

## Huckel crowned Mr. WT

Heather Ale '06

On April 20<sup>th</sup> in the CBAC, Justin Huckel '06, Mr. June, was declared Mr. Washington Township. Daniel Rozmes '06, Mr. January, won first runner up, and Mark Natale '06, Mr. July, held second runner up.

"It felt super [knowing that I had won]. I learned that I'm a better dancer than I thought," said Huckel.

As always, this year's Mr. Washington Township was an extravaganza. With everything from teenage boys dancing around to the Backstreet Boys to excessive booty shaking, Mr. WT had it all.

The show started off with the boys running down the aisles and performing an opening dance.

"The first dance was the best part. We came out on stage and couldn't hear the music because the people were screaming so loud," remarked David Zappacosta '06, Mr. May.

Following the opening dance, there were three group dances which



Robert Czyzewicz '06/The Patriot

### Justin Huckel accepts the congratulations of the participants.

were choreographed by seniors Christina Vasallo, Lauren Kaiser, and Jess Donovan, respectively. After their performances, the boys went offstage to change for their next appearance.

In between the boys' performances, filler acts took the stage. The acts included a dance with the three senior choreographers, a performance by the air band "Hot

Air", a group song and dance to "Hey Mickey", a barber shop quartet and a singing/rapping performance by Jamie Dunn and Eric Boss.

"We saw the filler acts at practice; my favorite was the barber shop quartet," mentioned Natale.

After the boys came back on stage, they were introduced month by month, and a brief description of

them was provided as they pranced across stage in outfits such as a scuba diver, a bunny, and cupid.

After the introduction, the boys were interviewed and answered various entertaining questions. After the interrogation, intermission began and the audience left their seats to place their ballot in their favorite candidate's homemade ballot box. Although everyone's vote counted, this was only half of the voting process. Teachers and cafeteria ladies scored the boys in sections such as personality, dancing, and costumes.

The second act started off with a choreographed Michael Jackson dance from the boys and a slideshow. The contestants then invited their mothers up from the audience and introduced their escorts.

Although there was only one clear cut winner, all of the boys won with a special treat given by the cafeteria ladies. "Because they did such a great job, all twelve got a free lunch the next day," stated Mrs. Grace Giandonato, a cafeteria worker.

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## Rewind reels in regional Emmy

Robert Czyzewicz '06

On May 9, 2006, WTHS's *Monthly Rewind* telecommunications class took a trip to Temple University to the 2006 National Student Television Awards for Excellence, a presentation for the high school student Emmy awards.

The presentation, hosted by the Foundation of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, awarded high school students for their achievements in various fields of television production, from writing and development of stories, to technical achievements, to culturally significant pieces, among others.

This year, seniors Marc Siciliano, Marc Buono, Dan Rozmes, and Bill Matthias won a student Emmy in the category of Public

Service Announcements for their piece entitled "The Phone Call", under the direction of teacher Mr. Martin Bouchard.

The 2 minute long segment followed the night of a teenager, played by Buono, as he goes to a party, much to the chagrin of his mother. What she did not know is that the party was one that was fueled by alcohol. The announcement culminates with a drunken Buono staggering out of his friend's house, getting into his car, and getting killed in a car accident.

"Usually, when I hear Emmy awards, I think of celebrities", said Buono. "It's really nice to be recognized for our time and hard work and hopefully people will watch the PSA and decide against drinking and driving."

The four winners are honored

to receive the recognition, especially because the road to the Emmy award was not so easy. The segment itself took an immense amount of planning, writing, and effort to pull it off.

"I had a general idea of the concept before, because at first, I was gonna do it as a health project, but when Mr. Bouchard assigned the PSA, we all kind of fine tuned it and made it what it was", said Marc Siciliano, the producer of the tenth anniversary season of *Monthly Rewind*. We filmed the PSA in about 2 days, then after that, we spent about 7 of the 8 periods in the studio editing for at least a solid week. It took a long time to get it perfect."

The first contest that the segment was entered in did not turn out quite as well. Siciliano submitted "The Phone Call" into a

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# International fest celebrates diversity

Justine Jacobs '06

Washington Township's ESL Program celebrated its diversity at the annual International Night dinner on Thursday April 27, 2006.

The evening, which has become a tradition for ESL students, their families, and their teachers, was hosted by ESL teachers Mrs. Nancy Black, Mrs. Georgeann Figueroa, and Mrs. Patricia Fitzgerald in the cafeteria of Bells Elementary School from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m.

The event showcased the accomplishments of Township's ESL students. Projects by students from all grade levels were on display and an informational table promoted the high school ESL newsletter "I...On Diversity!"

The entire cafeteria was decorated with flags made by the various students, and the high school ESL classes made t-shirts for the



Justine Jacobs '06/ The Patriot

## Members of ESL classes share multi-cultural meal in decorated cafeteria on International Night.

occasion.

International Night began with a few opening remarks from Director of Elementary Education and ESL, Mrs. Barbara Marciano, and

continued with a PowerPoint presentation. The presentation, entitled "Then and Now," featured a slide on each of the forty-four students in the ESL program,

highlighting the students' country of origin, interests, and aspirations. Following the PowerPoint display, all students received a certificate signifying an award of excellence.

Once the presentations were over, guests enjoyed an International Culinary Experience featuring cultural dishes prepared by students and their families.

The buffet included such specialty dishes as Korean sushi, Egyptian flatbread, and Vietnamese Fried Bananas.

High school ESL teacher Mrs. Nancy Black felt the night was a huge success and that the evening's value spoke for itself.

"It's like the commercials: priceless," says Black. "It's just priceless. You just look at the way families come together, cross cultures, and they all love their children. That's what they have in common."

Students also found the evening to be a beneficial experience.

"We are happy to participate in this and enjoy the evening with our parents and this cultural food," says sophomore Yannick Hoffmann.

International Night originated in the early 1980s as a luncheon. As the ESL community grew and the event became increasingly popular it was moved to the evening. This year's International Night received about two hundred attendees.

"I think it unifies our community," says Marciano of International Night, "and I think it's a celebration for our students, their parents, and their teachers. It shows how much support and how much care people have for our ESL students."

While the event was limited to the friends and family of ESL students, the ESL teachers hope to provide opportunities for other WTHS students to see this side of the program and to learn from the group's diversity.

"I think that our New Jersey students learn what it's like to be outside of New Jersey and outside of the United States. They learn what it's like to live in other countries – both the good things and the bad things," says Marciano. "It gives us a better understanding and with a better understanding it gives us a greater sense of harmony."

# Super sights and sounds

Cassie Curran '06

Washington Township is made up of two New Jersey cities, Sewell and Turnersville.

It is a rather daunting task to bring both of these cities together as one large community, but now, Washington Township has seemingly found a way.

On May 13, from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM, the annual Super Saturday festival was held at Washington Lake Park.

The event had something for everybody to do, and at the same time, it did not break their budget.

There were games for the children such as rock climbing walls and moon bounces. For the teenagers and adults, there were stands selling items such as purses, jewelry, candles, and much more.

For the girls who had yet to find the perfect piece of jewelry to go with their prom dress, Super Saturday was the perfect place to find it.

Not only were there great vendors but there were also many stands that proudly portrayed the history of our nation.

Every year, there are veterans who come and teach about what it



Photo Courtesy of township.nj.us

## The WTHS band marches through Washington Lake Park on last year's Super Saturday.

was like in World War II and the other wars that have shaped our history, and this year was no different.

In addition, the food that is sold there came from many different vendors.

The AFJROTC organization even barbecued for the event.

While the spectators snacked, they could witness the minutemen marching band make their last appearance for the '05- '06 season.

Also the middle school concert bands performed a repertoire. There

were also many organizations such as the Nitro cheerleading squad and karate schools showing off their skills and hard work.

It is an exciting experience to see what the future students of this high school will be like and where their many and varied talents lie.

The pageantry and spirit at Super Saturday '06 was truly a sight to behold. Men and women, boys and girls, and young and old collectively enjoyed a tremendous day in the sun.

# Township artists showcase talent

Melissa Cheng '07

District Art Night was a big hit this year on Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. It seemed as though the whole, well, district showed up, including artists from all grades.

Katie Louie '09 narrowed it down to a few words describing what she feels really pulled off this crowd-drawing night.

"Creativity. I enjoyed watching the demonstrations. It gives it more of an artistic atmosphere", she said.

All the public schools came that day with loads of artwork to be displayed in all forms. There were hanging mobiles, sketches, paintings, sculptures, animation, and much more. According to many, it turned out to be a big success.

"It's a lot more art work and the quality's a lot better this year.



all photos by Melissa Cheng '07/The Patriot

## Students demonstrate artistic abilities to Township community members.

A lot more students came out and got involved, too", said Mr. Bob Duca, an art teacher at Washington Township High school, in comparing this year's District Art Night to previous ones.

The demonstrators, were all very glad that night to see their artwork and that of their peers on display throughout the halls of the WTHS Core facility.

"I'm really proud of all the work that

everyone's created. It's a lot of work and their effort really shows.

It's exciting and lots of fun" said Kate Bodman '07.

Nate Gutoski '07, agrees with Bodman stating, "It's cool that the public gets to see our program and how great it really is. They get to see what we can do and what we can accomplish".

Leigh Meinhart '06 whose work took first place at the senior

art show a few weeks before District Art Night, was highly enjoying herself in her role as a demonstrator.

However, this wasn't her first time doing so. She admitted to being anxious her first year of demonstrating, but is doing better.

"I feel claustrophobic. I'll panic a little but I realized that I'm gonna have to get used to it. And this year, I'm not used to it and really don't mind at all", she said.

Jay D'Ambrosio was impressed with the evening.

He said, "Looks like a good turn out. And I think there was so much more organization and thought put into this year's show. Including the tables set up for younger kids, the free food, and all the different forms of art. I'd say this year was a great success."



"Emaciated Endowment" by Nate Gutoski

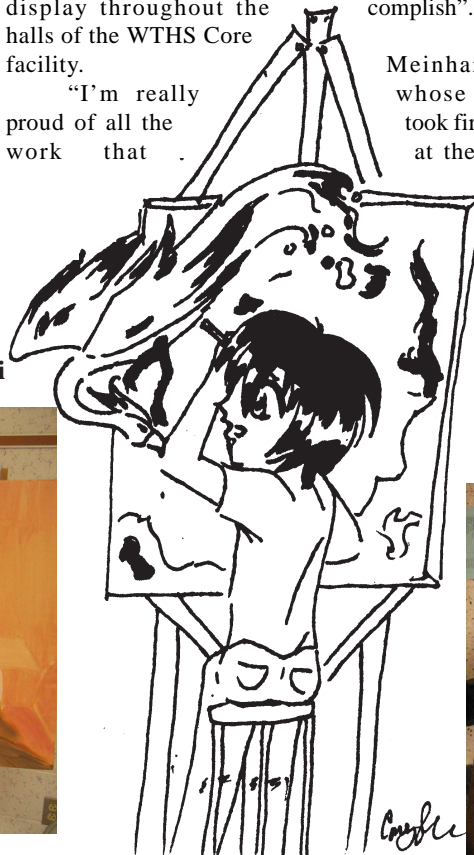


illustration by Cassy Matos '07



Surrounded by drawings Nate Gutoski finalizes a sketch. (below) The finished piece.



Leigh Meinhart poses with her work.



# Program preps future politicians

Laura Marder '07

The youth of today, the leaders of tomorrow can be found in the Youth and Government program. Youth and Government is a club that allows students to run a mock government. Schools throughout the state send delegations of students to participate in this program.

They prepare during the year for a conference in Trenton where they debate bills in the State House. It is an excellent opportunity because it allows students to get an inside look at what goes on in our government and how laws are created.

Many current government officials began in this program.

April 6-8, WTHS once again sent a delegation of students to the conference. Advisors Ms. Kristin Harner, Mr. Todd Oberholtzer and



Laura Marder '07/The Patriot

**Youth and government traveled to Trenton to get an inside look at how the government works.**

Mr. Dan Seia, accompanied the group to the state capital.

"I recommend kids join this club; it gives you a chance to

understand the government even if you aren't going into politics," explained Harner.

The WTHS delegation passed

many of their bills and saw several delegates elected officers for the 2007 conference. Juniors Tori Gilbert, Jerry Cedrone and Michelle Scott each had their bills passed. These get sent to state representatives who look them over and add to them.

Bills that have been passed in programs like Youth and Government have actually been formed into real bills for laws we have today.

"I was Clerk this year and elected to be a Chamber officer for next year; it's interesting being behind the scenes as an officer because you get to see how lobbyist really work and how organized the program really is," said Bryant Byrd '07.

Many other students were also elected to officer positions.

Andrew Bunting '07 and Scott were also chosen as Chamber Officers. They will take part in planning and running next year's conference. Rebecca Watson '07, Marissa Crimaldi '07, Alaina Springsted '09 and Jackie VanOrden '07 were named committee chairs. Nady Hin '07 and Hunter Carson '07 were named clerks for the 2007 conference.

"I like the fact that you meet so many people from New Jersey you never would have met without the program," commented Cedrone.

He will now be able to meet people from all over the country because he and Jackie Petruzzelli '07, were chosen to attend the week-long Council on National Affairs to be held in North Carolina this summer.

# Seniors win Emmy for PSA

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Public Service Announcement contest that was judged by the Gloucester County Police Department. Their segment was put against around 50 others from various schools in the South Jersey area.

"The Phone Call" took a disappointing 15<sup>th</sup> place, and the Rewinders were less than happy with the results, to say the least.

"We lost to segments that simply weren't as good as ours, and it was discouraging," Siciliano began. "When we got 15<sup>th</sup>, I was so let down. I thought we had no shot at such a big award after failing on something that we were so sure of; it was a complete loss of confidence."

Matthias echoed his sentiments, saying, "I knew it was good, and we put a lot of time into it. It made me think that if we couldn't get first place locally, how could we win the Emmy award for the entire Mid-Atlantic region? It was so disappointing to not get recognized for something that we knew could impact people".

Rozmes, on the other hand, felt differently about their Emmy chances.

"Of the four of us, I was probably the only one who thought we had a great shot; I guess I had a



Photo courtesy of Mr. Marty Bouchard

**Monthly Rewind members (l to r) Dan Rozmes, Marc Siciliano, Marc Buono, Bill Matthias, and Mr. Marty Bouchard accept the National Student Television Award at Temple University.**

never ending supply of hope", he said with a smile. "Even though it wasn't recognized locally, I'm glad it was recognized on a regional level. It was flattering to hear the presenter of the award say that the PSA was really powerful stuff".

Now that it has won the regional award, the PSA will move on to compete on a national level

in New York on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Whether or not the announcement wins nationally, the four creators feel fulfilled.

"I'm just glad that we could win with something that is so important to us, especially because it's about something that can make a difference and touch so many different people", said Buono.

# Filmmakers win TSA award

David Zappacosta '06

There are so many clubs in Township that a few of them sometimes fly under the radar.

One of those groups, the Technology Student Association (TSA), made a bang this year.

The TSA is a national organization that encourages learning and competitive events in the area of technology.

This year, the WTHS chapter of TSA took home first place in the film competition for the second year in a row. A member also took third place in the flight competition.

Student filmmakers Kyle Marr '07, Dean Tatulli '07, Cristos Papagourous '07, Pat Reilly '06 and Nick Krouse '06 captured the film prize. Logan Melchionna's '07 aircraft finished third in the flight endurance competition. All place



Photo courtesy of Mr. Richard Ambacher

## TSA members pose with their second consecutive award for film technology.

winners have been invited to the national competition in Dallas, Texas this summer.

