

# Track stars to compete at Nike Indoor Nationals

Wesley Gallaher '08

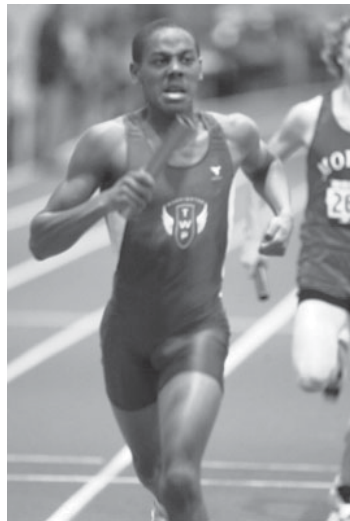
No rain, no sleet, no snow, no ice, can keep them from practicing. They are the Boy's Winter Track and Field Team.

"In the beginning of the season, I knew it was going to be a special one", said Coach Barry Bostwick.

He was right. Winter Track is not a glamorous sport that has pre-game tailgating, a student cheering section nor a post game celebration; however several members of the team have risen to national status.

On March 15-16, these men will lace up their spikes and chalk up their hand to compete in an event that many just dream of, Nike Indoor Nationals. This meet hosts the nationally ranked top six athletes in each event. Washington Township High School will send three relay teams and one individual to this Super Bowl of High School Track and Field.

Senior Captain Kwabena Keene



www.dyestat.com

**Xavier Fraction '09, looks to break his personal 800 record at the upcoming nationals.**

will compete in the shot put. Keene has hurled the twelve pound shot a personal best of 56 feet 11 inches. With the help of his coaches and vigorous training, he hopes to break

into the low 57's in the spring.

Also competing are Alex Clemson '08 and Chris Kelly '08, Xavier Fraction '09, Tim Carey '09, Nick Krauss '09 and Steve Morrone '10. They are the six horsemen who will make up the three relay teams. Clemson, Kelly, Fraction, and Morrone will compete in the 4 x 1600 meter relay, while Morrone, Carey, Krauss, and Fraction will run the 4 x 800 and the sprint medley relay. These three relays are a balance of speed and strategy. Each member of the team must run their personal best in order to compete at the national level.

These nationally ranked 4x800 team are very special to Bostwick. They qualified for the Millrose Games at Madison Square Garden and became his first team to break 8 minutes with a time of 7:55. Leading this relay team is junior Xavier Fraction. His current personal record in the 800 is 1:53 and hopes to break that at Nationals.

## Team "thinks pink" to raise awareness

Linda Hanford '11

With the end of the season near Thursday Feb. 14 was not only Valentine's Day, for the Washington Township girls' basketball team it was the night of a big conference game against Cherokee and it was also "Think Pink" night.

Think Pink was new to the program this year and the team hopes it is the beginning of a tradition here at WTHS. The point of the Think Pink game was to raise breast cancer awareness and really help make a difference. Anyone who wore pink to the game was admitted free and they could also purchase bracelets that said hope, faith or strength. Proceeds went to Breast Cancer research.

The players also contributed to this great cause by making pink shirts with logos and sayings, wearing pink shoelaces, and pink pre-wrap. The shirts had the team's "Believe" logo on the front. The back had a famous quote from NC State coach Kay Yow, "When life kicks you, let it kick you forward." Yow has been waging her own fight against breast cancer.

That night the girls had so much to look forward to and felt that it was more than just any other basketball game.

Captain Allie Bassetti '08 said, "Think pink night was just an inspiration to be a part of, because no matter how much pain you are in, or how you are playing, you think about the women who fight for their lives everyday and you go that much harder for them. That's why we still wear the laces. Every time we look down it reminds us of those women."

The night may have not ended the way the girls wanted but they were glad they could get their message across.

Coach Jennifer Natale said, "Anytime you're given the opportunity to raise awareness it puts things into perspective and you appreciate what really is important." She said that this year's team has strong heart and drive; they're on a great road and have many more achievements ahead of them.

## Hockey falls in fourth round

A.J. Nisbet '08

The Washington Township ice hockey team recently concluded its season after falling to Cherokee 5-3 in the fourth round of the playoff tournament.

The game saw Cherokee jump out to an early 4-0 lead, but Township was able to battle back and get the score within one goal late in the third period on a backhander by Jim Tumolo '08. Township was unable to notch the tying goal, instead giving up the open net game sealing goal.

This season ending loss came four days after Township's huge third-round win against rival, Clearview. Unlike their previous meetings with Clearview, Township was able to take control right from the drop of the puck and went on to knock Clearview out of the tournament. Township finished 4-0-1 against their rival on the season.

Before Township was able to meet up with Clearview for the

second time in the playoffs, they lost their first game of the two game elimination to the strong favorite, Shawnee. Township made a strong bid pull off their largest upset of the season but Shawnee rose to the challenge handing Township its first loss of the Tournament at 4-2.

Players felt this was big improvement over their 0-2 regular season match-ups with Shawnee that saw them losing by scores of 10-1 and 7-1.

Township entered the tournament as the fourth seed after a regular season. Full of ups and downs, the season began with a slow start, a young team, and players constantly moving in and out of the roster as well as different positions.

"In the beginning of the season we started off sluggish, but I think we grew as a team and ... we were able to finish strong," said assistant captain Tumolo '08.

The team expected challenges this season, after graduating a large number of seniors from last year's

championship team. They managed to improve throughout the season ending on a winning streak that created a race for second place.

Unlike last year, Township did not have any league leaders in any categories, but leading the team in points were Jon Paulo '09 and Mat Fleakop '09 (tied with 19), and Tumolo (18). While the team did not have a lot of high scorers, strong defense anchored by goaltender, Chris Rainey '08, placed them in the top half of the league in fewest goals against (53).

From the drop of the puck on opening night, through the huge wins against Clearview, to the final playoff loss, fans packed the arena and the team is very thankful of that.

"I think that this year the fan support has been bigger than any other year and I think that it's those people who make the game so much fun," said Tumolo, "...though the final loss was unfortunate, our fans were there until the very end to show their support."

# The Patriot

Issue 5      Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ      March 2008

# Student talent rocks CBAC

Stephanie Foran '08

Excitement and anticipation filled the air of the CBAC on Feb. 14 for the Student Talent Show, which is showcased every other year and is sponsored by the PTO. This year's event featured 35 acts ranging from intense dancing to classic piano performances. Hosts for the night were Olivia Devine '08 and Joey Contino '09, who were also featured in the show as performers.

This year's event coordinator, secretary Theresa Saponara, decided to judge the student's talent and award cash prizes for the first time.

"It was just more incentive for the kids," stated Saponara. "They put a lot more effort into it."

Top honors went to a trio of singers Erica Appel '08 took 1st place, winning \$300 for her performance of Celine Dion's "Taking Chances" while Olivia Devine took 2nd (\$200) and Jasmine Brown took 3rd (\$100).

The panel of judges included Principal Rosemarie Farrow, 9/10 Executive Assistant Principal Mrs.



Steph Foran '08/The Patriot

**Erica Appel's rendition of Celine Dion's "Taking Chances" won her the first place prize of \$300.**

Theresa Pietrowski, the owner of Mainstage Center of the Arts in Blackwood, Ed Fiscella, and Wedgwood Elementary School teacher Ms. Lynne Updike.

The first act featured 18 performances which included vocalists, dance troupes, and even classical

musicians. In one of Saponara's favorites, Amanda Burghart '09 sang "Honey Bun" dressed as a sailor while Joe Wagner '09 sported a hula skirt and coconut bra. Another audience favorite was Sarah Hollins '09 singing and playing guitar to "Almost Lover" by A Fine Frenzy.

After intermission, the second act opened with a local band called A Silent Fall performing their song "Memories." It whipped the crowd into frenzy and prepared them for future performers such as the Hispanic Dance Club.

"We're very nervous, but we know we're going to do well!" said club member Jasmine Prince '09 before taking the stage.

During this and many other acts, the crowd got to their feet and showed strong support for the performances they favored.

At other times, however, many audience members and performers believed the chatter during some of the performance was disrespectful to the student's talents. Others stood up and even left in the middle of performances.

"It was really rude. I wanted to scream at them to be quiet," said Zachary Baker '09 backstage as he prepared for his act.

The final student performance of the night included seniors Max Giorgi, Fran Maxwell, and Joe Moffett dancing as "The Groupies." The music mix ranged from Big & Rich to trance music to Dragonforce.

"I want to explode and throw up!" said Giorgi before performing.

The show closed with retired custodian Mr. Henry Land singing a gospel hymn as the cast gathered for the awards ceremony.

Then, awards were distributed. Since all three top prizes went to singers, some would have liked to see more variety to the awards.

"They could have thrown a band in there," said Marc Remini '08, "I think it would be a lot better." Even though only three prizes were given, Mrs. Pietrowski, said that everyone was a winner that night.

"It would be nothing without the students and their own, unique talents," said Saponara, who enjoyed her first year as event coordinator, "It was so nice getting to know the kids and seeing a side of their personality you wouldn't expect."

## Inside...

NHS inducts new members

News- p. 2

Know the candidates

Features- p. 6

College Cost Clarified

Special feature- p. 10

What's Happening p. 12

Batman vs. Superman

Odds and Ends- p. 13

People p. 14

Tech Talk p. 15

Cloverfield on a rampage

Entertainment- p. 17

Books- p. 18

Track stars ranked nationally

Sports- p. 20

## Solar panel plan profits pockets and planet

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Washington Township High School is attempting to go green while saving green. On Mar. 11, 2008 from noon to 9p.m. in the high school, residents of Washington Township will be given the opportunity to vote on a bond referendum that will finance the installation of solar panels on the roof of the high school. Installing the solar panels, which convert the sun's light directly into electricity, is both money-saving and eco-friendly.

"There's no downside to it," said Superintendent Dr. Cheryl Simone. "It will eventually be saving our taxpayers money, and it's

wonderful for the environment."

The cost of the project, which includes a new roof for the 9-10 wing, is approximately \$6.2 million; however, the New Jersey Department of Education will grant WTHS money to pay for 52% of the cost. The project will then cost \$3 million, which costs an average taxpayer (based on the average single-family home valued at \$130,003) \$18.87 a year for 10 years.

"When I heard the whole project was only going to cost the average taxpayer about \$1.57 a month, I was shocked," said Olivia Devine '08. "You're paying such a

**See SOLAR PANELS Page 2**



# Panels save money and electricity

## SOLAR PANELS from p. 1

small amount for huge benefits.” Washington Township also applied for a \$1.5 million grant from the New Jersey Clean Energy Program. If confirmed, taxpayers will pay even less for the project.

“That’s why we need to do this now,” said Ms. Jan Giel, District Community Relations Coordinator. “We are almost approved for this grant; if we don’t do this now, it’ll be more money later.”

WTHS’s electric bill is currently about \$1 million a year. The solar panel installation is estimated to save the school \$259,000 in the first year alone. \$84,000 will be saved from the avoided energy costs due to the solar panels, while \$175,000 will be gained in Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SRECs). These SRECs are part of



Lillyan Ling '08/The Patriot

**Solar panels will not only fight high-rising electric costs, but will also help the environment.**

NJ’s net-metering program that compensates solar power customers with money at the end of the year. Each time the solar panels would generate 1000kWh of electricity, WTHS would gain a SREC, which are valued at \$250-\$500 each. In time, the money saved on WTHS’s

electricity bill will save taxpayers money.

