

# The Patriot

Issue #5

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## Monthly Rewind wins TV awards

### Seniors honored with National Student Television Awards for Excellence

Darby DeCicco '05

Next time you flip on Channel 13 and sit down to a new episode of *Monthly Rewind*, you'll be watching award winning journalists at work.

"It's exciting, surprising, and gratifying all at once," said Lindsay Zoladz, '05, who recently received a National Student Television Award for Excellence for her *Monthly Rewind* segment on WTHS' childcare classes.

The National Student Television Awards for Excellence are awarded annually to high-school aged students who are judged to have done excellent work in television broadcasts. This year, four of the winners selected in

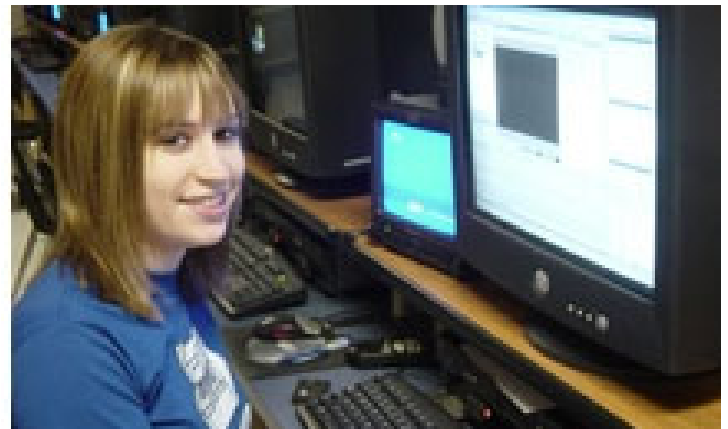
the New Jersey regional category came from WTHS' own *Monthly Rewind* program.

"It was a surprise and a big honor," said Mike DiMattesa '05, whose piece on the Minuteman marching band received an honorable mention in the Arts and Entertainment category, of his feelings when he and his fellow Rewinders discovered that they had won. "It's nice to be recognized by people from other areas."

Zoladz, DiMattesa, and fellow seniors Christine McGuire and Ally Clark, who also received honorable mentions in their categories, were shocked and surprised when teacher Mr. Marty Bouchard called them together on senior trip to tell them that they had received awards.

Bouchard, who originally brought to his students the idea of submitting applications to the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, the Academy that runs the Emmy Award program, echoes DiMattesa's sentiment.

"The *Rewind* class does an excellent job," Bouchard said, "and



Darby DeCicco '05/The Patriot

**Lindsay Zoladz received an award for her segment on the Child Care program.**

it's nice to see their efforts recognized by a national organization."

After the winners were announced, the entire *Rewind* group was invited to attend an award ceremony at the World Live Café in Philadelphia where they were able to see what other winners from the region had done. Of the regional winners already announced, one

national winner from each of the five categories will be chosen in May.

However, even if no *Rewinders* are chosen as national winners, those who won regionally are just happy to have been recognized.

"It makes me feel good," said McGuire, who submitted her segment to the news category, "because we put a lot of hard work into our segments."

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## Pisano takes Mr. WT crown

Darby DeCicco '05

WTHS saw a show unlike any other on the night of April 14th, when Anthony Pisano won the thirteenth annual Mr. Washington Township competition.

"It's awesome," Pisano said simply of what it felt like to realize he had won.

Amidst what appeared to be an endless amount of cheering, whistling, and applause, audience members watched as the show's interviews, dance numbers and costume changes culminated in the announcements of Pisano as the 2005 Mr. WT, Joe Velasco (Mr. January) as first runner-up, and Matt Sheldon (Mr. October) as second runner-up.

"It's an amazing experience," said Velasco on the night of the event, speaking not only for his fellow contestants but for the audience as well.



Ashley Horan '05/The Patriot

**Anthony Pisano is WTHS' 2005 Mr. WT.**

"I thought the show was very well put together," said Ingrid Maycock '07. "You could tell watching it that everyone put a lot of hard work into it."

