

## Girls lacrosse ready for victory Minutemaids win first Olympic Conference

Scott Grandrino '05

The 2005 Girl's Lacrosse team won their first ever Olympic Conference title in the team's eleven year history.

"I'm very excited," exclaimed Coach Sandy Stockl, "the girls worked very hard all season long. They deserve this."

As of May 24, the girl's had a 15-2 record, ranked fourth in the Courier Post.

In the beginning of the season, the team had high expectations of finishing with a good record, but knew that winning the conference would be tough.

Assistant Coach Stacey Moscufo drew attention to improving the overall program. She wanted to "focus on improvement" so that the team could "compete competitively all season long."

"I thought our chances were good, but we would have to play well because we are in such a tough conference," explained Stockl. "Winning the conference was



Joe Comerford '06/The Patriot

### Township girls play their way to victory.

something we didn't expect, but we always knew it was a possibility."

There were many girls who contributed to the success of this season. Captains Kelly Angstadt '05, Megan Hall '05, and Mandy Salvetti '05 showed important leadership skills that not only helped the team,

but they were also great role models for their younger teammates.

The Captains, along with Lydsey Reeve '05 and Kelly Vaden '05, have been waiting four long years for this conference title. They are pleased that their names will go down in the history book for the

Girl's Lacrosse first conference title.

Stockl and Moscufo believe that the girls can win another conference title next year.

They are especially confident in their youth. The majority of the starting lineup is made up of juniors.

Some of the youth that shows outstanding skills are Ally Kenney '06, Katie Lawson '06, Alex McBride '06, and Brooke Foussadier '07.

Moscufo said that McBride and Foussadier are two "strong players" that "work hard" during games and practices.

By finishing with a superb record, the team is ranked high in the State Tournament. They are seeded fourth in the South A bracket.

"If we hold true to our seed, we should compete very well," said Stockl.

The girl's State Tournament journey starts on Wednesday May 25 against fifteenth seeded Wall Township.

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## Mike Jones accepts Patriot top job

Michelle DeVuono '05  
Darby DeCicco '05

When the class of 2005 graduates this June, *The Patriot* will have to go through a couple of changes. Current editor-in-chief Mallory Heimlich is leaving a big space to fill and in the fall of 2006, *The Patriot* staff will begin working with their new chief editor, current junior and op-ed editor Mike Jones.

"One day Mr. Jim Evangelisti [the newspaper's advisor and the school's journalism teacher] came to me and told me I was the new chief editor," explained Jones.

"Mike is the obvious choice," says Evangelisti of why he chose Jones. "He really proved his dedication to *The Patriot* this year by meeting deadlines and logging a lot of long days working on layout."

If you are not completely sure who Jones is, he is the columnist who writes *Keepin' up with Jonesy*, which covers such diverse topics as secret ambitions to be British and of course milk in a bag.

"I blew it completely out of proportion, and it was kinda funny," Jones says of the milk in a bag story that kicked off his *Keepin' up with Jonesy* column.

He kept his sense of humor going and it was soon apparent that that next year's staff members would need a good sense of humor to keep up with this Jones.

Some of Jones' goals for next year's paper are to get an issue out at least once a month in an effort to increase the paper's readership.

Jones is very excited about his important role with *The Patriot* and is thankful for the great staff he will have in September. Joining Jones next year on the staff are Mark Natale '06, Rob Czynowicz '06, and Cheryl Supernavage '06.

"Jonesy is a nut. I know that



Darby DeCicco '05/The Patriot

### Mike Jones ponders his first moves as editor.

our paper will be entertaining with him in charge," said Natale. "He is serious about the paper and he will get it out on time."

"I'm sure he'll do a good job," says current entertainment editor Jamie Valentine '05. "The paper will be really different next year, but it will probably be a lot of fun to read."

# The world's a stage

## Acting classes compete at Bucks County festival

Tiffany Narducci '05

On May 5<sup>th</sup> 2005, Mrs. Silverman's Actors' Studio and Theatre Production classes traveled to New Hope, Pennsylvania to the Bucks County Playhouse for a day long drama competition.

The classes performed a half-hour segment from *Stardust*, their spring show. Township competed against schools such as Columbia High School, Solanco High School and Northampton High School, to name

a few. In the end, two Township students, Amanda Powell '05 and Kelly Karcher '06, were awarded Acting Excellence awards.

But the whole day was not just a competition. The Playhouse is located along a strip of shops, restaurants, and a Starbucks. The strip has an abundance of clothing shops, and even a mall. The restaurants are pricy, but the food is worth it, and if you don't have a lot of money to spend, there is a little pizzeria, too. During the lunch and dinner breaks, the participants had some time to shop, eat, and enjoy the beautiful scenery.

After dinner, participants and others got to view the play going on at the Playhouse at that time. This year the play was *Starmites*, a sci-fi musical about Eleanor, an earth girl who doesn't really fit in. Instead, she buries her life in her favorite comic, *the Starmites*. From there the play unravels into, for lack of better terms, an almost-average love story.

When the performance was over, the long anticipated award ceremony began. Many Acting



Illustration by Cassy Mathos '07

Excellence awards were given out, along with Best Actor/ Actress, Best Ensemble, Best Supporting Actor/ Actress, and more.

All in all, the day was definitely something participants will not want to forget. The day in itself, onstage or off, is full of new things and people, and is an experience that will last participants a life time- or, at least, until the next year.



## Student response impressive for first Interact blood drive

Jamie Valentine '05

There are many opportunities for students at this school to give of themselves, but very rarely does a drive take this literally.

On May 13, Interact held their first ever Red Cross Blood Drive. Usually, there is one blood drive a year, sponsored by ROTC. However, according to Sarah Toomey '05, who ran that event, ROTC was frustrated by the disorganization of the Red Cross during their blood drive this past October, as many students who had signed up to donate were turned away.

Interact decided to take over the responsibilities of the annual blood drive, at the request of ROTC and the Red Cross.

"It's good for Interact [to run the drive] because we do this stuff a lot," says Kristen Scott '05, an Interact volunteer at the event, and also a second-time donor.

Donating blood is a terrifying idea for many people. The prospect of needles alone is enough to turn many possible volunteers away.

"I've always had trouble with



Illustration by Cassy Mathos '07

doctors, so I doubt [giving blood] would work on a voluntary level," says Bianca Smith '05, who echoed the thoughts of many students who opted not to donate. If you can get past the idea of needles, donating blood is a very rewarding way to give of yourself.

"I feel all warm and fuzzy. I feel honored to know I helped people," says Amanda Powell '05

"Donating blood is really important because it helps people who are desperate," says Megan Fritz '06.

These good feelings make a lot of people repeat donors.

"A lot of people who signed up had given blood in the last drive," says Reuben Gutierrez '05, Interact president. For many people, the best part of donating blood is that, according to the Red Cross, for every pint of blood you donate, three lives are saved.

Organizing the event was both challenging and satisfying, and according to many members of Interact, the satisfying part wins out.

"You get to make it easier for the people who donate blood," says Scott.

The blood drive seemed much more organized this time around, and more students got a chance to give back to the community.

"I think more people got to donate this time because the Red Cross sent more people," says Scott.

If you were too young this time around, or missed the opportunity, look for the blood drive to come back. to the high school next year.

## Seeing red on Day of Silence

Mike Jones '06

On April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005 students crowded into the halls of Washington Township High School to see red shirts and little red signs on mute students. It was the Gay and Straight Alliance's Day of Silence, and bold students wore red firmly, regardless of how unpopular that particular color might have been that day.

"People were telling me it wasn't right, some even said I was going to hell," said Stephanie Carr, a member of the Gay and Straight Alliance, as well as a participant in the Day of Silence.

According to Carr, "The purpose of everyone being silent was to reflect the silence of homosexuals, because they couldn't come out." What no one understood about the Day of Silence was why the students were being silent. The reason many student chose to be silent was to make everyone think about the voices they were not hearing.

"The message was tolerance and support, as well as an end to the silence homosexuals have faced for years," said Heather Petolicchio, one of the advisors of the Gay and Strait alliance.

The Gay and Straight Alliance is a nation wide club dedicated to supporting America's gay community by means of acceptance. Co-advised by Mrs. Heather Petolicchio and Mr. David Walls, the club was founded in Washington Township High School as of March 2004. The actual club, however, has existed for years in other schools of the country.

"The Gay and Straight Alliance is where straight people and gay people come together to promote tolerance," said Carr.

The club has 25 active members, and the Day of silence had 150 students, not counting those who chose to support without signing up. Across the country, over four hundred and fifty thousand students actively participated.

The club meets officially on Wednesdays in room I 113, but the meetings tend to be sporadic and can pop up on any given day of the week.

To learn more about the Gay and Straight Alliance, or the Day of Silence, visit [www.DayofSilence.org](http://www.DayofSilence.org). To join the club, just contact David Walls or Heather Petolicchio.

# 4th Annual May Revel good time for all

Tori Gilbert '05

When attending a school with over 3,000 students, it can be very difficult to even recognize all of the students you pass on a daily basis, let alone get to know all of them and their unique personalities.

However, Township is home to a club that works to introduce all of these different students to each other, and to get them to respect and interact with those they may not run in to on a regular basis.

SURE, or Students United For Respect and Equality, is a club of students in all grades, organized by Mr. Oberholtzer, that spends its time coordinating events where students of all different grades, cultures, and cliques can meet and intermix.

SURE's biggest event of the year was held Saturday, May 21st, on the shores of Washington Lake.

The 4th annual May Revel, which is similar to a coffehouse, brought together over 14 bands to



Photo courtesy of Mr. Oberholtzer

**S.U.R.E. members sold May Revel t-shirts with a peace logo on the front and a list of performers on the back.**

perform from noon to 7 p.m., with acoustic performances in the morning and electric sets in the afternoon. Most of the bands were made up of WTHS students, and the play list

included Llamas-A-Go-Go, Nascence, Perhaps She'll Die, and Landslide, among many others. All of the bands are listed on the back of the t-shirts that were sold at the event. □

Jes Johnson '05 was the main organizer of the May Revel, and she worked tirelessly with the other members of SURE to ensure the event was a great success.

Oberholtzer was very excited to see that all the club members' hard work pay off, and was eager to see if students would once again take advantage of the opportunity to meet new people and "witness the great talent of students they may never have seen before."

Judging by the kids in attendance, his wish for success was fulfilled.

Steve Reilly '05 excitedly proclaimed the event "May Revel-tastic!" and Karen Martin '06 says that it was a "Great time, and I got to see a lot of great bands, and hang out with a lot of cool people."

As Tim Ponter '06 said, "It was an awesome day. It's not often that you get to attend an all day outside concert, and it just makes it cooler that our friends and peers are the ones performing."

## Seniors unite for Baccalaureate

Michelle DeVuono '05

The class of 2005's high school careers are about to come to a close, but not before the annual Baccalaureate service, which will take place on June 14th at 7:00 p.m. at the Bunker Hill Presbyterian Church.

"Baccalaureate is a non-denominational worship service open to all students and parents of the senior class, whatever their religious background may be," stated Mr.

**"It's just a nice way to commemorate in a spiritual sense, the milestone of graduating high school,"**  
- Mr. Robert Barnshaw.

Barnshaw, who is one of the Baccalaureate supervisors. Barnshaw has been a part of the Baccalaureate service for about 10 years, yet the service goes back years before Barnshaw committed to the event.

In the past, there have been Hindus, Catholics, Buddhists, and more present at the service.

"It's just a nice way to commemorate in a spiritual sense, the milestone of graduating high school," explained Barnshaw.

At the service, there will be a candle lighting ceremony which all the

seniors present will take part in, as well as performances by WTHS' own chorus and band ensembles. As usual, members of ROTC will be ushering the event and each year there is a motivational speaker. This year, the committee hopes to be honored by Mrs. Clark, a Spanish teacher here at WTHS, to be the service's featured speaker.

Many people put a lot of time and dedication into make this a memorable event: Mrs. Skow, Mr. Bozzuffi, Mrs. Handlon, Mr. Beyer, Mr. VanAntwerp, and Mr. Flemming, our districts Superintendent, all lend a helping hand. This will be Mr. Flemming's last Baccalaureate service since he is retiring after this school year is through.

There is usually a pretty steady crowd at the event, ranging from 150 people to 300 people, as seen in the past years. It doesn't seem to increase or decrease. Barnshaw believes that it doesn't matter how many people show up, whether it's 20 kids or 200. The fact of the matter is that it's an important event. If you're thinking about going, you might surprise yourself.

"If people are wondering if they should come, I believe that people will look back and be glad they went. It's one of the last times you will be with your classmates in a formal and thoughtful setting," expressed Barnshaw.

## Earth Day celebration teaches, entertains

Mike Jones '06

April 22<sup>nd</sup> is one of those holidays few can ever seem to remember, let alone celebrate.

Earth Day, however, was indeed celebrated in Washington Township this year at Washington Lake Park on a slightly belated April 23<sup>rd</sup>. Despite the poor weather conditions, it received a decent turnout.

"We have about three-fourths of our usual participants this year," said Paul Greger, a local engineer and organizer of the Earth Day festivities held at Washington Lake Park.

Earth Day began on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1970, at a time when America's wildlife was suffering dramatically, as a protest to urban expansion.

What started out as a simple protest soon became something larger. Earth Day became a celebration, to say the least, which has lasted more than 30 years, and its future only brightens.

"I have a theory," said Greger and proceeded to make reference to the story of Mary Poppins.

"Remember when the nanny tells the children a spoon full of sugar helps the medicine go down? Well that's the idea of what we try to do, make this day as fun as possible, but have the people learn something in the mean time."

In accordance with Greger's "Spoon full of sugar" theory, fun events such as Kite flying, face painting, and even horse-back riding are used to teach both children and adults something about the environment.

"Mr. Earth Day," as Greger is called, received an annual Environmental Award given every year by the Washington Township Environmental Commission (WTEC) this year. Finally retired after twenty-two years of service as the head-coordinator of the Earth Day events at the park, Greger is now moving for employment reasons.

