

# Revamped team takes third conference title

Rob Cavella '07

The girl's lacrosse team chalked up another great spring season with a record of 13-6-2 and the Olympic Conference title in hand for a third consecutive time.

While it may be very impressive that the girls have made a conference title trilogy out of their three past seasons, what can be observed with even wider eyes is the roster that pulled out the third leg of the Minutemaids' Lacrosse epic.

Last year the team graduated thirteen seniors, nine of which were varsity starters. This upperclassman transition left the majority of this year's squad to girls who have never been on the field at the varsity level.

Many teams may have fallen behind in quality after losing such a majority of the starting squad. But for the Minutemaids team, their determination never skipped a beat.

"Even though this year's team had many girls with no varsity experience, they really rose to the challenge before them. It was very impressive," commented head coach Ms. Sandy Stockl.



Rob Cavella '07/ The Patriot

**Co-captains Brooke Foussadier, Emily Wagner, and Amy Irwin have led the team through the season.**

In addition to the gaining the conference title over Cherokee and breaking Township's famous Indian school curse, the girl's lacrosse team polished their season off with a 16-9 win over the number eleven state-ranked Lenape in late April.

Throughout the tough losses and the exhilarating successes season stood the triumvirate of leadership found in the senior captains Emily

Wagner, Brooke Foussadier, and Amy Irwin.

"For me, as an upperclassman and fellow captain, I felt the need to help develop team unity. Many of us had never played together as a team," stated Wagner, "One of the reasons that this season was so special is the fact that we had such great team chemistry and we got along very well on and off the field."

Wagner expressed mixed emotions in talking about the end of the road for her as a Minutemaids.

"I feel that I'm ready to move on, and my coaches prepared me to play at the next level. It was my last season here, and I feel sad, but at the same time I have no regrets because I got something out of every game and each season."

Co-captain Brooke Foussadier commented on the team's undying willingness to win, "The team was so young, but they were so willing to learn. They played harder than any other team I've ever been a part of. Coming into the season the expectation was that we were too inexperienced to be successful. It was a great feeling to see them believe in themselves and put forth the effort everyday that was necessary."

Previous to the Minutemaids' three-peat, the team had never captured a conference title. With three consecutive championships under their belt, it's safe to say that the future Minutemaids will only grow hungrier after getting such a great taste of victory in the past three years.

# Minutemen hit playoffs out of the park

Alyssa Maiese '07

Over the years the boy's baseball team has had numerous accomplishments. By season's end, they were ranked number fourteen in the Courier Post and throughout the years have been one of the most successful teams at WTHS.

Despite the season's struggle, the team was looking forward to being able to start over and play well in State Playoffs. They began the tournament against one of the top South Jersey teams, heavily favored Toms River East.

The odds were against the Minutemen. But instead of letting that stop them, it invigorated them into an amazing game ending in a defeat of Toms River by 2-0. The victory was a true team effort with everyone from freshman to seniors having a role.

Though this boosted overall confidence, the players hope it hasn't given them too big head for the rest of state play. Minutemen pitcher Nathan Young '07 said,

"Even though the win was great we haven't gotten too far ahead of ourselves, we know we have to take it one game at a time."

Senior leaders Bill Rice and Young hope to continue to be positive contributors to the team. Three-year Varsity starter, Rice, leads the team with more than 100 hits. He also has eight home runs, followed closely by Bob Gorski '07 with six home runs. Both made All-Conference and the Carpenter Cup Team, and Rice also made the All-South Jersey Conference.

Rice '07 is also the one of the team's most successful pitchers, and the clear favorite to start each game in the remaining rounds of the state tournament. He is currently 7-1 and has yet to be scored upon in tournament play, pitching back-to-back shutouts and pitching scoreless innings in a combined effort. Rice continues to succeed on the mound, giving the offense a chance in every game he pitches for the Minutemen.

Young '07 says, "The other pitchers and I just have to take it



Joe Granato '07/ The Patriot

**Varsity seniors exemplify team unity to underclassmen.**

one game, one batter, one pitch at a time." With three no-hitters in their play-off games, this goal seems to be fairly accessible.

After winning the Group IV South Jersey Championship as the fourteenth seed, the Minutemen will move on to challenge East Hamilton High School at Rider University. Rice will likely take the mound once

again for the 'Cinderella Team', giving the team's best hitters to do damage against the opposition.

Keeping it all together seems to be the key to continued success throughout the play-offs. Everyone wished the best of luck to the boys as they advanced to the fourth round of states.

**Written prior to 6/5 game.**

# The Patriot

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# One down, three to go

As school year closes, freshmen reflect on high school adjustment

Nicolette DiMucci '10

For the class of 2010, most would say the year could be summed up as fun, but challenging. Almost everyone can agree that there was a huge transition from middle school to high school.

"In middle school, it was a lot less work. You could easily get by with A's if you did your homework. But in high school, the work is much harder, you have to put a lot more time and effort into every last detail in order to maintain an A average" Said Casey Brown '10.

With all the advanced classes, some found it was a lot to handle, but they stayed motivated and determined and got done what needed to be done.

"I took it step by step, studied every night for a nice period of time and I knew [the advanced classes] would be hard, but it paid off and I was able to get straight A's," said Vincent Lombardi '10.

The class of 2010 has many athletes. While some played one sport, others played a different sport every season and were constantly under pressure with trying to juggle their sports and school work.

Adam Krause '10 said, "It was hard [keeping up with sports and school work]. I gave up a lot of time and didn't hang out with my friends as much as I wanted to, but I was able to get all my work done."

Some freshmen will tell you that so far, they completely hate high school, while others will go on and on about how they absolutely love it. The responses from the class of 2010 are varied.

Nick Raggio '10 is one of those people who love high school. "At the beginning of the year, I was prepared for a really strict place, but it's not like that. It's a lot of fun and less strict than middle school and the sports are great. I really like it."

Joseph DeFillippo '10 was part of Student Council for freshman year, and he too, loves high school.



Laura Marder '07/The Patriot

**The class of 2010 is ready for sophomore year.**

"Overall, I loved freshman year," he said, "the high school is a million times better than middle school, and I really liked middle school. There are so many activities and people to meet; it is never boring."

Throughout freshman year, there were many events and such that the class of 2010 would say was their favorite part of their freshman year. For Lisa Patrone '10, "The

freshman dance and playing sports," she said, "were my favorite part because when you play sports, you get to meet a bunch of people you never thought you'd meet, and the freshman dance was just so fun."

As for those upperclassmen all the freshman were afraid of at the beginning of the year; some freshman are still terrified, but most have no fear anymore and have actually become friends with a lot of them.

"Most of [the upperclassmen] were really nice. I made a lot of friends that are upperclassmen. They were really helpful throughout the year," said Lauren Braidwood '10.

With their freshman year behind them, many students feelings on high school have shifted from scared, worried, and nervous to happy, excited, and prepared.

"My feelings changed a lot about high school now that the first year's over," said Samantha Hersch '10, "I thought I was going to hate high school but I absolutely love it. In the beginning I didn't like how I had to walk so much but now I see a bunch of people that I wouldn't get to see and I really like it here."

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## Group IV champs



Joe Granato '07/ The Patriot

**T.J. Alcorn '08 , Steve Graziano '08, Lenny Oliveri '07 and Bob Gorski '07 before their tournament game against Cherry Hill West which they won 11-0. Story page 32.**

# Actors' Studio takes show on road

Margaret Bonanni '09

On May 10, Actors' Studio and Theatre Production traveled to Bucks County, PA to compete for their seventh year in the 2007 Drama Festival. Held in the Bucks County Playhouse, the competition featured high schools from across the Delaware Valley. The groups were evaluated for their work in the fields of acting and theatre production.

This year Jackie Nagle '07 took home Best Actress Award (see related story below) and Kayleen Egan '07 took home an Excellence in Acting Award for their performances in a contemplation of scenes from *Too See the Stars*, the casts' spring production.

"I was so surprised I had won anything," commented Egan, "I wasn't even mentioned in the critique, and I thought my performance was weak."

The two veteran actresses, who also were directors for this year's Senior Directed Cabaret, were no strangers to the Bucks County stage. It was Egan's third time at the competition, and Nagle's sixth.

"It was the first time in six years I won any type of award at this competition, and to know that my work was recognized by people I did not personally know made me feel incredible," said Nagle with a smile as she held her trophy.

Hard work went into winning the awards, aside from rehearsals. Both actresses had to study the time period of the 1900's, and also had to study parts of women's history. Nagle also had to study an Irish accent.

"I would have never won Best Actress if I didn't master the Irish accent; that was the key of my character, and what made me noticeable," stated Nagle.

The festival was judged by accredited theatre critic, Stuart Duncan, and actress Anita Donavon, who have been judging the contest for about twelve years. When trying to pick out winners for the awards, the judges set asides details like costumes, and props, which they feel make no difference to the overall performance. They focus on aspects of the show such as capability of individual members of the cast, emotion, and pacing of the piece.

"We tend to recognize those whose ability in theatre stands out above the rest on stage, and those who have notable talent," stated Duncan, "Every time I judge this competition I see outstanding performers who display an unimaginable amount of skill."

Another school that showed talent on the stage was Harry S. Truman High School from West

Bristol PA, whose cast preformed a one act play called *Break in the Ropes*. The play earned two Excellence in Acting Awards. The play traced of a boy's life from infancy to adulthood and how he dies of a drug overdose, but with an abstract twist.

"We [the cast] didn't see it as a competition but rather as a display of hard work and an opportunity to

see other schools perform," said Truman's performer, Matt Ocharski. After all the effort and determination that was put into the competition, Actors Studio and Tech Theatre took from the competition a sense of something greater than awards.

"It was wonderful to get involved with this program, and a great opportunity to learn something new," said Erin Dunphy '09.

# Nagle awarded top honor

Mike Nagle '07

On May 10 Jackie Nagle '07 attended the Bucks County Drama Festival. There, she and her fellow students in Mrs. Cheryl Silverman's classes performed their recent play, *To See the Stars*.

The play and their individual performances were evaluated against other schools from across the Delaware valley. Nagle's performance as a tough-nosed Irish woman, was honored by the judges, winning the award for Best Actress in a Performance.

Being on the stage is nothing new for the high school senior. She has been performing for many years in plays, talent shows, or Senior Directed Cabarets. Nagle has been interested in acting since her elementary days in 1998.

"I got into drama at an early age," said Nagle, "When I got older I thought it was playing house, but when I got older I learned a lot about Broadway and I wanted to sink my teeth into it."

Her influences on Broadway are the modern actresses like Marissa Jaret Winokur (*Hairspray*) and Sutton Foster (*Thoroughly Modern Millie*).

Nagle has been in plays for all four years of High School, and she feels her teachers have been a big help in her career.

"Mrs. Silverman has been my teacher for four years, and I say she made me what I am today," said Nagle, "She helped me learn how to build character and not just be a loud voice on stage, I am very thankful for what she has done for me."

She has also performed with the Way Off Broadway Players on their



photo courtesy of the Nagle family

**Jackie Nagle was named Best Actress in a Performance at the Bucks County Drama Festival for her portrayal of a striking garment worker in *To see the Stars*.**

fall play and spring musicals where she worked with director, Mr. James DiGennaro.

"Mr. DiGennaro gave me a chance in plays in sophomore year and he asks me to be an extra, but I did have a line," she said. Nagle also pointed out that, "working those long hours for his show was a blast; he really helped me out during my years in high school."

She has been in many plays and productions over the years, but she still has one favorite performance in her mind.

"My sketch in Senior Directed '06 called *Naomi in the Living Room* was just my favorite character to work with," she said, "I loved the skit because it was something different and it was [challenging to play someone who was] bi polar."

Nagle stepped out of the spotlight to work in a different role

when she served as one of the directors of the Senior Directed Cabaret this past January. Though directing a big time production for the first time, she said she had big help from her long-time friend, co-director Kayleen Egan '07.

"I don't know if I could've finished this big project if it wasn't for Kayleen. I know I would've went insane," Nagle said laughing.

Next year Nagle will be attending Gloucester County College, where she will study acting.

"I hope do to plays on the side while at the college, but doing acting classes will make it easier to do anything in terms of drama."

Eventually Nagle plans to transfer to Rowan and will take a break at that point. "Although I love to act, I think learning how to teach acting will be a great benefit for me."

She hopes to give students back the knowledge that she has learned in almost ten years. But as for the future, she will just have to wait and see if she will become a great Broadway actress she has dreamed about since elementary school.

Looking back at Bucks County Nagle said, "It just goes to show that you don't have to be the main attraction to be considered the best in a crowd."

# Teamwork pays off

## V-ball makes third round in states

Nick Verillo '08

Volleyball is a game that involves hard work, determination, and teamwork.

Without full communication on the court, the six players will not become victorious. The WTHS Boys Volleyball team proved that with solid teamwork mixed with a great deal of talent is a recipe for success on the court.

The starting varsity players are good friends outside of the sport, which made for a seamless transition when games started. Mike Bradley '07, a team captain for the second year in a row, guided the squad to unprecedented success.

This season was supposed to be a promising season, and it turned out better than expected. The team finished the season as co-champions of the Olympic Conference. This title was the second in the program's history, the other coming in a prolific 2001 campaign. Along with regular season success, the squad reached the quarterfinals in the state tournament.

The Minutemen received a bye



Nick Verillo '08/The Patriot

**The starting six of the Varsity Boys Volleyball squad.**

in the first round as a #6 seed and defeated rival Moorestown in the second round on a home court. The next game turned out to be a difficult one, traveling to Edison, NJ to square up against #3 St. Joseph's Metuchen.

Even though the Minutemen were defeated, every player remained positive and proud to be a part of this unprecedented success.

Even though starters Bradley '07, Rick Meng '07, Tom Chranowski '07, Matt Lafferty '07,

and Eric Haberland '07 will graduate this year, next year's club looks to continue the pattern of victory.

Setters Dean Massimini '08 and Andrew Dages '08 will provide varsity leadership on the court and will use their experience to make everyone around them better. A new wave of incoming talent combined with several players with proven varsity experience show that the sky is the limit for the Boys Volleyball team.

# Seniors lead golf team to glory

Margaret Bonanni '09

For the Minutemen Golf Team, the 2006-2007 season is coming to a rewarding close. With a record of 10-4, and a strong sense of teamwork, the season had all the elements it needed to be successful. The goals of winning the County Tournament, making the playoffs, winning the conference, and scoring their best gave the team a lot to accomplish.

During the season, the golf team took home second place in the County Tournament, and made State Sectionals. Coach Margaret Anton attributes the success to the sense of unity among the team, and how the players are always ready to lend a hand to one another when needed. Aside from an overwhelming team effort, the core of varsity players on the team also contributed to the team's success.

Players Joe Diveto '07, Matt Romand '07, Corey Hoffman '07, Jake Whitten '07, Ryan Hersch '07, and Dan Zeiders '09 made tremendous scores to help the team reach their goals of making the sectionals.

"The older players work hard and are always practicing with the younger players, setting a good example for them to follow," said Anton, "I've been very fortunate to have such a talented team to work with."

Although the team reached the majority of their goals, there are still things the team will be improving upon for the next season. Anton wants to do more work with players on their basic skills and fundamentals. She also wants to develop and prepare the younger players more for their upcoming season.

"They [the younger players] need to step up to the plate and realize that to be successful they must work hard," commented Anton. She also wants to acquire more female members to the team, and make them feel more welcome.

The teams' goals for the upcoming season are a bit different from their existing goals. They still want to score their best, and win the Conference but they also want to improve their individual playing. In addition to improving their skills they also want to build on the accomplishments of this season.

The 2006-2007 golf season was a season that the golf team can hope to build upon. With the accomplishments they've made in this season, they can only expect more great things to come.

"Next season should be pretty good," said Zeiders.

# Cheerleaders continue success

A.J. Nisbet '08

This year the WTHS cheerleading team proved that it is one of the most successful teams in our school once again. Throughout the team's history, trophy boxes have not come big enough. That was the same for the 2006-2007 school year, as the team won numerous championships, local, and statewide.

This year, in a matter of months, the team became eight-time Olympic conference grand champions, three-time state champions, and two-time 'Battle at the Capital National' Champions.

While success is a major part of their story, the team also participated in many other events throughout the season. The team not only cheered at home basketball games for the school, but also traveled on the road with the team to several away games.

The team hosted competitions where they both took part in, and helped run the event. At events like these the team was able to raise a substantial amount of money that went towards the booster club.

While winning championships has been the same for many years, next year there will be some changes. During try-outs this year, the team will not be selected by the head coach, Mrs. Atkinson. This year the team will be selected by outside cheerleading judges.

While that might not affect the final product of the team, it is a unusual way to select the best team possible. With more championships and success in the future, the WTHS cheerleading team looks forward to breaking more records and setting higher goals.

## Senior Awards

Awards will be given to exemplary seniors on June 13th at 7pm in the Center for the Performing Arts.

# Boys track team makes move

Jacqui Gabel '08

This year, there have been many accomplished sports teams at Washington Township High School. One of the most achieved sports teams is the Boys Track Team, which owns score of winning four out of five duel meets this season. The boys track team defeated Cherry Hill East, Eastern, Pennsauken, and Lenape. The team was only defeated by Cherokee, but the score was a lot closer than their loss to them last year.

All classes in WTHS are accepted into the track team. Freshman, sophomores, juniors, and seniors are all permitted. All together there are around fifty members on the team and they are always eager to have more participants. One does not have to try out to be on the team. "As long as you keep coming, you stay on the team, so it's best to stay dedicated," stated Keith Ingis '07.

The team practices every day after school, despite the weather. "The

only time it's canceled, is when all of the other extracurricular activities are canceled, and that only happens once in a blue moon, and we are still expected to run on our own," adds Ingis '07.

The top runners in some of the events are Xavier Fraction '09, who runs 4:23 in the mile; Alex Clemson '08, with a 9:55 in the two mile; Nick Krauss '09, who runs 1:58 in the eight hundred; Steve Morone '10, who runs a 51 in the four hundred.

Clemson has been in track since his sophomore year of high school. He runs distance; the mile and two mile. His best time in the mile was 4:32, seemingly flying around the track to take first place.

"Whatever you put into it is what you get out of it," said Clemson '08. One word that Clemson used to describe the track team this year is "dedication". Clemson's dedication and effort along with the team working hard each day is driving the squad to a successful season.

Krauss '09 joined track last



Rob Cavella '07/The Patriot

**Risharee Santos '07, Xavier Fraction '08, Alex Clemson '08 prepare to put time in on the track**

year and has been one of the most consistent members of the team since he came out. His eight hundred is 1:58, a remarkable time for a sophomore. What keeps him dedicated is his goal to finally knock Cherokee off and win the conference championship.

"My thoughts on the team are great. The team has a lot of great athletes who love to compete against one another and are always trying to get better, which is why we have had a lot of success." Krauss '09 reveals.

Fraction '09 has been doing track for two years. Fraction competes in any race from the 400 meters to the 3200. His best time for the year, so far was a 4:23 in the 1600, which places him among the fastest runners in South Jersey.

"The reason I joined track year and has been one of the most consistent members of the team since he came out. His eight hundred is 1:58, a remarkable time for a sophomore. What keeps him dedicated is his goal to finally knock Cherokee off and win the conference championship.

freshman year was to stay in shape for football," said Fraction, "But I found out I was a better runner than football player, so I didn't play football this year and ran cross country."