“It’s the only referendum that’s bringing money into the district instead of going out” said Simone. “The project is ultimately free; you’re getting free energy from the sun, and once the money you spent is matched, the rest is all profit.”

Not only does this project plan to fight rising electric costs, but it seeks to help the environment as well. Solar electricity will greatly reduce carbon dioxide emissions, which is the leading cause of global warming, and other environmental problems.

“It definitely makes sense to vote ‘yes,’” said SAVE (Students Against the Violation of Earth) member Miles Wright '09. “We would be saving energy and trees, and avoiding harmful CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.”

On Feb. 29 the SAVE club will wear green to show support for the project. The club is currently brainstorming other ideas to promote it as well.

“It’s exciting for SAVE student to see this project come to this Township,” said SAVE advisor Ms. Pancari. “Our own high school has a great opportunity to support the environment.”

The passing or rejecting of the referendum will be based on a majority vote. All residents of the community who are 18 yrs. or older are eligible to vote. If the referendum is passed, the construction on the new roof is projected to start in the summer and can possibly be finished before next Sept. 93,680 sq. ft. of photovoltaic panels (only 2lbs. a panel) will then be laid on WTHS’s roof, which will be no disturbance to students or faculty. The system has no maintenance fees, and it comes with a 30-yr. warranty. A kiosk will also be placed in the Core entrance so visitors can observe the daily electrical savings to the township.

“Environmentally and fiscally, it’s a responsible decision to make,” said Giel. “Installing the solar panels could benefit our community for generations.”

For more information on the solar panels, visit [www.wtps.org](http://www.wtps.org).

# NHS inducts new members

Katie Mount '09

Scholarship, leadership, service and character; these are the four pillars of the National Honor Society. The National Honor Society is a program that recognizes and honors students who hold true to these four pillars.

On Jan. 24 at the Center for Performing Arts, Washington Township High School inducted approximately 120 new members to NHS. Over 700 people attended the induction ceremony, and it was broadcast on channel 13.

“It took a very long time to plan,” Mr. Raymond Anderson said. “We had to invite people, get everything organized... it was monstrous.”

Anderson and Mrs. Denise Skow are the advisors of NHS. According to Anderson, the event took months to plan.

“I was a bit nervous because it’s such a big undertaking,” he said. “I think it went great. The students were prompt, were able to take direction and did a wonderful job.”

The ceremony consisted of the ceremonial candle lighting, teacher sponsor recognition, a key speaker, and a choir performance. Mr. Jerry Cullen was chosen to be the key speaker for the ceremony.

“It was very nice when they asked me to be the speaker,” he stated. “I was very humbled.”

Cullen spoke about how he was also a member of NHS. He reminisced about a story from his high school days, where there was a mix-up and his brother was the one who received the NHS emblem on his diploma. To this day, his brother has claimed that he was the one who was inducted. Cullen’s point was that even though it was years ago, NHS is still important to him.

“It stays with you, it’s a milestone.” Cullen said. “It’s so...real. It’s a great achievement.” After Cullen gave his speech, the students who had already been inducted last year were given a chance to honor a teacher by choosing them to be a sponsor. This is a chance for students to let their

sponsor know that they had a great impact on their life.

“When I was asked to be a sponsor, I was very honored.” Mr. Christopher Lawler stated. “It’s great to know that you had an impact on someone’s life.”

Lawler used to be an NHS advisor; last year was his final year as co advisor. It was different for him to be the one in the audience, and not the one coordinating the show.

“I think [Anderson and Skow] did a great job.” Lawler complimented. “I feel it went really well.”

Now that the induction ceremony is over and done with, Lawler recommends for inductees to be active in NHS.

“It’s not a one time thing, where you get inducted and then do nothing. It’s a responsibility.” He said.

Cullen also has some advice. He would like students to “be sincere” and “stay true to themselves.”

“Don’t join NHS just because it looks good on a college application.” He said. “Be in it because you want to better yourself. When you hold true to the four pillars, you’ll find that you’re a much better person.”

# Sports

# Bassetti believes in team’s chances

Maggie Bonanni '09

Relentless is only one word that can describe Alexandra Bassetti '08. Co-captain of Minute Maids Varsity Team for the 2007-2008 season, she has proven to be an accomplished athlete and continues to strive for success both on and off the court.

Bassetti has been playing basketball for ten years. Not only has she played for the Minute Maids, but also for private teams, including the AAU Club South Jersey Girls Basketball Club and The Philadelphia Belles for the past two years.

Bassetti feels playing for such teams has not only honed her skills on the court, but has also given her leadership skills that she uses as a co-captain.

“Playing for the Philadelphia Belles was great; the experience and exposure was priceless,” said Bassetti. “I learned a lot from the coaches, most of which are now coaching at other high schools, so I see and play them often.”

Bassetti has also been on the Varsity team for two years. In addition to filling the role of co-

captain with seniors Amanda Small and Gina Turdo, who have been Bassetti’s teammates and close friends since fifth grade, she also plays point-guard. Currently, the team has a 10-2 record, of which Bassetti and her co-captains are very proud.

“The word ‘believe’ is (the team’s) motto; All the girls come into practice and games ready to be challenged and they get better,” commented Bassetti, “I know that I believe in my team mates and that they believe in me and I could not ask for anything more.”

Through her basketball experiences, Bassetti has taken advantage of many opportunities. Playing for a travel team enabled her to travel and play games in arenas in Tennessee, Maryland, and up-state Pennsylvania. She has also had the pleasure of working and learning from many different coaches, such as the Minute Maid’s coach Mrs. Jennifer Natale, who has coached Bassetti for four years.

“[Natale] has been there for me, and is special because she puts her heart and soul into her job. She not only wants us to become great



photo courtesy of Linda Hanford '11

**Alexandra Bassetti '08 (far right) although small in size, provides a large amount of leadership for the Minutemaids basketball team.**

basketball players but great people as well,” said Bassetti.

Such figures in her life are a main factor of Bassetti’s success as an athlete. Her teammates, friends, past coaches and family have also had an impact on her life, and are her inspiration.

Following high school, Bassetti wants to attend a four year college. She plans on majoring in Education, so she can make a difference in

children’s life similar to the difference her teachers have made for her. She still plans on playing basketball through college, and eventually wants to start coaching for the AAU, and traveling with them and working at clinics as a coach.

“I want to major in anything concerning education,” said Bassetti with a smile, “I could become one of the coolest physical education teachers ever!”

# Mike Cotton earns Touchdown Club Scholarship

Stephanie Foran '08

The Touchdown Club of South Jersey recently recognized Township senior Michael Cotton as Scholarship Athlete of the Year.

“I was really honored,” stated Cotton, “I’m very happy to represent our school and also to be recognized with the same award my brother [Thomas Cotton] won two years ago.”

Cotton has been playing football since he was in first grade and continued his love of it throughout high school. In addition to football, he played basketball his freshman and sophomore year. However, Cotton is not just all about sports. He is very dedicated to academics and believes that he was chosen as a result of his dedication to football and school.



Richie Elles '08/The Patriot

**Mike Cotton plans to attend Rutgers University on a full academic scholarship.**

“Mike is the model of what a student-athlete should be,” states Mark Wechter, the varsity football coach. “He knows the meaning of hard work, sacrifice, and balance.”

The Touchdown Club of South

Jersey, the organization that awarded Cotton the scholarship, has a number of rigorous criteria that nominees must meet. They make their selection based on SAT scores, GPA, and class rank. Cotton’s current GPA weighted is 100.7 and his class rank is twenty-two.

“He’s the smartest guy on the team academically and we all knew he was going to get it,” says teammate Kevin Wong '08.

Outside of football, Cotton is involved in Guitar Club this year. In years past, he was involved with Model United Nations and Freshman Transition. He believes that as a senior this year, it will be his best year yet. “I’m having a great time! The workload is actually a breath of fresh air compared to my demanding schedule last year,” he stated.

Cotton has received a full

academic scholarship to Rutgers University New Brunswick and stated it is probably where he’ll end up. His field of study will most likely be economics or Pre-Med, which he decided on his junior year. “I’m debating between becoming a businessman and a surgeon right now and plan to make up my mind once I’m there,” said Cotton.

Outside of school and football practice, Cotton likes listening to alternative rock, watching movies, and eating tons of food. He loves to hang out with his friends, who are mostly all on the football team. In the upcoming months, he’s looking forward to all the events senior year has to offer, especially Senior Trip in March.

“This is our year to remember!” Cotton exclaimed, “Everything we do this year will be amazing.”



## Books

## Memoirs disproves Japanese stereotypes

Stephanie Foran '08

Geishas have long been criticized as prostitutes and loose women, according to most Western stereotypes. *Memoirs of a Geisha* by Arthur Golden disintegrates this assumption, revealing the truth about this proud Japanese tradition. It tells the story of a young woman, Sayuri Nitta and her struggles, as she became one of the most celebrated geisha in all of Japan.

When one hears the word "geisha" they often think of a prostitute. Golden, as stated previously, reveals that there was much more than geishas then meets the eye. Geishas were trained as entertainers, often serving tea at parties, dancing with fans, or playing the shamisen, a three-stringed instrument. However, maikos (apprentice geisha), in order to become a full-fledged geisha, must sleep with a man who pays for this



Janelle Collins '09

**Geishas were trained in the art of entertainment.**

right. It was not seen as a pleasurable experience, but a right of passage that must be taken.

Golden also makes a very important point about the cruelty

geishas-in-training went through to become geishas. Sayuri was taken from her village of Yoroido as a child so her father could pay off an enormous debt. Many geishas during the time (pre-WWII) started off as maids in an okiya (geisha-house) and worked their way up the hierarchy to pursue that career. However, Sayuri did not want to become a geisha and only wished to return home. Many times she tried to escape and as a result, the owner of the okiya announced that she would never become a geisha.

However, fate smiles upon her when the owner of the Okiya decides to give her another chance—an apprenticeship under a famous geisha named Mameha propels Sayuri to the top. But the path to the top isn't easy. Sayuri is forced to deal with jealous friends, a World War, and men she does not care for. Sayuri even breaks the most important geisha rule: never fall in

love. Geishas were entertainers and that's all they were meant to be.

I absolutely love this novel. The characters are so developed and detailed I can picture them clearly in my head. Another remarkable thing is that Arthur took a subject that wasn't very well known and completely made it his own. His dialect, style, and details regarding Japanese culture are all absolutely superb—I couldn't believe a man from a completely different country and era wrote this.

The novel is written in a first-person point of view, which allows the reader to feel like they were standing right next to Sayuri in every situation. I also earned a newfound respect for the hardships geishas went through behind their painted faces and beautiful kimonos. No matter how hard you try, *Memoirs of a Geisha* is a book that will tear at your heartstrings and refuse to stay shut.

