coming together and all the practice, the team seems to have goals that they feel are within their reach; Such as defeating Eastern High School, who seem to be this year's team to beat, as well as capturing the conference title and state championship title; but most of all the girls team just wants to stay relaxed and have fun with the



The Patriot

Alyssa Maiese threw her third and fourth no-hitters of the season at the Hammonton Tournament.

game of softball.

"We want to play together as a team, have fun, and most importantly have a successful season," commented Maiese '07.

As of May 11 the Minutemaids

stand at 15-4. Having passed the mid-season point, the team has qualified for the state tournament. They are looking to better their position in the states by posting a few more wins in the regular season.

Early success for tennis team

A.J. Nisbet '08

So far this year the boys tennis team started off strong with a 11-2 record. Their only losses came to Cherokee and Kingsway, followed by victories over Triton, Timbercreek, Winslow, and Bishop Eustace, Seneca, Eastern, and Pitman.

"We are looking pretty strong so far this year, especially with our boost of confidence after winning the past three games in a row and taking home the trophy in the Cumberland classic tournament," said Chris Penza '08

Some of the team leaders that make up the varsity team are Corey Eldridge '08, Chris Penza, Weston Eldridge '10, and Richie Elles '08. Each player gets ranked into different levels at practices. To take over a rank, or someone's spot, a player has to defeat their teammate in a challenge.



A.J. Nisbet '08/ The Patriot

Corey Eldridge '08 leads team as the first singles player.

While each individual is doing their part in contributing to the teams totals, the two varsity doubles teams are also coming through. The first doubles team of Richie Elles and

Justin Bernardo '09 along with second doubles team of Kevin Leach '08 and Joe McChesney '09 have been making an evident contribution to the teams earned points.

While Kingsway seems to be their biggest rival, the best team they compete against is Cherry Hill East. "This year Cherry Hill East has great players that play a solid and confident game," Penza said.

Most recently the boy's tennis team traveled to Cumberland for the "Cumberland Classic" tournament. There, the team defeated all of its opponents. Twp knocked off Pennsville, Millville, Pinesland, and two stronger teams in Haddenfield and Cumberland.

Individually, Chris Penza and Weston Eldridge led the team going 3-0 in matches. Corey Eldridge '08, Richie Elles, and Justin Bernardo, all went 1-1 contributing to the teams overall victory.

Almost halfway through the season, the team has only been able to have five matches because of the weather cancellations. For the rest of the season, the team has a packed schedule, with fifteen matches in May, giving them fifteen matches in 25 days.

"We have a lot of work to do and a tough schedule ahead but I think that our team is up to the challenge," said Richie Elles.

The team looks forward to the South Jersey Open on the weekend of May 12.

"This is one of our largest tournaments of the season, and it's important we play well," said Elles.

At this tournament, Township will be going against rival Kingsway, who they ended up tying last year in the tournament.

With a somewhat young team and an solid start to the season, the Washington Township tennis team looks to a successful season.

Summer sequels season opens big

Brad Grandrino '07

Sequels, sequels, sequels; that's what we film-lovers have in store for us this summer. Whether it's seconds, thirds, or more, the summer of 2007 will be packed with sequels such as *Shrek the Third*, *Evan Almighty*, *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, *28 Weeks Later*, *Pirates of the Caribbean: At World's End*, *Hostel: Part II*, *Ocean's Thirteen*, and many, many others.

But like every other summer, one film is usually viewed as starting off the season of movie magic. This summer, that film is *Spider-Man 3*.

When the Spidey sequel opened on May 4, it earned \$59.3 million in the US, setting the record for not only the biggest opening day ever, but the biggest opening weekend as well at \$148 million opening weekend in the US.

Though the film did great in the box office, critics were divided.

Richard Roeper, film critic for the *Chicago Sun-Times*, thought that "[*Spider-Man 3*] is too long, lacks imposing villains..." The film ran

Film

Junebug provides poignant insight

Amanda Burghart '09

Simple, refreshing and a bit out of the ordinary, director Phil Morrison's *Junebug* makes a lasting impression. Based on the sturdy principles found in many southern families and necessary professional progress that can come between families, this film balanced originality and relateability with brilliance. The acting ability was commendable and the writing was flawless. Mixing recognizable and some more improbable situations, *Junebug* is full of the substance, believability and heart that many movies lack.

When Madeline (Embeth Davitz), the cultured owner of an art gallery is paired with George (Alessandro Nivola), a younger man from the south, it's very interesting to see the resulting interactions. Madeline and her very new husband George travel to North Carolina to try and pick up some coveted artwork Madeline has had her eye



The web-slinger battles super villains and alien entities in *Spider-Man 3*.

almost two and a half hours, so one can understand why Roeper said it was "too long". The critic also seemed to dislike Pete's girlfriend, Mary Jane Watson, played by actress Kirsten Dunst. Roeper said that "Dunst seems lost, whether she's singing in a barely adequate

voice or whining to Peter that he's so wrapped up in his web of wonderfulness that he never pays attention to her."

USA Today's Claudia Puig said that the "third installment oozes with excitement."

Puig gave *Spiderman 3* three out

of five stars, claiming that the film is "solidly entertaining and possesses dazzling special effects, but it falls short of the near-perfection of the Spidey sequel."

Spider-Man 3 starts off with the citizens of New York City adoring their local web-slinging hero, praising him like a savior. Spider-Man propaganda is being sold everywhere all over New York, and the wall-crawler even makes an applauded appearance at a festival dedicated to yours truly: Spider-Man himself.

The second sequel is packed with action, excitement, and villains. In *Spide-Man 3*, a meteor crashes near Peter Parker's bike. Inside the meteor is a black, alien symbiote, which later attaches itself to Peter (Tobey Maguire). It feeds off of his aggression, causing Pete to become a complete jerk.

In addition to this conflict the sequel has no shortage of supervillains. There is escaped fugitive Flint Marko (Thomas Haden Church) as the Sandman, and rival photographer Eddie Brock (Topher Grace) as Venom. The third baddie in Spidey 3 is Harry Osborn (James Franco) who takes his father's Green Goblin role as the New Goblin, the powerful once-friend of Peter Parker. All under two and a half hours. Between these plotlines, there are numerous fight scenes, as well as dramatic love scenes. The fight scenes are played out well, filled with action and suspense, and plenty of it at that.

The sappy love scenes, however, are... well, sappy. The actors just couldn't pull off a single dramatic scene in the film without coming off as though they were in a cheesy soap opera. If not for the fight scenes, the sappy drama in *Spider-Man 3* would have turned the film into *All My Villains*, on Soapnet.

But aside from the cheesy-when-trying-to-be-dramatic acting, *Spider-Man 3* has filled the shoes of it's predecessors. It is an excellent movie, a wild ride, and a fantastic sequel. After seeing *Spider-Man 3*, you may find yourself asking the question everyone else is asking: "Will there be a *Spider-Man 4*?"

Don't give up hope, true believer. The answer may be closer than you think.

Senior citizens enjoy soiree

Alyssa Figueroa '08

What do you get when you have 71 senior citizens, 20 high school students, a king, a queen, food, and a live band in one room? This year's senior citizen prom, ran by Washington Township's Interact Club.

On Apr. 14, 57 senior women and 14 senior men wore their best outfits to attend a black and white, Old Hollywood themed prom at the Washington Township's Senior Citizen Center.

Top hats with movie ticket ribbons were centerpieces, while old movie quotes hung on the walls.

"We thought of the Old Hollywood theme because we wanted something glamorous and fun," stated Tori Gilbert '07, Executive Vice-President, who organized the event.

"It is one of my favorite events," she said, "because the senior citizens have so much fun and always look forward to it."

With this year's live band, it was hard not to have fun. Jonathon Interlante and his orchestra entertained the crowd the whole day with music, singing, and witty jokes.

Classes battle in March Madness

Margaret Bonanni '09

Washington Township High School has a long standing tradition of showcasing their school spirit. From Powder Puff, to Grilled Cheese Day, there is an event that interests just about everyone. In the month of March, students have their annual March Madness Basketball Tournament.

But, this March, instead of just a tournament, students were upgraded to a month long spirit celebration.

The class and student councils, with help from Mrs. Gina Gallaher, and Mrs. Kimberly Griffiths devised some new additions to the March agenda. Not only have they added new tournaments such as the Wing Bowl, but they've also added Spirit Week, where each day of the week has a theme geared toward an element of township pride. They've also added Township Day, where students wear red or blue to earn

points for their grade in a spirit contest.

On March 14, students came to see the fourth annual March Madness Celebration in the 9/10 gym, which was one of the main events of the month. First up was the basketball showdown between the seniors and juniors. The winner played the Faculty Team, coached by Dr. Ronald Pollack. Finally, the night was wrapped up with the Wing Bowl.



Alyssa Figueroa '08/ The Patriot

Senior citizens and student volunteers alike have fun dancing.

"He's a lot of fun," stated Gilbert, "he got everyone interested in dancing, and made everyone laugh."

And the fun didn't stop there. One of the most enjoyable features of the day was the crowning of prom king and queen. Their names picked out of a hat, Tom Mercer and Edith Nuzzi were the lucky winners. They were capped with royalty, and then made their majestic stride around the room.

"I was very happy as the Prom King," stated the smiling Mercer, who loves to dance. "I'm Gene Kelly on the inside!" And the ecstatic Nuzzi was "overwhelmed with being queen."

The afternoon was also filled with the electric slide, the chicken dance, and other back-in-the-day hits, combining Interact members and senior citizens on the dance floor. Some of the teenagers even learned a

victory was their last one as a class at WTHS, and many players enjoyed playing as a team.

"The game got the class together and it was fun to play," stated Kayla Mullen '07.

After a short intermission to warm up, the faculty took the court, prepared to play. They weren't worried about losing, and had the expectation of beating the seniors with their well planned tactics and plays.

"We've been practicing, and have won four years in a row; this year will be our fifth," says Mr. James Hallinan.

Hallinan along with other teachers on the faculty team gave their opponents a strong defense to beat. Throughout the game it was neck and neck, and the seniors gave the faculty a run for their money. Even up until the very end, it was a close game, until the faculty team drove through with an incredible

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thing or two.

"I was taught by a woman how to jitterbug," chuckled Andrew Wood '07, a member of Interact's Executive Board.

Besides learning how to boogie, Interact members also realized how much this event means to the senior citizens.

"One of the highlights of my senior year is the senior citizen prom," said Jaclyn Petruzzelli, Interact Executive Board member. "I love to see them have such a good time."

Without these volunteers, many feel the prom would not be half as exciting. Band leader and host Jonathon Interlante admitted, "The best part of the prom is having the Interact youngsters performing and working together to make this happen. We all had a ball."

Most of the seniors were deeply touched by the thoughtfulness of the students. "It's really the young ladies and men that make this prom so great," stated Prom Queen, Nuzzi.

Her sister, Eva Russo added, "It is unbelievable how good it makes you feel that they took time to dance with the seniors."

With the help of the everyone in the town, the senior citizen prom was "worth all the hard work," stated Gilbert.

Gilbert said, "At first we had to find a way to fund it; the food and catering wound up being taken care of by the Washington Township Family and Community Municipal Service's Alliance. Then we had to plan it, send out invitations, and make decorations."

The dedicated team effort of the community surely paid off. "The food was excellent, we had a very good host, a live band, and all these wonderful students. I never dreamed we would have all this," stated Russo.

By working together, students and leaders of Washington Township truly help brighten up the seniors of our town one special day each year. The township is brought closer together, by giving back to those who have given so much to our future.

Best described by Prom King Mercer, "The thing I like most about the event is the community spirit that is involved."

Students experience legislative process

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

Every spring, the Washington Township students of the Youth and Government club travel to the New Jersey State House in Trenton to debate approximately 300 other high school students about state issues. At this year's March conference, the students performed above and beyond previous years.

"The program allows you to not only debate and learn about policy, but also to develop leadership skills," said fourth year participant Tori Gilbert '07.

Before the conference, all participants draft legislation, or bills, on well-researched topics. The weekend allows students to debate issues that are important in their daily life—such as license requirements, school curriculums, abortion, and gay marriage—while enjoying a mock-procedure of how the House of Representatives and the Senate actually operate.

To make the process more realistic, there is a Governor's Cabinet and lobbyists. The Cabinet, which included WTHS students



Photo Courtesy of Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

WTHS Youth and Government seniors loving every last moment of the conference.

Gilbert and Jaelyn Petruzzelli '07, is the final stop for bills before they are given a Governor's veto or passed into "law." Lobbyists give speeches which may make or break support of the bill.

"It's really pretty cool. There are a few sessions where we actually are able to debate in the actual Senate Room. Delegates sit in the actual Senator's and Congressmen's while

debating. It adds reality to everything we argue about," said Brooke Petruzzelli '09.

With about 30 members, the WTHS delegation makes up approximately 10% of the conference in number, but receives a far larger percentage of the awards handed out.

Club advisor Kristin Harner said, "The trip was extremely successful. Not only did our

delegation pass a number of bills, we also had several members given premier awards."

John Mason '07 was awarded Outstanding Statesman for his excellent debate in the Cleveland Senate. Andrew Wood '07 received an award from Outstanding Legislation for his bill regarding restrictions on dual-office holding. Finally, seniors Andrew Bunting and Ryan Kinch were selected as delegates for the Conference on National Affairs to take place this summer.

Ten students passed successfully legislation into "law" dealing with topics ranging from increasing the punishment of child predators, eliminating property taxes in favor of a higher sales tax, adding urinal dividers to men's bathrooms, and state-mandating verbal testing for dyslexia.

It was an excellent experience for the seniors leaving the club and the freshmen who had their first taste of the legislative process.

Kara McElvaine '10 said, "[The club] was an amazing experience because you can meet so many interesting people as well as really improving public speaking skills."

Civil unions; progress for gay couples

Melissa Cheng '07

On Dec. 14, 2006, the New Jersey Legislature passed a bill legalizing civil unions.

While this might seem like a step forward, it's still not fully equal to marriage. In the state of New Jersey, a civil union holds almost the same weight as a marriage license. Once you leave the state borders, however, it's not marriage at all.