"Pain Train" is the way in which Fraction describes the trials of the track team. However, the team has learned to live by the words of head coach Richard Bostwick, which have helped carry the team through the many difficulties of competition. "Pain is the cleanser."

## Overthrowing the competition



**Boy's Track team has had a strong showing in throwing events.**

(clockwise from left) Kwabena Keane '08 shotput, Dan Testa '07 discus, Zach Watson '07 Javelin



## New training, young talent lands girls Penn Relay gold

Jacqui Gabriel '08

For the first time at Washington Township High School the boys and girls track teams coordinated their activities. This has proved very beneficial for the girl's team.

They enjoyed a stellar season, achieving a 4-1 record, with the only loss coming at the hands of a powerful Lenape squad. The girls broke several records during the season.

Jackie Dim '08 was a standout in the sprints, dominating her events. She broke the school records for the 200 and 400 meters. The 4x4 relay team came in first place at the Penn Relays.

This was the first time in school history that we prevailed at this prestigious track meet. The relay consisted of, freshman, Kim Krauss '10, sophomore, Lauren Wilcox '09, and juniors Michelle Martin '08 and the aforementioned Dim '08. That 4x4 relay time was close to breaking the school record and with them all returning next year; it looks like a possible goal for next season.

Working out and practicing with the boys has spurred the girls to

achieve their lofty goals. Instead of two individual teams, they have literally become one cohesive unit.

The two teams practice together, stretch together, run together, work out together, and attend the meets together. The booster clubs have united, which has helped raise more money. Such fundraising events as a car wash and lottery sales have been extremely profitable.

"I think its great that that we are working with the boys and becoming one big team. There's a lot more support and it feels more united," sophomore distance runner, Shannon McCarthy '09 explains.

"We became more of a team, now both teams are one and we cheer each other on and help each other out. We have the same coaches with the same philosophies and same goals. We've helped each other out and gave each other advice," junior distance runner, Steph Strucko adds.

With the two teams working together more success is bound to happen. Expect more records to break on the girls' side.

Perspective

# Orchestra, chorus make history

Amy Goldberg '08

The WTHS Orchestra and Chorus had the honor to attend the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary at Jamestown, Virginia on May 11-14. Only one school from each state was invited to the festival. Although not all of the states were represented, the outcome was still mind-boggling.

A total of 353 orchestra members and exactly 1607 chorus members created music for the entire nation from their hearts. I had the privilege to sing with the combined chorus as well as play with our school's orchestra.

WTHS started our "voyage" at 1:00 AM on Friday, May 11. The buses rode non-stop for six hours until we "landed" in Virginia.

After enjoying a breakfast from our hotel, Days Inn, the orchestra and chorus went back to the buses for a long day at Jamestown. It was a very long and humid day, but we made it through. At 11:30 AM, the chorus performed five pieces at Jamestown Park, and the orchestra did the same at 1:00 PM.

When the chorus and orchestra were not performing, we were given the chance to walk around the park. A unique characteristic of Jamestown was how we were able to pay. Instead of using American dollars, we had to trade in the dollar bills for colonial dollars to use to purchase anything from food to souvenirs.

Later that night, the orchestra headed off to Busch Gardens Theme Park while the chorus had our first combined rehearsal with the rest of the choirs from all over the country. The rehearsal was held at the basketball court at the College of William and Mary. The choirs lined each side of the gymnasium. Our school sat behind an adult choir and next to a high school choir from North Carolina.

After a three long hours of rehearsing, the choir headed back to the hotel. It was an early night for most people, especially me, because the day was very long.

On Saturday, the orchestra and chorus split up again. The chorus had another rehearsal for two hours, and went to Busch Gardens for the afternoon before another three hour rehearsal with the orchestra. A lot of



photo courtesy of Amy Goldberg '08

**Rain did not dampen the spirits of the participants gathered for Jamestown's 400th anniversary celebration.**

the pieces sounded amazing with the first rehearsal already. I never thought that so many different parts of the country could blend together as well as we did.

Sunday was the big day of the

trip. With a wake up call of 3:00 AM, we were sitting on our charter buses by 4:30 AM waiting for security to let us pass through. Luckily, we were the first school to go through security as behind us, the

## Rising fuel prices cause concern

Stephanie Valentino '07

Lately, people have been finding themselves sweating whenever they drive up to a gas station to fill their tanks.

The prices for gas are through the roof, with many areas having prices for regular gas in the high two dollar range, and the other types of gas sometimes going past the three dollar mark.

As if this wasn't daunting enough for individuals with full-time jobs, students find it especially hard to cart themselves around with their limited money for gas.

"It's hard to get around with gas prices so high," says Sarah Martin, '07. "I'm poor enough as it is."

Martin, who has a job at the Rag Shop in Washington Township, states she can barely afford to get to and from work. Students like her find it close to torture taking the little money they make and giving it straight to the gas companies.

Though many students at the high school can drive, many find themselves unable; some students do not have time in their schedules to get a part-time job to pay for the gas. Many still need to hitch rides from parents or friends to get to places that are needed; and sometimes, this isn't



**Even before gas prices topped \$2.85 a gallon, people felt fuel prices were too high.**

always possible.

Even teachers are finding paying for gas torturous. Some have to drive great lengths to arrive at the high school everyday; the gas money it takes to get there is sucking them dry.

"I think the prices are ridiculous, especially because we have plenty of gas here," comments staff member Mr. Rob Hart. "It's hard, because everyone has to have an SUV and huge cars that take so much gas; the companies are also raising prices just for the summer. They sneak up the prices in June or July when they know people drive to the shore."

Hart, like many other staff members, has a long drive to arrive

line extended for about a mile.

The chorus then headed towards the bleachers of the amphitheater that the orchestra and chorus were to be performing at in the afternoon and evening. The morning was cold and raining; all we were allowed to do was sit on the bleachers in rain ponchos.

By the evening, any memories of the morning were replaced by the President's speech. We anxiously awaited the fireworks show to come later. All of the performances throughout the day were pretty spectacular and far beyond the quality I had expected.

Monday was our final day in Jamestown. We took in some historic sites before heading back to Township. Overall, I thought that the trip was much more successful than I anticipated it to be.

at school.

If the prices are getting you down, there are alternatives and strategies that can be used to ease the pain. During the summer months when the air conditioning is beckoning, avoid it by simply rolling down your windows and letting the wind cool your car.

If you don't like keeping the windows down (perhaps because you don't like wind hitting you in the face), you can still turn on the fan without turning on the air conditioning; using the AC and heat both use up extra gas.

The times you buy your gas also affect how much you are getting out of it. Buying your gas early in the morning or later in the evening gives you denser gas because of the cool air; avoid buying your gas in the middle of the day when it is hot and sunny.

Keep an eye out on the gas stations you go to and the brand of gas you buy. Some stations water their gas down, actually giving you less gas than you paid for. Avoiding this can be done by observing how quickly your gas runs out.

Although the prices are rising, you can avoid dishing out more cash by being attentive to what you may do to use more gas. Don't let the big gas companies get you down.

# Breathalyzer proves effective deterrent

Gabrielle Hughes '07

Testing students for alcohol consumption before dances was a controversial decision. Some students still feel a little uneasy about the idea of being tested. Others thank the administration for creating a more enjoyable environment for their dances.

"At the dances before the breathalyzer, people took drinking out of control. Besides, the breathalyzer isn't really an inconvenience. It only took a few seconds," said prom attendee Melissa Cheng '07.

Such a large amount of students blowing into a single tube can be quite unhygienic, so WTHS uses the Passive Alcohol Sensor, which takes a sample from the air.

The person administering the test holds the device by the student's

face as they speak for about thirty seconds. It then analyzes the amount of alcohol dispelled into the air. If there is even a slight detection of alcohol, the test is positive.

The administration has faith that this breathalyzer device is pretty accurate; however they admit that there have been some cases of false positives. These incidents have been the result of using a mouth wash containing alcohol or having hand sanitizer near the area of the device.

After a student has tested positive, they are sequestered in an area, and allowed to rinse out their mouth for mouthwash or antibacterial gel. If they test positive again, they must deal with the consequences of coming to the event under the influence.

"The screening didn't make me feel guilty or anything. Maybe if I had something to hide, it would've



photo courtesy of Lauren Kienzle '07

**Many feel the dances have been more enjoyable since mandatory alcohol testing was begun.**

I thought it was easy," stated Cristina Quintana '08.

In the days before the breathalyzer tests, authorities had to send dozens of students home for outward public drunkenness. The

people who weren't visibly intoxicated slid under the radar. However, the past three dances where the breathalyzer has been used have shown visible results. There was only one true positive testing between the Winter Twilight, Junior and Senior Prom.

"We aren't dumb. We know that students will find ways to do what they want, but that doesn't change the fact that underage drinking is illegal. If they get caught, there are going to be some pretty stiff costs," said 11-12 Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf.

In the past, students found to be intoxicated at a dance or school event would have only been suspended for between five and ten days, and be susceptible to screenings for up to ninety days after the testing.

"Students weighed out the risk for themselves. Students were still making the wrong choice and coming to events intoxicated. We had no choice but to raise the consequences. We [school administration] would hate to think that this fun day would become a blight on the students memories," said Bollendorf.

Now, if seniors test positive for alcohol at the prom, in addition to being suspended, they are not allowed to walk at graduation. Underclassmen that test positive will not be allowed to attend their dance or any formal event for the next year.

"We are doing a lot here to help the kids make the right decision," Bollendorf declared.

# DECA sends six to Nationals

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Behind every Grilled Cheese Man t-shirt, every wing eaten in March, and every crazy student insisting that you need Township socks, there's an association filled with dedicated students whose hard work makes it all happen.

The association is DECA - a professional association for students studying marketing, business management, entrepreneurship, finance and hospitality.

This year, DECA had an extremely successful year, landing six of its members in the national competition held in Orlando, Florida.

From April 28 to March 1, they took part in a series of written tests and role-plays that examined their ability to think on their feet in solving certain marketing dilemmas.

"The tests are common business sense," stated Jessica McBride '08, who advanced to Nationals this year in the Apparel & Accessories Marketing category, "But the role-plays can be nerve-racking when presenting in front of the judge. Confidence is key."

While some DECA members performed skits, others attended leadership conferences after completing the requirements for a



photo courtesy of Mrs. Olivo

**Representing WTHS in Orlando, Florida were (standing) Jessica McBride, Bill Bradley, Kristen Abdallah, Caitlyn Chew (kneeling) Anthony Antinore and Doreen Mankus.**

certain project.

Doreen Mankus '08, who also moved forward to Nationals explained, "I participated in the FC2 project with Kristen [Abdallah '08]. We wrote a 5 page manual and raised \$1,000 for pediatric oncology."

"Doreen and I held a pretzel fundraiser for about a week after school to help raise the money," added Abdallah, who reached Nationals for the 2nd time this year.

Advancing to Nationals is the result of determination and

commitment. Participants must place in the top seventeen in Regionals to make it to States, then the top three in States continue to Nationals. From Regionals to States to Nationals, the number of WTHS DECA members narrowed from 130 to 72 to six.

At States, held Feb. 25-27 at the Cherry Hill Crowne Plaza, "The other delegates presented a lot of competition," stated McBride. "Scoring higher than some of those students was a great personal

See DECA p. 5

# Sports

## Boys Lacrosse finishes season strong

Mike Mellace '07

The WTHS Boys' lacrosse team had a very respectable, progressive season of play; despite a rocky start created by a tough schedule and a young team. However, the varsity squad was able to come together and earn an even record over the course of the season, finishing the year at 9-9.

The season opener was a true nail biter against Clearview, with the Pioneers slipping by the Minutemen with a one goal win. Cherokee and powerhouse Eastern were also able to defeat the Minutemen in the early season by just a couple of goals, leaving the team with much ground to make up to reach the playoffs.

The first half of the season seemed to follow the pattern that losses the team sustained were by very few goals and to teams higher ranked than them.

Conference rivals such as Cherokee, Eastern, and Lenape made up a bulk of the schedule, which made it a rough ride for the Minutemen all season. For a time, the season looked bleak and a losing record seemed to be

the only thing awaiting the Minutemen at the finish.

When the team was pushed into a must-win situation to pull their record back to the .500 percentage mark, the Minutemen came out fighting. However, teams like Lenape and Holy Cross still stood in the way. Thanks to solid coaching and hard work of the players, the squad was able to pull out an upset against Lenape, which was the turning point of the season. From that point in the year, they went on a rampage, ripping off a six-game winning streak that put them into the playoffs.

Bridgewater-Raritan was the team to beat for the first round of sate playoffs. The high-ranked and respected team from North Jersey truly tested the young Minutemen. The first quarter of the game went very well with a one to one game. It looked as if Bridgewater had underestimated the Minutemen, however, they soon realized that the game would be a battle.

The stellar defense had kept it a close game even through the second quarter with the Panthers leading



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**Steve Orsini '10 gave the Minutemen a promising peek at what's still to come in the team's future**

only by two at halftime; a very impressive score line. The final score however was 7-2 which it pretty good for play a team of that caliber. The two goals were scored by Captain midfielder Tony Verchio who had an impressive game he was the MVP winner of the 2007 season.

Along with the defenders who kept the final score to less than two a

quarter, and goalie Lane Zierter played a phenomenal game.

The assistant coach of Farleigh Dickinson and a Rutgers Lacrosse coach were at the game. These two people e-mailed the head Coach Steve Arata and told them that the minutemen were the best south jersey team they have seen that year and were well coached. The e-mail from FDU also said that they did not realize the prospect they were receiving next year, Keith Schmidt.

The season did not seem to be getting off to a good start or finish but the team pulled together and made the tournament, thanks to coaches Steve Arata and Bruce Jones.

The key players such as Kevin Smith, who broke the one-hundred goal plateau, a huge feat, made the season a good one. Matt Cutrufello also was there playing a key part in the attack. Senior Midfielders such as Tyler Shoyer and Ryan Kinch controlled the middle of the field. The defense was the best this year in a long time led by seniors Scott Gardner, Keith Schmidt, and Mike Mellace.

All in all the season went well and the next year looks hopeful.

## Young tennis team dominates tough schedule

A.J. Nisbet '08

With a final record of 14-4, the Washington Township recently locked up 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Olympic Conference Division. While the team had a very successful season, the very talented Cherry Hill East was able to notch first in the division.

Throughout the season the team has accomplished many things, along with many individuals on the team. This year, earlier in the season the team won the Cumberland Classic tournament. Also this year, freshman Wesley Eldridge '10 won *Courier Post* player of the week.

Unlike most high school sports where most of the varsity team is part of the senior class, this year on the tennis team the bulk of the team were juniors, along with some sophomores and a freshman, looking to take party



A.J. Nisbet '08/The Patriot

**Chris Penza '08 had a strong season of 20-8 at the 2nd Singles position**

in three more years of WTHS tennis. This year's team was led by Corey Eldridge '08, taking the number one spot on the team. Following Eldridge was junior, Chris Penza, who also had a very successful season. Over the course of the year, Penza went

20-8, helping the team win numerous matches.

The team's top doubles pairing of Richie Elles '08 and Justin Bernardo '09, came up big with a final record of 17-5. Along with skilled second doubles team Kevin Leach '08 and Joe McChesney '09, the Minutemen tennis team had considerable threat outside of the singles positions, helping to carry them to victory.

Despite having a packed schedule in the home stretch of the season, the team was able to overcome and end a successful season on a good note beating Eastern five matches to zero. At one point during the season, the Minutemen played eight matches in ten days, with a tournament on the weekend in between. The team completed the grueling two weeks with an astounding 7-1 record and a

second place finish in the Gloucester County Times Tournament.

The expectations for the season were not as high as years past due to the inexperience at the varsity level. Because the team had no seniors in the top seven over the season, the entire Minutemen tennis squad will be back next year for what will be for many, their final season.

The team surpassed their goals in all aspects over the course of the season, earning a split with conference rivals Lenape and Cherokee, while taking both matches against rival Eastern, something that hasn't been done in over five years. With the summer fast approaching, the Minutemen look to train for next season, and with the young talent, dominating in both conference and tournament seems like a very real possibility.

# Shrek delivers expected charm, humor

Erin McFadden '07

This May, Mike Myers returned to the big screen as the voice of the smelly but lovable ogre in Dreamworks' *Shrek the Third*. This new installment of the hugely popular series—advertised as packing more star power, action, and laughs as the previous two films—meets its quota but struggles to truly impress an eager audience.

The story picks up with Shrek and Fiona (Cameron Diaz) still seeking their ogre version of happily-ever-after, but they are stuck in Far Far Away filling in for the King Harold (John Cleese). When the king—in frog form—finally “croaks,” Shrek is named heir to the throne, but all he wants is to peacefully return to his swamp.

The ogre sees his chance when, in his final breath, the king reveals to Shrek that there is one other possible heir, named Arthur (Justin Timberlake). As Shrek sets off with loyal pals Puss and Donkey, Shrek receives another life-changing piece of news—he will soon be the father of a litter of baby ogres.

In Shrek's absence, a vengeful Prince Charming (Rupert Everett) seeks to steal the throne of Far, Far



**Shrek the Third returns the star-studded roster of celebrity vocal talent from the first two films, along with some all-star additions.**

Away after enlisting the help of exiled fairy tale villains. Fiona and a posse of usually prim and proper princesses are forced to stand up and fight for their kingdom.

Now that's a lot of subplot.

And this unnecessarily complicated storyline requires a lot of exposition that limits the amount of time *Shrek the Third* is actually required to be exciting and funny. The movie does have enough amusing references, antics, and jokes

to keep the audience entertained, but this latest installment differs from the first two Shrek films in that comedy seems to have taken a back seat. The funniest moments in the film have long been revealed in trailers and other promotional features.

*Shrek the Third* has been anticipated not only for its laughs, but also for its star-studded cast. While Myers, Diaz, Eddie Murphy, and Antonio Banderas skillfully

return to their recurring roles, much hype has surrounded the addition of pop star Justin Timberlake, who took on the role of Artie. His voice lends itself well to an awkward teenager turned king, but, unfortunately for Timberlake, his lines aren't funny and the character of Artie has more annoying moments than comic.

In addition to J.T. in a leading role, other celebrities have been advertised as bringing their comedic talents to the film. But fans of *Saturday Night Live*, *The Office*, and *Monty Python* expecting to hear the voices of their favorite actors and comedians will have to listen closely. Many of the roles filled by actors like Eric Idle, John Krasinski, and Maya Rudolph seem to have been created entirely for the purpose of celebrity cameos, giving their characters no purpose and little opportunity for humor.

While *Shrek the Third* has its downfalls from a grown-up point of view, it will understandably remain a great success in the Shrek franchise. It is a cute, funny, enjoyable kids' movie.

Audience members who enter the theater expecting only that will not be let down too severely.

# Second effort stirs storm of interest

Amanda Burghart '09

Fairly new on the music scene, Catherine Feeny's beautiful vocals, captivating lyrics and simple instrumentals create a fresh sound for the upcoming season.

Her second and most recent album, *Hurricane Glass* (2006) has been making waves and drawing attention.

Folk-pop seems to be the perfect genre for the breezy summer months to come, and Feeny is flawless in mixing the relaxing with the upbeat, the intimate with the amusing and the quiet with the clutching.

The variation between songs makes this album feel like a series of stories, each with vast differences but all retaining that one sound that makes Feeny unique.