**Literary Crushes** by Lillyan Ling '08

## Luxurious life of Jay Gatsby captures eyes

WELCOME TO EAST EGG

Across the water, a certain East Egg mansion is silent and still by day, but flourishes into a Twenties New York social outing at night. The sounds of the night life can be heard from afar: glasses clink, music blares, and heels click on polished floors. Through the windows and cast under vivid lighting, sashes of cloth sparkle.

Yet above all the commotion, the host remains unseen. He tucks himself away within the rooms of his house, veiled by wispy dissipating curtains of white smoke from his cigar. With one suave, "Hello, old sport," Jay Gatsby can cause any girl to faint from his overwhelming debonair aura.

**WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO BE NICK CARRAWAY?**

Without a doubt, Nick Carraway has the existence that every girl envies if she's up for a rich, mysterious, and "cool" (there is honestly no other way to put it) guy like Mr. Jay Gatsby.

As Gatsby's neighbor and choice for a random tag-along, Nick Carraway holds the only position privileged to see exclusive scenes of Gatsby without having his life intertwine into

his delicate affairs.

Not only does he get to witness the drama between Gatsby, Daisy, Tom and Myrtle, but he also sees a side of Gatsby that reveals true feelings of his deeper layers. Though he maintains a polished personality of a perfect gentleman, his murky past and lost love deeply affect the inner folds of his wounded heart.

**HE'S GOT MONEY**

Gatsby lives alone in a mansion and drives a Rolls-Royce. He throws the most extravagant parties with buffet tables "garnished with glistening hors-d'oeuvre, spiced baked hams... harlequin designs and pastry pigs and turkeys bewitched to a dark gold." He hires orchestras, caterers, and sets up bars that only contain the prime liquors.

**HE'S GOT MYSTERY: GOSSIP**

Why did he throw all these parties if he didn't like parties, that puzzling Jay Gatsby, or should I say Jimmy Gatz? Who is "Philadelphia" and why does he or she call Gatsby?

And where did Gatsby get his money? He was a nobody until showed up in East Egg.

"Well, they say he's a nephew or a cousin of Kaiser Wilhelm's. That's where all his money comes from," said a lady who attended Tom Buchanan's apartment gathering on 158th Street. "I thought you inherited your money," Nick asked him once to which Gatsby automatically replied, "That's my affair."

There were rumors he was a bootlegger. Another insisted. "One time he killed a man who had found out that he was nephew of von Hindenburg and second cousin to the devil."

"I don't want you to get a wrong idea of me from all these stories you hear," said Gatsby himself.

Who knows? But one thing is for sure: the more the mystery, the more intriguing he becomes.

**DON'T GET TOO EXCITED**

He has his heart set on only one girl, the *Golden Girl*, if you will. Under her glance, the slick man becomes a fumbling nervous mess. He's after the little blonde Daisy Faye, desperate to win back the sweetheart of his younger years.

This is not as easy as it seems, seeing that she is married to the notorious Tom Buchanan. Unfortunately ladies, chances are Gatsby is not ever going to give up on her.

## Theatre classes prep show

Maggie Bonanni '09

Actors' Studio and Theatre Production, under the direction of drama teacher Mrs. Sheryl Silverman, hope to amaze audiences with their selection *Dark of the Moon*, by Howard Richardson and William Berney

A dramatic fantasy tale, *Dark of the Moon* depicts the story of John (Max Giorgi '08), a witch-boy that lives in the Smokey Mountain and how he falls in love with Barbara Allen (Zara Gaudio '08), a human

girl that lives in a village near him. John falls so deeply in love with Allen that he plans to marry her, but because he can not marry a human, he goes to the village conjurman and takes drastic measures so they can be together.

Based on the Ballad of Barbara Allen, the story details how because of town-wide opposition and Allen's weaknesses, the couple's romance fails, ultimately leading to turmoil.

Originally produced on Broadway, *Dark Side of the Moon* helped to foster many careers in

acting, such as those of James Earl Jones (*Field of Dreams*), and Diane Keaton (*Because I Said So*). Because of the play's promising theatrical history, Silverman thought it would be an opportune way for her students to learn about blocking (stage movement), directing, and contributing to a show.

Students in the cast will not only play roles within the play, but will also direct, and choreograph the show.

"I think it's an important piece [for my students] to work with

because it's challenging, both in the acting and the requirements for it," said Silverman. "This play has made so many careers."

Challenges for the actors include not only memorizing entire scripts and learning extensive blocking, but also learning a new culture. Set in Tennessee's Smokey Mountains, the characters in the play have a southern-mountain accent, which the cast will have to emulate for the show.

"It's fun to learn such a different way of talking. Everyone has their own adaptation of how they do their accent," said cast member Felicia Revero '08, who along with Kayleigh Addri '08 play the town's witches.

The play also involves music. With assistance from the Music Department, seven songs played on guitar and violin will become part of the play. The music is being added for the play's dance scenes, for which the cast is learning how to square dance.

"The square dancing is different," said Revero, "At first, my reaction was questionable, but after learning it, I realized how much fun it is."

Theatre Production will also be working on the play. Not only are they responsible for the show's costumes and makeup, but they also have to create and build the play's scenery. Currently, they are learning how to design set pieces, and furniture.

"So far we've decided on what pieces to build," stated student Erin Dunphy '09, "Now we need to start the building and designing process."

With the show's debut in less than three months, both classes are diligently working. Although the show is challenging, Silverman is excited to produce the show, and anticipates a positive reaction from the audience on opening night.

"I know students are going to like this play," she said. "It has romance, tragedy, and its eye opening. It gives you an inside perspective on an entire different culture."

*Dark of the Moon* will debut in the 11-12 auditorium on May 3-5. Tickets are \$5.00. If you have concerns, contact Silverman.

Matt Neuteboom '08

Students in the 11/12 wing are moving faster to get to their classes on time. With the administration reinforcing lateness rules, students are spending less time socializing in the halls and more time getting to class.

The decision to reinforce these rules came from 11/12 Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf, who called a faculty meeting Jan. 23 to discuss ways to clear up the hallways in between periods.

Part of this problem, according to Bollendorf, is that many students were using the two-minute bell as the regular bell.

Bollendorf said, "When the core was built 11 years ago, teachers let students traveling from wing to wing arrive two minutes late. Eventually we just switched it and let students go two minutes early.

However, Bollendorf said that over the years, more students began abusing the two-minute bell.

Teachers also noted the fact that students were arriving at class way past the bell.



Jacqui Evans '08

**Many feel that the lateness rules inhibit their ability to get to class on time.**

"Kids really were coming to class at ridiculous times. Instead of trying to get to class, they were spending time with their boyfriend or girlfriend outside in the hallway," said English teacher Mrs. Barbara Kopas.

Student share this sentiment. "It's like we're in kindergarten again" said Dan Chopyk '08. "It's really not fair. I don't see why I should be written up for being 30 seconds late, when I was legitimately trying to get to class, while other kids were just standing there blocking the hallway."

Many have seen improvement since the rule has been enforced. "I've seen real improvement in the

hallways, but it's still not where I want it to be," said Bollendorf. However, Brandon Cunningham '08 said "It just keeps the seniors late, and then blocks up the halls when everyone rushes out at the regular bell. At the end of the day it keeps us from getting to our busses on time."

Despite this, Bollendorf says he has received "magnificent feedback" from teachers.

"We're looking to improve in other areas of student conduct as well, and I hope we can address all of the issues facing as some time in the future as well," he said.



# Pacesetters have a ball

## Interact hosts formal dance for special guests

Nicole Heath '10

On Friday, Feb. 8 over 200 people filled into Masso's Catering for the Winter Pacesetters Dance. The Winter Pacesetters Dance, much like the Fall Pacesetter's Dance, is an Interact event where mentally challenged adults can dance and socialize.

First started by the Shwarts family, the Interact club took the reins of overseeing the event. The event was decorated and put together by the members of the Interact Executive board. Members of the club helped to create the decorative murals and pictures that fashioned the walls of the room. Volunteers that participated in Fall Pacesetters were excited to attend the event.

"We liked working at Fall Pacesetters," said Interact volunteer Angela Snyder '10, "and we like [Winter Pacesetters] too."

Bernadine Allen has been coming to Winter Pacesetters for



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

**One activity at Winter Pacesetters is the crowning of the King and Queen. This year's royal couple is Nicole and Joe.**

over ten years.

"I like coming. It's like all my friends coming out."

The night began with dancing and warm welcomes from the Interact members. Later, dinner was provided by Masso's Catering. Then attendants danced. Later in the

evening, a king and queen Pacesetter was picked and the dancing continued.

The Pacesetters were not the only guests enjoying themselves at the dance. Many family members and friends came to have a good time as well.

"We come every year," said Linda Conoder, "I enjoy the company and we like to mingle." Conoder and her daughter Michelle Conoder have been attending Pacesetters for five years.

This year, Interact decided to make the event semi-formal. Pacesetters and members alike wore dresses and suits. Many styled themselves in red and pink colors for Valentine's Day.

"It's nice to see them dress up," said Interact advisor Ms. Tracy Naval.

The event went off smoothly but, it took much work by the Interact members.

"We were making the invitation at Monzo," said Naval. Although it took a lot of work the club sees it as worth while.

"I think the best part is seeing everyone dance and have fun," Interact advisor Mr. Anthony Bucca said, "It gives them [the Pacesetters] so much."

## ROTC stays in step at Military Ball



Picture courtesy of Col. Joseph Wolozyn

**"The 2008 AFJROTC Military Ball is the most anticipated event for cadets. Many juniors and seniors have said that it compares to, if not surpasses, the proms that are held later in the year."**

**-Kurt Pflugfelder '08**

Got News?  
Take Photos?  
Have opinions?

**Then share  
them!**

**Come to  
Patriot  
meetings,  
Tuesdays in  
D-8.**

# Not your father's Godzilla

## Cloverfield creates monster for new millenium

Stephanie Foran '08 & Jenine Pilla '08

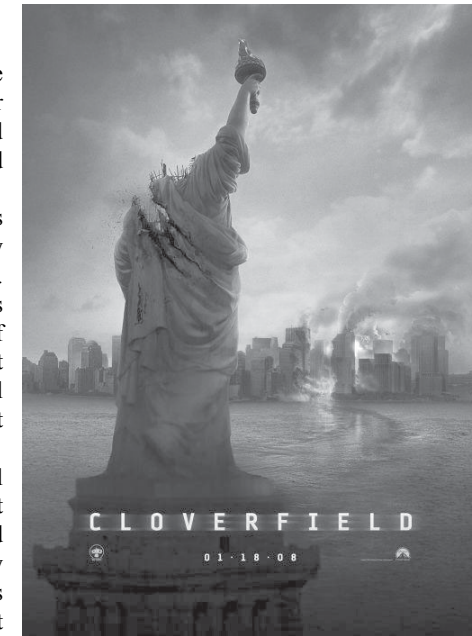
The first 21<sup>st</sup> century monster movie *Cloverfield* is a startling blend of suspense, horror and shocking reality. The theaters were packed opening day to see a movie that treaded ground that no monster film has ever step foot upon.