Jackie Van Orden '07 feels that the law is not even close to reaching equality. "It's good that [gay couples] are given civil unions, but since it's only a state law, they're not granted any federal rights. So they don't get things like social security benefits, veteran's benefits, health insurance, Medicaid, estate rights, retirement savings, pensions, family leave, and immigration."

Gay and lesbian partnerships are denied joint parental rights of children, joint adoption, status as "next-of-kin" for hospital visits and medical decisions, the right to make a decision about the disposal of

loved ones remains, and crime victims' recovery benefits. It even excludes domestic violence protection orders, judicial protections and immunity, automatic inheritance in the absence of a will, public safety officers' death benefits, child support, and joint filing of tax returns. Gays and lesbians don't have the right to welfare or public assistance, joint housing for elderly and credit protection.

Mrs. Heather Petolicchio, advisor to the Gay Straight Alliance club, states that "[homosexual partners] can go to a lawyer with their civil union and gain some of the 1400 state and federal benefits that gays and lesbians are denied. That'll cost a couple thousand dollars and even after all that, the protections and benefits can still be challenged in court at any time. While if you're married, you're married and there's nothing to stand in the way of the protections you have the right to."

The high court of New Jersey ruled unanimously that same-sex couples deserved full access to the

rights and privileges of marriage. However, out of the seven justices, a majority ruled that civil unions would be an acceptable alternative to marriage.

The bill was approved nine days after introduction, which was interpreted by some as a signal that the democratic leaders preferred the less controversial option.

"The divorce rate for straight couples is extremely high. If gay couples were allowed to get married than the divorce rate would decrease dramatically because they actually want to be together. They're fighting for it," said Nicole Fedorko '07.

Yet more than half of the states have written bans on same-sex marriage into their state's own constitution. This was to guard against state judges ordering them to legalize gay weddings.

Petolicchio expresses her belief on the bans. "The [homosexual] citizens are denied their rights creating, in a sense, second class citizens that don't have the same

protections or benefits as heterosexuals. It's unfair."

In 2007 though, more states are predicted to consider expanding gay rights rather than restricting them.

Bills to expand same-sex partnership rights, such as marriage, civil unions, or domestic partners, are expected to occur in the states of California, Connecticut, Maryland, Oregon, New York, and Washington.

Today's society is starting to become more aware and accepting of gay and lesbian couples. However, there are still some people who refuse to acknowledge the couples' relationships as equal to their own heterosexual partnerships.

Lauren Defilippis '07 pointed out, "[Gay couples] aren't affecting me, so why would I have a problem with it?"

As for the civil union license, there are some disputes among different groups as to whether it's a step forward. Petolicchio believes that for homosexual couples "it's the beginning of being recognized and protected."

Join the Cult by Matt Neuteboom '08

Dr. Strangelove relives Cold War paranoia

Unless you're big movie buff, Dr. Strangelove is a movie that probably won't sound too familiar. The film itself is actually an obscure title from the 1960's made by legendary director Stanley Kubrick. Kubrick is the director of such famous films as *2001: A Space Odyssey*, *A Clockwork Orange*, and *Full Metal Jacket*. Dr. Strangelove is in fact this man's first, and probably least known full length film.

Based on a novel by Peter George, Dr. Strangelove is a satire of events that took place during the Cold War. Poking fun at the arms race and the paranoia of a Russian attack, Dr. Strangelove was in many ways ahead of its time.

Once you get into the movie it becomes obvious that this movie is



You know that old gag about the guy riding the nuke as it fell to the Earth? Yea, that's from this movie.

Double dose of Tarantino

Josh Bennett '07

Grindhouse. A theater playing back-to-back films exploiting sex, violence, and other extreme subject matter.

Grindhouse tries to re-create the experience of going to the theatres during the 70's. Additionally, to push the feel even further, the filmmakers have actually intentionally created scratches on the film, giving the film a true older tone to it.

The film, which runs quite a bit over three hours long, features two full-length films, 'Planet Terror' and 'Death Proof', directed by Robert Rodriguez and Quentin Tarantino, respectively. Surely Tarantino needs no introduction, having made such classics as 'Pulp Fiction' and 'Kill Bill,' although Rodriguez is not in the same boat.

Though obviously talented, as showcased in his most notable feature, 'Sin City,' Rodriguez simply seems to be less well-known. You might recognize his name from such films as 'Desperado,' 'From Dusk Till Dawn,' 'Once Upon a Time in Mexico,' and surprisingly enough, the 'Spy Kids' trilogy. You'll notice some familiar faces in both films as well, such as Bruce Willis, Rose McGowan and Kurt Russell.



Rodriguez's portion, Planet Terror, features a whopping dosage of zombies, blood, and a chick with a machine gun as a leg.

You know, due to the incredible amount of uniqueness and creativity in this project, it was rather difficult to predict how this film was going to turn out. It was an idea I had never heard of before, and one I'll probably never hear of again. I'm not a fan of sitting in a theatre for too long, so I ended up seeing one feature at a time. You get that luxury when you work at the theatre, by the way. Anyway, with that said: Grindhouse was great, a pure non-stop exciting masterpiece. Both directors deserve praise for creating one of the firsts entertaining films of the year.

While Tarantino's 'Death

Proof' starts off at a relatively slow pace, Rodriguez's 'Planet Terror' takes the lead at an incredible speed and never stops. Both were equally as awesome though, in their own way.

But hey, that's not all. Included between the end of the first film and the beginning of the second, are actual fake trailers. Did I mention they were created by the likes of Rob Zombie, from such films as 'House of 1,000 Corpses', Eli Roth of 'Hostel' fame and my personal favorite, Edgar Wright, director of the absolutely hilarious 'Shaun of the Dead' and the recently released, 'Hot Fuzz?'

a lot different than many of the movies that were made during the 60's.

The movie is driven along by its fairly complicated plot about a US general who launches a renegade attack on Soviet Russia, which sends the entire world into a panic over nuclear retaliation. Exploiting a loophole in legislation, a crazed US General tired of waiting for war orders all planes in Russian airspace to attack. Taking shelter in a US fort and blocking all communications from outside sources, the general tricks his men into thinking that the base is on high alert and to shoot and approaching men. The problem is, the planes will only answer to a certain code only held by the general. The US faces the decision of whether to shoot down the planes, or to raid the fort in an attempt to cancel the order.

The first thing that jumps out at you is how remarkably modern this movie really feels. From the excellent storyline, to the good acting, the amazing set design, and the top quality visuals and sound, the movie almost seems like something that you would see today. The plot is incredibly well done, as well as clever and thought-provoking. The sets, especially the war room, look amazingly good in black and white. Even the acting is quite good, featuring Peter Sellers (of *Pink Panther*) as the one and only Dr. Strangelove.

A problem many viewers might have with the movie is trying to get the movie's humor. Like all satires, the movie's humor is built into the plot, so you have to be paying close attention to the storyline in order to get the jokes. It's probably also necessary to have a good idea about what went on during the Cold War and America's attitude toward Russia back then in order to fully grasp what this movie is trying to make fun of.

Still, if you're willing to give it a try, Dr. Strangelove can be a remarkably funny movie. Many critics hailed this political satire, and it probably deserves the praise. Kubrick put lots of effort into this movie, and it honestly shows.

Have faith in the fate of *Lost*

Alyssa Figueroa '08

The second installment of the third season of *Lost* has viewers consistently dissatisfied, with ratings falling each episode. Some viewers are still grasping on to the secrets of the island, while others have chosen to rescue themselves.

On Feb. 7, 2007, *Lost* returned from its three month hiatus with the answer to the questions in all the viewers' minds.

The survivors of the island are the people that have lived on the island since their plane, Oceanic Flight 815, crashed over two months ago. The "Others," a group of people who have lived there for a very long time have something undoubtedly strange about them.

Survivors Kate (Evangeline Lilly) and Sawyer (Josh Holloway) managed to escape the creepy Others' island, and, unfortunately, Ben (Michael Emerson) survived the

operation. Ben, the Others' leader, kept his end of the deal in return for the surgery, promising Jack (Matthew Fox) a ticket home aboard his submarine in a few days.

Intertwined in those incidents, viewers dove into Juliet's (Elizabeth Mitchell) past to learn how she began working for the Others beginning with their plea that she help their scientific studies. Successfully manipulated, Juliet joins them, and when the show returns to the present, she reveals to Jack that Ben had given her the same promise of leaving the island too.

The hair-raising, informative, mysterious first episode left viewers happily mystified. However, the following episodes contained less liveliness than viewers had expected.

The main problem has been the show's sudden central focus on the characters' pasts. Everyone wants to know what is happening now,



The *Lost* cast list has undergone many changes throughout the season as characters' stories end in unexpected deaths.

what are the Others up to, and, most importantly for this viewer, is Jack, the heartthrob, okay? Instead, *Lost* has been traveling through the details of Desmond's oracle, Hurley's

unlucky fortune, and Sayid's undesirable occupation.

The few "intriguing" incidents that *Lost*'s creators have shown us are Kate, Locke, and Sayid's spine-chilling fight with a patch-eyed Other, the fact that Claire and Jack are unknowingly related, and a scene in which Locke foolishly blew up the submarine--the only chance for escape from the island.

Thus, it is completely understandable that viewers want to see more answers. Still, they must realize that if they want answers, they are undoubtedly watching the wrong show. Piece by piece each episode is constructed in order for the whole puzzle of the peculiar island to be completed. The future of the island and the fate of the survivors are focal questions that can only be answered by giving audiences one bite at a time. *Lost* remains one of the top shows on television with its very unique, inexplicable flair.

If it's not the intricacy of the island's characters that's throwing viewers off, perhaps it's the new time slot. Since the break, *Lost* changed its airing time from 9:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M. to avoid losing viewers to *American Idol*. The plan may have backfired. Perhaps audiences are too tired of Sanjaya by the time *Lost* begins.

Either way, viewers shall not lose faith in this show, because *Lost* will deliver. Unlock your mind and watch it at its new time every Wednesday night.

a T.V. show spot and will be even more entertaining as he tries to make his way back up the Hollywood ladder that has always been so unstable for him. Meanwhile, Turtle kicked off the continuation of the season by throwing a legendary birthday party for Vince.



Adrien Grenier leads the ensemble cast as movie star Vince Chase.

But of course, the biggest anticipation is for the awaited return of the coveted Ari Gold and his flamboyant assistant Lloyd. The seed of Ari's return has already been planted when he presented Vince with the script of the movie he loves- *Median*, the Pablo Escobar story. Ari assures Vince that he can land him the role that was formerly unattainable.

So, the stage is set for the final stretch of the season and it's time for the fireworks to begin. Will Vince get his dream role as the infamous Columbian drug lord, or will he play the leading man in a fluffy book-turned-movie. Will Eric's girlfriend

Sloan be the woman to help Eric out of Vince's shadow and into his desired position of autonomy and independence? Could it actually be Johnny's turn to make it back to the semi-famous status that he held in his youth?

Although it should go without question (hopefully) that Ari makes it back into Vince's good graces as his agent, you never know what to expect from *Entourage*.

Tune in Sunday nights at ten to catch a glimpse of the glamour and tribulations of the young and promising Vinny Chase and the three guys that he decided to take along for the wild ride.

Be part of the *Entourage*

Rob Cavella '07

The boys from Queens are at it again for the third season's second installment of *Entourage*. When last we saw them, Vincent Chase (Adrian Grenier) and his crew had left many viewers up in arms over the new season's start. Many fans have hopes of redemption from a less than stellar start of HBO's usual all-star.

Most of the usual characters have stayed the same. The one big change that left fans in unrest is the shocking firing of the charismatic super-agent Ari Gold (Jeremy Piven). The second part of the third season opens up with a new agent and a new agenda for Vinny Chase. The new agent Amanda is played by Carla Gugino (*Sin City*). The so-called "anti-Ari" tries to get Vinny to star in a novel adapted film instead of the blockbusters that Ari Gold has revolved his career on.

The final stretch of the third season has many wheels in motion. Vince's business manager and best friend Eric, who is better known as E, will be one of the focal points as he gets more involved with his girlfriend Sloan. Vincent's older brother Johnny, even though he is always fun to watch, managed to land

Talents glow at District Art Night

Report and photos: Melissa Cheng '07

Thursday, April __, Washington Township High School held its annual District Art Night.

There was a huge display of different media art works including acrylic and water paint, pottery and sculpture, animations, digital imaging, charcoal and much more. And it wasn't just the high school students who got to set out what they've been working hard on, the elementary and middle schools in the community also got to put out their works of art.

When coming into the school, the animating students were taking turns with the computer and the projection screen playing all the different animations they've been working on all year. This includes walk cycles and small clips.

Upstairs in the core, there were high school students showing off their skills in pottery, painting and drawing. All of it done right in front of the visitors!

On the third floor, we had the Senior Art Case. Nathan Gutoski '07 took first place among the other seniors who entered their works. The runner ups and the other contestants were all displayed however with Gutoski's winning piece.

Also on the third floor, there was a television screen repeatedly playing through the seniors' animations and walk cycles. Kids and parents alike were gathering around the watch the students' works.

From free food and drinks out in the cafeteria to face painting and live orchestrated music in the lobby, it looks like Township's District Art Night was another great success.

"The art show was splendid. I thoroughly enjoyed it!"
-Chris Adams '09

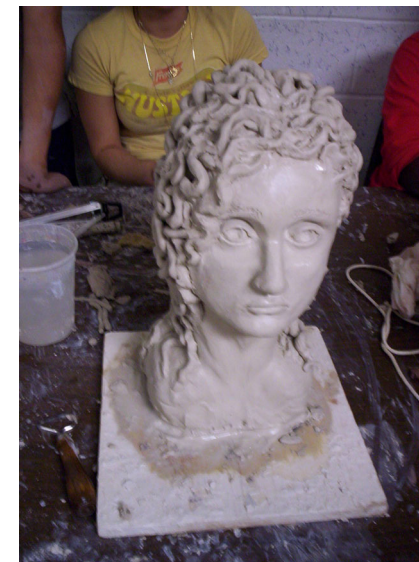
"I thought it was really cool, the people upstairs doing live art."
-Joe Granato '07



Mrs. Cushane's Art 1 exhibit

"The art from the younger students looked promising. I can't wait for them to excel in higher levels of fine art."

