

Phys Ed serves up new obsession

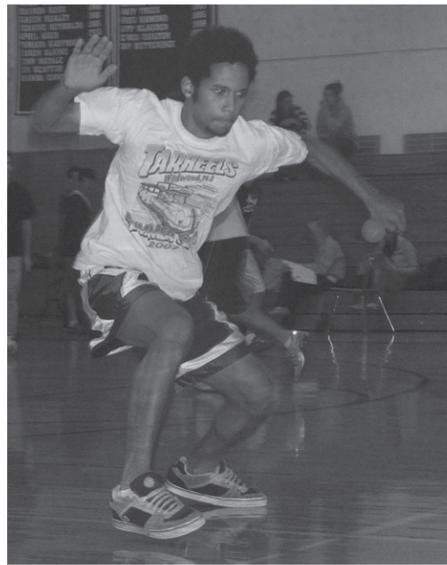
A.J. Nisbet '08

The racquetball is served by the last person in line. It hits the floor, the wall, and the game has begun. It's a war, a battle. Sometimes a powerful smack sends the next opponent into a temporary panic. Sometimes a little drop shot makes players gallop to the wall. Always exciting, but never predictable, handball has senior gym classes in a frenzy.

The game is simple. All you need is a wall, a racquetball, and a handful of participants. Players line up a few feet away from a wall. The last person in line serves the ball which must hit the floor once, and only once, before hitting the wall. If it bounces twice or if it does not touch the floor first, it is an out. A regulation game of handball allows each person to receive three outs.

Throughout the handball experience, players pick up many strategies to knock out the players who follow. Some players use the power smack (open hand), or power hit (closed fist), which can send an opponent to the back of the gym. Others play the short game, creating a rally close to the wall. Some players are even taking the game to the next level by adding spin, using fakes, and hitting the ball between their legs.

"The game is awesome! It is fast paced and unpredictable. You leave everything on the floor," said Ryan Walker '08, the runner-up at the Handball Showcase Tournament.



AJ Nisbet '08/ The Patriot

Chase Wert '08 takes a whack at the ball in the second round of the Handball Showcase Tournament.

Mr. Frank Consiglio wrote a proposal for the game of handball to be put in the Phys. Ed. Curriculum after he saw some of his students playing it late last year.

"After a few days more and more people got interested in the game," said Consiglio.

On Nov. 14, Consiglio and Mrs. Tara Hartwyk held a handball showcase tournament to promote the planned fund raiser tournament. Around 40 boys and girls from all eight gym classes participated.

"Students who seemed to play the game the best in each period were picked," said Hartwyk.

"We held the showcase tournament to stimulate interest for students in classes that didn't have gym yet or who picked other activities during their gym period," said Consiglio.

Consiglio and Hartwyk plan to host a scholarship handball tournament sometime in May. Open to all seniors and juniors, the cost to participate will be \$10.

The winner will receive twenty percent of the entry fees, and second place will get ten percent. The rest of the money will go to the Maryann Shiver's Fund.

The idea for the fund raising tournament came from last year's pickle ball tournament. Consiglio believes that with the two tournaments, a substantial amount of money should be raised this year.

"While the first idea was to have a three-on-three volleyball tournament, I felt that we would be able to get more individuals out for the handball tournament," said Consiglio.

He recommends that the highly competitive find a wall, get a ball, and keep smacking, because

Girls swim to early success

Weston Eldridge '10

The Girls Varsity swim team jumped out to a 5-0 record to wrap up the first half of the season.

Coach Jessica Slates is pleased with the team's performance so far and hopes to continue the success throughout the rest of the season.

"It's a nice surprise to be undefeated this far into the season," said Slates, "We've done very well so far and we've had a lot of good times."

Slates has high hopes for the rest of the season: qualify for State Tournament, win Conference, qualify three relay teams for states (200-yard medley, 200 freestyle, 400 freestyle), win the Gloucester County Championships, and have many swimmers qualify for the Individual State Tournament.

To maintain their high level of competition, the team usually practices five days a week at Rowan



Keith Marr '10/ The Patriot

Gina Garrison '10 and Gina Panchelli '11 warm up before practice.

University. The practices consist of two days a week sprinting, two days of distance, and the day before a meet consists of recovery and mental preparation.

The team is led by four senior captains, Sam Baranowski '08, Lauren Moppert '08, Emily Spencer '08, and Liz Cardona '08. Slates feels they all bring dedication, commitment, strong work ethic, and

positive attitudes to the team.

With the graduation of five seniors, the team has to work even harder this season.

"This team is more driven, and willing to step-up and fill in areas of need," said Slates.

Slates is most proud of her team for their victory over conference rival Cherokee. The meet consisted of 18 best times for

Township and a decisive sweep in the 100 breaststroke. The meet was a close match-up. Both teams displayed equal strength.

In meeting Slate's goals for the season, Jamie Noonan '08 is already ahead of the game by qualifying for the Individual State Meet in the 200 and 500 freestyle. The 400 freestyle relay of Catherine Wood '09, Noonan, Amanda Harvie '10, and Emily Torok '09 hopes to follow in Noonan's footsteps and qualify for states by the end of the season. The team is also strong in the 100 butterfly with Wood leading the way, and the 100 backstroke with Noonan setting the pace.

Slates feels that the team can maintain their high level of competition as long as they continue to develop the depth of the team and remain focused. The team will participate in the SJSL Championship meet on February 6 at GCIT.

The Patriot

Issue 4

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

January 2008

Monzo braves obstacles

Dance marathon raises \$20,000 for important cause

Matt Neuteboom '08

The 9/10 auxiliary gym was packed on Jan. 18. There, 351 students began Monzo Madness, the 24 hour dance-a-thon that supports Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis.

Despite the enormous obstacles imposed on it by the teachers' contract and the limited space, the dance proceeded without a hitch. Through determination, the Interact Club saved the event from the brink of cancellation and pulled through for the students of WTHS to allow a long-standing tradition to continue.

Monzo Madness was started in 2004 in memory of Interact Club advisor Ms. Tracy Naval's sister, Kathy Monzo, who died of Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, also known as ALS or "Lou Gehrig's



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Over 160 couples started Monzo Madness but by the 24th hour, only 20 students were left on the dance floor.

disease". Monzo was only 47 when she passed away from ALS in 2001.

ALS is a fatal neurodegenerative disease caused by the degeneration of brain neurons which control voluntary movement. As they deteriorate, the body's muscles weaken until the patient loses the ability to control any voluntary movement except for the eyes.

This year's Monzo Madness raised over \$20,000 in donations from the couples attending the dance, topping last year's donations by \$5,000. A minimum donation of \$80 was required for a couple to attend, a \$5 increase from last year. However, while \$80 was the minimum donation, many raised much more than that, with the highest donation reaching \$430.

Those who attended the dance felt that they actually wanted to donate money, not just pay the \$80 for the ticket.

Jill Rucker '08 said "Monzo Madness is great because not only is

it a dance but it also goes to help people."

The issue over the teachers' contract was one of the biggest problems facing Monzo Madness this year. Because the WTEA voted not to volunteer for any school-sponsored event, the Interact Club was desperate for chaperones, placing the entire event in jeopardy of being cancelled.

In response, the Interact Club met with Ms. Farrow to recruit others besides teachers to chaperone the event. While there were many parents volunteering to donate their time, chaperones needed to be school-board approved, meaning that the Interact Club needed to reach out to other employees of the school district.

Interact Club co-advisor Naval said "We literally had no teacher's volunteering except for the two advisors, Mr. Bucca and I."

Still, those who volunteered enthusiastically gave their time for

Monzo Madness. Students Bob Mulholland '09 and Christian Buonpastore '09 provided the entertainment for the night. To make up for the shortage of volunteers, chaperones went above and beyond the call of duty by extending the time they stayed at Monzo.

"Normally the chaperones take 3 to 4 hour shifts," said Naval, "but now we've extended it to something like 9 hours."

The event also had large turnout this year, meaning some couples would not be allowed to attend. However, the Interact Club yet again negotiated to have the maximum number of attendants extended, allowing all of the couples to attend the dance.

Students were relieved that the event was allowed to continue.

Buonpastore '09 said "Monzo Madness is the greatest school function to participate in because it is a lot of fun and it raises a lot of money of a great cause."

By the end of the night, 20 resilient students were left standing after the 24 hours of non-stop dancing, short of the 62 kids that made it to the end last year. Still, the exhausted students left the gym at 1 o'clock the next day with a sense of pride and satisfactions.

"There's really only one way to describe it," said Adam Stern '09, "Monzo Madness is just a blast."

Interact meets every Monday. Join them to receive information about Winter Pacesetters.

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MUN successful at conference

Lauren Finneran '08

The Russian Federation agrees to give away all of their bio-chemical weaponry. Cuba is expelled from the Organization of American States. The People's Republic of China reabsorbs Taiwan.

Do these ideas sound sort of far-fetched to you? They might be in the real world, but anything is possible at the Model United Nations Conference. For three days, students in grades nine through twelve are transformed from high school students to delegates for a mock United Nations.

From Jan. 4 through 6, approximately 1300 students from the Delaware Valley came together to the Hershey Lodge and Convention Center in Hershey, Pa for the Model United Nations Conference. During this weekend, each of the delegates takes on the role of a different country represented in the real United Nations. Each of the countries represented in the United Nations along with all of the blocs and video and written press are represented with delegates from each delegation (school) in attendance.

For these three days, the delegates acted as representatives from their respective country. While following parliamentary procedure which includes being in formal attire, formally addressing the chair and announcing your name each time you speak, the delegates debated in order to pass resolutions dealing with the issues being discussed within their committee.

Delegates are encouraged to find their country's allies within the committee and team up with them in order to write resolutions that are later debated and voted upon. The goal of

the weekend is for the delegates to completely take on the views of their countries and to pass resolutions that will benefit their individual countries.