Upon approaching Washington Lake Park on Earth Day, one is rarely moved on first impression. However, on closer inspection, it is soon discovered that Earth Day is important not only to our environment, but also to the educational process of our youth.

**Interested  
in becoming a  
member of *The  
Patriot* staff?  
Listen for announce-  
ments in September.**

# Township bids farewell to retiring teachers

## Sicilian Samurai retires from digital dojo

Darby DeCicco '05

After thirteen years teaching at WTHS, beloved teacher Mr. Ron George is leaving the WTHS art department and retiring. When asked how he feels knowing that he won't be returning to the high school next year, Mr. George has one reply ready. "Great."

With a house in Ithaca, New York waiting for him and his wife and a plethora of hobbies, including travel, violin-making, and even genealogical research, George says he has no regrets about leaving WTHS.

"The students I've had have been



Ashley Horan '05/The Patriot

**Courtney Gardner '05 receives instruction from the real Mr. George.**

just wonderful," George says, "but I'm looking forward to being an artist again."

An artist, among other things, is what George once was first and foremost. After being riffed from the Willingboro school district in 1978, George tried out several occupations in the art world, including graphic design, photography, screen printing, menu design, and owning a gallery. In 1992, however, George decided to return to teaching.

"Teaching was the only thing I did that ever really felt important," he explains.

But making his return to teaching did not mean that George had to leave the art world behind. In fact, he was able to use his experiences not only to teach Art 1, Art 2, Drawing and Painting, Sculpture and Art Expression classes, but to actually create WTHS' Animation 1 and 2 and Digital Imaging and Design classes.

George says, however, that not everything about teaching art is easy.

"There's a misconception that art is lacking in academic rigor," George says, explaining that he strives to make the impression on people that art requires a great



**Mr. George in a caricature by Mike Murro, WTHS Class of 2000.**

amount of creative thinking and intelligence.

This creative thinking and intelligence is something George brings to each and every one of his classes, and something that his students will sorely miss in the teacher they refer to as the "Sicilian Samurai," a nick-name George earned when scaring away his daughter's high school boyfriends.

"Mr. George is an awesome friend and an amazing Sicilian Samurai," says

Larissa Chopyk '05, a former student of George's.

It's easy to see why students and fellow faculty members are reluctant to see Mr. George go.

However, with Mrs. Smith to take over his classes and a whole new life waiting for him, George shows no reluctance at all.

"I gave it everything I had," George says of his teaching career. "I'm ready for the luxury of selfishness."

# Math teacher leaves legacy of learning

Cheryl Supernavage '06

After thirty-nine years of teaching in various school districts including Woodbury, New Jersey, Monticello, New York, Palos Ver Des Peninsula, California, and Lower Merion Township, Pennsylvania, WTHS math teacher Mr. Frank is retiring.

In his years of teaching, Frank has taught all types of math, from junior-high levels to Calculus. There was no question in his mind that he wanted to have a career in math. He was a math major in college and states, "I learned to love teaching after I started it."

Frank attended a "teacher's school," West Chester University, but did not always want to be a teacher. He says that his only desire in college was just to be there; he had no interest in learning. However, now he says he does not regret his decision or one minute of being a teacher.

"I backed into this job, but it's a great job. I highly recommend it to anybody; it's never boring."

As a teacher, one of his goals was to correct the ways of teaching. Frank wanted to make his classroom a real learning place.

"I find the teaching set-up is wrong, but I did the best I could to make my class the way I think it should be."

The one thing he hopes he passed onto his students is not related to his subject of choice; it is simply a love of learning. Frank feels he is here to be a teacher, support his students, and make them do their work; he is not here to be their friend. However, after retiring, Frank feels he will miss all of his students, as well as all the other adults in the school, most.

"The biggest and hardest change will be not seeing a lot of people everyday but only seeing my wife. Everyone here is interesting, and I will miss the people contact most after my retirement. I am worried about not being involved in the world."

Even though he is retiring, Frank says he still feels passionate about teaching.



Scott Grandrino/The Patriot

**Mr. Edward Frank says the hardest thing about leaving WTHS will be saying goodbye to the people here.**

"Everyday something new happens; it is what's so neat about this job."

Frank has mixed feelings about leaving, and now he is trying to savor every minute before leaving with his wife for the Pocono's.

"I love what I am doing. I depended on this job to keep me alive and stimulated."

He feels this is a good time to retire because he is still healthy and there are so many things he wants to do.

"I want to visit all the national parks in the United States, but not only drive through them, I want to spend a week there and extensively see them. I also want to do a lot of physical activities, like hiking and climbing all summits."

The one thing Frank wants to tell all the students in Washington Township before he leaves is to never let anyone stop them from achieving their goals.

"Perseverance is what counts in life. Hang in there long enough and you will get the job done. Never quit." Even though Frank is retiring, he has so much left to do in his life. "You can't wear me down," he says.

# Features

## Members of WTHS orchestra to play Europe

Tori Gilbert '06

For many students, the dream of a summer vacation to Europe is just that- a dream. However, for members of WTHS's school orchestra, this dream will become a brilliant reality this summer.

For years, Mrs. Meyer, the director of the school orchestra, has fantasized about touring Europe with a student orchestra, and her fantasy was realized last fall when America Music Abroad contacted her and agreed to sponsor the trip. The Europe Trip Orchestra was soon formed, and it consists of about 32 WTHS students, who will play instruments including bass, violin, viola, cello, and piano.



Jamie Recchino '05/The Patriot

**Orchestra members spend long hours practicing.**

Additionally, three alumni chaperones will travel and play with the Orchestra, Ms. Toni Bennechi, the CRMS Orchestra Director, will provide percussion accompaniment, and the AMA has even allowed for relatives and friends of Orchestra members to tag along. The entourage will consist of about 30 people, including grandparents, parents, siblings, and friends.

Preparation for this endeavor began early last year, when Mrs. Meyer thrilled students by announcing that they would have the opportunity to participate in a grand tour of Europe.

Weekly rehearsals began at the beginning of this school year, and the Orchestra has since been working on pieces such as "The Red Pony" by Copeland, America's National Anthem, "Con Te Partiro" an Italian theme song, and several medleys from American movies, including the theme from "Psycho" and a medley from "A West Side Story." The music choices have followed a theme of displaying American styles of music in the hope that the WTHS Orchestra will illustrate to Europeans that Americans have developed their own styles and art forms.

Preparation for the trip will continue at the conclusion of the school year, when the Orchestra will begin four days of intense rehearsals: they will have to arrive at school by nine AM., and will not conclude



Jamie Recchino '05/The Patriot

**Members of the WTHS Orchestra will travel and play in Europe this summer.**

rehearsals until noon. Their hard work during the first real week of summer will not be in vain, however, because the payoff will be immense.

The Orchestra will depart for Geneva, Switzerland on the 24th of June from The JFK Airport in Newark, after performing a farewell concert on the night of the 23rd. After their arrival on the 25th, they will travel to several towns in Italy, including Torino, Tuscany, Florence and Venice. After playing in Italy and sightseeing at such places as the Leaning Tower of Pisa and the Medici Palace, the Orchestra will move on to other European locations, like Strasbourg, Lucern, Angleburg, and Zurich, where they

will continue to perform and take in the sights.

Overall, the Orchestra will spend thirteen days and play four concerts in Europe, not only gaining experience as musicians but immersing themselves in the European culture.

All members of the Orchestra are thoroughly excited and anxious for the trip. It is a unique opportunity to travel to Europe, and to perform for people of a completely different nationality. As Jerry Cedrone, a sophomore who is the official Europe Trip Co-Manager, put it, "It will be great trip- the combination of the sightseeing, travel, performing, and friendships will make it an awesome experience."

## Meyer brings passion for music to class

Justine Jacobs '06

This June, Ms. Norma Meyer will finally have the opportunity to fulfill a dream she's had since she began teaching in Washington Township when current members and alumni of the high school orchestra embark on a tour of Europe.

The eleven day tour, headed by a company called American Music Abroad (AMA), will feature stops in Italy, Switzerland, and France. Students will play a series of concerts as well as having the opportunity to go sight-seeing.

"Italy is just such a major center for artistic things, and I thought it would be a fabulous place to go and have young people have the experience of seeing," Meyer says. "Just to be in that place and seeing the art and seeing the buildings and having the feel for

the culture, I thought would be very beneficial."

Meyer, who has been teaching in the district since 1985, selected a series of classical American pieces and show tunes, as well as two originals, for the trip orchestra to prepare.

"The people in Europe don't go to our concerts to hear us play Beethoven. They hear plenty of Beethoven for them. They come to our concerts to hear us play American music," she explained. "I thought that with this group of kids, they're so enthusiastic... that we'd do really well playing American music."

With her extensive musical and teaching experience, Meyer is just the person to be heading a trip of this nature. She began teaching lessons at the age of thirteen, then began teaching in schools at twenty-one.

"I consider myself very lucky, because I get to teach music and music is what I like to do... We get to make great music, and I get to do it with great people."

Meyer, a skilled pianist, also knows a great deal about performing. She received both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees in musical performance.

As a member of the group Piano 4, which features four pianists playing together on four different pianos, Meyer knows the devotion necessary to prepare for a tour. Piano 4 rehearses once or twice every week for four to five hours at a time. They also tour regularly. During their busiest year, the group played twenty concerts.

Meyer also has past experience with American Music Abroad. Six years ago, Meyer went on an AMA

trip to Europe, and she enjoyed the tour so much she immediately thought of them for the trip she wished to plan.

"I saw how wonderfully they ran their tours, and I thought, 'Ah-hah! That's what I want to do. I want to take my kids and have them have this incredible experience.'"

From there the pieces simply fell into place. Although AMA usually selects the students for their trips from many different schools, the company had enough faith in the Washington Township music department to deem Meyer's idea a good one.

"All the stars were aligned," she says with a smile.

According to Meyer, there are only two types of music: "good and bad." It's clear from the enthusiasm of this conductor that the trip orchestra will be making plenty of good music this summer.

# Student chefs serve up hits with judges

## Staskin's truffle takes second among desserts

Valerie Smaldone '05

WTHS senior Stephanie Staskin left Philadelphia \$1500 richer on April 2, 2005. She took second place in the cooking competition at The Restaurant School at Walnut Hill College.

The competition was open to high school juniors and seniors, and students went to compete from various locations across the east coast. The two categories of the competition were chicken and chocolate, and only one candidate from each high school could compete.

"I wanted to compete in chicken but I was too busy with school so I had to do the chocolate," Staskin said.

Staskin's preparation process began with the invention of a unique recipe. She decided on a chocolate truffle cake. The cake had to be made at the competition in a ninety minute span of time. If the recipe was very detailed, the base of the cake could have been made at home, and then the rest at the competition.



**Staskin's winning Chocolate Truffle Cake**

"Cooking for competitions gives me an adrenaline rush because I know that I only have so much time to finish and I have to have everything perfect. To me it's like running a race," Staskin said.

Staskin was watched closely by six judges, mostly chefs from elite restaurants. She was critiqued in her kitchen skills as well as the taste and presentation of her cake. She was surprised to win second place out of the 22 students that competed.

Claiming to always be her toughest critic, she did not have her hopes up. "I'm never happy with anything I do, so I didn't think I'd win," she said.

Staskin began cooking by herself when she was around twelve years old. Her mom would call her from work, give her instructions, and she would have dinner almost finished when her mom arrived home. She still finds herself baking at the most random times.

"Last year I used to make cake and cookies for my friends every Thursday. I'd get up early and bake but then my schedule became hectic. I still bake about once a week though."

The \$1500 scholarship Staskin won will help pay for her education at Atlantic Cape Community College where she will start in the fall as a culinary arts major. She then plans to further her education at Drexel University and become a culinary chef specializing in nutrition.

"I want people to eat exquisitely but still be healthy."

## Chicken entree earns Earling second place

Jacquie Rue '06

Kyle Earling '06 placed second at The Culinary Competition and won a fifteen hundred dollar scholarship to The Restaurant School. Earling takes the Culinary Arts course offered here at WTHS. His teacher Mrs. Kelley was the one who told him of this competition.

The competition was held at The Restaurant School in Philadelphia. Earling had an hour and a half to make three dishes of *Ballotée de Poulet Grandmère*.

"It is made of chicken that is boneless, stuffed with bread, carrots, celery, and shallots that have been cooked until tender in butter, then the chicken is stuffed, tied so that none of the stuffing falls out, last it is cooked and served" Earling stated.

"While I was preparing the dish, the only thing I could think of was 'Am I going to be finished in enough time?' [When one of the judges questioned if I would be able to complete the dish,] I said that I would, and then another judge told me I was brave for choosing a hard recipe. As time was running out, I kept my cool and got it done," said Earling.

The dish he selected was a complete meal. The chicken was the protein, the stuffing was the starch and the carrots, celery, and shallots were the vegetables.

Earling began cooking about two years ago. Now he has decided that he wants to pursue cooking as a career. He is planning to attend Atlantic Cape Community College and then The Restaurant School. However, since the competition he has not been contacted by either of these schools.

"After college my sister and I want to open our own restaurant, she is in college for culinary arts," he stated.

His sister, Ashley, was his main inspiration and the one to help him with all the preparation and mind set of the competition.

Earling said "I enjoy cooking when I have spare time, because I am a junior chef at Valley Brooke Country Club."

This should give him a lot of practice for his future career in the food industry.

# McCully promotes driving safety

Jamie Recchino '05

For years, cars have been appreciated by many. For some, cars are more than a modern day convenience. Mr. James McCully has been racing dragsters for the past 43 years. He's even built about twenty-five of his own.

McCully grew up around cars. His uncle was a mechanic, and McCully drove around the shop. When he realized that the cost of dragsters was high, he began to build his own. Every three years, the cars are inspected by the SFI for safety regulations.

