

The Patriot

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WTHS Musicians Honored

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Reuben Gutierrez '05

Wilson Hall of Rowan University was filled with talented young musicians on Sunday, January 9th. A multitude of musical instrumentalists – percussion, woodwinds, brass, and mostly string musicians – from over seventy of southern New Jersey's public, private and home schools gathered together to perform at the Annual South Jersey Junior and Senior High School Orchestra Concert. Though some people may think of this as just another orchestra concert, young musicians prepare intensely to audition and perform for this highly regarded ensemble.

"There is a rigorous audition that takes place in December," stated Norma Meyer, WTHS orchestra director. "Students must prepare scales, a major solo piece, and [are given a musical composition for] sight-reading." Music students of middle schools and high schools from the region of the lower third of New Jersey are eligible to audition. For the strings section, about 200 people try out, and the competition is very intense.

"Many students who audition are not accepted," stated Meyer. The SJ Orchestra only admits approximately 90 string students – 48 violins, 16 cellos, 16 violas, and 10 basses. This year, the orchestra also had a harpist. In addition to string players, the SJ High School Orchestra also includes a variety of woodwind, brass, and percussion instruments, to create a full symphony orchestra.

To prepare for her audition, violinist Amy Goldberg '08 began working on a Viola and Violin Concerto, practicing scales, and sight-reading all the way back in June with her private teacher Ana Tsinabze. Violist Tanisha Northcutt '05 began work on her solo piece in May. In November, her private teacher, Mrs. Byrnina Socolofsky, held a master class for all her students in which each student performed his or her solo piece and was critiqued by a member of the Philadelphia Orchestra.

The students had to perform in front of a panel of judges on the Saturday audition. Jim Wilson '07 wasn't nervous, but stated: "The judges were nuts!" After a very long day, the news of the 2005 South Jersey High



Photo courtesy of Tanisha Northcutt '05

WTHS members of the South Jersey orchestra pose proudly
with their instruments.

School Orchestra was proclaimed. Thirteen musicians from Washington Township High School were selected. Sajaa Ahmed '06, Jeremy Bernardo '05, Amy Goldberg '08, Dan Rogers '08 and James Wilson '06 were part of the violin section. The viola section included Paul LaRaia '07, Anna Lee Markano '08, Allison Murawski '08, Tanisha Northcutt '05, and Melissa Van Thuyver '08. Kelly Stinson '06 helped complete the cello section and Matthew Lemmel '06 was selected for the F Horns.

After reveling in being selected, the lucky students began work in learning and rehearsing the music. First there was a "Reading" at Rowan University in December in which the musicians sight-read the classical music to be performed. They were then left to practice and learn the music on their own until the weekend rehearsals before the concert. On the Friday prior to the concert, students were dismissed from school for an eight-hour rehearsal starting at 9 a.m. and ending at 5 p.m. Another rehearsal was held on Saturday at the same time.

After all their hard work, the musicians finally performed on Sunday. This year's program included *Joyeuse Marche* by Emmanuel Chabrier, *Notturmo, Op. 40* by Anton Dvorak, *Matinees Musicales* (No. 1 – 5), by Benjamin Britten, and the *Berceuse* and

Finale of Igor Stravinsky's *Firebird Suite*.

For Northcutt '05, SJ Orchestra is something she delights to take part in: "Well this will be my 6th year being selected and I really enjoy playing in the concerts every year and working with the different conductors."

This year's conductor for the High School Orchestra was Jack Moore, who is the Ambler (PA) Symphony Orchestra's Music Director as well as the Program Director and classical music announcer for the Temple University Public Radio Network. Moore has conducted for many musical ensembles in Philadelphia and Ocean City, NJ, but also across the Atlantic in Bulgaria, Russia, and the Czech Republic.

"He's the best conductor I ever had. He was so funny," said Wilson '07.

"He really found a way to relate to the kids," added LaRaia '07.

The SJ Orchestra is not merely just a prestigious musical ensemble. Meyer stated that one of the greatest things about SJ Orchestra is "having the experience of meeting people from many other places, sharing a common interest...People make lifelong friends." Meyer even knows of some people who have met their future spouses at SJ Orchestra.

Overall, the hard work of the members of the SJ Orchestra certainly pays off as the students indulge in a fantastic social and musical experience.

Teacher, Director, Theater Advocate

Senior English Teacher is Triple Threat

Darby DeCicco '05

Senior English teacher Mrs. Abby Molotsky is doing more in her spare time than just grading papers. Molotsky and her husband own and run the Triple Threat Performing Arts Center and the Triple Threat Foundation for the Arts, two separate organizations dedicated to supporting performing arts.

The organizations originated about fourteen years ago when Molotsky and her husband, who was having trouble finding work as a director, used some of the money

they had received at their wedding to finance a show.

Since then, they have put on several shows a year and their small community theater has grown into the Triple Threat Foundation for the Arts, a non-profit organization that produces both straight shows and musicals. When the number and size of the theater's productions began to grow the Triple Threat Performing Arts Center, a school that gives lessons in singing, dancing, and acting, was created to offset the cost.

"It's a lot of time," Molotsky says of being involved in theater

productions, "but it's well worth it. Theater is one of those things that can totally change your life."

It is this belief in the power of the theater that compels Molotsky to encourage students of all ages to get involved with various aspects of theater. Once a year, she directs Triple Threat's children's show and this



Photo courtesy of www.triplethreat.net

The Crucible, which ran in December of 2003, was one of many shows the Triple Threat Foundation for the Arts has put on.

year's production, *How to Eat Like a Child*, recently wrapped up.

"I think being on stage for kids is so rewarding," she says. "And giving that opportunity to a kid who's never done it before really changes their life."

Molotsky emphasizes, however, that kids don't have to be on stage in order to get involved in theater productions. Every year, Molotsky enlists students from her English classes to help out with Triple Threat's children's production. Some students show up to hand out programs and sell

concessions, while other WTHS students lend their musical or technical talents to the production. And while passing out programs might not be a life-changing event, just getting involved, in Molotsky's opinion, is the most important part.

"You're never too old to decide to get involved," Molotsky says.

Information about getting involved in Triple Threat production or taking classes of any level at the Triple Threat Performing Arts Center can be found online at www.triplethreat.net.



Ashley Horan/The Patriot

Senior English teacher Mrs. Molotsky has always been involved with the performing arts.

IMC Gets New Database

Mike Jones '06

Now is the time of year when those dreaded thesis papers tend to strike. For anyone who has ever done a paper on something that didn't occur in our lifetime, finding information can be difficult. However, there is good news for all procrastinating teens: The school library has gained access to a new database that gives students a look at newspapers, like the *New York Times*, dating all the way back to the 1850's.

"So far, people have been down here using it for projects on the 1920's," says Miss Gaughan, a school librarian and my escort through the database.

This new section of the WTHS Informational Media Center really seems to have struck gold. Previous to this database, the way to obtain an old newspaper was to use a gigantic machine tucked in a corner of our library and view micro film. The problem with micro film, of course, is the part about it being micro. This new system offers students the benefits of a newspaper by means of something as modern as the internet.

Perhaps the most beneficial element in this new database is the fact that it is easily accessible from home. Providing that a student has the passwords to library databases listed in our assignment book, and also available in the library itself, one can access this program and find actual news stories dating anywhere from 1850 until 2000. This means no more looking through biography after biography and just not getting what you need.

A newspaper is a look at the past and should be used to a students benefit because a society with no news isn't a society at all. This new section could very well be the key to any thesis paper. That's why the library not only offers the *New York Times*, but also news papers from all over the country. Kids can find out just what happened on the day they were born or read of Al Capone's last scandal.

Whether it's Herbert Hoover or Albert Einstein this school's got it. With an easy-access database that provides such a wide range of news papers, who shouldn't use it to their advantage? So for your next paper, hit up the library for more than just a book and walk out with a newspaper.

Conference culmination of great year for Model UN

Jamie Valentine '05

The Model UN Conference in Hershey, PA on January 7, 8, and 9 was the culmination of this years Model UN Club at Washington Township.

The Conference is held once a year at the Hershey Convention Center. Model UN students from three states simulate a real United Nations conference with students representing countries in the General Assembly, or on a committee like the International Criminal Court.

Christie Mason '06, president of Model UN, says, "The Conference is a great experience. Getting to know the students is awesome. The kids here, they're different. They care for each other; they are unique and kind-hearted students."

This conference is a chance for future diplomats to have a hands-on learning experience in debate and international politics.

Christine McGuire '05 says,

"We get a chance to debate and talk about things that matter. It's something everyone should have a chance to do."

The Conference is not only a great learning experience for future diplomats, it is also a fun time.

According to Jerry Cedrone '07, "Model UN is absolutely awesome. It was one of the best experiences this school year. There's no way to describe how fun it is to those who haven't done it."

Stephanie Foran '08 is a first-timer to the club and to Conference. "I thought it was fun. We talked about the Arab-Israeli conflict. It was fun [pretending to be] in 1944."

The faculty advisor is Mr. Rufus Jordan, who is retiring from Model UN and teaching at the end of this year. "They're a great group. I just take them [to Conference]" says Mr. Jordan. "The officers basically run the club, I just do the paperwork." Model UN has closed for this school year. It begins again next September.

Faculty, staff shine in talent show

Rob Czyzewicz '06

Thursday, February 17, the Faculty Talent show raised over \$5,000 for Project Graduation and the Renaissance program.

Show directors Mrs. Debbie McFadden, Mrs. Criquelette Norris and Mrs. Pat Brown combined their efforts to create an enjoyable event.

The WTHS House Band, included, among others, Mr. Greg Janicki on guitar and Mr. David VanAntwerp on the piano. The band set the tone for the evening with their rock music medley in the beginning of the program.

"It does feel good to be here with the house band to have a good time," said Janicki with a smile.