This year's Model UN trip was incredibly successful for the Washington Township Delegation. Many delegates received awards and special recognition. Alaina Springsted '09 and Brooks Kinch '10 were invited to attend the Conference on National Affairs this summer in North Carolina. Stephanie Foran '08 was elected as an alternate for the conference. Springsted

and Felicia Revero '09 were elected as chairs for next year's conference. Although debating resolutions is the main part of this conference, another important part is making friends with people from all different schools.

"It was awesome to meet high school students from all over the area. I learned so much from them all and I know that I will be friends with many of them for years to come" said Victoria Garner '08.

Delegates were given the chance to mingle in various ways. There was a mixer added this



Photo courtesy of Mike Dokas '08

Delegates discuss and debate topics at the Model UN Conference.

year for Friday night. There were different activities to get the delegates to unbutton their jackets and have a good time. On Saturday night, there was an informal dance, which allowed the delegates to spend more relaxed time with their fellow delegates.

The Model United Nations conference is more than just something that looks good on a college application; it is a way for a diverse group of people to come together and become involved in a heated debate in order to have an enjoyable time and voice the opinions of their country.

strongly condemns the attacks and believes the government of Sudan must cooperate for peace.

The Security Council of the United Nations is responsible for maintaining global security and international peacekeeping.

Recently the Security Council also expressed their concerns about Darfur and the surrounding countries. According to the UN website, Council members asked Sudan and Chad "to exercise restraint and pursue dialogue and cooperation" and respect their commitments to the United Nations.

In addition to respecting the United Nations, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees is attempting to respect the rights of countries where Iraqi refugees fled. They are appealing for more than \$260 million dollars to help countries with a sudden influx of displaced refugees and to provide more educational and health services.

"It's good because it's supporting cooperation between countries and it's really

important during this time in the world," said Jamie Piotrowicz '08.

The "Big Five", composed of the United States, United Kingdom, France, Russian Federation, and China, were chosen back in the post-WWII era and given permanent seats in the Security Council because of their victories. The "Group of Four" nations, Germany, Japan, Brazil, and India have made demands for permanent seats as well. Each of the four countries has contributed to the UN. The resolution regarding this topic is awaiting approval from the United Nations General Assembly, which requires two-thirds majority to pass.

The United Nations and the Model United Nations may differ on some of the issues covered, but both organizations realize the world needs to use diplomacy to get their points across. Perhaps in the future, the Model UN will be more focused on what is really going on in the world and strive to help the UN fix it.

What does the *real* United Nations do?

Stephanie Foran '08

Model United Nations is a student-run organization that is based on the United Nations, a peacekeeping association dedicated to world affairs. However, the Model UN deviates slightly from the real UN.

Officers of the Model United Nations subcommittees create their own topics for delegates to discuss. The *real* UN is dealing with very serious global issues that some delegates believe should have been discussed instead.

"I think we should discuss them because these are real, serious issues that need to be dealt with," stated Brandon Cunningham '08.

Perhaps the biggest issue at the United Nations as for 2008 is the ongoing genocide in Darfur. On Jan. 8, Sudanese Armed Forces attacked a United Nations convoy carrying rations for UNAMID (United Nations, African Mission in Darfur) personnel. There were no casualties, but Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

Sports

Minutemen playoff hopes in sight

Maria Brasco '09

"Every time I step onto the mat and hear the buzzer I get an intense rush that I would never trade for the world," explains James Higgins '10 as he warms up for his match.

Higgins, just like the rest of his team, is excited for this year's season. So far the team has accomplished a fourth place finish in the Collingswood Christmas Tournament and second in the Princeton Tournament.

The team's record is ten wins and three losses.

"To improve from last year's record and to qualify for the playoffs would please me and the other coaches," said Coach Ralph Ross Jr., "However, no matter the outcome of this season I will be very proud of my team and how hard they have worked to get where they are today."

As of now, the team has a chance to qualify for playoffs. The team is working hard and trying to stay positive.

Opinion

Time right for NCAA playoff

Weston Eldridge '10

Who's really number #1: USC, Virginia Tech, Ohio State, Oklahoma, LSU, Georgia...? It's impossible for even the most intelligent sports analyst to answer that question while taking into account all the ups and downs of the 2007-2008 season. I feel strongly that a playoff system is the only logical and fair way to determine who is the best college football team in America. The NFL uses a playoff system; and it's worked effectively for years. Why should college football be any different?

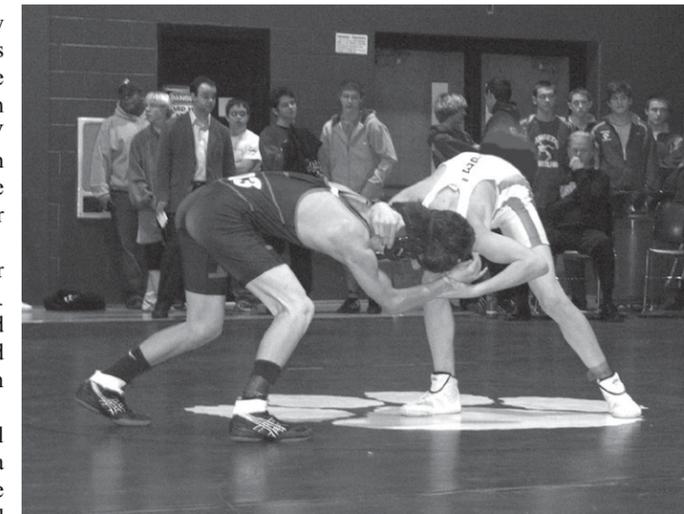
The playoff system was almost necessary this year; due to all of the upsets and team's rising and falling in the rankings. In a season like this, it's impossible to determine the top two teams in the nation. No two teams stood out by

This season is especially important because the team has gained a new coach, "Irish" Mike Ahern. For his four years of high school he wrestled 103 lb. at Paul IV and was a three-time region champion. After high school, he attended Elizabethtown College for wrestling.

He continued his passion for wrestling by coaching after college. Ahern coached at Sterling and Collingswood for a few years and now coaching here, at Washington Township.

"Hern's the man. He's real intense in the room and that extra motivation is what we needed. He brings a lot of knowledge and experience into the room. We really feed off his positive energy," Frank Higgins '08 said.

Along with the new coach, some new freshmen are really making their mark on the team. Christian Matthew Salera (103lbs.), Charlie Huff (112/119), Christian Michael Salera (125/130), and Steve Swayze



Maria Brasco '09/ The Patriot

Christian Matthew Salera '11 (left) works for an advantage from the neutral position.

(135) are a major part of many of the varsity wins. In the next three years of high school, these four wrestlers will be vital to the team.

Through these last few months, the team has bonded immensely.

The many inside jokes they have lighten the mood at practice and help them to work together.

Winter Varsity Sports Records

as of Jan. 23, 2008

Boys Basketball 6 - 9

Girls Basketball 12 - 2

Girls Swimming 5 - 2

Boys Swimming 2 - 5

Wrestling 12 - 3

Boys and Girls Bowling

-Currently in 2nd place in Olympic Conference

Boys Indoor Track Team
Placed 3rd at Group IV State Relay Championships

Girls Indoor Track
Placed 11th at Group IV State Relay Championships

Tech Talk

The only prescription is more *Rock Band*

Tom Gill '10

For years now, people have been rocking out with the *Guitar Hero* series. However, on November 20, gamers were introduced to *Rock Band*, the game allows you to go further than your guitar controller and play with your friends as a whole band. No longer do you have to play just as the lead guitarist, as you and your friends can now play as an entire band to some of your favorite songs.

Thanks to *Rock Band*, you can now have a guitarist, a bassist, a singer, and even a drummer playing the same game. There have been games for years that allow you to be a singer and a guitarist but now you can even be a drummer, which is probably the most talked about part of *Rock Band*. You start by playing simple notes and go into playing beats. Once you get into the groove of a beat, you actually start to feel like a real drummer. Another

Techknowledge by David Clements '08

Tech ushers in era of laziness

Each issue "Techknowledge" will discuss the positive and negative effects of newer technology on our society.

It is a common belief in our society that because of technology, each generation has been "dumbing down" from the previous one. Is this really the case? Quite truthfully, I can't imagine writing this column without a spell checker. Does that make me dumber than my parents and grandparents? Personally, I don't think so; lazier, perhaps, but not dumber. Some might even say it is smarter than to waste your time looking up these big words in a dictionary.

This argument is hardly a new one. It started back in the 1940s, when television was first commercially available. It was the beginning of the end of our brain cells. It even received the name "boob tube", which isn't all that inaccurate. Reality TV proves it, often quite literally. Some television shows are educational – like "CSI." I now know how to commit a crime and not get caught. I'm not quite sure that this is what I was supposed



Rock Band allows to play with the guitar, drum, and bass parts at the bottom of the screen with lyrics scrolling across the top.

cool aspect of the drumming part is the fact that during the song, the game will allow you to play riffs, which adds to the fun.

The guitar and bass parts in *Rock Band* are played in the same way as they are in the *Guitar Hero* games. However, many of the songs are less difficult than those of *Guitar Hero 3*. One neat aspect of the guitar

that comes packaged with the game is the additional set of buttons at the bottom of the neck that allow you to rock out during a solo without even drumming the buttons. This adds some difficulty for those who are used to the old method of playing a solo.

Thankfully, the *Guitar Hero* guitars work just fine with both the guitar and bass parts for *Rock Band*.

It's not just the fact that this alleviates the need to buy another *Rock Band* guitar for the bass player; it's also the fact that the *Rock Band* instruments are infamous for breaking down. There are many reports of guitars that won't even strum and drum pads that won't register hits. Fortunately, the reliable *Guitar Hero* guitar saves players money by being universally accepted for both the guitar and bass parts in *Rock Band*.