"The raw cage has to be a certain size, so that if they [the drivers] hit anything, they don't smack their face," says McCully.

If a dragster and engine aren't built correctly, they won't meet the SFI's standards and the driver has a higher risk of injury. Each car takes about five to six months to build. They can run up to 325 mph in about



Jamie Recchino '05/The Patriot

**Mr. James McCully (left), will be retiring from his job at WTHS this year. He plans to continue to tour local high schools educating students on the dangers of street racing.**

twenty-four seconds.

McCully has been racing at Atco Raceway with a group of five people. Included in this group is McCully's son. Atco is open to the public, and anyone can watch or race.

"The people down there know what they are doing," says McCully. Twice a year, his group travels to the Nationals.

McCully is also a firm believer in racing as safely as possible. Each May for the past nine years, he's

been speaking to classes in school about the dangers of racing on the streets. McCully brings about 7 or 8 cars to each school he speaks at, and each class gets involved. Art classes draw the cars, and some science classes learn about streamlining.

He says, "If you're going to race, race where it's safe. You're going to have fire equipment. If you race on the streets, you can lose your license or your friends."

# The art of dedication

Justine Jacobs '06

Leigh Meinhart is many things: a daughter, a sister, a student, but above all else, she is an artist. The Washington Township High School junior is currently enrolled in Art Three, plans to attend a college geared towards the arts, and has been passionate about art since the age of six.

"I remember the first day of school. We were given a mirror, and we had to look at our faces and describe them. One of the questions was 'What is your eye color?' and you had to draw your eye. Well I, for some odd reason, obsessed over the one eye, coloring in the values and each eye lash with the lines going into the pupil. Everyone made fun of me, but my art teacher in school told me I had talent. That made me want to learn more about art."

Since then, Meinhart has taken many art classes, both in and outside of school. After her initial interest in art was sparked, she attended George Kieser's Art School for three years. However, she stopped, longing to explore other aspects of life.

"I wanted to try new things: ice skating, basketball, piano, drums," Meinhart says. "But I always found myself falling back onto art."

She dove back into art with full force, taking classes in figure drawing, graphic design, print making, Japanese paper development, animation, and painting all outside of school during her freshman, sophomore, and junior years.

"I always aim to be the best, the one who stands out the most. So I pushed myself, working sometimes twenty-four hours straight just so I could build my ability."

The hard work has certainly paid off for Meinhart, whose art was featured in the Core Showcase for the month of January. She is also a member of the National Art Honors Society at WTHS.

Back in 2004, Meinhart entered five of her works in a New York City art contest. By late March or early April, she should know where she placed in the competition. The winner receives a cash prize, but Meinhart says she would be happy with any form of recognition.



Justine Jacobs '06/The Patriot

**WTHS junior Leigh Meinhart aspires to attend an art school in the future.**

From all of her experience, Meinhart has gained a thorough understanding of art that most people could never hope to match. She likes to mix mediums, experimenting with

the different effect each produces. Her favorite, however, is coloring pencils, a convenient tool for drawings.

"I have my own technique for drawing," she says. "For example, whenever I draw reflections on any kind of metallic surface or glass, I think of flowing water. It's unpredictable. It's loose and it's never wrong."

Meinhart's passion for her art will come in very handy as she enters college. The Art Institute of Philadelphia and the Maryland Institute College of Art are among her choices. Meinhart's possible majors include drawing and painting and illustration and character design. She plans on attending pre-college classes in illustration and character design at the Art Institute of Philadelphia this summer to "see how I like it."

Success as an artist, Meinhart believes, comes from training, natural passion, and a lot of patience. It would seem that she possesses all of these traits, simply by the devotion she has to her work. Only time will tell if her formula for success is effective.

## Confessions... by Darby DeCicco '05

### ...of a grown-up

Possibly the most difficult thing to grasp about going away to school next fall, more difficult than the fact that my roommate might be obnoxious or that I'm going to have to start buying my own groceries, is the fact that I'm leaving everything behind.

For the first time in my life, I won't be returning to a Washington Township school, I won't be sleeping in my own familiar bed, and I won't be surrounded by friends and family. For the first time in my life I'm going to be out there on my own.

Somehow, suddenly, when I wasn't looking, I became a grown-up.

This is exhilarating and terrifying and sad.

I have to admit that since I've been old enough to comprehend the phrases "study abroad" and "master's degree" I've been waiting for the day when I could get out of this town and go away to college. The fact is that, although Washington Township has always been very good to me, I've always known that there are bigger and better things out there, and that I couldn't wait to see them all.

I guess it just never occurred to me that *leaving* means leaving things, and people, behind.

High school, I have realized now that I'm finally graduating, really is an experience unlike any other.

Summers down the shore with

your best friends, first dates with cute boys, midnight coffee at the diner. Sure, these things might all happen again, but they'll never happen the way they did in high school, with the innocence and enthusiasm and uncertainty of youth. High school, in the end, is more than just a place to learn algebra and Shakespeare. High school is a way of life, and one that ends more quickly than any high school student can imagine.

This ending is the one thing that I just can't seem to comprehend.

The idea that I don't have another year, and another, and another to spend hanging out with my friends and getting ready for the rest of my life is almost impossible to understand. The idea that these days are not infinite, that my high school career really will end, never seems to have occurred to me until now.

But now, of course, is the time when I have to start understanding that it really is true. Now is the time when I have to stop getting ready for the rest of my life, and start actually living it.

This is exhilarating and terrifying and true, and even armed with all the knowledge I've gained in high school, both in and out of the classroom, I have no idea how my future's going to go.

Scared as I am, however, I must confess that I can't wait to find out.



illustration by Cassy Matos '07

# Finding the proper balance to excel

Reuben Gutierrez '05

In addition to being bright students and having an excellent academic record, the most studious student is involved with other things besides school and also finds different ways to handle stress. After the votes were submitted, the majority of the senior class had elected Dan Martelli and Meghan Mucciarelli as the top seniors to have these qualities.

People usually do not have a natural inclination to study. They need motivation and reason to do well. For Martelli, school has always been of importance. From the start, his parents had told him school was

**“As long as I try my best, that’s really all I can ask of myself.”**

**-Dan Martelli**

important and Martelli seemed to have felt the same way. In addition to the importance of school, Martelli’s main motivation is to perform to the best of his ability:

**“As long as I try my best, that’s really all I can ask of myself.”**

For Mucciarelli, school had started to become serious once the A-B letter grading system started. Those E’s for “excellent” and VG’s for “very



Senior academic standouts, Dan Martelli and Meghan Mucciarelli.

good” were replaced with A’s and B’s, causing Mucciarelli to understand grades were now serious business.

Grades are only one factor, for Mucciarelli also looks up to her mother for inspiration to do well in school because her mother is “everything [she’d] want to be when [she] grow[s] up.”

Good grades don’t just magically happen. One has to work hard to attain them. Like most students, Martelli and Mucciarelli have found times when the work was just too much and stress had dominated.

Mucciarelli stated sarcastically, “At least one day a week I have someone telling me to calm down and take a Prozac.”



Reuben Gutierrez '05/The Patriot

To keep from completely going nuts, both students take part in non-academic activities.

Martelli is involved with the Interact Club, National Honor Society, Business Education Honor Society, and Youth and Government, though he has found his true passion in bowling. He had been bowling since he was 10 years old and is currently playing with WTHS’s bowling league.

When he is not studying, bowling, or participating after school, Boston Red Sox fan Martelli enjoys relaxing at home and watching baseball and other sports.

Mucciarelli is not only an excellent academic student, but also a vocalist and regular singer of a variety

of choirs. At WTHS, she is a part of the Women’s Chorus, Concert Choir, and Chamber Choir. She is a proud member of the Agnus Dei Chorale, a youth choir at the Queen of Peace Catholic church in Pitman, and has also recently performed with fellow NHS members at the NHS Induction Ceremony.

Mucciarelli also lent her dramatic skills (and hours of after school time) as one of the senior directors for the WTHS Senior Directed Cabaret. In the midst of all the singing, directing, and studying, Mucciarelli tries to set aside time for one hour of uninterrupted television viewing to keep from going absolutely bonkers.

Overall, the “most studious” seniors of WTHS are well-rounded, hard working, exceptional teenagers who realize the importance of their academic career, but also the importance of relaxing and focusing on other things.

Both have the same advice to potential candidates to be “Most Studious”: work hard and do your best to complete everything you have to get completed.

Mucciarelli also offers one last bit of wisdom: “Take it easy senior year because it’s your last year and you shouldn’t ruin it with too much schoolwork.”

## Cooking up fun times at Festival of Friends

Cheryl Supernavage '06

Hotdogs cooking, lemonade mixing, roll stuffing, and pretzel and chip bags opening all went on in the kitchen during Festival of Friends. While others worried about finding their buddy and which event to go to first, the kitchen workers stressed about finishing lunches and having enough food for everyone.

To make the earliest lunch shift at 11 o’clock, the first thing the kitchen workers did was clean off the serving areas and set up the table for utensil and napkin pick-up as well as condiment adding. Then the problem of no straws arose. Some workers were sent to the upstairs storage room to search through Interact’s supplies for straws. Luckily, just enough were found.

The next tasks that the workers were to do was set up the desserts and get out the drinks. The desserts were set up along the checkout lane, an adequate amount for one per person. The drinks were made in the back,

loaded into large containers, and with the use of man-power, were carried to the checkout lane to fill the cups. Others loaded the coolers with ice and filled them with bottled water, moving them in front of the refrigerators.

After all the drinks were finished, preparing the hotdogs was the next step. First the hotdogs were unpacked and put into trays to be cooked. While cooking, buns were opened and laid out on other trays waiting to be stuffed. After the first hotdogs were ready to be put into buns, the job went on until the conclusion of the festival. The kitchen workers’ gloved hands were burned with the heat of the hotdogs while the assembly line of opening and stuffing went on.

The chips and pretzels were put into baskets right before 11 o’clock. The final steps before lunchtime were being completed and it was about time for all the hard work to pay off.

Before long the first group came in for lunch and seeing the smiling faces was payment enough for “slaving in the kitchen.”

Most of the kitchen workers agreed that the best thing about working in the kitchen was instead of having a buddy you were able to interact with each and every person that came to the festival.

“It was a fun experience working side by side with my friends for such a good cause, and meeting all the attendees was definitely an added bonus,” said Mike Miller '06.

The kitchen is more than hard work. It is a lot of fun. Music is played where everyone sings together, new friends are made, and it is just a rewarding experience knowing you are involved in the process of making someone’s day.

At the end of the festival, with the constant making of hotdogs, due to the shortage the previous year, there was an over abundance this year; there were over two hundred stuffed hotdogs with no mouths to feed and no bellies to fill and many packs of hotdogs and rolls left untouched.

“It was hectic trying to get everything organized. We weren’t sure

that we had enough food, but it turned out we had more than enough,” said Christen Mason '06.

After some quick thinking, the hotdogs that were cooked and waiting to be eaten were wrapped and loaded into baskets and boxes to sell to parents watching their children at the baseball and soccer games going on during Festival of Friends. Thankfully, the still packed hotdogs and rolls could be returned to Sam’s Club for a refund.

Finally, with no hotdogs left in the hands of Interact, the day came to an end. Hearing one of the buddies say that she wished she didn’t have to leave let everyone know the day was completely successful.

“It’s the time of the year when I’m most proud to be a teacher because I get to see the best side of our students,” said Mr. Bucca, Interact advisor.

Now everyone can look forward to next year’s festival, and relax knowing that this year’s went perfectly.



# Camden County Animal Shelter needs your help

Michelle DeVuono '05

The Camden County Animal Shelter is a large shelter built in 1997 by the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders in response to the overwhelming stray/unwanted animal population in the country that overburdened other local shelters. This shelter provides a temporary home for more than 4,000 a year from 12 different townships.

In late 2004, the Freeholder Board contacted a new management team to operate the shelter. The new group is devoted to running the shelter in a way that will maximally benefit the animals and citizens in the Camden County area.

Tragically, many thousands of homeless animals die in Camden County each year due to pet overpopulation and the lack of shelter space, public awareness, money, and time.

Therefore, Camden County's shelter's primary goal is to substantially reduce the number of homeless animals that must die each year. The shelter is hoping for the day when they only need to "put



Michelle DeVuono '05/ The Patriot

**The animals at the Camden County Shelter, like these two cats, need good homes.**

down" only a small number of animals that are truly unadoptable due to severe illness, old age, or extreme aggression. The shelter does not kill off an animal if it is there too long, a common misconception of the public.

The shelter does understand that it is a big responsibility to decide to adopt. Whether a dog or cat, it will take up a lot of your time. If you are unable to adopt for any reason, there are tons of other ways to help the shelter and the animals out.

Donations of all kind are always needed and greatly appreciated. Donations allow the shelter to move beyond the basics and so more life-saving work.

No donation is ever too small. You can donate your time to socialize and work with the animals, help match up pets and adopters, work at adoption and fundraising events, transport animals or donations, and perform administrative duties.

You may also donate items such as dog food, cat food, and toys to help the shelter save time and money and make life more comfortable for the animals.

Foster homes are also in great need. Fostering an animal would include the responsibility of taking a young, frightened, injured, or older pet to save its life.

And of course, money donations are urgently needed. Money donations allow the shelter to provide medical treatment for the animals and to hire qualified personnel to care for them.

If anyone is interested in helping the Camden County Animal Shelter you may stop by the office or go to the website, [www.ccas.petfinder.org](http://www.ccas.petfinder.org).

## Fashion First by Amanda Mastranduono '05

### Do the clothes make the man more confident?

The clothing most commonly worn by high school students is either sweats or jeans. Comfortable clothing has a tendency to dominate on a daily basis. Because students have to wake up early each morning to get to school on time, many of them just throw on whatever is comfortable, clean, and quick. However, some people do not even try. They would walk the halls in their pajamas if they could do so without getting in trouble. However, what they do not realize is that dressing sloppily takes away the attention that they are capable of receiving, or worse, it creates negative attention.