-Miss Delisi
(Advanced Drawing/Painting & Digital Imaging and Design)



"self portrait" clay (greenware)
Christina Messoraca '09

"It was a lot of fun being in the art show. I hope next year I'll have even more stuff to show."

-John Boozer '08



"Still life drawing" high fi grays on black paper
Jamie Estes '08

"I was glad to see the animations. People are getting more involved with putting them in the art show."

-Mrs. Smith
(Animation & Digital Imaging and Design)



"Mixed Up" - high fi grays on tinted paper
Courtney Wright '07

Pickle ballers compete for good cause

Laura Marder '07

On Mar 15, thirty students and teachers gathered in the 11/12 gym and played a game with a funny name for a seriously great cause. Gym teachers pulled together a Pickle Ball tournament to benefit the Maryanne Shivers scholarship fund. "It's the birth of a new tradition," exclaimed Mr. Tom Patterson.

The gym teachers hope that this is only the start of a huge event. Seven teams of mixed doubles and nine teams of boys participated. Phys Ed Department chair, Ms. Donna Costa and teachers, Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Rhonda Patterson and Mrs. Sean Woodworth were in charge of the tournament. Teachers such as Ms. Tara Hartwyk, Mr. Jeffrey Rearick, and Mr. James Halinan participated and really enjoyed it.

The entrance fee for playing and viewing the game raised 225

dollars for the scholarship fund.

The Marianne Shivers scholarship was established this year in honor of the 40 years of service Shiver gave as Phys Ed department chair before her retirement. The phys ed department wanted to get her a retirement present with meaning, so they set up the scholarship in her honor, and she absolutely loved it. It will be given to a student who she will pick at the end of the year. It will be given to a student probably going into education.

When the game of Pickle ball is first introduced in gym classes freshman year most students have never heard of it. It is a gym class favorite once it gets started. Unfortunately the game takes up the entire gym; therefore it is difficult to play in gym class while sharing the gym with other classes.

"Students have been asking me to start a tournament for years; they just love to play it in gym," stated

Mr. Patterson.

He felt this scholarship brought the opportune time to allow students to have some fun with the game while raising money for an honorable cause. Patterson just recently had a unit on Pickle Ball with his senior classes. The winners of the competition were students that were very into the game during his gym class. For mixed double Sean Nemic '07 and Kate Montgomery '07 won as well as Anthony Calovita '07 and Zack Watson '07 in Mens teams.

"Pickle ball has turned into

more of a senior privilege because of the gym space, I hope next year we can promote the game more to 9-12th grade," said Patterson.

This year the tournament consisted of mostly seniors with the occasional junior. The tournament organizers hope to include at least 100 players next year and run for multiply days.

"I absolutely think the underclassmen should try to participate in the tournament next year, I love pickle ball, it is definitely the best gym sport," said Calovita.

Madness takes over TWP

MADNESS from p. 3

After the faculty won the game 67 to 48, the tarp was laid down, and the teams organized together for the next competition of the night.

The Wing Bowl, which involved many of the players on previously played on the court, got the best reaction from the crowd.

During the Wing Bowl, competitors played for five teams: the faculty team, the senior team, the junior team, the sophomore team and the freshman team. The objective to win the game was that

each team had to finish their tray of wings before the other teams could.

Crowds gathered around the tables to watch and cheer their teams on as they guzzled down their wings. The seniors took first place, followed by the juniors, the sophomores, the faculty, and tailed by the freshman.

The final part of this celebration came when the undefeated sophomore class won against the freshman class in their annual March Madness Basketball Game in the 9/10 gym on March 30.

Educational, co-curricular excellence recognized

HONORS from p. 1

The BCEE grants the Benchmark Awards in recognition of practices that benefit maintaining America's top spot in global commerce.

"We need to be challenged to achieve in order to keep our [America's] competitive edge", commented Farrow."

WTHS takes on the challenge everyday; not by making the curriculum harder for students, but instead by exposing as many students as possible to higher caliber classes. In addition WTHS boasts one of the finest special education programs in the state; which handles about ten percent of the education at the high school.

Additionally, Monthly Rewind and Mr. Marty Bouchard received the Jerry Trently Award of Excellence in News in the National Student Television Awards. The

school was granted a \$1,000 check to support our Telecommunications program, studio, and newsroom needs in the future.

Along with the Telecommunications program at WTHS, recognition was recently given to the Anti-Bullying Initiative and "Changing Our World" Project that are a part of the co-curricular program at WTHS. The two programs received the Aaron Flanzbaum 21st Century Democratic Heritage Award for 2007.

Farrow noted, "I believe as an educator of thirty-four years that this is the direction that high schools need to go in."

As the world grows, and global competition gets more and more intense, emphasis will continue to be increased on the quality of education so that the America of tomorrow will be ready from the preparation of today.

Be a part of the Writers' Bloc!
Sign up for Creative Writing & Journalism

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

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

All schedule changes must be made before June 1.

Entertainment

Instruments create an explosion

Lauren Meloni '09

Explosions in the Sky is a post-rock, experimental, instrumental band originating out of Texas. They primarily play with three guitars (on occasion one of the guitars is a bass) and a set of drums. They typically create instrumental pieces that are longer than the average song. For example, a normal song would be around three to five minutes, while their songs can last up to seven to eleven.

Their most recent album, *All of a Sudden I Miss Everyone*, is the fifth studio album from Explosions in the Sky. The album was released on February 20, 2007, and sold 11,000 copies its first week on the charts.

In many ways the album resembles their previous work, since it does not differentiate from their

lengthily songs and soaring rhythms. Although, the songs do progress from album to album, with a stronger feel to them. A few songs may be heavy, and a few are soft, and calm.

One of the most interesting things about Explosions in the Sky as a band, is that all of their music is instrumental; there's no singing involved. Per album, there's usually one track that includes words, but those words are only a few spoken lines. Many people can't sit down and listen to a long instrumental album because it's not really much for us to remember. Most of the time, we'll sit down and listen to a song to focus on the lyrics, but with Explosions in the Sky there's nothing but you, the instruments, and your thoughts.

If you were ever to pick up an album by Explosions in the Sky, you might notice the artwork. This



Explosions in the sky's songs impact listeners with long instrumentals rather than lyrics.

albums' artwork is again, done by Esteban Rey. Many of the cover sheets that you might find, you'll realize have to do with title, or the thoughts that you get while listening to the album. For example on thier present album's cover, there's a person in a boat out at sea, makes sense, right?

A little Freddie pays off

Erin McFadden '07

"I've gone identity mad!" sings British pop singer Mika in "Grace Kelly," the first single off of his new album *Life in Cartoon Motion*.

The highly eclectic nature of the rest of the tracks proves him right, but not with displeasing results.

Mika's efforts to "try a little Freddie"—which he admits to doing, also in "Grace Kelly"—do not go unnoticed, but audiences only familiar with the single should not write him off as only an updated Queen front man.

Songs on the album equally fun and flamboyant, but less glam compared to the single, are "Lollipop" and "Love Today." In "Relax, Take It Easy" and "Big Girl (You Are Beautiful),"

Mika channels the greats of disco, and he even infuses a little opera into the album's hidden track. Sprinkled throughout the album are also typical pop/rock



Mika's album includes an appealing bubblyness and impressive vocals.

ballads, which are less danceable but certainly no less enjoyable.

Cartoon Motion's subject matter is also refreshing. While the universal themes of love and loss are certainly present, other tracks provide great variety. "Big Girl (You Are Beautiful)" serves as an ego-booster to women conscious

about their weight, while "Billy Brown" provides a heartbreaking narrative of a closeted gay man.

But no matter the style or subject matter of the songs, Mika's impressive voice is what makes each track of *Cartoon Motion* remarkable. From his incredibly strong and consistent falsetto to the vocal rhythm section of "Love Today" and the endearing British accent that shines though on the spoken word elements of "Lollipop," every sound that comes out of Mika's mouth is essential and extraordinary.

The combination of Mika's talent and attitude make him a fun and appealing artist, and mainstream media is already taking notice. "Grace Kelly" was recently featured on MTV's *Discover and Download*, which allowed its music video generous airtime on the station and gave new fans an opportunity to save the track, as well as live Mika performances, to their computer. Even Verizon

Wireless is aware of the catchiness of Mika, featuring his track "Love Today" in a television ad.

While some songs on *Cartoon Motion* clearly have the bubblyness and mass appeal that make them appropriate for commercial background music, Mika's album is most appealing because it cannot be blanketed with this characterization. His approach to both music and life are revolutionary when compared to popular music at large and are just what the mainstream needs.

Life in Cartoon Motion is an album that truly shows off Mika's exceptional vocal, musical, and emotional range. Its variety of tracks makes it ideal for summer dance parties and sing-alongs, but also for mourning a broken heart or contemplating the world around us.

These albums are available at a store near you!

Vonnegut leaves legacy at WTHS

Erin McFadden '07

"The most important thing I learned on Tralfamadore was that when a person dies he only appears to die," writes Kurt Vonnegut of life philosophies on a fictitious planet in *Slaughterhouse-Five*. "He is still very much alive in the past, so it is very silly for people to cry at his funeral."

It is his mastery of unique and profound views like this, however, that led to mourning after Vonnegut's untimely death on April 11. The story of an unfortunate slip leading to fatal head trauma in the eighty-four-year-old author was considered mentionable in national news, but had a great effect on members of the WTHS community.

This is especially true of the pupils of Mr. Christopher Lawler, a personal fan of Vonnegut who has been teaching *Slaughterhouse-Five* to his Honors and Advanced English 11 classes over the past seven years. The novel uses illustrations, science fiction, and humor to describe the horrors of World War II and the devastating bombing of Dresden, Germany, both witnessed by Vonnegut in his youth.

"I decided to teach it because I wanted to try something new. I also remembered loving it the first time I read it years ago. It was one of few books I remember reading in one sitting. I couldn't put it down," said Lawler.

While student reactions to the book tend to be "extreme" in their polarity according to Lawler, those who love *Slaughterhouse-Five* tend to be deeply moved by Vonnegut's style and message.

Liz Fox '07 was so inspired by Vonnegut's eccentric ideas that she sculpted a model of an alien described in *Slaughterhouse*.

"Vonnegut's works are filled with such creativity and imagination. He raises questions about humanity in a unique and humorous way that is different from many other writers," Fox said.

Others find that the message behind the madness is the most extraordinary aspect of Vonnegut's writing.

Lauren Kienzle '07 remarked that Vonnegut's work in *Slaughterhouse* is highly successful

in creating a novel that "doesn't just tell about war but lets the reader see and feel the confusion that is war."

Many students find Vonnegut effective in changing their perspective not only on war or the specific issues addressed in his novels but on the world in which they live.

"Vonnegut's biggest effect on me was just the power writing can have. If you can write a good piece of literature, you can sway people's

minds and hearts," commented Jason Hollins '07.

Vonnegut continued to publish novels and essays of social commentary as the state of the world changed. He will therefore leave a legacy long into the future.

"It seems clear that Vonnegut will be remembered as the Mark Twain of his generation—the political satirist, who still deep down loved life and celebrated humanity," said Lawler.

But individuals fortunate enough to enjoy Vonnegut's work in his lifetime remain in shock over the loss. Vonnegut's frequent philosophizing about death, however, serves as condolence.

"On one hand I wanted him to live forever," said Hollins of the larger-than-life author, "but I bet he would have wanted to go suddenly like that as one last shock to the public."

So it goes.

So it goes...

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Kurt Vonnegut, known for his sarcastic, humorous, and unique style of writing, passed away this year on April 11 after being hospitalized weeks before for a fall in his Manhattan home. He died after suffering irreversible brain injuries.

Vonnegut had delighted audiences with his essays, poems, and short fiction. But his novels - he wrote over a dozen - were what made him a literary idol. Often called the modern day Mark Twain, he used humor to present his anti-war themes, as he questioned the reasons of human existence, and explored society's tendency to create evil.

His style of writing was ingenious; using italics, repetition, unique punctuation, and irony to get his point across. He had a sci-fi, autobiographical, comedic way of telling stories of his real life experiences.

Some of his well-known writings are *Player Piano* (1951), *Cat's Cradle* (1963), *God Bless You, Mr. Rosewater* (1965), *Mother Night* (1962), and *Breakfast of Champions* (1973).

His most famous work was his novel *Slaughterhouse Five* (1969), which is the story of a WWII chaplain's assistant, Billy Pilgrim, who is captured and assigned to work manufacturing vitamin supplements. The underground meat factory in which he works manages to save his life when the city of Dresden is bombed.

This event mirrors Vonnegut's own war experience. He was an advance scout with the U.S. 106th



Kurt Vonnegut, author, dies at age 84.

Infantry Division during the Battle of the Bulge. Cut off from his regiment, Vonnegut was captured by German troops and witnessed the aftermath of the 1945 bombing of Dresden, Germany, which had shattered a great deal of the city.

Vonnegut was one of only seven American prisoners of war in Dresden to survive - taking refuge in an underground meatpacking cellar called Slaughterhouse Five.

Vonnegut's Pilgrim was also unstuck in time, which gave him the ability to travel to and from any part of his life. Amidst all the eccentric features of the novel, is the realization of the absolute uselessness of war. Published during the Vietnam War, many could relate the book and its central theme.

Slaughterhouse Five reached No. 1 on best-seller hits, and made Vonnegut a modern day hero.

From the book, a famous phrase, "So it goes" was coined to reiterate all the deaths in the world and all destruction the war

caused. Thousands of men die - so it goes. A man is shot - so it goes. The champagne bubbles are dead - so it goes.

Born on November 11, 1922, Vonnegut grew up in Indianapolis, Indiana. He studied at Butler University, Cornell University, and Carnegie Mellon University before he enlisted in WWII.

Vonnegut wrote more novels and some plays after *Slaughterhouse Five*, but eventually his health began deteriorating.