After three months of rehearsals, including two full-length dress rehearsals and an extended senior trip curfew for the purpose of continued practice, hard work would

almost seem to be an understatement. Despite the time and effort involved, however, most contestants site the experience as one of the best of their high school career, and all involved seem to share the view.

"It's really nerve wracking," said Lauren Behrens '05, escort to Mr. June, Dan Shea, "but it was so much fun."

Brian Malvey '05, a filler act who played the senior class song, Green Day's "Time of Your Life", with Brian Gormley '05 during intermission and a rendition of Billy Joel's "Piano Man" later in the show, enjoyed the experience for a different reason.

"It was a privilege to be able to play those songs," Malvey said, "because I know they mean a lot to the seniors who were in the audience."

But seniors weren't the only audience members able to enjoy the show.

*see Mr. WT p. 11*

# Faculty triumphs in March Madness

Joe Comerford '06

Both the faculty and the seniors wanted to walk out of the 9-10 gymnasium with a victory in the student-faculty basketball game at March Madness.

For the first eighteen minutes it looked like the faculty would run away with the game. Mr. Andrew Holmes, a chemistry teacher and the boys' Junior Varsity basketball coach, came out hot, nailing his first two threes before being taken out of the game during substitutions.

The faculty had a 21-5 lead going into the final two minutes of the first half. But the seniors weren't ready to call it a night. First both teams subbed in five female players, and in those two minutes senior Lauren Petruzelli scored four points and teammate Kelley Angstadt added another two points to the student's score. On the faculty side only Mrs. Rosalyne Gill could contribute, scoring two points.

Even though the faculty was leading 23-11 you could tell the momentum had shifted into the students favor.

The seniors came out of the locker room on a tear, orchestrating an 18 to 6 run, tying the game at 29 with 7:30 remaining. Holmes hit a three to put the faculty in front 32-29, but moment's later senior Jesse Cooper's three-point play tied the game at 32. After the teachers failed to convert on their next possession

Ryan Platt's lay-up gave the seniors a slim 2 point lead, putting them up 34-32. After a verbal exchange with the referee Cooper was whistled for a technical foul.

Holmes converted one of his foul shots pulling the teachers within 1. With the technical foul the teachers retained possession with 1:45 left. Mr. Richard Bostwick, a physical education teacher and boys', track coach was fouled in the act of shooting and

awarded two foul shots. Bostwick made one of his two foul shots tying the game at 34 with 1:15 left. 25 seconds later art teacher Mr. Matthew Kiser was fouled. Of the two foul shots he made both. With 50 seconds remaining in regulation the teachers had the lead at, 36-34.

The students were unable to score in those final 50 seconds, and despite being outscored 23-13 in the second half the teachers still pulled out the victory.

Holmes led all players with 10 points, followed by math teacher Mr. Shane Snyder, who also coaches girls' varsity soccer, and Mr. Bob Byatt, one of our school's English teachers as well as boys' varsity basketball coach who both scored 6 points each. Matt Connors '05 and Ryan Platt led the seniors; contributing 6 points each. Oliver Roth was second in scoring for the seniors chipping in 4 points.

## Wingbowl competition fierce

Mike Jones '06

It was the most fearsome competition of the year.

No, it wasn't the Super Bowl; it wasn't the World Cup; it wasn't even Powder Puff. It was the WTHS Wing Bowl.

The competition was fierce as would be expected in an arena where twenty of our schools finest eaters had a chance to prove themselves during a wing-eating experience.

The defending champs, the seniors, including Dan Richie, Fred Brewer, Mandy Silvesti, and Stacy Wagner, just couldn't seem to hold onto their throne this year. Fierce competition from teachers like Tsoukalis, Ruberti, Longo, and McCann from the faculty team defeated all who crossed their paths.

In fact, the faculty was unstoppable this year in their quest for the cup and walked away from this



Shane Walsh '06/The Patriot

year's Wing Bowl with the first place title.

Coming in a close second were the juniors, who had taken a commanding lead in the first few minutes of the competition only to be trampled by the teachers. This team, composed of Amanda DiRenzo, Jackie Mannon, Steve Spinelli, and

Chris Ranger, looks like it will have a bright future for its senior year.