A few weeks ago, *Fashion First* sent out a fellow WTHS student, Bill Hansbury '05, to do an experiment for us. Hansbury was asked to dress up for a normal day of school, and when people asked why he was dressed nicely, he was to reply, "I just felt like it." Throughout the day, Hansbury walked through the halls feeling the effects of looking stylish in his pinstripe suit. Within the time it took to get from homeroom to first period, Hansbury had already received eleven compliments on his outfit. By the end of a long day for him, Hansbury added up all of the comments people made regarding his clothing and came

up with a total of forty-five student compliments and three teacher compliments.

Hansbury says, "People notice you when you are wearing a suit, and teachers definitely show you more respect."

The two best compliments he received all day were, "Wow Bill, you look *damn* good today," and "You look like a rose among a patch of weeds."

Hansbury told us that he felt special dressing up in a suit for a day, and it is something that he would consider doing again.

Hansbury says, "I was very powerful in my suit." Hansbury is normally a very confident person; however, dressing up made his confidence even stronger.

"You stand out in the crowd because you are one of few that are dressed up, and it makes you feel good because you know you look good," says Hansbury.

Hansbury admits that it was not all fun and games when he dressed up.

"At first I was fine, but then throughout the day it got a little harder to breathe. And getting changed for gym class was another story."

Not everyone who wants to dress a little nicer for a day has to

come to school in a suit. A nice pair of jeans with a collared shirt and dress shoes is just as much of an eye catcher. *Fashion First* suggests that everyone should try dressing nice for no occasion at least once in his or

her lifetime. I guarantee the compliments you receive will make it worthwhile. Dressing up will make you feel good on the inside, in addition to looking great on the outside.

## Park yourself on these benches



Mr. Evangelisti/The Patriot

**Lauren Osbourne '05 (behind bench) and Jess Wright '05 worked with fellow art students on Senior Service Day to repaint Quay Way's benches in an effort to beautify our school.**

# Here comes the Man in Black

Brent Bartosiewicz '06

He may dress in black and white but WTHS audio visual coordinator, Mr. Rick Huff is one of the more colorful personalities at the high school.

Huff has worked in the district for the past nineteen years and currently serves as audio visual coordinator at the high school and technical theater supervisor for the entire school district.

"Mr. Huff is an unsung hero of this building. Most people don't realize he's here but when you need him he's there," says Mr. Jeff Walter, chief day custodian.

"A big part of my job here is to make sure the teachers have what they need everyday so they can teach without interruption," says Huff.

Also, he is in charge of providing audio, lighting, and staging in the Commerce Bank Arts Center and 11/12 auditorium. This includes school-oriented events such as assemblies, Renaissance rallies, and theatrical performances, but not the professional shows that rent out the CBAC.

Huff is also the Tech Crew supervisor along with assistants Mr. Dennis Martell, WTHS' liaison for the CBAC and Mr. Bob Heinze, APS

teacher.

"They are both excellent theater people," says Huff, "and for all of their help and support, I thank them."

Huff says the greatest part about being a staff member is interacting with "the students that I work with everyday in tech crew. I appreciate the tech crew's hard work, dedication, and willingness".

Huff is known for his calm, quiet, cool, and dedicated demeanor.

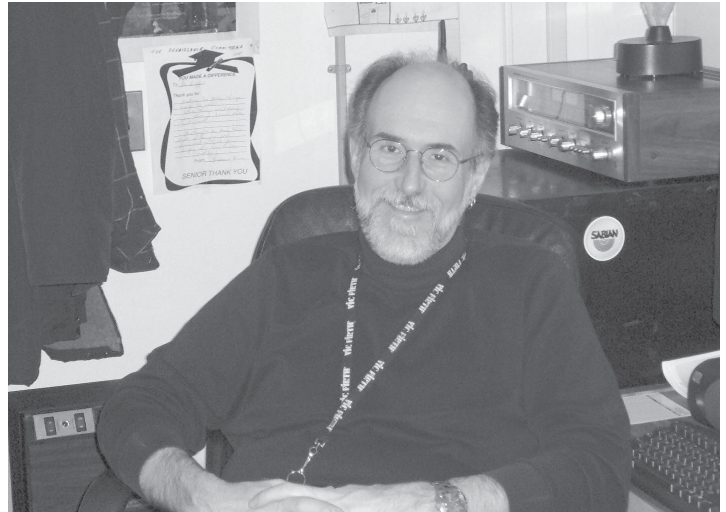
Jokingly Jack Bremlin '06 says, "Huff is like a box of chocolates, you never know when you are going to get the good one and you never know when you are going to get the sour one. He's funny a lot of the time."

Before Huff came to WTHS in 1986 he worked at Bordentown Regional High School for one year and Maple Shade High School for four years.

Huff attended Allegany College in Western Maryland he majored in Media

Technology Communications. Huff was always interested in photography though. When he moved to N.J. he also took some classes at Rowan University.

Throughout college Huff did some theater work but primarily wanted to further study photography and mass media. His photography was inspired by Ansel Adams and George Hurrell.



Brent Bartosiewicz '06/The Patriot

## Mr. Huff enjoys photography and drumming in his spare time.

In his down time, Huff enjoys doing photography and reading books, particularly horror, mystery, and science fiction. He also enjoys drawing the Peanuts comic strip characters and watching movies, especially horror.

"I'm a film buff," says Huff, who also has a collection of music cd's and LP's, which are an old type of recording.

Above all, music is his passion. Huff has been playing the drums for the past 38 years. Louie Bellsen, Buddy Rich, The Who, and Jimi Hendrix are

Huff's musical inspirations. In fact, Huff says aside from being with his family, his favorite place is being behind a set of drums.

Huff has been happily married for the past 25 years and has one daughter, Beverly, 14. Huff thanks his wife, Martha for being so understanding throughout his life including his career, which most of the time, demands long hours.

"To be able to see my daughter grow up," said Huff, "is my goal in life."

## Mame

March 17, 18 & 19



The Way Off Broadway Players dazzled audiences with their performances of the musical *Mame*.

# Commentary

## Tillman forever a model of pride, courage

Scott Grandrino '05

April 22, 2005 marked the one-year anniversary of the death of a true American hero, Pat Tillman.

What made this casualty of war national news was because Tillman was a professional football player for the Arizona Cardinals. After the events of 9/11, Tillman felt like he had to do something to make a difference in the world. He wanted to do something more than just playing football. Tillman wanted to do something patriotic. He did just that.

Tillman quit playing professional football, turning down a very large salary to join his brother in the Army Rangers unit.

When people around the nation heard what he done, they immediately showed much respect for him and considered him an American icon.

Tillman was just that.

Tillman didn't just do this for publicity and to have his name known to the public. He did this of his own free will.

He didn't want the media to get to focus on him. He felt there were other brave men and women fighting



**Pat Tillman in uniform with the Arizona Cardinals (left) and as a Ranger Officer in the United States Army.**

for the protection of our country too.

During his time in the Army he served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. Tillman was a strong and first-rate soldier. He fought for his country bravely.

Sadly, on April 22, 2004, Tillman died during a firefight in Khost, a providence of Afghanistan.

Although Tillman is no longer



with us, his courage and commitment will never be forgotten. He is a true American hero.

He wanted to be remembered as a hero who made a difference, instead of being a hero in professional sports.

Tillman encouraged many others to be valiant and join the military to protect our beloved red, white, and blue. The story of Tillman itself brings

pride to every American soldier. It's an encouraging tale that will be passed on from generation to generation.

A few months after Tillman passed away, a website was established in tribute to the brave patriot. It is called the Pat Tillman Foundation. It is located at [www.pattillmanfoundation.net](http://www.pattillmanfoundation.net).

On the site there are quotes said about Tillman and why the website was created.

One says, "Established to honor his memory and to carry forward his legacy, the goal of the Pat Tillman Foundation is to inspire and support others who live their lives with spirit similar to that of his and to strive for positive change."

Pat Tillman was a true American hero that will never be forgotten. His bravery and legacy will live on for generations to come.

The anniversary of his death reminds us that there are still many courageous men and women fighting for the U.S.

These men and women should also be remembered and honored just like Pat Tillman. That's the way he would of liked it.

## Bonds must be punished for cheating

Matt Kienzle '06

If a politician was found to have been elected only because of fraudulent votes, he would be removed from office and disgraced for life.

When it was discovered that Milli Vanilli lip-synched all of their songs, they were forced to return their Grammy and they remain the butt of jokes even today.

So why do we tolerate baseball players using steroids? Using illegal substances to enhance one's performance on the field is cheating no matter how you look at it.

Let's be honest, despite insisting he would never use steroids, Barry Bonds has clearly been juicing for the last three years.

In 2000, he hit 49 home runs, one every 9.8 at-bats, which was an above average season for him judging by his previous non-steroid seasons. In 2001, Bonds exploded for a record 73 home runs, one every 6.5 at-bats.

Those are near impossible numbers for any mere mortal.

Bonds has evolved from a skinny speedster in his rookie season, into the muscle bound machine that we all know today.

Those statistical increases are simply not possible by normal standards and it has become apparent in recent years that Barry Bonds is a common cheater, no different than voter fraud by politicians or Milli Vanilli.

Bonds' records of the last four years need to be cleared from the record books forever, not asterisked. He should be banned from baseball for life. His crimes against the game are far worse than Pete Rose betting on the game.

Not only has Bonds repeatedly denied cheating, he has had the gall to blame all of his problems on the sports media, claiming that they have made him and his family miserable.

No Barry, you did.

You were the one who made the decision to inject yourself with steroids, knowing full well that you would produce ridiculous numbers.

Bonds and his supporters have maintained that steroids in no way affect a player's performance. They have continuously stated that they only increase muscle mass, not improve hand-eye coordination, which is necessary to make solid contact with a pitch.

Those people are correct; steroids do not improve hand-eye coordination. But they do allow the user to hit a baseball over 450 feet with relative ease, and shattering numerous hitting records at the same. Commissioner of baseball Bud Selig needs to step up to the plate and ban

Barry Bonds for the remainder of his life, erasing all of his records in the process.

Bonds is a common cheater who needs to be punished for his irresponsible and reprehensible actions that have disgraced and spoiled the game of baseball.

### *The Patriot*

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# Road rage at a young age

Mike Jones '06

In the glory days, as I used to call them, I was the proud owner of a two-foot-power toddler-mobile, cherry-red complete with a yellow top. Owned by at least half of our generation, the Fisher Price *Cozy Coupe* was more than just a petty toy, it was sheer elegance.

I used to polish that hard, red plastic to a mirror shine, I could have eaten off the aerodynamic yellow roof, and no wheel ever broke alignment. My seats had no crumbs on them because, so help me God, I would have fallen victim to a minor aneurism at the mere sight of food in my ride. Gone forever was the tricycle, replaced by a brand new car that in itself seemed to define me as a person, and then something unexpected and terrible happened.

There I sat, in what appeared to have become my hobo-mobile-for-toddlers, gawking in awe at the hot-pink, convertible-topped, electrical-powered speed demon awarded to my sister on that cruel summer day. Barbie had infiltrated yet another



Illustration by Helen Zeng '05

aspect of my traumatic youth, this time as a car! The freshly polished hot rod laughed menacingly at me from its sheek grill, the light reflecting of its windshield- It had a windshield!- and blinding the once happy-go-lucky child in the foot-pusher.

I suddenly felt foolish, ashamed to even be seen in that ugly block of red plastic. Races between the two were a joke, how was my FisherPrice Flintstone-mobile supposed to keep

up with that pink devil? How would I ever be able to face my friends knowing that Barbie had finally gotten the better of me? How could I achieve manhood when I couldn't even beat a Barbie car in a race?

Feeling a transformation occurring within me, I formed a diabolical plan. Late one night, it had to be eight o'clock, way past our bedtime, after my sister had parallel parked that electrical monster in our

garage for recharging, I crept in and unplugged that wretched beast. The next morning, I arose with energy, knowing it was my big day. I challenged my sister to a race, one last race before my retirement as a drag racing five-year-old, to be held shortly after breakfast.

At the starting line, I exchanged looks with my competitor, knowing that she would be difficult to beat despite her swelled ego. Eyes narrowed, I held the stare, I would not be victim to her wrath. Our parents had come to oversee the proceedings, and once they were sure of no foul play, my father did the honors and started us off.

Off the line we raced, a one-hundred-foot free for all. I took the lead, praying my legs wouldn't fail me now, but she was gaining. We soon became neck-and-neck, physically straining for the finish line. Then, a miracle occurred; her battery died and while she proceeded to get out and kick the once-unbeatable hot rod, I raced on! It was as if she was the Titanic and I, the iceberg! The tortoise had finally beaten the hare.

## Plenty of interesting activities outside Township borders

Darby DeCicco '05

It's not an uncommon occurrence for high school students to get, for lack of a better term, stuck in a rut.

There are only so many movies to see or nights to spend at the mall, and for students who don't want to spend every weekend attending gigantic parties or at home with their DVD player, it can sometimes seem like there is just nothing good for a teenager in Township to do.

However, for anyone who's willing to look just a little further than the borders of Washington Township, there really are tons of interesting things for teenagers to do.

If you're looking for a cool place to simply chill, you can look as close to home as Glassboro, where you'll find the Eleven East Café, which is located on High Street, just past Rowan University. Eleven East offers a unique atmosphere and a lot more than just coffee and muffins. On most Friday and Saturday nights Eleven East offers live music, occasionally they host film screenings from the Glassboro Film Society, and the Café displays art from local artists on its walls. Much along the same line, Port City Java, located on Clements Bridge Road in Deptford, offers local music

twice a week, paintings by local artists, and fantastic smoothies.

Coffee shops, however, are not the only options for cool places to go.

If you're willing to take the 25-minute drive to Oaklyn, you can spend an evening at the Ritz Theatre Company. A refurbished 1920's theater, the Ritz offers not only year-round musicals and plays, but also something of a trip back in time. With tickets at about twenty dollars apiece, you can spend a relatively cheap, different night out (and the brave can even try to investigate the rumor that the building is haunted).