Emcees Mr. Joe Bollendorf and Mrs. Joan Wisniewski were warmly welcomed by the near capacity crowd, as they led of the show with a musical number.

The large audience made it to the show, despite a bit of snow earlier in the evening, and they were ready to have a good time. Teachers with an Attitude, a singing medley, was the first act. The songs included in the act were "Rolling on the River" with a Tina Turner look-alike and "Hit the Road Jack" with a dead-on Ray Charles impression.

Not long after, Mr. Jerry Cullen and Mr. Rich Ambacher played the Muppet critics as they dressed up the two old men. Their funny performance enchanted the crowd.

The guidance department followed with their rendition of Aretha Franklin's "Respect." The audience was very involved in this performance as they clapped and sang along while watching the counselors dance on stage.

Next, Mr. Chris Lawler performed musical numbers along with Mr. John Steinbeck on guitar. During their first song, the suddenly mellow crowd took out their lit cell phones and swayed them back and forth to the flow of the music. It was quite a

sight to see.

"That's the first time I've ever seen cell phones used that way," Lawler jokingly said between songs.

The two performers then sang the 2005 Graduation Song, "Time of Your Life" by Green Day much to the delight of the senior crowd.

Cullen and Ambacher stepped out of their roles as critics to rap "It's All Good" which profiled the great things about the students of WTHS.

Other acts in the show included "The Main Event" which was a boxing related choreography.

In addition, Mr. Jack Bozzuffi

performed a sing along which included the songs "Under the Boardwalk" and "Brown Eyed Girl."

Mr. Marty Bouchard then made the crowd smile as he made it rain in the CBAC with the help of the audience.

Generation X was a fan favorite, as the crowd watched some of their favorite teachers in a dance that featured some MC Hammer moves by Mr. Chris Mitchell and Mr. Costa Tsoukalis.

"Generation X was the bomb. We were one of the best acts out there" explained an excited Mitchell. "We just dominated that show."

Bouchard soon came back on, this time with Mr. Robert Hart, to give their tribute to The Beatles. They sang "Hard Day's Night" among other favorites.

One of the strongest crowd reactions of the night was for custodian Mr. Henry Land who sang a Gospel song. He received a standing ovation as he walked off the stage.

After the last dance with all performers on stage, the crowd gave the faculty a very nice round of applause to show appreciation for all of their talents.

Oratory highlights debate team effort

Ashley Horan '05

Wrapping up their season on Wednesday February 16th, with a record of 8-4, the WTHS debate team placed second in the Douglas division.

"I think it was a fantastic season. We really excelled," said team advisor Rosemarie Borkowski.

Eastern H.S. came out on top in the Douglas division, just edging out Township.

Northern Burlington, from Lincoln division, won first place overall after defeating Eastern.

Key performances throughout the season came from Jordan Ledvina '05 and Greg Springstead '06, who both debate for the negative team and Christen Mason '06 and Sajaa Ahmed '06, affirmative team members.

Besides bringing home a second place trophy, the team was also proud to have a Varsity member, Jordan Ledvina, win an individual award. Ledvina was presented with a plaque that declares him the best speaker from Washington Township for the South Jersey debate.

Putting all modesty aside Ledvina said, "It was expected, but



Ashley Horan '05/ The Patriot

Jordan Ledvina was selected best speaker on the WTHS team.

it still felt nice to hear my name called."

This plaque is presented to one member of the team every year. After each debate team members are ranked and whoever comes out on top at the end wins the award. This did not come as a surprise to Ledvina because its something he's been working towards.

"Every debate I try and learn

from my opponents and incorporate what they do into my own speaking," says Ledvina.

The team would like to give recognition to the Model UN advisor, Rufus Jordan, because of the direction and assistance he has given them regarding new legislation of the UN.

"We tried to stay aware of every new bit of information regarding the UN," said Borkowski.

Even though their hopes of competing for the first time in a championship debate were not fulfilled, the team is happy to have placed in the top three. Every year they place either second or third overall, and they become more and more motivated to reach that top spot.

Borkowski has few worries about how the team will fare next year.

"We always build from under, and we've got a number of freshman and sophomores who are interested," she says.

She also can't forget to mention the juniors who are an integral part of the team now.

"With Greg and Christy and Sajaa coming back...that's a strong Varsity team," she says with assurance.

SURE preps for acoustic coffeehouse

Jamie Valentine '05

On April 8, the SURE club will be hosting its third annual Acoustic Coffeehouse in Cafeteria B on the 11/12 side. The SURE coffeehouse has been a long-standing tradition at Washington Township High School as a way for local musicians to showcase their talents and get recognition and on-stage practice.

Kelly Vaden '05 of Llamas-A-Go-Go says, "Coffeehouse is the easiest way for high school bands to get exposure."

The acoustic version provides a chance for spoken-word poets and kids sitting on chairs with their guitars a chance to be heard.

Vaden says, "Acoustic is nice because it gives a slightly different group of people a chance to show off their musical chops." Jackie Kurth '05 says, "I prefer the acoustic version. Not only because I play acoustic, but I just like the sound better than all the distortion and screaming."

The Acoustic Coffeehouse does have its drawbacks. Since the coffeehouse crowd tends to be on the

boisterous side for electric coffeehouses, it can be difficult for the more mellow acts of the acoustic coffeehouse to be heard above the dull roar.

"When you don't have an amp to back you up, it's harder to get people's attention. Last year there were problems with hearing some of the acts. Hopefully they've done something to fix that," says Vaden.

Since this is likely to be the last coffeehouse of the year, it is bittersweet for many graduating seniors like Kurth.

"I played in last year's acoustic coffeehouse, and I signed up this year because I wanted to be a part of it again before I graduate. I will definitely attempt to come home from college to see our school's future coffeehouses," she said.

Some of the acts at this year's acoustic coffeehouse include Nascence, Llamas-A-Go-Go, Alex Kouroupos, and many others.

The Acoustic Coffeehouse is April 8. It runs from 6 PM until about 10 PM. Admission is four dollars and proceeds go to the SURE fund.

Learning to fear the rainbow

Lindsay Zoladz '05

In March of 2002, the Department of Homeland Security launched an alert system that was designed to warn uneasy Americans of any imminent danger in the wake of 9/11. Three years later, this is old news. "Terror alert" is now a common household phrase, and finding out what kind of alert the country is under is now as simple as flipping on CNN and reading that pesky little crawl at the bottom of the screen.

We're all growing so accustomed to this that I don't think many people have really stopped to think about what is going on. We have a terror alert. *We have a color-coded system put in place by our government, telling us how afraid we are supposed to be at any given moment.* Tell me that this is not something straight out of 1984.

The system is absurd. It uses colors, which increase in intensity from cool blues and greens to fiery oranges and reds. For the forgetful and possibly the color blind, they've also put corresponding words to the colors. How thoughtful. The only problem is that the words they chose are quantitatively ambiguous; I mean, can



Illustration by Cassidy Matos '07

any of us really tell the difference between "high risk" and "elevated risk"? I know math can be scary too, but really, using a simple 1-5 scale wouldn't have been *this* confusing.

When the terror alert increases, it makes national headlines. But what are we *really* supposed to do on an individual basis? Should a shift from yellow alert to orange alert prompt me to buy soup and bottled water in bulk and hide in my fallout shelter?

Somehow I doubt it. If there's nothing I can do personally to protect myself, then I'd rather not be informed of an "increase in terror" at all.

Also, I'd like to know which mystical government official is who's in charge of raising the alert. They say it's prompted by considering lots of different factors, but I get the feeling that it's more like predicting the weather by your grandmother who thinks she gets a "funny feeling" in

her left knee every time it's going to snow. Somehow, I bet the effects of the terror alert are a lot more calculated than the actual alerts themselves.

All that this system has done successfully is work us into a national frenzy. In the age of terrorism, of course we're all going to be more alert than we were before. There is a fine line between awareness and paranoia, and I think the terror alert has really blurred that line. The government has us right where they want us now, on the edges of our seats, trusting their every whim, and I'd be willing to say that they're going to keep us in this uncomfortable position for a long time. Because, honestly, do you really think they're ever going to drop that alert down to "low?"

Maybe it's just me, but if there's imminent danger looming on the horizon, I'd rather not know. Whoever said, "ignorance is bliss" had a good point. Personally, I've stopped paying attention to how scared the government wants us to be, and I'd suggest the same kind of change to anyone else. I still would like to be informed about current events, but when it comes to fear, I think I can handle that myself.

Making a stand for flip-flops

Mark Natale '06

As last spring came upon us, you got your normal signs that warm weather was on the way. The sun was out, you had your common April shower, and flowers were starting to bloom. But it seemed that an epidemic was spreading among some of the WTHS faculty.

The main symptom: The urge to strictly enforce the most pointless rule in the student handbook.

Typically, as the weather gets warmer, students start to shift their wardrobe into temperature appropriate clothes. Many students feel they would be more comfortable wearing flip-flops instead of your typical sneakers. However, as that springtime teacher epidemic showed all of us, flip flops are strictly forbidden.

It seemed a day didn't go by last spring without hearing of a student getting written up, sent to restriction, or given a detention because of wearing open toe shoes. My only question to the Township administration is this: Does this really make sense to you?

The first on a long list of nonsense reasons for this rule was cleanliness. Teachers would tell you that it is unsanitary for your feet to be open in our schools.

I'm going to take this time to really hope that no teacher was serious when saying that.

Although WTHS is generally a clean school, anybody who has walked the halls or been in the bathrooms knows that open toed feet are not going to cause any more problems than we already have, so I am going to assume the teachers were just messing around on that one.

Secondly, the administration points out that the open ends on flip-flops cause safety hazards when walking up the steps. This reason, although barely better than the last, at least has a little bit of logic behind it. However, in the 2 years I have spent here at WTHS, I have never heard of anybody getting hurt as a direct result of their flip-flops. I would be hard pressed to find someone who actually has.