The singing works in the same way as other karaoke game by recognizing the pitch in which you sing and the vowels of the words. It also allows you to play the tambourine parts by tapping the microphone when indicated.

There are many types of modes that you can play in *Rock Band*. For those who like to go it alone, the game allows you to play solo mode with any instrument. As well, you can play as a single instrument, a whole band, or any random assortment of instruments doing the world tour. In world tour mode, you travel from city to city performing gigs to earn money as you become a legendary symbol of rock. You can even play online and create an entire band with other people from all over the world.

A special addition to the 360 version is the ability to create your own rocker. By playing gigs in the world tour mode, you can earn money to spend on your wardrobe. What is also cool is that you can set them with an attitude of gothic, punk, heavy metal, or rock, allowing you see how your rocker acts on stage during songs.

Rock Band is again similar to *Guitar Hero 3* when it comes to songs as there are many that are in both games. However, new songs include "In Bloom" by Nirvana, "Say It Ain't So" by Weezer, "Are You Gonna Be My Girl" by Jet, "Blitzkrieg Bop" by the Ramones, "Learn to Fly" by Foo Fighters, and many others.

While this game is \$170, you most definitely get your bang for your buck. The game is as innovative as innovative can get and it provides hours of fun at parties. This game is likable by anyone and should be played by everyone.

to be learning, but that's what I learned anyway. As the comedian Gallagher once said, "Don't you wish there was a knob on the TV to wish up the intelligence? There's one marked 'Brightness,' but it doesn't work." But television was just the beginning.

Next is my personal favorite: the calculator. Can you imagine taking your SATs without one? I think it's a wonderful invention; it

makes balancing your checkbook and paying your taxes a thousand times easier. The older generation, from what I have observed, constantly rolls their eyes at the fact that we use calculators all the time. They act as though something is wrong with the fact that we don't pull out a pencil and paper to figure out the percentage off of the price of a new iPod. Once again I ask: does this make me dumber or smarter?

So what exactly is the effect that technology has on us? The

answer is just too complicated for any one reason or opinion to be right. Some technology makes us lazy, while other technology really does help. It's my opinion that it all depends on how you use it. Does technology make our minds deteriorate?

It can, but it isn't the only factor. It has played a large part in our society, and, unfortunately, often in a negative way. Perhaps that is

because any change is often viewed as a negative instead of a positive. This is especially true as people age. An example of this is how often older people resist getting cell phones, even though they could be extremely useful.

Technology can be our friend, so long as we don't let it take over our lives. Sadly, this has already started for most people. Alice Kahn once put it best: "For a list of all the ways technology has failed to improve the quality of life, please press three.

Some technology makes us lazy, while other technology really does help.

Black and Garcia direct great show

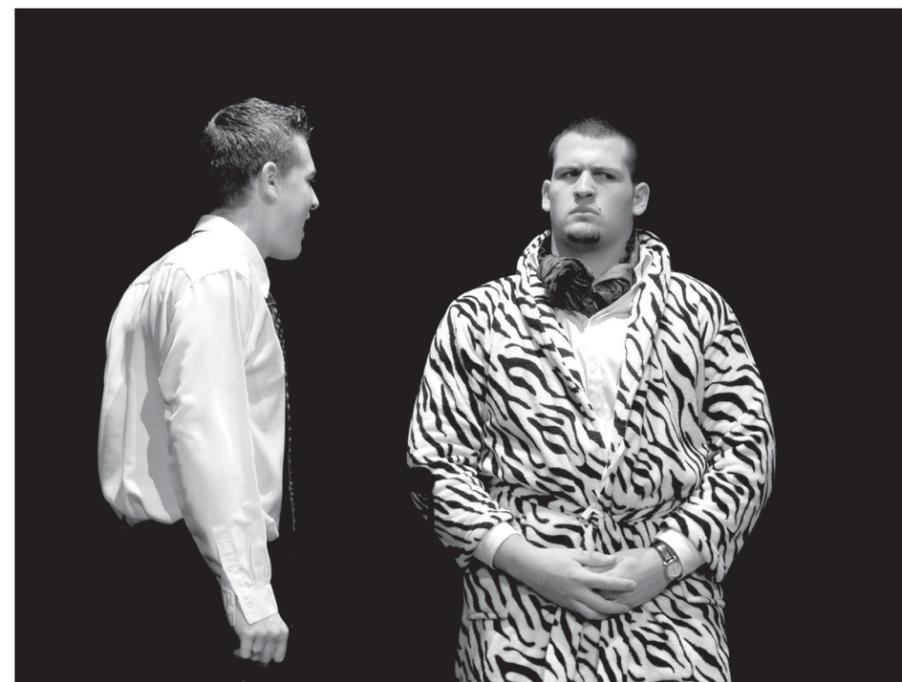
Maggie Bonanni '09

The 13th annual Senior Directed Cabaret was not a show to miss. A theatrical and comedic mix of short skits, seniors Nikki Black and Christie Garcia directed the show with persistence, time, and effort. Despite snowy weather on Jan. 17, and Monzo Madness on Jan. 18, the turnout was rewarding. Those who came to see the production were pleased with the show.

"I really enjoyed the show, Nikki and Christie did an amazing job and the skits they chose really reflected their personalities," said Jackie Nagle, who directed the 2007 Cabaret.

Both directors were chosen by the last year's previous cast. After finding out that they were directors for the 2008 Cabaret, both were very excited and could not wait to start directing the show.

"I was so excited about working with Christie as a co-director," said Black, "Our personalities are compatible, and we worked so well together. Christie



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

Chris Gorz '08 and Max Giorgi '08 opened the show by playing Max Bialystock and Leopold Bloom from *The Producers*.

and I have gotten so much closer because of the show and I'm grateful for that."

Work was a major factor of the show, as the directing process is strenuous. Along with picking skits that were funny and appropriate for a school audience, both directors had to work around the 30 cast members' schedules for rehearsals.

Because of the varying

schedules, rehearsals were in many different places, including the psychology room, Black's basement, and even the court room at the police station. The work that went into the show was stressful and often overwhelming at times for both the actors and directors.

"Christie and I tried our best to be lenient and work around other people's schedules," said Black,

cabaret paid off. The audience's reaction to the show could be heard from outside the 11-12 auditorium. Laughter rang throughout the auditorium, and progressed as the show went on. Each skits was uniquely humorous, and different from its predecessor.

Popular skits like the opening scene from *The Producer, I Love Lucy's* "The Chocolate Factory", *Saturday Night Live's* "Brian Fellow's Safari Planet", and "Charlie the Unicorn" were well received by the audience. Less known skits, like "The Wedding Story", and "Criminal Hearts" contained sarcastic humor, and sent the audience into hysterical laughter.

Both directors, the cast, and the audience were satisfied with the show. Not only was the show humorous, but it was also an experience to remember. It brought the cast closer together, and gave them a chance to grow as actors.

"I loved the cast; they were all so funny and amazing to work with. I thought the show turned out perfect, and we really pulled it off, for what I think is the best Senior Directed yet," stated Erin Dunphy, who played Lora in "Impromptu".

Vote "YES" to saving costs and helping the environment!



What a bright idea!

March 11, 2008

Where: WTHS

When: Noon - 9p.m.

Township Goes Green

Alyssa Figueroa '08

A referendum will be held on March 11, 2008 at WTHS from 12 p.m. to 9 p.m. to vote for a new proposal made in the Washington Township district that could save the high school hundreds of thousands of dollars as well as make the school more eco-friendly. The district is looking into using solar panels to power the high school. As the cost of energy continues to rise, adding solar panels to the roof of the high school can potentially lower the school's bill by nearly

30%. Not only will these panels cut costs, but they will help out the environment by reducing carbon dioxide emissions, which is the leading cause of global warming, and other environmental problems. This approach would also increase the value of the building. The initiation of this effective project will be determined by the vote of the taxpayers of the district. This smart investment has the ability to make a huge difference to our community, and taxpayers have the power to make the difference happen.

Features

Game club combines fun, relaxation

Katelyn VerSprill '10

Entering Cafeteria B when the Game Club is in session is like entering an entirely stress-free zone. Students sit around laughing, playing games, and telling jokes. At the far end of the room stands a cabinet filled with games, with everything from Sorry to the board game version of Halo. From the sights observed, it is evident that nothing but fun and frivolity can come from this club.

"This is the best place to go when you need a break," says club president Alex Del Signore '12. The Game Club is, according to members, a great way to relieve stress and have a good time.

"It makes school easier and gives you something to look forward to" says member Kaitlin Shockley '11. The Game Club also seems to provide a sanctuary away from the everyday stresses and aggravations of school.

"It takes my mind off the school work I should be doing," said Dave Clements '12. Playing games, having fun, and relaxing are what the Game Club members are all about.

To member Alaina Lincul '11, the Game Club allows students the chance to do "things you don't get to do during the week."

Day by Day by Jessica McFadden '10

Conserving electricity a necessity

Almost every home in America wastes electricity daily. It's often an unconscious action, but still, it is wasteful.

Some ways to conserve power are more obvious than others. Leaving a ceiling fan on in the summer when you are not home, wastes much electricity. As surprising as this may seem, sending a one-word e-mail from a computer uses thirty times more electricity per message than a text message. Sending a text message from a handheld device actually saves electricity.

Planning on buying a new computer? If you choose a laptop over a desktop computer, you will save up to two hundred and twenty kilowatt hours in a single year! That's a savings of about twenty dollars each year.

Are you the type that likes to work out frequently? If so, then try to lean more towards stationary equipment that does not use any



Photo courtesy of the Game Club

Haloclix, a miniatures game based on the best selling video game, is popular this year with the club.