If you still haven't found something to excite your interest, you can check out the Grounds for Sculpture in Hamilton, where 35 acres of sculpture meet a museum and photography exhibit, or try a shopping trip at the Berlin Farmer's Market on Clementon Road, where you can find everything from second-hand typewriters to fresh fruit and flowers.

No matter what your interests, there's something in the area for you to do if you're simply willing get out there and look. You can check out [www.visitsouthjersey.com](http://www.visitsouthjersey.com) for upcoming events and more ideas.

## New SAT doesn't make the grade

### Essay portion graded on quantity, not quality

Joe Comerford '06

My English teacher recently gave us an article to read from the May 8th edition of the Philadelphia Inquirer regarding the new SATs essay section. The article, written by Samuel G. Freedman a professor at Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism, cites Les Perelman one of the directors of undergraduate writing at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Perelman fears that the essay now included on the SATs is teaching students terrible writing habits.

It seems to Perelman that regardless of the content of the writing, the longer the essay, the better the score. It is so ridiculous that a reporter held up a sample essay and without reading a word of it and just looking at the bulk and shape he was able to guess the right score. This in itself is a travesty, but more appalling than this is the fact that you do not get any points off for incorrect facts.

There is something wrong with a grading system when a long, winding fictitious essay will do better than a short, fact-based essay that gets its message across in fewer words. It seems that the SAT essay is graded based on how much you write as opposed to how well you express your point.

Fortunately, colleges are not as dim-witted as the people at CollegeBoard, at our schools recent college fair I talked to several colleges and universities, including Temple University, York College and Hofstra University. All the representatives for the schools said that they are not paying attention to the new section instead they are going to look at the first two sections, like the old SATs.

It seems that writing as much as possible in a neat, orderly fashion will help to get you a higher score. But don't bank your essay and writing section scores on that fact, because the grading proficiencies can change at the drop of a hat.

# Township offers variety of things to do

Leslie Stinson '05

Many believe living in Washington Township, in the outskirts of the Pine Lands, homeland of the Jersey Devil, can prove to be one dull and uninteresting place. There have been times when I too have complained about how 'tired of doing the same thing every night', but when I take time to really look around, I realize how much we really have to choose from.

First off, our school takes great pride in involving itself in the community and holds many events to keep students entertained and involved. This year alone our school has put on many concerts, plays and musicals. Some of the favorite events held are the annual talent show and Mr. Washington Township.

Even if you still complain about how our school doesn't offer anything noteworthy to keep the students occupied, just look around us.

Right in our very own town we have two multiplex movie theaters, bowling alleys, a skating rink, an ice rink, golfing ranges and a park. In the park alone you are able to go for a walk, a jog, skateboard in the skate park, take a swing on the playground, play basketball, soccer, and during

Spring and Fall nights enjoy a movie by the Ampitheater.

Twenty minutes away is a city; a city full of shopping, concerts, restaurants and museums. Philadelphia can prove to be very interesting on a Friday or Saturday night and can provide the entertainment and excitement that teenagers seek. To me, Philly seems like such a change of pace from our normal routines here in Township that it would be enjoyable

just to walk down South Street for something to do.

Looking for something to do on a Saturday in Spring or Summer? Forty-Five minutes away is the beach. Not many other towns across the country can take a day trip down to the shore on a whim. Don't like the beach or going in the ocean? There's the Ocean City and Wildwood Boardwalks to enjoy. The boardwalks contain movie theaters, arcades, food,

shopping and amusement rides. No matter how you look at it, there will always be something fun to do.

Whether you stay within Township parameters, or want to get away for a change of pace, there really is always something to do. Of course, if you really insist there is absolutely nothing interesting to do, you could always head twenty minutes South and actually find that darned Jersey Devil.

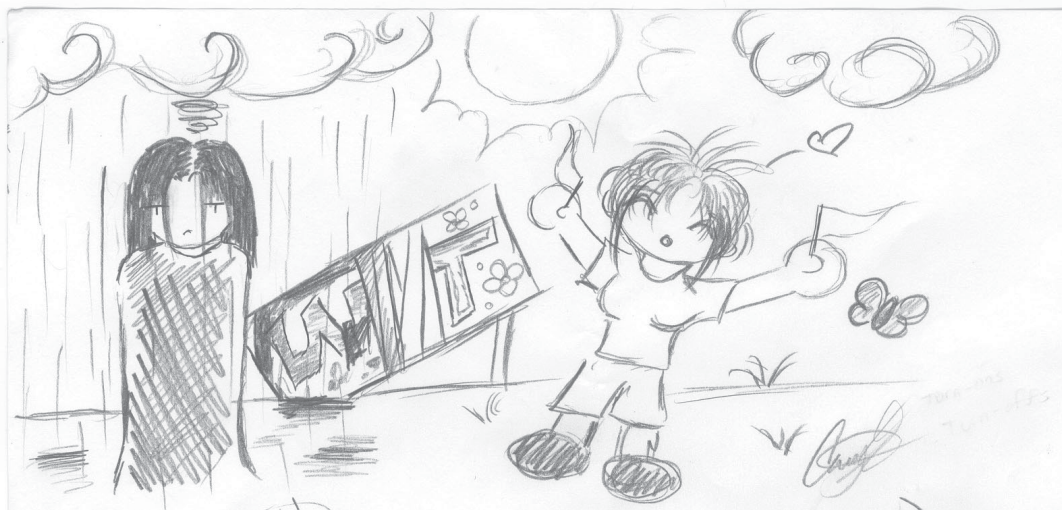


Illustration by Cassy Mattos '07

# Restrictions leave no room for freedom

Valerie Smaldone '05

Did I drive myself to the wrong school this morning? Sometimes this question arises in my mind as I make my daily eight-period journey through Washington Township High School.

I am a senior but often feel as if my life is regressing more and more back to kindergarten each day. I am leaving for college in a few months, but for now I remain stuck inside a high school with many unfair rules and absurd policies.

I find the school cafeteria to be a very frustrating location. I was at one of our township's middle schools just a few weeks ago for a class trip to speak to the eighth graders. I stopped by the cafeteria and noticed how the kids were allowed to walk right up and buy their lunch as soon as they entered. Later that day I was in my own cafeteria waiting to be called up by a teacher. The period ended and

the two-minute bell rang, but everyone had to remain in the cafeteria unless we had a little pass showing that we had to travel to the 9/10 building. Students flooded by in the hallways and all I could do was stare at them from behind the glass windows.

If fifty students want to cram themselves onto one lunch table, I say okay, have fun sweating to death. And why is it that if trash is left on the lunch tables, we students will be yelled at, but the cafeteria workers are allowed to throw everything on the floor before we get a chance to clean up so they can quickly wipe the tables and run home?

Our high school can be a pretty stuffy place, especially with over 3,000 students scurrying through it. Heat builds up and the days are long. I cannot speak for others, but I become pretty dehydrated at various points throughout my day. We have all heard

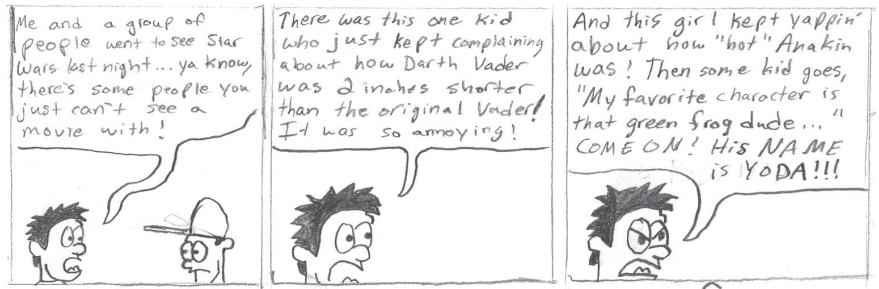
those horror stories about water fountains, so I choose to bring a name brand water bottle with me everyday. I have had to change my route to some classes just because faculty members will force me to throw it away. Putting it back in my locker is not even an option for them. Why can they stand there slurping away at a drink but I am not allowed to carry a closed bottle? I am not smuggling vodka, and I am not going to pour the water throughout the hallway and watch students slip. I am simply thirsty.

A short glance at the school's Code of Conduct can cause some controversy as well. Why is that if I get into a fight I will be suspended for five days, but if I have fireworks in my possession I may only get suspended for two? Growing up, I was taught to never throw the first punch, but if I ever got hit I need to defend myself. If I happened to get in an argument at school, I would not use punches as a method of resolution.

But let's say someone hit me. Becoming suspended has certainly never been a goal of mine, so I would just walk away and let the other student be suspended. I have heard many cases, however, of both students getting suspended regardless of the outcome of the fight. Violence is never an answer, but it seems that our school encourages standing there and getting hit rather than defending yourself. Defending yourself could mean a five-day suspension difference.

Does high school really prepare us for the real world? Faculty wants to maintain their power over us, but sometimes it just makes students more defiant. If they let us breathe a little more, there probably would not be as many problems. In college we will need to fend for ourselves. Discipline is important, but there is a difference between keeping order and suffocating students with it. I look forward to college. Sure it's still school, but at least I will not have to go thirsty.

# Comics



by Brad Grandrino '08

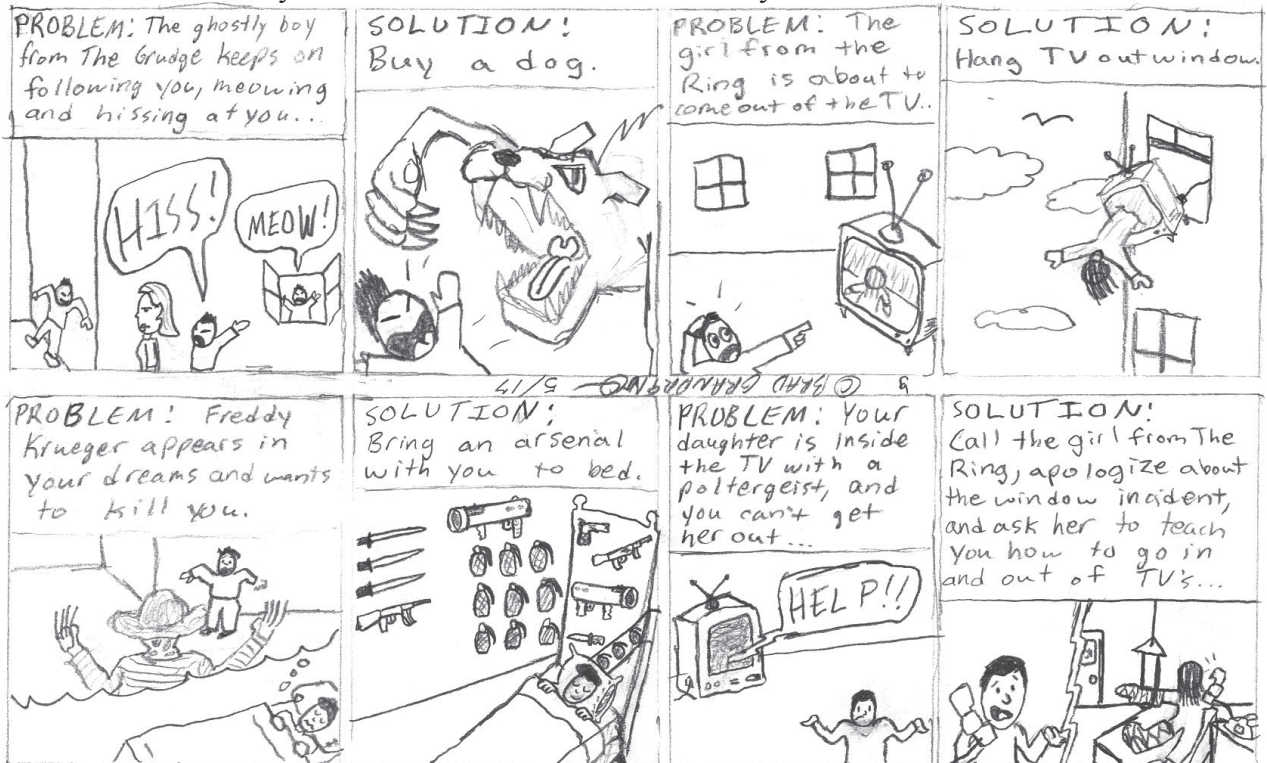


By Chrissy Wood '06



By Shane Walsh '06

## Four Ways to Handle Horror Movie Situations by Brad Grandrino '08



## Final Star Wars installment a satisfying end

Scott Grandrino '05

When I am called a nerd or geek, like most people, it offends me. There is only one circumstance where me being called a geek does not insult me; that is when it deals with *Star Wars*.

When I am called a *Star Wars* nerd or loser, it is more of a compliment than a putdown. I myself openly admit that I am a *Star Wars* lunatic. So of course I was there opening day to see what might just be the last of this amazing movie series.

*Star Wars: Episode III Revenge of the Sith* was by far the best *Star Wars* movie since *Episode V: The Empire Strikes Back*.

Creator and Director George Lucas did a superb job of melding this last motion picture of the prequel trilogy into the original three *Star Wars* movies.

This movie defiantly made up for the last two movies, in which most critics said were mistakes by Lucas. This is one of the best *Star Wars* films he has ever done.

*Episode III* explains the fall of the Republic and beginning of the Galactic Empire. But the biggest issue that *Episode III* shows is the transformation of the once heroic Jedi

Knight Anakin Skywalker into the evil, powerful Lord Darth Vader.

Supreme Chancellor Palpatine reveals his true side as Darth Sidius

**Episode III finished the amazing *Star Wars* series.** a.k.a. Emperor Palpatine, Lord of the Siths. After Count Dooku's death early in the film, Palpatine needs a new apprentice.