"I enjoy helping make a film that has a chance to be in a compe-

petition", said Krouse. "We got the opportunity to enter a short film and win big".

The members of TSA who plan to attend the event in Dallas

have to pay their own way to the competition.

TSA plans to start fundraising next year to help pay for future events such as this.

The TSA organization covers areas from graphics and film, all the way to robotics and architecture.

Washington Township is part of the New Jersey chapter of this association and has been competing for 3 years now.

The competition this year took place at The College of New Jersey with roughly 30 other schools competing.

Students are selected to go by their teachers based on the work done in class. Work from the design tech and communication tech classes are allowed to be submitted.

Mr. Richard Ambacher, technology teacher and advisor for TSA, likes to allow any technology kids to participate.

Events like the film competition are judged before the schools arrive at the college, others like flight and robotics are judged on the spot.

All submissions must abide by the terms and laws of the competitive guide book that TSA puts out.

"The rules were strict; such as we couldn't go over five minutes, and the video had to remain school appropriate", Krouse explained.

According to Ambacher, all of the students worked independently after school and were self-motivated and directed.

"It always makes the advisor's job so easy when you have students the caliber of these guys," said Ambacher, "I can't be available for all of the time it takes to do what they've done. The film guys and Logan really did a great job of staying focused."

Anyone who has has a technology course in middle school or high school is eligible to join TSA.

"Some people think it is just for students currently enrolled in a tech ed class," said Ambacher, "Many people forget that they may have had that class in one of the middle school cycle courses."

If there are any questions about getting involved next year, see Mr. Ambacher in room D-11.

# Junior Prom a memorable night

David Zappacosta '06

The 2006 Junior Prom took place April 21 at the Cherry Hill Hilton. With over 860 students attending, and only minor hitches, the junior prom could only be described as a hit.

"Yes, this dance was a success. Students were arriving early and staying to the very end", said Mrs. Carol Costello, class council advisor.

The Cherry Hill Hilton was set up in its usual prom best with a buffet line, flawless table presentation, and great service. Of course the most important element was the sizeable dance floor.

Although the dance floor was of a decent size, the sheer numbers that turned out on the dance floor was enough to make anyone sweat with extreme heat.

"Yeah it was hot, but what dance floor isn't? It was fun no matter what", remarked one junior.

About 30 members of the WTHS faculty attended the event as chaperones.

As an extra safety measure, there were also police officers dressed in suits to help enforce school policy.

To prevent students who had not bought tickets from sneaking into



photo courtesy of Mrs. Costello

## The junior class officers pose with their advisors at the '06 prom.

the dance, as they checked in, students were given blue bracelets imprinted with the words "WTHS Junior Prom".

Not only did they help enforce attendance, some felt they make good souvenirs for the students.

"I thought the bracelets were a good idea, something that I'll actually hold onto", said Mike Dougherty '06.

The bracelet system will also be used at the senior prom.

While the vast majority of attendees had a great time, some students were disgruntled at the lights staying on almost half way

through the dance.

"It got really hot and it kind of killed the mood for a while", said Danielle Malure '07.

Though unpopular, keeping them on was necessary, because several students had not checked in, so they had to be located before the dance could continue.

Every dance has its bad spots. 20 students were questioned on the suspicion of alcohol. Of those 20 students, 6 were sent home.

For the most part, junior prom went smoothly. Students were able to enjoy a fun and comfortable environment.

# \$1,300 raised for Alex's Lemonade Stand

Robert Czyzewicz '06

On April 27<sup>th</sup> through 28<sup>th</sup>, *Monthly Rewind*, Township's TV production class led under the direction of Mr. Marty Bouchard, held a telethon which aired original programming throughout the day on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

At the same time, they accepted donations to Alex's Lemonade Stand from students, faculty, and community members.

When all was said and done, they raised a grand total of \$1301.54 that will be sent to the very well renowned charity that collects money for the benefit of pediatric cancer research.

"We just fell in love in love with this charity", said Alli Leonard '06, a *Rewind* member and coordinator of the event. "The story of Alex Scott, who had to battle cancer all of her 8 years, was so touching, so we really wanted to help carry out her dream."

In addition to having donation tables and carts set up, the seventeen students wanted to make sure that they had plenty of quality

programming that could catch the attention of Township teachers and students throughout the day.

"I don't think we realized how hard it was going to be to put together eight hours of programming in just a couple weeks", said Marc Siciliano '06, the producer of the tenth anniversary season of *Monthly Rewind*.

Alex McBride '06, another one of the coordinators of the event, feels as though despite a few minor glitches throughout the day, the telethon turned out to be very successful.

"We were kind of rushing around early in the morning to get things done, but it turned out well. The important thing is that so many people supported us and we did

better than we thought we would", she said.

The telethon consisted of various types of programming such as blooper reels, classic *Rewind* episodes, a *Whose Line Is It Anyway?* episode, Mr. Washington Township Pop-up Video, the Best of Senior Directed Cabaret, and much more.

The communications students were able to have such success because of their obvious dedication, effort, and enthusiasm toward the extracurricular project.

"I think Alex's Lemonade Stand went so well", said Siciliano. "Even though we had to work on our shows at like 4 in the morning, we got it done, and we raised a lot of money for a great cause; the work was

definitely worth it. All of the donations from the National Honors Society members [who provided *Rewind* with the lemonade and cups] were amazingly helpful, and I was so happy with the way everyone supported us", he said.

Though it took a lot of work to pull off, the Rewinders are extremely proud that they could carry on Alex Scott's legacy, and they made sure that they took enough time out of the busy preparation schedule to enjoy themselves and make the lemonade stand a memory that they will hold onto for a long time.

"I can't put past the fact that I got to spend 24 hours with some pretty fun people and a teacher [Bouchard] that snores louder than a motorcycle", Siciliano joked.

## Renovated theatre's 'Remarkable' debut

Kelly Gallagher '07

For the seasoned actors at WTHS, *The Remarkable Incident at Carson Corners* started off as a play not much different from countless others.

Every year, Mrs. Cheryl Silverman's Actor's Studio class, in conjunction with her Theater Production class, put on a full length production and travel to the Bucks County Drama Festival to compete with a selection from their show.

This year, however, Silverman and her classes were faced with less than ideal circumstances, to say the least.

While Silverman was trying to select a play that would not only accommodate, but accurately showcase the talent of the 26 members of Actor's Studio, she also had to consider the fact that they may not have a stage to perform on.

At the time, the 11/12 auditorium, the usual site for the performances at the school, was still being renovated, and Silverman was told that it was possible the auditorium would not be finished in time for the late April show dates.

"We had taken measurements for the 9/10 auxiliary gym, the CAC building, or even the 11/12 cafeterias, and we designed a set that would be

erected in one day, and were prepared to, at moment's notice, perform anywhere", she explained.

Once *The Remarkable Incident at Carson Corners*, the story of a small town almost torn apart in the face of repercussions of a devastating tragedy, was chosen, informal auditions and preliminary rehearsals followed.

Unlike many school plays, Actor's Studio rehearsed during their class time, since many of the actors were involved in sports or other school activities.

Silverman strictly adhered to her rehearsal schedule, and everything looked like it was going to be perfect. A week before the show, however, that changed abruptly.

Approximately two weeks before opening night, the student playing one of the pivotal roles in the show, the benevolent janitor Mr. Pete Kovalesky, informed Silverman that he was no longer able to be in the show. This did not, however, spell the end of the production.

Matt Ford '06, admirably stepped up to the challenge, learning a considerable amount of lines, blending in with the established cast seamlessly, and even put on an accent for the role.

Silverman told her cast "Nothing energizes a show like a

complete catastrophe", and she turned out correct. On April 27-28, Actor's Studio put on a spirited performance, the first to be featured on the new and improved 11/12 stage.

That is not all, however. The next week, on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the class traveled to Bucks County Playhouse and performed a selection from *Carson Corners*. After the morning performance, the cast and crew spent the day shopping and enjoying themselves downtown.

That night, after seeing a professional performance of *Suessical: The Musical*, the time came for the awards ceremony, where the winners of the day would be announced. Township swept the competition, with two Excellence in Acting Award (Pat Boyle '06, and Liz Bryan '06), Best Actor Award (Ford) and the highest honor, Best Production.

"Hearing the judges say 'WTHS' for Best Production made me look at the cast and crew in a completely new way", said Crystal Marmarou '07, a participating actress.

After overcoming so many obstacles and putting on a spectacular show, the sense of togetherness felt by the cast and crew was palpable while a "Township" chant rang through the air.

Best wishes to the class of 2006 and all of our senior editors.

Mike Jones  
Rob Czyzewicz  
Justine Jacobs  
Bethany Messick  
Mark Natale  
Steve Dunn  
Mike Dougherty  
Dave Zappacosta  
Matt Kienzle  
Matt Starner  
Heather Ale  
Esther Gill

From the staff of  
*The Patriot*

# ROTC tops off tank at 27,000 feet

Michael Miller '06

What could possibly be worth getting up at 0430 hours in the morning? The KC 135 flight that took place on Thursday, 23 February 2006 was defiantly worth it. As a first time flyer, I had a blast with the whole experience.

Twenty two cadets showed up at the CBAC at 0520 hours to get on a bus to drive up to McGuire Air Force Base. There were supposed to be more cadets, but the Township Plague that swept over the school made a few of our cadets very sick.

After a pit stop for breakfast at McDonalds, we arrived at the base at 0730 and went into a briefing room to learn very important emergency information if the plane were to encounter a serious problem.

Originally, we were scheduled to fly with the Syracuse Air National Guard over Vermont and back. After waiting to hear back from Syracuse Air National Guard, we found out that they couldn't get off the ground because of the inclement weather. We



Photo courtesy of Col. Wolozyn

**An F-16, Falcon, pulls up next to the KC-135 prior to dropping behind for mid-flight refueling.**

waited a little bit longer. The Atlantic City Air National Guard was prepared to fly, this time over Maryland and back. We had to wait some more because the weather was still rainy down in Atlantic City, but they said it was clearing up.

We went to see the KC-135 and got a tour of it. After getting a thorough walk around the aircraft, we met up with LTC Wolozyn's

old friend, SMSgt John Cherick.

He showed us a slide show of his unit when it was activated a few years back. He is the head of the police unit on Air Force base. The unit specializes in protecting the aircraft while they are at rest. He showed us the various weapons they used along with their very impressive gear. From night vision to M4's, these guys and girls have everything.

After we received word that we were cleared to fly, we boarded the KC-135 at 1145 with Pilot, MAJ Christian Lawlor, Co-Pilot, 1 LT James Shaunessy, SMSgt Scott Brown, and SMSgt Joe LaHantia, or "Lambchops".

Since Ashley Martin '06 and I were first time flyers, we got to sit in the cockpit of the aircraft for take off. It was an extraordinary experience. As the plane thrusts itself forward, you could hear the wind gushing against the fuselage as we take off and reach a peak speed of 250 knots. We flew to 27,000 feet and waited for the 177<sup>th</sup> fighter wing Devil Squadron to meet up with us.

The sky was very clear; nothing but clear blue sky above us and a floor of white clouds below us. After about fifteen minutes, three F-16s were on our tail. We were all able to lie down in the boom operator's bay and watch the F-16s slowly glide up and connect to the refueling boom. It was fascinating to see the fighters so close to us.

The fighters turned back to Atlantic City and we headed back to McGuire. Because their birthdays were upcoming, Jenn Brettman '06 and Lauren Shabazian '06 got to sit in the cockpit for the smooth landing.

We thanked the pilots and crew members for a fantastic job and the lady who guided us throughout the entire day. It was a great day. I wish I could go up again.

## A Tribute to Our Friends Classmates remembered in benefit concert

Bethany Messick '06

On May 30<sup>th</sup> the class of '06 and the rest of the school have a chance to come together for a concert commemorating Ian Stout, Sam Pileggi, and Chris Carfi. It will be held in the CBAC at 7:00.

Titled *A Tribute to Our Friends*, bands such as Dacav5, Thunderkatz, Amy Malkoff, Jettison Greymatter, and Blue will be playing.

In addition to music, there will also be raffles for donations from local stores and salons. Autographs from various artists will also be given out.

A lot of work was done to put this event together. Event organizer, Jenn Pelley '06 thought up the idea of doing something nice for those that we lost.

"Everyone had been mourning, so I wanted to do something that

would be in their honor but not be sad at the same time. Since everyone can relate to music, a concert suited best," said Pelley.

Pelley then had to find bands that would be willing to play. She searched on My Space and found a few bands.

She then needed a place to have this concert. The CBAC seems like the perfect place but the cost can be a problem. Luckily Pelley was able to talk to Mr. Weiner, the assistant manager for the CBAC, and he waved the fee.

"Without Mr. Weiner, this concert would not be possible. He really cares about the students here at WTHS," said Pelley.

Pelley then talked with local salons and stores around Township and asked them if they wanted to donate anything to be raffled. Stores were thrilled with the idea of doing

something nice and advertising at the same time, so she was given many donations. The donations are to be raffled off in a Chinese auction. Everyone has a fair chance of winning something fun.

The proceeds of the concert will go towards a memorial plaque and a tree to be planted on school grounds in honor of Stout, Pileggi, and Carfi.

The rest of the proceeds will then go towards project graduation.

According to Pelley, Stout, Pileggi, and Carfi's parents were thrilled at the idea of this concert. They hope that everyone takes some time to go to the concert and show their support.

"A lot of work was put into this concert and it is sure to be worth while. It is another chance for this school to come together and have a good time," said Pelley.

### Project Graduation CD

Includes highlights of:

Graduation practice,  
class of 2006, graduation  
prep, graduation  
ceremony, The Funplex,  
breakfast

CDs on sale  
through June 10

price: \$8

# Commentary

## Upset by teen depression

Mike Jones '06

Are you on the downer? Do you find yourself upset most of the time? Are you a teenager? Congratulations, you might be a victim of depression – or you could just be perfectly normal in your adolescence.

It's amazing how little information turns up when one attempts to research both sides of teen depression.

At first, it all seems to be overwhelming, but as one reads further the information given tends to be one-sided.

It seems the adult populous of the world forgot about the dark side of typical teenage depression: "Fakers" is the word that comes to mind. See also: "attention seekers" or "wanna-bes."

Depression has become a means of conformity amongst the



Illustrated by Stephanie Valentine

non-conformist youth. In short, teens in today's social order largely hating life has become the hip, cool, thanks to popular culture's giant and groovy thing to do for rebellious sculpture that is and has become teen

depression. It seems Emo music has finally achieved something.

So, here's the million-dollar question: Who just craves some good, wholesome attention and who is truly depressed?

How can we, the general public, and, more importantly, the doctors of our society separate the "fakers" from the real thing in what has become our Prozac-youth?

The answer is simple: education. It seems an "uh-duhh" is needed here. A severe lack of knowledge amongst teenagers is to blame. Most "fakers" don't even know they're faking. As one can imagine, this might be a slight dilemma.

Teens with no real concept of what depression is tend to fall into one of two extremes: those who freak out and think they're depressed at the slightest symptom (aka: hypochondriacs) and those who simply assume it's nothing.

Education is absolutely key in the fight against imposters of depression. Look at it this way: Sex Education teaches us the proper methods of birth control in respect to what works and what doesn't as well as the possible consequences of sexually active behavior.

If it works for a subject like sex, why shouldn't it work for a subject like depression?

Not only could this prevent the occurrence of said "attention seekers" by enlightening the youth of America and limiting susceptibility to the shadier influences of pop culture, but, unlike Sex Ed, education on depression can begin while the children are still in grammar school. Thus, we stop the seed from ever growing and eliminate our problem before it begins.