The seniors took third place, and were followed by the freshman team of Alyssa Mericie, Courtney Siansia, Ed Mcquire, and Tim McDonald, and the sophomore team of Ben Basset, Greg Kennedy, Pryia Patel, and Rachel Jurman.

# Land finds expression through song

Cheryl Supernavage '06

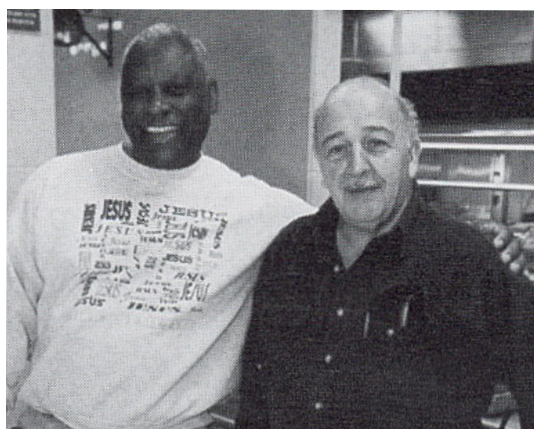
Life is full of sweet surprises. Few would know that the smiling face of school custodian Mr. Henry Land would encompass such a moving voice.

This past year, Land has shared his voice with WTHS audiences at both the 2005 Faculty Talent Show and at a ninth-grade assembly.

Music was very big in Land's life as a young child. Growing up in a church-going family, most of his singing memories stem from singing with the church choir. Even now, he sings with his church choir and has expanded into singing at weddings and funerals.

This year's performance in the faculty talent show was not Land's first before a WTHS audience. He also sang in the show 15 years ago. Land is very comfortable singing in front of people and enjoys the support he gets from students.

Land has been at the high school for 20 years. He once applied for a



Picture courtesy of The Musket

**Mr. Henry Land (left) pictured here with fellow custodian Mr. Lou Pelligrino, enjoys sharing his love of gospel music.**

job at Chestnut Ridge Middle School but was turned down and remained at WTHS. Now he says he is glad he stayed because he loves the kids here. Land plans to retire in five years after 25 years here.

"I love working with the kids here. It's the best part of my job."

Before Land worked here, he sold furs for B&B Furs. He would go to Marriott Hotels across the country where he met a lot of new people. Every four days he would travel to a new state but eventually quit because his wife didn't like his time away. A significant change for the

better in his occupation means that he now works day work and has more family time.

For a man with a family of six children, 25 grandchildren, and 12 great-grandchildren, family time is precious.

"Having a big family is great. It's what I am used to; I grew up in a big family."

Land was the seventh of 12 kids growing up in North Carolina. His family moved to New Jersey, where he currently resides, when he was around three or four years old. Like all children, Land had his own dreams and occupational expectations.

As a child, Land wanted to be a boxer and actually got into the profession. However, his mom pulled him out of it because he would constantly come home with a bloody nose.

Aside from singing and spending time with his family, Land enjoys sharing the gospel and preaching.

Since the students here mean so much to Land, he cites this bit of advice he would like to share with them all:

"You can achieve anything you want. You haven't failed until you quit trying. Be persistent. Put God in your plans. When you plan without Him, you plan to fail, no matter who you are or how much money you have."

# Teachers of the Year

## Cullen still brings passion to classroom

Darby DeCicco '05

"I think it was fixed," English teacher Mr. Jerry Cullen joked when asked why he thinks he won the honor of being named one of WTHS' two teachers of the year for the 2004-2005 school year.

This is most likely not true and Cullen, who has known he wanted to

be a teacher since he was a junior at Camden County's Sterling High School, knows it.

"Honestly, I don't know why I won," he says. "I'm still passionate about what I do, I guess."