Perhaps the most noteworthy song on the album is *Mr. Blue*. Feeny is able to show off her voice against

simple lyrics and guitar. Not only is this song recognized and enjoyed by fans of Feeny, but the track was picked up by the makers of the recent film *Running with Scissors* and appeared in the movie and on the soundtrack. Placed towards the beginning of the album following *Touch Back Down*, *Mr. Blue* pulls listeners in and leaves them wanting more.

Track three, *I Still Don't Believe You* produces the same remarkable sound as the other tracks, but with a different tone and atmosphere. The same sweet sadness remains but Feeny's pure, hopeful lyrics give the song such honesty. “All the mistakes we made were like the work of a child and I know we would grow wiser if we'd just let it age a while”.

Without losing speed, the album continues to impress with the next song. With *Always Tonight*, Feeny melds upbeat happiness and intelligence and creates a nice a sound



**Feeny's captivating vocals and instrumentals make for a sound like no other**

with just enough meaning and thought. Easy to sing along to and enjoy, *Always Tonight* puts faith in the listener with its lyrics and the playful mood is easy to appreciate.

The last notable track is *Radar*, the sixth song on the album with the most beautiful sound to come from Feeny on *Hurricane Glass*. With a personal feel and

truly effective lyrics Feeny hits it out of the park yet again. “The spaceman, spaceman, spends his time a-racing. Chasing star-dust a million miles away and when his air runs out he'll have to turn around or he'll fall all the way down to the ground. You can leave me in orbit till I'm nothing more than the ones the radars lost, on the ground.”

With each album Catherine Feeny grows more talented and more memorable. Any new listener would be blown away by the music she has to offer and would find it worthwhile to try out. Feeny should not be written off before having been given a listen.

# Peaches and cream

## 4-H fair showcases county farming's best

Katie Mount '09

This summer, Gloucester County will be hosting its annual 4-H Fair. The fair will take place July 26-29, at the 4-H Fairgrounds in Mullica Hill.

The fair is a way to commemorate the accomplishments of 4-H members, who have worked all year in a variety of programs. From barnyard animals to peaches, this event has it all.

“What I love most about the fair is that they have such a variety of events,” Lisa Mudrowsky '09, an annual visitor of the fair, said. “There's something for everyone to enjoy.”

One of the largest portions of the 4-H Fair is the display of animals. Within the 4-H, there are organizations that focus on a particular animal. The members of those organizations participate in learning how to present and take care of their animals.

Some of the animals of choice are: rabbits, goats, dairy cows, reptiles, and even dogs. At the fair, each animal class has their own competition. The competitions are open for all visitors to view.

“The fair is important to me because it is the time when I'm finally able to show everyone how hard I've been working,” Caitlin Oliver '09, a member of the dairy club, stated.

With such a display of animals, it's easy for visitors to fall in love with some of them. Many of the



[www.gloucester.rcrc.rutgers.edu/fairfest/](http://www.gloucester.rcrc.rutgers.edu/fairfest/)

**The Commercial Peach Pak competition display at the 2005 4-H Fair.**

smaller animals, such as rabbits, are sold. So for those who are looking for a pet, the 4-H Fair is a great place to consider.

One of the favorite activities of the fair is the pig racing. The pig racing takes place every day, several times a day. Four pigs are chosen, and placed into a circular ring. The crowd is then divided into four sections. These sections signify for which pig the crowd is rooting. The announcers work to get the crowd pumped up, and then the pigs are released for the race.

If viewing animal competitions is not your cup of tea, then there are many other activities you may enjoy. For example, the New Jersey Peach Festival coincides with the 4-H Fair. One of the most popular events

is the peach competitions. After a strenuous round of judging, the owner of the best box of peaches is awarded with the New Jersey Governor's Cup.

There is also the New Jersey Peach Queen Pageant. Many hopefuls sign up to win the coveted title of NJ

Peach Queen. The competition is divided into multiple sections, such as talent and formal.

“The [New Jersey Peach Queen] competition is really fun.” Kimberly Eachus, a former winner of the title, said, “Many of the people, who come to the fair, love watching the pageant.”

As you can see, there are many activities that a guest could enjoy at the fair. If you'd like to find out more, stop on down at the fair this July. For directions check the web at, [www.gloucester.rcrc.rutgers.edu/fairfest/](http://www.gloucester.rcrc.rutgers.edu/fairfest/)

“I would definitely recommend people to come out and take part in the activities that the fair has to offer,” Athena Katinos '09 stated, “You'll learn a lot and it's a lot of fun.”

# DECA teaches members lifelong skills

**From DECA p. 4**  
accomplishment,” said McBride, “My goal this year was to make it to nationals, and I did it.”

“Winning even comes down to the little things,” stated Bill Bradley '07, DECA President who advanced to Nationals for the 2nd time this year. “Knowing your marketing terms, using the most of your prep time, giving a good handshake, and maintaining eye contact can make a huge difference.”

Mrs. Olivo, DECA advisor, stated, “I love seeing them succeed in competitions. I am very proud of

all of them.”

When members aren't battling with hundreds of students nationwide, they are making differences in the school, as well as in others' lives.

“We do a lot of marketing products, a s well as community service throughout the year,” stated Olivo.

“DECA is responsible for the school store, and we run March Madness,” said Bradley. “DECA sponsors the creation of different t-shirts, socks, and other items throughout the year. Then we sell them and the money goes back to

DECA.”

As for giving back to the community, “DECA partakes in Veteran's Park Clean-up, Festival of Friends, Adopt-A-Family, and visiting the Senior Care Center,” said Olivo, “We have even started Project “WT” in which we will design the new landscaping by the 11-12 wing and maintain it.”

“The skills you learn in DECA don't just help you in the business world,” stated Bradley, “You learn how to communicate well, and other life skills that apply to any major you will pursue.”

# Carr performs in all-star band

Erin McFadden '07

The WTHS music department is one that frequent receives accolades for its outstanding ensembles, but there are occasionally individuals whose talent is so great that they are personally recognized. This year, one such musician is percussionist Eric Carr '07, who was selected to perform with the All Eastern Orchestra and Band. On March 11, Carr and other top musicians from twelve East Coast states performed a concert on March 11 in Hartford, Connecticut.

The days spent in Hartford provide a great musical experience for those involved, allowing the musicians time with their equally impressive peers.

“Meeting people there is fun,” said Carr of his time with the ensemble. “You can meet some of the best musicians on the East Coast.”

Those performing in the Band were chosen from a pool of applicants from All State Bands; Carr has been participating in New Jersey's since his sophomore year.

“You fill out a résumé, and they decide from the best,” explained Carr of the selection process. “I really wanted to do it.”

He was soon sent the music to be performed a for personal review and traveled to Hartford March 8 for four days of eight hours rehearsals under the direction of Edward Cumming of the Hartford Symphony Orchestra.

Carr's plans to continue use his vast range of musical experiences and talent in the future. He will attend Rowan University in the fall to pursue a career in music education.

Carr has been involved in Washington Township Schools' music programs for the past eight years playing timpani, snare, and many other percussion instruments in various ensembles. Carr currently contributes to WTHS's Wind Ensemble, Marching Band, Indoor Percussion Ensemble, and Jazz Band.

Though the school has given Carr a forum in which to exercise his talents, band director Mr. Jim Beyer takes no credit for his student's success.

“It's really a reflection on Eric,” Beyer said. “He's an excellent musician.”

# Emmys cast spotlight on tele-com

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

On Apr. 26, *Monthly Rewind* attended the Mid-Atlantic Emmy Awards at Temple University, a regional section of the National Student Television Awards for Excellence created to congratulate young filmmakers and encourage their future work.

*Rewind* came home with three major awards.

The entire *Rewind* cast was presented with the inaugural Jerry Trently Prize for overall achievement. Individually, Eric Swiecinski was given an award for outstanding work in Technical Achievement and Michelle Scott received the Outstanding Achievement in the News Category.

Advisor Marty Bouchard said, "They all do great work. I'd like to say I was surprised, but I knew they had a good chance of winning because

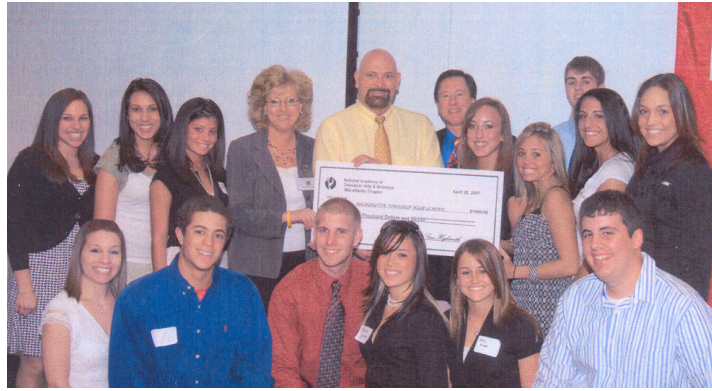


photo courtesy of Ms. Jan Giel

**Mr. Bouchard and *Monthly Rewind* receive their prize.**

they're really great."

WTSH was the first school to receive the Trently Prize, dedicated to the career of local broadcaster Jerry Trently. The Prize came with a \$1000 check for future television program or equipment needs.

"It came as no shock...their work has been excellent across the

world. It is my belief that the Emmy is reflective of stellar work throughout the season," said Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf.

Swiecinski's first Mailtime piece of the season, "The Race" brought him his award in Technical Achievement. The segment was a

piece of stop-motion and editing genius as Swiecinski raced through the halls of the high school against fellow *Rewinder*, Jon Shields '07.

Swiecinski said, "It's definitely nice when people say they like your work, but when an outside and unbiased party tells you the same thing—let alone the Emmy's—that's even cooler."

This award was judged on technical skill as well as concept and creativity, so it came as little shock to fellow students that his piece received a prize.

Scott said, "He's so technically brilliant. There are so few people that you meet who you know will excel in their field and he's so amazing that I expect no less."

Scott's award for News came from her segment on Model U.N. which aired on the January edition of *Monthly Rewind*.

"When I heard my name, I was surprised," said Scott, "But it was even better because I was surrounded by fellow *Rewinders* who were so excited for me."

Bollendorf said, "Michelle has a certain sophistication and intelligence to her work. She has a flair for the dramatic and is able to focus on things that others may not think to talk about."

Scott admits, "It was a great way to cap off an awesome year."

# Sophomores step out

Margaret Bonanni '09

On Mar. 30, the sophomore class was treated to a day of enjoyment. They started off their day with a two hour March Madness assembly where they competed against the freshman class. During their lunch periods they got to pick up their preordered class rings. Finally, they got to go home after having thirty minute periods to get ready for one of the biggest event of the year; The Sophomore Dance.

"The [sophomore] dance is one of the biggest events of the year that everyone looks forward to, and anticipates for weeks," said Kate Nawoyski '09.

The dance was coordinated, and run by the Sophomore Class Council. They not only picked the colors for the dance, and the decorations, but got to select the menu. Furthermore, they sold tickets to students for three days after school. It also fell upon them to select the favors that would be given out at the end of the night.

"Getting everything together was hectic, and a lot of work, but it felt amazing to see everything come together the night of the dance," commented council member David Samsel '09.

Although the dance was held in the 9/10 gym, the food for the dance was served separately in the Auxiliary Gym next door. There, the food was laid out neatly in a buffet style, with servers for each entrée and dessert.

The menu for the night was catered by Washington Township Food Services. To start the night off, appetizers such as fresh fruit, chips and dip, and pretzels were served. An assortment of entrees including freshly made hoagies, mozzarella sticks, chicken, and Mexican quesadillas were served along with refreshments. For dessert, students were able to make their own sundaes, with choice of ice cream and toppings; cookies and other pastries were also available.

"The food was good, and there was more than at last year's dance. I especially liked the way the desserts were served," said Desiree Trzaska '09.

Another aspect of the dance that students enjoyed was the music. This year the music was supplied by WTSH graduate DJ Danny Rozmes '06. Not only was the music varied with selections from rap, hip hop, country, rock, and techno, but the selections kept the crowd dancing.

"I loved how there was a variety, so that people who had different tastes could dance to music they enjoyed and

be satisfied," Said Katie Mount '09.

Overall, the dance was a night to remember. Students left the dance with a picture frame favor, along with the memories that would last a lifetime.

"The dance was unforgettable, and was made even more fun by being there with my friends," said Christina Culley.

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## Classic Television

# Buffy staked out new vampire territory

Keith Ingis '07

Buffy the Vampire Slayer was one of the most unique television series in recent years. It truly became a cult phenomenon, rising to incredible heights of popularity for audiences and critics alike. The show entered the mainstream of popular culture and its influence will last quite a while. The show aired from March 10, 1997 until May 20, 2003 on the relatively new WB. It clearly was the most successful series to run on that network, which ceased operations on Sept. 17, 2006.

The plot of the series centered on the adventures of a seemingly typical California teenage girl, Buffy Anne Summers, played by the endearing Sarah Michelle Gellar, who was chosen by fate to battle against vampires, demons, and other creatures while trying to maintain some semblance of a normal teenage existence. Surrounded by a loyal circle of friends, Buffy continually saves the world as a true superhero. In doing so, Buffy struggles to balance her responsibilities as a

vampire slayer with her teenage social life.

Writer-producer Joss Whedon created the show to be a contrast to the standard Hollywood formula of the cute blond girl who is victimized in every horror film. He wanted to create a likable female superhero. He originated the concept in the movie of the same name, with Buffy played by Kristy Swanson. Whedon then developed the Buffy concept into a long-running/successful television series. Later, the show joined the short list of other successful TV shows such as *MASH* and *The Odd Couple* which went to become exceedingly more popular than the feature film that gave birth to their concept.

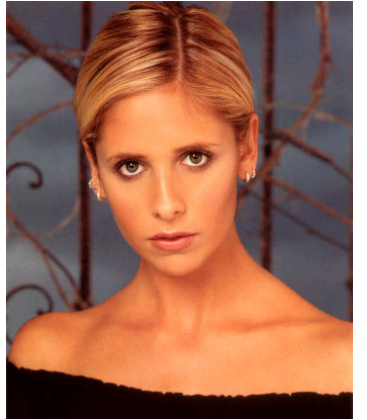
Buffy is told in a serialized format, with each episode involving a self-contained story while contributing to a much larger continuing storyline. In the world of Buffy, the problems faced by teenagers become literal monsters. Thus, a mother can take over her daughter's life, and a girl who has sex with a seemingly nice guy may discover he is really a monster.

During the first year of the series, Whedon described his show as "My So-Called Life meets *The X-Files*." The former series gave a sympathetic portrayal of teen angst, while the latter series was renowned for its supernatural monster of the week.

Critics and commentators have characterized Buffy as "influential". It triggered the onset of similar shows with strong female characters who are forced to come to terms with their supernatural power or destiny while trying to maintain a normal life. In this genre, Buffy was a female version of the Clark Kent/Superman persona.

The series captured the imagination of the American public, leading to the publication of approximately 20 books and hundreds of articles examining the various themes of the show. Buffy became a frequent pop culture reference in video games, comics, and other television shows.

It also spawned a successful spinoff series in *Angel*, which continued the exploits of a vampire



**Gellar played Buffy for seven seasons.**

with a soul, who tries to amend for his sins against nature by serving the good of mankind.

Buffy earned an Emmy Award nomination for the 2000 episode "Hush", which featured an extended sequence with no dialogue. This was one example of the daring and innovative plotlines incorporated in the show.

All seven seasons are available on DVD plus season eight has just started to come out in comic form.

## Cable Television

# Detached Dexter balances good, evil

Rob Cavella '07

Showtime chalked one up against HBO this fall with their new forensic series *Dexter*. The show stars Emmy, Golden Globe-nominated actor Michael C. Hall (*Six Feet Under*) as Dexter Morgan, a blood splatter expert for the Miami police department. Judging from the star's occupation, the contents of the show may seem more disgusting than engaging, but the life of Dexter Morgan gets much more interesting and entertaining than just a day job.

Dexter is faced with a deep internal conflict that makes him so adept at his occupation. He feels no emotions whatsoever. After being trained by his foster father through childhood to be "normal", his whole life has been full of staged smiles and choreographed grief in order just to fit in with the world around him. He manages to act surprisingly normal, even with his rather large setback as

a human being.

He's in a relationship, and leads a surprisingly typical social life...almost. There's just one tiny problem with his nightlife. He spends a good portion of it killing people. It might be hard to believe, but he still manages to be one of the good guys.

With all the issues and annoyances that Dexter has to face because of his emotional non-existence, one strongly outweighs the rest: the sporadic urge to end life that has made him a serial killer by night. He uses the impulse in order to rid the city of dangerous criminals and



**Dexter deals out a twisted form of vigilante justice.**

As a replacement to the birds-eye view that's granted by many other shows, you get to experience the mayhem and mystery from inside the mind of Miami's favorite forensic expert.

You will not only learn about the murders and criminal activity that Dexter Morgan deals with everyday, but also the events and impediments that has made him the way he is. Throughout the show are flashbacks in his life that make the viewer better understand and feel closer to the main character and his point of view.

If *CSI* has lost the ability to hold your attention, *Dexter* may be the man that you want to see. The show takes a totally different angle than the typical cop shows that focus on "leads" and the developments of a case.

If you yearn to stray away from cop show cutouts, you can find *Dexter* on Showtime between 9-11 P.M. or through On Demand until the arrival of its sophomore season next fall.

# Weird Al pokes fun at new genre

Mike Nagle '07

In a world with many comedians, satirists, and clowns; only one man can constantly make a joke on anything in the world. Weird 'Al' Yankovic has delighted the hearts of millions with his off-beat humor. He makes quick work of his parodies, making it seem like he can create songs on the fly. With classics like 'Smells like Nirvana,' 'Amish Paradise,' and 'Dare to Be Stupid,' he has created a bench mark for comedy. Now he has released a new CD that dares to challenge his classics, and actually be better than the old Weird Al.

*Straight Outta Lynwood* has the R&B and Hip Hop theme all over the place. With many parodies of Usher, R. Kelly, and even Snoop Dogg. Although I am not a huge fan of this genre, Weird Al does make these songs fresh and inviting. Some of his best parodies come from non-rap areas, such as 'Canadian Idiot'. A great parody on Green Day, Al pokes fun at how we Americans perceive our neighbors to the North; and quite possibly offend them too. Another great parody is from the



Weird Al looking 'White and Nerdy' for his newest album, *Straight Outta Lynwood*; the 12th album of his career.

band of Cake called 'Virus Alert'. Showing us how many things could go wrong by pressing a bad email; Weird Al shows how ridiculous one song can get by a single premise.

But the core of this CD is some of the best material Weird Al has ever offered. Everyone knows the big hit 'White and Nerdy,' which is a great

rap about why nerds need to get more love than they should. Every lyric describes the perfect nerd in our society, and it's not too far-fetched to think that someone like this exists. Al used to be known for his great polka-style music, and he brings back his old trademark in 'Polkarama!' No where can you find the songs like

'Beverly Hills,' 'Feel Good INC.,' and 'Drop It like It's Hot' all on one catchy song. There is also a parody of R. Kelly's classic 'Trapped in the Closet'. This ten minute song, called 'Trapped in the Drive-Thru' tells a mundane story about a husband and wife threw the turmoils of a fast food drive-thru. Finally, my personal favorite of the CD is 'Don't Download This Song,' which is a great parody of the huge televangelist songs back in the eighties. You feel like singing along while the song goes into a rant on why artists need more money than they should.