Despite our most sincere efforts, there will always be those few attention seekers in all aspects of life, especially depression. That's just the way the world works. However, with a strong education, society can put an end to these imposters and focus on the greater problem of true depression.

## Everybody hurts

### Sharing grief, the key to coping

David Zappacosta '06

Love, hate, remorse, sadness, lust...grief. Believe it or not, the most powerful emotion of this entire list can be grief. For those who have felt it, they know this all too well.

Yet, grief in modern society has become almost a faux pas. Men are supposed to be strong and keep their emotions at bay, and the modern woman is beginning to take on those same principles.

The simple truth of this matter is that these principles couldn't possibly be any worse for dealing with grief.

Grief is powerful enough to break a person down to the point of collapse. It's enough to make a person stop eating, make a person stop caring, make a person lose all hope. The worst thing that can be done about it is to keep it all inside.

Be it a pet, best friend, or parent, the death of a loved one is not something to be taken lightly,

and it most definitely is not something about which you need to be embarrassed.

The pain you feel is real, to feel this way is to be human. To pretend it is not there is to simply lie to yourself.

Many people have the idea that they can deal with it on their own. That no one understands what he or she is going through and that their situation is unique and they can get through it alone.

They're wrong.

I guarantee you that there is someone else in this very school that has experienced similar tragedies in their lives. You'd be amazed at how not alone you really are, and how people you never expected would, step up for you.

Grief is too powerful to be overcome alone and to dismiss it casually is a severe underestimation of its true capabilities.

You have to let the people that love you carry a part of the burden

with you, that's why humans make connections with other humans.

You should not allow it the chance to rule your life, because it will if you let it.

Grief is not something to be ashamed of or something you should hide. You need to face your grief before you can begin to heal.

When I lost my father I thought I would never get better. I thought I would be stuck in a dark hole with weights tied to my feet for the rest of my life.

On top of that I felt guilty when I wasn't sad for my father. But you have to realize that the person your grieving for would not want you to be sad or alone, they would want you to live your life to the fullest.

There's a difference between moving on and forgetting.

So don't hide or be ashamed of your grief no matter who or what its for. Your grief and your pain is real, and no one should have to go at it alone.



# Snow news is bad news

Mark Natale '06

Throughout the last five years, the Bush administration has given American citizens plenty to be angry about.

Whether it is an unnecessary war with Iraq, a failing economy, high gas prices, or any other multitude of political failures, this administration has done enough to garner an all time low approval rating of 29%.

But it was a smaller move that I feel is one of the most bothersome. While often overlooked, the appointment of Tony Snow as the new White House Press Secretary rubs me the wrong way, as it should many other Americans.

Although Snow has not had the chance to prove himself in this post. My concern lies with Snow's former occupation, as a political correspondent for Fox News.

It does not matter whether or not Tony Snow worked for Fox News, CNN, MSNBC, The New York Times, or The Patriot. The fact is, Tony Snow is known for being part of the media. Having Snow now become a part of our federal administration is a troublesome.

In order for democracy to work, there must be a well informed electorate. The responsibility for that lies with the media. In order for this to truly work, the media must be unbiased, take no sides, and have no allegiances.

They are supposed to express all views, no matter what the issue, in order to give voters the information they need to make their own decisions. Whether or not this ever happens can be argued, but that is the goal.

Choosing a former member of the mass media to fill an official White House post is quite simply a conflict of interest.

The power of the nation lies in the media being separate from the government, and the administration having no influence in what citizens see, hear, and read.

To link the media with the government sets a bad precedent for the future. The nation is now at a position to ask some disturbing questions.

Was this appointment a "reward" for favorable press? There are still colleagues of Snow working at Fox, will those relationships interfere with objectivity? At this point, it is "only" press secretary, but

where will the line be drawn?

Because there are already muckers of certain media outlets favoring those in Washington, the credibility of the media is beginning to be compromised.

Snow's appointment only further degrades one of our outlets of information.

If mass media is not trusted, then who will be? Most citizens don't have/won't take the time to search out other sources, and

frankly, they shouldn't have to.

But if they don't trust what they hear, and if they think the media is not credible, then how can we expect them to vote intelligently, or even vote at all?

When media and government mix, our government is weakened. It is simply another example of the continuing depreciation of American democracy, at a time when we are trying ever so hard to increase democracy around the world.

## Protesting prosecution sanctions law-breaking

Justine Jacobs '06

As our nation works to revamp an outdated immigration policy, much is being said in the media about the rights of illegal immigrants. May 1, 2006 was the "Day Without Immigrants," when illegal aliens took to the streets to protest H.R. 4437, a new bill passed by the House of Representatives that will make illegal immigration a felony.

All across the nation, citizens were urged to show their support for illegal immigrants by calling out of work and not spending any money.

While many feel to deny Mexican immigrants the right to live in this country is hardhearted and even racist, I fail to see the hang up over illegal immigration. After all, the keyword here is *illegal*.

The United States is a country founded on the determination of immigrants. From the very first Puritan settlers to the immigration boom of the early twentieth-century, it is fairly clear that America does not have a problem with immigrants, provided that they migrate here legitimately.

The process necessary to legally immigrate to the United States exists for a reason. Approximately 298,000,000 people live in this country, and believe it or not all of those citizens need to find housing and employment. The U.S. government's duty is to its citizens before anyone else. While illegal immigrants may have basic human rights, their legal rights do not

supersede those of lawful American citizens.

Illegal aliens claim that they do not infringe on the rights of U.S. citizens, that they take the jobs Americans don't want. However, illegal immigrants frequently utilize government programs such as health care, public education, subsidized housing, and welfare – all of which are supported by American tax dollars.

As for employment, construction, domestic service, agriculture, and resort and restaurant staff positions are the leading jobs filled by illegal aliens – all of which were formerly filled by U.S. citizens. Yet, the reason Americans do not want these jobs now is because illegal immigrants do the same work for far less. Employers can easily violate minimum wage laws when doing business with illegal immigrants, making them far more attractive employees than Americans.

Aside from the plethora of logical arguments for installing harsher immigration laws, one essential fact still remains: America has the basic right to control its own borders.

If Congress should make illegal immigration a felony, the U.S. will not be alone in this policy. Many foreign countries count illegal entry as a criminal offense including Japan, Sweden, Switzerland, Egypt, and (get this) Mexico.

If illegal Mexican immigrants want to move to this country so badly, perhaps they can take a cue from their own nation's policy and do so under lawful pretenses.

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# Confessions of Mr. July

Mark Natale '06

I was one of twelve teenagers that threw my body onto the CBAC stage shortly after seven on the night of April 20<sup>th</sup>. Collectively, it was probably the most silent crash one will ever hear. Any noise we made was easily outmatched by the roar of 2,000 voices, many of them distinctly female.

While we had been told countless times that the feeling we would get at that moment will be unlike anything else, it is impossible to comprehend until it truly happens.

When our first dance was done, and the twelve of us threw ourselves to the ground, we felt an interesting mix of adrenaline, excitement, happiness, and pride. But while there

aren't too many things I would trade in that moment for, there is one confession I feel obligated to make.

It is all a bit over rated.

While I loved each and every second of being a part of Mr. Washington Township, I can't help but admit that it wasn't (and shouldn't be) the highlight of my high school social life. I would have to say that moment came a little less than a month before the show.

After a long day at Universal, everybody on the Senior Trip ventured back to the hotel for some pizza, fun, and relaxation. Some people decided to swim, others danced in their rooms, and there was even a toga party. But about twenty or so of my closest friends gathered in one of the courtyards, and did something kids our age don't do

enough.

We talked.

We didn't talk about the latest party, the newest love interest, or the vast multitude of teenage drama.

Instead, we reflected on what has been a great four years in each of our lives, and asked each other many questions that far too often go unanswered.

Of course there was the typical "Where do you see yourself in 10 years" and "Describe your perfect mate", but there is one question that stuck out in my mind the most. That time around, we all discussed the person that positively influenced us the most during high school. Hearing one's name mentioned in a discussion like that is a feeling that is unmatched.

It's also something that will fill

no ballots, sell no tickets, have no show, and (unfortunately) at times go unmentioned.

Social success in high school should never be measured with sashes and crowns, roses and votes. Being a member of home coming court or having a month synonymous for one's name (while an honor) does not make anyone any more important.

The fact is, all seven hundred plus seniors will graduate with someone that has had a positive influence on the past four years.

When we all look back at the yearbook, the top three from that Thursday night will be forgotten. But everyone will always remember the special people that made the best four years of their lives even better, and that is something far too important to wear a button for.

Soon enough the names of the 24 people honored on those October and April nights will fade in the memories of the general masses. But in the hearts and minds of those they meant most to, they will always be remembered.

That is something that all 771 of us can stake claim to. Even as friends grow apart, as buddies stop hanging out, as i-ems become thinner and casual letters become few, the positive impact we have all had on our best friends will shine brightly.

A couple thousand people screaming for you may be rather intense, but one true friend simply telling you that you influenced their life speaks much louder.

## You booze, you lose

David Zappacosta '06

Proms are some of the biggest events in WTHS. They are held at great expensive places, with great food, great music and great people. All you could ask for in a night right? WRONG!!!

It seems that these amazing evenings that our school painstakingly organizes are just not enough for some students. They need to be drunk to have fun...ARE YOU SERIOUS!?!

Honestly, this is getting a little ridiculous. At junior prom, some people were thrown out. Limos were being questioned because of one passenger's stupidity, and there were a few cases of people staggering around and falling all over the dance floor.

Why?

Is it really worth it? Is it worth being thrown out of the dance, embarrassed and humiliated in front of fellow students, teachers and your parents, and ultimately being suspended? I'm sorry but I fail to see the logic in this.

So, one of the craziest and greatest nights in your entire high school career requires you to drink to have fun? Some people say "nah, I just need a little buzz".

Well that doesn't hold up, if you're getting a buzz it lasts maybe an hour, two tops. So what's the point of taking the risk of being kicked out, suspended, and having your limo thrown out as well.

You can do whatever it is you want to do the entire weekend after prom. Why do you have to do it AT the prom? Don't you feel cheap? People talking about how wasted you were, how you got chased out

of the prom by administrators, and how much it stinks that you're not going to be going to the next prom or graduation.

If you need alcohol to have fun at this schools prom then there's something wrong with you...its called alcoholism.

If you feel like there's no way out call this number (609) 656-8900 for Alcoholics Anonymous, and do yourself a favor.



Illustration by Cassidy Matos '07

**SENIORS  
LAST  
DANCE**

**9/10 gym  
7:00 pm  
Friday, June 9**

# Pay-to-play ... Would you be willing?

## Price to pay, more than monetary

Steve Dunn '06

Whenever the budget is defeated the school district is faced with one massive, difficult question... "What programs do we have to cut in order to get under the budget."

This year, the school district must find a way to cut 1.5 million dollars out of it's spending to stay within the budget.

One controversial solution that some districts have adopted is adjusting extracurricular activities to the "pay to play" format. Pay to Play is becoming more common in school districts across the country. Adopting "pay to play" has not been officially discussed in this district.

What is Pay to Play? To put it simply, if a student wants to participate in any co-curricular activity, he or she needs to pay for it.

After all, why should taxpayers have to pay to help fund the football team and the next student theatre production at the high school if their kid isn't a part of either?

There are numerous reasons why pay to play is detrimental to students' experiences in high school.

"I would fight very hard not to have that [Pay to Play] in our district," said Athletic Direct Mr. Kevin Murphy.

Murphy is right; it should not be an option for any high school.

First of all, pay to play limits who can participate.

Its possible lower incomes families won't be able to afford the extra cost of letting their kid be part of one of the high schools many sports teams.

A school district in Detroit considering Pay to Play is considering a \$150 fee for every sport a student plays. For three sport athletes, about \$450 would need to be forked out.

In addition to the financial problems Pay to Play would cause athletes and their families, it could also be the cause of many complicated problems for



administrators.

Would families pay in one payment or several over the course of the season? What if the family pays and the athlete decides to quit the team early in the season? What if a family commits to pay but never does? These are all touchy problems that would need to be tackled.

Pay to Play would also hurt school pride. Smaller team numbers caused by Pay to Play would correlate to smaller attendance at athletic events.

Competitive high school sports teams would become no different than the club teams those kids likely play on. Both are competitive and require a fee to participate.

Many of the sports teams' budgets are insufficient already. Teams frequently have car washes, pizza sales, candy sales, and sponsored nights at local restaurants to raise cash to provide what they need for their athletes.

Established booster clubs such

as football's 5<sup>th</sup> Quarter Club and the Girl's Track Booster club help ease the financial needs of their respective teams immensely, but not all teams have the luxury of having such proactive booster clubs.

Finally, Pay to play eliminates the ability to play a sport for fun. Not everyone gets equal playing time. There are many athletes that would be unwilling to pay the required fee to wind up watching from the sidelines.

According to Murphy, two states have tried Pay to play and the result was a 40% decrease in participation.

"Would you pay to be the third string tight end on the football team?" Mr. Murphy added.

Pay to Play policies are not the answer to Township's budget woes. Activating such policies will make life harder for the students involved in extracurricular activities, the very ones who contribute most to the school and its reputation.

## A plausible solution to meeting rising costs

Matt Kienzle '06

With the most recent budget being shot down in a landslide at the polls, WTHS now needs to cut approximately 1.5 million dollars from the budget. Cutting programs will surely happen, but the most money will be saved by cutting sports teams, which begs the question: Would you pay to play?

Pay to play is exactly what it sounds like. Athletes participating in a sport without a booster club to pay for expenses, will need to pay a lump sum to cover the cost of the season, and since the alternative is not play at all, why the debate?

And there will be a debate when the board needs to decide which programs need to be cut. Obviously sports generating revenue like football and basketball will be safe from the axe. Its sports like boy's volleyball and bowling which could very easily get shafted.

So consider this: If you can only play the sport you love, the one you have been playing your entire high school career, if you pay, would you do it? I absolutely would.

The memories and friends made while playing a high school sport are easily worth the price to play, whatever it is.

Would you sacrifice the camaraderie, bonding, and fun associated with a high school sports season because you didn't feel like forking over some cash to play? As an athlete, I know I wouldn't. Some of my fondest memories have taken place on a field or court and looking back, I would have paid to experience the high school athletics scene.

Critics of the pay to play system contend that students coming from less well to do families will struggle to pay the fees. And he may be right.

# Odds and Ends

## Whiffleball: America's pastime

Matt Kienzle '06

Whiffleball has transcended generations, and is just as entertaining and intense today as it was when your fathers played. Depending on the wind, it can be your best friend or worst nemesis.

Whiffleball, long thought to be reserved for the kiddie set, is anything but a juvenile pursuit. The game only gets more passionate and explosive as its participants age.

One of the fiercest battles of all time occurred recently in the park. It consisted of six players, making fielding a challenge, as it should be in whiffleball. As the first pitch neared, the excitement was palpable.

"I eat, sleep, and dream women -- playing whiffleball," says Ian J. Hopkins, voicing every man's fantasy.

As soon as the game began, it became apparent that pitching and hitting would be a challenge. The most epic games are generally played on sunny, windless days in a

backyard, but this one was different. The wind was howling fiercely from the west, creating a vicious cross-wind across our diamond, and if you've never tried, hitting a whiffleball in 15 mph wind is next to impossible.

The pitchers had a clear

advantage, utilizing their ability to throw the ball directly at the batter's face only to watch it break around their head and into the 'lawn chair strike zone' for an automatic strikeout, to their benefit.