Despite common misconceptions, the Game Club plays some very interesting games. Board games are the main entertainment of the group, although some card games such as Magic and Yu-Gi-Oh are also played. Some favorites include the board game version of Halo and Kill Dr. Lucky, a game in which players try to get your piece in the same room as Dr. Lucky to... well, the title says it all. This is not as easy as it sounds, however. The other players cannot be able to see the room you occupy.

Other games that are played include abstract strategy games such as chess, and military/historical games ranging from the War of 1812 to World War II. For traditionalists, there are also family-style games like Monopoly.

The Game Club was formed about twenty years ago by advisor Mr. Jim Evangelisti. Last year, Mr. Robert Hart got involved, volunteering his time to the club as well.

"It started with a bunch of kids in my classroom staying after school playing Risk. It just sort of escalated

from there," says Evangelisti. In fact, it escalated so much that the club had to be moved to Cafeteria B to keep up with the number of kids attending.

However, despite the fun all the members have, it seems that this year mostly juniors and seniors attend the meetings, which are held every Thursday in Cafeteria B from about 2:20 to 3:40.

"I don't think people are adventurous enough to make the walk over here to see what the club is about," said Evangelisti. He feels the club would be more fun if more freshmen and sophomores joined.

"I would like to see more underclassmen get involved." He says.

Of course, new members are always welcome. Those interested bring their own games or play one of the forty games the club already possess.

Joining the club is easy enough. Simply come to the meetings.

"If you're here enough times, we put your name on the sign up sheet" says Del Signore, "then it is official."

For stress relief, fun, and tons of board games, there seems to be no other club to join than Game Club. For more information, visit their e-board on the school website.

external electricity outputs. By using a stationary bike for a whole year, you are saving one hundred-sixty kilowatt hours. If you use that stationary bike for forty minutes a day, you are saving 0.8 kilowatt hours per day.

A few more things that can be done to save energy in your own home are turning off your computer each night, keeping your doors and windows closed, and increasing the use of motion detector lights. By turning off your computer each night, you save on your annual electric bill. If you keep all of your doors and windows closed all of the time, you are keeping the heat in your house, and the cold out. This helps you save money annually on your heating bill.

Motion detector lights are much better for your electric bill because they aren't kept on at all hours of the day or night. They simply go on when someone or something moves near them,

and go off when the object stops motion. By having motion detector lights outside of your home, your electric bill will decrease more than you think.

Dirty air conditioners also raise your electric bill each month. Fixing this problem, along with other problems, is actually one of the simplest things you can do. Cleaning your home's air conditioner will also decrease your bill annually. One not-so-quick fix, is to check your air conditioner to be sure that it is the right size for your home.

Although all of this information may seem frivolous to some, to many it will change lives. If everyone from Washington Township High School took measures to fix the previously stated problems, a lot of underprivileged people could have electricity, like lights, in their homes.

Next issue: A look at air pollution

Indie flick depicts teen life realistically

Max Giorgi '08

Pregnancy: the gift of life. It is a precious, momentous occasion that should be handled with care and love. But to others, this occurrence may come rather unexpected and at the worst time possible.

This is the case for the main character in the big screen release *Juno*. Juno is a 16-year old high school junior who has trouble fitting in at her school. She is sarcastically funny, has a deep passion for rock n' roll, and is cute in her own way.

The movie wastes no time getting into Juno's problems. The opening scene starts with Juno telling the audience the story of her one-night stand in an old recliner. As she copes with the reality of the resulting pregnancy, she wrestles with adulthood and mature topics in her teenage world, and is forced to grow up sooner than she wants to.

Juno goes through many struggles as she tries to determine her future. Her decisions will affect the rest of



Google Image

A major turning point in the film is where Juno, her friends, and stepmother see her baby for the first time.

her life and allow her to step into a realm of complexity and situations no 16-year old girl should ever have to go through. The script, written by Diablo Cody, manages to use comic relief to alleviate its serious

topics and provides a "real-world" spin on the film. *Juno* makes for a very convincing and believable take on teenage reality.

I want to recommend this movie because it isn't afraid to deal with

controversial subjects such as teenage pregnancies, sex, and abortion. It lets you step into what a young girl may actually experience such as the pressure to have sex, the difficult decision of getting an abortion or adoption, and the effort to survive in high school. It can really make someone feel the weight of the world on their shoulders.

Director Jason Reitman casts actors who look like teenagers, such as Ellen Page (Juno MacGuff) and Michael Cera (Paulie Bleeker). I was glad to see normal-looking people for these parts, not actors well past their high school years that look like models. It gives the audience a sense of reality and makes the setting more believable. Some viewers may have a hard time relating to Juno's situation, but it lets you feel so much compassion that it feels as if you are experiencing her life at her side. I would recommend this flick to anyone who is in the mood for a dramatic yet funny movie that leaves you wanting more.

Lost rediscovered after long hiatus

Rich Elles '08

After watching castaways long for home and search for ways off of the mysterious island, viewers are yearning to get back. After an eight-month hiatus, the hit show *Lost* finally returns to the airwaves on Jan. 31 for a fourth season, picking up where the dramatic conclusion left off in May 2007, and giving the massive fanbase more answers.

After a horrifying plane crash that left them stranded on an uncharted island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, the survivors of Oceanic Flight 815 banded together to survive for nearly three months. Each passenger of the doomed flight comes from a different background with a storied past, serving as motives for their actions on the island.

During the three past seasons, the show has explained each character's past through a series of flashbacks featuring life before the crash. Through the mass panic and difficult living situation, several characters have taken charge of the

group. Jack Shepard, the doctor (Matthew Fox), Kate Austen, the fugitive (Evangeline Lilly), Sawyer, the conman (Josh Holloway), and John Locke, the faith-driven handicap who regained the ability to walk (Terry O'Quinn), have taken center stage to drive the plot.

The struggle to live has been made increasingly difficult by the mystery surrounding the island. The castaways have encountered a spooky creature made of black smoke throughout the series and the curious, but violent inhabitants of the island.

After the entire first season of trying to stay alive on the beaches and hoping for rescue, the previous inhabitants of the island are revealed to have homes, power, electricity, and communication with the outside world.

As the survivors battle with the

new surroundings, relationships began to form. Between mystery and drama, love is a prominent theme in the show. Many of the survivors come to love a fellow castaway. However, relationships are not safe because problems arise when the past activity of each character is called

The leader of the Others warned Jack that if he contacted what he believed to be a rescue attempt, "Everyone on the island would be killed."

Among the other odd traits the island possesses is the miraculous curing power, as several survivors' cancers are cured without treatment. When the survivors finally became somewhat comfortable with their

new surroundings, relationships began to form.

Between mystery and drama, love is a prominent theme in the show. Many of the survivors come to love a fellow castaway. However, relationships are not safe because problems arise when the past activity of each character is called

into question.

When we last left the island, the survivors seemed to find rescue in using a satellite phone to call the crew of a nearby freighter. However, the chance to return home seemed too good to be true and the leader of the Others warned Jack that if he contacted what he believed to be a rescue attempt, "Everyone on the island would be killed." It will be very interesting to see if the rescue of the crash survivors is the primary objective of the "rescue team".

Lost is one of the most innovative shows on TV. Fans are always left in suspense at the end of each episode. Perhaps the most unique attribute of this critically acclaimed program is the feeling that no character is safe from death on the island. Several main characters, even fan favorites, have met their demise on the shores of the island.

Leaving fans constantly guessing and speculating, *Lost* is always on the minds of its viewers. If an adventurous, suspenseful show is what you seek, tune into ABC Thursdays at eight to get lost.

Entertainment

Sweeney Todd: Not for the faint of heart

Katelyn VerSprill '10

Squeamish movie-goers beware. There will be blood in this film. Lots and lots of it. A brilliantly executed movie about a vengeful barber, *Sweeney Todd* is sure to give any horror-flick fan a natural high.

Johnny Depp shines as the murderous title character, lending the barber his effortless flair for the odd and mysterious. Helena Bonham Carter gives a king of grace to his accomplice, secret admirer, and pie shop owner, Mrs. Lovett while Alan Rickman plays the evil Judge Turpin, mixing his venomous looks with his sharp words to create a truly magnificent rendition of the character. However, there is another familiar face you will encounter in this movie. Sacha Baron Cohen, a.k.a. Borat, uses his gift for comedy to play the flamboyantly extravagant Adolfo Pirelli.

Sweeney Todd is a musical and while it is hard to imagine Johnny Depp singing, he does a surprisingly good job, portraying the passions and

pathos of the character extraordinarily well. Rickman, famous for playing the role of Professor Snape in the *Harry Potter* series, is also a surprisingly talented singer with a rich, deep voice. It is Carter, however, who really shines in the musical portion of the film. She masterfully blends the tone of the film with the melody and lyrics of the songs, easily transitioning from dialogue to lyrics.

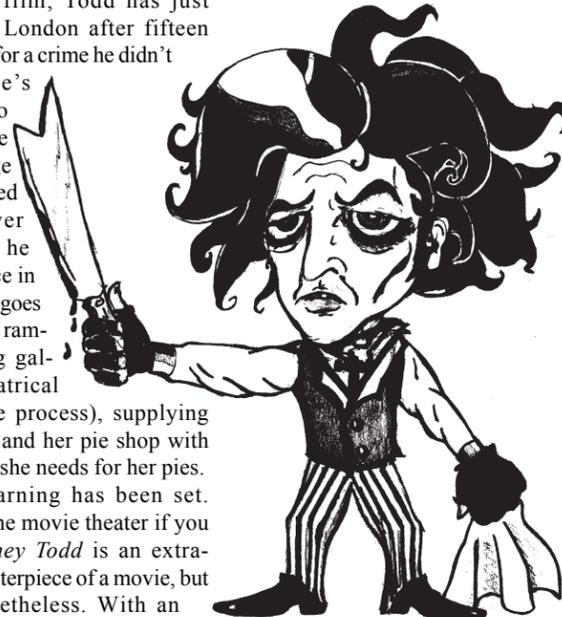
While this film is filled with well known actors and actresses, the songs are what prove to be the true stars. Originally written by Steven Sondheim, the songs convey a queer mixture of comedy, tragedy, and everything in between. From Mrs. Lovett's hilarious rendition of "The Worst Pies in London" to Todd's emotional "Epiphany", the songs are sure to arouse a slew of heartfelt tears and laughs all in the time it takes to change tune.