The film revolves around Robert Hawkins (Michael Stahl-David) and his four friends as they try to survive a fierce monster attack on the city. Not only does the monster tower over buildings and crush the Brooklyn Bridge with a swing of its tail, it also brings forth crab-like parasites that cause their bite victims to violently explode. All the actors give a stunning performance that emphasizes real human emotion and reactions.

Director Matt Reeves took a typical monster-attacks-city story and put it in a first person perspective via the use of a handheld camera. Shaky footage and personal commentary adds more to the story than just a group of friends trying to escape a supernatural phenomenon that is rapidly flattening New York City.

You get a first hand point of view as they run through the city, weaving through the military and their attempts to stop the monster. The camerawork can be very nauseating because the camera shakes and moves a lot, so those with weak stomachs beware!

Just like any typical J. J Abrams production, this film holds a handful of hidden messages that supply the film with an even greater suspense



**The official poster reflects the cryptic nature of the ad campaign preceding the film.**

factor. For example, during the end of the film, when main characters Rob and Beth (Odette Yustman) are on a Ferris wheel in Coney Island, there is a sighting of an object falling from the sky and splashing into the ocean in the distance. This brings forth an endless amount of questions about the true origin of the monster.

The movie has become an overnight phenomenon. In the first weekend alone, *Cloverfield* grossed nearly 51 million dollars worldwide, making it the most successful January release of all time. However, the movie has received mixed reviews from fans because of its rather abrupt, controversial ending. Many critics from *The New York Times* to *L.A. Weekly* said that the movie was too reminiscent of the 9/11 attacks.

Talks of a sequel to *Cloverfield* are already in the works. At the film's premiere, Reeves spoke about today's overabundance of camera phones and how a sequel would be an easy task to accomplish.

"The fun of this movie was that it might not have been the only movie being made that night, there might be another movie!" said Reeves (Source: fearnet.com).

During the scene when the group is attempting to cross the Brooklyn Bridge in an effort to escape the city, there is a brief shot of someone else in the crowd videotaping the catastrophe. With the minds of Abrams, Reeves, and screen writer Drew Goddard working together, they can run with this idea and bring forth a second movie just as brilliant as *Cloverfield*.

So for fans of action films, horror films, *Godzilla*, or those in search of 85 minutes of pure suspense, *Cloverfield* is definitely where you will want to be.

## TV, movie violence-- An unavoidable matter

Victoria Fanslau '10

Violence in movies and television has been growing at alarming rates in recent years. People see different forms of violence almost every day. A study done in 2007 said that by the time the average U.S. child starts elementary school, they will have seen 8,000 murders and 100,000 acts of violence on television.

"I don't really like to watch horror movies with a lot of guts and violence in them because afterwards I just don't feel safe," Stephanie McVaine '10. Surveys have shown that violence in movies and television make children feel fearful of everyday life.

The question of whether these acts of violence affect people's lives in society has been debated for a very long time now. "I think our lives are affected by what happens on TV," said Alyssa Meo '11.

Studies done by New Scientist magazine found that "children that were exposed to violent television shows were much more likely to

become involved in crime. Girls that watched more than the average amount of violent television were more likely to throw things toward their husband when they got older and boys were more likely to act aggressively towards their wives."

"Some movies that I watch get so disgusting that I have to turn it off or leave the room," said Meo. When students were asked about the most violent movies they have seen, many responded with the *Saw* movies and *300*. A statistic by the National Youth Violence Prevention Program showed that 61% of television shows have shown or been prone to violent behavior or acts.

"I don't really mind violence in TV or movies because I'm so used to it. I really don't mind violent scenes in war movies but some horror movies can be really disgusting," said Jake Wethman '08. A survey done by the Parent's Television Council says that 66% of children around the ages of 10 to 16 say that their peers are influenced by TV shows.

"My sisters and I are always taking random things from television and using them in real life,"

said Courtney Bernadini of Pittsgrove High School.

There are many ways that viewers can stay away from the violence in movies and television. The easiest way would be to always check ratings before watching a television show or movie. Many television programs shows inform viewers of ratings before beginning. People can also check the ratings of movies at the movie rental store or the movie theater.

The Federal Communications Commission now requires that all televisions have a V-chip equipped inside them. A V-chip helps families block channels and shows they deem violent. Taking such simple precautions is a safe, effective way to prevent the spread of violence in youth.

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



# Entertainment

## Controversial new game becomes hit

Katie Mount '09

Earning \$500,000 for simply answering twenty-one questions about yourself and your opinions sounds easy. This is most likely what the contestants on FOX's new game show *The Moment of Truth* think. What they fail to realize is that, as a game show, it can't be that easy. *The Moment of Truth* has become a controversial hit that makes for great viewing.

The game itself is simple. Prior to the show, a contestant is hooked up to a polygraph (a device used to tell if someone is lying or not) and asked more than fifty personal questions. The contestants are not told the results of the polygraph.

Once on the show, he or she is asked twenty-one of the same questions, each becoming more personal and in most cases, embarrassing. The effect on the audience is like a car crash; it's uncomfortable to watch but hard to look away.

If the contestant answers honestly, as confirmed by the polygraph taken earlier, he or she moves onto the next question. The



Google Image

**The Moment of Truth showcases embarrassing personal questions and jeopardizes relationships.**

questions are broken up into six tiers.

Answering the first six questions earns the contestant \$10,000. Then they move up to the next level where they answer five questions in order to win \$25,000. The contestants eventually work their way up the six tiers to the \$500,000 prize.

However, if a contestant lies once according to the polygraph test, the game ends and he or she loses

everything. A person may stop at any time before any question is asked and collect the money they have won. Once a question is asked, however, the contestant is required to answer. While the questions are asked, the contestant's loved ones are on the side of the stage. This causes the respondent to be even more uncomfortable.

In the first episode a contestant named Ty was asked, "Are you delaying having children because you

doubt your wife is the one you'll be with forever?" With his wife on the side of the stage, Ty had to answer truthfully in order to still have chance at the jackpot. He said 'yes', which was cleared by the polygraph.

Eventually, the question that led to his elimination was about his career. Ty worked as a personal trainer. He was asked if he had ever touched a female client's body more than required of him.

He said no, which did not match the polygraph. The awkwardness of the moment was matched with the cold reception he was given by his wife at the conclusion of the game. This may be the true attraction of the show.

Unlike most game shows where the contestants just risk the money amount, *The Moment of Truth* jeopardizes reputations and relationships. *The Moment of Truth* is a perfect example of how far people are willing to go for money. They fully expose themselves to all of America and most likely strain at least one relationship. Even if a contestant wins the \$500,000, they still come away as a loser on the show.

### Music

## Young, new band releases first album

Mike Cedrone '10

Take four kids, all under twenty years old, some 80's hard rock and thrash metal influences, along with a modern mindset, and you have the prodigy child of metal. Don't let your eyes deceive you though. The members of Black Tide may look like they play in some garage after school, but they sound like they've been playing for decades. The band consists of Gabriel Garcia (vocals & guitar, 15), Alex Nunez (guitar, 17), Zakk Sandler (bass, 18) and Steven Spence (drums, 19).

The Miami, Florida natives first started playing clubs and house parties four years ago. They played small gigs until 2006 when they

managed to score a spot on the Florida Music Festival's main stage.

Their performance at the festival garnered the attention of many major music labels. Black Tide signed with Interscope Records and recorded their debut album, *Light From Above*, which will drop March 18.

However, their most memorable moment was when they landed a spot on the Monster Energy Drink main stage at OZZfest

2007, opening up for musicians such as Ozzy Osbourne himself and Lamb of God. The band claimed OZZfest to be "the ultimate learning experience" according to their official website. "We learned so much about touring on OZZfest," said Sandler,

"We learned what the pros do."

*Light From Above* is produced by Johnny K (Disturbed, Machine Head, Soil) and Interscope. It has eleven tracks, one of which is a cover of Metallica's "Hit the Lights". Three of the band's songs have already been released and two are available for purchase. They are on first single, *Shockwave*, which contains the songs "Shockwave" and "Warriors of Time". The third song, "Black Abyss", was not officially released for purchase, but it is available on the band's MySpace for listening.

All the songs are promising for a great album. "Shockwave", commonly referred to as an "in your face rock tune" is a song that will keep you listening after just hearing the first twenty-five seconds of guitar. Once Gabriel's vocals kick in,

you'll be halfway to the store anxious to hear the rest. "Warriors of Time" is by far my favorite song. The song's transition back and forth from chanting "whoas" and upbeat metal riffs paint an image of a sold out stadium, filled with screaming fans singing along with the listener. "Black Abyss" showcases Gabriel's lower range vocals and an abundance of guitar squeals and solos.

Black Tide is finishing a tour with Avenged Sevenfold and haven't made any new tour plans yet. However, it is very likely that they will be back out on the road soon. I highly recommend that you look into them and try out their record. Their music is so diverse it appeals to many people who aren't fans of metal. I am personally not fan of any metal bands, but one listen of Black Tide caught me like a fish on a line.

# Features

Day by Day by Jessica McFadden '10

## Air pollution stinks

Air pollution isn't a thing to mess with. The air that we breathe gets more and more polluted each day, and each and every one of us contribute to the mess in our air.

Every cigarette that every person smokes sends more pollutants in our air. If one cigarette damages a person's lungs, just think about the amount of pollutants that damage

the air that everyone else breathes. Surprisingly enough, using electricity is 14% of the total cause of air pollution! Paint fumes, hair spray fumes, and varnish fumes also

cause air pollution. Just by burning wood in a fireplace, you are polluting the air. By using the fuels in our homes, we are adding to the already 19% of air pollution.

Everyday, millions of people drive to work, school, or do errands. If every person would carpool with someone else, or even another group of people, then the amount of air pollution would decrease greatly. Flying in a plane also increases the air pollution each time the plane flies somewhere. By riding on a train, most people would think that you were decreasing the amount of pollutants that are in the air. But, it is quite the opposite. Traveling on a train gives out many more pollutants than a lot of people think.

Pollution in our air has long-term health effects on many, many people. Annually, more deaths among Americans are caused by air pollution related health issues than car accidents. Smog, a mixture of smoke and fog from automobiles and factories, harms people's lungs just as much as cigarette smoke. Carbon Monoxide, a colorless, odorless gas that is most commonly known to come from cars, causes blood to not be able to travel to the tissues and cells in the body. Lead, which is, for one example, found in paint fumes, causes digestive problems.

We need to fix this problem before it gets any worse. Each and every person on the planet Earth can contribute to helping to save our planet. It's not a hard thing to do, so if everyone pitched in, we would see, and feel, the difference in a matter of a few short years.

Something More by Nikki Black '08

## When narrow minds find voice

In installment of "Something More", Nikki Black will examine the role of the individual in the high school community.

were mature enough to accept others without ungrounded adversity. My lesson in theatrical makeup served as a lesson on the attitudes of my peers as well.

ability to remain true to themselves despite majority opinion.

The terrible part arises from a close-mindedness that is reluctant to accept change.

I fully expected the giggles, pointing, and eye-rolling as I walked out of the classroom.

I had just finished practicing fantasy make-up on myself for my Theater Production class, and my chalk white face, blue lips, and multi-colored eye makeup looked pretty ridiculous. The makeup takes a full period to put on, so there is no time to wash it off by the end of the class, and we are also encouraged by our teacher to wear it throughout the day.