After arguing awhile, you always get to that point in a teacher/student conversation where the teacher simply

does not want to listen to the student anymore (most of the time, I don't blame them at all). So then you will most likely hear a very cliché phrase.

"It's a rule; I'm just doing my job."

This reason is the only one with any truth behind it. Technically, it is the teacher's job to enforce the rules, and they can be penalized if the administration finds out they are not. That is what makes me wonder. Why is the administration forcing teachers to comply with this rule that only hinders the educational experience of our students? Should kicking a student out of class because of his shoes, thus prohibiting him from learning, really be a teacher's job?

I don't think it's fair to make the teachers do that.

There have been rumors floating around that the administration will no longer enforce the "no flip-flops" rule, and if that is the case, I would like to personally thank whoever made that decision. Hopefully now, we will not see the hypocrisy that plagued an otherwise fine WTHS administration last spring.

*Third
Annual
College
Fair*

Wednesday

April 13

6:30-8:30

9/10

Gymnasium

Bracelets an expression of individuality

Chris Heim '05

The popular Livestrong bracelet can be seen everywhere these days, they are simple rubber bracelets that donate money to cancer funds. This is a great idea, the classic fund raiser. They're only a dollar, and it's for a good cause, so it is an easy way for everyone to do there part in the fight against cancer. I am all for the Livestrong idea. Now, some people want to outlaw plastic bracelets and make it so that you can only buy Livestongs. That is just plain silly.

Recently several similar looking bracelets that are not for charity have come out. Now really, is there anything wrong with that? I can understand getting worked up over people that sell Livestongs claiming that they are for charity, but these are clearly just for fashion, and they are not for charity. You can't give a guilt trip to someone for buying a bracelet. "Well why don't you just buy another Livestrong?" is what I hear. Well maybe I want a green bracelet and I'm tired of yellow. That doesn't make me a bad person. I may have already bought a Livestrong, I may have not, but that is certainly no ground to point fingers and accuse me of not caring about the cause.

Charity is a great thing, but the thing about charity is that it is under the discretion of the person donating. That's why it is called a donation. Any sort of help is appreciated when it comes to charity, and you should not feel bad, or be scolded for not giving enough. If you want to buy 30 Livestrong bracelets, more power to you, I certainly would like a green one though.

Send your letters and opinions to:

WTHSPatriot@gmail.com

More than a fashion statement

Darby DeCicco '05

We've all become familiar with the bright yellow Live Strong bracelets sold in an effort to raise money for cancer research and education. The bracelets were created by the Lance Armstrong Foundation and are engraved with Armstrong's own personal motto: "Live Strong." Buying the bracelets is supposed to be a way to give to a worthwhile organization, while wearing them is supposed to show support of those struggling with cancer.

When, then, did these bracelets cease to be aids for an important cause and become a trend instead?

Rubber band bracelets have become a simple fashion statement, and while when the bracelet mania started the bands were sported by people supporting Armstrong, and later by those supporting other charities, the trend has recently become nothing short of outrageous.

Suddenly, you can buy rubber band bracelets in almost every store. They are no longer only popular because they promote awareness or raise funds. These bracelets have become a way for kids to collect their favorite colors or, worse yet, they've become substitutions for the real thing.

I was in a store recently when a woman asked an employee if the store carried Live Strong bracelets. The employee explained to the woman that the store carried other rubber band bracelets, but not Live Strong. The customer seemed not to mind, and bought several of the bands.

This enraged me.

Money that could have gone to a worthwhile cause was lost in this transaction, and many others I'm sure, to nothing but the pure profit of store owners and manufacturers. While people once appeared, at least, to buy these bracelets because they wanted to support a good cause, they now seem to be more concerned with following the trend.

Those who support the trend claim that Armstrong did not invent or patent the idea of wearing a piece of rubber around your wrist, and of course they're right. Legally, store owners have every right to sell any bracelets they choose and the public has the right to buy them.

But even something legal is not always right. To me, it seems despicable that store owners choose to provide outright competition for a charitable cause, and even worse that consumers choose to spend their money on bracelets bearing the words "Kiss Me" or "Diva" rather than contributing to a worthwhile cause.

I felt certain, when the Live Strong trend began that it would remain just that; a pop culture phenomenon centered around the unifying sentiment of charity and awareness.

Imagine my disappointment, now that I've realized it has been turned into nothing more than another fashion statement.

Keeping up with Jonesy by Mike Jones '06

London calling

At a young age I discovered that my life's ambition was not to be a fireman or a police officer like in movies. There were never any normal childhood dream-futures for me. I never expressed desire to be some kind of hero, I wanted one simple thing: to be a rich British person.

No Euro-trash for me, I wanted to go straight to the top and do nothing to get there. Now some may be wondering at this point how an American kid from the suburbs of New Jersey can possibly become a rich Brit. I'll tell you, ladies and gentlemen, I plan to get a large inheritance from an unknown relative, become a British citizen, and work on my accent to complete the look.

The British culture has always fascinated me, why can't we Americans use superior slangs like "bobby" or call French fries "chips" instead of our overly patriotic "freedom fries?" I want an unruffled butler that "butles" and a garage full of strange foreign cars that I would never drive. My dream-future includes yours truly sitting around in a red smoking jacket (bathrobe), wearing slippers, and a pipe in my mouth talking about the economy with my "good old chaps" using the word "quite" as much as humanly possible.

In a predicament like mine, one resolves in something as simple as a name to spark their dream. I figured

in order to achieve my version of perfection, I would need a ridiculously long name with random, but well-placed letters and numbers in it. Certainly, my name would be too generic. I would need one like "F.J. Collinworth IV" to get anywhere in my goal.

People tell me I'm psycho, insane, crazy. Take your pick, but

hey it's my future and I'll do whatever the blazes I want to with it! (Just practicing) After all, I was always told to reach for the stars regardless of where my star happens to be.

With that being said, the next time you're in Yorkshire touring the country side and happen to pass Collinworth Manor, make sure you stop by.



Illustration by Helen Zeng '05

Students becoming ungrateful

Reuben Gutierrez '05

Too many times, I've heard fellow students at Washington Township High School complain about how our school is the worst. Students have complained about the loads of schoolwork we get, the teaching ability of some teachers, and an endless list of other things.

Frankly, I am rather annoyed that my fellow students find so many faults in our school and school in general. They don't realize that there is so much that our school offers.

From a local perspective, WTHS is a wonderful public institution of South Jersey. Our township has been praised for its school system and many of our new neighbors with children have come here for our public schools. WTHS offers a plethora of classes, programs, clubs, sports, and activities. Aside from the usual academic classes, there are programs in art, music, drama, business, writing, family and consumer sciences, and technology.

All students should be able to find an elective that suits their interests. In addition to the diverse choices of classes, students may find their interests in the many extra-curricular activities that our school offers. There are so many WTHS sports and clubs that space does not allow naming them all.

Another thing students complain about is the climate control of the school. It is true that sometimes our school seems a bit drafty, but that doesn't mean our school has no heat. If it did not, the halls and classrooms would be like refrigerators.

Besides, many of the people who do complain are dressed as if it were spring or summer. For crying out loud, it's wintertime! The school is not supposed to turn the heat up so that everyone can walk around in short sleeves.

As far as academics, WTHS offers us a fine education. Some people have complained about the terrors of their teachers and how they can't do their jobs. First of all, none of us have ever taught a high school class for a living and may have no idea of what it takes to control and teach a class. Though some of our teachers may appear to teach a little differently than normal, they are still offering students some form of education.

High school is not elementary school. There are no teachers to "spoon-feed" students information. They did this when we were in Kindergarten because we didn't know anything yet. Many teachers teach in



Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

a way where it is up to the student to conclude about the day's lesson. That's learning.

The biggest problem I see with dissatisfied students is the attitude of the students. The negative feelings towards school just make the school day longer and harder. Sure schoolwork and homework can be cumbersome and annoying, but, that's life. Hard work is something we have to deal with now and forever. Many students don't realize that real life and work can be A LOT harder. School is like a snippet of the real world, thus preparing us for life.

Honors students have complained too. I am one such student and have also moaned and groaned about school. Though this is just what I was asking for. Honors classes are called "honors" for a reason. Teachers expect that students are able to work at an accelerated level. If students are having difficulties, it is up to them to seek extra help or make sacrifices to spend more time in their studies. We should be challenging ourselves with difficult work to grow both academically and personally.

All students of America should be very grateful for the education they have. In many third-world countries, kids don't have the chance we have since they are in need of teachers, books, or facilities. Due to some

geographic, financial, or government issues, they may not even have access to school at all. We are very lucky to have the great school system our government makes sure to give to its people.

Everyone should be grateful for what he or she is blessed with and should quit whining about what they don't have. The anti-school students should stop wasting their time and everyone else's time on something they don't

desire. Their moaning and groaning and bad attitudes are ruining the educational experience that other students value. If students absolutely loathe school and can't stand it, they should just quit school, go out into the real world, try and find a job, and see which they like better.

Education is a privilege and if it is not valued by some, then those people should learn to appreciate it, otherwise they do not deserve to have it.

The Patriot

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Comics

UPCOMING SEQUELS OF 2005

By Brad Grandrino '07



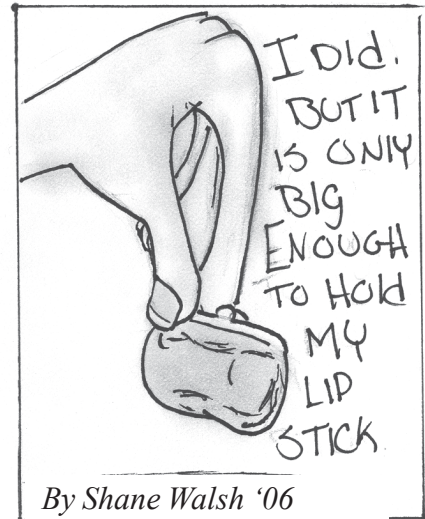
By Shane Walsh '06

Welcome to the new Comics page!