Palpatine toys with Anakin's head, making him believe that he can save Anakin's wife Padme if he learns the dark side of the force. The young Jedi follows Palpatine down a path that eventually leads to the dark side. Anakin turns his back on the Jedi force and becomes Darth Vader.

One of the most exciting parts of the movie was toward the end when the long awaited light saber battle between mentor Obi-Wan Kenobi and apprentice Anakin Skywalker occurred. This clash between old friends was in



www.yahoo.com

**Episode III finished the amazing *Star Wars* series.**

my opinion the most thrilling light saber duel in *Star Wars* history.

The plot of why Anakin became a Sith Lord and why he has to wear the black Darth Vader armor was made clear to me.

All of the mysteries and questions that *Star Wars* followers pondered were answered in this film. This was a most satisfying movie to end the *Star Wars* saga. Even if you're not a *Star Wars* fan, after watching this picture you'll want to become one.

I recommend everyone to go see the last chapter of this galactic legend, and May the Force be with you.

## Brave New novel brutally honest

Darby DeCicco '05

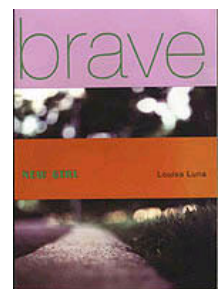
*Brave New Girl*, Louisa Luna's gritty, brutally honest first novel, covers plenty of brave new territory for teenage readers everywhere.

Luna's first effort is a coming-of-age novel with rough edges and a big heart. The novel follows the confused, disillusioned, foul-mouthed Doreen, a heroine for young teenagers everywhere. Obsessed with *The Pixies*, uncertain about her place in the world, and simply looking for someone she can trust, Doreen is the quintessential American teenager.

The novel details Doreen's struggles as she deals with her best and only friend Ted, her dysfunctional, oppressive family, and the mysterious older men she meets who remind her of her long-lost brother Henry. In fact, while Doreen's story – one of a girl forced into adulthood under unusual, and sometimes frightening, circumstances – may seem far-fetched at times, the novel's realistic characters seem to identify with readers in an uncanny way.

With a unique narrative style, Luna manages to portray Doreen's story with all the angst and frustration of adolescence itself. While the candid, first-person narration might seem reminiscent of *The Catcher in the Rye*, *Brave New Girl* is a far cry from any *Catcher* rip-off, and Doreen is presented as anything but a Holden wannabe. Luna's words, coming from Doreen's mouth, are littered with foul language, brutal honesty, and the kind of insights we all think but never speak aloud, turning the novel into not only a brilliant story, but an edgy forum for youthful frustration.

It is this edge that sets this fast-paced read apart from the hundreds of other coming-of-age novels waiting on the shelves. Luna's work deals not only with friendships and families, but also with sex, drugs, and even a little bit of rock and roll. A page-turner for sure, *Brave New Girl* draws you into its world and doesn't let go.



## Latest horror flick remake terrifying

Valerie Smaldone '05

"Houses don't kill people. People kill people." Or do they? Based on a true story, the 2005 remake of the 1979 film *Amityville Horror* brings a new perspective to just how haunted houses can get.

In 1974, an entire family had been murdered at the Defeo residence in Amityville, Long Island. Ronald Defeo confessed to shooting his parents and four siblings while they slept. He testified that voices in the house caused him to commit the murders.

One year later, George (Ryan Reynolds) and Kathy Lutz (Melissa George), a newlywed couple with three children, were searching for a new home. They traveled to Amityville and found the house of their dreams for the deal of a lifetime. They were astonished to find such a large house for such a low price. When

George asked the real estate agent what the catch is, she informed the couple that a tragedy had taken place there. Knowing full well of the murder, the couple bought the house anyway.

Shortly after moving in, the madness began. Unexplainable events began to occur, including, voices coming out of walls, the daughter having an 'imaginary friend', a girl with a noose around her neck appearing above the bed, and creatures in the bathroom. The lives of the family began to be destroyed little by little.

George Lutz was especially affected by the spirits in the house, as he spent much of his time in the basement, the worst place in the house. George became possessed and the once charming guy became so creepy that I think at times

I was more frightened of him than the Lutz family themselves were. He gave off an extremely chilling vibe, as Jack Nicholson did in the classic film, *The Shining*.

The film was a short hour and a half, but I jumped enough times to cover that period of time. Any longer and I would have left the theater more traumatized than I already was. I found the film to be very well done, with scary moments in all the right places. The plot flowed at a rapid pace, never allowing you to become bored. The plot also contained well-written and directed twists and turns, leaving me unable to determine which was the story was going to go. I was at the edge of my seat the entire time. Or was I huddled in it, trying not to look too scared? Definitely the latter one.

Theater prices have increased, but this is one film worth the extra money. The big screen is essential to receive the full effect. I still get chills when I see 3:15 on a clock.

Pay the theaters a visit and park close to the doors. Walking to your car in the dark afterwards is not fun.



www.yahoo.com

**Ryan Reynolds chills audiences in *Amityville Horror*.**

# Housewives deserves hit show status

Cheryl Supernavage '06

Wisteria Lane. It seems like the perfect neighborhood. Friendly neighbors, beautiful homes, and friends everywhere you turn; yet there is something about it that is mysterious, and even somewhat dangerous- a murder just a few houses down, an ex-con living right across the street, and, of course, the suicide of your best friend.



www.abc.com

**Mary Alice's suicide is a mystery yet to be discovered.**

*Desperate Housewives* is a popular new show full of twists and turns, clues and schemes, with major secrets in your not-so-ordinary housewives' lives.

The show comes from the perspective of Mary Alice Young (Brenda Strong) who is watching down on her friends from heaven. Mary Alice shares all the secrets, not only that her friends have, but that all the neighbors on Wisteria Lane are hiding. The neighbors are not the only ones with dirty laundry as Mary Alice's suicide is still a mystery yet to be discovered by her friends.

The show revolves around the lives of four women that are trying to figure out why their best friend Mary Alice committed suicide. In their search, they dig up secrets from other neighbors and struggle with the adventures of their own lives.

The hopeless romantic, Susan Mayer (Teri Hatcher), is a divorced, single parent who is the goofy, scatter-brained character that you cannot help but love. Watching her fight with Edie Britt (Nicollette Sheridan) for the

affection of not only ex-con neighbor Mike Delfino (James Denton) but every man who comes into their neighborhood is a funny and pleasurable experience. Eventually, Susan wins Mike over, allowing us to watch the new couple go through trials and tribulations, and leaves Edie jealous and bitter.

Lynette Scavo (Felicity Huffman) is the former career woman who gave it all up to raise her four unruly boys. Lynette struggles with her kids, as well as her efforts to make her marriage as spicy as it was before the kids came into the picture.

Bree Van De Kamp (Marcia Cross) is the tidy, almost perfect, Stepford-wife-like character whose strict and severe family is almost falling apart with a heartless son and cheating husband, Rex Van De Kamp (Steven Culp).

Finally, Gabrielle Solis (Eva Longoria), an ex-model who is living the high life with rich husband

Carlos Solis (Ricardo Antonio Chavira). However, Gabrielle still finds it necessary to sleep with her 17 year-old gardener, John (Jesse Metcalfe).

The actors and actresses could not have been better cast and the multiple plots and story lines leave you craving for more as you try to fit all the pieces together. The acting is believable and the show is incredible, leaving *Desperate Housewives* with nothing to stop it.

Tune in every Sunday night at 9 pm for this deliciously addicting new drama.



www.abc.com

**The housewives cope with life in suburbia.**

## Laurie shines in new medical drama

Jamie Valentine '05

When I saw the commercials for the new show *House*, I had no desire to watch it. They made it look like it was one of those medical dramas that tries too hard to be intense, because that's the way *ER* did it. Soon, though, one of my friends used vicious peer pressure tactics (she told me it was good), and I settled myself in for an hour of Noah Wyle wannabes.

I was never as thrilled with being totally wrong before. The only thing *House* has in common with *ER* is all of the sick people. It follows Dr. Gregory House, a cantankerous, eccentric doctor who happens to be addicted to painkillers and is also a freakish medical genius. He works in a conservative hospital, and his



www.fox.com

**Hugh Laurie stars as cranky medical genius Dr. House in new**

constant rule-breaking frustrates his bosses, who threaten to fire him in nearly every episode. Still, he is always right and always saves his patients from a disease that you have never heard of.

Hugh Laurie plays House amazingly. You've seen Hugh Laurie before as the sweet-natured dad from *Stuart Little*. Take off the glasses, mess up the hair, and add a limp and five years worth of bitterness, and you've got Laurie's new character. It is hard to play convincingly a character your audience will love to hate, especially when you usually play such a nice guy, and Laurie has really pulled it off. If you watch one episode, you'll love him; watch two and you'll be *in love* with him.

The script is amazingly well written. House's lines fit his cantankerous nature exactly, and are pretty funny one-liners besides. It's not as hilarious as *Scrubs*, but it isn't meant to be. It passes *ER*'s supposedly comedic moments with flying colors. In the first episode I saw, all of the other doctors wanted to stop a patient from going blind, but House wanted to know what was causing the blindness. He growls at them and tells them, "Forget the eye. Tell him to use the other one to look on the bright side!" Much like the quips on *CSI*, it doesn't make all that much sense, but it gets House's point across.

The other characters are interesting and have well-written lines,

and the actors are perfect in their comic and dramatic timing. Still, no matter how great any of the other characters are, you can hardly tell next to the awe-inspiring force of Laurie's Dr. House. The subplots among the other doctors are really a waste of time. Anytime the focus shifts away from House, it is easy to lose interest. It is a shame that such a great show can only last as long as Laurie keeps his ego in check, because it will easily go to the wayside when he asks for a million dollars an episode.

The plot-lines are admittedly a little ridiculous. A patient will not only have one rare disease, but three. And cancer. Another ridiculous feature is that although House is always right, no one ever believes him, and although he always breaks the rules, he's never fired. Still, this ridiculousness is one of the most charming features- like MacGyver making a cell phone out of a thumbtack and a rubber band, House can diagnose you with a disease you have a .001% chance of actually getting from twenty paces.

With Laurie's amazing performance, funny and intelligent script-writing, plus the added benefit of an *American Idol* lead-in, *House* is a moderate success this season. I recommend catching reruns during the summer season, and waiting patiently for season two. You'll feel a little bit wiser for it, and get a good hour of entertainment besides.

Best wishes  
to the Class  
of 2005 and  
our senior  
editors:

Mallory Heimlich  
Darby DeCicco  
Jamie Valentine  
Ashley Horan  
Scott Grandrino  
Tiffany Narducci  
Jamie Recchino  
Christian Heim  
Julia Verniero

From the  
staff of The  
Patriot



# Heartwarming film out of the ordinary for Sandler

Jacquie Rue '06

Could you picture Adam Sandler as a laid back, caring, and concerned father? I couldn't either, until I rented the movie *Spanglish*. Also starring in this film are Tea Leoni (*The Family Man*) as Deb Clasky, Sandler's neurotic wife, and Paz Vega (in her first American role) as Flor, the housekeeper for this dysfunctional family.

Flor is a domestic from Mexico, and more importantly, a single mother seeking a better life for her and her child. She is so proud of her identity and roots that she refuses to learn English. Flor gets a good job working as a housekeeper for the Claskys, who don't speak a word of Spanish, so Flor's daughter Christina, who picks up English very quickly, serves as a translator for both the Claskys and her mother.

Deb Clasky is a deeply neurotic woman who has spent time in a mental hospital. She wants to become fulfilled by her duties as a mother and wife, but she's completely clueless of her family's needs. When she learns that Flor has a daughter, Deb asks them to move in with the family in an attempt to be warm and motherly. Deb is unsatisfied with her own daughter, Bernice, and she treats Christina as a surrogate daughter, even enrolling Christina in private school. Flor isn't sure if it's such a good idea for Deb to Americanize Christina, especially when Deb leaves out her own daughter.

Deb's husband John Clasky is a calm and understanding man. He is a chef in his own restaurant. He stays calm despite the fact that his family life is completely chaotic. Flor becomes attracted to John, who

doesn't have an arrogant machismo that she was always used to. Suddenly John's life gets turned upside down when The New York Times gives his restaurant a four star review and his place becomes L.A.'s hot spot to eat. This is not you're typical Adam Sandler movie, where he usually plays an obnoxiously loud but funny character. This movie was much different; Sandler always stayed calm, cool, and



www.yahoomovies.com

**Paz Vega and Shelbie Bruce play a loving mother-daughter team in this DVD release.**

collected. *Spanglish* goes a little slow at times, especially if you were expecting the rollicking film that Sandler usually stars in.

The movie had a few different plots, such as Deb not understanding just what her family really needed, Flor wanting to make a better life for her family, and John struggling to balance his family with his suddenly important job. The previews made it seem like it had a totally different plot, and when I first started watching, I was a little confused about which of the subplots was the main one. I finally realized that there wasn't one; just one big dysfunctional family with a language barrier.

I would give this movie two and half stars. If you like a story with several intertwining conflicts or plots, this is a movie to rent. If you'd rather watch one of Adam's Sandler's obnoxiously loud comedies, this is not the movie for you.

## Antiquities

### Hemingway classic takes your cares away

Chris Heim '05

Picture yourself in Spain, you're laughing and chatting with your friends over a glass of fine vintage wine. You spent the day sleeping off the party last night, and then went to watch the bullfights, and maybe went out on to a scenic lake for some fishing. Welcome to the world of the literary genius and Nobel Prize winning author Ernest Hemingway. *The Sun Also Rises* is a beautiful novel published in 1926 that still holds its relaxed charm to this day.

The story is based upon the lives of several American/English expatriates who take a trip to Paris, and gradually make their way to Spain to view the legendary bullfights in Pamplona. The basis of the plot is the one-sided relationship between the questioning and stoic Jake Barnes (the protagonist) and the outrageous Lady Brett Ashley, an outgoing and flamboyant character that has no interest in settling down with anyone, especially not Jake. Meanwhile other characters struggle with their spouses, try and contend with their debts, and confront their problems with themselves. The entire story is steeped in the depression of the Post World War I generation, often called "The Lost Generation."