Cullen says that he enjoys all aspects of teaching, from the struggles to the triumphs and everything in-between. He admits that he knows

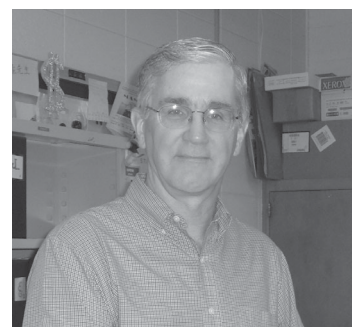
his students think he's tough because he constantly expects the best from them.

"Good enough is not good enough," Cullen says, explaining that he always attempts to inspire curiosity and enthusiasm in his students. He says his hope is to be able to provide something interesting for those students who are "just going through the motions."

This passion to teach and inspire is something Cullen carries with him both in and out of the classroom. He has three children, owns his own construction company, has coached football and wrestling, and spends much of his time backpacking. And Cullen says that no matter which of these, or any other activities, he is participating in, he is teaching all the time. In fact, Cullen has trained more than fifty kids for backpacking expeditions, including an Adventure Crew that hiked 100 miles through the Rockies.

Cullen has always known, however, that the classroom is where he belongs.

"I know I never want to leave the classroom," Cullen says.



Lauren VanAntwerp '05/The Patriot  
**Mr. Cullen has taught English at the high school for 32 years.**

And while preparing kids for a backpacking adventure is a satisfying feat, Cullen says his favorite part of teaching is simpler than a hundred mile hike.

"When kids come back to visit," he says, "that's my favorite part. I love meeting students from past years."

After more than thirty years of teaching, this small enjoyment still remains Cullen's favorite part of the job.

Why? "I'm a teacher," Cullen says.

It's as simple as that.



Lauren VanAntwerp '05/The Patriot

**Cullen's favorite part of teaching is inspiring and exciting his students.**

## Clark views award as great honor

Jamie Valentine '05

Recently, advanced-level Spanish teacher Mrs. Lynda Clark was named one of WTHS' 2004-2005 Teachers of the Year.

"I was thrilled and astonished," says Clark of receiving the honor. "It was such a positive moment for me."

Clark has received many honors in her career. However, none that amazed her like this one.

"I've been an NHS sponsor to several wonderful students and received Renaissance Letters. In the last fifteen years, students have begun to

contact me to tell me how relevant Spanish has become in their everyday lives," she says. "Those [honors] were very intimate and personal. I've never received an honor to this magnitude. This one just blew me away."

Clark is a Township alumnus and has been teaching here for her entire career. She has always known she wanted to teach, and her childhood directed her into the foreign language department.

"Growing up, all of my relatives spoke Polish. I thought it was amazing, like some sort of secret code." Later, during her high school years, her Spanish teacher, Senor Coll, inspired her and made her want to teach Spanish as well.

For Clark, teaching is the most rewarding job out there.

"My students make me so happy. Every day, at least one of my students manages to make me laugh. Not every job allows you to leave happy every day."

Clark plans to continue teaching for a very long time.

"Every time I think about retiring, I have a great year and change my mind. I've been here since I was 15; I can't imagine leaving Washington Township. I can't



Lauren VanAntwerp '05/The Patriot

**Clark brings a positive attitude to all of her Spanish classes.**

imagine gardening or going to the gym only for the rest of my life. I'm not going anywhere too soon."

In addition, Clark has begun to teach Spanish classes at Rowan University and plans to continue university-level education, maybe one day switching to college entirely and "teaching some of the same kids I'm teaching now."

Clark has a lot of advice for any aspiring teachers who want to

make a difference in the lives of their students.

"Number one, you've got to love what you're teaching and be passionate about your subject. That's something you can't fake. Also, you've got to love your students. If you're just making a living, that's something [your students] will pick up on right away. You've got to genuinely love this age group."



Lauren VanAntwerp '05/The Patriot

**Mrs. Lynda Clark is a graduate of WTHS.**

# District Art Night comes to Core

Jamie Valentine '05

This year's District Art Night was held in the Core on Thursday, April 7. Almost every child that has grown up in the Washington Township school district, has, at some point, had a piece of their artwork showcased in the annual District Art Night. It is a source of great pride for many parents, art teachers, and especially students.