However, the songs are not the only wonders of this film. The visual effects are extraordinary. The hauntingly beautiful costumes and

sets combined with cringe-worthy cinematography are truly a work of art, befitting the masterful work of the director, Tim Burton. Like many Burton productions, *Sweeney Todd* is not for the faint of heart.

In the film, Todd has just returned to London after fifteen years in jail for a crime he didn't commit. He's desperate to seek revenge on the judge who sentenced him, never caring who he must sacrifice in his quest. He goes on a bloody rampage, (using gallons of theatrical blood in the process), supplying Mrs. Lovett and her pie shop with the "filling" she needs for her pies. The warning has been set. Proceed to the movie theater if you dare. *Sweeney Todd* is an extraordinary masterpiece of a movie, but bloody nonetheless. With an

ending as tragic as that of Romeo and Juliet, *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* will leave everyone happily cringing and asking for more.



Alex Parkin '08

Living life... one letter at a time

Sarah Kurtz '10

Would you have rather loved and lost, or never loved at all? That's the question that every single person asks themselves after they watch *P.S. I Love You*.

The movie is about grieving widow Holly Kennedy (Hilary Swank) and the letters her late husband Jerry (Gerard Butler) sent her after dying from a brain tumor. The letters help her start her a new life without her husband.

P.S. I Love You starts out with Holly and Jerry fighting about starting a family. The same scene ends with the couple showing their love for one another. Shortly after, the movie takes an unexpected twist. Within moments, you learn of Jerry's tragic situation: he has a brain tumor.

But what Holly didn't know was what he did before he died.

On her thirtieth birthday, Holly receives a wake-up call from her friends and family saying she needed to get out of her apartment and get her life back together. Not a moment too soon there's a knock on the door, with a package filled with a cake and a tape recorder.

When she plays the tape, she finds out what Jerry had been doing when she wasn't at the hospital with him. The tape explained how he arranged letters to be sent to her on certain days for a year after his passing. Each of the letters

encourages her to do something for herself. He constantly reminds her that she is going to be okay without actually saying it.

Jerry ends each letter with "P.S. I Love You" to show that he will always care. However, the letters cause conflict between Holly and her mother, who doesn't believe the letters are helping her get over Jerry. She discourages Holly from going on a trip to

Ireland that Jerry had arranged prior to his death. She goes on the trip with her two best friends despite her mother's objection. Going back to where she

The movie could have you drowning in sorrow one moment and laughing the next.

Have ideas? Send them to the Patriot at [wthspatriot@gmail.com!](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

Number of teen car crashes piling up

Matt Neuteboom '08

This year, most seniors are finally enjoying the freedom of driving to school for the first time. The implications of this privilege are amazing. It means not having to leave early to get to the bus stop, as well as being able to go anywhere after school without needing to return home.

Yet this privilege is constantly taken for granted. Often it is mere milliseconds which dictate what happens in an accident. However, the repercussions for this split second in time can sometimes be far reaching. Though not every accident is life-threatening, many teens do not think of how easily one can get into an accident.

Imagine you and your friends are driving out late one night. You're taking some friends home after a party and you're all listening to the radio. All of a sudden, a car turns out from behind a tree and sideswipes you.

Even if no one is hurt, in just a second an exciting night turns into hectic week, filled with stress and dilemma. Getting into an accident does much more damage than just destroy your car; it can change your life.

Take this scenario for example. In the morning most seniors travel to school in their own car. In the early hours, we're all tired, and because of our delayed reaction time it's easy for us to hit other cars in the bumper to bumper traffic. It may seem like a simple enough fix, but

expect a nice 500 dollar repair bill, and expect your insurance to go up as well.

Now imagine getting into a larger, much more serious accident. You have hundreds (perhaps thousands) of dollars in damages to pay off. Your insurance will go through the roof. You have to deal with your parents' reactions and if the car is totaled, then say goodbye to your driving privileges until you buy a new car.

Things only get worse from there. If the police find you at fault for the accident, then you have to pay ticket fines and sometimes even court fees. But this just barely touches on how bad the situation can become. Suppose there is alcohol involved? Or even drugs? All of a sudden you're slammed with underage drinking or controlled



Yahoo image

Car crashes are the leading cause of death among teenagers in America.

substance abuse charges. This means having to go to court and attending classes, paying more hundreds of dollars.

But the worst happens when someone dies in the crash. If this also involves alcohol or drugs, you're looking years in prison, coupled with thousands of dollars in fines for your parents to pay off. Next time you're out driving and you throw caution into the wind, remember that even slightly wreckless driving can lead to life altering consequences.

You can eat off the floor



Nicole Heath '10/The Patriot

Mrs. Molle's culinary class built gingerbread houses for the holiday season. The decorative houses were then put on display in the IMC.

January: Stalker Awareness Month

Lauren Finneran '08

January has been National Stalker Awareness Month since 2003. January is devoted to informing the public about the dangers of stalkers and to spread awareness about stalkers. According to the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC) about one million women and four thousand men are annually victims of stalkers in the United States alone. About one in twelve women and one in forty-five men will be stalked at one point in their life.

Although stalking is illegal in all of the states in America, the statistics of those being stalked are constantly on the rise. They are currently scarier than ever before and are now affecting more than one

million people per year. One of the main reasons the issue of stalking is growing is because of the current simplicity of accessing technology. Technology makes many things easier and advancements have greatly impacted and helped society.

Although it is beneficial in many respects, it has created an easier venue for stalkers. Stalkers use websites such as Facebook or Myspace or other special networking sites. Some stalkers have even used GPS devices in order to track their victims.

The internet in particular has created an open venue for stalkers, which is why it is so important to use caution when using the internet in all situations and on all websites no matter how protected you think you are.

Commentary

Role model's pregnancy disappointing

Nikki Black '08

The recent pregnancy of teen idol Jamie Lynn Spears is unnerving not solely because of her age, 16, but because Spears is viewed daily by thousands of young girls. Recently, it seems that celebrities do not take into account that their decisions and behavior have major affects on the general population, and the results can be especially disturbing when the main audience is not old enough to understand the repercussions of such behavior.

The problem is not only apparent in actions the general public believes is wrong, but also actions generally accepted in today's society, such as the dance moves in many popular music videos. I've actually seen young girls praised by their mothers for "dancing like Britney" because they think it's "adorable." This mind frame can have devastating effects on young children. While the argument can be made that the target audiences for such music videos are not young girls, young children do watch the videos and are affected by the images they see.

This brings me back to the behavior public opinion *does* hold as wrong. Spears showed little consideration for her young fans, who look up to her as a role model and wish to emulate her. Spears's show, *Zoey 101*, airs on Nickelodeon in front of thousands of young fans, who are going to want to know about the starlet, and the information is not hard to obtain because of the enormous publicity the story is receiving.

Teen idols such as Spears are worshipped by young girls and risk not only the morality of themselves but also the morality of the young public. Young children are highly impressionable and often imitate their favorite stars in clothes, speech, and behavior. We can only hope that they do not take their imitation too far.

Stricter immigration laws needed

Devlin Rogers '08

"All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and the State wherein they reside." The previous phrase, from the 14th Amendment, has begun a war in America. An amendment that was once just, is now a major fault in our constitution that I believe must be changed.

In 1868, the U.S. was dealing with the issue of African-American citizenship. The 14th Amendment was ratified in order to keep state governments from denying African-Americans citizenship to our country and to promote westward expansion. At the time of its ratification, the U.S. had no immigration policy and therefore had no illegal aliens. Today we have estimates of as high as 20 million illegal aliens residing in our country.

In our society, this amendment means that illegal aliens may birth a child in our country and that child will become a citizen of the U.S. These children, once 18, may sponsor their parents into citizenship.

Most illegal aliens have no health insurance. With an estimated average birth cost of \$8,000 in 2007, the U.S. will spend billions of dollars to pay for these births. With a mid-range estimate of 500,000 births, this costs us \$4 billion! This is excluding the cost of welfare to children. In 1994-95, \$553 million was spent on welfare to these children. A substantial part of this will come from the taxpayer's pockets.

Although we do not decide where we are born, we as Americans cannot honor these children citizenship when their parents have broken the law by just entering this country. We are the last great western nation to accept birthright citizenship. The United Kingdom, requires that at least one of the children's parents be a citizen to their nation. In



Lillyan Ling '08

France, birthright citizenship has ended and 16 to 22 year olds must actively seek citizenship to remain in the country. The last member of the European Union to end birthright citizenship was Ireland in June of 2004. These countries have seen the benefits of outlawing birthright citizenship. Perhaps it's time we do as well.

I believe this issue has remained silent for too long. Actions are being taken in the US to ban birthright citizenship. In April of this year, Representative Nathan Deal introduced *The Birthright Citizenship Act of 2007* which takes on the same idea as England in which one parent must be a citizen.

In a recent poll, 67% of Americans agree with me that this should be passed. Presidential candidate Congressman Ron Paul is currently basing his immigration policy on the banning of birthright citizenship. This is proof that it is time for change.

The Patriot

Issue 4 - January 2008

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The Patriot is published by the students of
Washington Township High School.
529 Hurffville-Cross Keys Road, Sewell, NJ 08080

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Please send all correspondence to: wthspatriot@gmail.com

News from the Book Club

Gina Parker '09

Walking through the hallways of WTHS, you may see advertisements for the Student Book Club's new novel. Once a month, students gather after school in the IMC under the supervision of librarian Ms. Stephanie Gaughan to discuss that month's novel.