After all, the theater is all about letting go of inhibitions.

What I did not expect was the cursing and yelling I soon heard directed at me, and from complete strangers. I had done nothing to harm them, never spoken a word to any of them in my entire existence, and yet they felt the need to try and stamp out the first show of individuality they came across.

I had been under the impression that this kind of mentality had been left behind in middle school, and assumed that high school students

Although I am deeply proud of my individuality and refuse to let any such experience change the way I feel about myself or my be-liefs, I find myself deeply concerned about this incident. High school is a time when many students are becoming the people they will be for the rest of their lives.

To grow, one must first listen to the voice we all have inside of us, guiding us on the long, often bumpy, road of life. This becomes a problem, however, when the voice is drowned out by a chorus of insults. Students must be strong and confident to be able to be their own person.

Standing out from the crowd is a condition that can be both beautiful and terrible. All social movements are powered by individuals who are not afraid or ashamed to show their true personalities or beliefs. These people are often adored for their

**"...many feel that because they are part of a majority, they will be supported ...and can thus voice their criticisms without consequence."**

There is nothing wrong with voicing your opinion, as long as it is done in a fashion that is not disrespectful or purposefully damaging to anyone.

Unfortunately, many feel that because they are part of a majority, they will be supported in their dissent and can thus voice their criticisms without consequence.

It is extremely important that students learn to ignore the majority. If they continue to be themselves and remain strong in their beliefs, they will eventually find like-minded individuals who are willing to befriend them on their journeys. Years from now, it is not the majority they will remember, but the close friends who helped them shape their futures.

As for all of those so offended by stage makeup and other breaks from the norm, they should try opening their minds before their mouths.

### Black History Month Timeline

1777 Vermont becomes the first American colony to abolish slavery

1773 Poet Phillis Wheatley becomes the first African American to publish a book, entitled *Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral*.

1791 Benjamin Banneker commissioned to lay out the D.C.

1851 Sojourner Truth, noted women's rights advocate and religious visionary, delivers her groundbreaking speech, "Ain't I a Woman?".

1857 Supreme court decides that blacks are not and can not become US citizens under the *Dred Scott v. Sanford case*.

1863 The Emancipation Proclamation is signed.



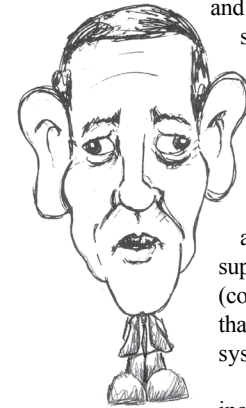
# Know your presidential candidates

Information compiled by Stephanie Foran '08, Magaret Bonnai '09, and Deanna Postlewait '10

Illustrations by Alex Parkin '08

## Mike Huckabee (R)

**BirthDay:** 8/24/55  
**College(s):** BS- Ouachita Baptist University, JD- John Brown University (1991), JD- Ouachita Baptist University (1992)  
**Spouse/Children:** Janet /John Mark, David, and Sarah Huckabee  
**Obstacle:** Public comments have drawn much criticism

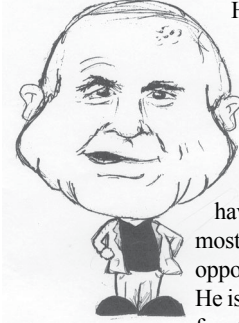


He is for the death penalty and anti-gun control. He is strongly opposed to abortion. Huckabee supports placing an amendment in the US constitution that would only legalize marriage between men and women. He would support the FairTax (consumption tax) rather than the current tax system.

His foreign policy includes supports of the War in Iraq and increase in number of troops present there. He thinks the Bush administration should consider using military force against Iran. He is also an ordained Southern Baptist minister.

## John McCain (R)

**BirthDay:** 8/29/36  
**College(s):** United States Naval Academy  
**Spouse/Children:** Married twice, first to Carol Shepp; Currently to Cindy Hensley McCain/Meghan, Bridget, John, and James McCain  
**Obstacle:** Has had recurrent skin cancer.

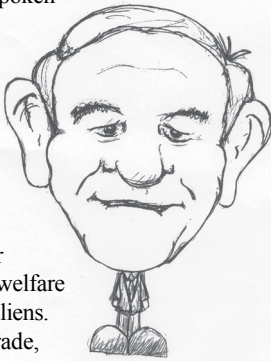


McCain's politics have been described as being mostly conservative. He opposes torture for POWs. He is pro-life and believes in free trade, favors private social security accounts, and opposes socialized health care. Supports school vouchers, capital punishment, mandatory sentencing, and welfare reform. He acknowledges global warming and his policies on the environment are more liberal than the rest of his party. McCain supports amnesty and eventual legalization for illegal aliens. He also opposes the legalization of marijuana.

## Ronald "Ron" Paul (R)

**Party:** While running as a Republican, Paul has previously identified himself as a Libertarian  
**BirthDay:** 8/20/35  
**College(s):** Gettysburg College  
**JD-** Duke University School of Medicine  
**Spouse/Children:** Carol Paul/Ronnie, Lori, Rand, Robert, and Joy Paul  
**Obstacle:** Has not seen much popularity in polls thus far

Ron Paul is the only 2008 Republican candidate to have spoken out against the Iraq War. He advocates bringing the troops home from all military bases. He opposes birth-right citizenship, amnesty and supports tighter border control and ending welfare benefits for illegal aliens. He supports free trade, and wants to abolish the IRS and Federal Reserve. Paul is strongly pro life. He favors the use of medical marijuana and opposes the War on Drugs. He has vowed never to vote for legislation unless the measure is expressed clearly within the Constitution.

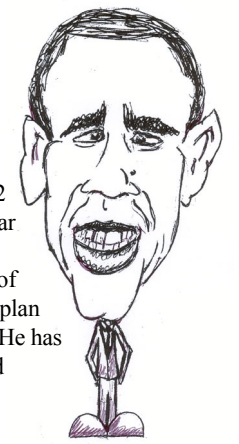


## Who'll be the next President?

## Barack Obama (D)

**BirthDay:** 08/04/1961  
**College(s):** BA- Columbia University (1983), JD- Harvard Law School (1991)  
**Spouse/Children:** Michelle/Malia and Sasha Obama  
**Obstacle:** Would be the first African-American President

Barack Obama was unable to vote on the 2002 Iraq War Resolution, but he is clearly against the war because of the remarks he made against President Bush in a 2002 rally. Obama is a staunch advocate of universal healthcare and believes that his insurance plan as President will cut health insurance costs in half. He has a record of supporting anti-global warming bills and believes that abortion should be legally available in accordance with *Roe v. Wade*.



## Hilary Rodham Clinton (D)

**BirthDay:** 10/26/1947  
**College(s):** BA- Wellesley College (1969), JD- Yale University (1973)  
**Spouse/Children:** William "Bill" /Chelsea Clinton  
**Obstacle:** First woman to run for President





Hilary Clinton supports reforms that would universalize healthcare by subsidizing insurance premiums for those unable to pay. Clinton voted in favor of the 2002 Iraq War Resolution.

She does not personally believe in abortion, but does not believe it should be made illegal. She supports making flag-burning illegal and is a strong supporter of anti-global warming.



## Black History Month Timeline

African Americans expand civil rights with the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

<p>1868</p> 	<p>1870</p> <p>Hiram Revels becomes the first African-American to serve in the Senate.</p>	<p>1881</p> <p>Booker T. Washington establishes Tuskegee University, the first U.S. institution of higher learning to have a black faculty.</p>	<p>1890</p> <p>The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) is founded.</p> 	<p>1890</p> <p>Madame CJ Walker becomes the first self-made African-American millionaire.</p> 	<p>1910</p> 	<p>1936</p> <p>Jesse Owens wins four gold medals at the Olympic Games in Berlin.</p>
--	--	---	--	---	---	--

# Tech Talk

## Wii goes mature with *No More Heroes*

Matt Neuteboom '08

What would you do if you spent all of your money on a woman at a bar one night and needed cash fast? Would you pick up a quick shift at work? Would you ask your parents? If you've played *No More Heroes*, the correct answer would be to hunt down the world's top assassins for money, fame, and most importantly, women.

Following their previous game *Killer7*, developer Grasshopper Manufacture and director Goichi Suda (aka Suda 51) continue their stream of quirky titles on the Nintendo Wii with *No More Heroes*.

The game is set in the fictional town of Santa Destroy, California, where you play Travis Touchdown, a video game nerd who becomes a hitman after winning a beam katana off of an internet auction.

After running out of money to buy video games, Travis accepts a job and kills the No. 11 ranked assassin in the nation, earning him the title, but also making him a target for other assassins. Soon he sets out to work his way to the No. 1



Travis Touchdown crosses swords with one of his rival assassins. Google Image

position by killing every other assassin along the way.

At a first glance, *No More Heroes* is a major departure from Suda 51's previous games. Rather than the serious, dark tone from *Killer7*, *No More Heroes* is ridiculous and over the top in every way. The quirky and cartoon-like atmosphere is one of the selling points of this game. This is only emphasized by the game's cel-shaded graphics and animations, which give the game an almost comic-book like feel.

The game is played similarly to the GTA series of games, with an open city to explore and people to meet. After you are recruited by the UAA (United Assassins Association) at the beginning of the game, you can go to them for jobs to take out high profile targets. Once you think you are ready, you can sign up to take out the next ranked assassin above you.

Travis utilizes his beamsword for most of the game. The thing is amazingly powerful, but that comes at a price, as you have to continually find batteries to power it. Luckily,

Travis was once a professional Luchador, so if you do happen to run out of batteries in the middle of battle, you can take down your enemies with wrestling moves.

In fact, Travis' character should be a huge indication of how absurd this game can get. His mannerisms, personality, and gestures borderline between crude and childish. With slicked back hair and stylish shades, it's no wonder that the developers chose to model him after Johnny Knoxville.

It is surprising to see, however, that there are some touchingly poignant moments during the game, especially when finally confronting the assassins themselves. It's a welcome surprise, as the deep moments mixed in with over-the-top fighting and humor gives the game a unique spin.

If you've been waiting to add some good games to your Wii collection, don't forget to buy *No More Heroes*. Even though it's had a relatively quiet launch, there's no doubt that it deserves to be played by anyone who enjoys an original and quirky game.

## Techknowledge by David Clements '08

# Technology for good or bad: it's your choice

David Clements '08

What numerous effects does new technology have on society? Opinions on this subject are extremely varied. Some people, like teenagers, think it's great; others, like grandparents, think it's making younger kids dumber. I think the answer lies somewhere in the middle. Like the old saying goes, "Whatever you do, do it in moderation." Sadly, this rule has not been followed in today's world.

Can technology help us? Absolutely. It's done so in the past. The only reason it has such a negative reaction toward it from a lot of people is because so many others use it in such stupid ways.

For example, take a look at cell phones. They could be a wonderful source of contact in case of an emergency. However, people abuse them by driving while using one, wasting them on pointless calls, and

now demanding that they come with things like cameras, television, and the internet. Now that cell phones have text messaging capabilities, the problem has only been exacerbated.