He often joked about the troubles of getting older. One time he stated that of all the ways to die, he would prefer to go out in an airplane crash on the peak of Mount Kilimanjaro, a comic reference to Hemingway's short story, *The Snows of Kilimanjaro*.

We shall all hope that, just like in a quote from *Slaughterhouse Five*, referring to the epigraph on the tombstone of a man he knew in the war, "Everything was beautiful and nothing hurt."

What's Happening

Dance Department prepares for annual show



On May 16, 2007 the Washington Township High School Dance Department, in collaboration with the WTHS Chorale and the WTHS Drumline, will present their fourth annual dance show, *Unlimited*.

Spectators can expect a lively mix of movement, music, lights and dynamic dance styles and techniques from the past and present. Selections will be performed by all levels of dance classes, and the school's dance clubs. Also, the Chorale will be presenting a chorus ensemble to accompany the dancers.

The show will be held in the Commerce Banks Arts Centre, and will begin at 7:00 pm. Tickets are currently on sale in room C-15 for \$5.00, and will be available the night of the show for \$8.00. Come out and support you're fellow students and watch them dance the night away!

The last dance for grades 9-11 will be held in the 9-10 Gym on June 8 at 7pm.

Senior Service Day is June 1. Give back to your community and help your past teachers and fellow students with community service. Signs ups are in Cafe A.

Fight the Epidemic
Support the fight against cancer and join Relay for Life, which will be held on June 1, and 2 at WTHS. It is not too late to join the fun and sign up your own relay team. All proceeds from this fundraiser event will go towards research, education, and the prevention of cancer. The next meeting will be held on May 8 in Cafe A at 7:30 pm. For more details stop by room I-103, or contact the Interact club at wths_interact@gmail.com or visit thier E Board.
-Margaret Bonanni '09

On May 19, 2007 from 9am to 1pm come out to support the Boys Track Team Car Wash in the 11-12 Parking Lot.

Millville Air Show
On May 26, and 27 the Millville Army Airfield will be hosting their annual air show. This year, the Blue Angels will be featured along with other amusements for younger children. Refreshments will be available. You can also tour their air museum and other attraction. The fun starts at 8am and runs to 8pm. ROTC cadets will also be present to help out with the show. See you there!
-Margaret Bonanni '09

To the Cat Walk
On May 30, come to the 11-12 auditorium to see the Apparel Fashion Show. The clothing for the show will be provided by the Apparel classes, and will feature pieces modeled by WTHS' s very own students. The show starts at 9pm.
-Margaret Bonanni '09

The last day to hand in scheduling papers to the guidance department is June first. All scheduling arrangements after that date will be final.

Pieces Magazine
Be sure to get your copy of the Spring issue of the 2007 Pieces Magazine. The magazine will be coming out around mid-May. If you do not receive a copy in your homeroom, you can stop by K-208, or D-8 and pick up a copy. Included in the issue will be artwork, photography, poems, and short stories written by your fellow students. So, keep an eye out, and show your support by picking up a copy.
Katie Mount '09

SAVE
Are you interested in the preservation of the environment? Do you enjoy recycling, and learning about the earth? If so, come join Students Against the Violation of the Earth (SAVE). Meetings are held every Thursday in J-209. Visit their E Board for details.

Ba5k
Come to Washington Lake Park on May 13, 2007 to participate in the second annual Brian Anderson Memorial Walk. This fundraiser goes to support genomic research at the Mayo Clinic and the Brian Anderson Memorial Scholarship, which is available to students at WTHS. Prizes will be awarded to the top male and female runners, and to the top male and female in thier age group. The fee to register for the family run (up to 5 people) is \$38, and you can register on the day of the race. Do something special on your mothers day, and participate in this walk. For more information visit www.runtheday.com.
Margaret Bonanni '09

Editorial

Reach out to help Darfur

Imagine waking up one morning and finding out a militia is kicking you out of your home and throwing you into the middle of the desert with nothing to live off of.

That horrid occurrence is only the very beginning of what is being done to the innocent of Darfur. Four million people have been chased from their homes and have been subjected to rape, starvation, torture and murder.

The Sudanese Government, using Arab "Janjaweed" militias is systematically killing the black Sudanese people of Darfur. This genocide has been going on since the year 2003.

As many as 15,000 people have died monthly since the conflict began, mainly due to disease and hunger.

The Janjaweed militia is basically just trying to wipe out the black Sudanese people of Darfur.

They blame them for problems they haven't caused and they are convinced their world would be better with out them. The similarities to the Holocaust in WWII are striking?

As your read this or see something on TV about Darfur you might think to yourself, "This is terrible but what can I do all the way over here in NJ?"

The answer: you can save lives and make a difference in the world. There are thousands of organizations collecting money to help the hundreds of thousands of refugees. If you don't have the extra money to donate there are still ways to help.

Just educating yourself and others on the conflict is a step to helping the people of Darfur.

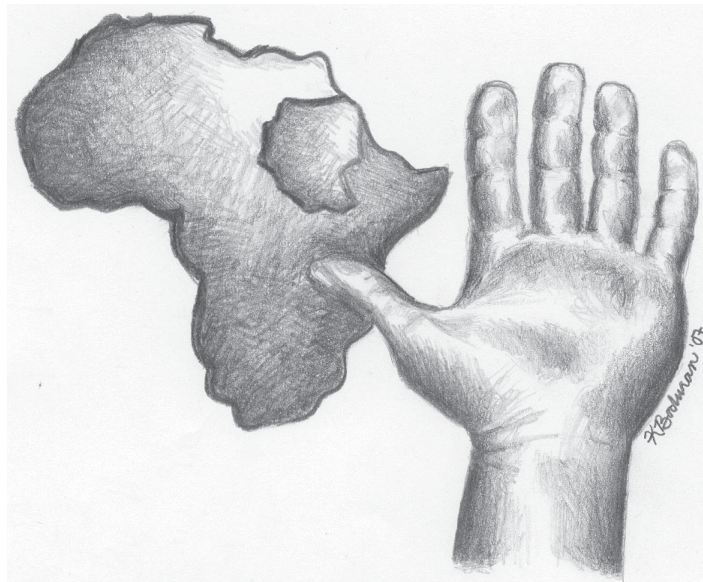


illustration: Kate Bodman '07

One problem with the Holocaust was that Americans had no idea of the torture going on in Germany. As a result of the people not knowing, not too much was done to help until it was too late.

We as American's are strong enough to help the refugee's in Darfur.

Take the time to go online and visit a few web sites to find out the details and updates of the genocide.

Bring it up in discussion with your family and friends. You could be responsible for an innocent person staying alive.

President Bush said, "Not on my watch," concerning the genocide in Darfur. So far the American government hasn't done very much to help Darfur because we are busy with the war in Iraq.

By just signing a petition online you can be a voice to make a difference.

www.Savedarfur.org, there you will find an online petition you can email.

By sending one email you are helping strengthen the African Union peacekeeping force, pushing for the deployment of UN peacekeeping forces, increasing humanitarian aid, and establishing a no-fly zone. If the government gets enough of these petitions they can put a stop to the genocide.

Clinton has said that his biggest regret of his term was not responding effectively to the Rwanda genocide.

If we don't push our government to change its course and give more help, President Bush may one day say the same about the Darfur genocide.

The government will not make a big stand if the citizens of the country don't push it too.

Take a stand; don't let the genocide continue. You can make a difference.

What are you waiting for?

Four million people have been chased from their homes and been subject to rape, starvation, torture and murder...As many as 15,000 people have died monthly since the conflict began.

Just educating yourself and others on the conflict is a step to helping the people of Darfur.

If Washington and the United Nations are swamped with pleas to help the people of Darfur, they will make more of an attempt.

Take a few minutes out of your day and log onto

The Patriot

Issue 6 - May 2007

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Teen angst and punk rock

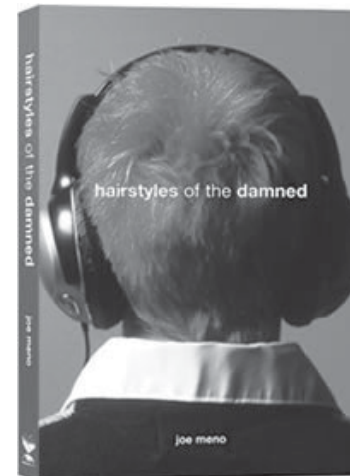
Lauren Meloni '09

Joe Meno's *Hairstyles of the Damned* is a well-written, realistic novel on a teenage experience with the punk rock lifestyle. Meno's style enables the reader to experience each and every moment with the characters as if they're standing right along side of them. It's guaranteed that because of this fact, you won't be able to put the book down.

The book starts out just like every teenager; simple, cautious, curious, adventurous, and observant, with no direct style, just like the main character, Brian Oswald.

As a young teenage boy he becomes indulged in sex, girls/dating, drugs, parties, etc, and a huge craving for attention. But this is only one step into a new chapter of teenage life.

Being the observant teenager that he is, he starts to become



Hairstyles of the Damned portrays the real life of a punk rock teenager.

involved with the punk kids at his school, mainly because of their rebellious appearance and spontaneity. Even their music scene

becomes of interest, mostly because of the lyrics and what they influence him to be.

While stereotypes are not always true, this book does a fine job convincing you that the stereotypical outlook on punks is true. The idea Meno portrays that punks are rude, immature, drug users isn't a proven fact. Just because someone is against our government system and religion doesn't make them anything but an individual. *Hairstyles of the Damned* will prove to you that appearance isn't everything, there's more to a person than the way they look, even if they keep everything on the inside hidden from everyone around them.

Every teenage boy/girl at some point becomes interested in more mature things as if they're in a hurry to grow up. Brian Oswald will take you through his encounter with drugs and how doing them has a huge

effect on his life. Also, how such sudden changes, such a drastic decision can change everything.

Meno does a great job with every detail in this book that it really pulls you in. Most of the books that Meno has written are about the teenage life style, crime, drama – things that every person could at some point relate to – he really makes you think.

If you're interested in reading more books by Meno, you might be interested in reading, *How the Hula Girl Sings*, *The Boy Detective Fails*, and many more.

Never take anything for granted

Megan Robertson '08

Mitch Albom's newest novel, *For One More Day*, is very engaging and is a book I would recommend for anyone looking for an inspirational read.

The story really makes the reader realize that they have to appreciate everyday with your loved ones and never take anything for granted. Even better, it's a short novel that is quick and easy to read. It's the perfect book to read in your free time.

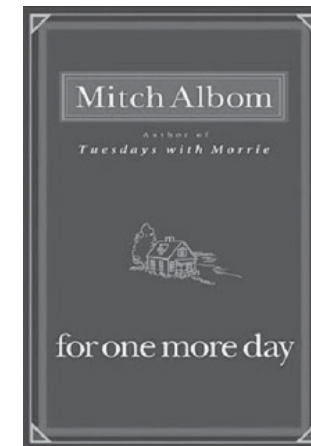
The story is told in the first person of a former baseball player, Chick Benetto. The story revolves around the fact that Chick took many of the sacrifices his mother had to make as a divorced woman in the 1960s for granted. He spent most of his childhood chasing his father's love who left him when he was 11 years old.

Chick greatly regrets this once his mother passes away and he quickly enters a state of depression. From that point, his life takes a turn for the worst. He becomes an

alcoholic while he loses his job and his family and eventually attempts to commit suicide. He decides he wants to take his life in his hometown and travels to his old home which is supposed to be abandoned; however, he discovers his mother is still living there even though she passed away eight years prior.

Chick and his mother spend that "one more day together" that many people wish they had with a lost loved one. Chick follows his mother around town on her daily errands and they go about the day as if nothing had happened and everything was the same as it used to be. Chick quickly realizes a lot about his mother that he never knew before. He also reexamines the life he used to have.

Although the novel has some sad parts, it is certainly a book worth reading. It contains many life lessons that everyone should learn. It also appeals to a broad audience. The novel is of interest to both males and females along with being appropriate for a wide variety of



For One More Day gives the story of a former baseball player, Chick Benetto.

ages. Everyone should take the opportunity to read *For One More Day* as well as check out a few of Mitch Albom's earlier novels such as *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* and *Tuesdays With Morrie*. All three novels are touching stories filled with their own life lessons.

Summer Reading Festival
-June 6th in IMC

*Best Sellers

*Student recommended books for beach reading.

*Check out summer reading books!

Save yourself a trip to the bookstore!

*Summer reading book order forms in IMC.

Apple's iPhone generates excitement

Jim Tumolo '08

It seems Apple has struck gold again.

The major computer company who caught the attention of millions has once again produced a product worthy of taking over the electronic market as the iPod has since November 2001. The iPod alone brought apple to the top, competing against companies like Microsoft on various levels.

As multiple generations of the hit music player were being released with months and eventually years of successful sales, the public wondered if the iPod was the home run for Apple, and if anything could impact daily life even half as much as the iPod.

Through the history of Apple, they have been able to brag of top customer service, reliable laptops and computers that anybody would fall in love with, and a smooth operating system in Tiger.

If you think about the major pieces of technology used in every day life, the mp3 player and home



Three views of some of the things of which the iPhone is capable.

computer come to mind. Oh yea, and those cell phones that kids constantly get in trouble for in school... they're used almost all the time too.

So could Apple hit another homerun with the entertainment trio? It's Apple; of course they would.

The iPhone is set to release June 11, ranging from \$499 to \$599 for

the four and eight gigabyte models. It wouldn't be an apple mobile device if it weren't an iPod too. That's where the four and eight gigabytes come into play.

It's true; the iPhone boasts an iPod built right in. A video iPod that is. One that when turned sideways, turns to widescreen mode. And you can watch whatever you want on its

3.5 inch screen. But that's not all the power it has.

Of course, explained in its name, it is a phone. There is no click wheel, no buttons, just one big touch screen controlled by advanced sensors.

One of the iPhone's sensors, the accelerometer, detects when you turn the phone from landscape to portrait and changes the display accordingly (as stated earlier). The proximity sensor can tell when you bring the phone to your ear, simultaneously shutting off the display to save power and prevent unwanted touches. The final high tech sensor built into the iPhone is its ambient light sensor, which adjusts the brightness of the display according to how bright the room is that you are in. It also features an advanced soft QWERTY keyboard that predicts and corrects common mistakes that will make the phone more efficient for your high intense, mile a minute, text messaging.