"I originally joined Book Club because my friend was in it and was constantly telling me about the books that she was reading. I enjoy reading and this club sounded perfect for me to learn about some new books," said Kate Nawoyski '09.

The book for January's discussion is *Nineteen Minutes* by Jodi Picoult. This novel tells the story of 17-year old, Peter Houghton, who leads his life constantly being the victim of bullying. As he grows up Peter suffers more humiliation and is frequently targeted by jocks and members of the "popular crowd".

With nobody left to turn to, he collapses and decides to seek revenge, stopping his very problem at the core; his fellow high school students. In the aftermath of his crime his life is sent spiraling downward, and the town of Sterling, New Hampshire will never be the same.

The Student Book Club will be joined by WTHS's Faculty Book Club to discuss this novel after school on Jan. 29.

"Nineteen Minutes is definitely my favorite book we have read so far... With the excitement and drama in this novel I couldn't peel my eyes



Photo courtesy of Ms. Gaughan

In addition to discussing novels that they have recently read, the WTHS Book Club has scheduled an active list of events for the spring.

away from the pages.," said Menahil Amer '09. Upcoming events for book club include their participation in March's Read Across America, community service, and discussions with two guest writers, the *Philadelphia Inquirer's* Sam Carchidi and Carolyn Mackler, who is scheduled to come to our school in May to discuss her works.

"We are very excited to offer WTHS students a chance to meet and discuss the writings of a young adult author as popular as Carolyn Mackler. Many students have already enjoyed reading her books, and we are hoping that by

featuring *The Earth, My Butt and Other Big Round Things* ... that even more students will be enthusiastic about this wonderful opportunity," said Gaughan.

Students may prepare for Mackler's visit by picking up one her books or by participating in Book Club's One Book Township by reading the school-wide novel *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things*.

Many events are coming up for Book Club, so get involved and stay tuned for next month's book, *A Walk in the Woods: Rediscovering America on the Appalachian Trail* by Bill Bryson.

Swan Song livens up bookshelves

David Clements '08

Swan Song, the 1987 novel by Robert R. McCammon, is the ultimate battle between good and evil. Set in present day, it tells the tale of three bands of survivors after nuclear war between the Soviet Union and the United States of America.

Although at first *Swan Song* may sound like a simple survival story, McCammon made the book even more unique by including strange, fantasy/science fiction elements.

The novel starts by introducing the main characters that will group together into three separate teams: the young girl named Swan, who has the strange ability to bring life back to the dead, and her professional wrestler guardian, Josh; Sister Creep, a homeless bag lady who finds a magic, bejeweled ring of glass; and

Colonel Macklin and the boy Roland, both driven to insanity in this new, savage country.

The story builds up to the point where all of these people meet together in the end, all the while the shape shifting Man With the Scarlet Eye – often hinted at being the Devil himself – stalks them, bent on stopping Swan from bringing life back to America.

More than just a struggle for survival, the plot is heavy with the prospect of redemption for past sins. With the complete annihilation of the United States, the characters find new lives and new opportunities to atone for their past mistakes.

All of the characters begin extremely flawed – some get even worse – and a large number find their own unique ways to start all over again in the desolate country. Still, along the way, the Man With the Scarlet Eye impedes their progress,

tempting them at every twist and turn.

Swan Song may have many aspects of hope and happiness, but it is far from a children's book. Readers should not have weak stomachs, as McCammon can get extremely detailed in the descriptions of violence and horror, burning realistic images in the mind. The novel is meant for those who are mature enough to handle violent death and morbid situations. McCammon holds nothing back in specifics, and that can be quite disturbing to many.

The gore isn't glorified at all, however, simply realistic, adding to *Swan Song's* eeriness of how possible some of the events could be. McCammon makes it seem as if these things could actually happen tomorrow, giving the book a large horror element. Some parts are downright scary. It is not horror in

the sense most would think of; that is, something along the lines of Stephen King's works. It is a psychological thriller that makes you truly appreciate what you have.

Swan Song is a stand-alone novel, so there are no sequels or prequels to keep track of. It is long, however, being close to one thousand pages. You'll read it so fast that it will seem much shorter than it really is.

It's an unforgettable tale of survival as these people search for redemption while struggling against the ultimate evil that thrives in every aspect of this world – sometimes it's obvious, other times it's so subtle you'll never even realize it's there. If you can handle some violence and disturbing events or situations, definitely pick up this one, since it has recently been reissued into bookstores. *Swan Song* is a novel you won't regret buying.

Books

Literary Crushes by Lillyan Ling '08

Mr. Darcy captivates the hearts of many

Each issue in *Literary Crushes*, Lillyan Ling will go in depth about some of the most desirable men from well-known novels.

At First Glance: Pretty Eye-Catching

As Mr. Darcy walks into the ballroom, every head in the crowd turns towards him. Every pair of eyes scans him and finds him to be quite a striking man with his noble mien, handsome features, and fine, tall stature. The ladies immediately agree that he is much more handsome than Mr. Bingley, his accompanying friend, and the men pronounce him to be a fine figure of a man. Within five minutes of speedy whispering, the whole room is informed of his income often thousand a year, which is twice the amount of Bingley's. Good looks and money. Cha-ching.

The First Impression: Absolute Snobbery

Halfway through the night, the admiration for Darcy disintegrated to disgust, because he was discovered to be proud and above being pleased. Others wondered why the highly amiable Bingley had befriended such a disagreeable man. Elizabeth Bennet had overheard a dialogue pass between Darcy and Bingley in which Darcy said that Elizabeth was "tolerable," but "not handsome enough" to "tempt" him. In addition, he seemed too proud to make a couple moves on the dance floor.



Google Image

Darcy woos Elizabeth Bennet in the 2005 film adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*.

"He danced only four dances!" claimed Elizabeth Bennet. "I am sorry to pain you, but so it was. He danced only four dances, though gentlemen were scarce; and to my certain knowledge, more than one young lady was sitting down in want of a partner."

"I wish he had danced with Eliza," said Miss Lucas, to which Mrs. Bennet responded, "I would not dance with him if I were you."

However, a few others remained unaffected by his display of snobbery. "If I were as rich as Mr. Darcy," said another Lucas sibling, "I should not care how proud I was. I would keep a pack of foxhounds, and drink a bottle of wine every day."

The Final Impression: A Perfect Gentleman

Mr. Darcy is aware that his manners are not always the most sociable. "I certainly have not the talent which some people possess," he said, "of conversing easily with those I have never seen before. I cannot catch their tone of conversation, or appear interested in their concerns, as I often see done." It is often because of this admitted flaw that others believe him to be a snobbish, rich man. But in truth, he is shy and "taciturn."

His servant at Pemberly counters the negative comments. She claims that she could not have better master. "If I was to go through the world, I could not meet with a better," she said. "He was always the sweetest-tempered, most generous-hearted boy in the world."

His sweet temper is displayed through his deep care for his younger sister, Georgiana. (That's always cute.) But Mr. Darcy realizes that if he is to ever gain an honorable opinion in Elizabeth's eyes, he must show her himself.

He does his best to correct his faults. The effort becomes noticeable and Elizabeth is astounded by his improved manner of civility, gentleness, and dignity.

Mr. Darcy has it all: Money. Good looks. And the will to change for someone. Oh, and he dresses in fashionable eighteenth century pantaloons. And speaks with a British accent. That's always a bonus.

Films deteriorating novel plots?

Katelyn VerSprill '10

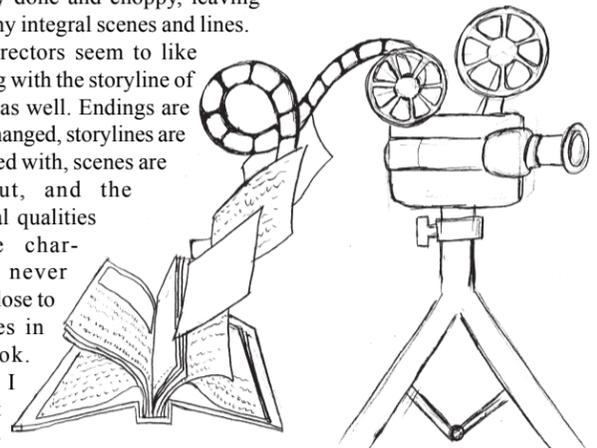
The best book just came out. Better hurry up and read it before it gets put up on the silver screen. Sadly, this event occurs far too often. Books are made into movies faster than you can turn a page. This practice bothers me to no end. As an avid reader, I hate to see books that I have read and loved turned into cheesy substandard movies.

Unfortunately, time and time again, I go to the movie theater with great anticipation, hoping to see a masterfully done film version of one of my favorite books. However, by the end, I find myself wondering why I threw away ten dollars to see a movie that in no way stood up to what I had been expecting. A perfect example is *Eragon*. The book is

fantastic, filled with mystery, colorful characters, daring fight sequences and beautifully described scenery. The movie, however, is sloppily done and choppy, leaving out many integral scenes and lines.

Directors seem to like messing with the storyline of a book as well. Endings are often changed, storylines are tampered with, scenes are left out, and the personal qualities of the characters never come close to the ones in the book. While I know it is impossible

to cover everything that happens in a book, some changes are unnecessary and damaging to the overall quality of the film.



Lillyan Ling '08

Once a book has been converted to the big screen, all imagination ceases. There is no need to form your own image of a character when Brad Pitt is staring you in the face. When you read a book, you imagine what the places and people look like. Often, all your imaginings are smashed as soon as you see the filmmakers' view of the same book. In addition to how everything looks, people also create the message and meaning they get out of a book. This is also taken away from imagination. Your mind it is trained to see someone else's view instead of your own.