I have all the CD's Weird Al has made over the years. But none are as great as this entire CD. Not knocking on any of his old and classic material, I just felt that this CD had twelve great songs. Not only that, but you get a whole DVD extra where you can watch the also great music videos of the songs. Except for 'White and Nerdy,' which was a disappointment that he didn't add to this wonderful CD. Overall, I highly recommend buying this album, because you will find no better comedy music out there today.

*Rock Across the Sea* by Stephanie Foran '08

# Vocalist finds home in spotlight

In Japan, the name Gackt is synonymous with the word 'superstar'. This man is by far the most popular artist in Japan today. With his ever changing style and use of meaningful lyrics in his songs, it's no wonder why girls and guys alike fawn over this musician.

Gackt's full name is Gackt Camui and he was born in Okinawa, Japan on July 4, though the exact year is unknown. Many claim that he was born in 1973. He has one younger brother and an older sister, which made it a little awkward growing up for Gackt since he was the middle child. He has also reported in many interviews that his father was a Jazz musician that played the trumpet, which could explain why he is so musically influenced.

At the age of fourteen, he started to play instruments that eventually led to his interest in contemporary rock. His musical career began as the drummer in

Cains:Feel. He was encouraged to sing lead and he started to take voice lessons, changing him into the phenomenon he is today.

In 1995, he was approached by the soon-to-be-famous Mana, to join Malice Mizer as the lead vocalist and pianist. Malice Mizer was a very popular Visual Kei band [Bands who dress in drag and wear elaborate make-up to please fans] who introduced the use of classical instruments and gothic fashion into the Japanese rock scene. With Gackt as their lead singer, Malice Mizer managed to secure a contract with a major record label.

However, the band slowly began to fall apart as their popularity increased. Gackt wanted to be known as more than the lead singer and began to write music for the band. His lyrics and songs were known as the "Romantic" period of Malice Mizer. Gackt left Malice Mizer in 1999, shortly after their last major single, 'Le Ciel'. They



After his disappearance, Gackt returns as an international rock sensation.

continued on with a new singer, Klahu until they disbanded in 2001.

Gackt disappeared from the media and the public limelight for eight months. After he emerged again,

Gackt made a solo album (titled *MARS*) and became an instant success. He has made eleven albums to date and he is also planning on releasing his single, *No ni Saku Hana no Yo Ni* on February 7, 2007.

His lyrics are often meaningful and heartfelt; for example, his hit 'Last Song' (translated) reads, "*Continuously falling sadness transforms into pure white snow ... I'm always looking at the sky above me ... Before this body disappears, I want to reach the wish I have now ... I want to hold you once more...*"

Gackt has also been a model for many magazines and written two books, *Moonchild: Requiem* and his autobiography, *Jihaku* in 2003. Gackt has proven to the world that he is everywhere, and he does not planning on leaving the spotlight anytime soon.

If you're interested in learning more about Gackt or his music, visit his official website, <http://www.dears.ne.jp/>

# Band closes year on high note

Laura Marder '07

On May 22 the Commerce Bank Arts Center was filled with the melodic sounds of the three Washington Township High School bands. They included Concert Band, Symphonic Band and Wind Ensemble. The bands are under the direction of the talented conductors Mr. James Beyer and Mr. Casey Corigliano.

Most years the bands allow a student teacher to come in and conduct a few selections. This year, to further her education Miss Danielle Precourt from the University of Delaware accompanied the band. She conducted the pieces she worked on in class. The students enjoyed working with her and were sad to say goodbye to her the night of the concert.

Beyer and Corigliano put a lot of thought into the pieces they select for the bands to perform.



photo courtesy of Jim Beyer

Wind Ensemble performing at the Spring Concert.

"I look at what I feel the band will enjoy, what the audience will enjoy and what will teach the band lessons on being better musicians as they practice it" said Beyer.

This year selections ranged from historic patriotic pieces to "Disney's Beauty and the Beast" and even a song consisting of mostly whistling.

"My favorite song to perform was 'Beauty and the Beast', because it had a variety of all the

songs from the movie and it brought me back to my childhood memories of watching the movie," said Emily McElvaine '07.

The arrangements kept the audience entertained.

Lou Palena '07 and Eric Carr '07 shared their outstanding musical talent with the audience during the Wind Ensemble performance. Carr performing a piece he wrote himself and Palena playing "Flight of the

Bumble Bee" with the accompaniment of the band.

After the concert the musicians all listened to a recording of the concert in their band class. Sometimes cringing and laughing at noticeable mistakes they made, sometimes smiling proudly when a section sounded remarkable. This post concert exercise makes the class part of the audience, clapping for soloists and sitting back and enjoying their hard work. It helps the class do better at their next concert because they notice what sounds good and what does not.

"Being in band has greatly added to my High School education and experiences, I have made so many friends and even met my boyfriend from it," said McElvaine. The band program has continued to improve over the years, getting new instruments and uniforms. This year the Symphonic band ordered new uniforms for all the girls.

"The long black gowns were a lot more modern and elegant than the puffy long skirts we had before," commented McElvaine.

Overall the band was very pleased with their presentation at the Spring concert. The audience seemed to be well as the seats were occupied by excited clapping parent's, friends and past band graduates. Some, who have been going to these bi-annual band concerts for many years have enjoyed seeing the kids grow up with the band program.

"The performance moves me to tears every time, the hard work and dedication the students and teachers put in is surely express through the beautiful music," said one parent.

"It was really great seeing friends who graduated supporting us at the concert, I talked to one and learned I was going to a college really close to him," said Victoria Byrd '07.

Many seniors were sad to stand up and be recognized at the last concert of their high school career. Many have been a part of the band for four years with the same teacher.

"Having the same teacher for all four years is really nice, it give you...a nice consistency in your high school career, I'm not alone when I say that I'll miss Mr. Beyer and his birthday presents, easy pop quizzes and intriguing personality," explained Byrd.

Stephanie Valentino '07

As the fourth marking period progresses, the seniors at Washington Township High School are becoming more excited for the event they have been waiting for the past four years—graduation. This ceremony is held in high schools all throughout the country, yet our school has an extra tradition for students to look forward to.

Because the night of graduation is supposed to be one of the most dangerous nights for high school students, the school hosts an event called Project Graduation. Project Graduation is an after-graduation party held for seniors to prevent them from engaging in certain activities, such as drinking and drugs, while providing the students with a safe, exciting place to be. It is filled with activities and games that last until morning. Typically, this event is held at "the Funplex" a.k.a. "the Falls" in Mount Laurel, but due to a change in management, this year it is being held indoors at Dave & Buster's Grand Sports Café at the

Franklin Mills Mall in Philadelphia.

"I think Dave & Busters is a great location for Project Graduation," says Sunny Sawhney, '07. "I believe the wide variety of choices will make it easy for people to find an activity they'll enjoy."

Immediately after graduation, students head toward buses and leave for Dave & Buster's, which will be closed to the public and open solely for Washington Township students and chaperones. They stay there until they return to the school at 5:00 the next morning. The event is drug and alcohol-free, making it a safe environment for everyone. It is funded by various means; tickets sold at high school events have raised money, as well as Township citizens and businesses. It is very successful in keeping graduating seniors from partaking in careless acts, such as drinking and driving, and there are many chaperones on the lookout to prevent any bad behavior.

"I think project graduation is a great event," states Kevin Seehouz, '07. It teaches students how to have

a good time without the use of drugs or alcohol."

The move from "The Falls" to Dave & Busters has been an upgrade. Dave & Busters offers many more activities for the seniors to enjoy, as well as food and beverages that start with a dinner buffet at night and switching to a breakfast table at 2:30 in the morning. Video games are available for unlimited play all night, as well as 18 bowling lanes, billiard tables, and shuffleboard. Best of all, the students will be protected from the dangers that are associated with graduation night by choosing to attend.

"I'm really looking forward to playing pool all night," Seehouz says. "The bowling sounds pretty fun too."

Although graduation is an exciting event, Project Graduation adds to the joy of that night by following up a solemn, rewarding ceremony with light, fun play. Project Graduation is the senior class's last chance to be together in one place. Students choosing to be there will enjoy their time together in safety.

# Pajama pants no dress code nightmare

Stephanie Valentino '07

Washington Township High School has always maintained a decent and respectable dress code. Students are allowed to wear comfortable, fashionable clothing, as long as they don't go over the top with revealing and inappropriate garments. This makes sense, as such garments may cause disruptions in classes and divert other students' attention. However, one dress code restriction simply doesn't fit in with the rest: the pajama pant.

Pajama pants are definitely not promiscuous in any way, shape, or form. They are usually large and conservative, as well as comfortable. Some even resemble sweatpants and can pass as normal clothing. They are not suggestive, yet the school has banned students from wearing them. This, to me, is ridiculous. Why put a ban on comfortable clothing? Yet the school enforces this rule with full force; many students innocently walking through the halls are often stopped and attacked due to a pair of pants. However, being yelled at is small compared to the consequences; students caught usually receive an internal suspension.

Suspension is a big deal. It is a necessary measure for those who are disruptive or act out in classes. However, doing absolutely nothing but wearing a pair of pants is surely not worth getting an internal for. The school treats it way too seriously. Pajama pants simply do not inspire commotions in school. Many students, no matter how good they are, have had marks on their record for a small infraction.

It's time we stop the madness and just let it go.

# Marijuana's medicinal uses

Steph Brettman '07

For centuries, cannabis (also known as marijuana) has been known for its medical healing abilities. Yet it is a plant that is illegal on American soil. Pot eases pain, stops nausea, helps improve appetite, settles spastic muscles, and helps you relax. And it is also reasonably safe. Despite the press that emphasizes the ways marijuana can destroy your life, it's actually helping many people live theirs.

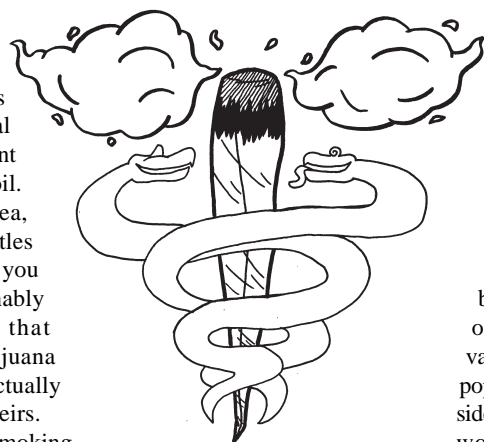
The risks involved in smoking marijuana are short term memory loss, increased risk of lung cancer, and a 'psychedelic' high. Still, many cancer patients smoke marijuana to ease the pain of chemotherapy. HIV/AIDS patients smoke pot to help gain back their appetite lost in their sickness.

"I worked in a big hospital in Chicago 20 yrs. ago," an anonymous source says, "We had a cancer patient with a private room who took THC pills to help ease the pain of chemo. He complained about how the pills never worked. Somehow, he had the herb smuggled into his room and we always knew when he was smoking because he'd call the nurses desk and order a pizza. All of the nurses and doctors knew about it. It was the only thing that helped."

Not only does marijuana help with chemo and AIDS, but it also relieves PMS symptoms, itching, insomnia, arthritis, depression, ADD, ringing in the ears, and is an effective treatment for glaucoma.

The bad reputation cannabis receives is from its recreational abuses. The government claims it is an addictive drug with no medicinal effects, but scientists have proved them wrong. From 1840 to 1900, American and European medical journals have published plenty of papers on the therapeutic uses of marijuana.

Pot contains over 60 unique constituents called cannabinoids, which are similar to endocannabinoids, which are naturally occurring chemicals in our body. These cannabinoids help make



Matt Johnson '07

marijuana the medicine it can be. Pharmaceutical companies are trying to isolate these chemicals for medicinal use. Already, there is a drug, Marinol that is supposed to be the harvested version of THC. The effects of the pill can take hours to kick in and the high produced by the pill is quite uncontrollable, making it uncomfortable and sometimes too intense. Yet with a

rolled joint, the patient can regulate their intake of THC with every hit. The effects are apparent within minutes. There is the one problem that some people find the marijuana smoke too harsh if they are not smokers.

Marijuana is an illegal drug in the US and other countries, but legal tobacco kills thousands of people each year. The use of valium, Prozac, and other pills are popular stress relievers in the US. The side effects of these are sometimes not worth the cost of expensive prescription drugs.

Scientific testing of marijuana uses poor quality cannabis so the full potential effects of the plant are not known. But the government regulates science's every move. Drug abusers have destroyed marijuana's medicinal reputation, giving the herb unwanted baggage with its name. With all its good qualities, we still downplay marijuana. Maybe it is time we start looking at what it can do to help us.

## The Patriot

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# Changing the shape of Metal

Steph Brettman '07

When it comes to creating new and interesting music, Poison the Well has never let their fans down.

Their new album is pumped with certain swampiness and a mysterious thought process thrown together in the brutal style that has been imitated by many bands in the years since PTW first emerged. Using more of a folk/country based influence on their new CD, *Versions*, they have once again proven their creative genius. Recorded Umeå, Sweden in Tonteknik Recording Studios, there is no hiding that PTW is taking one step ahead of the rest of society's materialistic metal bands.

They make use of interesting chords over appealing, complex drum beats and intriguing lyrics. The use of bluesy guitars, horns, banjos, and electronic effects is refreshing and new to the metal and hardcore music scenes. The recording quality on the CD is clear and precise, giving any listener the opportunity to hear every layer of the music. Driving into an uncharted, yet ground-breaking territory, *Versions* is one whopping phenomenon in the field of creativity. The first song on the album



Poison the Well brings a new sound to Metal

"Letter Thing" starts with a bang, and is also the first single. Dissonant guitar chords and manic drum beats make singer Jeff Moreira's vocals all the more intense. From then on, the CD doesn't lose any of its energy, soaring from beautiful singing parts to tough guy screams.

The third song on the CD, "Nagaina", another single, emphasizes the apparent country influence Poison the Well has inherited. Songs like "The Notches That Create Your Headpost", "Prematurio el Baby", and "Naive Monarch" prove that PTW still has the ability to rock out with a heavy tune. Yet, on the

# Rage Riot rocks local scene

Tom DeYoung '07

One of the few real hardcore punk bands that are local to our area actually comes from our town. The band Rage Riot formed in the last year claiming all rights to the hardcore punk genre. Not many bands around here play this type of music and play it well. Rage Riot specializes in fast tempo, in your face kind of hardcore punk.

The band has produced two CDs to date and plans to have many more. Their first self titled CD had eight hard hitting original songs. The cd itself was less than fifteen minutes but the music (for the genre) they play is great. The band members consist of Drew Levin, vocals, Dario Dinicola on bass, Eric Sacamono on guitar, and Steve Kazkahoski or K for those who cant

pronounce that on drums. Unfortunately, Drew Levin had to quit the band for becoming an active duty marine. The band has no problems that; they respect his decision and his service. Rage Riot's new CD was put out not too long ago and the new singer is Mike Murro. The new CD titled ("*Scum of the Earth*") consists of all new hard-pounding songs that everyone should check out.

The band is still fairly new and is still getting used to each other. They have as of now two CDs out and both were recorded in Washington Township by Mike Britt. Mike Britt did a wonderful job of producing both of these cds and he does a great job with everyone else he works with. Recently Rage Riot has been signed to a small record

label that their friend Bobby runs out of Virginia. The record label is called Headcount Records. Bobby has signed Rage Riot to produce a 7 inch which according to the band will be out early summer.

Rage Riot is a hard working band with lots of potential to do many things. This summer or winter they plan to do a tour. As of where the tour will be going or when it will take place is not announced yet but will be shortly. This band works hard on everything they do so they deserve the respect of everyone to at least listen one time. Rage Riot's only site to date is [www.myspace.com/rageriot](http://www.myspace.com/rageriot). Be on the look out for many things from South Jersey's newest hardcore punk band Rage Riot, they will be having new releases soon.

contrary, songs like "Riverside", "Slow Good Morning", and "You Will Not Be Welcomed" slow down the driving pace of the CD but still maintain the anxious emotion. Can we call it blues-core? Or is it hard rock? Guitarist and bassist Ryan

Primack has claimed that his interesting choices of instruments on the CD are not unexpected, but rather something the band has playing with for quite some time. On their previous CD, *You Come Before You*, elements of what went into creating *Versions* are subtle, yet significant.

This CD is by far Poison the Well's most diverse and refreshing. Originality and fascinating ideas are like a fluent language on *Versions*.

If this CD were released five years ago, it most likely would have been rejected by the world wide metal scene. Luckily for the band, today, fans are eating it up.

# Linkin Park's Minutes to Midnight

Alanna Pyle '10

On May 15 a new album by Linkin Park, *Minutes to Midnight* will be in stores across the U.S. This is good news for present Linkin Park fans who have been awaiting patiently for this day especially since it has been two to three years since their last album, *Collision Course* and the hit single "From The Inside". Ring Surf Reviews stated, "Linkin Park is one of the hottest bands in the music industry today." And many online stores expect it to be a huge sale. Amazon.com's editorial stated *Minutes to Midnight* is rock's most anticipated album of the year. This alum redefines one of today's most adventurous, accomplished and acclaimed bands." Accomplished is definitely the word to describe Linkin Park when it comes to their hit songs that seem to top the charts every time a new album comes out.

One of their most popular songs "Numb" debuted in March of 2003. This song was number one on both the Modern Rock and Mainstream charts. When people thought Linkin Park couldn't get much better they dished out a new top single "In the End" which made the Top 40 charts. They have also won many Grammy's throughout the years like Best Hard Rock Performance and Best Rap/Sung collaboration. They have also hit platinum many times over, especially their one album *Hybrid Theory* which had 10x platinum.

This album would be the longest ever album that Linkin Park has ever made running forty three minutes and twenty three seconds. They narrowed these songs down from the other one hundred that they had written and practiced that they weren't ready to commit to. Of the twelve songs released on this album, the other hit single "What I've Done" came out May 10.



## Apple opens “Windows” of opportunity

Rob Cavella '07

With the overpowering amount of Windows users in comparison to Mac lovers, a new technology by Apple can now literally bridge the gap between the Montagues and the Capulets of the computer world.

Apple has introduced the next level of computer capability as well as compatibility.

Welcome to Boot Camp.

Apple Boot Camp is a program developed by Apple to work with Mac OS X Tiger, the fifth generation of operating systems inside Macintosh computers.

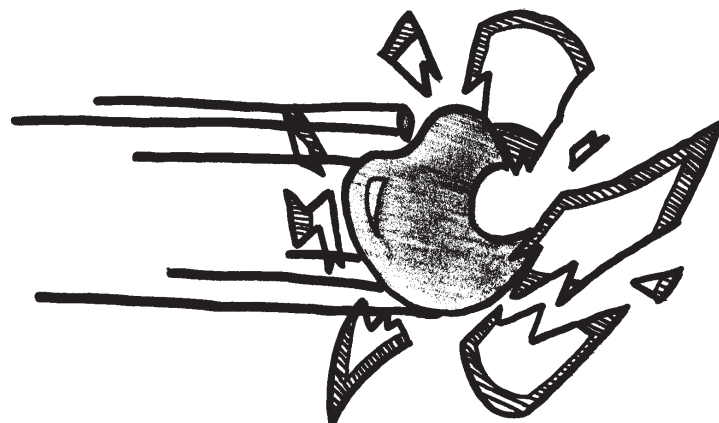
Apple's Tiger is a different kind of beast from its predecessors; boasting improved internal technologies, as well as a desktop dashboard and file sharing program named "Spotlight". While these great upgrades don't exactly change Tiger's stripes, its new roar is definitely something to rave over.