All in all, I think Apple has created the next best thing. The only downfall is there are only 4 and 8 gig models and nothing bigger, but I wouldn't be surprised if Apple improves with a bigger version in the future. As of now, iPhone will run with the Cingular cell phone service.

Gameboy by Alfred Wainwright III '07

Loco Roco screams entertainment

That's the sound you hear when you pick up this fairly recent game called *Loco Roco*. It was released on September 5th 2006 for the PSP.

Loco Roco is a game about a tribe of creatures called the Loco Roco. Their planet is invaded by a strange species of black creatures called the Moja. They are floating black blobs that swoop down on the Loco Roco people. The Loco Roco's must then travel through they're world and destroy the Moja. To destroy the Moja you must jump into them.

While fighting off the Moja the character must eat and grow bigger so they can repopulate their planet. The goal is to eat as many berries as possible (up to 20 by tilting the world in which you live in to reach higher and more difficult places).

Controls are one of the simplest I've ever used. Mainly you

will be using the shoulder buttons and on occasion the circle button. You must hit the L and R buttons to tilt the world which you live in. Holding them both down and releasing will allow you to jump into the air; which is also the only form of attacking that you have. The circle button creates lightning in the background and splits the Loco Roco into as many hit points as it has.

Its graphics are good for what it is. It's a very cartoon-like and simplistic looking. For example, the main character is a little orange blob that screams whenever something happens to it. The environments are not 3D. But that actually adds to the fun of the game.

There is also another form of life on the Loco Roco's planet, the Mui Mui. You'll find them asleep in different places in the Loco Roco world. You need to have specific numbers of the Loco Roco to awaken

them from their sleep. When awakened, they give you bonuses to be viewed from the main menu.

The level design in this game is pretty simple. It's essentially a side-scroller, a type of game where the more you move in that direction the screen will follow the character. It's usually one color and is really easy to get through. Unless you encounter a Moja or Burrs (which are spiny enemies similar to the Moja).

There really isn't much more to say. It is a fun game. It's short. Not much in the plot department. The controls are easy. But it's still a great game and loads of fun.

Game Fest
Play your favorite games on the latest systems.
May 19
See Ms. Naval in room I-103 for tickets and information.

Playing any new games?
Send your reviews to
wthspatriot@gmail.com

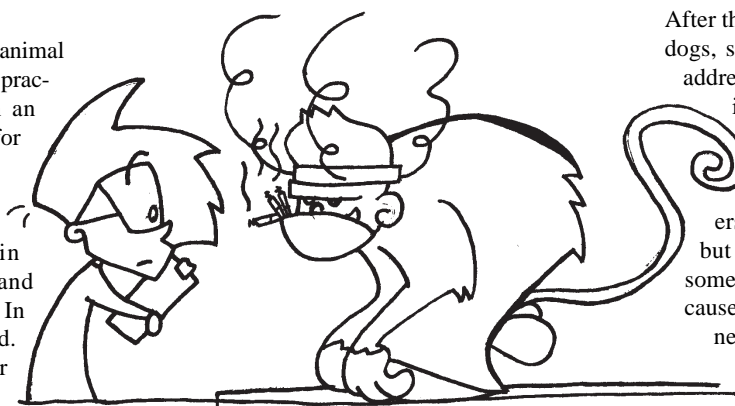
Animal testing a necessity

Nicole G. Heath '10

Animal experimentation or animal testing is a needed and beneficial practice. Animal testing has been an important part of medical cures for decades.

According to Encarta from 1948 to 1952, 200,000 people were paralyzed by polio in America alone. Eleven thousand people died from this disease. In 1955 a vaccine was finally found. In the process of searching for the cure, researchers experimented on monkeys and other animals. Without the use of animal experimentation the vaccine could not have been found.

Through animal testing, much medical advancement has been made. Treatments for heart conditions such as open heart surgery, coronary bypass, and valve replacements have been discovered through the use of animal



illustrations: Matt Johnson '07

experimentation. Drugs for treating cancer have been tested on rodents before being approved. Kidney dialysis equipment was first tested on animals. Also, organ transplants were first perfected on animals.

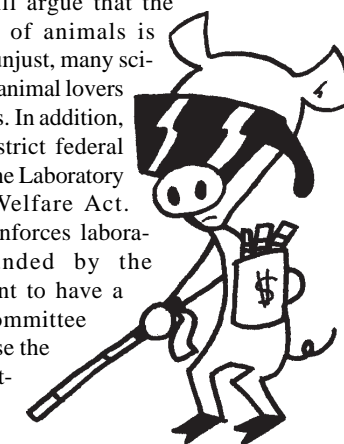
Many opposed to animal testing say that it abuses animals. But many cures for animal dis-

eases have resulted from this experimentation. After the 1978 breakout of canine parvovirus on dogs, scientists used dogs to find a vaccine to address the outbreak. Because of animal testing, veterinarians were able to develop a cure and distribute it within a year.

Products that are animal tested provide safety. Many pet lovers opt to use non-animal tested products, but these are not always safe. In the past, some products that were not tested on animals caused severe, permanent results such as blindness. Having a vaccine, or even a shampoo tested on animals, provides assurance and safety to the user. Products both medical and cosmetic must be tested under the law. Animal testing is the most revealing safety-test for products.

Though many people who oppose animal testing will argue that the treatment of animals is cruel and unjust, many scientists are animal lovers themselves. In addition, there are strict federal laws like the Laboratory Animal Welfare Act. This act enforces laboratories funded by the government to have a special committee to supervise the animal testing and make it as safe of a practice for animals as possible.

Animal experimentation has been used to better protect the world and should continue to be used. Because of animal testing, both human and animal lives have been saved. While scientists are searching for an alternative to animal experimentation, much work is still needed. If animal testing was to be abandoned before a replacement is found, medical research would be taking two steps back.



An obsolete, inhumane practice

Julia Hahn '10

As long as there has been medical research, there has been animal testing.

The main reason for this testing is to examine results certain medicines have on humans, without using humans themselves. However, most testing is harmful and cruel to animals.

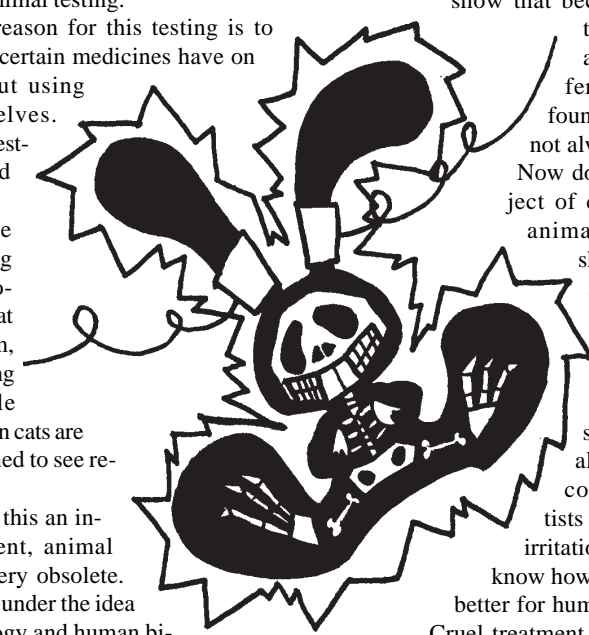
Tests range from rodents being bathed in corrosive chemicals that eat away at them, to monkeys getting forced to inhale toxic fumes. Even cats are purposely drowned to see results.

Not only is this an inhumane treatment, animal testing is also very obsolete. Some people are under the idea that animal biology and human biology are so similar that the same results will occur. However, several examples show this to

be false: morphine excites cats, but it calms humans; penicillin will kill a hamster or guinea pig; and aspirin actually poisons cats. These examples show that because the body systems between humans and animals are so different that the results found from the tests are not always accurate ones.

Now down to the final subject of cosmetic testing on animals, such as testing shampoos, make-ups, and soaps. I once again bring up that animals will probably react differently to most of these substances. Animals are also purposely given cosmetics that scientists know can cause skin irritation or sickness so they know how to make the product better for humans.

Cruel treatment like this is unfair to animals, and also becoming more useless as new alternatives are being found.



Share your opinions and story ideas.
Write to
The Patriot
www.wthspatriot@gmail.com

Students may soon be left behind

Alyssa Figueroa '08

On Jan. 8, 2002, President Bush signed the "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) Act with a goal in mind to bring every public school student to grade level in reading and math by 2014.

With the new Democratic Congress, our Republican president has been trying to butter up representatives and senators who will soon be voting on whether or not to renew his bill.

It should be made clear that the NCLB Act has opened new doors for the minds of future generations to come. The law's core is to improve schools by focusing on the accountability for results, proven educational methods, and choices for parents.

Basically, it hopes to bridge the "knowledge gaps" along the socioeconomic ladder by testing students and sharing these results with parents. If parents are not satisfied with their child's placement, then the school may start to lose its customers.

The president also guaranteed that his 2008 education budget will contain a Teacher Incentive Fund, which would enable select school districts to reward good teachers who work in challenging environments or who show real results in raising achievement levels or closing the achievement gap.

However, if Congress votes "no" to the renewal of the bill, the president's hard work, the educational system, and the hope of a better future for our children could all come spiraling down.

Although it may seem unrealistic that the 100% target would be reached, at least the "over-reaching" for an ideal aspiration will encourage our schools to establish higher standards. The results have been extremely successful, and it truly hits home. GEPA and HSPA scores, including the scores of students in special education

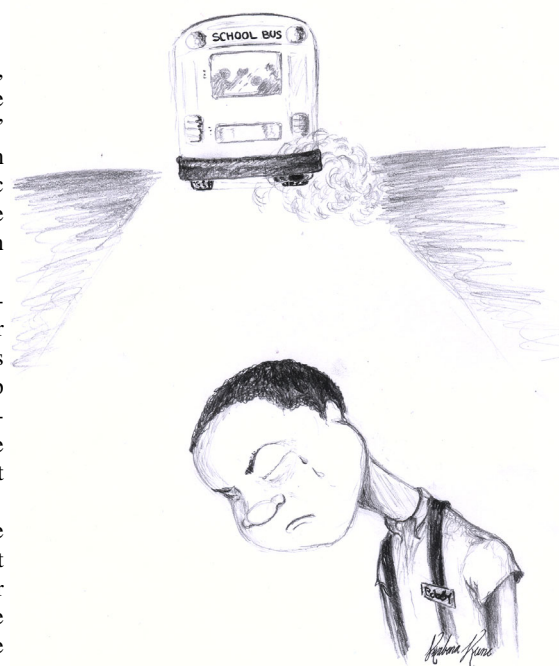


illustration: Kwabena Keane '08

classes, have greatly increased since this bill was introduced. A high school diploma today means more than just a piece of paper. It

means you attended school, learned enough to obtain a satisfactory level of knowledge, and are capable of further schooling.

This is exactly what America needs. There are a great deal of students who take their supplied education for granted, never appreciating how much value their schooling holds.

Those who do not take the time to learn the criteria, will fail the test, will not graduate, and will realize they made the biggest mistake of their lives. High school should not be seen as a smooth four-year ride, it is a

privilege that assists in preparing you for college.

Many may argue that trying to "measure" what a student has

learned is impractical. However, it is the only way to tell if a school really taught all the material, or if it just passed students for convenience. For instance, in 1965, President Johnson passed the first federal aid program for high-poverty school districts. Yet, it lacked one main ingredient: accountability.

Sen. Robert F. Kennedy asked a year later, "What happened to the children? Do you mean you spent a billion dollars and you don't know whether they can read or not?"

The NCLB Act has that accountability.

There is no argument that the richest country in the world should assure the best education.

NCLB is necessary to keep educators and students on their feet. Education needs to be taken seriously.

Our country relies on their younger generation to enhance the country even further. It has always been evident that *knowledge is power*.

Jersey shore contributes to rainforest destruction

Erin McFadden '07

Trips to the boardwalk are an essential part to many people's summers, especially in New Jersey, but what most shore-goers don't know is that the timber they're walking on could have come from endangered rainforests.

Even with the public aware of this appalling practice, the mayor of Ocean City, NJ recently approved the purchases of over one million dollars worth of wood from Brazilian forests to be used in boardwalk repair.

Though the logging of one thousand acres of forest designated to be sold to the shore town has been certified by Forest Stewardship Council as minimally destructive, local environmentalists continue to be enraged, and with good reason.

The reason communities turn to the rainforest to build their boardwalks is the ipe, a towering tree whose timber can support vehicles and withstand years of saltwater

spray. The Council, sponsored by Greenpeace, was founded to work with logging companies to ensure minimal ecological disturbance and maximum use of the cut down trees.

But no matter what label is placed on rainforest deforestation, it still has a great and devastating effect on the planet.

South American rainforests serve as the habitat to innumerable amounts of species found nowhere else in the world. Any one tree that falls to the forest floors could lead to the extinction of a plant or animal never to be discovered or studied.

Perhaps most disturbing about the purchase of rainforest timber is the profound effect loss of plant life in the rainforest has on global warming.

Have all of the news exposures and recent bizarre weather patterns taught us nothing?

Cutting down trees increases greenhouse gases. Greenhouse gases deplete the ozone layer which in turn causes global warming.

The lack of thought put into the purchase of boardwalk timber is astounding. By buying wood stripped from the quickly vanishing rainforest, shore towns are essentially paying for their communities to be slowly submerged in ocean water as the planet's temperature continues to rise.

With rainforests projected to disappear in only forty years—well within our generation's lifetime—the idea of their conservation should be taken much more seriously. Destruction of any rainforest hurts animal species and heightens the ever-worsening effects of global warming.

Ocean City and other towns across the nation must think more carefully before sponsoring such devastation.

The durability of a boardwalk and the augmentation of coastal tourism must never be considered more important than the welfare of the planet.

Tech Talk

On the web

Myspace becoming place for predators

Sarah Kurtz

Think about it, just about all your friends have an AIM profile with the link to their Myspace in it. The internet opens up an entirely new world for almost every teen on the web. Everyday a new page is added.