Another piece of technology that has the potential to fill the world with knowledge is the internet itself. Although it is currently unknown who exactly invented the internet, I'm sure he or she had really good intentions toward how it should be used.

But yet again, many people have completely ignored the vast benefits and use it for things like viewing pornography and becoming "famous" through YouTube. Some people are destroying their social lives by simply talking to friends through instant messaging programs as opposed to speaking to them in person. Some have even taken it so far as to break up with their boyfriend or girlfriends through these programs.

As well, people think that they are completely anonymous online, where they can get away with anything. As proven by the recent event of a thirteen-year-old girl committing suicide due to "cyber bullying," this way of thinking can have dire consequences. So it's not the fact that technology has such a negative affect

on people; it's that we keep abusing its uses and failing to see the great benefits of it. I don't think it's up to the government to regulate our use of technology unless it's something on the level of a terroristic threat. As long as the already-existing laws are followed, the government should stay out of it and deal with other things, like the war in Iraq.

Society itself has to make it unacceptable to abuse technology. It is our responsibility to show that its unacceptable to drive while using a cell phone, similar to the "don't drink and drive" campaigns. It all comes down to people using their brains to make intelligent choices. As they say, "Guns don't kill people, people kill people." The same thing can be applied here; "Technology doesn't make people stupid, people make people stupid."



People

# Combining humor and discipline

Jenine Pilla '08

The road of education is paved with various teachers that hold the key to a student's growing mind. Some teacher's lessons are glued to the facts of text books. But some teachers step away from that and teach from their hearts and see education as a complex matter that should be viewed from every possible angle. Mrs. Abigail Molotsky, a senior English teacher at Washington Township High School, feels that every student has an individual voice that needs to be brought forth through writing.

Molotsky's style of teaching varies drastically from traditional teaching methods. She holds class discussions in place of notes and works to put books that were written ages ago into perspective for a seventeen year old in the current age. She feels that students should view several sides of book or lesson to be able to draw a conclusion for him or her self. She explains,

"I like when people don't think inside of the box."

Mrs. Molotsky wishes to use her job as a

teacher to help improve the learning environment for the students and also present a new way to obtain information. She has concluded that "there is so much more to school than just work." She feels that students have the right to a bad day and she declares,

"Sometimes you just need to let the kid doodle or not pay attention."

Molotsky has come to the realization that she can not force her students to become permeable sponges and soak up all information and be able to put it to use. She knows that English class is a forte for some but a drag and an academic downfall to others. Her job is to provide students with the tools to do well and it is within their own power to put them to use.

"I can only show them they way" said



Lauren Finneran '08/ The Patriot

Mrs. Abigail Molotsky enjoys working with students and watching them appreciate learning.

Molotsky. She is on an endless journey to find various ways to present her teaching material in ways that a student can easily relate to. She strikes some by comparing a unit on education to Pink Floyd's *The Wall*, or by letting the vocabulary units be transformed by the students into incising games, or something as simple as a class discussion where ideas are thrown across the room like football passes.

Molotsky was born in western Pennsylvania and later moved to Bucks County where she spent the majority of her childhood and teenage years. Her life didn't stray far from the ordinary, her mother was employed as a teacher, her father a lawyer, while she and her younger sister were both well behaved, active children. While attending William Tennet High School, Mrs. Molostky was a member of the cheerleading squad as well as a devoted diver. She also had a great interest in the theater, which continues today.

Following high school, Mrs. Molotsky attended Brandeis University in Massachusetts where she graduated with a degree in English and then went on to graduate school at Universtiy of Pennsylvania.

During her time spent at college, Molotsky entered the world of teaching. While attending college, she met her husband Drew. Following the marriage, Mrs. Molotsky moved to her husband's home town, Cherry Hill, New Jersey, where they have raised their two children; Elana, 13 and Dara, 9.

After an experience of teaching within the schools of inner city Pennsylvania, she proceeded onto employment and Washington Township which she describes as being "not like anything I expected," but a place she loves and will probably spend the rest of her teaching career.

my teachers helped me."

Lawler has always viewed teaching as a noble profession but like most people he had a dream job.

"In the back of my mind, I always dreamed of being a rock star," he said.

Recently, Mr. Lawler has gotten to go on what he calls "a fantasy trip." Over two weeks he visited a few cities he had always wanted to see: Berlin, Dresden, and Prague. He enjoyed each for completely different reasons.

"Berlin was an amazing treasure chest of history (mostly depressing); Dresden was an emotional experience because of having taught *Slaughterhouse Five* for the past eight years; and Prague was an enchanting combination of ancient architecture and the effects of newfound democracy," Lawler said.

Students can visit Mr. Lawler during homeroom, second period, and fifth period. He enjoys visitors and loves to reminisce about the great times from previous years.



Alyssa Figueroa '08/The Patriot

Mr. Lawler likes to listen to contemporary folk music.

# Bringing literature to life

Kaitlin Shockely '09

He is well-known for the "Lawlerpalooza" that can be found on *Youtube.com*.

But not even the stories he tells in class give students a good enough idea of Mr. Christopher Lawler.

Lawler currently teaches eleventh grade English and has been teaching at WTHS for twenty-three years.

"I did some work here as a college student, so I was familiar with the community," Lawler said, "It was also the first job I interviewed for after college, and they liked me!"

While his students know of his eBoard where he lists his favorite books of all time, most don't know of his love of HGTV and contemporary folk music.

He also went on about his favorite teacher, Bill Rowland who taught eleventh-grade history. While he enjoyed Rowland's course English was still his favorite class in school.

"I always enjoyed reading and writing," he said. "I had so much respect for my teachers, and I thought I would like helping kids the way

# New courses offer options

Matthew Grieche '10

The 2008-2009 school year will see the addition of many new courses in the Science and language department, and a new Sat Review course.

The science department will not only experience the addition of several new courses, but also the rearrangement of the course sequence for the different levels of students. In replacement of the IPS science class there are now three courses taken from freshmen year to junior year that incorporate many different areas.

Also, several new semester courses have been added to the list These new courses are all College Prep. They are, Astronomy, Marine Biology, Forensic Science, Topics in Genetics, and Human Biology. Marine Biology, is linked to Astronomy and covers topics from chemistry of seawater to marine

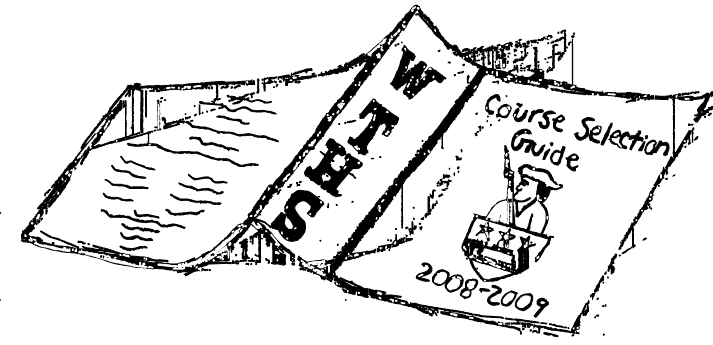


Illustration by Bradon Heath '09

ecosystems and does not include a lab course.

The new Forensic Science course is linked to Topics in Genetics and they cover areas such as DNA fingerprinting with polymerase chain reactions, chromatography in the forensic, and then traits and mutations in the Topics in Genetics class. Human Biology is intended for students who

do not wish to take a higher level course such as Anatomy and Physiology, but still want to gain a basic understanding of human anatomy.

The science department has gained another Advanced Placement class, increasing the total to four, with the addition of the AP Environmental Science course. This course will benefit those who intend

to major in environmental studies in college. It includes some math and requires knowledge of algebra and it will meet unit requirements in most colleges. During the class, students will learn about topics such as pollution, global change, and population dynamics.

The language department will also see the addition of two new courses. This year, the Chinese level course was added, and in the next year the school will begin to offer the second level of Chinese. Also, the Italian one course will be offered next year to juniors and seniors. In the Italian course basic language skills and culture will be taught.

WTHS will begin to offer a SAT review course, that will incorporate both verbal and math studies. This course is a marking period class, in which the students may choose the marking period of their choice, and it will be scheduled Monday through Thursday, as a ninth period.

# Big school strains student relationships

Stephanie Foran '08

With hectic schedules, difficult classes, and extracurriculars out the wahzoo, most students at WTHS know what it's like to see only a few friends a day. If you are really lucky, you see one, maybe two.

Unfortunately for high schoolers, everyone's schedules are so different it's hard to make time just to relax. Strained relationships are one of the most common problems about high school, but also one of the most fixable.

By simply hanging out with the people they like best, many students find some relief from the demands of school, college applications, sports, and clubs. However, with an overload of homework or a part-time

job, it proves to be harder than it should be. Caroline Baptist '08 can never find time to see her old friends due to schedule conflicts and the vastness of the school.

"One of my friends takes all art classes and she's in Little A all day," stated Baptist, "None of my classes are even near that part of the wing."

Girlfriends and boyfriends are also feeling the sting of distance and schedules. Most couples get to see each other once or twice a day and a few minutes before periods. But fortunately, most couples don't believe the scheduling problems make a difference in how they feel.

"I see my girlfriend one period and [occasionally] between classes," said Cameron Kane '08. Rachel

Brown '10 doesn't see some of her friends because they aren't in the same classes as she.

"I only see my best friend at the end of the day and if I see her in the hallway, we can't even talk because there's so many people!" exclaimed Brown.

Despite the conflicts that spawn from this common problem,

many students can find relief in the weekends or days off. It's the only time where old friends, new friends, and couples can hang out and just be together.

Days off and weekends are a blessing. If one really wants to keep a friendship strong, that's what you have to do. It all comes down to the student and the decision they make.

**Hit The Polls on March 11**  
**Vote!**  
**on the Solar Panel Project**  
**Noon to 9 p.m.**  
**at Washington Township High School**

More than 250,000 people from all over the United States participate in the March on Washington.

1963



*Roots*, the story of an African American family, becomes the most popular television program in history.

1977



General Colin Powell becomes the first African American Secretary of State

2001

1964  
President Lyndon Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act.

1967  
Thurgood Marshall becomes the first African American justice on the Supreme Court.



1983  
Guion Bluford becomes the first African American to go into space.



# Commentary

## Take charge

Nikki Black '08

Many students question whether or not it is important or rewarding to take on leadership roles and responsibilities while in high school. With heavy workloads, other extra-curricular activities, or part-time jobs, students may feel that taking on a leadership role will only lead to added stress.

After being one of the directors for this year's Senior Directed Cabaret, I feel that students should make one of their goals in high school to take on a leadership role. The responsibility did lead to added stress, but the finished product was well worth everything I had to go through.

From picking out the skits, to casting, to rehearsals and the show, every new task proved a challenge. I'm not going to lie and say that the show didn't lead to added stress, because at times it drove me crazy thinking of all the things I had to get done just for the show, and not even counting my usual responsibilities.

However, dealing with the stress of directing has made me a stronger and more organized person. I had to learn very quickly how to direct a large group of people effectively and make the most of everyone's talents.