In my opinion, books need to stay books. There is plenty of imagination to go around in this world. It is time filmmakers start coming up with their own ideas.

Reactions to state's death penalty repeal

The Punishment should fit the crime

Maggie Bonanni '09

In December, New Jersey became the first state in almost three decades to ban Capital Punishment. Although this might seem like an improvement for such a politically forward state, it is actually a giant step backward.

Opponents feel it is an immoral and unfair punishment. Supporter Governor Jon Corzine said "It's a day of progress for...the people...who reject the death penalty as a moral or practical response to the grievous, even heinous, crime of murder."

What ban supporters fail to recognize is that the death penalty is the fairest and most moral way to punish someone who can commit such a crime.

One of the eight prisoners on New Jersey's death row is Jesse Timmendequas, a man who raped, beat, and strangled Megan Kanka, a

To cause another person's death is an irrevocable crime and the justice system should reciprocate with an equal and serious consequence.

seven-year-old. The law states that for a criminal to merit the death penalty, the murder must be heinous, atrocious, cruel, or done for economical gain. Kanaka's murder was indeed heinous, cruel, and done in an atrocious manner, as are the majority of the cases concerning death row.

To be moral does not only mean to do the right thing, but to also be just. A misdemeanor crime such as theft would not get the same punishment as manslaughter. Murderers who receive capital punishment intentionally killed their victims in a painful and horrible manner, not by accident or in self defense. To cause another person's

death is an irrevocable crime and the justice system should reciprocate with an equal and serious consequence. Death as a punishment for these types of murders is a moral, just punishment.

Another basis for banning capital punishment is that it is ineffective. Many think that the death penalty does not benefit society because it does not prevent

future murders. Considering states with the death penalty such as Alabama have traditionally higher rates of murder, capital punishment does serve as a deterrent. Since the mid 1990's states with the death penalty have seen a decline in murder. After the Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976, 1,099 people in all have been executed. By 1999, twenty-three years later, 98 people in America were executed. Since then the number has

dropped, with only 53 people being executed in 2006. This shows that death rates lower when there is the possibility of capital punishment.

The intention of the law is to punish those for their crimes. Punishment serves the purpose of reprimanding an individual. Since the punishment should fit the crime, capital punishment is an appropriate punishment for heinous and horrific murders.

Weston Eldridge '10

The death penalty should be abolished because it's based on hypocrisy. How can the government say it's illegal to commit premeditated murder when they use the death penalty as a form of premeditated murder? The death penalty should also be abolished because it's unconstitutional, there's too high a risk of wrongful convictions, and it's immoral.

The Eighth Amendment to the Constitution bans cruel and unusual punishment. Killing someone with the help of an electrical chair classifies itself as cruel and unusual punishment. The death penalty is also immoral because it goes hand in hand with the morbid idea that life can be restored by taking the life of the convicted murderers.

Those who support the death penalty agree with the ancient Mesopotamian Code of Hammurabi. This stated that if a free man murdered another free man, the man who murdered should also die. Supporters also feel that the ultimate crime of premeditated murder should be punished by the ultimate penalty, the death penalty. However, because the death penalty is immoral, unconstitutional, and too risky; these arguments come up short.

other ethical methods of punishing murderers. For example, life without parole is an ethical option. Another method is to give the criminals lengthy sentences, with release only on rehabilitation circumstances. Because the death penalty is irrevocable, there should be absolutely no doubt that someone on death row is guilty. Unfortunately, there are occurrences where people on death row are later found

innocent and acquitted of all charges. For instance, since 1973, there have been eighty-four people released from death row after being declared innocent. If they were not declared innocent before their death sentence was carried out, the government would have killed eighty-four innocent people. As a result, there is a significant chance that the death

The death penalty is an immoral act that downgrades our nation's character.

penalty can take the lives of innocent people. Isn't that what the death penalty is trying to punish, not support and practice?

The death penalty is also an immoral act that downgrades our nation's character. For example, the Furman vs. Georgia case in 1972, the Supreme Court ruled the deathly penalty unconstitutional by way of a five to four decision. Outside of cruel and unusual punishment, there are

Those who support the death penalty agree with the ancient Mesopotamian Code of Hammurabi. This stated that if a free man murdered another free man, the man who murdered should also die. Supporters also feel that the ultimate crime of premeditated murder should be punished by the ultimate penalty, the death penalty. However, because the death penalty is immoral, unconstitutional, and too risky; these arguments come up short.



Alex Parkin '08/ The Patriot

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

People

Enjoying the best of two cultures

Ashley Kayser '08

Life between two cultures can be difficult but we never really know unless we go through it.

Sheila Wong is Chinese American and comes from a family who is very committed to their Chinese customs. Her family only speaks Chinese in their household and maintain many traditional Chinese aspects to their lifestyle.

The Chinese holidays they celebrate are the Chinese new year and the full moon which occurs in September. Wong and her family like to go to Atlantic City to their favorite Chinese restaurant and they love catching up at dinner.

"My family is very loud and weird and we don't care what people think," said Wong.

She still has family in China that her family and she have visited during the past year. Two Aunts, her

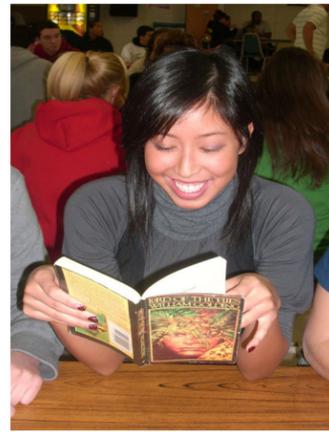
great grandmother, great grandfather, great cousins, and uncles and some nieces and nephews still live in China. In a way, her family is spread out all over the world. When Wong was over in China she had mixed feelings about the experience. Once thing she especially loved was reuniting with her family.

She said, "I haven't seen them since I was about seven years old."

Some other things she liked were the food, she said it was the best she's ever had. She also had her dislikes as well. The toilets were in the ground which she called "disgusting". Also, she said, the weather and the traffic there were terrible.

"China was an amazing experience but a very different environment than what I'm used to", Wong said.

Wong said she thinks she fits in well in America instead of being



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Shelia Wong is very dedicated to her family traditions.

considered a minority and in most ways acts more American than Chinese.

Her parents moved here in 1981 to start a better life. They now own a Chinese restaurant in Philadelphia.

Her parents plan to move back to China when their youngest daughter Sally graduates high school in 2009.

Despite the occasional cultural difficulties, Wong continues to be a light hearted girl growing up in American society.

Wong's favorite subject is science. After high school she hopes to attend GCC but doesn't yet know what she wants to major in when she grows up.

Her friends describe her as funny, outgoing and above all, caring. Her friends also enjoy her goofy sense of humor and the way she knows how to put a smile on anyone's face, whether they're having a good day or a bad one.

If she were to get stuck on an island, one person she'd want to be stuck with is her younger sister Sally Wong. Three things that she would bring are a her ipod, and her car.

Hunsicker achieves through music

Weston Eldridge '10

It all started in fourth grade for Dan Hunsicker '10, when he picked up a clarinet for the first time. His inspiration to play the clarinet came from his grandfather. When Hunsicker would watch his grandfather play, it made him want to be just like him. In the years after, Hunsicker went on to qualify for Olympic Conference Band, All South Jersey Band, All State Band, and won 11 awards pertaining to the clarinet.

Out of all Hunsicker's success, he is most proud of making first chair in All South Jersey Band.

"I felt surprised when I made first chair (All South Jersey), and nervous because I had to make a speech in front of everyone," said Hunsicker.

Hunsicker credits all of his success to hard work and determination. Even though he only practices one hour a week, he also



Photo courtesy of Justine Hunsicker '08

Dan Hunsicker has been playing clarinet for seven years

takes private lessons with Chris Adams.

"Playing the clarinet comes naturally for me," said Hunsicker, "I get better by not practicing."

The best thing about playing the clarinet for Hunsicker is getting

out of class for lessons.

He also enjoys getting out of school when he has to go to All State or All South Jersey practice.

Hunsicker's favorite song out of seven years of playing is "Persistence".

"It's my favorite song because it's really fast and really hard," said Hunsicker.

Not all of Hunsicker's clarinet career has been positive and trouble free. For instance, he had to overcome a huge obstacle when he got braces on his teeth. The braces altered his sound and positioning of his mouth on the mouthpiece. To overcome the obstacle, Hunsicker altered the positioning of his lips and practiced longer to get his lips in shape.

"It was hard to get used to at first (braces), but after a while it became easier," said Hunsicker.

In the future, Hunsicker hopes to make the All Eastern Band because it consists of all the best players from

the entire east coast.

After high school, Hunsicker has thoughts about possibly taking his musical ability to the next level.

"If I can get a scholarship, I'll play in college," said Hunsicker.

The reason that Hunsicker is not positive about pursuing the clarinet in college is because he is starting to get worn out. He said that seven years of intense playing is starting to take its toll and turning into boredom on occasion.

Like to write?
Sign up for **Journalism and Creative Writing** next year!

Getting rich off the rich & famous

Mary Faralli '08

The newest generation of celebrities has arrived from an unusual source: the Internet. Millions of people worldwide have found their fifteen minutes of fame, and some have even managed to extend this time period. Suddenly the dream of making it big and becoming a celebrity does not seem so implausible. Online sites like youtube.com, myspace.com, and the many blogging sights sweeping the internet, have allowed people to become instant celebrities by expressing their opinions and exposing their talents for many people to see and judge.

The new Internet craze has created a frenzy in the world of celebrities. It has turned average people into overnight sensations. Many of the people that we have now labeled as celebrities began simply with a camera and the desire to speak out and be noticed. One of the most infamous bloggers has experienced these affects of being shot into instant fame is Perez Hilton. In the two and a half years since celebrity gossip blogger, Perez Hilton, has been active on the

Internet, he has quickly transformed what began as his own personal blog into a bustling rest stop for millions of celebrity addicted fans. His controversial topics and crude, the lives of celebrities have made him one of the most influential Hollywood critics.