Myspace has been out for about four years, and in the past year it has become almost more popular than Google.

From picture commenting to messaging, Myspace has created something almost like a second internet.

"The first thing I do when I sit down on the computer is check my Myspace," says Robert Brennan, 10'. "It's so addicting to see who commented me or has new pictures. It's really easy to talk to friends, and even make new friends with people that go to our school."

Meeting people is just a click

of a button away.

There have even been Myspace collectables made, like t-shirts. The shirts contain logos such as request me, meet me on Myspace, and your space? I think its Myspace.

Last year at Chestnut Ridge Middle school, there was an assembly held telling kids how to stay away from Myspace. The main concern was predators.

When the question was asked, "how many of you have a Myspace?", almost every single hand went up.

It's not just your parents making it up, there really are reported cases of stalkers on Myspace.

Wired News Online confirmed 744 sex offenders with Myspace profiles after only searching a third of the data. Out of the 744, there are 497 registered as child sex offenders.

CBS News went undercover and posed as a fourteen year-old girl

on Myspace. A man contacted "her" and don't put your screen name about meeting and suggested anywhere on the sight they get together either.

Another thing to stay away from would be posting pictures that might give people the wrong idea. On Myspace you can be whoever you want to be. A forty year old man could pretend to be fifteen. Your best bet for safety is to not have a Myspace. But considering most teen's do, the least you can do is to use precautions to protect yourself against unwanted attention.

For instance, don't place any personal information about yourself like your address or phone number



Hardware

Zune hits more beats over beloved iPod

Chad Meadows '07

Ever since Apple put out the "iPod", it has been considered the best mp3/mp4 player on the market up until now. Microsoft has recently introduced their new product the Zune.

Many people still refuse to accept that the Zune is in fact better than their beloved iPod. And we all need to know the truth.

If you have ever seen the Zune, you immediately think "wow, it's huge!" But in reality, it's really not that much bigger than the iPod.

The Zune's screen is about half an inch larger than the iPod's. This enhances the quality of the video.

Also the Zunes' screen has higher pixel rate. When you play videos on the Zune, it plays in widescreen.

Both mp3 players have 30gig

hard drives but the Zune is about fifty dollars cheaper.

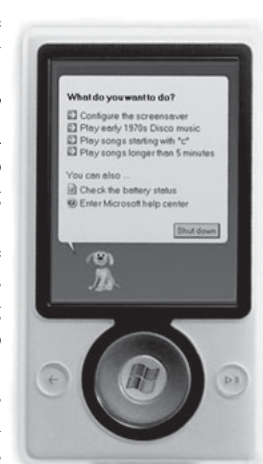
This new video/music player includes a picture viewer and radio and an ad-hoc sharing program.

The special feature of the Zune, is a wireless capability of transferring songs and pictures to other Zunes around you.

The downside is that you can only listen to the song three times before it deletes itself. This is so you are either forced to

purchase the songs or download them off of a site or program.

Also due to the Wi-Fi capability it has you can listen to digital radio. The Zune program is



The Zune displays it's helpfulness

very similar to the iTunes program so it is self explanatory and easy to use.

The Zune can also connect to your Xbox 360 if you own one. This allows you to play movies, music and pictures on your Xbox 360. Which I think is a great thing, because now I can watch videos from my Zune on a TV.

A slight downside for the Zune is that it has a different connector port so you can't use the iPod's charger or any type of speakers meant for the iPod. Also they have yet to put out any sort of speakers for the Zune.

Another downside is that the zune does not have any games on it, but according to Zune forums and not positively released news the Zune will be able to download games soon. I would hope so since it has a great processor in it unlike I pod.

Now it's up to Apple to make their Ipods better than they are now. People are always saying how a 30gig hard drive for an mp3 player is too much. But if you have a video player and download videos onto your zune or ipod they can take up space quick. What I would like to see is maybe a 100 or 120 gig hard drives being put into the Zunes and Ipods.

The Zune is currently in second place for sales of mp3/mp4 players. The question to Microsoft is whether or not they can keep sales up for the next year or two.

Shining light on tanning dangers

Laura Marder '07

Tanning. It's one of those things you know isn't the best thing for you but you do it anyway. It's like eating a brownie; you eat it because it just tastes so good, not because it's healthy. I have grown up in a family where sunscreen is your ticket to go out into the sun because of the dangers of the sun's UV rays. I was so mad at my friends when they began tanning a few years ago. I thought to myself, "How can they be so stupid, laying there practically begging for skin cancer and wrinkles"!

Tanning has been proven to increase risk of skin cancer and cause early signs of ageing. It can also cause cataracts in eyes which may lead to potential blindness. Tanning has been proven to increase your risk of skin cancer and cause early signs of ageing. It can also cause cataracts in your eyes creating potential blindness.

Then, last year I found out I was a hypocrite. I bought a dress that really looked better with a tan. So I tried going tanning. Once. It was amazing. I hated that I loved it. It was warm and relaxing and I got such a healthy golden glow. I was hooked. Not only did I hate it, my sunscreen-loving family hated it. But that didn't stop me from getting a three month membership at Hollywood Tans before all my dances.

About 50% of WTHS goes to tanning salons. Washington Township alone is home to about 10 salons. If you look around our school it looks like people are just coming home from a tropical vacation. A girl's image of herself is so crucial in high school. You want to fit in while sticking out for your best quality. I no longer feel comfortable walking around school looking pale. I feel like I look less healthy or not as pretty. I tell myself that I do look a lot better when I'm tan, but is this really true? It doesn't make sense that teens have this need to change their beautiful young skin into something unhealthy. It doesn't make sense to me, but then again, I still can't shake this habit.

Mind, Body, Soul by Margaret Bonanni '09

Acne myths all cleared up

High school students have enough burdens to bear. Grades, friends, SAT's, and family are only some of the problems which add stress and drama to high school lives. But one problem that too many of us deal with is acne—an experience that no student should have to endure.

There are numerous myths related to acne which can confuse students. Ever since the seventeenth century people have been making speculations as to what cause, cures, and makes acne less noticeable. The truth is that most of these myths are false.

A false fact about acne is that it is caused by dirt and oil on the skin. In reality, acne is created when the pores on your skin become clogged from underneath the skin.

A widely believed myth is that washing your face more will make

your acne disappear. This myth is false. Acne has ingredients that dry your skin, such as benzoyl peroxide and salicylic acid. Drying your skin will irritate it and can actually cause acne. Most acne treatments should only be used twice daily.

Another widely believed myth is that greasy foods and chocolate cause outbreaks. Chocolate lovers can rejoice, because that isn't true. There was no connection found between foods and acne in medical studies. There are exceptions and certain people do notice an association. In that case, avoid those foods.

Tanning will not make your acne go away, although it can cover blemishes and scars. Because tanning dries out your skin, it can lead to future breakouts. Popping a pimple will not make it go away faster. Actually, this can force the

infection deeper into the skin, which will cause it to last longer. Popping pimples also cause unattractive scars, red marks, and dents to form on your skin.

Another myth is that stress or depression cause acne. Believe it or not, that's also false. Although stress and depression have no link with acne, medication used to treat it can cause acne as a side effect. If this happens, it is wise to consult a physician or dermatologist.

As time went on, many of these myths were woven into daily society. Thanks to science, we now know these myths are false, and we can relax. With proper information, those affected with acne can treat it properly. Though acne is a condition that's hard to resolve, it can be cured. With the proper treatment, and a visit to your dermatologist it can be a battle that's fought, and won.

Conforming to society's weight limits

Rachel Brown '07

In America today, weight is a big issue for just about everyone. Increasingly more often, the pressure to be skinny leads to eating disorders.

It is estimated that 5 to 10 million people in America have some sort of eating disorder. Worse still, some experts estimate that 1% of American teens have an eating disorder. The two most common disorders are anorexia nervosa, and bulimia nervosa, more commonly known as anorexia and bulimia. With both of these devastating conditions, the person develops a distorted image of his or her body.

Those who suffer with anorexia barely eat. When they do, they obsess over what and how much they are eating. People with anorexia have an intense fear of becoming overweight. They usually suffer from distorted body image—finding themselves overweight even if they are very skinny. Some symptoms of anorexia are refusal to eat publicly, shortness of breath, physical weakness, anxiety, brittle skin, a body weight inconsistent with age, build, and height, and an obsessiveness about calorie intake. Women might also suffer from irregular menstrual periods.

Most people think that not

eating is an easy sufficient way to lose weight. In reality, this can actually damage your body.

Some people can even gain weight from being anorexic. Since it causes malnutrition, which is when your body does not get enough nutrients from food, it can cause you to gain weight because your metabolism will be slowed by the shortage of nutrients and food.

Bulimia nervosa, a common disorder related to anorexia, is a psychological condition where a person engages in repetitive binge eating followed by an intentional purging. Purging typically takes the form of vomiting, often facilitated through use of laxatives, diuretics, enemas, or other medication.

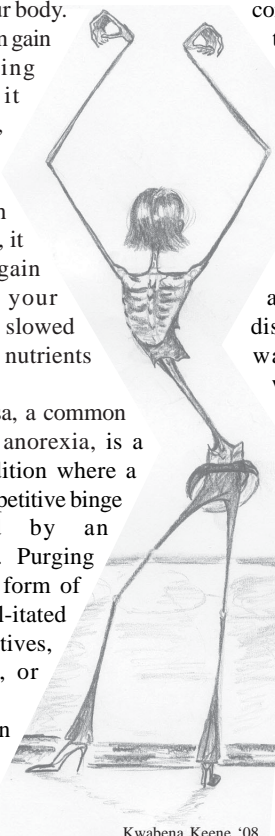
Bulimia is often less about food, and more to do with issues of lack of control. Some people think that they can't stop themselves from eating. They feel that the only way to counteract eating

is through bulimia.

Unfortunately, there are many consequences, such as rupture of the esophagus, inflammation, malnutrition, and irritation.

Growing up in a society full of people obsessed with their looks can cause many, males and females alike, to develop an eating disorder. Eating disorders are not the only way for people to lose weight. Alternative solutions include eliminating "empty calories" from our diets, like junk food, and exercising.

It's unfortunate that the world we live in today encourages teenagers to fit into society's standards. Not everyone can be as skinny as a model. Everyone is born with a different body and bone structure. Don't think you have to change who you are to impress others, try to be confident in yourself—just the way you are.



Kwabena Keene '08

Texters not getting message

Erin McFadden '07

There's no use denying the fact that an overwhelming majority of teenagers have cell phones, and many of them are inclined to stow them in purses and backpacks as they head off to school each day. In the past, this hasn't been a source of major problems in the classroom. Any student brazen enough to hold a telephone conversation in the hallway or allow their phone to ring in class could easily be singled out and punished.

But cell phones don't just make calls anymore. With the great popularity of text messaging, students can easily communicate with friends throughout the school day, and even during class. Since this behavior is not as visible as other infractions like making an actual call, text messaging in school is not visible



Text messaging may be a stealthy alternative to chatting in class, but it is still disrespectful.

to many teachers, and therefore often condoned by students.

Because of the lack of consequence attached to texting, many students whip out their cell phones to message friends

completely guilt-free. When the lights go out in a classroom for a movie or note taking, the number of cell phones that begin to glow under desks and in purses is astounding.

West lacks understanding of Eastern ideals

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

I was standing in front of a room of 54 delegates refusing to sign a resolution that would expand women's rights in my country. The people surrounding me stared agape. They wondered how I could possibly be limiting *my own rights*. Many failed to understand why I was refusing to compromise to

grant women more rights or establish religious freedom. Representing Saudi Arabia in the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee for the 2006-07 YMCA Model United Nations Conference exposed me to a

whole new way of thinking—that of Eastern ideals. United States' citizens are often prone to examine global issues from only our own point of view. One of the largest problems facing the international diplomacy today is the struggle to reach a compromise between Western and Eastern ideals.

While the United States and other nations are constantly looking toward modernization and expansion of "inalienable" rights, countries tied to Eastern customs are content with their traditional institutions.

For example, countries in the delegation heavily criticized Middle East do not want to expand the rights of women, especially when many of those nations judge that a woman's place is in the house. Similarly, Saudi Arabia, with a 100% Muslim population, will not be very receptive if the United Nations attempts to grant their people religious freedom. And for good reason: Saudi Arabia's entire government is based on the doctrines of Islam—complete with the Qur'an standing as the country's constitution and Islamic law, Shari'ah, acting as the foundation of the legal system.

By changing these core beliefs, the UN could cause ripples in the entire foundation of the nation. Saudi

Arabia's important asset of oil strengthens their reluctance to comply with the UN and weakens many of the policies which the UN attempts to enforce.

Still, with demands from the United Nations and many nongovernmental organizations, such as Amnesty International, the war between East and West grows more controversial. Compromise seems necessary, but where is that fine line drawn, and who determines it?

The best solution at present time is for nations, especially the United States, to expose young people to the cultures and values of other countries. Many seniors will likely graduate from high school ignorant of current world issues. In a world that is growing ever smaller, the only solution to an intolerance of other cultures seems to be education. Perhaps with this education, people will be more willing to compromise.

The delegates around me demanded that I compromise my country's beliefs for the sake of Western ideals, but few understood that within the real international arena, few nations are willing.

But the fact that text messaging is done stealthily so as to not disturb a class does not make it acceptable. It is just as disrespectful and distracting to send silent messages while a teacher is trying to give instruction as it would be to carry on a vocal conversation. It's no more appropriate to text than it would be to actually make a phone call when students are meant to be doing work or engaging in a lesson.

Adding to the disrespectful nature of text messaging in class is the fact that it is seen as an appropriate pass-time when a student is bored. Texts rarely include dire news or questions, but rather trivial comments meant to distract their sender—and receiver—from what they deem to be an uninteresting class. It seems probable that all of these "lol's" and pieces of gossip sent from class to class via text message could wait until after school.

But students don't always think this way. To many, covert texting in school isn't a problem because it's not disruptive and is unlikely to get them into trouble. This attitude will not change until teachers start keeping a closer watch for busily typing thumbs and reminding their students that they should be learning rather than carrying on conversations.