We'd like to make it a section.

Interested cartoonists should drop their work off in D-8 or send it to . . .

wthspatriot@ gmail.com



By Shane Walsh '06

Features

To Your Health by Steve Dunn '06

Curbing the epidemic of American obesity

The most common medical problem facing America's youth today is obesity, and its effects are much more serious than many realize. Obesity, the term used to describe people who are at least 20 percent over their optimum weight, has reached epidemic proportions in this country.

Whether a person is overweight or not depends on several factors. Amount of exercise, diets, genetics, gender, and homelife play key roles into whether a child, adolescent, or teenager may start to experience weight problems. According to WebMD, girls are more likely to struggle with their weight than boys of the same age. WebMD studies also show that having an overweight and/or single parent also increases the chances of having weight problems.

When looking for factors contributing to child obesity, television always comes to the front. The youth of today watch TV excessively. Over thirty percent spend at least five hours a day watching TV, rather than choosing activities which could burn off more calories. Kids who spend their afternoons in front of the TV typically consume more calories than they burn.

Soda is a key contributor to obesity. According to WebMD, the typical American teen consumed 20.6 gallons of soda per year in 1979; that number rose to 64.5 gallons per year by 1994 and the number most likely has continued its substantial rise. A Harvard study on the matter showed that kids who drink soda regularly take in 200 more calories per day than kids that don't drink soda; this number can translate into a 5 to 10lb weight gain in a single year. Along with contributing to obesity, excessive consumption of drinks often leads to nutritional deficiencies as well.

Having increased access to soda and junk foods has also contributed to the rise of obesity and weight problems. Many schools now have numerous soda and snack machines in the building. According to the National Soft Drink Association, these vending machines are present in over 60% of our nation's high schools and middle schools; students spent over \$750 million at these machines in 1997. However, some schools, such as our own, are taking measures to improve schools' diets by offering

more nutritious and smaller portioned lunches, and by having vending machines containing soda unplugged until the end of the day.

Physical Education has seen a steep decline as well. Over 60% of high schools in the United States today do not have physical education classes. In many schools that still offer physical education, the class period is shorter and less demanding than it has been in previous years.

Obesity can also lead to other conditions. Recent research has shown that it has a direct relationship with the development of Type 2 Diabetes. According to *Nursing Spectrum Magazine*, up to half of all new cases of diabetes in young people were Type 2 Diabetes. At the same time, obesity in young people has tripled. The development of Type 2 diabetes is called the "first consequence of the epidemic of obesity in young people," by Dr. Dyck Thomassian. Overweight or obese people are also more likely to develop other medical problems, such as elevated cholesterol and blood pressure, apnea (lack of respiration), and heart disease.

The number of obese Americans increases every year; experts have dubbed this phenomenon that nation's fastest growing public health crisis.

Confessions by Darby DeCicco '05

... of a guys' girl

I am a guys' girl.

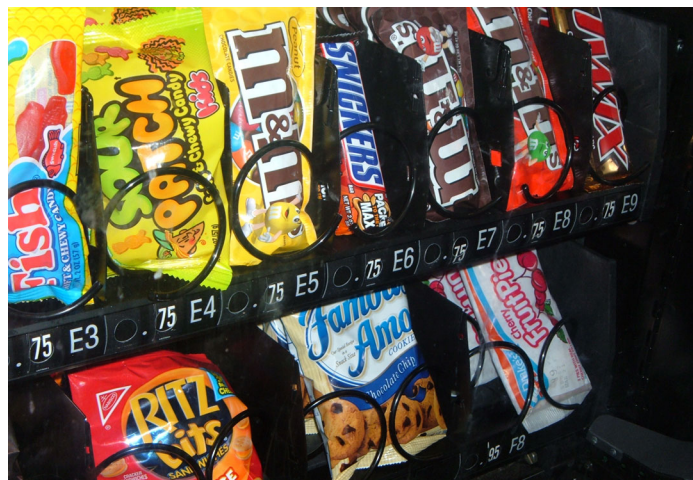
I am the kind of girl who likes being friends with boys better than girls.

Actually, if you want to know the truth, being with a group of girls for too long can sort of make me feel like I'm trapped in a scene from *Mean Girls*. Most of you out there probably know exactly what I mean. No matter how much you love your best girlfriends, lying, arguing and a little bit of back-stabbing will always be a part of friendship between girls.

And that's fine.

But recently I've discovered that being friends with boys is a lot easier.

To begin with, when you're friends with a group of boys, you never have to impress them. There's no competition about who looks better than whom, and you never have to get ready to go out wondering what everybody else is going to wear.



Laren Van Antwerp '05 / The Patriot

A factor contributing to obesity may be the unhealthy snack choices confronting our society.

Obesity is a result of changing social patterns as well as television and computers increasingly take the place of outdoor activities, and soda becomes an ever more popular beverage among Americans. Sixty percent of adults are either overweight or obese. This is a disturbing trend considering today's youth live in a more modernized society in which the value of physical fitness and good dieting has gone by the way side.

While schools and other public institutions are starting to make efforts to instill better habits in today's youth, the trend will not change unless our nation's youth become more physically active and concerned about their health and well being. If the current trend continues, we can look forward to a future generation of adults with multiple health problems and increased morbidity and mortality rates.

Next, there's the sensitivity factor. I've discovered that usually you can just tell boys if you think they're bad drivers, if you hate their new shirt, or if you've made plans with your boyfriend that night instead. Girls will

...being with a group of girls for too long can sort of make me feel like I'm trapped in a scene from *Mean Girls*.

take these candid statements personally. Boys just don't care.

Finally, shameless though it may be, hanging with the guys means you can always play the gender card. Being a girl in a group of boys means you never have to scrape the snow

off your own car, you'll always get the most comfortable seat in the room, and no one will ever eat the last slice of pizza without offering it to you first.

Of course, there's a time and a place for everything and even for me there's a time for girlfriends.

After hearing the 100th reason why Ashlee Simpson is hot or spending a couple hours wondering how it's possible for guys to spend a couple hours playing *Grand Theft Auto*, I start longing for someone who will watch *The O.C.* with me and then go shopping for shoes.

Still, even shoes aren't enough to keep me hanging with the girls too much. All the magazines, nail polish, and heart-to-hearts in the world can't change the fact that deep down, I'd give up girl's night in for boy's night out any day of the week.

Timeless elegance for any occasion

The most essential piece of clothing in a woman's wardrobe is the timeless little black dress. Introduced in 1926 by Coco Chanel, the little black dress has become the safety article of clothing for every woman. Owning a black dress, as many women do, allows you to be able to throw on a classic that fits any occasion. Ever been invited to a last minute formal event, date, or party without time to go shopping first? Having that little black dress in your closet can be a lifesaver.

As with any type of clothing, there are guidelines to follow for finding that perfect little dress. First, look to see what your best feature is. If you have a strong back and shoulder area, try a halter dress. If your chest area is large and you know you will need to wear a bra with the dress, do not buy a strapless one.

When picking a more fitted dress, be careful not to accentuate large hips with a tight, stretchy gown. Finally, look for a well-made dress that will last long and make you look fabulous time and time again.

When shopping for that perfect black silhouette, remember that simplicity is elegant. Do not overdo your ensemble with glitz and glam; make it classy with one main focal point. A plunging neckline, open back, and high cut slit do not mix well. Pick one out of the three and combine

that element with a less flashy dress. Revealing too much will not make you look stunning; it will only make you look "trashy".

If you were wondering where you can go to purchase a little black dress for your wardrobe, there are several options. Since there is not one store

that sells solely black dresses, you have to do your homework. First, try to scope out sales at your local department stores. Sears, JC Penney, Macy's, and Strawbridge's are likely to have what you are looking for in a variety of sizes. The best way to shop for something like this is to go when

you are not rushed and will feel no pressure to buy. Think about going shopping in the summer, when black dresses are not in demand. Chances are there will be several dresses that these stores are dying to get rid of at clearance prices around \$50. If you wait until black dresses are in demand for the holidays, there is less of an opportunity to find the perfect one for you, and you will most likely end up paying more than necessary.

If the mall just does not cut it for you, do not give up, there are always other options. Having a black dress custom made for you can get pricey at about \$175, but it would be well worth it to have a dress that fits you like a glove.

If this still is not an option, try a designer cut. Usually designers such as Donna Karan and Bill Blass differ in their style, cut, and size so their dresses might be right for your body type. Try to keep in mind though that designer dresses can be quite expensive at about \$300-400.

Whichever way you go about finding that little black dress, it is your mindset that is most important. As long as you think about the image you want your dress to portray for you, and you shop with that in mind, the right dress will reveal itself to you.

Remember that you are the one wearing the dress; do not let the dress wear you.



illustration by Cassy Matos '07

Make-up Your Mind By Ashley Mackowiak '05

Color palettes vary dramatically for day and night

All women should know there is a different makeup style for your family life than your nightlife. Often times, the two worlds collide and a mess occurs. There is not a style for a fun night out and too much makeup for the days at home. Here are a few style tips that can build on any daytime look to make you look stunning after hours.

During the day, you want others to see sleek, subtle makeup, but when night comes, you want them to say WOW! The main focal point you want to accent on your face is the eyes. Take off that matte-finished eye shadow and go crazy. Shimmer, color and shine are three good words to keep in mind.

The best way to show off the eyes is to add color. Many women cringe at the mere thought of adding color on your eyes. Color today is nothing like it was back in the '80's when blues and purples were spread across the entire lid. When used cor-

rectly, color can complete any look. The best way to put the eye shadow on would be to put a neutral color over the lid, from the crease down. Then, take your color, applying with a small brush, on the outside corner,

Many women cringe at the thought of adding color to their eyes. Color today is nothing like back in the '80's...

as close to the crease of the eye as you can get. The most important thing to remember is to blend the two colors together.