Before Mario Lavandeira Jr. dyed his hair pink and coined the name Perez Hilton, he was an anonymous celebrity fanatic desperately yearning to become one himself. After his acting career fizzled with small roles in T.V. shows and low budget films, Hilton decided to pursue his other passion, journalism. He earned a place on the staff of the notoriously unreliable celebrity magazine, Star, and quickly recognized his knack for reporting on the lives of the rich and the famous.

Recently, the website has set a record with 8.82 million page views in the course of one day and Hilton has become a celebrity himself. Plastered on his website are pictures of him arm-in-arm with smiling stars. If his website becoming a national sensation is not enough, he was asked to launch his own reality series and one can even purchase his new

line of Perez accessories. Hilton was recently ranked number 23 in Details Magazine's annual picks for "50 Most Influential Men Under 45".

Perez Hilton is just one of the many examples of people who have achieved their dream by speaking their voice. The Internet has opened the door to Hollywood for many people hopelessly clinging to the dream of finding success by gracing magazine covers and appearing in movies.

The instant celebrity has created many new stars that have



Google Image

Perez Hilton had always been obsessed with celebrities, and even wanted to become one himself.

helped shaped our pop culture and

we can expect many, many more to come.

Applied, Denied, Accepted

Taylor Cohen '08

Applications, recommendations, essays, and SAT scores seem like it may be the most important things in a seniors life these past few months. You've applied, been denied, accepted, or are still waiting by your mailbox day after day to see if you get a thin letter or a bulky envelope that holds your future.

If you've been accepted to the college of your choice, congratulations, all your hard work paid off! Now comes the easy part, if you like paper work. First you need to commit to the college of your choice, soon after some colleges will ask you to fill

out a "personality exam". This is used to match you up with the most compatible person for a roommate. After this is finished rooming forms will be sent out. This is to see if you will be living on campus, what campus you want to live on (if there is more than one), and if you have any additional notes. From there it just gets easier, information will be sent out about the college to visit, stay over, and even meet people in your major. Basically the stress is done, and you've just been accepted!

Now, if you've been denied from the school of your choice, don't get upset. There are many other schools that would like to take you rather than the ones who denied you. If you haven't gotten into any of the

colleges you applied to, then county school is always an option and you should talk that over with your parents and guidance counselor. Gloucester County and Camden County are both academically recognized schools in New Jersey. Thousands of students go there every year and end up going to the school of their choice after 2 years. So don't give up now, the best is yet to come!

Finally, if you're still waiting to see what the mailman drops off today, all you can do is continue to do well in school and keep in contact with the universities you have applied to. Lots of colleges like to see mid-year grades, so if you show consistence with your academics, they will be more willing to accept you than deny you. The best things come to those who wait!

Although this is a very stressing time for seniors across the United States, it can also be a very

exciting and uplifting time as well. The next few months are shaping our futures, our friends futures, and even our parents. So try to relax and think about where you would like to be in the fall of 2008!

Would you like to receive The Patriot newsletter, containing stories we want covered? E-mail us at wthspatriot@gmail.com

Lifestyles

Winter Fashion 2008

Leanne Abrams '11

Each season, various types of clothing are displayed in the windows of many stores, or plastered across the well-known fashion magazines. In summer you tend to see many shorts and tanks, plus every color of sandals. But when winter arrives, you have much more of a variety of styles from which to choose. The main focus in the winter is to keep warm!

After going to the Deptford Mall to research the styles and checking out what teens are wearing in the hallways, I found that teens can find everything they are looking for at Hollister, American Eagle, Pac Sun, and Journeys.

Hollister is one of the most popular teen shops. Most likely wherever you look you will see someone wearing a piece of clothing from there. Hollister has many clothing choices for the winter season. They have many warm zip up hoodies in any color you could imagine, from bright blue to lime green, yellow, navy blue and pink. The hoodies are about \$40-\$60. Hollister also has tons of T-shirts that can fit most sizes and they come



Google Image

Ballerina flats come in all different styles and can be found in many stores.

in every color you would hope for. Winter is not over yet so if you are still looking for a winter coat that is in style, Hollister has black, tan, or white ones on clearance so hurry there if you need one.

Another popular store in the mall these days is American Eagle. American Eagle has many of the big purses that are in style this season. They have many to choose from: yellow, white, blue, green, tan, etc. They price from \$24-\$34. You see a lot of teens wearing knitted empire-

waist sweater. American Eagle carries many shirts in this style in a variety of colors and textures.

Journey's is a popular shoe store that offers fashions for everyone. They sell many flats: striped, solid color, shiny, glittery, and plaid. Flats are a major fashion trend of 2008. Not only are flats "in" this winter, Ugs are also really hot this season. They come in high boots, short, ankle and slip on. The "real" ones cost about \$100. They come in black, sand, tan, brown, navy blue, and white. If you are looking for prints, then check out the Chuck Taylor's in low top or high top. You can choose plaids, solids, or prints.

Are you looking for a scarf to go with your furry hood coat? Wet Seal has many to offer. They have long or short scarves. They come in any color you would want: solid colors, metallic, darks, lights, and bright colors. They go for about \$10-\$15 each.

All of these shops are offering huge sales. The holiday shopping season is over, so many of these popular stores are looking to clear out their winter fashions. Go now to take advantage of the great deals and styles!

Mind, Body, & Soul by Maggie Bonnani

Eating right requires knowledge

The food a person eats can have a momentous impact on their life. Foods from fast food restaurants, sit-in eateries, and even those that are deemed "healthier" can be loaded with fat, sodium, and cholesterol. These foods, without question, are harmful to your body and should be avoided. In reality, it can be quite easy to improve your diet, if you know what types of foods contain the right elements.

Many are under the impression that all fats are bad and try to omit fatty foods from their diet. However, there are good types of fats, which can be found in many unexpected foods. Avocados, the only fruit that contains fat, also contains more potassium than bananas and contain vitamin E and B6, which are needed for any healthy diet.

People also omit meat from their diet in an effort to have a healthier lifestyle. Although some meats can contain cholesterol and chemicals which are harmful towards your heart, there are other sources of protein that do not. Many types of seafood are healthier alternatives. Fish such as salmon and sardines contain omega-3 fatty acids. Not only are these another good source of fat, but they benefit your heart.

A big mistake that people make to improve their diet is cutting out dessert. Although desserts are thought of as unhealthy and riddled with calories, there are definitely better alternatives. Yogurt is versatile dessert; you can add fruit, granola, or even use it as a dip. Grilled fruits are also a healthy dessert alternative. Grilling pineapple brings out its natural sweetness, and with a touch of maple syrup, can be the perfect dessert, or even a snack.

Improving your diet is not always easy. But one thing is for sure: with the right foods you can make any diet better.

Plato's closet opens new doors for affordable fashion

Nikki Black '08

Being both money smart and in style can seem impossible for a teenager to accomplish. Luckily, Plato's Closet provides a way for teens to stay in style and keep a budget.

Plato's Closet, a resale store, was opened in May of last year and has been experiencing major success in Deptford and surrounding areas. The store is part of a franchise that takes in used clothes and re-sells them at a third of the price they originally sold for. Although part of a franchise, each Plato's Closet is individually owned and operated.

This particular store, located in the Plaza at Deptford on Clements

Bridge Road, was recently rated the number six store in the franchise.

"We've been very successful, especially this store in particular for being so young," stated Jaron Nelson, a sales associate.

The top selling items for this season have been swing jackets, leggings, and tunic tops. "Hollister and Abercrombie are our top selling brands," Nelson said. "We put out new items everyday, so it's important to visit often to make sure you don't miss any good buys," he said.

People are able to bring in used clothes and often make money off of bringing them to the store. The employees decide which items to take in based on a guide book the

corporation provides. This guide book is filled with pictures and descriptions regarding items that are considered in style for the season.

However, many times items are rejected by the store. "I brought two big bags the first time I went, and they took \$25 worth of stuff, but the second time I went they took three things and only gave me three dollars," Christie Garcia, '08, stated. "I also tried bringing back a pair of jeans I bought there but didn't try on, and they wouldn't take them because they were 'too worn'," Garcia said.

The best way to ensure your items will be taken is to bring in items that are in style, in season, and only gently used.

What's Happening

S.U.R.E. PRESENTS

ACOUSTIC COFFEEHOUSE



music, food, and fun!

March 7
6:00 - Cafe B
\$5.00



STUDENT TALENT SHOW
February 14
CBAC
7pm

CHORAL CONCERT
February 17
CBAC
7pm



Join the Game Club!



Engage in fantastic duels.



Conquer the world.

... and still make the 3:30 bus.

The game club meets every Thursday at 2:20 in cafeteria B.

Check out our e-board on the district web site.

Local music scene...

DATE	WHERE	BANDS	COST
2/3	Savage School of Rock, Blackwood	Ships & Sailors, Scrimage, Black Sails, As We Are.	\$5
2/8	Savage School of Rock, Blackwood	Rexedog, Royal Crime Syndicate, The Skeleton Rock Shock, Slobbergun.	\$5
2/22	Savage School of Rock, Blackwood	As We Are, The Skeleton Rock Shock, Slobbergun, Where It Counts.	\$5

Commerce Bank Arts Centre upcoming events

Event	Date	Ticket Prices
Televised Boxing Event	February, Feb. 15 7:00	\$41 - \$125
Dame Edna "Live and Intimate!"	Saturday, Feb. 23 8:00 pm & Sunday, Feb. 24 2:00 pm	\$42 - \$62
The Beach Boys	Saturday, March 1 8:00	\$38 - \$98

MATH LEAGUE

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February 12
March 18

Senior Cafeteria

2:15

Seniors & Juniors