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WTHS's
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students
in
Unlimited**

**May 16
in the CBAC
7:00 pm.**

Colleges reward for athletics, not academics

Rob Cavella '07

College admission. There is no greater fear or loaded phrase a high school senior waiting what seems to be an eternity for a nod of approval to advance to their next level of education.

Some students, many that were handed natural athletic ability or dominant size, forgo the pending nod and are instead given an aggressive handshake of encouragement. Some may even be given a "partial" or "full" nudge of financial incentive to help carry a college's athletic reputation as well as their course load.

The fairness of that in many students' eyes is shifty. The questions that arise at the sight of mediocre at best students having major colleges come to them with open arms are extremely reasonable even while the answer is obvious. Many students wonder why some kids should have a much easier time paying and getting into college just because they're better with a football, or have faster feet. To a degree, I consider myself one of those students.

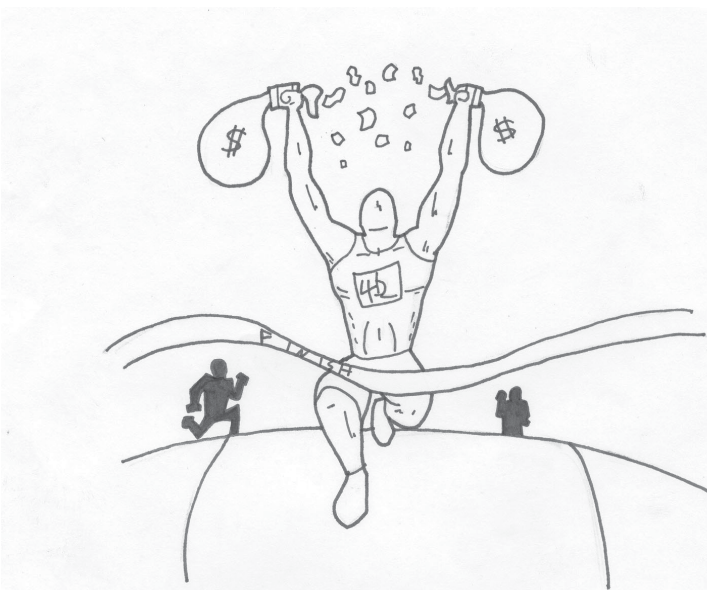


illustration: Matt Johnson '07

While big name colleges and universities extend their courtesies to kids that churn out 4.5's or can turn a double play much better than you can, the aggravation for me becomes instantaneous. I have no problem accepting the fact that kids that are first tier athletes (and probably work hard to be them) are going to have a much easier time

getting into schools that I would have no shot at.

I don't have a problem with that. My S.A.T. scores are shameful anyway. But what I can't live with is how the scales are tipped away from great students and put in favor of mediocre students that are great athletes. Many of the lucky, naturally talented kids out there are not only

getting into upper echelon universities, but are getting big chunks of their tuition taken care of by their "merit" scholarships to play an extracurricular sport.

Don't get me wrong, congratulations if you're getting acceptance letters to nice colleges and your tuition slashed because you can crack the bat or run through people. That's awesome. What isn't awesome is that many kids all but kill themselves trying to be good enough academically to go somewhere special, and then have to sweat it out for months to find out if they made the cut. And if they did, chances are they're going to have to kill themselves again to figure out a way to pay for it all. There's no college representatives walking the hallways waiting to see them, trying to recruit them.

Although this kind of recruitment for athletic prospects may be a big factor as to why Division one sports are so entertaining, I would honestly rather see students that are great academically reap the same benefits as students that are great on the field, diamond, track, court, or in the pool.

Outside the box by Alyssa Figueroa '08

2400 reasons why SAT's are unreasonable

After twelve years of education, the struggle of getting good grades, and the effort put in to getting accepted into that dream college, all your hard work could come tumbling down with three small letters: S.A.T.

We can all feel it coming. The pressure of scoring the most points as possible within measly 25 minute timeframes - sounds more like a video game than a national standardized test.

The almighty Scholastic Achievement Test could either make or break over a decade of a carefully built foundation. It is a mystery to me how colleges could judge acceptance based on a grueling four-hour test on a certain day, under any circumstance.

Survivors of the test know the

overwhelming stress and intimidation brought on by this "reasoning" test is unreasonable. Many call it a "lottery-like one day performance" that helps the selection process as much as a student's first name.

Sure, many will argue it can show how much you have learned in high school. So maybe that's the problem.

With vocabulary tests each week, how many words actually stay in our brain days after taking the exam? And with all the logarithmic theorems we have to understand, aren't we bound to forget that one simple geometric theorem that allows us to quickly discover the measurement of that angle?

The SAT is one giant examination of your years of

schooling taken under a nerve-racking time clock.

That's not what learning is really about. Knowledge is something greater than any test could define. The ability to learn something new and apply it is what really matters. Determination, focus, judgment- that's what ices the cake.

Some colleges are realizing that SAT scores are insufficient in estimating a student's capability. However, most schools still use those pointless points as their main way of selecting students.

According to Colleges.com, Mary Mehdizadeh, from the UCLA Admissions Office, admitted that they take 60 percent of their students based on GPA and SAT's alone. That's pushing a lot of quality

students to the curb.

It seems as if the college admissions offices use SAT scores to make their life easier. After they cash the thousands of applicants' checks (which I am certain is their favorite part of the whole process), they erase those not in the top five percent of the class, then dismiss those who don't score over a 2000 on their SAT's and Voila! A little picking out names from a hat, and there goes the future students of the university.

Unfair?

Without a doubt. Colleges need to realize that this standardized test should not be a standardized way to help pick and choose acceptance.

Until then, our futures will be decided on if we correctly fill in dots on a piece of paper.

Lifestyles

Extreme Sports by Chad Meadows '07

The Wonders of Wakeboarding

Now that the spring has come and the weather is nice enough, you can begin wakeboarding. If you really wanted to you could wakeboard any season you want because there are wet suits that will keep you warm in cold water. But for the best experience I suggest starting in early summer.

Wakeboards are pretty much easy to find, especially at stores that also sell snowboards, such as D and Q, Sports Authority, Dick's Sporting Goods, and Threads and Sleds.

The set up of a wakeboard is also similar to snowboard. The wakeboard has "bindings," but you don't wear boots. Just bare feet will do because the bindings are different, you just have to slip your feet into them.

The board has small fins that are adjustable for your style of riding. The fins control the way the board moves over the water. You can remove them to make for a more mobile board but harder to control.

Then there is the rope which should be a decent length from the boat so you can hit the peaks of the wake caused by the boat. The boats used in professional wakeboarding are meant just for wakeboarding, but pretty much any small boat that causes a decent wake and can travel up to 40 mph will work.

The boards are relatively cheap but could burn a hole in your pocket. They start at around 100 dollars and go up to 600 dollars or more. And

that's without bindings, rope, and the wet suits. As for the price, I suggest you pay a good amount considering the speed you'd be traveling on the water.

Once you get a hang of wakeboarding you could try a new product called a wake skate. These are wakeboards that don't have bindings, instead they have grip tape. These wakeboarders wear regular shoes and use the wakeboard as a skateboard but on the water. Wake skates are pretty expensive as well. They can run from 100 to about 400 dollars. These are a lot harder to use because you are not strapped onto anything. When you leave the water you are not connected to the board. But don't start on one of these.

I wakeboard in the Delaware River up north and even on hot days the water is cold. It is advisable that even in hot weather you use a wet suit because you are going up to thirty miles per hour over the water.

Fashion File by Megan Robertson '09

Leggings reenter fashion world

The 80's leggings trend has made a huge comeback this season beginning with the skinny jeans and quickly expanding to include tights and leggings as well. Leggings are a favorite new trend for many girls, just as it was a massively popular look in the 80's.

Although both footless tights and leggings are popular trends right now, it should be known that there is a slight difference between the two. Leggings are much bulkier compared to tights which make legs more visible. Both can make the perfect outfit if worn correctly. When wearing short skirts or dresses, leggings are a better choice. For more formal occasions, choose footless tights.

Leggings also come in many different colors and lengths. It is best to wear black or neutral colored leggings when wearing a bright colored outfit. Earth tone leggings such as dark brown and green are



Red Sea Water World

Wakeboarding is a popular extreme sport during all seasons.

You must always wear a life jacket for safety to protect yourself when you fall into the water. Jackets are also sold which are meant just for wakeboarding that are small and light

weight but keep you afloat. So if you are interested and have the time and money I suggest trying it. The only thing you'll need is a boat to have an awesome time.

sometimes a nice touch. Although black or neutral leggings are always a safe bet, there are times when colored leggings are appropriate.

Colored leggings look great paired with simple looks. Therefore, if you are wearing a black dress, any color leggings would do. A shorter length of leggings will look best with short skirts, where longer leggings look best with dresses and long sweaters.

Many people are unsure about how to wear leggings. Leggings are a very versatile clothing item that can be worn a number of ways.

One great way to wear them is with skirts. Leggings are a great addition to a skirt of any length or cut. They can even be paired with shorts to make a bolder fashion statement. They are also very practical because they allow people to wear summer clothing items in the cooler months. Wearing mini dresses or long sweaters over leggings

makes another great outfit especially during the fall and winter. A very popular look seen on many teenagers is denim mini skirts paired with boots and leggings.

Leggings can be found at almost any clothing store; however, prices and quality do vary. For example, Old Navy offers cute leggings for only \$12.50. These leggings may not be of the highest quality; however, they are certainly not cheaply made. Abercrombie and Fitch also offers leggings. Although they are probably a little higher quality, they are double the price of Old Navy's costing \$24.50.

No matter how much you want to spend, leggings are a fashion trend that can fit into any budget. They add versatility to a wardrobe and allow you to add your own twist to an outfit. They are definitely something all girls should buy as an inexpensive update to their wardrobe.

Student finds responsibility, fun in 4-H

Katie Mount '09

When you hear the word "hobby," a common thought would be reading or listening to music. Most people wouldn't think of taking care of farm animals. For Caitlin Oliver '09, working with dairy cows in the Gloucester County 4-H Dairy Club is an exciting hobby.

The 4-H is an organization that encourages the youth to be more involved in the community. The organization teaches members valuable skills that will help them later in life, such as responsibility and time management.

Oliver has been in the club for four years. The highlight of her experiences came July 29, 2006. The Gloucester County 4-H Fair was hosting its annual Dairy Show. The show is divided into two different rounds. For the first round, Oliver was in the ring with her eight month heifer, Ivy. The round was focused on the structure and build of the animal. As the judge made his final decision, he presented Oliver with first place.

"I was very surprised about Ivy getting first. She was one of the shorter animals of the group, and I always have trouble positioning the animals," she said.

Oliver had little time to relish in her victory, as another show was about to begin. This round was based on fitting and showmanship. Fitting and showmanship focuses on how well the heifer has been washed and maintained. Once again, Oliver placed first.

"When I got my second ribbon, I couldn't believe it. It was the highest I had ever placed. I guess all of my preparation paid off," she said.

Oliver explained that there is a lot of preparation that goes into showing an animal successfully at the fair. Members start teaching their calves to walk with a halter. Then, the 4-Hers must wash and shave their animals. Everyday while at the fair



Katie Mount '09/The Patriot

Caitlin Oliver enjoys raising and showing her animals.

members must wash down their animals in order to ensure that they stay cool. These measures are an addition to all of the equipment a

member must buy. However, Oliver claims it's worth it.

Oliver originally became involved with the 4-H when her

family was at the fair. Volunteers pass out booklets, advertising each club. Oliver saw the Gloucester County Dairy Club, and was intrigued.

"I picked the Dairy Club, because cows were always one of my favorite animals. And the leader was really nice when I met her. So I decided to become involved," Oliver recalled.

She claims that she would like to stay involved with 4-H for as long as she can. When members finish their freshman year of college, they are no longer allowed to be a part of the club. When she reaches that point, Oliver still plans to stay involved with the organization.

"I have a few more years left. Even when I'm out of the club, I will probably keep coming back," she said. "I would definitely help out the youth and teach them what I have learned."

Model maintains focus on future

Tamara Mendez '08

Tia Tanksley '08 may seem like an ordinary girl in the halls of Washington Township High School, but at the age of just sixteen, Tia is a successful model for Metro Girls modeling agency. Some people may notice her on an ad in the mall or a billboard.

"It's very stressful for me. I have to be flawless in my shoots. I can't have any blemishes, gain any weight, or have any visible scars. But I love to model! When I model, I feel important. All of the attention is on me, and it makes me feel great about myself," said Tanksley.

She is inspired by some of the greats in the modeling industry as she pursues her goals.

"I look up to so many models like Tyra Banks because she is a size ten and successful. She was also the first African American female to be successful in the modeling business. She can be herself. I want to be just like her," she said.

While modeling for a modeling agency, Tanksley maintains a good grade point average, works a part time job at Marshall's, and juggles many clubs and activities. Doing all of these things well is a challenge



photo courtesy of Tia Tanksley '08

Tia Tanksley plans to pursue her professional modeling career through college.

that Tanksley is prepared to meet. "I maintain my grades and my job by working really hard to study and do my best in whatever I do," Tanksley said. "It's so hard for me because I only see my mom once a week because she lives in New York on weekdays. I really don't have anyone to inspire me but myself, but I'm determined to succeed in everything I do. Being determined inspired me to be come a model and get good grades."

Tanksley plans on continuing her modeling throughout high school and college. Because she loves to understand people and their behavior, she would like to study psychology, but has not made a decision yet on a school.

For the present she continues to work at her studies and career. "I'm living life and following my dreams," Tanksley commented, "To me, a life with no dreams is like a life with no meaning."

Do you know someone who has a story worth sharing?

Contact us at wthspatriot@gmail.com.

Letters

Smoking bans ignore business owners' rights

It's aggravating that the only thing that is ever discussed when people praise the state-imposed smoking bans on "public" places like bars, restaurants and casinos is the health aspect—that is, the "privilege" of not having the "burden" of being in the vicinity of those downright rude smokers and their evil filthy habit.