The character development is my favorite aspect of the book. Hemingway has an excellent way of making you see what his characters see, and feel what they feel. You begin to truly feel for Jake and his hopeless romantic bravado, and pity Lady Brett Ashley, who just can't seem to find her place in the world. By the end of

the novel these people become so real, you find yourself thinking that you could run into them while walking down the street one day. I found myself so wrapped up in the story that I wished I could jump into the pages, and sit out on a boat all day with Jake and his companions, discussing life and love and the tortures and joys of both.

A master of prose, Hemingway wrote the book in a style in which lines actually relax you. A gentle mixture of storytelling and poetry that sort of carries you through the story like a lazy river. I could escape to the world of these travelers and forget all the stresses and plagues of

our modern society. This book truly changed my life, and since I have finished it I have tried every day to relax and not let life get to me so much. It's nice to read about a group that had the courage to pack up their lives, forget about their jobs and responsibilities, and just take some well-earned time to themselves, out in the wild, without a care in the world. I recommend this book to anyone that has ever been stressed out, or felt like the wanted to get away from it all. *The Sun Also Rises* will take you away from this hectic mess we call life, even if it is just for a little while.

### Return of the Weezer fans know and love

Darby DeCicco '05

It's been three years since Weezer released their last album, the highly anticipated and highly disappointing *Maladriot*, and fans have since been patiently hoping for their beloved band to produce something worthy of the wait.

With their newest album, *Make Believe*, which was released on May 10th and debuted at number 2 on the Billboard Top 200, it's possible that Weezer has delivered. And it's also possible that they haven't.

The twelve-track album's first song and single is entitled "Beverly Hills," and it recounts lead singer Rivers Cuomo's desire to be "rolling like a celebrity." The song, an almost boring track that sounds like some kind of Everclear knockoff, does not get the album off to a great start.

Other tracks like "The Damage in Your Heart" and "Haunt You Every Day" are equally as boring, and while they might not leave a bad taste in your mouth, they do have a definite stigma of being nothing special. Meanwhile, the track "We Are All On Drugs," not doubt meant to be reminiscent of the kind of humor found in *Pinkerton's* "Pink Triangle" or "Tired of Sex," comes across as nothing short of obnoxious and out of place with the rest of the album.

*Make Believe*, however, does have plenty of redeeming qualities, the first of which is just plain good music.

Songs like "Perfect Situation," "My Best" and "The Other Way" are the hand clapping, guitar-driven, get-up-and-dance kind of songs that so endear Weezer to its fans.

Meanwhile, candid lyrics like "I am/Terrified of all things/Frightened of the dark" in "Hold Me" and "I tried

my best/I gave my all/Sometimes my best wasn't good enough for you" in "Pardon Me," give listeners a deeper look into Cuomo's emotions than past Weezer albums have.

Add all of this to uniquely harmonized vocals and, of course, tremendous guitar solos in nearly every song, and suddenly you find yourself thinking, *This is the Weezer I know and love.*

Of course, it's impossible to listen to a Weezer CD and not compare it to other Weezer CDs, and while the band's fifth album is undisputedly no *Blue Album* or *Pinkerton*, fans can't expect a twelve-years-older-and-wiser band to keep writing songs like "In the Garage" or "El Scorcho." What fans can expect is exactly what Weezer produces on *Make Believe*; a decent effort and just plain good music.

## Anime comes to life

For being one of the most successful anime series in history, this game did okay in portraying the series in a good way. The game's story was very well-written, the game play was well-executed, and they had the show's voice actors doing the voices of the characters. The graphics were mediocre, though, and were not impressive at all.

This is a RPG (role-playing game), which means you are approached by a deep storyline and, most likely, a turn-based game where you and your team take turns attacking your opponent.

In this game, you are a young kid who is getting ready for a festival held at your family shrine. When your character goes into the warehouse to get something, he steps on a mysterious symbol, falls through a hole and ends up back in Feudal Japan. You end up getting chased by demons and you're saved by the half-demon Inuyasha. You travel with Inuyasha's group trying to find a way back to your own time while trying to stop the evil demon Naraku, who plans to get your soul.

While the story is very well-crafted, you may get bored with it pretty fast if you have no desire to play a game that is all story-based. This game is mostly meant for fans of the show or hard core RPG gamers. To put it simply, it is not for everyone. The graphics may also turn people away from the game; they are about on the level of a good Play Station One game. The graphics are as bad as they can get for the new generation consoles.

All in all, this game is pretty good for its type. I give Inuyasha: Secret of the Cursed Mask a 5.5 out of 10.



An interesting, story-based game for Inuyasha fans.

## Godzilla brings monster mayhem to your living room

Have a rough day at school? Aggravated at something? Why not blow up a city in *Godzilla: Save the Earth* the sequel to the Game Cube's *Godzilla Destroy all Monsters: Melee*? This game is a lot better than the previous game. It has more playable monsters, more cities, and the option for on-line play, mini games, and better graphics. Some of the monsters you get are two versions of Godzilla, the 1990's and 2000 versions: the evil beast, Destroyah, the three headed dragon, King Ghidorah, two bugs, Mothra and Megagurios, the abomination, Orga, the flying dinosaur, Rodan, and the powerful Space Godzilla.

A thing that hurt the game was that Atari promised something, but later he cut it from the game. They also cut out the story they said was going to be good for single player. The single player story was just bad. In fact, there is no story. There is only one cinematic, then you just fight monster after monster which gets repetitive very quickly.

Most of the challenges are stupid. I'm sorry, playing basket ball with monsters is just a bad idea in my opinion. Some of the challenges are good though. There are two rail shooter challenges that are actually good. One where you are Godzilla underwater and have to stop an alien submarine and fight a sea monster named Ebirah. Another where you are



The sounds and graphics of the game are major assets.

the robot MOUGERA and you have to travel through an asteroid field chasing Space Godzilla through space. Both are very exciting and challenging.

Though a lot of the game like the story is bad you get on-line play which can really make up for it on the long run. Playing other people on-line is a good way to test your skills against opponents that could live on the other side of the country.

The graphics are a lot better than the original game. Atari made it look like the movies that feature these

various monsters. There are some bad points though. The buildings still don't fall like they should. When the buildings collapse it only turns into a patch of a little rubble where the building uses to stand. They should have had the buildings explode with rubble flying in all directions when the monsters hit the side of the buildings with their beams like in the movies.

The control of the game is actually no different than the original game. Most of the buttons are the same only on a Play Station 2 controller rather than a Game Cubes which makes it easier for the people that played the original game so they don't have to relearn the controls. The sound is also very good. All the monsters have the roars and make the same noises as they do in the movies. The sound of the collapsing buildings also sounds pretty realistic. Sometimes though if two sounds are happening at the same time there won't be any sound at all that can get annoying at times.

Overall this game was well made, even though there is not good story behind it and sometimes the graphics are choppy. But, you do get an all star cast of playable monsters and many cities to destroy which help the game in a lot of areas, but the thing that is really great is on-line play. I give the game a, 7 out of 10.

## Time Splitters: Future Perfect Exciting, innovative game play

The Time Splitters series is one of the most successful first person shooters ever made. With its great visuals and sound it has been very popular since it first launched in 2000. The new game is the best in the series though.

In this game, the main character Sergeant Cortez, is coming back to earth from the Time Splitter Space Station from the second Time Splitters game. Time Splitters are an alien race that was created by a madman. They are capable of cloaking themselves to jump your character when you least expected. In order to stop them the remaining group of humans, want to go back in time using the Time Splitter's time crystals and stop them from ever coming into existence. You spend your time traveling through time trying to hunt down creator of the Time Splitters and stop him from destroying the future.

The graphics in this game are some of the very best I have seen in a while. The areas in the game are just amazingly designed. In the Siberia level, the ice around the dam is very realistic. All the scenery in the game is very well made and very realistic looking. The characters in the game are also well designed. The maps in the game and the scenery in the game are absolutely amazing. The graphics are just that good.

The game play is also amazing. There are 150 characters that are playable in the game. They include robots, a bunch of zombies, circus freaks, soldiers, aliens, weird strange characters, and even monkeys! There are also a lot of different weapons in the game. They range include sniper rifles, pistols, rocket launchers, machine guns, grenades, futuristic laser guns, and even bricks. The best gun that you may want to use though is the Injector. The best gun ever

thought up for a game since games the first shooting game. You shoot a dart into an enemy and the slowly swell up and explode! You will have a lot of fun with that gun every time you use it.

The ability to make your own maps is also very good. You can have the map any way you please and you are even able to put it on-line and play with it against other opponents. On-line play is amazing in this game. Going on-line and playing is just amazing. Up to 8 people can play in a single game. You can challenge your skills and abilities and even find out your ranking in the game.

All in all this game is just amazing. Great graphics, great game play, a great story, endless amounts of weapons, and 150 playable characters this game hardly has anything bad for me to say about it. All in all I give the game 10 out of 10!

# Left Of Center

Chris Heim '05

*Singer/songwriter/musician Brian Malvey '05 has been a dominant force in the Township indie scene for years now. His latest project "Left of Center" is an impressive solo work with an eclectic mixture of musical styles. I had a chance to talk to Brian about his newest album "A New Beginning" as well as his plans for the future.*

**Q: Who's in the band? I know it's just you but did you have friends record it or play guest stuff on it?**

A: Alright, "Left of Center" is basically me. I played all of the instruments on that CD, (keyboards, guitars, bass, harmonica, drums, vocals) and the guest help I had was on the end of track 6 (A Sense of Direction). There are six extra people there: Steve Taylor, Ryan Rigby, Darby, Amanda Kennedy, Joe Velasco and Lesly Stinson.

**Q: What kind of equipment are you using? What brand of guitar, recording information, instruments, maybe the type of keyboard or midi that you used for the neat melodies?**

A: Equipment:  
Acoustic Guitar - Ibanez PF (acoustic electric pretty nice sound)

Electric Guitar - custom fender mustang/stratocaster hybrid (my uncle made it, and it's admittedly pretty shoddy)

Bass - Peavy P.O.S. that I got off Ebay

Keyboard - Korg N-1 (my pride and joy, it's awesome)

**Q: Why do you play the type music you play?**

A: I play the music I play because it's easy to express ideas. With folk and indie music you don't have to impress anyone. I can write songs about what is going on in my life, tell a story, be angry, happy, whatever. Anything is fair game. I play this music for basically myself. It helps me calm down a lot.

**Q: Who are some of your influences?**

A: Influences include Death Cab for Cutie, The Shins, The Beatles, Rilo Kiley, Billy Joel and Styrofoam

**Q: What about some of your favorite bands?**

A: Favorite bands include Death Cab for Cutie, The Shins, Animal Collective, Say Anything, Walking Concert, Iron and Wine, Idaho, The Get Up Kids... Avenge Sevenfold, Thrice and Scary Kids Scaring Kids...

**Q: How's "Perhaps She'll Die" doing? Can we expect an album sometime soon?**

A: Perhaps She'll Die is doing very well. The legendary Dom Grecco has joined the crew on bass, it's myself, Ryan Rigby, Steve Taylor, Kacy Crivarro, and Dom Greco. I really like singing for this band, it's so energetic and its a good break from all my indie stuff. It keeps me well balanced. We'll be going into the studio relatively soon, and it should turn out great.



photo courtesy Brian Malvey '05

**Q: How long have you been singing/playing guitar? What about the other instruments you play on the CD?**

A: I've been singing for five years in and out of different bands, playing guitar for three years. Guitar is pretty easy to pick up if you're around it a lot. I started playing piano when I was young, my dad played and I thought it was so cool, so I took lessons and have been playing for about ten years. I don't really know what my main instrument is... I'm equally bad at all of them. Piano it's a challenge, Guitar is just fun, drums are definitely a stress reliever, singing is... I don't really know and harmonica just sounds cool.

**Q: Why should people listen to your music? How are you different, what are you bringing to the table?**

A: I'm different because I'm honest. All of my songs are about something and they mean something to me. I don't worry about whether everyone else will like it, but it's definitely not a bad thing if they do. I think people like my music because it's music. I've experimented with techno sounds, folk sounds, rock sounds and I don't want to be tied down to one genre of music. I just want to make music that people will enjoy listening to. It doesn't require them to wear a certain type of clothes or change their diction into something more primal, it's simply to be listened to and enjoyed.

**Q: How far do you want this to go? You definitely sound a lot better than most of the stuff in your genre, have you considered/tried getting signed to a label? Or do you want this to stay small?**

A: I want to get my music heard, but there are a few things I need to take care of first. As soon as I can I'll start sending CDs to labels and playing more shows and the whole deal, but I want to be level-headed and make sure I know what I'm doing before I just start sending CDs everywhere.

**Q: Anyone you would like to thank?**

A: I'd like to thank Steve Popponi. He was the engineer at the Gradwell House recording studio. He's a real good guy and he helped a lot. I want to thank Darby DeCicco obviously. She's the bestest... and you for setting up this interview... and everyone who helped out with the CD.

*Track down Brian in the hallway sometime if you would like to purchase his newest album "A New Beginning". It's only five dollars and is worth every penny. Don't sleep on the next big thing in indie rock, check it out today!*

**Local Band Alert!**  
If you know a local band who would like a spot in the Patriot, please email:  
[WTHSPatriot@Gmail.com](mailto:WTHSPatriot@Gmail.com)



photo courtesy Brian Malvey

# Sports

## Baseball wins division championship

### Strong lineup leads team to stellar 21-6 record

Rob Czyzewicz '06

This year's WTHS Boys Baseball team lived up to all of the preseason hype that they received. The very strong lineup and equally strong pitching staff led the team to a 21-6 record.

Their stellar 7-1 divisional record has helped them to win the Olympic Conference American Division. During the season, head coach Bill Alvaro announced on several occasions, the teams goals.