The best colors for a nighttime look are not purples or blues like back in the day. Today, deep greens, browns, grays and pinks are all the rage. When mixed with black, the eyes really pop. You can do the same thing with the black as you did with the other colors.

First, prep your eye with the color you want to use, and then accent it with the black shadow framing the color around the whole eye.

The smoky eye is a great way to step up the makeup for night. The key is not to blend too many different shades of dark colors. Stick with either a gray and black or just a deep gray. Once the color is on, take black liquid eyeliner and add a thin line right above the lash-line. Use lengthening mascara and put numerous coats on to make them extra-thick. The smoky eye look is complete.

The other obvious way to change your look is with lips. Use a



Lauren Van Antwerp '05/ The Patriot

Consider the time of day as well as the occasion before applying liners and shadows.

rich color, as in brown or red to subtly darken the lips. Do not apply fully so they are bright and dark. A subtle color on the lip is perfect in contrast to the extreme eyes. Now the night has come and you are ready to party all night long!

Myspace fills black hole of boredom

Tom Reed '05

If you spend a good amount of time on your computer, chances are you've heard of the online networking program known as Myspace. Myspace users create an online profile that includes their likes, dislikes, basic information, and pictures, and other users can choose to add them as friends based on that. Once a user adds another user as a friend, he or she can then leave comments in their profile and contact them for discussion. The amazing thing about this program is how quickly it's growing and becoming as popular as other communication programs such as AOL Instant Messenger.

Myspace is changing the way people converse with each other all together. "It's a cool way to meet people you might not talk to otherwise," said Myspace user Keith Hallion '05. Many people who are shy in person are very outgoing on Myspace. Families with family members that live far away can now contact each other easily. Some people use Myspace for dating. People in general that live far away can have conversations with you without having to pay a ridiculous amount of money for a long distance phone call.

"It's just something else to do on the computer when I get bored," said Myspace user Leslie Charles '06.

More teen posturing

Ashley Horan '05

My Space is sweeping across the computer screens of teenagers all across the country. It has become such an addicting phenomenon, almost as severe an epidemic as Instant Messenger. Almost everyone has a Myspace profile; however I am not one of them. Honestly, there is nothing about Myspace that I find appealing, and I refuse to make myself a member of this community.

MySpace is basically a community of internet users who create their own "space" for others to come and leave comments on. Probably the most hilarious part of this precious space is the pictures one chooses to plaster for the world to see. It almost seems like some sort of contest to see who can have the better looking picture, or who can say the most about themselves in a single photograph.

Something else that makes me laugh is the online fighting that occurs over the Myspace domain. There are

I myself am a user of Myspace, and I think it's a really great program that is revolutionary. I find that it's a lot of fun to add new friends and make changes to my profile and such. A couple times, I've added people as a Myspace friend and then seen them

Michelle Devuono '06

When asking around school, five out of ten students implied that Myspace is in fact a positive website. While with only one negative, the remaining four votes were neutral. The general answer as to why people use Myspace is that you get to meet new people.

"I met a lot of people who go to our school that I didn't know went to our school and now I'm friends with them," stated Sami Corrado '06'.

Another reason why people choose to create a Myspace account is because it gives them something to do in their spare time.

"While I'm at home on AIM, not really doing anything, I sign on to my Myspace and see what other people wrote in my comment section, new friends and messages, and new groups that I can join," confirms Dianne Leone '05'.

There is a part of Myspace where

some kids out there who use the internet to say things they don't have the courage to say to someone's face. I even forget that we're in highschool sometimes because of the ridiculous comments people are leaving for one another. When it comes down to it, I feel like I'm in elementary school again. Wasn't anyone ever taught, "If you don't have something nice to say, don't say anything at all," and especially don't say anything behind someone's back that you can't say to their face.

It seems to me that Myspace has just turned into another place for teenagers to fight over "who's cooler than who" or "I have more friends than you" war that they fight in school everyday. The only difference is that they're a little braver when they're in the comfort of their own home, allowing themselves to be more courageous and blunt with their comments. Well I hate to break it to you, but it's time to get over yourself. No one thinks your cooler just because you dissed that "loser" on Myspace.

later in person. Myspace is like AOL Instant Messenger, only more fun in my opinion, because of the profiles and pictures.

Overall, Myspace is becoming a very popular program because it's fun, and it gives people something to do

when they are bored. More and more people I know are asking me if they have a Myspace account. People like to stay in touch with people they don't see as much, while meeting new people as well, and Myspace helps them do that.

Really just harmless fun

users can become a member of various groups. One group in particular is the Washington Township High School group, started by a 1998 graduate by the name of Jaelyn. The group features students and alumni. There is a message board accessible where people can leave posts.

It is a very good source of communication, especially for alumni who attend college out of state. The group is open to the high school staff as well, but there are no staff members as of yet. There is an abundant amount of members engaging in the Washington Township High School group. Currently, there are 325+ members. The number amplifies day after day.

"I like Myspace because you are able to express yourself in the journal section and with the colors you get to choose," said Dana Dondici '08'.

Other students seemed to agree with Dondici in that it is a special way to show people who you are. Also, being able to receive comments on your photos, is a

confidence booster. On the other hand, some students show apprehension about other people seeking your personal information.

It's up to you to realize when enough is enough. Taryn Ortlip '07' speaks out about how you can prevent distrustful people from sending you messages or keeping them out of your profile's viewing.

"You can approve or deny friends if you'd like, almost like AOL Instant Messenger."

No matter what, people will think what they want to think. There are many reasons why Myspace could be a positive site and why it could be a negative site.

All in all, Myspace.com clearly states that it is just a fun way to communicate and make new friends. "Use MySpace to meet new friends, meet a new person and perhaps spark love interest, inform your circle of friends with info on current events, or start an organization or group with people that share the same ideas as yourself." Harmless fun.

The Lighter Side of Township

Like the '92 Olympics

... only different



photo courtesy of Ms. Donna Costa

Ms. Donna Costa wasn't surprised when a group of juniors in her class asked if they could form their own volleyball team for Phys Ed. class. She was shocked when they showed up in uniform. Here are the members of the new Dream Team. (l-r) Chris Scarpinato, Derek Gertz, Ms. Costa, Carmen Dondici, Bob Colozzi, Kevin Gibson.

Entertainment

Damien Rice's *O So Good*

Keith Hallion '05

Too many times have I turned on the radio and found myself pressing the seek button frantically trying to find something the least bit absorbing. I've come to realize that sadly enough, the current media being played on the radio is bland and generic, appealing



photo courtesy www.damienrice.co.uk

Damien Rice astounds listeners with his first full length album, *O*.

to only the least intellectual of listeners who are willing to poison their ears unknowingly. The untalented rap and second-rate rock playing in excessive rotation on mainstream radio is what's unfortunate about today's music scene. It's captivating artists like Damien Rice, with his 2003 release "*O*," that deserve the credit and acclaim that's being aimlessly showered on the lesser talents of current media.

Rice's lyrics are riveting, his voice is nearly breathtaking, and his song writing skill is on such a high level that it is close to impossible to offer comparison to anything else. Even at first listen, it's hard not to appreciate the tasteful acoustics and riveting vocals among the numerous other instruments including violin, flute, and at times, an angelic female voice accompaniment.

The album starts off very subtly, drawing you in gradually with the track "Delicate" that features an acoustic guitar and violin alongside Rice as he demonstrates his dynamic voice. Songs like "Cannonball," "Cold Water" and "Older Chests," are indie-folk masterpieces, leaving an impact that you'll surely take to heart. "Volcano" and "Cheer'O Darling" have a sort of somber ambience, leaving you feel almost melancholy and dry. My favorite track off the record, an original piece titled "Aimee," is a stunning work, moving and awe-inspiring, displaying orchestrated perfection.

Closer a dark romance about lust and betrayal recently released in theaters features Damien Rice's, "The Blower's Daughter," a track that gives off both a beautiful and desperate atmosphere. Director Mike Nichols received Rice's "*O*" from a friend and immediately felt its allure, saying, "Listen to this! This is the opening song for my picture." I can't stress how good the decision was. This song is perfect for the movie's dismal atmosphere as it is obvious to see how the lyrics and vocals are filled with despair; it encompasses the film's theme so well.

Music is an art that is wasting away through radio and mainstream media. Musical pioneers like Damien Rice should be recognized for their accomplishments. His genius work behind a guitar and captivating voice is something that should not be passed up by any listener of any age. "*O*" is a masterpiece that I can guarantee you'll regret not listening to.

Listeners beg for silence from Hawthorne Heights

Christian Heim '05

I honestly don't even know where to begin with this CD, *The Silence in Black and White*. The only way to compare the sheer atrocity of this horrible, uninspired, heap of garbage is to have a bucket of vomit dumped on your head.

I can't stand anything about this band. They're at the head of the pack when it comes to popular music as of right now, and to tell you the truth I have no idea why. It's unoriginal, uninspired, trite and generally boring music for bored people. The lyrics are about killing themselves over girls, slashing out their eyes and kerosene lipstick. Somehow they associate razorblade kisses and blood red autumn eyes with romance and killing themselves over it. Every song has a different method such as slitting their wrists, blacking their eyes or shooting themselves through the heart

The lyrics are obviously just pumped out and designed to appeal to desperate, angst-ridden teens.

Busboys bring back good old days

Mike Jones '06

Rhythm and Blues or R&B is a term that's lost most of its meaning. When it first came out, Rhythm and Blues was simply a cooler form of rock and roll. These weren't your average love-ranting cutie-pies with guitars. No, these were your average Joes with all of the same problems as everyone else. R&B was the birth of bar music.