Quite a few batters were baffled and upset by pitches they



illustration by Cassy Matos'07

deemed unhittable, but ended up causing an out.

"The wind was used to the advantage of some pitchers, while other pitchers were baffled about how to play it," said Thomas J. Power, who clearly mastered the breeze, finishing with an ERA of 0.00.

But other pitchers were not so lucky. Pitches thrown right down the middle that were intended to break off the plate, were often pummeled over the fence as the wind died down upon the release of the ball.

Many home runs were hit, and defensive gems were made as well, causing bruises and cuts to appear on the knees and elbows of the gladiators sacrificing their bodies on this fateful day.

The game continued into the late afternoon, and as storm clouds appeared on the horizon, the game appeared to be in jeopardy. Everyone was tired from two hours of foolish headfirst dives into first base ill-advised attempts at unattainable fly balls.

But as the first to eleven game entered the 13<sup>th</sup> inning, fatigue was setting in and the will to win began to consume the players. The tension was so thick you could cut it with a knife. But with a man on second and one out, (there are only two outs in whiffleball) the wind stopped and the pitch was lined down the right field line scoring the all important eleventh run.

However, it was the top of the 13<sup>th</sup> and the opposition still had to be stopped in the bottom of the inning to preserve the victory. Obviously we turned to our ace, Power, who protected the lead, and earned his first save of the year.

We had prevailed and our scrub opponents were noticeably devastated. Not only had they lost, they had wasted their afternoon in the process. Despite vicious animosity between the two teams, and grudges that will surely be carried for years to come, the consensus is that whiffleball, America's pastime, was enjoyed by all and will unquestionably be played well into our twenties.

## Fully justified: the Jacobs story

Mike Jones '06

Justine Jacobs. Maybe you've heard of her, maybe you haven't. One thing's for sure though, she's better than you are.

Justine is the type of person that needs no introduction. When ever I mention her in casual conversation I see the glint of recognition flare in the eyes of the person I'm speaking to and I'm immediately interrupted by a bombardment of questions regarding her, her whereabouts, even her daily habits.

I find that whenever I talk about Justine Jacobs in conversation, I can never finish what I'm saying.

As Editor-in-chief of the school newspaper, *The Patriot*, I must realize the ability of each of my staff editors. Take Rob "No Vowels" Czyzewicz for instance, Rob is an upstanding young man with literary talent that some –

though precious few – say rivals mine. Justine, on the other hand, is better than both of us combined... at everything.

I do mean everything.

As a matter of fact, I often find myself wondering -- as she undoubtedly must -- why I was chosen over a stud like Miss Jacobs for *The Patriot* top job.

A few years back, there was a rumor going around that Justine Jacobs once round-house kicked Chuck Norris to the face.

I was curious, I'll admit, and when I asked her about it she simply replied, "That's no rumor."

Jacobs allegedly stopped a Mac Truck going 80 miles an hour with her pinky finger. Come to think of it, she has slapped me on multiple occasions.

She has also won, not one, but two Pulitzers (this isn't counting a third which she turned down because she wanted to give someone else a

chance, not to mention a Nobel Peace Prize for her work on male pattern baldness).

She went sky-diving on her 17<sup>th</sup> birthday, alone, for free, with out a parachute, over the Artic Ocean only to stop a mid-air collision which, with out a doubt, would have cause at least three and a half deaths. Then, after this spectacular act of air-born courage, she hovered ten feet above the water to flag down a Beluga Whale which rode them all to safety.

Justine Jacobs clearly demonstrates what it takes to be better than everyone with whom she chooses to converse.

Someone once told me that 90% of all jokes are at least partially truth. This may or may not be correct in regards to other jokes, but it holds true here. However exaggerated this story may be, it simply gives a great, yet underrated writer the recognition she deserves

# Lowering my standards...

With graduation so near, I've found many seniors discussing their future plans and expectations. My dilemma, however, is that I never have anything to add to conversation. I have no expectations.

I figure if my goal in life is simply to amount to nothing than I can't let myself down, can I?

I'm going to live in my parent's basement and play video games all day. I'll be the son my folks don't talk about to spare themselves the shame of it. The kind of kid you pray you don't have. My father will introduce our family like this:

"Hello, welcome to our lovely home. This is my beautiful wife, Louise, our wonderful daughter, Michelle... here's the dog, Maggie. Oh! I almost forgot our fish, Airhead."

I'm going to fit the stereo type of a failure at life to a "t," the whole deal. I will wear suspenders, plaid

pants, red Chuck Taylor's, and a white button-up shirt complete with sweat stains around the armpits. I'll even stop wearing my retainer so my teeth become crooked again. By God, I will wear a pocket protector



illustration by Nate Gutoski '07

as I hover over my home computer.

I'm not going to be rich. I won't become president. I will not win a Nobel Peace Prize. I refuse to accept my Pulitzer. I will be a com-

plete and total failure at life if it's the last thing I do.

Wait a minute, nevermind.

I plan to just skip college and nine-to-five jobs completely and retire the minute I graduate. A life of ease is much better than a life of disappointment. I'll work on my golf game and buy the standard-issue retirement clothing attire.

You know, the white tennis shoes, the white, elastic-strap shorts that barely reach the knee, and the chic matching Polo strategically worn unbuttoned with no under shirt to reveal my dashing mane of chest hair.

Throw in a fat stoogie and a comb-over and you'll get the picture.

You poor souls with your future plans can just stick to you're wonderful little life. Go ahead, be successful, I dare you. I just might read about you in the paper a few years from now while I'm lounging by my pool.

## GIT'ER DUNN by Steve Dunn '06

# Mass Hysteria! General Madness! Grilled Cheese?

At the beginning of every month a new menu is posted outside or near the entrance to the lunch lines in the cafeterias. Within hours of this ordinary paper being taped to the door or wall, one thing stands out from the rest. Whatever the lucky Wednesday in which is infamously labeled "toasted cheese sandwiches" is always circled and decorated with stars, hearts, and other things.

The day commonly known as "Grilled Cheese Day" has evolved into a holiday here at Washington Township High School.

People can often be heard talking about it one, two, even three days in advance before the epic day actually arrives.

The cafeteria atmosphere on "Grilled Cheese Day" is unlike any other. Even for someone that brings their lunch to school, the tension and excitement can be felt. Everyone sits on the edge of their bench, tapping their feet in anxiety, waiting for their table to be called. They sit prepared to dash to the lunch line like their lives are

dependent upon getting there as quickly as humanely possible.

Impatient students often bark and holler at the teachers to let their table go up in line. Other, more desperate students, attempt to sneak into line before their table is called, or try to renewing their acquaintance with someone further ahead in line in an attempt to move up and more

quickly satisfy their cravings.

Just this February, I felt like a riot was going to erupt in the lunch room. Mr. Tom Morris, an economics teacher who recently had switched places with Mr. Barnshaw in their supervisory duties for sixth period senior lunch was thrown into the fire when the day arrived. It was Morris' first experience with

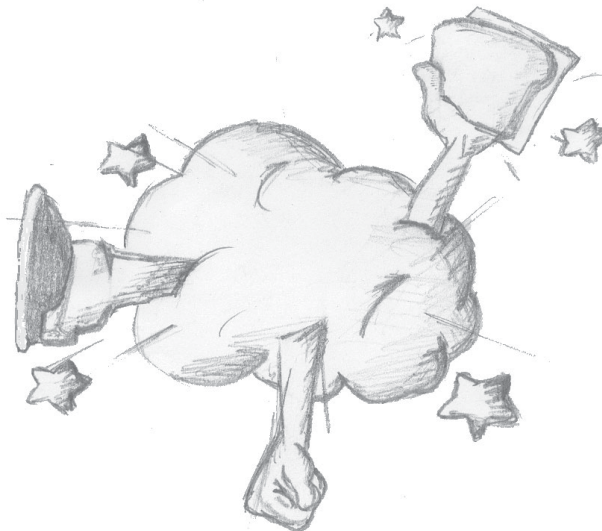


Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

"Grilled Cheese Day" and it was a wild one. Tensions ran high as everyone wanted to jump in line, people were shouting, and harsh words were exchanged. Despite the turmoil and turbulence that occurred early in the period, Mr. Morris laid down the law, order was restored, and everyone who desired their grilled cheeses and tomato soup got them.

That day was the first time I realized the magnitude and importance "Grilled Cheese Day" possessed. Never before had I seen the hundred-plus students in a single lunch period so energized over such a seemingly insignificant cause. People got excited and even angry simply because they wanted a couple slices of melted cheese in between two pieces of toasted bread and they wanted it as soon as possible.

Personally I think the pandemonium created by this day is great and fun to be a part of. Every occurrence of the "Grilled Cheese Day" truly is a momentous event here in the lives of students here at Washington Township High School.

# Tech Talk

## Product Review

### X-Box 360 dazzles with graphics

Steve Dunn '06

It's been about five years since every person was scrambling and deciding which new console to acquire, Microsoft's Xbox, Playstation 2, and Nintendo's Gamecube. This fall marked the passing of that generation, with Microsoft's release of its nex-gen console, Xbox 360.

Microsoft dropped the ball a bit, in my opinion. There were reports of glitches and consoles exploding. Despite some reported problems, people were still purchasing the console for thousands of dollars on eBay.

Is the new system all its cracked up to be? It's been a month since I got mine, and the answer is yes.

The new system dazzles with great graphics, which get even better



**X-Box 360's sleek design appeals to most gamers.**

when hooked up to an HDTV. Watching the introduction to Call of Duty 2 will leave many gamers speechless in awe.

It is also sleeker looking than its predecessor and is decked out with

numerous new features.

One such feature, that is especially convenient, is the wireless controller. You can play games on the system without worrying about the cord unplugging itself from the console. Also, by pressing the logo button in the center of the controller, one can turn on and off the console without touching the console itself.

The controller itself resembles the small version of the Xbox controller and replaces the "black" and "white" buttons with ones above the right and left triggers.

Xbox 360 like the original is capable of playing DVDs and does

so well. It also has the capacity to store and play music, video clips, and pictures.

Media files from the computer can be downloaded into Xbox 360 by connecting the two.

Xbox Live is great and comes built in if the better (more expensive) version of Xbox 360 is purchased.

My biggest complaint about the system however is the dearth of games available right now.

The launch titles that accompany this system are much weaker than those that accompanied the original Xbox.

This problem will fix itself in time. It will take some time before game developers will be able to fully utilize the capabilities of Xbox360.

I'm satisfied with the system thus far. Playing it can be an addictive experience.

## Game Review

### Kingdom Hearts sequel doesn't dissapoint

Matthew Starnier '06

After the release of the first Kingdom Hearts, a joint effort of Disney and Square Enix in 2002 everyone was anticipating the release of the second game. Square Enix definitely has fulfilled the wish of everyone in the sequel to the popular RPG. The second game of the mix of Disney and Square characters is a very big improvement over the previous game. Sora and company are back for another adventure to find his friends and stop the evil Organization XIII as well as the Heartless.

The game starts after the events that occurred in *Kingdom Hearts: Chain of Memories* for the Game Boy Advanced which was released in 2004. Sora memories were scrambled by a girl named Namine who was being manipulated by Organization XIII, but Sora beats them and Namine puts him in a pod to recover his lost memories and lose the ones of everything that happened in Chain of Memories.

When Sora finally awakens in the game he finds out that the



**Beatfully rendered graphics help game play.**

Organization XIII are controlling the Nobodies (which are shells of those turned into heartless) and are trying to hunt Sora down, but the Organization isn't the only group after him.

Maleficent (the evil villain from Sleeping Beauty) who was vanquished in the previous Kingdom Hearts is revived and sends Heartless after Sora and company for revenge.

The control of the game is very similar to the previous game, but

with many great improvements to the battles.

One of the biggest things is the inclusion of the Reaction Commands. Reaction Commands occur by pressing the triangle button on the controller at a precise moment to do devastating damage to enemies.

Another big inclusion is the Drive Forms. Drives forms allow you to be able to transform Sora into a double Key Blade wielding speed demon. His rapid attacks in these

forms are deadly and can wipe out large groups of enemies very quickly.

All in all this game is very impressive and is definitely better than the first installment of the series. The great game play, improved control, amazing graphics, and very deep story help this game to a very high score. I give Kingdom Hearts II for the PS2 a 9.5 out of 10.

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GAME CLUB  
NEXT YEAR!!!**

See Mr. Hart  
for details.



# Getting too dependant on calculators

Lillyan Ling '08

The geometry teacher sketches a couple of graphs and funny symbols on the white board and tells us to find the sine of an angle of 300 degrees.

At this command, the sound of thirty calculators sliding out of their plastic covers is heard, to which the teacher hurriedly tells us, "No, no. I want the *exact* answer." All the students groan because this means they are prohibited to using the mighty, all-knowing calculator, a device that we all have become too addicted to.

Don't get me wrong, I love calculators too, because you can just turn off your mind, enter all that stuff and get the correct answer without any struggle.

It's getting truer and truer that we are becoming too dependent on these things that we don't exercise our ability to reason and to use logic.

"It's not that you *don't know* how; it's just that you *don't want* to," is a phrase commonly used by geometry teacher, Mr. Faust.

I think there are two rules to the calculator. One, know the long way before you know the shortcut.

Some people still don't remember how to deal with fractions and avoid it altogether by putting it into the calculator and just assuming that the answer is right.

In algebra, you have to remember all the reasons to the tiny little steps before you can jump around. The same goes with the calculator. Understand why you can use common denominators and how, before you use the calculator.

And be sure to use that ability on paper once in a while because you will forget if you don't.

Two, don't be a robot. Robots just do what they are told because they are programmed by someone else. Don't do things just because "that's what the teacher said".

There are rules in math that back up the teacher, that answer the question "Why?" And if you don't know why, ask.

Calculators will never tell you why, and through this you lose that

ability to question and know reasons; you become a robot.

"If it breaks, who's going to know how to fix it?" says Mr. Faust.

This, of course applies to more basic math. Compared to topics like physics, some calculators may compute a lifetime amount of problems in a matter of seconds and the math should be done by machine so you may leave the rest of your brain energy to the physics itself.

But in the meantime, don't let the devices turn you into an automatic human.

You'll find yourself entering "two plus two" onto the screen out of mere instinct and that's when you know you have to let it alone for a while.

## Game Preview

# Final Fantasy sequel stuns

Melissa Cheng '07

The newest game in Japan, Dirge of Cerberus: Final Fantasy VII, is hitting American shops June 1, 2006.

Based on many previews and reviews of the game by online gaming websites, Dirge of Cerberus seems like an overall good game.

Many people, including myself, were surprised when Square Enix, one of the leading gaming industries, unveiled this game back in 2004.

Our beloved 1997 role-playing classic is coming out with an action adventure side story? Not to mention, it stars one of Final Fantasy VII's least likely heroes; Vincent Valentine.

Looking at Valentine, with his mysterious flowing red cloak, his multi-barreled pistol, the clawed gauntlet, and of course that eternal scowl of his, how can he be the one that saves the day? Surely, this game can't be all about him.

But it is. And he's getting his dues in this interesting and visually impressive action adventure game.

Dirge of Cerberus includes first-person shooter elements and role-playing twists to spice up the game.

# Apple MacBook Pro stands up to competition

Nicholas Krouse '06

Apple just released its new 17inch version of the already popular MacBook Pro. The 15 inch MacBook Pro has already set the industry standard with its Intel Core Duo processor that delivers up to five times the performance of the PowerBook G4.