Boot Camp is a revolutionary piece of software that allows Macintosh computers to run the new Tiger operating system natively to a Windows operating system.

While this new software is astonishing, what really makes it all possible is the new decision that Apple made to switch to an Intel based processor. Because of Apple's big transition to Intel technology, an Apple computer has the ability to run Windows and a Mac OS separately on the same computer.

For those who have the desire to run both operating systems simultaneously as opposed to Boot Camp's dual boot set-up, a new program named "Parallels Desktop" lets you do just that.

As a slight annoyance for hardcore gamers, Parallels isn't able to keep up with the accelerated 3D graphics of many popular computer games. In addition, hardware support while using Parallel is anything but secure. Some hardware may work perfect, while other devices such as media card readers, scanners, web cams may not work perfectly, if at all.



Matt Johnson '07

With Apple Boot Camp, these technological roadblocks are non-existent. The convenience that is lost in having to boot each operating system separately is made up for with increased gaming performance and flawless hardware compatibility

over Parallels Desktop.

While comprehensive instructions are easily found online, the very basic way that Boot Camp works is that your Mac hard drive will "partition" or set apart a desired amount of disk space that will belong

to your Windows based operating system. A copy of the Windows operating system of your desire will then be needed to install within its special space.

After all necessary updates and windows "drivers" or components are installed; the user will ultimately be presented with the option of booting up their Mac operating system or newly acquired Windows platform.

Although harmony may likely never be achieved between the biggest of technological adversaries, the beginning of Boot Camp may help quiet the battle.

Only time will tell if the Apple's new Boot Camp software will be recognized as a compromise with Windows for increased productivity or a new breed of technological warfare.

## Cingular captures the spotlight

Matt Neuteboom '08

With technology progressing faster and faster these days, it is no wonder that our gadgets become more and more complex. The Cingular 8525, the first "smart" phone released here in the US, proves this point.

The 8525, also known as the HTC Hermes, is crammed with more functions than you will ever need.

Besides being a cell phone, the front is a mobile PC browser, functioning as a PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) which can play any type of media.

The side of the phone can slide out to reveal a small keyboard which will turn the screen from portrait to landscape so that the phone can be used as a miniature laptop.

Besides all this, the 8525 comes complete with Bluetooth, Wi-Fi, infrared, a mini-USB port, and a 2-megapixel camera.

All sides of the phone are filled with various buttons and switches, including a scroll wheel, which can



Image by Google

**Cingular 8525 shows off some of its dimensions.**

be used to access the various features of the phone. It even comes equipped with AIM.

All this functionality comes at a slight price, however. The 8525 measures about 4.4 x 2.2 x 0.8 inches and weighs at a hefty 6.2 ounces, so it certainly isn't compact. The Bluetooth may come in handy for those who are unwilling to hold it up to their ear for too long.

Amazon.com lists the smart

phone for \$149 with one of those annoying mail in rebates, so if you have the money it might be worth a look.

Considering what it can do, that's actually pretty cheap. Even at the price of a new iPod, it has not only the entire iPod's functions but tons more as well. If fits in your budget range, it might be worth taking a look at when you're thinking of upgrading your next cell phone.

## Casi-No! SparkNotes not cheating

Lillyan Ling '08

Rob Cavella '07

Philadelphia.

When you think of the city you tend to think of the drifting scent of cheese steaks and pretzels, of towering skyscrapers and of wilding fanatic herds of sports fans.

You picture Ben Franklin's smile behind round spectacles and the famous historical areas. You tend to think of a place rich in diversity, music halls, art and science museums, and theatres, and – casinos?

Well, that's what's being considered.

I think Philadelphia is trying too hard to be flashy like Atlantic City or Las Vegas when it can't and shouldn't need to. Philadelphia has its own personality, rich in traditional and cultural values, a place for artists of all types to roam around. Add in a pinch of gambling, the cliché form of the "ideal" nightlife, and the Picasso on the street gets shoved in the gutter.

Casinos aren't going to improve the individual lives that need help in this city either. Consider a lower-class family's situation and then place a casino next door to their home, or even worse, where their home now stands. Does it really help? Start risking your money and then you start risking your financial position. Then comes the other possible parts of it: alcohol, crime, maybe even suicide.

And what if Philadelphia becomes dependant on the casinos as a source of income? The gambling industry doesn't contain Philadelphia's interests at heart.

But despite these pragmatic economic setbacks, I just can't picture Philadelphia as a destination for those that want to play risky with their money for fun.

People come from everywhere around the world to set foot in this city for reasons that are more valuable than gambling, for reasons that we love that city right now: music, art, theatre, food, cultural diversity, history... this priceless list goes on. Placing casinos in the middle of it would ruin the very meaning of Philadelphia.

I bet old Ben wouldn't like it either. It just wouldn't be the Philadelphia you and I know.

It's an age-old belief that hard work is the key to success and that when you take shortcuts in life, your only cheating yourself. It should be obvious that when this principle was conceived Summer Reading tests, that all but created first marking period grades and reading checks twice a week, were not a part of the schooling system.

Many, if not most students in high school, will happily trade the logging of hours for reading to get a good grade for the expending of minutes to browse a summary of what matters in a book for a fairly decent grade. I can't figure out what's wrong with that. There's no dishonestly in making the choice to sacrifice a few points for more time on the rest of the workload that teachers will pile on.

Teachers may argue that using SparkNotes instead of doing the actual reading is the result of poor time management. I believe that using a

resource such as SparkNotes that undoubtedly saves you huge portions of time in your battle with homework every night is in fact a time management tool, not a by-product of procrastination.

It pains me to say that a lot of teachers somehow orchestrate the belief that using footnotes such as Sparknotes is some form of dishonesty or cheating. They will actually take the time to study SparkNotes like students do so that tests and reading checks are formatted so that people that depend on the online resource to get a decent grade will receive anything but. For the lack of a better term, that is just messed up.

Why should anyone be penalized for taking advantage of a resource at his or her disposal? It's not like students are plagiarizing work or copying answers by relying on heavily abridged versions of books. Using SparkNotes and copying work are by no means in the same boat; they're

not even in the same hemispheres. Many teachers still go out of their way to be sure that, like the copied words of others, what's taken from SparkNotes will not be beneficial to a student's grade.

Even still, educators can argue once more that taking advantage of footnotes instead of experiencing the value of an actual novel is really putting you at a disadvantage from an educational standpoint. This is actually a pretty decent potential debate (bring it on). "Real" reading undoubtedly improves your vocabulary and organizational thinking skills, but these are attributes that are targeted in school without having to read *Catcher in the Rye* or *Lord of the Flies*. Although they may be great novels, teachers need to take their eyes off the text and glance at the big picture. High school students are pressed for time as it is, and finding a way to save it shouldn't be considered an infringement of education.

Outside the box by Alyssa Figueroa '08

## Don't be misled by first impressions

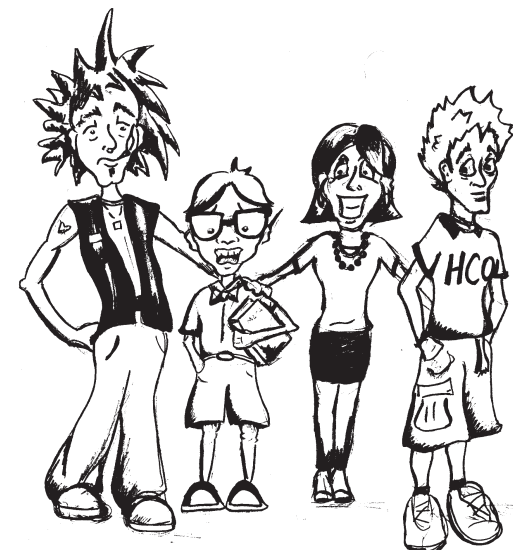
In less than five seconds you can form your impression of someone without having heard them say a word.

Everyone does it. Those first few thoughts that enter our mind when we get a swift glance of someone instinctively gives us a perception of the type of person they are.

Their appearance, gestures, body language. How they're dressed, their posture, their attitude. There are so many things that help us develop that impression of the stranger we pass in the hallway. But I truly think there is something *more* to it.

After contemplating for quite awhile, I realized that past experiences may have an affect on how you first see others. Most impressions are developed from a psychological process that quickly fabricates thoughts based on past memories or incidents. Just like the way I love the smell of bubblegum because it reminds me of my childhood.

For instance, when I first saw one of my good friends she seemed



Alex Parkin '08

nice, welcoming, friendly, but there was something about her that *bothered* me. Something that made me believe we could never be friends. Then it hit me.

The fact that she looked like another girl in my past that I didn't get along with completely altered my first impression of her.

Just think of what you first thought of your current best friends. Before I ever even spoke to my

current "crew," I *could just tell* one was a "nerd," one a "partier", then there was a "too moody," a "stuck-up", and a "way too shy." But the "nerd" was a "nerd" not because she wore glasses, or was hunched over from a huge backpack, but because she had the same haircut as the irritating book-worm in fifth grade, and so on.

However, I took the time to get to know them and they all became my best friends. First impressions are rarely, if ever, helpful in predicting who others truly are. Not liking someone because you "just don't" is ridiculous. People these days should spend way more time trying to get to know one another. It is definitely worthwhile making sure you didn't miss you're chance meeting someone wonderful, because of a silly, misinterpreted instinct.

# Reckless users cause MySpace dangers

Christina Schillaci '10

Everyone's heard the talk about the dangers of MySpace, but when it comes to safety issues, if you take the right precautions, it can lead to a safe, fun MySpace experience.

There are always going to be creeps and strangers on practically any website you go to. When parent's watch news shows about teenagers meeting dangerous predators, they aren't getting the entire story. The internet users who wind up as victims are the ones who leave their MySpace open for anyone in the world to see, and include in the page information such as their location, hang out spots, screen names, phone numbers, and

personal interests. There are many safety precautions a MySpace user can take when making a profile, and if you follow them, you can be positive you're safe from harm.

When making a profile, do not add any personal information. MySpace has over 100 million profiles, with 230,000 new members signing up each day. Each and every one of these millions of people have access to all your information with the click of a button.

Most teens wouldn't walk up to a stranger on the street and tell them their home address, so why do kids insist on doing exactly that on the internet? Make sure to set your profile to private—this way,

only the people you choose as your friends can view it.

As soon as you make a profile, Tom Anderson automatically becomes your first friend. He's one of the founders of MySpace, and should be deleted immediately since you will almost certainly never meet him. MySpace should be a place to keep in touch with friends you already have—not to make new ones. On MySpace, "friend" has a different meaning than a friend in real life. "Friend" means a person you want to pay attention to online. A teenager may want to be someone's friend so they can get access to a certain bulletin or blog.

Many teens fully accept complete strangers as their friends. This is what eventually leads to people meeting up outside of the internet realm. Associating with people you don't know could lead

you in to trouble. You should never trust internet profiles over the internet—there's no way to tell if the skateboarding boy you're talking to is really a forty-five year old pedophile.

If the right measures are taken, MySpace is a way for friends to stay in contact in a safe manner—to view profiles, blogs, and leave comments. Although the site may be fertile ground for unwanted strangers, if you set your profile to private, no one can view it unless they're hand selected. MySpace shouldn't be used to find new friends. It should be a way to keep in touch with the ones you already have—the ones whom you know personally.

If used as intended, MySpace can be fun and harmless, and the internet can function like the malls and burger shops of earlier generations.

# Time to reconsider field trip restrictions

Amy Goldberg '08

There are many types of field trips that allow students to travel and use hand-on learning skills. Yet the district has prohibited individual classrooms from going on field trips without permission. Personally, I feel that this takes away the hands-on experience that students receive through field trips.

I have been on many field trips throughout my eleven years of schooling. Many of the trips were for music and competitions, but even while at these events we were to write and critique other music ensembles that were at the same events for a grade. Trips let us hear other schools and think for ourselves about how we felt the groups sounded.

I can also remember the traditional field trip to the Franklin Institute in fifth grade as well as a school trip to the Aquarium in elementary school. Both sites are educational museums built for hands-on learning.

Yes, you can look at a human body model or a picture of a fish in the classroom or even watch a movie about it, but nothing beats the experience of seeing it first hand.

Yes, field trips do cost money,

but there are many ways to raise the money. Car washes, candy grams, special days (such as hat day, pajama day, etc), coin drops, and many more events could run to raise the money.

Also, if competitive groups are allowed to take trips (such as orchestra, band, chorus, Model UN, and sports teams), then why are certain classes not allowed to travel even once a year? The other organizations are competing for the school, but when the classes are on the trips, they are furthering their knowledge and expanding their minds and experiences. This makes the students more competitive on their own.

I think that field trips need to be brought back. Without the first-hand experience of the trips, students are being deprived of making decisions based on their own preception. A good example might be when learning about the Vietnam War in History class. An amazing, one day trip, could be to visit the memorial in Washington, D.C. The student not only would learn but would get the full emotional effect of the event.

Field trips do take away from other classes, but a day or two out of a year to further an education is worth it.

# V. Tech tragedy proves need for strict gun laws

Keith Ingis '07

Americans grieved collectively after the devastating tragedy at Virginia Tech. Alone gunman, college student Seung-Hui Cho, opened fire on his fellow students killing 33 people in all, including himself. Once again, just like eight short years ago with the infamous Columbine massacre, people searched for answers. How could this have happened? How could it have been avoided and how can we deter future incidents?

But there was no unified public outcry for gun control. There may have been some random rumblings, but the killings did not ignite the passionate debate over gun control one might have expected or wanted. No legislative initiatives followed.

Apparently, officials do not believe this volatile issue warrants further scrutiny. The pro-gun lobby has emerged victorious. As their slogan says, "guns don't kill people, people kill people." Surprisingly, gun control seems to be a dead issue in this country. Attempts to bring about national legislation after

Columbine failed miserably and there are no signs of resurrecting it.

"How many lives will it take till we know that too many people have died?" Bob Dylan asked that question over 40 years ago. The answer is still blowing in the wind. How tragic, how very sad, how very frightening!

Would tighter gun control laws have prevented the dreadful tragedies at Virginia Tech or Columbine or any of the other senseless mass shootings in this country? We'll never know. Some contend that the perpetrators would have found a way to obtain their weapons regardless of the strictness of gun laws. Either way, the current system simply doesn't work.

Clearly, if it were harder for Cho to have obtained weapons, he may very well have backed away from his sinister plot. And, while tighter gun laws may not prevent all the Chos they probably would deter some of them.

The time for action on gun control is now, before we have to once again grieve collectively, and ask why?

# Perlman's collection hits mark... overall

Amanda Burghart '09

Australian author Elliot Perlman's short story collection *The Reasons I Won't Be Coming*, is brimming with raw emotion and thought provoking situations. Each story - however new to the reader - is easy to relate to and each narrator realistic and likeable in his own right.

Perhaps the most impressive of the stories was *I Was Only in a Childish Way Connected to the Established Order* - a piece about love, longing, mild lunacy and obsession. In it, the author superbly illustrates a man who is desperate for affection, full of depth, and whose tragic downfall is his own mind and the way it operates.

With memorable minor characters and a voice that pulls you

in, this work of fiction was very difficult to put down.

Many notable literary elements that most authors are afraid to use make their appearances in this story. The repetition of certain memorable lines was especially affective in getting ideas across. Quoted throughout are lines of Russian Poet Osip Mandelstam's work. These references really add something to the story.

Even on its own, though, the short story is hard to put down. As the events unfold, it's difficult not to pity and fall in love with the main character. In the end there is no doubt that he is a hero, despite his many flaws and imperfections.

On the other end of the spectrum is *Manslaughter*. This is where it becomes evident that

Perlman can, in fact, get a bit too wordy and increasingly dull. Located inconveniently after the fairly boring title story, this piece is very near impossible to finish.

One of three or four stories filled with dull subject matter, *Manslaughter* rambles on for a painful 110 pages and could easily put the reader to sleep. After finishing off this story it was agonizing to pick up the book again, as it seemed as if there Perlman couldn't possibly redeem himself afterward.

Fortunately, there were better things to come.

One other piece to look forward to is *Spitalnic's Last Year*. While the story centers on a character that seems a bit pathetic and feeble at times, the emotions



were real and the events, which revolve around a young man's troubles in his life's relationships, were feasible. At thirty-four pages, I would not have minded more of a storyline. Perhaps the author could have used the wasted pages of *Manslaughter* to extend this account and further detail *Spitalnic's* experiences, possibly even adding a few more of the same nature. The story was satisfying as is, though, and placed the author back in high regard for me.

Overall, *The Reason's I Won't Be Coming*, composed of nine short stories, was a remarkable collection that explored human nature in its entirety. Perhaps the best stylistic choices were not always made, and there were times when I felt the book was too wordy or too formal, maybe lacking the ornate language I sometimes prefer. But in the end, I closed it feeling content and a little inspired. However, prospective readers might consider skipping a few of the stories, choosing which styles and voices are most appealing.

# Battling dark obsessions

Katie Mount '09

For years, I have relied on Amazon.com to offer some good book recommendations. So when *LoveSick* by Jake Coburn was continuously being suggested, I decided I would give it a try. I'm immensely glad that I did, because I found myself completely engrossed in this novel.

This story is all about a man, Charles Prakers, who takes over-protectiveness to a whole new level. Charles is the head of a very successful company, and is worth millions. He has an eighteen year old daughter, Erica, who suffers from severe bulimia. Erica's dream is to go to college, but Charles fears that stress will only worsen her condition. With the help of his business partner, Michael, they devised a plan to give Erica what she wanted, while keeping her safe. This is where Ted York is woven into the story.

At seventeen, Ted was granted an extremely generous scholarship to play basketball at a prestigious college. However, all of this was thrown away when he wrecked his knee while drunk driving. After cleaning up his act, Ted had trouble figuring out what to do with his life.

Then, Michael approached Ted

with an offer to pair for his college expenses, if Ted were to help him. He was to spy on Erica, and write a weekly email reporting on her condition. After a few days of skepticism, Ted accepts. What Charles and Michael didn't expect was that these two teenagers would fall in love.

Coburn's love story is certainly original. He did a superb job with making the characters three dimensional. He is gifted in the art of description, sometimes disturbingly so. For example, there is a scene where he writes about Erica making herself sick. The vivid image that was created was so unsettling that I felt like it was *I* who was vomiting.

Coburn offered a detailed insight on the obsession that Erica has. He writes, "...she remembered the young doctor at East Hampton Memorial asking what it felt like to binge and purge. She'd said she'd think about it and get back to him, but she'd known right away." She finds herself unable to describe the pleasure she derives from the act.

His description was very vivid,



and stuck with me the entire time I read. Whenever I would read about Erica being sick, I would instantly remember his description. Once again, Coburn's skills amazed me.

Another way he made the characters believable was through the dialogue. Erica has a very sarcastic sense of humor, and it shines in her conversations. Coburn seemed to always keep the individuals in character. And although the novel contains a lot harsh language, it's not hard for the reader to believe that two dysfunctional teenagers would use this type of vocabulary.

However, this aspect may cause a concern for readers. If someone is offended by such harsh language or graphic imagery, I would recommend they stay away from this novel.

All in all, *LoveSick* is a phenomenal read. It's not your average love story. Coburn took the stereotype of a lovey-dovey romance book, and shattered it into pieces. This novel will not disappoint, and will keep readers captivated up until the very last page.

Enter a beach read recommendation for a chance to win a \$10 certificate to Barnes & Noble. Entry slips are in the IMC.