One band, The Bus Boys, were the kind of band that has always been better live. They had no mixers or sound enhancers. They were just a couple of guys having fun on stage. Though they never became well known, the band became an exception in its genre with their appearance in the Eddie Murphy movie *48 Hours*, where I first discovered them.

I remember sitting on my couch, listening to a type of song I had never heard before. It sounded like highly sped-up blues, and I loved it. They seemed to have a soul of blues, but the guitar and piano of good old-fashioned rock and roll. The song was like a Mr. Potato-head of music, but the mix was like peanut butter and jelly. What you heard just made you want to dance.

The Bus Boys, composed of six men, poked fun at traditional blues. These boys sang no "poor mans blues," their music had a just-for-fun vibe to it. That same vibe became the best part of what I was hearing. Not only



www.artistdirect.com

was the attitude of the music great, but the actual music was incredible. The guitarist's solos were impeccable, and the pianist had a spunky style to match the band.

I would recommend the Bus Boys to anyone regardless of whatever label or style they happen to be. This band makes the listener feel great. So maybe, instead of picking up the newest Usher CD, you should check out the Bus Boys.

with a silver bullet. Since when could you kill yourself more than once?

And another thing, how do you write an entire album about not being able to hold a steady girlfriend? Somehow I doubt that in the month they put this piece of junk together they had 13 or 14 separate true loves that they would do anything for. I don't know about you, but I've only been in love once, and it has taken me more than 17 years to find that. It makes the whole album sound so fake, the lyrics are obviously just pumped out and designed to appeal to desperate, angst ridden teens, and it makes me mad that everyone is buying into it. Some people just can't tell when they're being duped.

Oh yeah, that's right, the music. It was so boring I almost forgot to write about it. The singers are probably the most aggravating members of this band. While first one whines like an angry little girl with a bad cold the second simply repeats everything the

first says, only with an annoying guttural scream. This just makes the entire record sound like it has an echo, which gets really old, really fast. They use three guitarists to pump out what one talented guitarist could do easily and all the riffs are dreadfully simple.

There is no real talent here, just a bunch of sappy drivel. Bottom line, they're just a bunch of mid-twenties twits, selling their souls to the devil that is corporate music, using stupid depressed teens to reel in a few bucks. In the words of Bart Simpson, "making teenagers depressed is like shooting fish in a barrel." Well, these guys have that down pat.



Disney dust too dirty?

A beastly roar was heard all over the globe the summer of 1994. Disney had been releasing box-office smash hits like *Beauty and the Beast* and *Aladdin*; now Disney's pride of lions and menagerie of jungle animals stormed into theaters with *The Lion King*, a coming of age tale about Simba, a future feline monarch. Though, was the future king trying to promote the beginnings of human reproduction? This month's article of "Behind the Ears" deals with the popular rumor about a dirty little cloud of dust in a scene of the Disney animated classic *The Lion King*.

Simba had just left his buddies, Timon and Pumbaa, for a little quiet time to himself. He was confused as to who he was supposed to be and whether or not he should return to the Pridelands and claim his right as king. Slumping onto the ground, Simba disturbed a hodge-podge of dust, plants and leaves. This dust would eventually ride the wind to Rafiki, the wise baboon of the Pridelands, who would learn from the dust that Simba was still alive and was the rightful heir to the throne.

Many have believed this drifting dust formed the word "sex," and Disney animators were yet again putting subliminal messages into their movies.

According to the *Urban Legends Reference Pages* (www.snopes.com), there is an indecisive origin to this false rumor: "A 4-year-old boy from New York (or Louisiana), viewing the video with his head tilted to the left, supposedly noticed the appearance of the letters S-E-X and told his mother (or aunt) about it." The boy's parent

or female relative reported the subliminal messaging to the American Life League, the organization who earlier had spoken out against Disney for other subliminal messaging. Thus, like the *Aladdin* rumor, the rumor of "sex" in *The Lion King* scene spread across America.

The Urban Legends Reference Pages stated that the origins of the rumor may have been made up in attempt to create a higher "shock value" when announced to the public - "if a 4-year-old found the word "S-E-X" in a video all by himself, why, then anybody's child might see it, too," stated authors Barbara and David P. Mikkelson. For a four-year-old boy to see and understand the word "sex" is difficult to believe and appalling if true.

Lisa Bannon, *Wall Street Journal* author of an article about subliminal messaging in Disney movies, reported that *The Lion King* "sex" message, as well as the other rumored Disney subliminal messaging, "are

hardly crystal clear; even using the pause button on a VCR, viewers may debate whether they exist." Disney had announced in their defense that the dust was merely dust.

Mikkelson stated that the film's special effects group had intended to spell out "SFX," a common abbreviation for "special effects" used in movie and television scripts. To satisfy the protesting religious groups and parents, Disney Feature Animation revised the scene so that the dust formed just a solid cloud for last year's DVD release of *The Lion King*. After viewing the original 1995 VHS, I could almost see both "SFX" and "SEX" because I was looking for it and I was able to see it. I had seen this movie in theaters in December 1994, and I do not recall seeing the word at all nor do recall any complaints in the news. Like the *Aladdin* rumor, the power of suggestion or the dirty minds of the American people had influenced people into believing there was an obscene cloud of dust.



Illustration by Rachel Vance '05

Ted Leo and the Pharmacists shake things up

Lindsay Zoladz '05

Shake the Sheets, the fourth full-length release from underground heroes Ted Leo and the Pharmacists, is an album that fuses catchy melodies with a heartfelt political agenda.

Leo formed the Pharmacists in 1999, but the group went through some line-up changes before settling with bassist Dave Lerner and drummer Chris Wilson. They slowly built up an underground following by releasing three excellent, energy-charged albums. *Shake the Sheets*, the band's fourth full-length, came out earlier this year and hopes to raise the band further into the public eye. It displays a cleaner, more polished sound than its predecessor, the widely acclaimed 2003 release *Hearts of Oak*.

Every track on *Shake the Sheets* is an anthem; Leo delivers the message of each song with fist-pumping urgency. While his songs pogo along with infectious rhythms and catchy choruses, they still pack a potent lyrical punch. Ted Leo is one of the smartest and most literate songwriters around, and he is not afraid to tackle serious issues in his lyrics.

My favorite track on the album, "The Angels' Share," showcases the essence of the Pharmacists: jangly, melodic, and politically conscious. In setting his distaste with the current presidential administration to an upbeat soundtrack, Leo not only makes you want to think; he also makes you want to dance.

Leo, who hails from New Jersey, channels the political spirit of Joe Strummer along with the soul-searching literacy of Bob Dylan. He gives a nod to his homeland in "Counting Down the Hours" in the line, "On a dark wet night in April, on a street in Jersey where I went looking for some writing that I knew would not be there."

Like many other musical artists, Leo is vocal about his discontent with the current presidential administration. When he sings, "I sit down and try to write an open letter to a president," it is also a call to arms; he hopes to inspire many like-minded listeners to contemplate the decisions of their leaders as well. The album was released shortly before the election this November, but in the wake of Bush's re-election some of

the hopeful themes of change on the album are now somewhat discouraging.

Even though *Shake the Sheets* is an album for times of questioning and uncertainty, its message is ultimately comforting. It is about the oppressed



photo courtesy www.artistdirect.com

finding comfort in each other, as Leo assures at the end of "Little Dawn:" "If you're not content to just believe/ And if you don't consent to just let it be/Stretch out your weary hand to me - it's alright."

With *Shake the Sheets*, Ted Leo and the Pharmacists provide the perfect remedy for questionable politics and music alike.

Festival of Friends

April 23rd
in the
9/10 gym

Sign-up in
room
G-208

Top-selling violence

Tom Reed '05

A new game was recently released for the Playstation 2 called *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas*. The game is a sequel to the largely popular *Grand Theft Auto* and *Grand Theft Auto: Vice City*, which were both top sellers in the year they were released. Now in 2005, *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* is the hot new game that everybody wants. It's already the #1 selling Playstation game, selling thousands of copies each day. But is this game safe for everyone to play? Many would argue that it is far from any-age entertainment, and personally I agree.

As someone who has played this game, I know that the object is that you start out as a regular guy on the streets, but as you go along, you try to gain money, cars, weapons, and the respect of gang leaders. Games with crime and violence aren't anything new, but this game actually teaches you to be a criminal! You can walk up to anyone at anytime and attack or steal from them. *GTASA* is the closest thing to anarchy you will ever experience.

The game does have a rating of "M" for Mature, meaning that only people over 18 can purchase it, but I know from experience that kids always find a way to get these games anyway. As a younger child, I had many games with ratings that were above my age level. Many parents buy these games as a Christmas or birthday present for their kids, not paying attention to it's rating or not knowing much about its content.

I've never been a fan of excessive censorship. However, at the same time, I am not a person that pretends movies, music, and other forms of entertainment don't influence people. And younger people are even more easily influenced. It's just a shame to imagine a 9 year old doing some of things you do in this game.

I'll admit that I did have fun playing this game. However, I think it's a shame that anything nowadays that is impure (violence, sex, drugs) is a top seller. I don't think that people change their opinion about violence, crime or life in general after playing a video game. But the more people are exposed to something, they become more and more desensitized and casual about it. And the more casual of an attitude people have about something, the less likely they are to think before doing it.

San Andreas revs G.T.A.'s violent rep

Matthew Starner '06

The *Grand Theft Auto* series is one of the most popular game series of all time. When I heard about all the hype of this game and that it is the best of the series I thought it would be a blast to play, and I was right. This game is everything the previous game was and more. In this installment of the *Grand Theft Auto* series you need to do what you do in every GTA game, complete missions, kill people, and steal cars.

The game play compared to the last game is very similar, but in this game you have to do things to earn your respect in the gang the main character is involved in. You also have to work out in a gym to increase your muscle strength and your stamina so you can run longer and do more damage with your fists. You can also eat food to regain health, but if you eat too much your character will get overweight and have to work it off at the gym.