The accolades for our "political protectors" from the two commentary pieces in the last paper [Toward a Healthy Horizon, April 2007]

seem to go into the issue only as deep as the media and their own self-righteousness will take them, while virtually no one (at least, not in the mainstream of discussion) is looking at the implications these bans have on the forgotten people—the owners of these places, particularly those of the bars*.

Thanks to the one-sided coverage of the issue there's a ton of misinformation being dispensed to kids who now can't tell the

difference between *public* and *private* property, because these places of business are colloquially known as "public places." A real public property is one that is commissioned by governments, sponsored (mainly) by tax revenue, and used near streets, municipal buildings, parks, etc. On these places

restrictions on activity that may deprecate them for future use is appropriate (although many places tend to go overboard with rules)—no one wants to have to foot the bill for someone else's damage.

These bars, restaurants and casinos are *private property*—someone actually owns them and operates them as businesses.

Thus it would only seem appropriate that it is the owner's—NOT the government's—

...if enough people avoid patronizing a place ... then it's a pretty strong incentive for the owner to change his policy.



illustration: Matt Johnson '07

Broken family circle

Your family is a major support system that keeps you going in times of need. Throughout the years, most of your time is spent with your family. Children never used to question eating dinner with their families, or hesitate about spending time with them. In recent years, however, it seems that the idea of family has completely fallen to the back burner.

Between sports, schoolwork, and other extra-curricular activities, children and parents alike, are running around all day. Mom is taking one son to soccer practice; Dad gets home from work and takes his daughter to dance class; every one is eating at different times; and then the kids go off to do their homework.

Families rarely get to talk to each other, let alone eat dinner together. This pattern repeats itself and after awhile, families don't spend any quality time together at all. It is a sad truth about today's society; no one has time for the ones they love.

In this day and age, during whatever free time kids have, they aren't interested in being with their families. They want to hang out with friends, or go out. The idea of family is completely lost. If life goes on this way, in a few years families won't do anything together at all. It is a tragic occurrence and families should try to make time for one another and do more things together.

-Lauren Finneran '08

being near the act. For one thing you have the right to leave the place if the atmosphere for you is too toxic. There's nothing keeping you there.

It's one of the great aspects of the market—if enough people avoid patronizing a place for that business to suffer financially, then it's a pretty strong incentive for the owner to change his policy. So there's no reason to believe that you're completely hopeless as someone who doesn't like being around smoking or smokers. And, like I said, it is the owner's jurisdiction anyway.

This all comes from the idea of governments acting out to "protect" people from themselves, and most people go along with it on the pretense that they have

jurisdiction to set the rules and regulations that the owner sees fit. If the owner of a "public place" is fine with people smoking in his own place of business, then it's the owner's right to uphold that privilege. Now the pressure has gone to politicians to pass laws that take away this right, even if it's not in their power. The extra regulatory heat on businesses is just the government asserting that it can tell you what you can or can't do on your own property (of course thanks to the "War on Drugs" it already can to an extent). See the implications now?

Of course, just because owners can allow or disallow a potentially harmful activity in their place of business, doesn't subject anyone to

the "right" to be safe from any and all potential health risks. Therefore politicians have the ability to force owners to change policies over what is by all means their own jurisdiction. That isn't right.

It doesn't matter if there's a "democratic majority" calling for bans; there should be no majority that can overrule someone's property rights on a whim. Grow up and stop letting them get away with it.

- Alec Stevenson '09

* If they're going to ban smoking in bars, when are they finally going to wise up and ban alcohol in bars? Doesn't alcohol also pose risks on people?

The Patriot welcomes letters from its readers.

The Patriot reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, content, and space. Letters should be limited to 200 words.

Write us at wthspatriot@gmail.com

Senior eyes future in rock

Joe Granato '07

If you are familiar with the Washington Township music scene, then you've most likely heard the music of John Custer '07, but odds are you know nothing about him.

Custer has been writing music since he was first inspired by The Vines in 8th grade.

"They were just the coolest thing in the world to me at that time. I then started writing whenever I had something on my mind, it would just happen," said Custer.

This musician must have a lot on his mind because he has an extensive library of self-composed music. It is evident in each of Custer's songs that the lyrics are reflective of the people around him. Custer idolizes Jonny Greenwood of Radiohead and says that Greenwood's guitar playing influences his own guitar playing.

Custer is constantly recording on his own and with local celebrity Mike Britt to master each of his songs and get them out to the world, or at least the high school. In collaboration with Zack Buck and Joe Granato, their band The Skeleton Rock Shock has released a full length album of all original songs. They've been selling the album entitled *Like a Baby* throughout the high school and have even made it available at Tunes CD store.

Since its release they have been actively playing shows at local venues and are well known among their peers. Custer loves to set up shows and play anywhere. However, he admits to often feeling anxious the day of a show until he gets on stage.

"I could say I feel honored that all these people came to see us play, but sometimes it is hard not to just feel awkward," said Custer.

His favorite show the band has played was one in February of 2006 at Eleven East Café.

"That one just stood out from the others because it was only our second show and we didn't find out we were playing until about an hour before we had to play," Custer explained.

Custer looks forward to the

summer because The Skeleton Rock Shock will be playing a small tour with their friends, the local band Hey Holden. Custer is always avid about playing shows and getting their music out there.

Custer's advice to younger musicians in the school is to just play more shows and write more songs.

"You can't play shows with only four songs, so keep writing," elaborated Custer.

When asked the reason he wants to make music, Custer laughed and responded, "For the women."

John Custer '07 lives in Washington Township with his parents and four younger siblings. But—unlike some seniors—Custer is not dreading the end of his school career.

"I'm just going to go to college

right after, so what's the difference?" said Custer, who considers the years of his childhood before he started school as the best of his life.

"If I had a time machine, I would go back to those days," he said.

Custer plans to attend college this fall for art. He has been taking art classes all through high school and is currently in Art 3. Custer's favorite mediums of art are photography and oil painting.

Since this musician isn't giving away any clues for the future, the



Courtesy of the Skeleton Rock Shock

John Custer (right) hopes to succeed in the music industry and has gained notoriety with his band The Skeleton Rock Shock.

public will just have to wait and see where Custer's music takes him.

When asked where he'd like to be with his music in ten years Custer responded, "In a pool."

Frosh artist shows promise

Christina Schillaci '10

There's a difference in art between an interest and pure talent—but it's rare to come across a person who has both. Chris Otto '10 is one of the few who holds this quality, and holds it modestly.

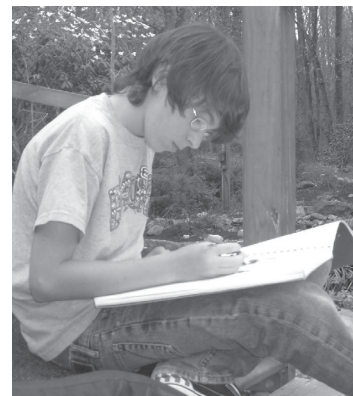
Otto first realized his spectacular ability around sixth grade, though he drew long before that. In fact, he taught himself how to paint and sketch in his free time, without lessons. Now he says painting is enjoyable, but sketching is quicker to do.

"Painting's a lot of methods and tricks, so drawing's easier," Otto said.

Quite ambitious when it comes to art, Otto spends basically all of his free time on his sketches and portraits.

"Art is my life," he stated, laughing.

But sometimes even favorite hobbies can become a hassle. To Otto, at times it seems like art is more of a chore or a job than a hobby with all the projects hanging over him. While everyone simply wants to share in his artistic ability, he feels he can be taken advantage of when so much is asked of him.



Christina Schillaci '10/The Patriot

Freshman Chris Otto is already an award-winning artist.

In the future, Otto is more than sure it'll be in the art realm, as something in commercials, newspapers, or graphic designing. His favorite thing to paint is portraits, by far.

"Portraits usually take awhile. I remember I sketched one guy about two years ago and never got around to painting it until a week ago," he commented.

When he was asked what his favorite type of paint is, Otto responded, "Oils, definitely. I like to see my finished project after I've worked so hard on it for a long time."

It's pretty cool. Oils can take weeks."

Otto has recently achieved quite an amazing feat in his art career with his astonishing win in a nationwide contest sponsored by the skateboarding company Volcom. His winning tee-shirt design will be sold across the country. And if that wasn't cool enough, Otto received a one thousand dollar gift card to the Volcom store. But Otto is modest about his big win.

"The real reason I did it was for the recognition—that's better than any amount of money I could've gotten. I mean, people are going around wearing a shirt I designed," he said.

Otto is certain that art is where he's going in life, and if you see his paintings, you'll know why. His modest attitude about his artistic ability is something you don't come across often.

But Otto certainly has reason to brag. He's always painting and sketching projects to help out in his art class, and on his friends' birthdays, he always paints something for them, even if there's hardly any time left with everything else in his schedule. Chris Otto will go far in art; simply ask anyone around him.

2007 Teachers of the Year

Mrs. Donna Esposito: Geometry 9/10

Lauren Meloni '09

Being selected Teacher of the Year isn't just about being a good teacher; it's about who you are and how you incorporate teaching into a part of your personality.

"I always hoped that I would be good enough to be acknowledged, but it depends on the job that you're doing and how you get across to the students. None of us do it ourselves, we all rely on each other," said Mrs. Donna Esposito, co-winner of teacher of the year for 2007.

Mrs. Esposito has been teaching for twenty-two years, but only six years at Washington Township high school. She began teaching at Cumberland Regional and after a short while, thought that she didn't want to teach anymore.

"I was getting burnt out," she said.

But after she left teaching,

Esposito realized that she missed the students too much, and decided to go back.

As kids, we have big dreams, and as we grow up, those dreams change and grow bigger. Esposito said when she was a teenager she "always struggled with math," and was always way behind in school, which just made her work harder.

"I chose to teach geometry because I hated my geometry teacher in high school. I got a C in class. That's what made me become a geometry teacher; I wanted to be able to teach it in a way that the students would understand it."

Esposito describes "seeing the light bulbs go on, seeing the students understand" as being the best thing about teaching. She also enjoys "being around young people because they keep me young."

Many of Esposito's students agree that she makes geometry easier

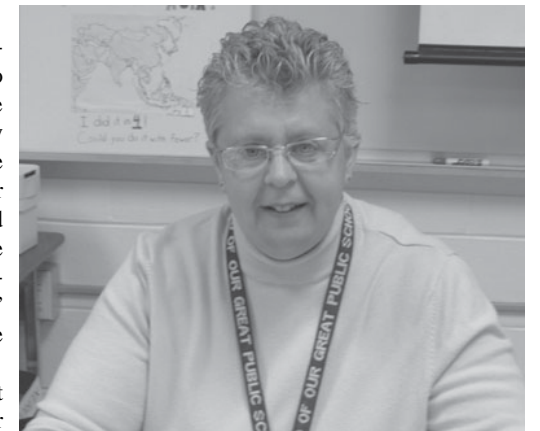
to understand.

"She definitely deserved to win Teacher of the Year; I actually learned math. She made learning easier to understand and you can tell that she has a lot of experience in teaching," said Christine Mesoraca '09.

Paul Stewart '09 said that, "her personality made geometry easier to learn, and a lot more fun than it normally would be."

Although the title Teacher of the Year does not earn any special privileges, Esposito is appreciative of the recognition.

She commented, "I still wait in line during lunch, and I'm still given



Lauren Meloni '09/The Patriot

Mrs. Donna Esposito dedicates her time to helping students master a difficult subject.

lunch duty. I think that winning Teacher of the Year has given me a voice, and given me a chance to meet people. I didn't think I was here long enough to worry about winning, it's an extreme honor, and they're so many qualified teachers here."

Mrs. Deborah Carchidi: History 11/12

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

On a regular Monday morning in homeroom, there came an announcement which completely changed the day of Mrs. Deborah Carchidi: she had won the Teacher of the Year award for the 2006-07 school year.

"The room was erupting in applause and I was completely surprised. I glowed for days," says Carchidi.

Though Carchidi has been teaching at WTHS since 1981, you would never think it. Even as an old pro, she is always laughing.

Friend and coworker Mr. Robert Barnshaw said, "She is so loved by students and faculty because of her spontaneity. She cracks herself up, which cracks others up. But it's not just that, I admire her dedication and scholarship. It's one thing to be funny, but she also knows her stuff. Those two things are hard to find in one person."

After earning a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education and Social Studies with a specialization in Russian History from Penn State University, Carchidi earned her Master's Degree at Temple University.

Following college, Carchidi began teaching US History 1 and 2 at our high school. In the 26 years since the beginning of her career, she has become a leader of the History department, teaching AP European History and even bringing her expertise to the table by creating her own curriculum with Issues and Themes in Twentieth Century European and World History.

Mrs. Deborah Carchidi's passion for history is reflected by her energy in the classroom

Student Ryan Kinch '07, said, "Her advanced knowledge of European intrigue really astonished me when I first met her. Now it's nothing to me that she knows all about the personal lives of the Russian Czars."

Mrs. Carchidi is well-known in the 11/12 building for her hilarious stories and loud laugh. Rather than teaching history with facts, Carchidi uses entertaining storytelling to engage her students. Rachel Bauer '08 of US History II said, "Carchidi has not only opened my eyes about our nation's history, but she has also allowed me to experience it."

Still, despite voiced admiration



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/The Patriot

from students throughout the years, Carchidi was "happily surprised" to receive the Teacher of the Year award.

"It hadn't even entered my head that it was possible," she said. Students were less surprised.

"It's one thing to be a good teacher, but it's a far more rare thing to be a great teacher—to inspire as well as teach students who are suddenly eager to learn and to be highly respected by colleagues and teachers alike," said Michelle Scott '07.

Besides the Teacher of the Year award, this year has been exceptional for Carchidi. She has recently taken her classes on a trip to the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, DC, and this summer she is taking a small group of students to Europe.

Samantha Hermanson '08 said of Carchidi's award-winning teaching, "She will go above and beyond our text book to teach us."

This extraordinary teacher continues to make the most of her experience at WTHS, "I love my students, and I love teaching," she said, "It keeps me young!"

Student Evan Koziarachi '07 said, "Everyday is an adventure with Carchidi."