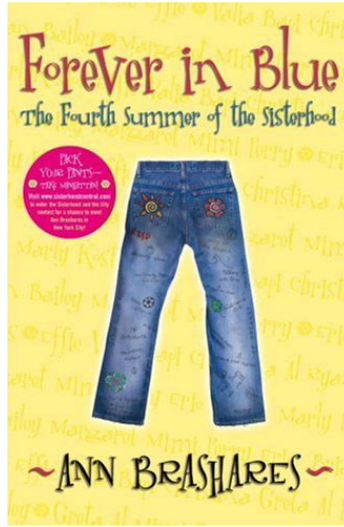
# Final *Sisterhood* book disappoints

Erin McFadden '07

The long-anticipated final installment of Ann Brashares's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* series, *Forever in Blue: The Fourth Summer of the Sisterhood*, has generated much excitement in the young adult section of book stores around the country. But to a long-time fan with big expectations, the novel may not live up to the hype.

The series chronicles the summer adventures of four teenaged girls—Lena, Bridget, Carmen, and Tibby—as they have their first experiences apart. The girls had been lifelong friends, bonding even further after the discovery of a pair of jeans that fit their very different bodies and personalities. They mail the mystical pair of pants between them during their travels to remind themselves of the love they have for each other as they grow up and grow apart.

In the three books chronicling the sisterhood's high school



*Forever in Blue* is the fourth installation in the *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* series.

summers, real girls across America have found a character to relate to. In most circles of friends, there is an athletic and flirty Bridget, a shy and romantic Lena, a rebellious and reclusive Tibby, and a stubborn and

strong Carmen. But in *Forever in Blue*, the four characters often find themselves lost, leaving them without the traits that made them lovable and relatable in the past.

*Forever in Blue* places the four main characters in the summer after their first year of college. After of school year's worth of separation, the girls have moved physically and emotionally farther apart from the sisterhood, as well as the people they were when it was formed.

Their behaviors during this summer are truly uncharacteristic. Bridget flies off to Turkey where she loses her reckless spirit, as Carmen loses her independence at theatre camp, Tibby shuts herself in a dorm room at a film class, and Lena takes a stab at taking chances while continuing her study of art.

The sense of confusion and isolation felt by the girls is probably representative of the feelings experienced by many young women as they adjust to college and life

away from the people who know and love them. It adds to the realism of the series, but having the girls question themselves so late in the game can be troublesome for readers who have grown attached to the strong women Bridget, Carmen, Tibby, and Lena have been in the past.

If Brashares's characters don't know who they are, where does that leave the real life girls who have related to them?

Upon finishing the book, fans may be just as confused and disappointed.

The conclusion of *Forever in Blue*, being the last novel in the series, brings the four together at the end of their traumatic summer. When the sisterhood is reunited, its members are reminded of who they are, who they have been, and where they are going.

It comes as a relief to the reader to see how they have returned to their roots, but the fact that it took three hundred and fifty pages for them to do so is more that a little disconcerting.

# Coming-of-age tale makes great summer read

Christina Schillaci '10

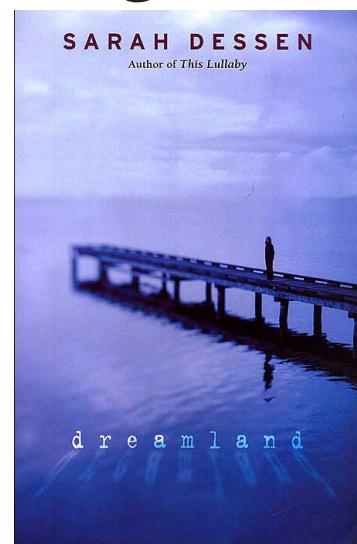
For a good by-the-pool read, Sarah Dessen's novels are the key to summer love and heartbreak. *Dreamland* takes you on a wild ride, following the life of a junior named Caitlyn, desperate to find her own path away from her older sister, Cass. This novel is all about finding yourself, and is beautifully written at that.

Caitlyn has always followed in her older sister's footsteps, but when Cass runs away, leaving behind her family and upcoming Yale, an opportunity arises for Caitlyn to find her own way in life. Caitlyn had been close to her sister, but she begins to wonder if that was the reason she wasn't on her own path. Cass left behind a journal for her younger sister, and as Caitlyn opens the first page, she can almost hear Cass whispering the words in her ear: "See you in dreamland."

Desperate to do something different, she joins the cheerleading

squad—something the athletic Cass would never even consider. Caitlyn absolutely hates it, but anything in new territory is a must to pull her away. But when she meets Rogerson, things seem to take a turn for the better—and life as Caitlyn knows it will never be the same. Rogerson is everything Cass isn't. He can be troublesome, with long brown dreadlocks and gentle green eyes. He's everything Caitlyn has ever wanted; he's something different. Rogerson is new, uncharted territory, and Caitlyn loves every minute of it. She begins to do drugs, also an attempt to bring herself away from the shadows of her older sister. Everything seems fine; she's in love with kind, protective Rogerson, and has found a friend in Corinna, one of Rogerson's customers to whom he sells pot. But what happens when the man she loves so much turns his fists on her every time he gets angry?

Slowly Caitlyn spirals downward into a dream land—she's out of favor on the cheerleading



Dessen's Caitlyn struggles to find her own way, instead of following her sister's path.

squad, giving in to drugs, and won't leave Rogerson, no matter how much he hurts her. There are so many women in her life—her mother, best friend, older sister, neighbor, and

mentor—but she won't turn to any of them out of embarrassment. She loves Rogerson; he's something different that she isn't willing to give up just yet. How far will she let him go?

Sarah Dessen is an amazing author who captures the problems of a teenage girl better than the "teenage help books" you might see. It's realistic and shows just what it is like for a girl to have an abusive boyfriend, and what it's like to go through something so terrifying. What starts out as the most innocent love can turn to terror in an instant. The reality of this novel is stunning and informative, a truly fantastic read. So next time you're heading to the pool, pick up *Dreamland* and bring it along. You won't be disappointed.

**Visit the IMC and sign out a book (and not just required summer reading) for the vacation.**

# Pushing young athletes to the limit

Every year you hear about sports parents getting too involved in their child's sports. Many parents are taking sports to the next level and driving kids away from the games they love to play.

Sports are supposed to be played because you love them, want to help a team win, and enjoy the company of the other people around you.

Today sports are about one thing and one thing only: winning! People think winning is the only option because that's what is enforced in the media and what everyone wants to see. In reality, you can have the best game of your life and still lose.

But, these days no one cares about you unless you are winning, or until you make a lasting

impression on them. Sports are not what they used to be, and they need to change because nothing good is coming out of what is happening now.

As an athlete myself I have experienced all of the pressure sports puts on you especially when you are a young kid. You are always being pushed and pushed until you reach your limit and can't go any farther.

Sometimes being pushed too fast to your limit is not a good thing. I see kids quitting everyday because

they were either sick of the pressure or pushed too much by their parents or coaches.

You're supposed to play the games because you love them, not because you are forced to love it. You have to love it to play it.

Sports should go back to the way they used to be or no one is going to want to play sports. No one is going to enjoy the game they once loved to play.

-Alyssa Maiese '07

# Live and let live

There have always been rumors that high school girls are catty, and they gossip about other people like there's no tomorrow. I can't quite figure out why it is. Experts use the theory that bullies are insecure about themselves, so they pick on the weak. If that is the case, girls are the most "successful" bullies. Are they really that insecure that they love to single out, hurt, and talk about other people, especially other girls so much?

Every day as I walk through my high school corridors, I hear numerous girls fighting, screaming, and yelling at each other over the most insignificant things such as boys, clothes, or someone else gossiping about them. I have even caught myself being rude to other females, because of hearing rumors about them. I have also been the victim of getting attacked, especially when I really never did or said anything.

Most girls love to spread rumors about other girls. It makes them feel better as a person when someone else is spoken about negatively behind their backs, because it takes the heat and

pressure off of them, and so they are the ones who aren't being gossiped about. Girls are always insecure about their weight, their looks, acne, etc. Could this be why girls are so mean to each other? Is that why we love to make each other feel horrible?

As a girl, I know that every time I hear a rumor spread about me, I want to go up to everyone that heard

it, and force them to believe it's false. I also get the urge to go up to the girl who started it, and scream in her face. However, we can't do that.

Most girls gossip, and most girls get gossiped about. Why can't we stick to that golden rule that we learned back in kindergarten? "To treat everyone the way you want to be treated"? That would save a lot of drama, and I'm sure most high school girls are just about sick of drama.

We can't keep on going up to people and yelling at them, or talking about people behind their backs, or even starting rumors. Things like that tend to ruin lives. Stop the drama before it gets out of hand.

-Jacqui Gable '08

# Make the most of summer break

It seems as if as soon as the winter jacket is ready to be stored away, "high-school-itis" sets in, and there is no controlling the fact that your idea of math class is the counting down of the days until summer.

Teachers are cramming their schedules to fit in the rest of the criteria, while students could not care less about the rest of the criteria. It is a cycle every year. The sunshine seems to make our brains absolutely friend and we could concentrate on little else then making friends with people who have pools in their backyards. I'm not trying to be critical - I've been claiming senioritis since freshmen year. My point? Enjoy the summer.

There are so many things you can do with your summer, and while it seems tempting to plan to "do nothing," this is the time to compensate for all you did not have time for throughout the school year. Sure some of us will be getting packed for the dorm, preparing for a whole new world. Others will be

busy, looking for colleges and figuring out what to do with the rest of their lives. Doesn't sound like the picture perfect summer-but that's why each day, each hour even, truly counts in the summer.

This is the time to have fun, make new friends, get paid, and be carefree - which brings me to another point. Your actions during the summer still have consequences. Have fun. Don't drink & drive. Live life this summer, don't risk it. These two and a half months are supposed to be the best of times...don't make it the worst with thoughtless decisions. But I'm not here to give lectures - just sense - I'm sure everyone has already started planning out their summers.

And as everything comes winding down, we all can't help but fall in love with this beautiful time of year. There's something about this season that no poet, writer, or artist could capture. Summer is a medicine for stress, a time for true expression, and a moment to do what you truly been yearning all year to do. Summer is the shore, Mr. Softee, walks in the park, fresh air, and clarity. Relax. Take chances. Have fun. Be wise. And make the most of your 80 days. See you when school starts.

-Alyssa Figueroa '08

The Patriot welcomes any letters from its readers. The Patriot reserves the right to edit letters for grammar, content, and space. Letters should be limited to 200 words. Please submit all letters to [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

# Not your typical outing

## Mütter Museum's grotesque collection shocks, captivates

Lillyan Ling '08

The Mütter Museum holds much in its condensed space at The College of Physicians in Philadelphia. Though less historical or artistic, the museum is medical, but mostly (almost gruesomely) fascinating.

A brief walk through the historical aspects presents blurbs of the older physicians and their contributions. Yellowing notebooks with faded, but still distinguishable ink, lay encased in a glass display stand. Bizarre scientific tools of trial-and-error are neatly arranged for observation.

As you step further into an expanded room, an overwhelming wall of skulls greets you. In each eyeless face there is a story. Cards below each skull explains their deaths; ranging from a traitor's murder before a scheduled execution

to a young child's drowning.

Pictures and sculptures of replicated faces show samples of diseases: tuberculosis, small pox, and herpes, all heard of but not commonly or realistically seen until now.

Two heavy drawers contain 2,000 random objects removed from throats: peach pits, pin on buttons, and so on.

Taking a wooden staircase to the hushed-red carpet under the first floor, the spectators speak softly, ("Hey, look, it's the thorax of John Wilkes Booth") in the muffled acoustics room which adds to the mysterious atmosphere.

The first grand spectacle compares the average adult skeleton with the skeleton of a human of stunted growth and that of a "giant" human.

Standing in front of the giant



Photo courtesy of www.nytimes.com

**Caution: Though fascinating, the medical secrets of Philadelphia's Mütter Museum are not for the faint of heart.**

skeleton's frame, the tip of my head measured only up to its elbow.

Everything else for the public

viewing stands beneath yellow light: skeletons of triple miscarriages; brains of cats, dogs, and possums; ovarian cysts the size of basketballs; overgrown heads; deformities of every limb; any type of swell, splitting or sore ever to occur to the human eye, and two-headed fetuses floating in jars of green liquids.

This is, as the logo states, "distinctly informative."

The Mütter Museum was founded by Thomas Dent Mütter in 1858. Since then, the collection has grown to more than 20,000 pieces. The museum continues to serve the purpose of educating future doctors about anatomy and human medical anomalies, but also serves to cater to a curious general public.

It's true; such sights cause chills and upset stomachs. Much like the Body Exhibit, the Mütter Museum is hardly for the faint of heart.

Still, many people can find some sort of enjoyment at looking at things that seem so frightening and forbidden. I'm not one who takes delight in sickly and morbid figures of what seem like a horror movie frozen in time, but what the Mütter Museum has to share in its few rooms is quite a sight to behold if not for science, than at least for curiosity.

### Fashion File by Megan Robertson '09

## Jeans leave stamp on fashion

Many fashion trends come and go, but this is not the case with a classic fashion staple--the blue jeans.

Although the color and styles have changed a bit over the years, denim is a classic fashion statement found in everyone's closet. Jeans are a very versatile clothing item that can be made dressy with a nice top or casual with a sweatshirt and sneakers. Throughout the past few decades, they have been popular in fashion ads as well as being worn by many stylish celebrities.

The word "jean" comes from a material produced in Europe. The material was named after sailors in Genoa, Italy because all the clothes they wore were made from this material.

The word "denim" stems from the French word "serge de nimes." Serge means a kind of material and Nimes is a city in France.

Jeans have evolved greatly over the years. Denim was commonly

worn in the eighteenth and nineteenth century because it was a strong material that would not tear or wear out easily.

When cowboys wore jeans in 1930's movies, jeans returned to the forefront of fashion.

Jeans first became popular among teens in the 1950's. At first, they were seen as rebellion and were banned from many high schools, but eventually, became mainstream. Embroidered and painted jeans became very fashionable from the decades of the sixties and seventies with the hippie movement.

High profile designers started making their own lines of jeans in the 1980's. As individualized production and advertisement reached new levels with the commercialization of the masses, jean sales skyrocketed.

Khakis, chinos, combat, carpenters, and other branded sportswear pants came about in the 1990's to give jeans some

competition.

Denim was still very popular, but only if the jeans were altered to fit the wearer's personal style. This was the time that new cuts, shapes, and styles developed. Recently, beat up jeans with torn knees have become a fashion statement. The cut of jeans has improved to fit almost every body type. Some popular cuts include boot-cut, straight leg, and flare. Now, there are even a variety of lengths offered for those whose legs are shorter or longer than the original length.

There are many of options when it comes to washes of jeans. They can vary from the lightest of blues to a dark indigo or even black. Jeans are no longer just a basic blue trouser; they now include jackets and skirts as well.

Jeans are a classic and necessary part of everyone's wardrobe, and it is unlikely that this will change in the future.

# Easing on down the road

## Mr. and Mrs. Wiz retire as they've lived and worked - together

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

The time has finally come. The Wisniewskis have been working in the district for thirty-seven years, but are finally ready for retirement. Their years as members of the staff of this district have brought them love—for each other and for teaching—and respect from fellow staff members and students.

Mrs. Joan Wisniewski said, "I am really leaving with mixed feelings. To be able to come to a job everyday for 37 years and love your job...it's something most people never get to do."

When Wisniewski began working in the district in September of 1970, she was a Business Education teacher. An undergraduate alumni of Rider College, she had discovered a passion for teaching.

"I was influenced by my own business teacher growing up in Paulsboro, NJ, and I wanted to do the same thing," she said.

Just a few months later, her future husband began teaching. Mr. Steve Wisniewski was an English major fresh out of Glassboro State College. Taking over for another teacher mid-year, he quickly found his niche teaching English—first at the eighth grade level and later in the high school.

The two young teachers soon met and fell in love. In 1977, they were married, and with the later addition of their daughter, Allyson, they have been together ever since.

Administrator Mr. Joseph Bollendorf said, "They are a match set. They have such different personalities that it actually makes them more compatible—like puzzle pieces."

It was not until 1987 that Mrs. Wisniewski became a guidance counselor. She remembers, "The principal at the time called me during the summer and tried to convince to take an opening in Guidance. I was very hesitant, but he promised that I would only have to try it for one year—and I could return to teaching afterwards."

As it turned out, she more than enjoyed guidance.

She said, "I really love this job. Seeing kids grow and being able to find the most positive thing in everyone is the best part of the job. It's been challenging, but fun."

Mrs. Apryl Palazzo who will take the open position in guidance says, "I will have the honor of taking the reins from the famous 'Mrs. Wiz!' She was my guidance counselor when I went to WTHS and my mentor in the guidance office, so she basically taught me all I know."

Meanwhile, Mr. Wisniewski continued to be one of the best loved and most challenging teachers of the English department.

He said, "My philosophy has always been: If the students hand things in on time, I should pride myself on handing things back on time."

He eventually settled in teaching eleventh grade English—which he considers to have the best curriculum in the school. There he dedicated himself to the fullest.

English Department Chair Mr. Robert Petrillo said, "What immediately stands out for me is his unbridled enthusiasm for teaching, his sense of humor with his students, his rapport with the class, and his genuine concern for the intellectual development of each of his students."

He also spent time outside of the classroom coaching boys and girls tennis and boys basketball, as well as leading the Driver's Education Program. Concerning the program, he said, "I took the responsibility with the intent to keep it for a short time. But teaching behind the wheel is different than the classroom because there is instant gratification in seeing progress within an hour. As a teacher, you grow to really appreciate that progress."

During their time here, both earned Teacher of the Year Awards—Mr. Wisniewski during the 1999-2000 school year, and Mrs. Wisniewski in 2002-3, as well as great respect from fellow teachers.

Eleventh grade English teacher Mr. Chris Lawler admired their dedication to the school, "Their individual and combined contributions have been a great asset to our staff as well as to our student body. Steve's high standards and motivational techniques have led to years of success as an English teacher, and Joan's sincerity, always laced with wit and charm, has made her a favorite both in the classroom and in the guidance office."

Bollendorf said, "Steve has always believed first and foremost that his responsibility is to the classroom. He's extraordinarily witty, and he is so excited to share his knowledge with others. Joan is one of those people who has built morale in the school. She is a positive light force, and truly makes a difference."

Their students seem to agree. Jay D'Ambrosio '07, said of Mr. Wisniewski's class, "I loved all the books in his class. He made things more interesting by having actual, thoughtful discussions instead of rattling off facts."

Mrs. Wisniewski also became one of the most beloved guidance counselors in the office. Alyssa Figueroa '08 said, "She was very caring and understanding and helped me make an easy transition into my new high school."

Joseph Favatella '07 said, "She is unique



photo courtesy of the Wisniewskis

**Mr. and Mrs. Wisniewski met through their teaching jobs in Washington Township.**

because she has a daily enthusiasm for her craft. Just when times may seem stressful, she has a natural ability of making students feel good because of the smile that shines on her face."

Junior Richie Elles concludes, "She's awesome. She's always been there when I needed someone to talk to—about school, or my personal life. She's definitely left her mark on me as a person."

After retiring, they plan to take some much needed time off. Though it is bittersweet for them to leave, Mr. Wisniewski said, "I'm very tired, and though I love teaching—when it begins to wear you down, it's time to move on."

Bollendorf said, "I know that their leaving was a difficult decision and I respect that so much. They chose a life of giving, and now they have so much to look forward to as a couple."