Art Night is a family event, and many families in the district attend every year. The O'Hara family came to see eldest daughter, seventh grader Jessica's, artwork this year. Last year, her sister, Hurffville second grader Rachel O'Hara, had her work showcased.

"It made me feel very proud," Rachel grins. With five children in the family, the O'Hara's will be back at Art Night for many years to come.

Even as high schoolers performing demonstrations, many WTHS students remember what having their artwork up in the high school had meant to them.

"I've had stuff in the show ever



Second grader Koy Connors (r) views Art Night work with his mom and brother.

since elementary school. It felt like I was important enough to have my artwork up," says Nicolette Cornelius '06.

Art Night not only boosts the confidence of younger artists, but the pride they feel at their own art and their awe at high school art may also inspire them to continue with art.

"It's good when little kids see everything that's possible and maybe it'll inspire them to take up art," says Gina Rossi '08.

According to Kelli Moran '06, "Little kids come walking through and they say, 'Mommy, I can do that!' And when they get to high school, they can."

Cornelius laughs, "It's really

flattering. It's really cool that they think I'm an artist."

The demonstrations are beneficial to the demonstrators themselves as well as the visitors to art night.

"It really shows the creative side [of Township]. Art Night lets everyone see the hard work everyone puts into art classes," says Jenn Young '08.

"I feel like a role model for the younger kids," says Kim Lebb '07.

District Art Night was organized by Mr. Ron George, Mrs. Patti Cushane, and Mrs. Kirsten Smith, along with the other art teachers in the district.

Lebb says, "Thank you very much to the art teachers for putting this together." All of the demonstrators seemed to agree that the art teachers are "awesome" for all the effort they put into Art Night every year.

From second grade copies of Georgia O'Keefe flowers to computer generated animations done by high schoolers, District Art Night is a great source of pride for everyone involved.

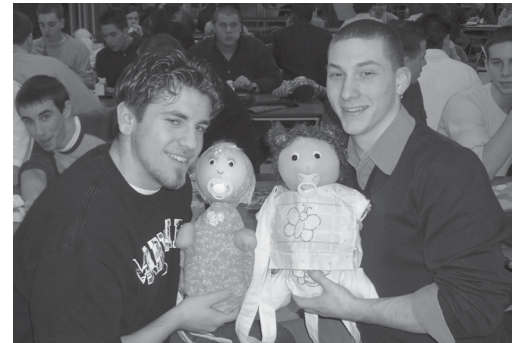
# Psych project gives seniors taste of parenthood

Photos by Meegan Wadleigh '06



A proud class poses with their babies.

A yearly ritual took place in March as psychology classes participated in the annual baby project. The project requires psychology students to turn a one liter water bottle into a fully dressed baby and to make sure the child is supervised at all times. While the project was intricate and time-consuming, some seniors, like the ones pictured below, had a little fun with the assignment.



Aaron Talbot and Jason O'Brien try to decide whose baby is cuter.



Joe Lauracello spends a little quality time with his baby.



A true Philly fan from the very the start!



Proud parents (l-r) Ashley Mackowiak, Caitie Alcorn and Makenzie Devine show off their babies in the cafeteria.

# Book Club: Not just for book worms

Justine Jacobs '06

Washington Township students looking to get involved gained a new opportunity this year in the Student Book Club. Founded by juniors Matt Ford and Melissa Novak, the club chooses novels to read and meets in the library once a month to discuss them.

Although the concept behind this club had been circulating for some time, it only became a reality this year.

"[Ford and Novak] approached me with the idea as freshman and I said 'yes, yes, yes,'" says advisor and librarian, Mrs. Ann Hill. "However, I had just formed the faculty book club, and it got passed me. When they came this year and said, 'What about the student book club,' it was just the right time."

The club had a meeting soon after its formation to decide its reading list for the year. Each present member picked a book and meetings were set approximately a month apart. An email group was also established to help members plan and prepare for discussions.

So far, the group has discussed *The Wedding* by Nicolas Sparks, *Tuesday's with Morrie* by Mitch Albom, *Dragon Prince* by Melanie Rawn, and *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. Their final book discussion for the year was May 3 on Dan Brown's *Angels and Demons*.