If I had not directed the show, I would not have the appreciation I now have for directors, or the confidence to take charge in front of a large group of people. Students should not be afraid of taking on leadership roles, because there are always people willing to help, and the experience will prove to be rewarding and worthwhile.

Senior Directed definitely changed me as a person and was one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. Washington Township High School provides numerous opportunities for students to step up and take charge. Taking on such responsibilities gives students confidence, skills that will help in all areas of life, and, most importantly, a chance to shine.

## America's youth avoids voting

Mary Faralli '08

The newest generation of voters have been labeled by older generations as apolitical and been branded by critics as apathetic.

We are seen as insatiable consumers of pop culture, as we eagerly swallow the glamour of Hollywood and truly believe that by joining a Facebook group we have done our part in protesting the war.

We have left older generations searching for that youthful passion that once stirred changes in politics. To rid ourselves of the passiveness that has characterized our generation, an increase in youth vote is essential.

The 2008 election will give our generation a chance to change this label that was so unfairly placed on us, and let us step up to the challenge.

Why is today's youth not exploiting their democratic right to vote? People between the ages of 18 and 25 have historically had the lowest voting turnouts. In the 2004 Presidential elections, the youth vote peaked at 47 percent, its highest rate ever, yet still trailed behind the other age groups. Conditions are ripe to change these voting statistics and let our voice be heard. The candidates



Lilyann Ling '08

reflect our generation's ideals for change and, for the first time in American history, the Democratic nomination has branched out from what is considered traditional candidates, and remains between a woman and an African American. Our votes have a chance to make history. Our generation has argued that we

**In 2004, the youth vote peaked at 47 percent, it's highest ever, yet still trailed behind the other**

can't change anything anyway, despite voting and protesting, and the candidates don't appeal to young people. With the youth voting turnout so low, they don't feel they have to. If young people were to have an increase in votes, politicians would be forced to listen and act on our beliefs if they wanted to get elected to office.

Teenagers today are the most

educated generation to grace the voting polls. Being immersed in technology since birth, we have access to unlimited amounts of information within seconds. With the television and Internet, we have become more socially aware and conscious of the problems facing the world today. In the midst of a crumbling economy, a war on foreign soil, the problems with Social Security, and a deteriorating environment, young people need to realize that our apathetic generation may cost in the future. The youth vote is crucial because this election will reflect how these problems are going to be dealt with and will heavily affect our lives in the near future.

I believe that our generation needs to become more politically aware. We need to regain that feeling of activism that defined our parent's generation. Our generation has to realize that their voice and their vote can evoke change.

## The Patriot

Issue 5 - March 2008

Editor-in-Chief - Alyssa Figueroa '08

Senior Editor- Rich Elles '08  
News Editor- Margaret Bonanni '09  
Commentary Editor- Mary Faralli '08  
Features Editor- Nicole Heath '10  
Lifestyles Editor - Taylor Cohen '08  
Odds & Ends Editor - Lauren Finneran '08

Tech Talk Editor - Matt Neuteboom '08  
Entertainment Editor - Steph Foran '08  
Book Editor - Katie Mount '09  
Sports Editor - AJ Nisbet '08  
People Editor-Sarah Kurtz '10  
What's Happening - Lillyan Ling '08

Photo Editor - Gina Parker '09  
Layout and Design - Journalism II  
Printing - Mr. Dale Biebel, Ed McGuire '08, Perry Wilson '09, Maria Brasco '10, Phil Jaffe '11  
Advisor - Mr. Jim Evangelisti

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

The opinions expressed in the Commentary section and all articles labeled as opinion, as well as all reviews and columns, are the views of the writer indicated in the byline. They are not meant to represent the views of The Patriot staff, the students of Washington Twp. H.S. or its administration. Unsigned editorials are meant to reflect the views of the publication.

Please send all correspondence to: [wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)

# Odds & Ends

## Batman vs. Superman The Ultimate Battle

Katie Mount '09

For over sixty years one question has been asked. "What's the question? Is it: *why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?* Or *why does the Easter bunny carry eggs?* We all know bunnies don't lay eggs." Oh no, neither are the question. This question is stickier than glue and more epic than the Easter bunny. It's Superman vs. Batman, if they fought, who would win?

In this corner of the ring, coming from Gotham City, we have Bruce Wayne, otherwise known as Batman. Bruce is a suave, wealthy business man, who likes to indulge in the finer things in life. He is unintelligent and a pompous playboy that lives off of his father's fortune.

However, this is all an act to throw off any suspicion regarding his other identity as Batman. In reality he is an extremely clever man with intense martial arts and acrobatic skills. With his intelligence, he invents gadgets that aid him in his crime-fighting abilities. He stores them on a utility belt that he wears; therefore he is always prepared with weapons on hand. Batman also outwits his opponents by always being several steps ahead of them.

In the other corner, we have Superman (aka Clark Kent or Kal-El). As a child, Kal-El was born on the alien planet of Krypton. His father sent him to Earth because Krypton was very close to being destroyed.

A married couple from Kansas found the baby and raised him under the name of Clark Kent. When Clark became older he developed super-human powers. He takes the identity of Superman and uses his powers to help those in need.



Alex Parkin '08

Superman's powers appear to be unlimited. He has super-strength, super-speed (which includes fast reflexes), vision powers (ex: x-ray vision), super-hearing and countless other abilities. Unfortunately, like most superheroes, he has a weakness. Superman can't go near Kryptonite, it renders him powerless and leaves him in excruciating pain.

So who would win? Superman could crush his mere human competitor. Batman could strategize his plan of defeat, but with Superman's fast reflexes he'd be prepared for anything Batman would throw at him. It seems that Batman would be at an incredible disadvantage.

However, there is still hope for Batman. Batman made himself into a hero, so he has no true superpowers. Although that may seem like a drawback, it also means that he has no true weakness, unlike Superman. Batman is *always* prepared and would know Superman's weakness, he would most likely have some handy-dandy Kryptonite in that utility belt of his.

There are many factors to take into account when answering this question. The answer is we will never know. The more important question is, if they are both fighting for the same cause, then why are they battling each other in the first place?

## New Jersey Firsts

*The first...*

- boardwalk in the world was built in Atlantic City (1870).
- drive-in movie theatre was built in Camden County (1933).
- national historic park in America was built in Moorestown (1933).
- airplane passenger flight was from New York to Atlantic City (1919).
- saltwater taffy was produced at the Jersey shore (1970s).
- condensed soup was cooked and canned in Camden County (1897).
- professional basketball game was played in Trenton (1896).
- Miss America was chosen in Atlantic City (1921).

Compliments of [www.state.nj.us](http://www.state.nj.us)

## January Puzzle Answers

### Word Unscramble

1. winter
2. snowman
3. hot chocolate
4. cold
5. snow day
6. icicle
7. martin luther king
8. snow
9. sleet

Final message: snowstorm



# What's Happening

## DODGEBALL TOURNAMENT!

6PM - 9PM

TUESDAY  
MARCH 19TH

11/12 GYMS

## the all school musical: "Seussical the Musical"

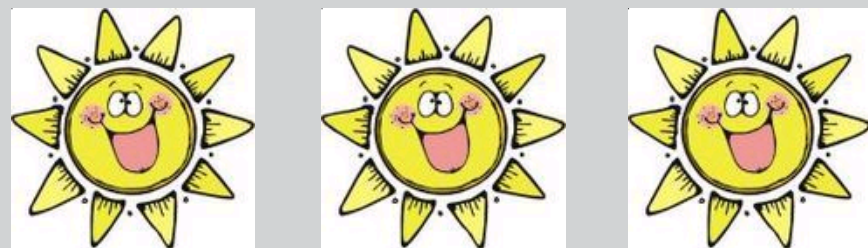
MARCH 13 & 14 MARCH 15

7:30PM 3:00PM

11 / 12 AUDITORIUM



## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SOLAR PANEL REFERENDUM



**VOTE: MARCH 11, 2008**  
**WTHS 12PM - 9PM**

## Commerce Bank Arts Centre upcoming events

Event	Date	Ticket Prices
Blast!	Thursday, Mar. 13 7:30 pm	\$47 - \$57
Sweet Honey In the Rock	Friday, Mar. 28 8:00 pm	\$28 - \$52
Ring of Fire (The Johnny Cash Musical)	Monday, April 14 7:30 pm	\$47 - \$57

## S.U.R.E. PRESENTS ACOUSTIC COFFEEHOUSE



March 7  
6:00pm - 10:00pm  
\$5.00  
Cafe B

# Washington Township land disappearing

Kevin Whitehead '10

On the ride to school you really can notice a change in our town. You can see the newly built Walgreens and the new brick house on Ganttown Road being worked on everyday. These are just a few examples of the land slowly disappearing. The house that had formerly been where the new Walgreens stands, had been there since the township was established. The developments of these commercial stores are cluttering the town. Land has become scarce due to a surplus of development throughout the town. There is no wildlife or farms anymore.

What initially made the township prosper has all gone to big businesses and housing. At one time a farmhouse stood at the local



Lilyann Ling '08

Ganttown Plaza. Now there is Forman Mills, Commerce Bank, and Giuseppe's Pizzeria taking its place. Across the street from Chestnut Ridge Middle School, there was a farm known as Haines' Farm. It was a cattle farm where much of its dairy

products were produced. Now there is a large housing development at that location. And catty-corner from our very own school was the original Bunker Hill School. The district was given an offer for the property by Rite Aid that could not be passed

up. All that remains is a bus lot. In addition, Hurffville, Bells, and Whitman Square were the original developments. Now there are three more elementary schools to provide for the new expansions. In 1979, Thomas Jefferson was created, Wedgewood in 1970, and Birches in 1968.

On a positive note, our town's population is steadily growing. The houses are now occupied by new successful employers.

To an extent, construction needs to be monitored. Contractors need think, "Is this really a necessity in our town?" If you ask me, I don't think we need a Walgreens and then a block down have a Rite Aid. Two Pharmacies within one square mile is flat out ridiculous. I guess people were just sick of waiting at that one light separating the two.

## U.S. women ready to lead

Katelyn VerSprill '10

The United States of America has undergone dozens of changes since its creation. It has fought war with other countries and one within itself. This country and its people have witnessed presidents make major mistakes, survived the Great Depression, and seen the Twin Towers fall. Despite all of this, we have prevailed, proof that the country can change and adapt as the punches are thrown at it. Why then, is it impossible for Americans to even consider the option of a woman as president?

A recent newspaper story has called Hillary Clinton "unelectable" simply because she is a woman. Even though she is not a personal favorite of mine, this outraged me. This country has seen triumphs and tragedies alike yet it cannot fathom the idea of a female in power.

Women have made tremendous strides in recent years. Many have found their place in

**A recent newspaper story has called Hillary Clinton "unelectable" simply because she is a woman.**

further than our Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. Today, it is not uncommon for a woman to have better knowledge about making a



**On the international stage, Hillary Clinton would join the list of famous women executives, including (clockwise from top) Golda Meir (Israel), Margaret Thatcher (Great Britain), and Benazir Bhutto (Pakistan)**



spreadsheet than a fried egg. Women no longer want or deserve to belong in the June Cleaver role of the obedient house wife.