They will spend the next few months planning their daughter's wedding. From there, they plan to spend time doing their favorite things—playing golf and tennis, reading, and enjoying time together. Mr. Wisniewski plans to continue helping with the behind-the-wheel driving, and Mrs. Wisniewski has considered doing marriage and family counseling for a few years. Still, she knows her former students will not lose touch.

"I'm a guidance counselor for life," she said.

Both admit that they will miss WTHS. Mr. Wisniewski says, "The camaraderie here is unbelievable. That's what I'm going to miss most, the staff—not just the teachers, but everyone from the administration, the secretaries, all the way through to the janitors."

# Windsor sums up career at WTHS

Margaret Bonanni '09

In every high school there is a teacher that stands out from the rest of the faculty for their dedication to the education of others. At Washington Township High School, that teacher is Ms. Kathy Windsor, who plans on retiring at the end of the 2006-7 school year.

Not only has she watched the high school grow from a one building school in 1970's to the campus it is today, but she also has been teaching mathematics and tutoring at the high school for over 37 years.

"I still remember when the building was just one building, and it only took five minutes, not even, to get to your next class," said Windsor.

During her time teaching, Windsor has taught many different levels of mathematics, from Algebra to Precalculus. She has also been successful in helping to create and teaching two Advanced Placement Calculus classes, and coordinating successful Math League Contests.

She was also honored with a Washington Township Teacher of the Year Award during the 1992-3 year.

Aside from her accomplishments in the classroom, Windsor has also won many awards, including a Golden Apple Award. She was also selected to be speaker of the Association of Mathematics Teachers of New Jersey. She was also elected to be a grader on the AP Calculus Exam which only six hundred people are asked to do. Among the graders, only one third of them are chosen from high schools.

"It's an honor to be selected to grade a test, especially when the minorities of graders are from high schools," commented Windsor.

Although she has enjoyed and been rewarded for many years of teaching, Windsor still plans on retiring. With all the new activities and interruptions to her life, she feels that teaching has been more difficult. As the school expands in size, she finds it too hard to keep up with current events.



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/ The Patriot

**Ms. Windsor (with AP Calc students) is looking forward to retirement but will miss teaching.**

"I want to go before I become in-effective and go out a winner," states Windsor, "I've accomplished so much and I'm happy with that."

Windsor's plans for retirement differ from her busy schedule as a mathematics teacher. She plans on relaxing, catch-ing up on her reading and fishing. Spending time with her family and a few visits to the Atlantic

City casinos are also on the itinerary.

Although she will be leaving, the effect Ms. Kathy Windsor had on her students and on WTHS will not leave. Throughout her career she has inspired students to reach their highest potential.

"Ms. Windsor always pushes her students to the next level," said Andrew Bunting '07.

# Prepared for the Maine event

Tom DeYoung '07

Ralph Miller is one of the best teachers any WTHS student could ever have.

Miller has been teaching all different types of shop classes for the past twenty-eight years, including Materials and Processing and General Technology.

And though he loved all of his years here, Miller is finally retiring as a teacher this year. He plans on enjoying time off by golfing, hunting, fishing, and spending time in his house in Maine. He knows he will have more time to spend doing the things he loves: spending time with his granddaughter, hunting and doing wood-working projects.

In his spare time he is a firefighter, participating as the President for the Hurffville Fire Company since 1973.

Mr. Miller is sad about leaving the high school, admitting that he will miss teaching very much and especially miss Washington Township.

The best experiences that he has had here were every year when

his students started learning how to use the machines and eventually gained confidence with them.

Miller said not much has changed over the years except the amount of paper work.

Outside of the classroom, Miller does a lot of things to help the school out, including acting as the senior class advisor, helping with graduation and senior trip, chaperoning dances, and preparing for Project Graduation.

His work as the advisor for the senior class has taken up much of his time at WTHS. He is also scheduled to give the faculty speech at the Baccalaureate Ceremony.

He has even coached lacrosse and winter track in the past.



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/ The Patriot

**Mr. Ralph Miller made strong bonds with students in his shop classes.**

With every single one of the things that he helped out with throughout the years, he has found great success in them all.

He worked hard throughout his entire life, especially in his career at the high school, and that showed up in his shop classes and his commitment to the school.

Mr. Miller is a great individual and he will be missed by everyone here at Washington Township. He has helped many students and is an excellent role model to them.

## WTHS Retirees for the 2006-07 School Year

- Eugene Bay
- Jean Brodie
- William Coover
- Virginia Egbert
- Ira Fine
- Richard Hall
- Joseph Indico
- Nancy Licisyn
- Norma Meyer
- Jean Nickelson
- Ronald "Doc" Pollack
- Mildred Sweeney
- Kathy Windsor-Leis
- Joan Wisniewski
- Steve Wisniewski

**Congratulations and best wishes from the Patriot editors and staff!**

# Variety is the spice of WTHS

## Modern styles offer something for everyone

Christine Lafferty '07

*Walking the crowded hallways of WTHS my eyes take in the many styles worn by different people. There are a shocking number of different trends worn by individuals of all social groups. Often, fashion trends seem to coincide with their attitudes and lifestyles.*

*While you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, the way a classmate dresses may give interesting insight into their life. The most common clothing trends at WTHS are "preppy," "gangster," and "punky."*

### The Preppy Look

One of the most popular styles seen at the high school is classified by the Hollister, Abercrombie and Fitch, and Aeropostale clothing lines. The look includes sweaters, layered shirts, pastel colors, jeans, and beaded jewelry. The skinny jean look and even spandex with the long sweaters are making it back into the so-called "preppy" style as described above.

This style originated in the 1950's when it was popular for high school and college students to imitate the Ivy League styles of dress. The trend at the time was marked by button-down dress shirts, v-neck sweaters, slim sweater sets, and pleated skirts.

Since then, this style has developed a stereotypical view shared by many in the crowded hallways that the people who wear the "preppy" style tend to be very involved in school and sports.

"Preps" often wear their style because it is clean cut and fashionable. Erin Keane '07 states about the trend at WTHS, "Preppiness is defined by clean-cut, polo-wearing boys accompanied by girls wearing Abercrombie and Ugg boots."

### The Gangster Trend

On the opposite end of the spectrum is the "gangster" style. At one point characterized by pinstripe suits and fedora

hats, it has evolved into a whole new look created by the hip-hop and rap music industries.

Major fashion staples of this popular Township trend for males include large diamond studs earrings, extra large t-shirts (called tall t's), Air Force One sneakers, "blow out" hair, and baggy jeans.

But this style is not gender specific. Girls have fun with this style by wearing large hoop earrings, big rings/necklaces, Air Force Ones, and the always popular baggy sweat outfits.

This hip-hop urban style is most commonly found in brands like Ecko Red, Timberland, South Pole, Sean John, Baby Phat, Roca Wear, Puma, FUBU, Enyce, and DKNY.

Music is a major feature of this

style; especially rap and hip-hop both in the halls of our school and in the urban community of cities like Philadelphia.

So what makes this style the fashionable choice for many Township students?

Bill Marcewitz '06 said, "It's really comfortable, the ladies love it, and it takes a lot less time to get ready than other styles."

### The Punk Style

The "punk" fashion, originating in the 1970's is quite a standout compared to the other styles seen in our school.

The trend has definitely changed throughout the years. During the 70's and 80's, deliberately offensive t-shirts, military boots, tapered jeans, safety pins in clothing, studded jewelry, and heavy eyeliner were staples of punk teenagers during those decades. They also flaunted taboo symbol such as the Nazi Swastika or the Iron Cross.

Presently the punk style has many

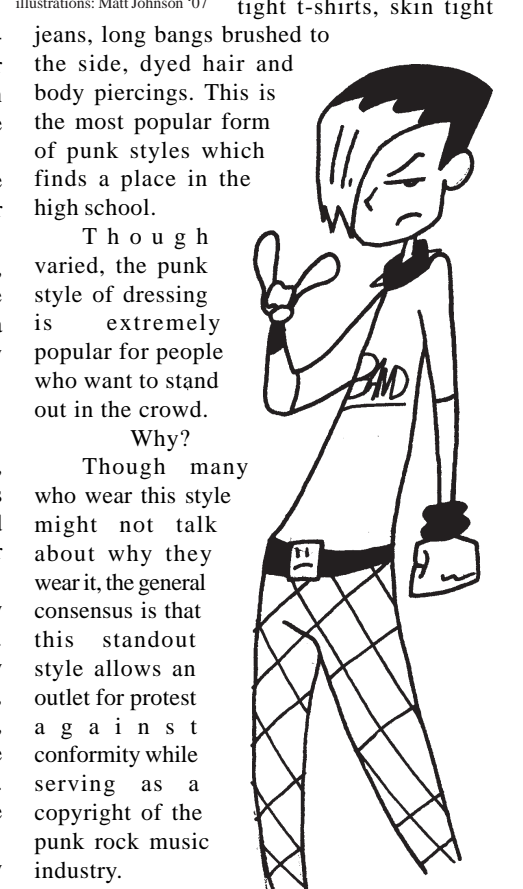
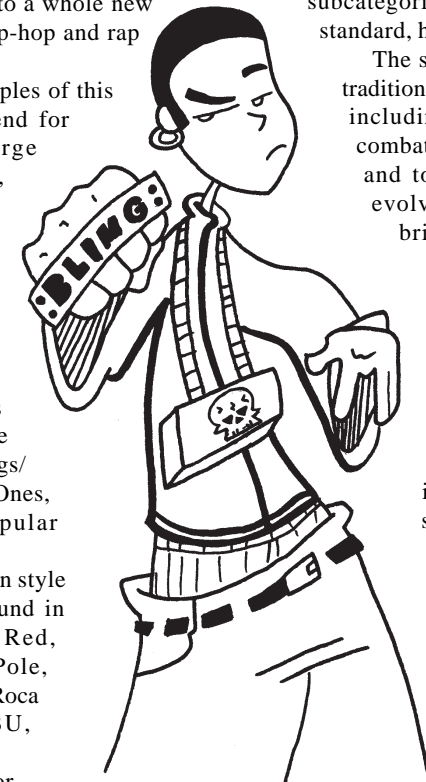
subcategories. The main ones are the standard, hardcore, and emo.

The standard style has a lot of the traditional characteristics of the 1970's including: leather, spikes, chains, combat boots, plaid bondage pants, and torn clothing. The style has evolved to include dyed hair in bright colors arranged into a mohawk or liberty spikes, belts with metal studs, leather/denim jackets and vests with patches or painted logos.

The hardcore style does not always come under punk classification because it is not as standout as the standard punks. It mostly consists of band t-shirts, jeans, and a hoodie. It is frequently categorized by its type of dancing called "skaing."

Last but not least is the currently popular emo style. This branch of punk fashion is known for its tight t-shirts, skin tight

illustrations: Matt Johnson '07



# Diet is key to coping with Celiac

Jessi Meisel '07

Celiac disease is the new problem receiving a spotlight from the media today. But do you know what it is?

Specifically, it's an autoimmune disease that causes severe dietary restrictions for those afflicted. This diet entails eating nothing with wheat, barley, rye, and oats--basically, all foods which contain a protein called gluten.

If a person with Celiac disease ingests this protein, many different reactions can occur. Some experience severe stomach pains that mimic appendicitis while others are asymptomatic to the point where they experience no pain at all. Even if a person has no pain, they are still causing damage to their bodies as well as those with the pain.

This disease is more common than you may think. One out of every one hundred and thirty-three people have Celiac disease. If you are an immediate family member of someone with Celiac disease, there is a one in twenty-two chance you have it as well. Celiac Disease is commonly misdiagnosed as IBS or Crohn's disease, though both are much worse than having Celiac.

What exactly happens to the intestines of a person with Celiac?



Glutano is a popular brand of gluten free items.

The gluten begins to wear down the villi in the small intestine. If this goes on for too long, the villi can be worn down so much that it causes malnutrition, intestinal cancers, osteoporosis, miscarriage, short stature (in children), and seizures.

Although there are no true symptoms to Celiac disease, there are quite a few common things which people may suffer from including gas, bloating, diarrhea, constipation, vomiting, weight loss, anemia, chronic fatigue, bone pain and muscle cramps. Still, remember, you could be asymptomatic and not show any signs of these diseases.

Surprisingly, despite dietary

restrictions, it's easy to live with this disease. Supermarkets, such as Acme and Shoprite, hold gluten free items in designated aisles. Also, there are many food brands naturally gluten free. Some common ones which you may recognize are Fruity Pebbles (Post Cereals), Jax Cheese Curls (Bachman Company), and Utz Potato Chips. Fruits and vegetables are also naturally gluten free.

When it comes to eating out, some restaurants have special menus to list their gluten free items. They may even have online menus available for you to check out ahead of time. Two local restaurants that have hard copies of these gluten free

menus are Outback Steakhouse and Charlie Brown's Steakhouse. All you have to do is request one when you're being seated.

When it comes to pizza, pastries, and other wheat based foods, there is a very popular bakery in Philadelphia called Mr. Ritz. They bake and sell all gluten free pastries, pies, cakes, and other desserts.

For pizza, you can go to Pasta Pomodoro in Voorhees and request their gluten free menu much like Outback. This menu contains garlic bread, pasta, pizza, and even dessert.

If you don't like to eat out, you can go into a health food store and find gluten free items to buy for your home. Natural Health on Laurel Road and Wegman's in Cherry Hill are two places that hold many different kinds of gluten free items in their stores.

In the short run, Celiac Disease can be frustrating, but it is easy to cope with in the long run. People who live with this disease just have to be careful of what they eat. For example, I've been living with it for six years, but these restrictions have allowed me to be even healthier than I was as a child.

Still, it's important to be aware of your health. So, if you have been experiencing a large sum of the common symptoms, have your doctor get check you out.

*Mind, Body, Soul* by Margaret Bonanni '09

## French diet for now, for life

Margaret Bonanni '09

Now that the days are longer and the weather is nicer, most people can't wait to get out of school and start taking advantage of their summer. But, with all the joys of summer come inevitable sorrows--bathing suit shopping.

One of the worst feelings at any age is to go to a pool party feeling uncomfortable with your self image and your swim suit. The moment when you stand in front of the mirror with a frown because you don't like the way you look is always a painful moment. Many girls try changing their body image and coping with these feelings by going on a fad diet, over-exercising, or even not eating

at all. Not only are these methods unhealthy, but they are proven to yield short term results. What many girls do not realize is that there is a better, safer way to lose weight.

This little secret can be found in a book called *French Women Don't Get Fat* by Mireille Guiliano. A bilingual author, Guiliano is a French woman who traveled to America during high school as an exchange student and was greatly surprised by all the amazing things the country had to offer, such as cookies, doughnuts, and the ever popular "on the go" meals.

Needless to say, she came back to France heavier and very unhappy. In her book, she reveals the secrets and remedies of the French culture

on how to control your weight, reach your ideal equilibrium, and the delicate secret of how to cut back, and still feel like every meal is an indulgence. She also compares the American and European lifestyles in order to prove that all cultures are not the same. She gives healthy French recipes to help jump start a new life track, such as her delectable Leek Soup. By reading this book, you are not only educating yourself on how to lose weight safely, but on how to make a lifetime decision to be healthy.

When I first heard about the book, I doubted how it could actually work. How could writing what you eat in a notebook over the course of three weeks actually help you have

a better shape and body?

After reading it I soon found out that it did more than help. It opened my eyes to trends in my eating that were holding me back from losing weight, such as eating late at night, poor portion control, and not drinking enough water. After reading the book I was no longer skeptical, but I was aware of what was standing in my way and ready to change my lifestyle.

With this book, and a positive outlook, it's inevitable that you'll never have to stand in front of the mirror and frown. You will be able to enjoy your summer, and safely lose weight knowing that you are doing it the French way; as Guiliano would say *Bon chance*.

# Helping students through tough times

Mike Nagle '07

The SAC counselors have one of the most important jobs at Washington Township--helping students. Mrs. Heather Petolicchio is a Student Assistance Counselor, also known as a SAC counselor.

ASAC counselor's main goal is "prevention, intervention, and referral of a child," says Petolicchio, "We mainly talk to the students about issues in their lives and try to help them; we also help administrators and teachers as well."

In dealing with student problems the counselors must follow the Confidentiality Law, which is a federal law that stating they must protect the people they

are helping, by not telling anyone what transpires in a session.

Mrs. Petolicchio first started out as a History teacher At WTHS, but after seven years; she wanted a change. She had worked with SAC counselors before, and thought that it would be a good career move, so she went back to college to study Psychology and Addictions.

One reason she took on the job is because she just loves kids and students here.

"I find it rewarding to help students change their behavior, or make them look for different answers to problems," said Petolicchio cheerfully.

Seeing students here is a demanding job as she has a hectic

schedule. Trying to get in sessions with ten students, making calls to administrators, and finding time for meetings and emails with parents, creates such a busy day that she rarely has time to eat lunch.

Although it is a busy shift, she said she wouldn't trade her job for anything in the world.

"It's different everyday with the people I meet, I'm sometimes glad life can be a little messy," she said.



Mike Nagle '07/The Patriot

**Mrs. Petolicchio enjoys making a difference in students' lives**

But would she ever consider going to another school? Or even yet, become a full time psychiatrist or a professional?

Petolicchio would rather not; as she thinks children and teenagers are complex individuals.

"Adults tend to stay with their personalities, as with children; they can be molded very easily, so it's a matter of molding them to the right path."

The job does have some frustrations. She cannot stand when a student still sticks with a nasty habit. It is also disheartening when students try to ignore their situation rather than addressing the problem.

One of her greatest success stories came during her first year as a SAC counselor. Petolicchio met a freshman girl with a drug problem. Over the course of the student's four years at WTHS, Petolicchio helped her overcome the addiction. She met with her almost every week and eventually the student came clean just in time to graduate school.

For a while Petolicchio never heard from the student, but recently she just got a call from the student. She now had a great job after graduating college, and she also has a husband and a child.

"She did not have to go out of her way to say thanks for my job with her. But there is a certain feeling I got when I finally realized I helped an individual save her life," said Petolicchio, "I feel blessed that I have a job that helps teenagers with their problems."

## Teaching biology and loving life

Rachel Brown '10

While most people spend their summer vacation relaxing at the Jersey shore or in a nice hotel somewhere pleasant, Ms. Betty Schuler, a Honors Biology teacher here at Washington Township High School, likes to spend her summer vacations somewhere interesting where she's not considered a tourist.

She enjoys going to different places and says that a vacation that she'd enjoy taking would be to Scotland to play golf or to New Zealand to go hiking. She has been to many places including every state in the union except for Montana and Iowa, the rainforests of Trinidad and Tobago, the Soviet Union, many nations in Europe, and Alaska.

When Schuler visits Alaska—which she has done five times—with a friend, they live along a river for a couple of weeks and, as she says, "rough it." In order to get to the wild part of Alaska, they have to fly in a four-seater plane to their destination. They then inflate rafts and paddle to a place to camp, where they camp without any modern conveniences. Though she enjoys being with the environment today, she was not always so enthusiastic.

Before Schuler went to college she had a slight idea of what she wanted to do. She wanted to be a



Erin McFadden '07/The Patriot

**Ms. Schuler assists a student with a project on fruit flies.**

gym coach, but because the college that she went to did not offer it, she had to decide on another subject. She knew she wanted to be a teacher but was not sure what subject she wanted to teach. She was leaning towards being an art or history teacher because she liked those subjects, but then decided on biology because that was the subject that challenged her the most and she fell in love with it.