Released in January 2006, the MacBook Pro was the first of the new line of computers that Apple released with the Intel Processor. The 17inch MacBook Pro, weighing in at 6.8 pounds at just one inch thick, ships with a 2.16 GHz Intel Core Duo processor that delivers dual-core performance in a power-efficient design, making it ideal for

use in MacBook Pro's thin and lightweight design.

Ideal for those on the go, Apple includes a MagSafe Power Adapter, which magnetically sticks the power cord to the MacBook Pro.

The MagSafe Power Adapter safely disconnects from the notebook when there is strain on the power cord, preventing the notebook from falling off its work surface.

Even if it just so happens that you manage to knock your MacBook Pro on the ground Apple also threw in its Sudden Motion Sensor that is designed to protect the hard drive in case of a fall.

Designed for business and creative professionals, the new 17in MBP includes an 256MB ATI Mobility Radeon X1600 PCI Express graphics card built-in and a scrolling trackpad to easily go from moving the mouse with one finger to scrolling with two.

For high-speed connections MBP includes a FireWire 800 port, a FireWire 400 port, three USB 2.0 ports, optical and digital audio input and output, built-in Bluetooth 2.0 with EDR (Enhanced Data Rate), and built-in AirPort Extreme 54 Mbps 802.11g for WiFi wireless networking.

Two new gadgets I found prove very useful for many. The built-in iSight video camera using Photo Booth, an application that takes quick snapshots and adds visual effects with the touch of a button. Also I found the iSight for video conferencing on-the-go using iChat AV, or recording a video with Podcast or iMovie.

The other was Apple's new Front Row interface, with a click of the button using the Apple Remote, from across the room, you can access shared iTunes playlists, iPhoto libraries and video using Bonjour, Apple's zero configuration wireless networking built into Mac OS X.

Every MacBook Pro includes iLife '06, Apple's newest applications featuring iPhoto, iMovie HD, iDVD, GarageBand and iWeb. iWeb is the newest addition to the iLife family that makes it easy to create websites with photos, blogs and Podcasts. Once created they can all be published on .Mac for viewing by anyone on the internet.

## Product Preview

# Play Station 3: Super despite price

Matthew Starnier '06

Hype, Sony gave us just that when they first talked about the capabilities of the new system they were developing almost two years ago. Can Sony live up to that hype? With the 2006 E-3 now over, all the expectations of the highly touted Play Station 3 has been brought full circle. The big question that has finally been answered the official price of the system. Sony has brought us the answer, and it may your wallets. They have the price range of the Play Station 3 is \$499.99 for the 20GB hard drive and a whopping \$599.99 for the 60GB hard drive.

There are many reasons for the extremely high price. One reason is that it has the Blu-Ray DVD system which plays movies in high quality HD. The Blu-Ray DVD player is well over \$1,000 in price alone. Play Station 3 also has the revolutionary Cell Processor which will give the best game quality the industry has ever seen rivaling, and beating that of the X-Box 360.

Another thing Sony is aiming for is the length of their systems

which are normally 4-5 years long to past ten years. With everything that the Play Station 3 has, it will be even high quality not only now, but as well in the next generation systems that will just start to get up to par with tech to the PS3. Not hard to believe since the Play Station 2 lasted six years up against high quality systems with its lower tech used, and still was number one in the gaming industry.

The game selections are very impressive. Metal Gear Solid 4 looks amazing. The characters them selves

move in an almost cinematic way. Solid Snake is back in this game to fight off all of those who stand in his way using his usual stealth methods, but this one has a twist that won't be found out till its release.

PS3 will have you forget Final Fantasy XII, Square-Enix showed off Final Fantasy XIII at their booth. What I saw of the preview was very impressive. In this game, a single female character wielding not only a sword, but she also goes around with dual-wielding pistols. Turn-based in

this game is non-existent, and a single character can be attacked by multiple enemies at once. She uses flips and jumps to combo off the shooting at the large group of enemies as well as great camera control.

Other exclusives also made a huge impact at this year at E-3. Genji 2 a sequel to the hit samurai game from last year. Tekken 6 was also shown, but after the mediocre performance of Tekken 5 many people are very skeptical of whether it will hold ground on the new system. Gran Turismo HD was introduced which is the fifth installment of the very successful and popular series. The graphics in it show what the Play Station 3 is really capable of in realism. Those were only a few of the games that had a huge impact for the system, there are still so many more.

This system has had a big impact since it was finally introduced in 2004. Now two years later Sony has lived up to its promises of a very powerful system. Play Station 3 will be released in mid November. This is perfect timing for a release, especially so close to the Christmas season.



## Product Preview

# By gosh, I think *Wii*'ve got it!

Matthew Starnier '06

Nintendo has finally done things right with its next generation consol. The Nintendo Wii made a very huge impact at E-3 2006. With its revolutionary and quite different motion sensor controller the Nintendo booth at E-3 had record setting long lines with many fans waiting to get their hands on the new games coming out.

To start it off, the consol has lived up to all the hype so far. With the price of the system will be no more than \$250 which Nintendo wants to use to its advantage against the other systems.

Though the technology is not as strong as its competition, the unique controller is something definitely different. The motion sensor controller which looks like a mini T.V. remote control will allow you to swing it around like a sword and aim it like a gun at the screen.



Although that it sounds very innovative it may get some taking used to from the conventional means of control in a game.

The system will also come with free on-line play using Wi-Fi. It isn't as effective as its competition, but with it coming with the system and without worry of a long wire connecting to a cable modem or a monthly fee.

The games also seem to be very

good this time around too. Compared to the Nintendo GameCube the Nintendo Wii will have third party support, which means games not made by Nintendo. Now all you Nintendo fans can cheer now for all the third party games which were absent from the GameCube.

To start off the list of games is Red Steel. It is a first person shooter utilizing the full capabilities of the controller. Being able to aim the gun

with full affect using the motion sensor. Although Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess was originally going to come out for GameCube Nintendo decided to release it for both the GameCube and the Wii later this year. Another game that will use the motion sensor controller like a sword to fight enemies instead of the usual button mashing. Now the coop de grace, Super Smash Brothers Brawl. The huge hit series will release the third game of the great game giant. With new playable characters like Meta-Knight from the Kirby games, and believe it or not Solid Snake from Metal Gear.

All in all Nintendo has finally got it right with the Wii. Though the strange named system seemed unimpressive one year ago, today it is looking much better than it was. It got this skeptic to believe. So I think Nintendo can finally say "Wii've finally got it right." A first time in a long time.



# Features

## First year marked by smooth transition

*Brittany Tartaglia '09*

For the class of 2009, the students at WTHS had an enjoyable first year. This year, freshmen were able to experience several dances, a Renaissance rally, March Madness, which the freshmen won against the sophomores, and several other fun events. A vast majority of the students also joined in at least one if not several extra-curricular activities. These also helped make the students feel more welcome.

In regard, freshmen's first year, should be a positive experience, and for many was more than expected. Many students, before even coming to the high school assumed that it would be difficult, and that they

would be lost in the huge school without seeing any friends. Besides the fact that for most, that stereotype is false, many freshmen made new friends. Even some people made friends with those who they wouldn't normally.

"I think the best part about going to the high school," says Erika Panfen, "was meeting new people." For most of the students here, there weren't any faults to the change from the middle schools. Also, thanks to juniors and seniors, the freshmen were able to have a better year from the Freshmen Transition Program which was held numerous times this year during the school day. The majority of the students didn't really have any problems with the high

school, but there were things to which the freshmen had to get used to.

Jenna Harrison '09 said, "The worst thing about this year, I think, was that there was a lot more homework and studying to do."

Other anxious students thought that there would be a huge transition, and would take longer to get used to.

"The high school was a lot better than I had first expected. I thought it would be harder and more stereo-typical, but it was a lot easier and more fun then was I assumed." stated Marisa Brecko.

Overall, the class of '09 had an enjoyable first year, and hopefully the experience will get even better over the next three years.

## Enjoy the outdoors on horseback

*Amanda Eivich '06*

As the summer weather rolls around, people are looking for ways to spend as much time as possible outdoors. Most opt for the typical day at the beach, community pool, or something along those lines. However, there are plenty of activities any outdoors-y person would love, but would never think of trying. One of those is horse-back riding.

Horse-back riding is something that any animal lover would truly enjoy. You don't have to own a horse to get into the hobby. By doing simple research online, it's easy to find a local stable at which to take a few lessons or trail rides.

Not only is it fun, it's great exercise too, working all the muscles in your body.

Several things to look into when you search for a place to ride is cost per ride, what level of riders do they accept, and what are the legal documents. Horses are animals, which are unpredictable at times, but when handled with experience and precaution, they are beautiful creatures. Most places require a helmet and boots with about a 1/2 inch heel, for safety.

It's a lifetime sport, and anyone can stay involved in it until very old age. Many people are born into the horse world, and start from birth. Others, like myself, fall in love with horses at a young age. It is never too late to start.

Riding as a hobby can get quite expensive. Simple once a week lessons for about \$25.00 each ride is feasible; however purchasing a horse is a whole different realm of money you have to delve into.

A hobby for anyone, for leisure, or for competition, riding is certainly a worthwhile activity to look into.

On a sunny, yet breezy weekend afternoon, sometimes nothing is better than a brisk ride through an open field with your equine friend accompanying you.

## Job search simplified

*Bethany Messick '06*

The finding a job process can be very long and disappointing, but there are some things you can do to increase your chances of getting hired.

First figure out what you want to do. Now you can choose to work with food, retail, or a service of some kind. This is not the time to be picky. Have as many options as possible. A job is only as fun as you make it.

Once you've figured out what type of job you want, do a little research to find out locations of possible employers. You can look on the internet, look in the phone book or ask your friends.

Try to find as many locations as you can. If possible try to find places where you know someone or are friends with someone. If you know someone they could write that they are your friend and that they highly recommend you. This will increase your chance of getting a job tremendously.

Once you've found all of the possible locations go to each place personally and ask for an

application. You should ask for an application even if the place is not hiring at the time. You can fill out the application there or at home.

At home might be best because you're less likely to rush and make mistakes. It is very important to follow directions correctly on the application. If an employee looks at an application and sees you can't follow directions it reduces your chances of being hired.

After you have submitted your applications and you haven't heard from anyone in two weeks, call them. Ask the places if they have received your application, if they are considering hiring anyone at the moment, and tell them that you are very interested in working there. Employers like persistence so don't give up.

Once you get a call back you have to prepare for the interview. When going to an interview you should always look clean and appropriate. Dress for the occasion.

If you are being interviewed for a job at a fancy restaurant you should dress formally meaning dress pants, no jeans, and a nice shirt. If you are

applying to a local casual store you should look informal but nice meaning jeans and a nice shirt. Just don't look sloppy and over dressing is better than under dressing.

When talking with the interviewee be yourself. Don't be phony. They will be able to see right through it. Answer your questions as politely and clearly as possible.

Try to work in as many good qualities about yourself as you can. Try to seem relaxed and confident. If you are confident in yourself the employer will be confident in you.

After the interview you should hear from them within two weeks. If you don't hear from anyone call them to see if they gave the job to someone else or if they are just taking their time deciding.

If they say they are still deciding then give them another week and then call again. If they say they have given the job to someone else don't get discouraged.

There are plenty of jobs out there.

If you just follow these simple steps and just be yourself you'll have a job in no time.

# 2006 Teachers of the Year

## Mrs. Savill brings passion to profession

Laura Marder '07

A teacher of the year isn't just a teacher who comes to school, reads out of a book and gives a test. A teacher of the year is someone who brings life to her class and makes a true difference. Mrs. Donna Savill, this year's teacher of the year, is the epitome of a teacher who puts her heart into her work.

"I was shocked, stunned and amazed when I found out I was the teacher of the year!" exclaims Savill.

She did not expect to be given this honor. Savill never planned to become a teacher, though her students are pleased she did. She began as a social worker and attended Rowan University.

Her godson, who is dyslexic, got her interested in studying disabilities and the mind, so she got involved in the field of teaching.

"Everyday is a new day,"



Matt Kienzie '06/ The Patriot

**Mrs. Savill reviews a lesson with one of her students.**

explains Savill.

She has a wonderful method of teaching that brings her classroom alive with comfort and laughter. Her students love coming to her class.

"I just have a good time with the kids, they make me laugh and I

make them laugh," she said. She loves her job and is passionate about her work with her students.

The only thing she doesn't like about teaching is the paperwork.

Despite that drawback, she keeps her sense of humor, "It's the

best job ever, it's between this job and eating fudge at Laura's Fudge on the boardwalk, for my favorites."

She recently went on the senior trip for the first time, and she says it was extremely fun. She loves spending time with her students and watching them love life.

She leans on her special education colleagues for support during the year, and she feels like Washington Twp. has an excellent special education system.

"[Mrs. Savill] can make me laugh, she makes me happy," explains Robin Anderson '06, a student of Savill. She feels her teacher has helped her a lot with math, and more importantly, she has helped her look at life differently.

Savill has worked at WTHS for 17 years and plans to stay for a long time. WTHS is lucky to have dedicated teachers who care about making a difference in their students.

## Herr Kulp honored by recognition

Nathan Kusisto '07

Mr. Leo Kulp has been named one of the Teachers of The Year. He has been teaching at WTHS for 15 years, and is honored to be receiving this award.

"It was wonderful," Kulp said about receiving the honor, "I was extremely impressed by what people said. It meant a great deal to me. It convinced me I've been successful as a teacher. Most people don't realize how they affect others and when it happens it's very stimulating. It makes me want to continue teaching even longer."

Before he taught at WTHS, the Philadelphia native taught at Camden High School for 22 years.

Altogether, Kulp has been teaching for 37 years. He used to be a French teacher but found that German was easier to teach.

"German is more similar to English than French," he says, "so the students find it easier to pronounce and understand. German

culture is more a part of American culture than French culture so you can compare it easily."

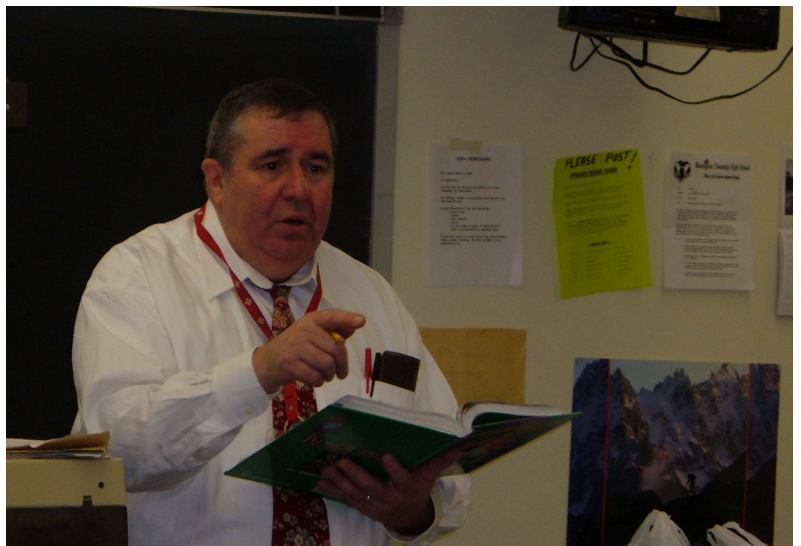
Kulp's advice to students new to German is simple: "Don't be afraid, speak up, make mistakes, and learn."

"Try not to get lost in the crowd and around the building," Kulp says. "Take advantage of all the opportunities students have. There has to be an interest outside of your studies where you can make friends and enjoy yourself."