There is also a large variety of weapons to be obtained in the game. There are machine guns, bats, knives, pistols, sniper rifles, grenades, rocket launchers, shot guns, and of course, the chain saw. You need these weapons to complete the missions inside the game; you can also just roam around the city.

Most of the missions in the game are pretty stressful and hard to complete and you may want to run over people while speeding down the street in a vehicle. Every time you complete a mission you will get money and earn respect from your gang. Most of the missions involve destroying your rival gang and retaining that area as your own gang's again.

The best part about the game, though, has to be your ability to be able to do what ever you please inside the game. You can take out your enemies from the seat of your car or drive off a bridge if you get the urge. There are limitless things you can do. You can even try to get your wanted level up to 6 stars. If you do that the military will send tanks after you and hunt you down or blow you up.

The graphics in the game are also an improvement from the last game. Although all the characters hands don't move and look like stumps during the cut scenes, other than that the graphics are very good. The sun reflecting off your wind shield, the cars when they crash and explode, and the characters faces all



www.google.com
Grand Theft Auto offers great graphics and limitless missions.

look a lot better than they have ever been.

All in all, this is probably the must-get game for Play Station 2 this year.

I give *Grand Theft Auto: San Andreas* a 9.5 out of 10.

Positives:

The amount of weapons and vehicles in the game.
Able to do anything you want in the game.

The graphics.

Negatives:

The characters hands look like blocks.
Some of the missions are very difficult and frustrating.

Phantom's cinematic form captivates

Hannah Desmond '08

Andrew Lloyd Webber's famous play hit high notes with audiences for 16 years on Broadway in New York City, so it seemed inevitable that some director would come along and want to make a movie out of it. Now there is one; a really good one.

Phantom of the Opera is a beautiful love story about a young chorus girl, Christine (played by Emmy Rossum) whose father has passed on. The Phantom gives Christine an extraordinary singing voice, but Christine thinks that the phantom is the ghost of her father or the 'Angel of Music.'

The Phantom is played by Scottish actor Gerard Butler. I found him to be most attractive with a beautiful voice. Among the ballads that I found entertaining were "Music of the Night" and "The Point of No Return". Throughout the



www.imdb.com
Phantom, a classic Broadway hit, comes to the film with actors Emmy Rossum and Gerard Butler.

whole movie, all I could think was, "Gosh, who is that phantom guy? He's so HOT!"

Butler plays the Phantom's true love for Christine amazingly. I could feel the love pouring out from him

during the last few scenes. He really convinced me that he was the one for Christine. I actually felt that the Phantom should have gotten the girl. He was the best part of the whole movie and you can bet that the next time Butler is in a movie, I'm going out and seeing it.

Rossum tackles the role of Christine with great stride. After all, Christine is a true soprano and a major part of the whole story, considering she is the object of desire for not one, but two men in the story. Rossum has come a long way from Disney original movies and I think she's an actress on the move.

Overall, I found the film to be extremely well done. My advice is to go out and see the *Phantom of the Opera*. It's definitely worth the money to see and plus you get an extremely attractive Phantom, and songs! What more can you ask for?

Minutemaids reach second round

Richie Elles '08

The Washington Township Minutemaids made it to the second round of the playoffs, but lost to Atlantic City in a tough game. Although the girls and coaches are upset about the loss, they are still proud of all they have accomplished this year.

Led by coaches Donna Costa and Jen Natale and captains Lauren "LP" Petruzzelli '05 and Amanda Jennings '06, the Girls' Varsity Basketball Team posted a superb 18-8 record.

The Minutemaids finished 2nd in the Olympic Conference, ending up only one game behind the Conference champions Cherry Hill East. The team was ranked 13th in the South Jersey Conference.

On the court, the girls continued to win. Off the court the girls built a friendship that allowed them to excel as teammates. After a hardfought win over Nottingham High School, Lauren "LP" Petruzzelli commented on the relationship both on and off the court.

"We are really gelling as team right now, and I'm just enjoying playing with my friends."

Coach Costa described the team in one word, "Unified."

All of the players enjoyed working with one another, and it showed on the court.

Teamwork is the main key to victory stressed by the experienced Coach Costa.

"There are no stars on my team. We work as one unit," she added. "Someone new steps up every game and takes the lead."

Another important component to the Coach's game plan was defense. In practice, the players played scrimmages in which five JV players competed against four varsity players. This helped to sure up the Minutemaids defense and helped prevent them from giving up easy baskets.

There have been many players that have taken the lead at certain time.

Often, it was the two captains, LP and Jennings.

Jennings, a junior forward, led the team in scoring, averaging 10 points per game, averaging about 6.5 rebounds per game, and shooting 64% from the free throw line.

LP, a senior point guard, led the team in assists, averaging about four assists per game, averaging two steals per game, and a 3-point shooting of 33.3%. LP also contributed about six points per game to the Minutemaids.

Others have stepped up their game as well. Guard Meghan Hall '05 has been described by her peers as a leader on the floor and good in the clutch.

Another contribution was from the aggressive play and offensive-minded attitude of guard Kelly Angstadt '05.

The skillful and conservative

style played by Jenn Hara '06 helped decrease the amount of turnovers, especially in pivotal points in the game.

Guard Kristin Petell added a deadly 3-point threat to the team.

Costa also identified a rising star, who will shine in the years to come.

Forward Kate Montgomery '07

is the only sophomore on the team. She averaged 5.2 points and 3 rebounds per game, and is sure to have a promising future.

"I felt a little intimidated at first, but now I feel like I am part of the group," said Montgomery '07, "my main motivation was making sure that the seniors leave with a season to remember."

Captains spark strong team effort

Bethany Messick '06

To be a leader, one must be an instructor, a visionary, and a role model. Lauren Petruzzelli (LP) '05 and Amanda Jennings '06, are the co-captains for the Minutemaids and are prime examples of leaders. Whenever Jennings and Petruzzelli were on the basketball court, they had complete control of the game and their teammates.

Meghan Hall '05 said, "LP and Jennings are always there with moral support when I'm having a bad game. They know exactly what it takes to get each player motivated and get them working as a team."

Head coach Donna Costa and assistant coach Jen Natale designated Jennings and Petruzzelli to be captains because they both have a lot of varsity experience, and they have a good understanding of what the coaches want from the team.

Costa and Natale believe that during Petruzzelli's four years of varsity experience, she has learned the fundamental responsibilities of being a captain/coach on and off the court. They also expect Petruzzelli to lead by example to help Jennings be a leader.

"LP encourages me to be more vocal on the basketball court and emphasizes the importance of making smart decisions," said Jennings.

Petruzzelli's leadership skills really stood out in the Cherry Hill East game. She was scoring, making great passes, directing her teammates, and picking people up when they needed it. Her very loud and forceful voice really got the team going.

Costa said, "That night LP possessed all the qualities a point guard should. There wasn't a moment in that game that she let up her intensity."



Trina Chan '08/The Patriot

Girls' Varsity basketball team captains, Amanda Jennings and Lauren Petruzzelli, led their team to the State Championship.

The coaches chose Jennings to be captain with Petruzzelli because Jennings has a good relationship with both the upper and lowerclassmen.

In Costa's opinion, "Jennings encourages and picks her teammates up by constantly demonstrating commitment and determination in everything she does."

Jennings showed her love for and dedication to basketball in the Pennsauken game. Jennings was just recovering from being very sick for two weeks. She came off the bench without practicing for a week and statistically dominated the game.

Natale said, "She knows how important she is to the team, and that her teammates rely on her. When she sparks, the whole team sparks."

Both Jennings and Petruzzelli recognize the tremendous responsibility that goes with being great captains. They agree that one of the most difficult situations to deal with is the repercussions of a lost game or a poorly played game. The coaches depend on the captains to lead the

team to a well played game and to a win.

"One important aspect of being a captain is to keep the team's and the fans' momentum up after a lost game. If we lose a game, the fans may not be as supportive which affects the players, but LP and Jennings keep everyone enthusiastic," said Costa.

One of the reasons that Petruzzelli and Jennings put all their energy into their team is because they know that it won't last forever.

As a senior Petruzzelli believes that, "Every girl on the team should play like it's her last, because for some of us it is."

Petruzzelli doesn't plan to play basketball in college because she plans to put her efforts into her academics. She is making the best out of her last year playing basketball at Washington Township.

Costa believes that this team has not yet hit its maximum potential.

She said, "When both LP and Jennings step up collectively with the rest of the team, we're tough to beat."

Minutemen stopped in state semi-finals

Young Squad shows promise for future

Mark Natale '06

A lot can happen in six years. In 1999, there was no high speed internet, no Mp3s, no digital cable, the common man did not know who Al Queda was, steroids was a fringe sport institution, and the NBA was the league on strike. Dan Betteridge and Drew Fagundas weren't teenagers yet, and the Minutemen Basketball team was winning playoff games.

Fast forward to 2005, and finally, Washington Township Boys are winning in March again.

But just a month before Bleacher Creatures were storming the Cherry Hill East court, there were a select few that truly believed the Minutemen would be playing (let alone Winning) in the South Jersey Group 4 tournament. Outside of the players donning blue, and possibly the maniacs in the stands wearing red, very few believed. It was early in February, the Minutemen had to beat defending Group 4 champion Lenape to keep their post-season hopes alive, and things were looking down.

Then, it all seemed to click. All the inexperience that lead to losing four out of the previous five seemed to be gone. The mistakes that cost them close game after close game (including a heart-breaking one point loss to Pennsauken the previous game) seemed to not occur. It all started to click, and two clutch free-throws by Senior Andrew Fagundas with six seconds left sent the packed 9/10 gym into a frenzy, and put the Minutemen on the fast track to March Madness. A Saturday morning win at Pemberton punched the playoff ticket, and Township was rolling, winning five more games before falling in the season finale to Camden.