"Our number one goal was to be division champs", explained Alvaro they accomplished that goal this year in stunning fashion. "We've already qualified for the Diamond Classics (Tournament), and we want to advance to the state finals."

The team did advance to the state championship accomplishing another one of their goals.

Unfortunately they could not beat Cherokee for the fourth time this year, losing 13-1.

Alvaro said that his team improved over last year, so he

**"We had such a young team last year. Now that all of our key players have had one more year of experience, we are ready to take the next step."**

**-Head Coach Bill Alvaro**

expected them to win in every key game. Even with the loss Alvaro was still proud of his team.

"They've got to hold their heads up high, because they had a great season," he said. "Winning the Olympic Conference American Division, that's tough. It's like an eight-game tournament."

He was also happy with how much the team improved.

"We had such a young team last year", Alvaro began. "Now that all of our key players have had one more year of experience, we are ready to take the next step."

Catcher Ryan D'Imperio '06 echoed the coach's sentiments, saying, "By beating Cherokee and Eastern in late May, we were in good position. That made us Divisional Champions of the Conference. That is a big accomplishment."

This year's squad is led by pitcher Mike Modica '05. As Coach Alvaro explained, Modica has been the team's ace, leading them to the most victories by one individual.

The hitting has been led by the aforementioned D'Imperio. According to the coach, D'Imperio made a very significant improvement over last year.

"He went from hitting [at an average of] .270 last year, all the way up to .470 this year" said Alvaro. "I'm very happy with the way he stepped up."

This squad features a veteran roster which includes seniors Matt Connors, Matt Johanson, Nick Bowen, and junior Dan Betteridge, who are all in their second year as starters.

They also have solid backups who are important towards the team's success, such as seniors Kyle Terry, Mike Biedrzycki, and Mike Amador, among others. The coach believes that everyone on the team has been a key component to the team's success.

The team had a tremendous season with a lot to be proud of. Hopefully the team can take this success and transfer it into more wins and more accomplishments next year.

## Boys volleyball qualifies for states

Richard Rasgo '05

"Determined" would be one word to describe Washington Township High School.

With the number of sports offered at the high school, many of the students take the opportunity to be involved. Not only is it a way to physically stay active and fit, but to also meet many new people. The athletes prepare themselves by having hard, long practices after school and when it's game time, they play their hardest to represent WTHS.

With all the hard work and discipline, many of the fall and winter sports had gone far throughout their season, winning games, making it to the states and even to the championship. Now it's time for the spring season with the Baseball, Softball, Lacrosse, Golf, Tennis, Volleyball, and Track Team to show what they've got this year.

The Boys' Volleyball Team was originally started at WTHS by Coach Frank Consiglio and Coach Barbara McBrearty. Coach McBrearty started the volleyball programs with the girls nine years ago. The history of the Boy's Volleyball Team isn't as impressive, only winning State Conference for one year in 2001.

They don't get as much

recognition as they deserve however, many visitors come and support them at home games. In 2003, Junior Varsity finished their season with a 17-0 record. Their strong Junior Varsity Team will definitely help the

**"Next year, I hope to shoot for Olympic Conference."**

**-Coach Barbara McBrearty**

Varsity in the future years to come.

This year, Coach McBrearty moved up to Varsity coach due to Coach Consiglio vacating his position this year. Coach Mount took the place of coach of Junior Varsity. Boy's current record is 10-9. The cut off date determining if they're qualified for State's was May 17th. On May 16th, their 9th win against Camden allowed them to qualify. Their first day of the State Tournament will be Tuesday, May 24th.

This year's Varsity Captain, Drew Fagundus, the only returning varsity player leads the team to success.

"Volleyball has been a lot of fun, never thought I'd get myself into volleyball. It's less stressful than other sports. It's been a lot of fun with my teammates and coaches," Fagundus states.

With Drew's leadership and support on the team, he's much looked up to from all his team members.

"Get involved in as much as you can because I never thought of joining volleyball freshman year," he advises the underclassmen. "I met a lot of friends and had the best memories on the team throughout high school."

Coach McBrearty explain about this year's Boys Volleyball Team.

"It was a very interesting year. I knew going in it would be a challenge due to the fact there was only one returning varsity player. It was definitely a rebuilding year, but we accomplished our goal for qualifying

for States."

She wishes to go even farther in the future. "Next year, I hope to shoot for Olympic Conference, hopefully deeper with States with more experience players."

Washington Township Boys' Volleyball has worked hard to make it to State's. Hopefully, this will be another lucky year for the boys to have 2005 printed on the volleyball banner.

Volleyball will always be a favored activity in gym, but for the team, it's no joke, no play, but all work! Remember "Spike, Dig, or Die!"



Dave Zappacosta '06/The Patriot

**The boys volleyball team on their way to Clifton for a State Tournament match.**

# Girls relay team takes third at Penn Relays

Justine Jacobs '06

The girls' relay team took home the bronze medal in the 4x400 meter during the April 28 Penn Relay festivities at Franklin Field.

Andrea March '06, Maria Fasolino '06, Laura Cundey '06, and Shontae Smith '07 placed third in the race at the annual competition and carnival held at Penn's University City campus.

"It's really exciting," said March on participating in the Penn Relays. "There are so many people in the stands. It gives you an extra rush."

"Although during the race you don't really notice the people," added Cundey.

Cundey also feels that March gave a stand out performance during their race.

"She passed a lot of people and got me in second place so I could try and hold on until the end."

The team's coach, Mr. Bruce Burdsall, was pleased with all of the girls' performances in the 4x400.

"I'm very happy. The girls ran their best times of the year," said Burdsall. "It is always difficult to get Penny Relays medals with all of the outstanding teams participating. I'm quite proud of our girls for receiving medals."

The girls had to work hard to prepare for this race. According to March and Cundey, they practice every day after school until 5:00 PM in an effort to improve their times.

Also, Cundey, who runs middle and long distance as well as relay, has

**"It is always difficult to get Penny Relays medals with all of the outstanding teams participating. I'm quite proud of our girls for receiving medals."**

**-Mr. Bruce Burdsall**

had to put in some extra effort to bounce back from an injury she sustained earlier in the year.

"I wasn't able to practice for so long," says Cundey. "I got out of shape, wasn't able to run in any meets. It really effected my times."

This team isn't new to success, however. During the winter track season March, Fasolino, and Cundey placed fifth in the Sprint Medley (which consists of two 200 m, one 400 m, and one 800 m) at Nationals, earning them an All American title.

More recently, on Saturday May 7, the girls attended the relay portion of the Ike Willis Meet at Rowan Uni-



Photo courtesy of Mrs. Jean March

## The girls' relay team poses with their coach and a few friendly competitors at the Penn Relays.

versity and were all successful in their other various events.

Smith and March helped set a school record with their Shuttle Hurtle team, which includes Brittany Moore '06 and Amanda Covaleski '06.

Also running that day were Fasolino, Smith, Cundey, and teammate Jackie Dim '08 in the Sprint Medley.

The girls finished in second place with "one of the best times in the state this year," according to

Burdsall. They also came very close to setting a school record.

March also achieved a personal goal when she set a school record of 14.65 s in one of her other events, the 100 m hurdles.

"I think we did really good this year," said March. "We got all American and placed really high."

"And it's just the beginning [of the season!]" added Cundey.

The team has more competition awaiting them in the upcoming month.

## Young golfers to lead team in future

Scott Grandrino '05

The Olympic Conference defending champs started this year's season with high hopes and expectations. Their goals they made before the season was to win the conference again, make states, win county tournament, and win Carol Arena Tournament.

Now, midway through the season, their goal in making states won't happen. As of April 29, the Golf team had a record of 4-7.

Although the team won't make states this year, they are still alive in their conference with a record of 1-2.

"It's an up hill fight, but we can still do it," said first year Head Coach Anton. Even though the team has a losing conference record, Anton still believes they can win the conference because it is still up in the air for any school to win it.

"This is a very tough conference. Everybody is good. Everyone in the conference beats up on each other," said Anton.

The conference consists of tough, challenging schools like Eastern, Lenape, and Cherokee, and

is one of the hardest conferences in the state.

Assistant Coach Snyder said the team "needs to be more consistent" and "work harder to have chance to win conference."

Even though the team themselves will not qualify for states, there are three players who are close to competing in individuals. They are captains Todd Janssen '05, Matt Zeiders '05, and Billy Pappas '05.

The three seniors have played extremely well all year long and are huge factors for the team. They are the top three seeds on the team. Anton considers Zeiders and Janssen to be the "most experienced" on the team. Anton is very impressed with Pappas's performance and said that he has "really stepped up."

The other seniors on the team who have made big plays all year long have been the other captain Nick Turdo, Jeremy Bernardo, Frank and Christian Anastasi, Eric Shoyer, and Marc DiGivonantoni.

Anton and Snyder both agree that Turdo has played "steady" as the fourth seed and that Shoyer is the

They will be running in the Gloucester County Championships, the Olympic Conference Championships, and the South Jersey and State Championships.

Burdsall is confident in the team's ability and feels the success of the Penn Relays can be duplicated.

"I believe that our girls are starting to peak for these championship meets," said Burdsall.

Should their coach's assessment be correct, the relay team and their fellow track teammates will be in for a very successful season.

Hey, you like to talk sports? Join the S.T.A.T. Pack for the 2005-2006 school year!

# Helterbran sets goals for college, softball

Tiffany Narducci '05

If you don't know her, Melanie Helterbran is the always cheerful girl that lets everyone know she's there.

A few weeks ago, she was also named Gloucester County Times Player of the Week for her performance as the WTHS softball pitcher.

For most people, this would be an amazing thing, but according to Helterbran, it's "more stress and more pressure to be keeping your game up. Bad days are frowned upon."

Helterbran has been playing softball for 13 years. She started out as a child, being signed up for everything by her parents to see what sport she was good at and it ended up being softball.

And now she adds a twist, she is also Coach Helterbran. Previously, she coached 10 year olds, now it's the 12 year olds.

One of the reasons Helterbran likes coaching is because she feels she learns a lot more and can "fix my mistakes by teaching them the correct mechanics."

Helterbran noticed that the players on the team look at her as a role model and they are always trying to impress her and when coaching, you can't be disappointed when they make a mistake.

"They have a 12 year old mind, that we don't have anymore," said Helterbran.

Helterbran claims she has no social life—she is either playing ball or in the weight room and training to play.

Her schedule is fall ball (Sept. – Nov.), gym time (Dec. – Mar.), then spring ball (Mar. – Aug.)

Like any athlete, Helterbran agrees that it is hard to keep up with school, but that no matter what her personally set bedtime is 10:30.

"I need a good sleep, because I know that I have to wake up the next morning and do the same thing again."

This, being Helterbran's senior year, she says that senior activities come first, last year it was softball.

Helterbran's closest friends understand, but she knows it's still hard and during her 'off' season, she rekindles her relationships with her friends, before she has to start over again with softball.

Next year, Helterbran will be attending Elon University, a small college in North Carolina, with about 1,000 more people than our High School.

Helterbran doesn't like the idea of leaving High School. She said if she was asked 'What would you do if



Meegan Wadleigh '06/The Patriot

**Not only has Helterbran contributed to the softball team's success, but she also helps out in the 11/12 main office.**

you had one wish?' Helterbran's replied, "Repeat the four years of high school over and over again."

She said that she is emotionally holding on, like a child would to a security blanket.

Helterbran wanted to go to a small school.

She said "[Leaving high school] is a change in scenery that I don't like. I can't imagine not seeing the same faces everyday. Elon's not that much bigger than the high school [and was my college choice] for the same reasons."

At Elon, Helterbran plans on

majoring in Biology Education, becoming a High School Biology teacher, and taking core classes as well. With a 17 semester hours in the fall, and 13 in the spring, Helterbran knows that she is an athlete as well as a student.

Helterbran called this year a 'climb as a team' where she, and the team, reached a comfort level and performance peak and she likes what they are doing now.

In college, it is definite that Helterbran will be playing softball, because she says she "has nothing to do without softball."

Helterbran's softball days were almost compromised, on Friday, May 20, 2005.

While she was crossing the street, she was accidentally hit by a car.

Helterbran said she jumped on the hood to avoid getting hit. She also said she doesn't remember much because she blacked out. But, fortunately, she walked away from the accident with a few minor bruises.

Helterbran's time in High School is almost finished, but her career in softball won't be through for a long time.

## Minutemaids swing away the competition

Lauren McGuire '05

The Minutemaids softball team is digging deep into the 2005 season with an 18-3 record with about 3 games left.

They started the 2005 season with a challenging tournament win at the Millville Tournament in April. The girls are currently fighting for the conference championship title, but as of right now share a co-champions spot with Lenape. (Look for that game in the early weeks of June)

In the upcoming state tournament, there will be some obstacles that the girls will have to overcome such as teams from Rancocas Valley, Lenape, and Vineland.

The girls have some hard matches in front of them after falling just shy of wins at Rancocas Valley and Hammonton Tournaments. Under the instruction of Coaches Tracy Burkhart and Angela Cardimone, the group is looking strong and hoping to repeat the state title last held in 2002.

The 5 seniors left on this varsity squad were only freshmen in that last championship season, some were apart of the varsity squad, but all shared in the excitement of the achievement. So what could be



Scott Grandrino '06/The Patriot

**The Minutemaids have played tough all season long.**

better than to begin and leave your WTHS careers with state championships?

Senior captain Katie McFarland comments on some personal goals to build up to a state championship, "We need to beat the teams we're supposed to beat, and come together as a team."

Those two aspects were season goals that need to continue through the rest of the season and tournament play. It's important for the girls to keep up their determined work ethic, and stay strong and

positive within the next couple weeks.

Senior Captain Jesse Buchanan adds, "Basically, we have to keep doing what we're doing and not slack off. It's important not to take a team for granted, and play the way we've played all season."

With only a few season games and tournament play left the Minutemaids are ready to take advantage of each open opportunity, on the road to a state championship ending.