Also to those new students are entering his class Kulp would like to

say, "Act like a lady and a gentleman and treat me and your classmates as you wish to be treated."

One of his favorite things about teaching at WTHS is the students. "The students are the best," Kulp says. "They are eager and receptive



Nathan Kusisto '07/ The Patriot

**Mr. Kulp believes that because language is about communication, the best way to learn is through conversation.**

to what I have to teach them and they enjoy learning German."

Besides being a teacher, Kulp is a coach for little league baseball and soccer, but teaching is the only

job that he can see himself doing.

As role models, Kulp cites his father and "anyone who demonstrates fairness and an open mind."

# Minimize your college debt

## Grants, aid, scholarships ease the burden of rising tuition costs

For most high school seniors and their parents, being able to pay for the college of their choice without being in debt many years after they graduate, is a very important part of choosing a college. Once you have been accepted to the college you want to go to, the next step is to figure out how you and your family are going to pay for it.

Schools today are much more generous with handing out scholarships than ever before because of the increases in tuition.

As long as you have decent grades and SAT scores, most colleges will be willing to award you some sort of merit based scholarship. This money is solely based on your academic standings.

There are also many different kinds of scholarships. Some are sponsored by companies or even your high school. You should take advantage of them if you have the opportunity.

The website fastweb.com provides you with all the information about scholarships you could ever need. It also provides a huge list of scholarships for which just about anyone can apply.

Colleges also provide you with need-based grants. These are monetary grants that the college feels you need in order to be able to afford their tuition. Neither need-based grants nor scholarship money will ever have to be paid back.



illustration by Cassy Matos '07

Once you have received your financial package from your college the next step is to send in your FAFSA form. FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This money, provided by the government, depends on your family income and does not need to be paid back. There are many specifics that go into play while filling out the FAFSA form that will determine how much money you will receive.

If after all of that, you are still in need of more money, you can always apply for student loans which you are going to have to start paying back while you're still in school. Depending on how much the loan is, you may be able to pay it off before you graduate by participating in a work study program. Most schools have work study programs, which

is when you work on campus and instead of receiving a monthly paycheck, all of the money you have earned goes directly into paying for your tuition.

Finally, the most reliable way to get the best possible financial package from any school is to apply for early decision.

If you know exactly what school you want to go to, early decision is your best bet for a really good financial package.

This shows the college that you are serious about going to their school and they decide on your financial package before all of the students who applied regular decision.

Paying for college is a very stressful part of the college process, but there are many scholarships and loans that can make it affordable.

# Rowan keeps growin'

Rob Cavella '07

Rowan University is a solid, affordable school that is only getting better. On January 19<sup>th</sup>, the university opened the doors to its brand new 28.5 million dollar "College of Education" building.

"The rationale behind the education building was to re-emphasize not only our origins, but our commitment to teacher preparation," said Rowan president, Mr. Donald Farish.

In addition to Rowan's already stellar reputation as a great college for aspiring teachers, it now boasts technology to back it up. The new three-story, 135,000 square foot, piece of architecture has plenty to boast about. The new building will allow students to learn the latest teaching techniques, conduct research, and master blending computers with classroom lessons.

Also to enhance education majors, Rowan has an early childhood education center used as a daycare and preschool.

"A building like this is a tangible way of showing that the commitment to teachers here is as great as it's ever been," said Farish.

Another new addition to the school is a new library. It is filled with \$400,000 worth of books and teacher materials now being used in the curriculum.

Rowan also added a \$350,000 biomechanics lab in the its health and exercise science department. The new lab holds the same technology used to create CG characters like King Kong.

Rowan even has a new interdisciplinary lab featuring sensors that collect data on a person's movement, which can be used for a variety of applications.

It doesn't end there. A \$2.7 billion state higher education bond could go to a referendum in November and grant Rowan up to \$120 million to construct four more buildings consisting of two new arts and sciences buildings, a business college building, and a new facility for the Camden Campus.

# Passing a few hints on notes

Notes often appear to be the enemy; taking them, reviewing them, and then studying them. It's a dreaded task. Sometimes classes seem to be nothing but note-taking.

Hands cramp, words slur together. Your notes may even become indecipherable, mere scribbles. How are you supposed to study if you can't even read what you wrote?

I've found that there is an easy way to divide up your notes and make it a lot easier to get information out of them. At the beginning of every new chapter the words "new

material" should be written at the top of the page. When you go back to study, you won't be flipping through numerous pages skimming old notes in an attempt to find the right information.

Once you have a clear heading, every main idea should be bullet-pointed. Each sub-topic after that should be numbered or lettered.

This method will quickly minimize the time spent reading notes, and just skimming your notes will be sufficient.

Another tip is to only write down main ideas and things that you

think you won't remember or that you don't already know. You shouldn't feel obligated to write down information just because it's written on the board.

Keeping these easy to follow rules in mind, school in general, classes and studying should become a lot less stressful. **Don't forget to look over your notes at home the day you take them!**

Re-reading and sometimes re-writing will help you learn the information; it's a quick way to study without cramming the night before a test.

## Movies

# King of spin thanks you for smoking

Justine Jacobs '06

Once as much a national pastime as baseball, smoking just isn't what it used to be. Years of scientific research have proven solid the once vague links between cigarettes and lung cancer, and heckling smokers has now become socially accepted behavior in the general populace. Politicians, parents, the American Cancer Society, and the hip Truth ad campaign have been waging war on Big Tobacco for years. During such hard times, who will stand up for truth, justice, and the American way? Who will defend the helpless, multi-million dollar tobacco industry?

Enter Nick Naylor (Aaron Eckhart), tobacco lobbyist extraordinaire. As the spokesman for the Academy of Tobacco Studies, Naylor is on damage control, talking all sorts of spin to confuse Americans into liking Big Tobacco. He travels to Hollywood to reclaim the cigarette's place in motion pictures, bribes the original Marlboro man into silence regarding his lung cancer diagnosis, and goes

head to head with anti-smoking Vermont Senator Ortolan Finistirre (William H. Macy). Yet, despite the challenges facing him in the work place, Naylor's hardest task is being a positive role model to his son, Joey, while earning a paycheck in a field requiring an uncommon "moral flexibility."

*Thank You for Smoking* may be the most genuinely funny movie of the year, with an impeccable script and strong comedic acting that make it worth the admission price. It's the quick dialogue that makes *Thank You for Smoking* such a gem. "What makes American government the greatest government in the world?" Joey asks his father while trying to write an essay. "Our endless appeals system," replies Naylor, without skipping a beat.

*Thank You for Smoking* has brains, a quality that many modern comedies sorely lack. The satire of Washington lobbyists artfully mocks the political world where image is everything. Audiences will be on the floor as Naylor does lunch with the MOD Squad (short for Merchants of Death), a club which includes



Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

**Aaron Eckhart is Nick Naylor, the face of Big Tobacco, who fights to preserve the 'cool' image of cigarettes in modern America.**

lobbyists for alcohol and firearms. The friends kick back during off hours and argue over whose product yields the most annual fatalities.

The only slip-up in this otherwise impeccable film is the obviously miscast Katie Holmes, who plays Washington Probe babe Heather Holloway. Watching the cutesy, girlish Holmes use sex appeal to coax secrets from a willing Naylor

is the most far fetched aspect of this outrageous comedy. The less famous half of Tomkat doesn't exude the cunning or confidence to bring Holloway to life.

Regardless of Holmes' shoddy performance, *Thank You for Smoking* is the jewel of the spring film season. Its cutting wit and absurd scenarios will leave more audiences gasping for air than cigarettes.

# Vindictive V Vanquishes Villains

Mike Jones '06

Welcome to Britain some time in the not-too-distant future. A totalitarian society controlled by a complete fear of biological terrorism. A nation where people are afraid of their government.

In the world of *V For Vendetta* there is no freedom of speech or press, the government controls everything. BBC has been replaced by a new broadcasting channel in which Chancellor Sutler (John Hurt) has full control. Most Americans have died from a rampant virus and what remains of the good old U.S. of A. has been replaced by a mass hysteria of people desperately pleading for the aid of the old world.

Meet Evey Hammond (Natalie Portman). Evey is out past curfew. Needless to say, Evey has made a mistake. Unfortunately, she

discovers just how bad an idea this is when she fallen into the hands of the secret police, the Finger. Now she's found herself facing a life-threatening situation which, if possible, is getting worse. Luckily, or so you could say, she's saved by a masked antihero (Played by Hugo Weaving) who goes simply by "V" and stumbles into a chain of events that ultimately destroys the government... as well as the Parliament building.

From the mind of graphic novelist, Alan Moore, with a plot line reminiscent of books like *1984*, the screen-writers that bought us *The Matrix*, and the cinematic craziness that seems to follow them, *V For Vendetta* was pretty much bound to be one of the top movies of the year. After watching, you simply want to blow something up. I mean, you just want to slap on the



Photo courtesy of vforvendetta.com

**Hugo Weaving stars as V, a British revolutionary who hides behind a Guy Fawkes mask.**

old Guy Fawkes mask and overthrow a government. One might even find himself desperately seeking

to become an anarchist, so be warned.

*V For Vendetta* switches effortlessly from a psychological thriller to a cut-throat action movie, leaving the audience guessing until the last minute. The acting, complete with an on screen head-shaving by Natalie Portman that would rival G.I. Jane any day of the week, is every bit as good as the cinematography, making it a diamond in the rough when compared with modern film-making.

So, the next time you're feeling slightly rebellious – or if you just want to feel slightly rebellious in the first place – I would recommend *V For Vendetta*. But, before you go, I encourage you to remember, remember the fifth of November because people should not be afraid of their governments, governments should be afraid of their people.

# United 93 important reminder

Melissa Novak '06

Next September will be the 5-year anniversary of 9/11. Though almost five years has passed, the terrorist attack stays at the back of our minds.

On the opening night of the Tribeca Film Festival on April 26<sup>th</sup>, *United 93* premiered. Directed by Paul Greengrass, the movie is named after the 9/11 hijacked flight that was diverted from its target destination, and crashed into a field when passengers fought back against the terrorists.

Though the film honors the bravery and courage of the passengers, some people may think it's too soon to have such a movie, but I feel it is essential that this film was made at this time.

*United 93's* characters are not made up. They were real people on the flight. Also, it does not tell the story from other angles. You learn about the other attacks of 9/11, just like the people on that flight did. You feel what the passengers are going through as the terrorists take over the plane firsthand. The film is respectful of the events that happened and to the people who were on the flight.

All the actors and actresses in the movie are taking on the roles of the real passengers that were on the flight. On the movie's official website, Director Greengrass talks of his film, "None of us knew, least of all the people that got on those airplanes, that this was a day unlike any other. Now as we look back and realize our world changed."

Before creating such a movie,



Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies.

**United 93 follows the actions of the 9/11 flight passengers who fought back against the terrorists.**

family members of the victims on the flight were asked permission. The filmmakers wanted the families involved and to portray their dearly remembered in a correct and accurate way. None of the family members

objected, but instead found it a good idea – they did not want the deaths be in vain and to let the people know what really happened.

Maybe this film is what our country needs to get its spirit back. Initially after 9/11, everyone was patriotic and proud of our country. Now, so many people have their opinions of the president and the war. Everyone seems to have forgotten what originally brought us to this point. We forget that we still have family members and friends overseas fighting for our freedom.

With this film, Americans are reminded of why the nation is fighting so hard against terrorists. *United 93* shows the bravery of the people on the flight who went down fighting. Everyone should see the film. The movie is an important part of our history and affects all of us.

## Inside Man twists old formula

Rob Czyzewicz '06

*Inside Man* isn't your everyday bank heist movie; it is instead mind engaging as well as an adrenaline-pumping thriller. Watching this stylish film, you constantly re-evaluate the goings-on: Is this the perfect bank robbery or something far more complex?

The screenplay was well written with several clever twists and witty dialogue. Director Spike Lee executes *Inside Man* rather well, and the work shows the chemistry that he and lead actor Denzel Washington have developed over their careers (they worked together previously on *Malcolm X* and *He Got Game*).

The elaborate scheme is initiated by a small group, dressed as less than threatening painters, who whip out guns and take bank customers hostage. But events don't unfold in order of occurrence. The film flashes forward to interviews of the hostages conducted by Washington, who portrays topnotch Police Detective Keith Frazier who specializes in hostage negotiation.

Lee makes an effort to give his camera work a shaky, nervous feeling quality, adding to the film's considerable amount of tension.

The robbers, led by brilliant



Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

**Denzel Washington and Clive Owen star in Spike Lee's unusual new heist movie, *Inside Man*.**

Dalton Russell (Clive Owen), seem to have thought of everything. They dress everyone in identical painters' gear so the police won't be able to tell the suspects from the hostages. Russell matches wits with Detective Frazier, their tough stances artfully leavened by clever humor. About halfway through, the mood takes an unusual turn, becoming almost breezy, then whipping back to taut suspense.

Washington and Owen give standout performances, while Willem Dafoe as an NYPD captain and Christopher Plummer as the bank's chairman are solid. Jodie Foster plays a power broker by the

name of Madeline White. Her character has the right mixture of strength and verve. The character is a bit outlandish, however, and difficult to believe. She is a power broker who holds sway over New York's top political brass.

Throughout the film, there are a couple of plot holes, but none of which are gaping, and there is plenty to keep the audience guessing.

*Inside Man* may be a cat-and-mouse game, but it's far from predictable. What could have been a very bland, straightforward thriller is unusually clever, visually enchanting and undoubtedly entertaining, all credits to Spike Lee.

9-10  
Casual  
Dance  
Friday, June 2  
9/10 gym  
7:00-10:00 pm

# Benchwarmers: back in the game

Melissa Novak '06

One of the most anticipated comedies this spring is Happy Madison Productions' *The Benchwarmers*. The movie's trailer is enough to make you chuckle, but the actual film will have you laughing till your side hurts.

*The Benchwarmers* is about how three grown men who were misfits as children decide to stop the bullying in their town by playing baseball against the meanest little league team around.

Gus (Rob Schneider) is the leader of the three men, the only one with any athletic ability, and the only one who can talk to girls. Richie (David Spade) and his best friend Clark (Jon Heder) join Gus against the bullies, even though they've never played baseball before in their lives.

When a young bullied child tells his billionaire father about the three men, his father creates a tournament, promising the winning team the ultimate prize. The tournament leaves Gus, Richie, and Clark facing all the little league teams in the state.

As with any Happy Madison Production, *The Benchwarmers* is



Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies

## David Spade, Jon Heder, and Rob Schneider star as grown up geeks seeking revenge through little league baseball.

full of laughs from start to finish. The movie is crazy and has completely random and hysterical moments.

The humorous script and amazing cast make it worth seeing. Schneider, Spade, and Heder are all well known for their comedic roles, but Spade steals the show with his sarcastic humor.

Heder, though hysterical with his crude innocence, seems to remain

in the Napoleon Dynamite form that made him famous. Though this character is fun to watch, it's a little disappointing to not see another side of Heder's talent in this film. Schneider never fails to bring the laughs, and still manages to make the movie quasi-sentimental.

As the reformed nerds step up to the plate, they face their biggest challenge – not playing baseball, but standing up against the bullies.

# MI:3 needs a new mission

Bethany Messick '06

Typically, when it comes to movie trilogies, the third time is anything but a charm. Trilogies sabotage both filmmakers and viewers. The first film is totally entertaining, the second gets you hooked so that you have to see the third one – after all, you've invested so much time into movies one and two. Then, movie number three leaves you feeling a foolish. This is exactly the situation with *Mission Impossible III*. It simply does not deliver.