Old-fashioned thinking does not belong in politics. The country has handled so much in its two hundred years. I personally think we are ready to handle a female in office, not only because it would be a drastic change from the norm but because it would show that women can do the work of a man.

Calling Hillary Clinton unelectable is unfair. While she may not be my favorite, it is wrong to discriminate against her because she is female.

## Be a part of the Writers' Bloc!

Sign up for Creative Writing & Journalism

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

Talk to your counselor or see/email

Mr. James Evangelisti (D-8) for more details.

**All schedule changes must be made before June 2, 2008.**



A Patriot Special Feature

# College Costs Clarified

An education well spent?

Learning about the fiscal considerations for college

## Four year universities vs. community college

Katie Mount '09

With college application deadlines rapidly approaching, seniors are finding themselves anxiously waiting to hear from their choices. Some may even *just* be starting their applications. The biggest question for most is where they will attend. Sometimes it is hard for students to choose between somewhere close to home, like community college, or going away to a university.

There are many advantages to attending community college. The biggest benefit, which is why most attend community college, is the cost. Community college is nearly four times less expensive than a university. According to <http://www.nj.gov> (the official website for the state of New Jersey) the tuition for a full time student attending Gloucester County Community College is only \$2,880 per year. This is significantly less than attending a university, especially if the school is not in the state you reside. Depending on the school, out-of-state tuition can be nearly \$10,000 more than tuition for state residents.

Another aspect of cost is room and board. Those who attend community college are able to live at home and commute to school. However, students who choose to go away to a university will typically choose to live in a dorm. Those students will be facing a large cost for room and board alone.

For example, The University of Delaware charges around \$7,000 for room and board. Their out of state tuition is about \$19,000. So for just one year, a student will be paying an estimated \$26,000.

For those who are not able to afford the cost of a university, community college is a reasonable choice. In the state of New Jersey, there is a program called NJ Stars. NJ Stars allows students within the top twenty percent of their graduation class to attend community college tuition free. In order for students to continue to be covered by NJ Stars, they must take at least 12 credits and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Once the two years of community college are over, there are universities in NJ, such as Rowan University, that will continue to allow students to attend tuition free.

There are also many advantages to attending a university. Universities offer more in-depth, specific classes for subjects. With these particular classes, the student will be able to select courses that particularly interest them.

Take Psychology for example; a university would offer several dozen different selections, such as Abnormal Psychology, Child Psychology, or even The History of Psychology.

Another advantage to attending a university is the ability to receive a bachelor's and a master's degree. Students who attend community college can receive these degrees, but only if they transfer into a university. Most times, transferring to a major university can be stressful. Sometimes schools don't accept certain credits from community college, so attending a university from freshman year is a good way to avoid the trouble of transferring.

Also, a university offers greater social advantages. When going away to universities, students meet people from all over the country. They can bond over classes they are taking, future careers, etc. They receive the "college experience" of living on their own.

So when students think about post-secondary education, they should know that there are advantages to *both* choices. The key to making the right choice is sitting down and deciding what's going to work for you.

## College costs around the world

Lauren Finneran '08

For many US college-bound students, the high cost of tuition is one of the biggest obstacles to overcome. This issue of tuition costs is not a similar obstacle in many other countries around the world as the burden of college tuition is lifted because college is nearly free. Any student contemplating college costs probably thinks that this is a win-win deal. Although on the surface this idea seems to solve all problems, there are definitely down sides to it.

Canada, France, and many European countries offer free college tuition, but it is not only economically stable countries who have

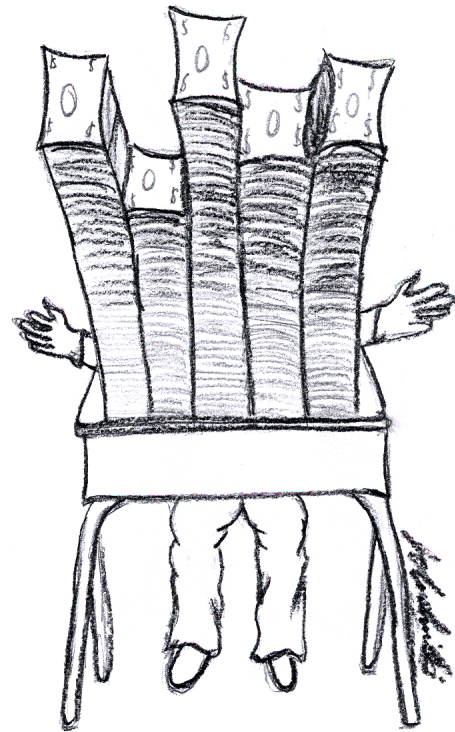
adopted this idea. There are many former communist countries in Eastern Europe that offer free education in public universities. In many of these countries, the free public university education provided is better than private education.

The Heritage Foundation explains that these countries provide this free tuition by raising taxes to incredible heights. In essence, the people are still paying just as much, but just not directly for education. The downfall to this system is that these highly taxed countries have little growth and high unemployment rates. All people can obtain a college degree, but many graduates are forced to live at home after they are until they

well into their 30's. These people cannot afford to live on their own because there is virtually no job market and the incredibly high taxes make it worse.

While the cost for college can be incredibly low in foreign countries, it is continuing to rise in the US. According to USA Today, the average tuition cost for a public 4-yr. college has risen from \$9,258 in 1996-1997 to around \$12,796 in 2006-2007. These prices continue to rise every year. In New Jersey alone tuition has risen 9% from 2005 to 2006.

Although college tuition in the US is on the rise the downsides to free college in foreign countries makes everything even out in the long run. No matter where you go in the world, there is always a price to pay for education.



John Sculli '08

# Ivy League going loan-free

Matt Neuteboom '08

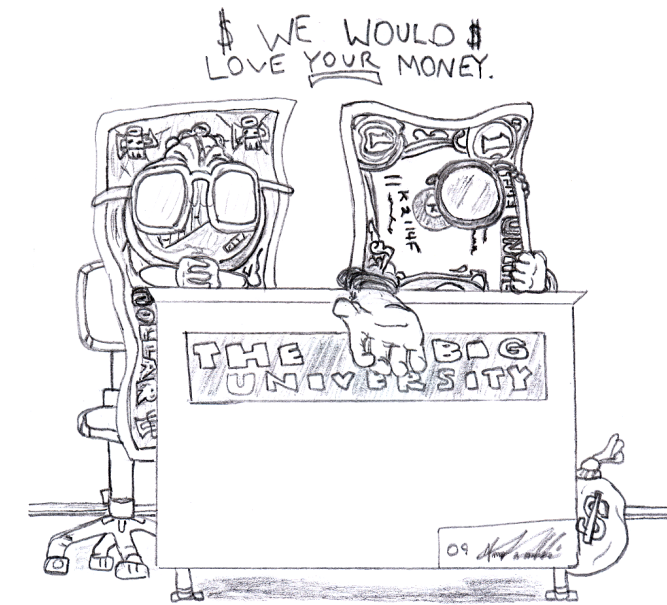
For years, college costs have been the subject of many tireless rants by students everywhere. However, now that some colleges have decided to eliminate loans from their financial aid packets, we may have one less thing to complain about.

Universities all across America, including Harvard and Yale, are now offering loan-free packages to students. This decision was made in order to increase the diversity of colleges, as well as encourage middle and lower class families to enroll.

Instead of relying on loans, colleges will calculate a family's payments based off of their annual income, and cover the rest of the cost with grant money. By doing this, families will pay based off of what they can afford, and will no longer have to worry about taking out costly loans for college.

These announcements follow the same ground-breaking decision made in 2001 by Princeton University, which promised to lower the financial burden on students.

These decisions go against a trend in colleges today of loans making up a large portion of student financial aid packets. In breaking that trend, these colleges are setting a precedent for other universities to follow. Universities that have already made this decision to eliminate loans are Harvard, Yale,



Vincent Davidoski '08

Princeton, Williams, Pomona, Amherst, Swarthmore, and Bowdoin.

With costs peaking at over \$40,000 a year for the nation's top colleges, this news comes as a blessing for debt-ridden students. It means that the country's top-flight schools may start to become affordable. Students may no longer have to choose their 2nd choice college simply due to cost constraints and an education will no longer have to be forgone because of money.

What it doesn't mean, however, is free college. Despite the fact that loans have been eliminated from packages, families will still be

required to pay a substantial amount of money to attend the college.

While theoretically this opens up college to a broader range of the population, it remains to be seen whether these techniques will prove effective. The main deterrent to other colleges following suit is that only those that receive large sums of grant money, such as the Ivy League schools, can afford such a move.

Still, it is a giant relief to many students to hear this news. By doing this colleges are recognizing that costs are a problem and are actually doing something to fix it. This in itself is worth celebrating.

# Private vs. public colleges

Mary Faralli '08

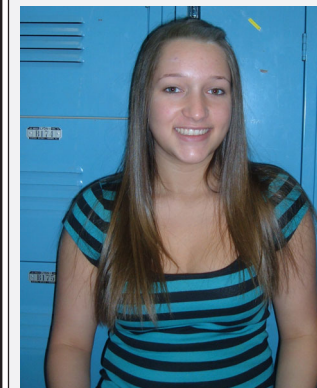
Despite claims that one will receive a better education from attending a private university, the main difference between the two is the cost to attend. Private universities are entirely dependent on their tuition to fund their expenses, but public universities are given financial aid from the state, which allows them to cut the cost of tuition. For example, New York University, a private university, has a tuition of \$35,290 per year, no matter what state you lived in previously. A public university such as Rutgers University has an in-state tuition of \$10,686.

However, private universities do offer more scholarships - and the scholarships are for more money as well. The cost between a private and public university may even out after scholarships are taken into consideration. Thus, students should avoid focusing on sticker prices.

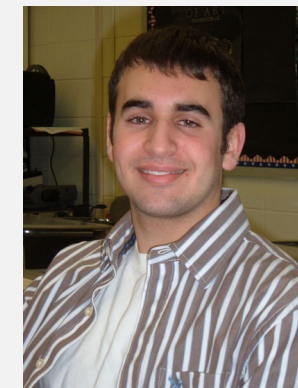
Usually private universities offer students smaller class sizes and therefore allow students a more interactive experience with their teachers. Typically, a public university tends to be much larger and students may not be able to have as intimate of an educational experience. Also most private universities' names are sought after, because students may believe a university is more prestigious than another one solely because of its name tag. However, these "college stereotypes" are not always the case. A public university may have small classes. A private university may have huge lecture halls. And your interview, not the name of the college you attended, will likely be more of a deciding factor when it comes to getting a job.

A student's college experience is not solely composed of which school they choose to attend, but rather, what they do during their time on campus. Your college experience will be what you make it.

### Is the cost of college going to affect your choice?



**"Yes, it is going to be a major deciding factor."**  
-Rozanna Barqawi '08, planning to attend Rowan University



**"No, I want to go to a college that suits me best, not pays me best."**  
-Nick Linker '08, planning to attend University of Virginia



**"It wasn't at first, but when UPenn announced its new no-loan program, it was a plus."**  
-Cristina Virgilio '08, attending UPenn