The club is hoping to attract some new members, and a list of novels and discussion dates is posted on the door of the IMC, as well as on the library's webpage. There are no requirements to join – except maybe one.

"You have to know how to read," says Ford with a laugh.

"We're a very easy going club," Novak adds. "We know that not everyone likes to read or people only like certain types of books; so if they



Tiffany Narducci '05/The Patriot

**Melissa Novak '06 looks at a book at a recent book club meeting.**

see we're doing a book that intrigues them, they're welcome to come for that discussion."

The Student Book Club is hoping to expand in the upcoming year. Ford admits the organization "needs better advertising."

Novak agrees, "Next year we hope to get the word out sooner to see what books people are interested in reading. We are also thinking about having more than one book going at a time, so we can discuss more books."

Hill says two or three book clubs may be formed on the basis of genre and interest.

This small and new club has taken a lot on since its formation. Members participated in the IMC's celebrations of Read Across America and National Poetry Month. The Student Book Club is also running a book drive for "A Book in Their Hands" and will be collecting new and used teen and children's books to be donated to women's shelters in South Jersey from

April 29 to May 15. On top of that, they are throwing a Harry Potter Party for active members June 1.

Members feel the effort is worth what their club can bring to the school.

According to Ford the club "brings awareness to different kinds of literature and encourages people to read."

Hill agrees and sees other benefits as well.

"It also benefits the individual students. It connects kids with similar interests with each other and allows them to share opinions with one another."

Novak enjoys the Student Book Club because it gets her to read books she wouldn't normally select for herself and hopes other students will appreciate it for similar reasons.

"Most teenagers hate reading because the school forces us to read books that are deemed less that desirable," says Novak. "We're trying to show that not all books are bad!"

# Students dispute changes to SAT

Alicia Riccobene '06

The class of 2006 is faced with the new SAT which has been expanded from two sections to three this year raising the perfect score from 1,600 to 2,400. The test is longer, lasting three hours and 45 minutes, an hour longer than the old SAT.

Of the 300,000 students who took the new test on March 12, College Board reports that 107 scored a perfect 800 on each of the three sections containing writing, critical reading, and math. Out of the high school graduates from the year 2004 who took the old SAT 939 scored a perfect 1,600 according to the College Board's executive director of SAT information services, Brian O'Reilly.

Many students have different views on the new SAT compared to taking the old one. Shalin Patel '06 has taken both the old and new SATs.

"I thought the new was easier in content but it was a lot longer and quite the bore," says Patel who received a 1980 on the new SAT.

A lot of students feel that they would have done better on the older SAT than the new. The new test includes more reading comprehension and advanced math as well as the essay in place of verbal analogies and comparisons.

Ian Hopkins '06 received a 1330 on the old SAT. "That is my best and it was hard, but you have to stay focused and not slack off. I would give advice to be alert for the first two sections because that is where I messed up the most. Probably because I was tired," says Hopkins who has not yet taken the new SAT, but is trying his best to prepare for it as much as possible.

Along with Patel and Hopkins, Sajaa Ahmed '06 has received a 1380 on the old SAT and on the new, a 2100. "I basically did the same on both tests and didn't think that one was harder than the other. The only difference I saw was [the length of the test]," says Ahmed.

Many students are nervous about taking the new SAT and wonder how well they are going to do. Some students believe there is nothing they can do to prepare for the SAT, just use the knowledge they have. Others believe in taking the online courses, studying out of SAT books, and taking classes at the High School.

# More fun from District Art Night

Thursday, April 7

Photos by Helen Zeng '05

(left) Throughout the night future artists got hands on experience at the demo table. Participants were able to create using a variety of media.



(right) In one of several live demonstrations Zoey Ma '06 and Alicia Riccobene '06 work on potter's wheels.



## Put your problems in perspective

Jamie Valentine '05

Every once in awhile, my friends and I get philosophical at our lunch table. One day, one of my friends said, "It's funny, we all complain so much about everything, and we have it so good. I mean, kids in other countries are dying."