Let's stick with the theme of three. The movie is lacking in three ways, and at the top of that list is the fact that *MI3* is entirely too long. It was supposed to be 126 minutes of action-filled thrills; in reality, it's 10 minutes of thrills and 116 minutes of disjointed stunts peppered by a few explosions.

Secondly, the movie tries to be too many things – an action movie and a love story – and leaves viewers



Photo courtesy of Yahoo! Movies.

## Despite lots of running, *MI:3* fails to deliver a consistent pace.

with too many unanswered questions.

Third, the ending has *MI4* written all over it. The writers are going to have to dig really deep to come up with a novel spin. The whole concept is becoming too ordinary, directly conflicting with the whole premise behind the

Mission Impossible franchise.

However, there are also three positive notes, starting with what could be called "gadget innovation." The guns and devices that are demonstrated throughout the movie are amazing.

The acting was excellent. Tom Cruise is an exceptional actor and he comes through again in *MI3*. Costars Philip Seymour Hoffman and Michelle Monaghan performed equally well, and there was a nice chemistry between Cruise and Monaghan. Ving Rhames, Maggie Q, Jonathan Rhys-Meyers, and Cruise jelled and came across as a believable team.

Finally, the filming takes place all over the world from the US to the Vatican to China. The cinematography was outstanding.

If you think you'll get your money's worth from seeing Cruise (the fine actor that he is), the few action scenes and the scenery, by all means go see it. If you're expecting more, don't.

# Poseidon rises above

Bethany Messick '06

Sometimes when classic movies are redone with special effects, new actors, and script changes, they tend to be not as good as the originals. This was not the case with *Poseidon*.

The special affects in the movie were amazing. They made you feel like you were actually on the boat. Everything looked so real. When the giant wave hit the boat, it looked so real it was scary.

The star actors Josh Lucas, Emmy Rossum, Kurt Russell, and Jacinda Barrett were terrific as well. They showed real emotion. It is amazing how they showed pain, fear, and love towards one-another throughout the entire movie. There are a few parts where you might even tear up a little bit.

## Even if you've seen the original, the remake is definitely worth seeing.

Sometimes when movies are remade, the script is changed so much it seems like an entirely different movie. Surprisingly this did not happen in *Poseidon*. They stuck to almost the same exact plot from 34 years ago. There are a few minor changes, but nothing drastic or disappointing.

*Poseidon* was definitely an action packed movie. It kept you on the edge of your seat the entire time. You never knew what was going to happen next. It seemed like during every second of the movie something was happening. Either some was hurt, or dying, or something was exploding, or the water was about to wipe something out. You don't even realize that the movie is 98 minutes long.

The movie certainly kept you guessing. Some parts of *Poseidon* were a little predictable, but it's a remake. If you've seen the older version, you know what happens. Despite the fact that it's a remake it does throw in a few surprises here and there.

*Poseidon* is an action packed, tear jerker, keep you on the edge of your seat, type movie. Even if you have seen the original, the remake is definitely worth seeing.

# Local band proud to shock audiences

Mark Mazzeo '07

The Skeleton Rock Shock is a “supertastic pscobilly romparoooster of a rock’n’roll” band. Actually, they prefer the term ‘Attack Squadron’ instead of ‘band.’ The SRS consists of three members.

The mastermind is singer-guitarist John Custer '07. On drums is Zack “Attack” Buck '07, and Joseph K. Granato '07 on bass and backing vocals.

“We are an all out attack on your senses, all five of them. Hence the term Attack Squadron,” says Custer. And that’s true, hearing them either live or on compact disk, you not only feel attacked, you feel violated in the worst kind of way. But that’s a good thing.

Attack says of his drumming, “It’s like, I don’t know, it’s hard to explain, but my beats are good.”

Not only are they good,



Photo courtesy of Maggie Pape.

**Joe Granato, Zack Attack, and John Custer are the attack squadron of Skeleton Rock Shock.**

“...they’re bombastic,” says Granato.

Granato also has this to say of the band in general, “The world isn’t ready for us yet, I think, but that won’t stop us, and yes, one day, we will attack every single person in the world with our music.”

It all started two years ago when Custer was a freshman at WTHS. After taking lessons with former Suncho frontman, Michael Mazzeo, he was ready to start a band.

Last year, Custer met Attack and learned of his drumming prowess.

“He was looking for a drummer for a long time,” says Attack, “I think we just met at the right time and fit well.”

**“We are an all out attack on your senses, all five of them.”**

**- John Custer '07**

Next, Mike Williams '07, joined the band as second guitarist, but left the band in autumn of 2005.

“I think I never really fit well with them,” says Williams.

Granato joined shortly after Williams’ departure.

“With Joe in the band... we just feel and sound a lot better,” says Attack.

The SRS has recently recorded a compact disk called *Los Demos*, and are distributing it.

On this compact disk you can find their hot track “Saul the Whey” among others.

“We’ll be giving them out when we play, as well as in school,” says Custer.

The SRS played their first live show together at a New Year’s Eve party.

“I think we played pretty good, there were a few things that could have been better,” says Custer.

Attack agrees, “New Year’s [Eve] was pretty good for our first time out.”

As of now, the SRS is practicing their songs and coming up with new material.

“The stuff we have now is good,” says Granato, “but you always want to keep it fresh with new stuff, too. So it’s good that John is always scheming.”

The band is also looking into playing more shows. They played a spontaneous show at the 11 East Café in Glassboro on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

The Skeleton Rock Shock is determined to “keep on rocking, and continue shocking.”

Unsung Heros by Rob Davis '06

## Jazz hero brought guitar to new level

When I first heard jazz, I was able to enjoy it, but was not immediately hooked. I could understand that playing saxophone or trumpet took a lot of discipline and a long time to develop, but, as a guitarist, it didn’t attract me.

Until I heard Wes Montgomery.

I had heard guitar in jazz before, but only in the background. Sometimes it was very difficult to hear at all, with piano and bass overshadowing it during chord changes.

Montgomery took the guitar from the background straight into the spotlight, though still giving others fair chance to shine.

### Montgomery took the guitar from the background straight into the spotlight.

Instantly I latched on to his music. His song “Four on Six,” as played on the live record *Smokin’ at the Half Note*, showed me how a guitar actually can sound when in the foreground.

Just as John Coltrane made his own versions of songs, like “Greensleeves” and “My Favorite Things,” Montgomery recorded arrangements of jazz classics.

On his 1959 album *The Wes Montgomery Trio*, he opens up with the Thelonius Monk classic “Round Midnight.” Also on the *Half Note* is a rendition of Coltrane’s “Impressions.”

Like any great jazz musician, he didn’t just take those songs and re-record them: he made them his own.

Even though the songs had a large amount of guitar in them, Montgomery wasn’t a solo hog.

In fact, each member of his rhythm sections would take solos during lots of songs, where jazz traditionally features mostly brass, woodwinds, and pianos.

Guitarists will also find a particular fact about Montgomery interesting: he never used a pick. He used his thumb, which had a corn on it, for plucking.

Montgomery, proving talent is not necessarily shown through conventional means, is considered to be



**Wes Montgomery never used a pick.**

above most guitarists who use picks.

Anybody interested in listening to Montgomery should pick up *The Incredible Jazz Guitar of Wes Montgomery*.

It is a fantastic portrayal of his music, featuring the studio version of “Four on Six” as well as “West Coast Blues,” the song likely to be the most well known of Montgomery’s own.

All guitarists looking for a door to the jazz world will find the perfect fit with Montgomery and will not be disappointed.

## Softball enjoys run to states

Mark Natale '06

One thing that often gets overlooked concerning WTHS athletics, is the fine reputation our school has for its female sports teams.

While football, boy's basketball, and baseball steal the spotlight, it is often the female counterparts that are perennially in the top of South Jersey, making playoff runs every year.

But even with the immense success of girl's soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse, there is one girls sport that year in and year out dominates the area. With the dawn of every spring, Township fans can almost always bet on a successful Minutemaids softball team.

This year is no different. The 'Maids have spent the majority of the year ranked number 1 in the state, boasting a 16-1 record, and going undefeated against New Jersey competition. With a conference title



Robert Czyzewicz '06 / The Patriot

**Captains Steph Lento '06 and Chelsea Winkelspect '06 have led the Minutemaids to one of the best seasons in team history.**

already clinched, Township now gears for a run at the state title.

Going into the season the team had high expectations, but the fast

start is still a bit of a surprise.

"As a team, we knew we had a lot of talent, but if someone would have told us in the beginning that we

would be number 1 in the state, we would have been surprised," explained Senior Captain Chelsea Winkelspect. Winkelspect is one of the eight seniors that the team considers its leaders. But members of the class of '06 aren't the only ones contributing to this run.

Junior Alyssa Maisse has been the ace pitcher thus far this season, while Maria Finnegan has been the starting catcher position. Jill Mulderig and Katie Margiotta have also been able to contribute this season, their first on varsity.

Even with the mix of seniors and underclassman, the team chemistry does not suffer.

"We all get along really well. If you have a big group of girl's together everyday, there are bound to be little fights, but we all come back together in the end," explained senior first baseman Steph Lento.

But even with all the strong points of this team, a run to a state title will not be easy. Standing in their way will be arch rival Rancocas Valley, who handed Township a heartbreaking loss in the 18<sup>th</sup> inning of the state semi finals last year. The 'Maids have already beaten Rancocas this season.

The accomplishments so far this year would be enough for most teams to call their season a success. A conference championship and several weeks spent ranked number 1 would have most teams feeling satisfied. But the 'Maids have different ideas.

"Being ranked so high isn't too surprising. But all the teams are competitive once the playoffs start. Our goal is to be ranked 1<sup>st</sup> on June 10<sup>th</sup> (the state championship game)," explained head coach Tracey Burkhardt.

The coaching staff believes that this team has the heart and desire that matches the 2002 Minutemaids, the last team to win a state championship.

With the talent and tradition already in place, only time will tell if this season puts yet another year on the Minutemaids softball banner.

## Lacrosse captures conference

### Century-scorers Lawson, Muracco pave path to states

Robert Czyzewicz '06

Coming into the season, the 2006 girl's lacrosse team had huge expectations. Being a team with 12 seniors and an immense amount of leadership, the goals were nothing short of having one of the greatest seasons in team history.

"We absolutely knew that we had a strong team", began Alex McBride '06. "With all of the senior leadership, we expected to defend conference and finish undefeated with the conference", she said.

The team did just that. They currently sport a 17-1 record, as of 5/23 including the undefeated record within their conference.

To win the Olympic Conference is quite the accomplishment, as it is one of the most competitive, and it is the first time in team history that the team won conference back to back years.

Despite the success that the team has achieved, the girls feel as though they have a lot left to accomplish.

"I am very proud of what we've done so far, but we still want to get as far as we can in states; we have a good chance to win because we are a very talented team, but we still have to beat Moorestown and Shawnee, who are both very good", said Co-captain Nicole Muracco '06.

The team is led by its talented 12 seniors, including captains Muracco, Ally Kenney '06, Katie Lawson '06, and Jennie Hara '06. They all do their best to act as role models and they try to lead by example.

"All of the captains help everyone out", said McBride. "The constantly push everyone on the team, whether they are seniors or underclassmen. They really try to make us all better".

Along with all of the collective accomplishments the team has done, many of the players have enjoyed some of the greatest individual seasons of their careers, and have reached many tremendous milestones to put them with the greatest company in Township history.

Both Lawson and Muracco have eclipsed the 100 goal mark for their careers. Lawson was also named the Courier Post Player of the Week this season. In addition, Kenney is recognized as a very solid defensive stopper, and she is always put against the opposition's fastest player.

The girls have used their experience thus far to enjoy possibly the greatest season in team history, and they are looking to make Township history when they prepare to advance into the state tournament.



# Senior track stars set bar high

Brent Bartosiewicz '06

A little rain never stopped anyone and the girls track team isn't going to let it happen to them. The slippery start can be washed away because the girls overcame their slip by working as a team and shattering records.

That's not all; there are a dozen seniors on this team that will give anybody a run for their money.

The team opened their season on April 1<sup>st</sup> with a hard earned ranking of #4 in South Jersey. They currently have a record of 4-1 in the Olympic American conference.

The slow start was due to temporarily losing twelve seniors to the Senior Trip and the inclement weather the team faced. Despite the drawbacks, there was plenty of optimism for the season.

"We're one of the best teams in South Jersey", says coach of eighteen years, Mr. Bruce Burdsall. Thus far this season they have won the West Deptford Relays and for the tenth consecutive year won the Gloucester County Championship.



Brent Bartosiewicz '06/The Patriot

**The senior-led girls' track team expects to meet their goals of winning conference and states this season.**

The team's goals for this season include winning the State Championship, South Jersey Championship, and win the conference. If there's a team that will meet their goals they have planned, it will be this team.

Let's not forget about the record they have already shattered this year, the shuttle hurdle and the 800 medley record was set.

"We have a lot of balance and depth. Some teams are just sprinters or distance, we have sprinters and runners", says Burdsall.

There are twelve seniors on the team that contribute to the balance of the team. Four of the twelve have been on the team since freshman year and are now captains, they are Andrea March '06, Diana Kirk '06, Laura Cundey '06, and Maria

Fasolino '06. The other four captains are Brittany Moore '06, Daisy Amato '06, Sabrei Marriot '06, and Jacqueline Dim '08.

Every one of these captains bring leadership to their team, and since most of them have been around for eight seasons, (four indoor, four outdoor), they are role models for the younger girls.

Speaking of leadership, three of the team's hot shots will be attending division one colleges on partial academic and track scholarships. March will be attending Duke University majoring in biology and sports medicine; Cundey is going to Bucknell University to study engineering, and Fasolino will attend Princeton University and major in biology.

Losing twelve seniors to graduation will be costly to the team but they are going to have to, "Reload for next year", says Coach Burdsall. Coming up next year will be Erin Elliot, Dim, Kate Polson, and Shannon McArthur.

"We're still going to be a real good team," says Coach Burdsall.

## Boys track: Worst to first

Mike Dougherty '06

The boys' outdoor spring track team is looking to put their past behind them and make the 2006 season one to remember. The squad is off on the right foot for achieving this goal, with their first 4-0 start in history.

They have since lost their first meet against Cherokee and stand at an impressive record of 4-1 as of May 17.

The team is lead by a solid staff of captains including: Mark Natale '06, Steve Dunn '06, Brett Salmon '06, Bill Matthias '06, Rashari Santos '07, and Mike Salera '06. The team is also led by their coaches: Richard Bostwick, Dale Beibel, Kevin Hanrahan, Chris Mitchell, and Conrad Haber.

The team is excited about the fast start, especially since their last three years have combined for a record of: 1-14, a span in which they never won a relay or a championship meet.

The team does not see such a winless streak continuing because as one player put it, this is "going to be a turn around year."

There are a lot of reasons why the squad thinks that this year is going to be different.

The number one reason is that for the first time, the team is a complete team, instead of the past where the team was mostly made up of distance runners.

Dunn said, "With a lot more football players coming out, it helps us with sprints and jumps."

Another reason that the team is more complete is the turnout for the squad's tryouts was a lot more than years in the past, with estimates of 75 to 80. The team would agree that the new track definitely helped in the turnout.

One more reason that the team is having so much success is their work ethic. The team runs close to 345 days a year.

"Running is unlike any other sport, because you get exactly what

you put into it", said Co-captain Natale. "Plus the best part is that there aren't politics," he added.

This work effort is collective throughout the team, including the freshman. Some freshmen that have made a difference this year include: Xavier Fraction, Tim Carey, and Nick Krause.