So on March 1st the team traveled to Mainland, armed with a strong second half of the season, and suffering from a six year playoff win drought. They left the city down the shore with a 49-43 upset victory, and would travel to Cherry Hill East the following day, hungry to shock another favorite.

To most, the single playoff victory would have been enough. It seemed like a successful season, one that many thought would end similar to the last time the Minutemen traveled to Cherry Hill: A fifteen point drubbing suffered at the hands of the Cougars. The boy's from Township, however, had other plans.

This next chapter in the late run of the Minutemen saw twenty points by Adrian Galliard, and another fifteen points by point guard Dan Betteridge. But despite Galliard's momentum

changing third-quarter dunk, and Betteridge's late three-pointer to put the game away, a great amount of credit for the eventual 50-47 win must be given to the defensive hustle of Senior Andrew Fagundas.

Guarding Cherry Hill East superstar Bryan Young (who will be playing Division I basketball next year for Lafayette), Fagundas played an integral part in the success of the Minutemen. After Young drained his first three 3 - point shots, Fagundas got physical, forced Young take shots out of his range, and provided defense stifling enough to make the 27 point per game scorer go ice cold, missing his next 13 threes.

Fagundas himself chipped in five points on the offensive end, which

was complimented by six points from junior swing man Andrew Purofoi. The offense might have seemed to be dominated by the inside outside game of Galliard and Betteridge (which accounted for 35 of 50 points), but whether it was a pressing team defense, or ball movement with an emphasis on making the extra pass, this was a team victory, and considering the season, that's how it should have been.

After all, it was the team as a whole that made a late season seven-game winning streak possible. Although many people associate this team with the play of Betteridge or Fagundas, it was the emergence of Galliard as a dominant big man, the scoring and athleticism of Perofoi, and the quality minutes contributed by

juniors Doug Griese, Chris Amador, and Nate Cooper, that combined to make this team click the second half of the year. The eventual semi-finale loss to Atlantic City was a heartbreaker, but this season was just a preview of the seasons ahead.

Other than Fagundas, every varsity player that played significant minutes will be returning. Although his leadership is something that will be harder to find, underclassman such as juniors Dustin Francis and Cameron Johnston, along with sophomore Greg Prince, are all ready to fill the void on the court left by Fagundas.

The 2006 season will bring a more mature, more experienced, and just as talented Minutemen team that will be a force to be reckoned with.

Mat Chat with Matt Price '05

Wrestlers complete turn-around year

It started back in mid-summer with the signing of Ralph Ross Junior from West Deptford High School. He was very successful there with several state championship teams and hoped to bring his winning ways to Washington Township.

After the practices in November the captains for the season were named. The year's captains were seniors Matt Sheldon and Rob Tanner along with junior Brandon O'Hara. With the practice under their belts and strong leadership it was time to take the mat.

The first match was in December against Cherokee High school. It started out on Cherokee's side but then the tide started to turn and all of a sudden it came down to the final match in Matt Sheldon. Sheldon came out victorious thus tying the match. It was off to the rule book where after going to criteria G, which is actual match points, the minutemen come out the winner. It was an exhilarating evening and everyone in the gym was fired up. Everybody thought Township wrestling was back.

Unfortunately, the whole season did not go that way. It was a very back and forth season. It almost seemed that after every win there would be a loss.

It was one very rough Saturday night for the Minutemen. Then they rebounded that week against teams like Triton and Seneca on the schedule. There was also another very rough Saturday against Camden Catholic. Matt Sheldon was the only Township wrestler with a victory and John Price was suspended for two



Ashley Horan '05/ The Patriot



Joe Comerford '06/ The Patriot

Co-Captains Matt Sheldon '05 (left), Brandon O'Hara '06 (right) and Rob Tanner (not pictured) led the team to a winning season.

matches for an undeniable disqualification.

It seemed like that day took a toll on Township. A young Bishop Eustace team into the gym and Township struggled with them. After that Township did win against Cherry Hill West but the season was over and the Minutemen did not qualify for the state tournament.

The year was finished with a 10-8 record but individual success was accomplished.

Matt Sheldon had a solid year. He helped lead the team and saw his brother Mike Sheldon break into the mix at the 103 division. Will Leaper and Rob Tanner also stepped up for a strong year.

However, the two biggest stories of the year were District 30 Champions Brandon O'Hara and State

Champ John Price. O'Hara had a solid year and did very well on Saturday at Overbrook to win his district. Price did the unthinkable. He won a State championship without winning his region or his district. He just placed in both competitions thus getting a foot in the door to the Atlantic City State Tournament. It was there he dominated, advancing to the State Championship.

Overall, it was a good year. The ground work was laid out for what will be a powerhouse Olympic Conference wrestling team for many years to come. Making the turn around from under .500 to 10-8 was a huge step up. Brandon O'Hara and John price will lead the teams next year in what should be a fun season. Look for the Minutemen to be on the hunt for an Olympic conference title next year.

Next issue: Interview with State Champion, John Price

Girl's bowling team strikes again

Brent Bartosiewicz '06

As the girls varsity bowling season has just concluded, they walk away with a sense of accomplishment. "I think we started off with a rocky start, but skill and determination helped pull it off", says JV coach Donna Headley.



Brent Bartosiewicz '06/ Patriot Staff

Co-Captain Andrea Paton '06 sets up.

The defending champs started off their season a little shaky by not always having a full team, but in spite of their start, the girls finished the season with a 12-4 record, sharing first place in the Olympic Division. One of Varsity coach Frank Consiglio's mottoes is, "It's not how you start, it's how you finish." This appeared to be true as the girls stopped at nothing to defend their title.

The girls starting lineup consisted of the three co-captains, lead off Mandy Mazzeo '05, Crystal Williams '05, anchor Sam Sarin '05, then behind them was Andrea Paton '06, Kristen Weidmann '07, and substitute Brenda Spencer '05.

The season was filled with excitement for the girls, not only because they defended their title but because they finished 2nd in the Maple Bowl Tournament and had Mazzeo and boys varsity bowler Tom Carola '06 finish in 2nd at the Scotch Doubles Tournament.

That's not all, this all-star team finished with numerous awards; Sarin, Mazzeo, and Paton made first team all conference while Weidmann and

Williams made second team all conference. The team had two of the highest averages in the conference, Sarin at 171.4 and Mazzeo with a 171.2. Also, Mazzeo had a season high game of 234, which ranked 3rd in the conference.

Two of the team's most dedicated bowlers are Mazzeo and Williams, for they have been on the team for the past four years. They are the only member of the girls team to be on the team since the beginning of WTHS bowling four years ago.

"As a team they demonstrated the ability to work together," says Headley. This was a team of friends who knew how to work together and win together. But sadly they will be losing four seniors.

Next year Paton looks forward to leading the team to victory, "It's our turn to step up because we're upper classmen, says Paton. Also, stepping up big next year will be varsity Weidmann '07, JV bowlers Kristy Lance '07, and freshmen Leigh Schwing, Gianna Coporusso, Mary Metcalf, and Kate Sino.



Brent Bartosiewicz '06/ Patriot Staff

Co-Captain Mandy Mazzeo '05 had a season-high 234, which ranked 3rd in the conference.

"I think they (entire girls team) achieved the experience of earning a conference championship," says Coach Consiglio. The seniors leave their success for the up and coming bowlers to continue.

"I just hope the team can do as well next year," said Williams.

Boy's bowling rolls over competition

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The Boys Bowling Team is coming off of one of the most successful seasons in the history of the school.

With one of the deepest squads from top to bottom in the conference, the team enjoyed much success.

"We had a lot of depth on the team this year", said bowler Brent Bartosiewicz '06.

"We came into the year expecting to win the conference and score high in the sectionals, and we are happy with what we accomplished."

The team achieved many great things this year. They defeated their toughest opponent Cherokee by simply outdoing them in terms of sheer firepower. They went on to win their division as was expected of them.

They moved on to win a tournament in the post season as they moved on to the sectionals.

Unfortunately, they did not finish in the top five in sectionals. They finished 72 pins short of qualifying, so they did not move on to states, but that does not diminish what the team accomplished this season. Dan Martelli '05 was a key performer this season, and he has

been a consistent player since his freshman year.

Another key player was Jim Piddington '06, who didn't even make the team last season, and he is now a varsity player.

Bartosiewicz qualified for the states as an individual with a series of 676. He is the first player in the history of WTHS bowling to qualify.

"I was happy to see us pull together as a team in the sectionals" he said. "I was also happy to make states. I just bowled my game, gave it 110%, stayed focused, but I didn't try to do everything myself."

There were many individual achievements from different players on the team.

Martelli and teammate Tom Carola '06, who are the team captains, both made the First Team All-Conference. Martelli also won the Most Valuable Player.

Piddington and Bartosiewicz made the Second Team All-Conference.

In fact, Piddington also won Rookie of the Year. Senior Mike Gerber won Most Improved Player.

Although the team did not win it all this year, they are very optimistic for next season, and for good reason.



Brent Bartosiewicz '06/ Patriot Staff

Mike Gerber '05 was selected Most Improved Player.

Five of the team's best bowlers are returning as seniors next year.

Many of the players believe that the team will be at least as strong as this year's club.

They will, however, be losing seniors Gerber, Martelli, and Jesse Tutoro.

Next year's team will feature a solid lineup that now has experience, and they expect to win the conference and advance further in the sectionals next season.

The Boys' Bowling Team is looking to build on one of the most successful seasons in team history. Their experience will be very beneficial to the team's success next season, as they will be led into battle by Coach Frank Consiglio.

The talented squad will definitely be a team to be reckoned with next year as they look for a state tournament appearance.

Next : Swimming, cheerleading wrap-ups; Spring sports