If you say you can't stand being in school another day, think about this. A girl born in southern Sudan has a better chance of dying in pregnancy or childbirth (one in nine) than of completing the fifth grade (one in a hundred). Sudan has been in constant wars for 21 years, and as a result, has the worst quality of life for women and children in the world, according to [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). Southern Sudanese children have the least access to primary education in the world, according to the study; only two percent of Sudanese children actually complete primary school.

Everyone complains about how hot it gets in the hallways or how cold it is in your third period. In a

traditional school in Tambacounda, Senegal, it is so hot that the students have to follow the shade to stay out of the oppressive African heat. By noon it could be over 100 degrees, and we flip out when a classroom hits about 80. In 1994, Senegal's illiteracy rate was 73 percent and in rural regions the rates were more like 80 percent, and illiteracy rates for girls were even higher.

One of my chief worries is college and making all of these stressful choices for my future. In Israel, you don't have to worry about making choices. Unless you are an ultra-orthodox Jew, all Israeli teenagers enter military service two weeks after they graduate high school, boys for three years, girls for two. On the other side of the conflict, Palestinians as young as twelve have died fighting a war. Amnesty International claims that Palestinian schools gave their students time off in order to fight, and probably die for a cause they probably don't even understand.

Two-thirds of Palestinians live on less than two US

dollars a day, and studies show that malnutrition and anemia in Palestinian children has hit levels of countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

If you have an after school job, you know that it invariably sucks, and there's nothing you can do about it. But over 14,000 children and adolescents work and live on the streets of Mexico City. And what you're thinking is right; for girls, this often means prostitution at the age of eleven. That's as old as your little sister. Makes stocking shelves seem like a dream. And compared to Sierra Leone, the children in Mexico City are lucky. Sierra Leonean boys nine to eleven years old are routinely kidnapped, force-fed highly addictive drugs, and placed into a Small Boy Unit of the army. They are rewarded for torturing and killing other people, and once they are rescued, they have to go through years of re-humanizing psycho-social rehabilitation. Girls in Sierra Leone were also kidnapped and forced into marriages with officers of the Revolutionary United Front.

These girls, once they find freedom, are terrified mothers at the age of fourteen. Their entire family might be dead and many communities refuse to accept them.

Another one of my biggest worries is money, finding money to go to college, pay for prom, buy a new CD every once in a while. [www.populationconnection.org](http://www.populationconnection.org) recently graded 76 countries on the quality of life for kids. Niger rated 76th; their per capita income is \$740 US dollars. This means that for less than the cost of senior trip, a person in Niger has to live for a year.

I'm not trying to bring everyone down. I'm just trying to say that maybe your horrendous new haircut, that 47 on a quiz, or the fact that the boy or girl of your dreams doesn't notice you isn't as big a deal as you think. Take a deep breath and enjoy your life; millions of people would kill to have problems like yours.

For more information, or to donate money, one of the best sites you can go to [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org).

## Township not so bad after all

Lauren Nocella '06

Ever since I started at Washington Township, I've heard nothing but bad things about the school. WTHS has the reputation of being a drug infested atmosphere, and has been given the nickname "Heroin High" by its very own students.

I moved here in late August from South Philadelphia. By September, I had heard so many stories that I feared the first day of school. I expected to walk into a building full of contraband and chaos. However, after being in WTHS for a full marking period I have seen nothing but the opposite.

WTHS is the strictest school I've ever seen. The staff is aware of almost everything that is going on. Security is everywhere, and occasionally dogs come in to search for narcotics in the building. Most of the students are involved in sports. The sports teams are frequently screened for drug use.

I just don't understand it. How could the school be drug *infested* when all of this is going on to prevent it? I believe that people are confused.

Of course teenagers do drugs, but bringing in narcotics and abusing them on school grounds is a whole different story. WTHS is nothing compared to

my old school. I've seen arrests, stabbings, fights, drug abuse in school and on school grounds. Metal detectors and bag scanners seemed like a joke. We had them, but they prevented nothing. WTHS seems like a luxury to me. I feel safe and secure. Plus, I'm more on task now that I don't have the distractions that I had at my old school.