After her college days were over Schuler became a teacher and has always taught science. She has been teaching for 33 years and loves school and the atmosphere in the school.

Schuler was born in our area at Cooper hospital in Camden and was raised in Pitman with her 3 brothers and sisters. Her childhood was very important to her because she grew up in a very strong family. Her parents have helped her a lot in life and bestowed values on her.

Schuler is a bit of an environmentalist and says that she plants seeds and is very conservative in order to help the earth.

"I live a conservative life but teach others how to do it as well," explained Schuler. She then added, "Ride the bus, save energy!"

In addition to this environmental advice, Schuler had one thing to say to the entire student body: "Kids say, 'I'm bored,' and sit around and wait for something to happen. You can't wait for things to happen. You have to go out and make your life, and like what you've got."

# Teen novelist creates *Mayhem*

Jacqui Gabel '08

Only eighteen years old, Keith Ingis has already almost completed his first novel. The novel is called, *Magical Mayhem: Destiny Awaits*. He started writing last June, with co-writer, Jennifer Almeida. There are twenty-two chapters, each with ten scenes, except chapter nineteen which has sixteen scenes. Close to completion, he is currently editing chapter sixteen.

To find a theme for his novel, Ingis would construct about two pages per night of his novel each day after school. Between balancing homework, family, running on the WTHS cross country/track teams, school, and friends, Ingis always made sure to make time for his novel. "I tend to spend most of my time, either running or writing," said Ingis.

"I hope to get it published sometime in the fall," Ingis said.

The premise of the novel is about Melanie Graves, a fifteen year old girl, recently moved from the Big Apple to a suburban town, called Levesque, in New Jersey. She

not only has to deal with making new friends, but also saving the world from evil when she, surprisingly, becomes a witch on her first day at the high school. Melanie has to learn how to adjust to this new found aspect of her life, so she can protect the world from harm and destruction. With the help of her two best friends, James Gordon and Sarah Wilding, she has to face demons, vampires, and other forces of darkness.

Ingis has loved writing, ever since elementary school. Ingis believes that writing is an excellent way to express himself.

"I love to write. It's my passion and the best way to express my inner thoughts and feelings about anything and everything," he said.

"I really like creating characters and putting them in interesting plots. It's great to show how each character reacts to different situations. I like to twist the plots, and kill characters off, when I see necessary," Ingis said of his writing style.

Ingis's novel was influenced by several movies and television shows, such as, *Harry Potter*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, and *Buff the Vampire Slayer*.

"Melanie has so much on her plate with the move and now she has to deal with this whole new world. She learns that her parents have been keeping a huge secret from her throughout her whole life—her powers," stated Ingis.

He wrote a couple of pages every day, but during the summer months, he was able to write a lot more. It took him usually about a week and a half to finish writing each chapter.

Two main themes of the novel are adjusting and learning how to deal with sudden inconveniences. The characters have to go through so many twists in their life, because of the supernatural surroundings. Death seems to have been happening more and more frequently to the students of Levesque High. Ingis intends this novel to help teenagers how to get through even the toughest problems.

## Washington Lake Park

*This summer, the following movies will be featured at dusk in the Ampitheatre.*

**Superman Returns (PG-13)**  
Friday, June 22

**Happy Feet (PG)**  
Friday, June 29

**A Christmas Story (PG)**  
Friday, July 13

**Grease (PG 13)**  
Thursday, July 19

**Wizard of Oz (G)**  
Friday, July 27

**Invincible (PG)**  
Thursday, August 30

**Calling all writers, poets, photographers and artists!**

*Pieces Magazine* will be taking submissions for the 2007-8 Fall Calendar over the summer. Submissions can be emailed to [pieces.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:pieces.magazine@gmail.com).

# Odds and Ends

## Strange South Jersey

Brad Grandrino '07

New Jersey has many great sites to visit such as the beautiful Jersey shore, or the vast woods of the immense Pine Barrens. Just driving around the Garden State for a day, there's a good chance that you'll stumble upon something neat. However, the state of New Jersey offers something else: a wide assortment of strange, paranormal, and unexplained phenomena. Books like *Weird NJ* tell tales of the many oddities in New Jersey, and most of them are located in the northern part of the state. But believe it or not, South Jersey has plenty of weird things to offer as well.

Take the Atco Ghost, for example. At the end of long and dark Burnt Mill Road in Atco, NJ, there lies a local legend like no other. Most people call it the Atco Ghost. The tale of the ghost is that one day, years

ago, a little boy was playing basketball at the end of Burnt Mill Road. At the other end of the straight and level road, two teenagers were racing their cars.

One of the cars hit and killed the little boy, and then both cars sped off into the night. Now, at the end of the road, there is an eerie chalk outline of the boy's body. Supposedly, the ghost of the boy still resides at the end of the road, awaiting the return of his killer.

Unless you took part in the race that night, you might want to check out Burnt Mill Road and test the legend of the Atco Ghost for yourself. According to the legend, one must drive to the end of the road, past the chalked outline of the body. The driver should kill the engine and lights, and then honk the horn three times, followed by flashing the headlights three times.

What happens next can be one

of a few things: if you're like most of the people who try this, nothing will happen. But if you're lucky, you may see an image of the apparition. Some people have also heard a loud banging sound, like a gong, on the side of their car. If that happens to you, you've probably encountered something other than the Atco Ghost, and should probably get out of there fast!

If you or your friends are interested in taking part in this experience for yourselves, you can locate Burnt Mill Road using any major map site. Be careful when driving not to confuse West Atlantic Ave. with East Atlantic Ave.

Remember to go at midnight, and a word of advice: lock your car doors. You won't regret it.

Whether you're out visiting the Atco Ghost or some other weird site in South Jersey, always remember to be careful, and to never go alone.

## Mustaches through the ages

Gabrielle Hughes '07

Soupstrainer, cookiecutter, lip sweater, and nose neighbor are all names that describe one of history's staples, the mustache. The word mustache originated from the Old Italian "mustaccio" which means upper lip hair. (Go figure.) In prehistoric times, shaving was not possible, so men usually sported a full beard. However, around 300 B.C., people developed a razor cut out of stone and mustaches were born.

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, mustaches were worn by military men. Men of greater status often had more elaborate mustaches, whereas the foot soldiers wore more modest ones. The highest ranking officers graduated to growing beards. In old-fashioned fiction, the villain is often sports a mustache.

Most mustaches are very delicate to maintain. Several facial hair products are manufactured

especially for mustaches. In order to maintain the preferred shape, mustache wax comes in handy. Snoods, a hair net for mustaches, can be used to train a stache into a desired



shape. A "mustache mug" is a cup with a mustache guard so that your nose neighbor doesn't get wet.

Throughout history, there've been a great variety of notable mustaches, some good, some bad, and some ugly. The "Hitler" or more accurately the Toothbrush mustache will auto-matically have a negative connotation in people's minds. Ironically, around the same time Hitler sported his Toothbrush,

Charles Chaplin, famous comedian, began wearing one also. Other mustaches worth mentioning belong to: Friedrich Nietzsche, Groucho Marx, Salvador Dali, Super Mario, Pancho Villa, and GG Allin.

The longest mustache in history belonged to a man in India named Bajansih Gurjar who had not cut it for twenty-two years. It measured about twelve and a half feet long. The *North Bay Mustache League* is a group of men who compete in an intense tournament to determine who can grow the longest mustache in a specific amount of months. In some competitions, men receive sponsorship to grow out their mustaches and donate the proceeds to children's charities.

Throughout time, there have been many different mustaches, from the twisty Salvador Dali to the droopy Fu Manchu. So if you're feeling inventive, go ahead and create a new one!

## How do you eat a Reese's peanut butter cup?

Josh Bennett '07

Ever since I was a child, this question has been one of the more sacred questions ever asked. It's one of the many wonders of the world, one that seems to have gone quiet lately; unsolved.

Is there really a wrong way to eat a Reese's Peanut Butter Cup?

I don't think so.

But who knows, there could be.

I, personally, like to open the package with such care as to not to damage the perfection that is the peanut butter cup. With that said, I then remove my peanut butter cup, and I examine it closely and savor the moment that I am highly anticipating, the inevitable devouring of my peanut butter cup.

First though, I have to make sure I trim off the edges so I can fully dwell on its pure chocolate taste, without any peanut butter. I do this until I leave myself with only a center piece of peanut butter covered with chocolate, which I easily scream in ecstasy from such a wonderful taste.

I kid you not, it's so good.

Having written this much already, I'm beginning to wonder if I'm the only man on this planet that feels this way. I decided to question a few people about it, in hopes of finding others who share my thoughts on one of the world's unexplainable perfections.

Tony Pragosa, '07, comments, "I hate Reese's."

Well, thanks, pal. You really helped my story.

"Reese's peanut butter cups are the best invention since the wheel!" says Kristen Wells, '07. "I just eat it bite by bite, after all, there's no wrong way to eat a Reese's."

There you have it.

# Setting records, saving lives

Laura Marder '07

On Sept. 11, 2001, thousands of people were able to survive because of the bravery of the paramedic and fire department.

At the age of 15, Courtney Comarota '07 was inspired by the 9/11 occurrences to make a difference in the world by saving one life at a time. She was also greatly influenced by her father and his friend who are Whitman Square firefighters.

"I really like the medical field, and my father did not want me to go into firefighting yet," explained Comarota. As a junior in high school she attended college classes at EMTNJ for three and a half months. She passed and at the age of 16 she was named youngest EMT in the State of New Jersey.

"When I joined it was a bit intimidating because I was the youngest in a class of parents and a 72 year old man," remembered Comarota. Still, she looked past

what may have intimidated many and stayed determined.

She now works at Monroe Township as an EMT. Every Sunday morning when most seniors are sound asleep in bed, she wakes at 6:00 AM to volunteer as an EMT. Her day lasts until 6:00 PM and is typically filled with 8-10 emergency calls. She loves the work she does but has been through some tough situations.

"I'm only grossed out by stitches and slit wrists, but normally nothing gets to me," said Comarota.

She was once hospitalized for having brain matter spattered on her, but that it's not stuff like that makes her Sundays so hard.

"The toughest thing is trying to save someone and doing everything possible, but not being able to save them in the end," she said, after that comes the most emotional part—"having to break the news to a family is difficult."

Such announcements are done

by the whole team and Camarota says it never gets any easier.

Her team is made up of about ten people and two are around her age.

The work she has been doing is purely volunteer work. Though she receives no monetary payment, she is building up her bank account in experience.

She has been accepted into the Paramedic School at Camden County College for the fall, a huge accomplishment because you must be 18 to be enrolled and she is only 17. They accepted her because she has so much experience in the field and has a paid job promised to her at Monroe Township.

After she completes Paramedic school she will set another goal as the youngest Paramedic in New Jersey.

Her life goal is to one day become a flight medic and firefighter. With her determination and family backing her all the way her future looks very bright.

# Artist to pursue career in meteorology

Steph Brettman '07

Smart, artistic, and friendly are just a few words to describe Lauren Jefferson '07. She is a member of the National Honors Society (NHS), National Art Honors Society (NAHS), and the school Art Club. She loved art since she was a little girl, taking pleasure in coloring and doodling. Her art teacher in elementary school noticed her ability and recommended a private teacher.

"She suggested I visit a man named George Kaiser, who ran a professional art studio. So I scheduled a meeting with him and showed him some of my sketches, and before I knew it, I started taking lessons," Jefferson said.

Her peers influence her art work the most, because they come into play in almost all aspects of her life. She says that the people she interacts with everyday are some of the most talented people she's ever met. With a clear love for



photo courtesy of Lauren Jefferson

**Lauren Jefferson is known for her artistic ability and upbeat attitude.**

art, she still makes time for other interests.

"I take private piano lessons and I've been teaching myself guitar for five years," she explains.

Her involvement in art and music does not distract her from

what's important. To become member in the school's National Honor's society, you must maintain a high GPA and have involvement in school activities. Lauren manages to juggle it all. Her belief is that to be an honors student, you have to be motivated, dedicated and have a strong will to succeed.

After she graduates, she plans

on attending Rutgers University to major in meteorology. She still debates if she will accept Cornell University's guaranteed transfer as a sophomore.

Career wise, she hopes to start interning for a weather service in

Philadelphia or New York City. Eventually, she wants to be a weather person for a major news station in one of those areas. Her interest in weather was first introduced in third grade. Because she found every aspect of it interesting, she found that she retained the information and wanted to learn more.

"I'm really passionate about global warming and environmental concerns. By studying weather patterns, you learn about the fate of our world and possible ways to reverse it," Lauren explains.

Lauren finds her support mostly in her parents. She says that they let her explore any activity that she wants and fully support the decisions she makes, whether they disagree or not.

Lauren has laid out a path for herself. With support of her family and friends, she believes she can do anything if she puts her mind to it.

"Just remember to stay determined and you can do anything you want," Lauren says with a smile.

# Patriot chief leaves mark on WTHS

Alanna Pyle '10

If you have ever read *The Patriot* you probably know that Rob Cavella is the Editor-in-Chief.

Cavella has written many articles for the school newspaper including one of his favorites that he wrote last year, an editorial criticizing "Popped Collars".

You might think that someone of this high status in the newsroom would have been writing for newspapers since he could hold a pencil, but Cavella didn't join the newspaper until junior year while taking Journalism One. Oddly enough Cavella said that he didn't want to be a journalist.

His role model for all this hard work is his brother who was involved in sports, so he too wanted to be part of something big.

Cavella strove to become the editor of *The Patriot*. "Not getting it wasn't an option," Cavella stated. With his confidence, determination,

and drive, he achieved his goal of becoming editor.

And it hasn't been easy. Along with the job comes the responsibility and the pressures. It is a lot of hard work, especially during crunch time when the paper is about to come out. He finds himself working meticulously to put out everyone's stories all till about 5:30 pm for the first week-week and a half before the due date.

"Rob has done an exceptional job this year with the paper," said *Patriot* advisor Mr. Jim Evangelisti, "He devotes a lot of his free time to making sure he produces a quality product."

But there are also parts of being editor that Cavella enjoys, like the experience in leadership and the feeling of accomplishment after an issue is printed.

As if Editor-in-chief wasn't enough to fill Cavella's list of achievements, he also began his own committee that positively affects the



photo courtesy of Yasib Arif '07

**Rob had a good time covering the "24 at the Core" for the paper.**

lives of most Washington Township High School students.

How many times have you thought that school lunches needed to improve? Well, Cavella thought that too and created a committee that is all about trying to improve school lunches. The committee now meets every marking period with Mrs.

Farrow, and the district Director of Foods Services, Mrs. Ginny Bowden. She brings in examples of menu items and Cavella and his committee gives their opinions.

Cavella feels they have actually made things better in our cafeterias. The committee has brought back the famous grilled cheese, and the fries that you eat are now of better quality. There are new pretzels coming in soon as well.

But, with the ending of the school year comes a heavy burden for Cavella. He is going to be leaving Washington Township High School for Rutgers University where he plans to major in Organizational Communications in Business.

Cavella is confident that his fellow editors will be able to continue the success of *The Patriot* and hopes that his term as Editor-in-Chief and as a student at WTHS leaves a lasting mark on the school he has gotten to know so well

# Student Council prez wraps up term

Victoria Gilbert '07

For most students, the eighth period bell indicates the end of the school day. For others, such as the always energetic and friendly Amanda Esposito '07, the bell signals the beginning.

As Student Council President for the 2006-7 school year, Esposito's formal responsibilities included conducting weekly Student Council Executive Board meetings, monthly Homeroom Representative meetings, and overseeing all Student Council events. She tackled these responsibilities with enthusiasm.

As Student Council advisor, Mrs. Apryl Palazzo, says, "Amanda has become such a strong leader. She has accomplished so much, and she is always positive and enthusiastic!"

Esposito made it a priority to better represent the concerns of the student body, and addressed issues with dances and social events. Insisting that a larger venue be booked



photo courtesy of Amanda Esposito

**Esposito has enjoyed a successful year as Student Council President**

for the Winter Twilight semi-formal, she succeeded by securing a new location at Adventures Aquarium. The Student Council also hosted a second senior dance in Quay Way.

Esposito was open and approachable when students had concerns, and distributed "complaint boxes" throughout the school. She has taken concerns to the administration, and feels it has been her personal responsibility to "help ensure our school environment is the best it can be."

Esposito's school involvement in high school did not end with Student Council. A member of the French Club, Peer Counselors, and the Symphony Orchestra, she takes advantage of many of WTHS' opportunities, and while her many responsibilities have often kept her on campus until 5:00 PM, Esposito remains a dedicated student.

A member of both the National Honor Society and Tri-M Music Honor Society, Amanda has tackled challenging courses in preparation for a Biology major at TCNJ. Esposito hopes to attend medical school and becoming a pediatrician.

Outside of WTHS, Esposito

finds little time to relax. She is now in her fifteenth year of dance instruction with the Chez Dance Company, and spends almost twenty hours a week in the studio. Esposito feels her dedication and involvement with the art has enabled her to grow and mature, teaching her leadership, responsibility, time management, and confidence. This commitment will continue at the college level.

"I know how it feels to have a solo and be representing my company on stage...and that's how I feel now. As president, I feel like I have the solo and am representing my school. I am working my hardest to do my best," said Esposito.

As her friend and fellow Student Council Executive Board Member Reema Patel '07, says, "Espo is one of the hardest-working people in school, and one of the most fun. She knows how to accomplish a lot and still have a good time. She's the perfect role model!"

# Virtuoso to study among music's elite

Amy Goldberg '08

Many musicians dream of the opportunity to attend the Juilliard School. Paul Laraia III '07, however, has recently passed up that opportunity in order to attend the New England Conservatory Music School where he will major in music performance with viola as well as composition of music.

"They offered a full tuition scholarship to study with the famous [viola teacher] Kim Kashkashiam," said Laraia.

While in high school, he had already made compositions of his own, including a concerto performed by the WTHS Symphony Orchestra at their spring concert. He had been working on it since summer and continued to edit it throughout the school year during free time.

"I'm a little bit excited, but you can never be too excited with this type of performance because I wrote the viola concerto to be at a very difficult level," said Laraia.

Laraia began writing music "because I feel that performing is like acting out somebody else's play. I wanted to make my own play."

He also enjoys the freedom he has as a composer. Laraia's goal is to one day write film scores.

Beyond orchestra, Laraia enjoys other activities. At WTHS, he is a member of the Technology Student Association, Latin Club, Intramural Ping Pong Club, NHS, and was in the Latin Honor Society during his freshman year. He also played in this year's pickleball tournament.

"I'm really good at pickle ball. It would've been a clean sweep, but I had a concert and my teammate, James Wilson, and I dropped out," he explained.

Laraia and Wilson have been friends since seventh grade.

"Jim has altered my life in a very positive way. He provided me with the best friend that someone could ask for," said Laraia, "It's better than having twenty friends that'll stab you in the back."

Outside of school, Laraia is part of the Youth Chamber Orchestra at Temple University and was in the Philadelphia Youth Orchestra his freshman year. Laraia is also part of four chamber music ensembles. One of the ensembles he



photo courtesy of Paul Laraia

**Paul Laraia composes music, plays viola and... pickleball.**

Laraia will also be playing a senior recital this June.

Laraia has not always wanted to be a musician, however. In elementary school, he played violin and had wanted to quit because of all of the much needed practice.

"In elementary school, all I wanted to do was listen to the Backstreet Boys, not practice. Practicing was for losers," Laraia joked.