"We are a good team because of a better team attitude, with a strong senior backbone combined with a good mix of underclassmen," added Dunn.

Dunn also recognized Cherokee and Pennsauken as the team's rivals. Pennsauken won conference last season, a primary goal of the squad this year. Along with winning conference and county, the team hopes to win the South Jersey sectionals.

With hopes of achieving their goals, this senior class of runners is hoping to leave their mark, and let the talented group of underclassmen continue to post good records and win titles.

**Senior  
Yearbook  
Dance**

**6:00-10:00**

**Tuesday,  
June 6**

**Quay Way**

# Boys tennis has best season in school history

Robert Czyzewicz '06

The boys' tennis team, led by second year coach Mr. Rich Flemming, came into this season off of a .500 record last year.

The team was looking to improve dramatically over last season's mark, and so far, they have done just that.

The team is currently sporting a 12-6 record, due largely to the team's youth, energy, and enthusiasm.

"The team is very young, and all of the underclassmen seem to be more dedicated than in years past", said Will Haight '06, the team's Captain. "The most important thing is that the young players are winning matches that they should win.

Their emergence has really helped us to grow as a team", he said.

Haight is another huge reason that the team is having such a successful season.

As of May 23, the veteran has

an individual record of 29-3, a mark that includes being crowned the Olympic Conference Champion for the first time in his career and named All Group IV for the fourth straight year. In addition, he will likely be named All South Jersey for the third straight year.

Haight is currently 3 wins away from 100 for his career, and he would be the first tennis player in Township history to reach the century mark.

The young players look up to the more experienced members of the team. Along with Haight, the other seniors are Drew Vitola and Justin Huckel, along with Junior Varsity members Paul Fernandez, Chris Bryan, and Ryan Mancuso.

"We try to show the younger players the important things about the game that we know and hopefully, they will take the advice we give them, and the experiences that they have to improve as players", said Haight.

The expectations for this season are many and varied. In addition to finishing with a winning record, the team wants to win at least one round in the State Team Tournament, something the team hasn't accomplished in more than four years.

In addition, they are simply trying to gain valuable experience, and learn what it's like to get clutch wins in important matches.

"So far, we've beaten who we're supposed to beat, and we've lost to who we were supposed to lose to. We have to improve on winning close matches and maybe stealing matches that we're not expected to win", said Fernandez.

The teammates try to keep the practices relaxed to keep the pressure off and to stay comfortable when situations may get tough.

"A relaxed atmosphere makes it a lot easier to improve than if playing felt like we were going to work everyday. It makes the entire

team look forward to being at practice and at the matches, and makes everybody want to get better", said Haight.

The team is third in the conference, behind Cherry Hill East and Eastern, and have advanced to the semi-finals of the state team tournament, exceeding expectations. He says that both East and Eastern are more experienced, but Township's likely third place finish doesn't mean the season is a failure.

Their finish with a winning record makes for a successful year, and though the team is losing Haight, one of the greatest players in Township history, they have a lot to look forward to next season.

Corey Eldridge '08 will move into the No. 1 spot next year, and Chris Penza '08 will take the No. 2 spot.

After those two sophomores, the team is currently well stocked on young players, who will look to continue and improve upon the team's winning ways.

# D'Imperio looks toward next level

Brent Bartosiewicz '06

Undeniably one of the greatest athletes to ever walk the halls of W.T. is Ryan D'Imperio '06.

D'Imperio has been voted most athletic for the class of 2006. The difference that sets him apart from the rest is his strong work ethic and ability to play more than one position in both football and baseball.

Not expecting to win the title of most athletic, D'Imperio was surprised to hear the good news.

"It's something that I look forward to after working hard all these years", says D'Imperio.

Although the football team didn't perform as well as expected, keep in mind, they made it through two of the toughest seasons.

D'Imperio maintained his level of intensity this season capturing First Team All South Jersey, First Team All Conference for Linebacker, and First All Group Four running back.

This much success in one sport is few and far between, but for two



Heather Ale '06/The Patriot

**Ryan D'Imperio will be attending Rutgers University on a football scholarship.**

sports, unheard of. The athleticism of D'Imperio carries suit for baseball.

Emerging as one of the premier ball players, he is among the best in both worlds.

"First off his natural talent combined with his speed and power, but also, his will to excel and win",

says Varsity Baseball Assistant Coach Dave Casey, is what sets in apart from the rest in this sport.

D'Imperio's performance at the catcher position has assisted the team to two Olympic Championships as well as individual recognition of First Team All Conference for catcher and Second

Team All South Jersey.

As a senior member of the team, D'Imperio looks forward to maintaining the team's success.

Looking back at the past four years of high school, D'Imperio says his best moments were with his teammates and friends.

His biggest change throughout high school has been his increased strength mentally, physically, and level of maturity.

As these final weeks of high school are winding down, D'Imperio is planning to attend Rutgers State University of New Jersey on a full ride for football.

At Rutgers he will be majoring in Algebra and playing football for the Scarlet Knights.

D'Imperio's future goals include, winning a bowl game, completing college, and to get drafted into the NFL.

Based on experience, a little advice to the underclassmen:

"Stay in school, work hard early in the season and it will pay off, and listen to your teachers", says D'Imperio.

# Time for Phils to move Abreu

Mike Dougherty '06

The time has come for the Philadelphia Phillies to get serious about making the step from a team that contends for a wild card and comes up short to a team that can truly contend for a championship.

The way for this all-time most losing franchise in all of professional sports (one championship and over 9800 losses in over 120 years) is to acquire depth at the most important position in baseball: pitcher.

The best way to get the best pitcher available is to trade their most productive player, Bobby Abreu.

I know what you are thinking as you look up underneath the headline, isn't this the same writer that argued that Peyton Manning, multiple MVP winner, is overrated and the same guy that demanded that arguably the most beloved 76er of all-time, Allen Iverson should be traded. It may seem that I am a typical bitter sports fan, but this trade makes sense. Trade Abreu for a number one pitcher, the name that

comes to mind is Barry Zito from Oakland.

Zito a pitcher with a good curve ball who has a respectable career ERA of 3.53, would be a good fit here because he gets a lot ground balls, important in a ballpark where a simple fly ball can turn into a souvenir for a lucky fan.

It is obvious that this baseball team needs starting pitching; because it is evident that 0-4 and 8 run ERA current number one starter is not going to cut it. But if Zito was acquired it would improve the rotation a lot because instead of a number one Lieber slides down to a decent number two.

If the trade went through the team wouldn't need to get another right fielder in return. David Dellucci will fill this void. He is a very serviceable outfielder who is coming off one the best seasons in his career.

I am not saying that Bobby Abreu isn't a good player because he is; it is just that his number have a tendency to "lie." His .411 on base percentage is nice but, it is due to a lot of good hitting in meaningless



**Bobby Abreu may have worn out his welcome in Philadelphia.**

parts of the game.

Most true Phillies fans are familiar with the times in the 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> inning where Abreu only needing a single or even just a sacrifice fly, when he proceeds to strikeout.

Another positive of trading Abreu now is that he is currently at his highest trade value that he will ever be at. Coming off a good year teams will be more willing to give up a big

name. Another good thing is that trading Abreu might let you package in a contract that is no longer needed perhaps a David Bell or a Mike Lieberthal.

Pitching is what wins in baseball and especially in the playoffs. The Phillies have enough bats to make up for Abreu's offense, at the same time you are also getting rid of a lot of strikeouts.

# Despite great playoff, LeBron not yet MJ

Robert Czyzewicz '06

Being an infamous 'Witness' to LeBron James is truly a spectacle. There is not a person who can honestly say that they believed in all of the hype that James carried with him as a high school senior.

Fans got the opportunity to be dazzled by James' uncanny ability to adjust to the NBA game in such a short time. Now, in his third year, James has led the Cavaliers to the playoffs for the first time since 1998, and as a result, he has garnered comparisons to Michael Jordan from the media.

Not only is comparing James to MJ unfair to LeBron, it also slights everything that Michael accomplished that early in his career.

While there are a few similarities between the two, James has not done anything to prove that he has surpassed Michael Jordan. They both won their first playoff series in their third year in the league, but Jordan went there first, as he led the



**LeBron's stats don't compare to Jordan's this early in his career.**

Bulls to the playoffs in his rookie season, something James couldn't do.

Now, I can sense that many readers are thinking that Jordan had Scottie Pippen. Well, this was in 1984-1988; before Pippen became a good player (he averaged only 7.8 points per game in '88). In fact, Jordan averaged 35.0 ppg that season and his second leading scorer was Sam Vincent at 13.0 ppg.

James had more help, running

with an accomplished 20 ppg scorer in Larry Hughes, not to mention a former All Star big man Zydrunas Ilgauskas, and other solid players like Donyell Marshall.

Both players ran into a bigger, stronger, faster, meaner team in the playoffs in their third years. Ironically, both times it was the Detroit Pistons. In '88, the Pistons had the third best defense in the league, with such players as Bill

Lambeer and Isiah Thomas. In 2006, the Pistons hold the best team defense with anchor Ben Wallace patrolling the center of the court.

In terms of numbers, Jordan clearly has the upper hand on James in terms of scoring. MJ averaged 37.1 points, 5.2 rebounds, and almost 5 assists per game, whereas LeBron averaged 31.4 points, 7 rebounds, and 6.6 assists.

Both James and Jordan stepped up their games in the playoffs, doing everything in their power to make those around him better. In terms of progression, James is not half the defender that Jordan was. Jordan was a multi-time NBA defensive player of the year, whereas James must better himself defensively to be considered an elite player.

By the time he retires, we may be discussing James as the best player of all time. But at the current time, it's not fair to put the pressure of the name of Michael Jordan on him. Besides, six championship rings are a lot to live up to.

# Where does Bonds rank among the greats?

Welcome back to The Sports Authorities. Barry Bonds is very quickly moving up the list of all time home run hitters. That got us to thinking about where he sits in the best players of our generation. This month, we will hold a fantasy draft. Both Rob Czyzewicz and Mike Dougherty will field teams with all 9 positions, 1 DH, and 1 closer from the years 1980-2006. The steroid controversies will not apply, because we would have to speculate who is and isn't on steroids. Let the debating begin.

(Rob Czyzewicz won the right to have the first pick)

- 1. RC -SP Roger Clemens**– The most dominant right handed pitcher since 1980, Clemens has 341 wins and ranks second all time with 4502 strikeouts. And despite 43, he may have just had his best season last year finishing 13-8 with a career best 1.87 ERA.
- 2. MD- LF Barry Bonds** - 7 time MVP; no one else has more than 3, he is the only player with 500 steals combined with 500 homers; no one else has 400/400. He also holds records for walks and on base percentage. He has 8 Gold Gloves, and will go down as best player in our generation.
- 3. RC -CF Ken Griffey, Jr.** – In the 1990s, Griffey was the most feared hitter in the Major Leagues – more so than Bonds. With his sweet swing, he has compiled more than 530 homers and over 2300 hits in 17 seasons. If healthy, he could have passed Hank Aaron on the all time home run list. Not to mention he is one of the best defensive outfielders of all time, winning 10 straight gold gloves from 1990-1999.
- 4. MD – 3B Mike Schmidt** - Best 3<sup>rd</sup> basemen of all time. Great defensive player (10 Gold Gloves), and great hitter (Led league in homers 8 times along with 548 career homers.) Won 3 MVPs.
- 5. RC - RF Sammy Sosa** –The numbers still have to speak for themselves. Slammin' Sammy has passed Frank Robinson for fifth on the all time home run list with 588, and won the 1998 MVP award.
- 6. MD – SS Alex Rodriguez** - Arguably the most talented player in the game right now. Has won MVPs, great defensively with a lot of power. He has too much talent to pass up.
- 7. RC - 3B Cal Ripken, Jr.** – Ripken hit 430 + homers in his career to go along with 3184 hits in 21 HOF seasons. He is a 2-time AL MVP, 2-time Gold Glove winner, and made 19 consecutive all star games while breaking the record for consecutive games played.
- 8. MD – CF Rickey Henderson** - Best lead off hitter to ever play. Has more stolen bases than some franchises. First in runs scored and second in walks. Set record for stolen bases before he was 30 years old.
- 9. RC - 2B Joe Morgan** – One of the best all around players of all time. For his career, Morgan finished with 2500 hits, nearly 700 stolen bases, 2 MVP awards, 5 gold gloves, and a respectable 268 home runs from a non-power position.
- 10. MD – SP Nolan Ryan**- I will just stop at 7 no hitters and 5714 strikeouts.
- 11. RC -1B Pete Rose** – There's nothing much to say about the greatest hitter of all time, compiling all of 4256 hits with a career .303 batting average.
- 12. MD – C Ivan Rodriguez** - Maybe behind Piazza in hitting, but not by far, with a career batting average .304. Arguably the best defensive catcher, he calls a great game for his pitcher. 11 Gold Gloves, and one of the few catchers to win an MVP.
- 13. RC - C Mike Piazza** - Though he's not particularly good defensively, he is easily the best offensive player at his position of all time (400 homers); will be a sure-fire Hall of Famer.
- 14. MD – 2B Craig Biggio**- Great sleeper pick. Has led the league in runs 4 times, is quickly approaching 3,000 hits, has over 400 steals combined with 4 gold gloves and 7 all star games including one as a catcher.



Despite all of the steroid controversies, Bonds still warrants a first round pick in our fantasy draft.

- 15. RC - SS Ozzie Smith** - The Wizard of Oz was just as his nickname suggested. Smith was making defensive plays that most others can't even dream of making. The Wizard won 13 consecutive gold gloves, and served as an adequate hitter for his 21 seasons.
  - 16. MD – DH Edgar Martinez** - The Cy Young of designated hitters, since the award for it is named after him. Martinez had a .312 batting average, mixed in with 2 batting titles and 1261 RBIs. The greatest DH of all time.
  - 17. RC - RF Tony Gwynn** - One of the best pure hitters of all time, he finished with a career average of .338, being first player since Ty Cobb to finish each season in his career with a .300 or better average. He retired with over 3100 hits, and he was the player to come closest to a .400 season since Ted Williams when he batted .394 in 1994. And if his offense isn't enough, he won five Gold Gloves.
  - 18. MD- CP Mariano Rivera** - Referred to as the greatest post season pitcher of all time, he sports a postseason ERA of 0.81. He also went a 34 1/3 consecutive scoreless innings in the post season, and was a huge part of 4 World Series winners.
  - 19. RC - CP Dennis Eckersley** - 'Eck' is most known for being the first great closer. He is ranked 4th on the all time saves list, but he was a closer for just the second half of his career.
  - 20. MD - 1B Mark McGwire**- 583 career homeruns including 70 in one year. He doesn't do much else but that, but that is all I need from my 1<sup>st</sup> baseman.
  - 21. RC - DH Paul Molitor** - The definition of a solid player. Maybe he flew under the radar, but he finished with a .306 career average and more than 3300 hits, not to mention a more than respectable 504 steals in his HOF career.
  - 22. MD – RF Albert Pujols**- Only Major League player to ever hit 30 homeruns in his first 5 years. With a career batting average of .332, we will be talking about him in 10 years as the best hitter/player of all time.
- Honorable Mentions** - C Carlton Fisk, OF Reggie Jackson, 1B Frank Thomas, DH Jose Canseco, DH/1B Jim Thome, SS Derek Jeter, DH/1B Rafael Palmeiro, OF Kirby Puckett, 2B Roberto Alomar, 3B George Brett, SP Greg Maddux, 2B Ryne Sandberg, 3B Wade Boggs, OF Manny Ramirez, CP Lee Smith