Instead of walking outside and seeing kids cutting class, smoking cigarettes, smoking marijuana, drinking, etc., I walk outside and see kids hurrying to their classes; chatting with friends along the way. I feel no peer pressure because I never see anyone doing or selling drugs. The majority of students at WTHS seem like good, hardworking kids. They're not a bunch of mindless junkies like people say.

Maybe, if people went to some of the schools that my friends and I went to, then WTHS wouldn't have the reputation it has today.

The students at WTHS should be grateful to the staff for caring. Their no-tolerance policies keep kids from doing things they probably would later regret.

When I first came here, I was pretty shocked by some of the policies. I couldn't believe that the staff could check your locker and drug test you if you are suspected of being

under the influence. I've never heard of such a thing. I felt like it was invasion of privacy. But now that I see how the school works, I realize that it is only for our benefit, and I respect the staff's decisions. This is the way a school is supposed to function. To be efficient and beneficial towards the students, it has to aspire to be drug-free.

WTHS is a school that is one

in a million. It is clean, beautiful, comfortable, up-to-date, and a great place for learning. The last thing that is on my mind when I walk into the building each day is drugs. It is not a drug infested school, and therefore should not be called "Heroin High." This is truly a good school, and I hope that other people will start to recognize it and appreciate it for what it is.

### The Patriot

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## Students endure constant stress

Darby DeCicco '05

Take a break. There's no simpler way to say it.

In high school, just like life, everybody wants something from you.

Your teachers want your homework, your boss wants your time, your friends want your attention and your parents want it all done perfectly. Every day.

Somewhere along the line it became okay to put unbelievable pressure on high school students to succeed in every aspect of life. Teenagers are expected to produce top-notch grades, be involved in extra-curriculars, log in hours at work, and stick to every commitment they make. For a lot of students, high school doesn't consist of the best years of our lives. Only the most stressful.

So I'll say it again: Take a break.

You're only young once and it goes by in a flash, so it seems like a shame that many of us spend so much of our youth trying to be perfect and stressing out when we can't be. In a world overflowing with activities and obligations, competitions and comparisons, it doesn't seem like there's ever any room to slow down or mess up.

We're encouraged to do our schoolwork to impress teachers, colleges, and parents. We're encouraged to show up at clubs, sports and jobs in order to fulfill the commitments we make.

But when are we encouraged to do something for ourselves?

As often as I hear parents and teachers reminding their high school students to finish their homework or worrying that their GPAs aren't high enough, I rarely hear parents or teachers reminding their teenagers to enjoy themselves on a Friday night or worrying that they aren't spending enough time relaxing.

But life is short, and high school is even shorter, and while I know high school students can't simply blow off their work and obligations, I do know that every now and then we all deserve the opportunity to relax.

So sleep in, go out, watch a few hours of mindless television, or go home once in a while for an afternoon nap. Every minute of every day does not have to be about schedules, schoolwork, and obligations, especially at sixteen.

Chill out once in a while.

You deserve a break.

Keeping up with Jonesy By Mike Jones '06

## No heels too high...

Since I was little, I've been dressing up like a girl. Not because I find any real enjoyment in cross-dressing, I assure you I'm a perfectly normal sixteen-year-old boy, but because I've always done it in good fun. My first experience with feminine dress was because of dress-up. Now most boys, myself included, would think it odd for a child of my sex to be playing dress-up, my older sister, however, felt differently.

When my beloved older sister lead her own little moral crusade to make me a pretty boy, I sat miserable on the floor in pearls and "the most gorgeous little hat" wondering what I had done to deserve this insult to my manhood. In the midst of the torture, I felt an injustice being placed on me. Why should I have to blush in a dress when my sister completes a weekly raid of my closet with pride? What kind of society do we live in that a six-year-old with a firm belief in cooties is forced to wear a dress?

Every year, my Cub Scout den did a skit for all of the parents and siblings with the sole intention of thoroughly embarrassing each and every one of us. In our salute to American television I was Marsha from *The Brady Bunch* and followed this up in a later act as a dress wearing "Millionaire's wife" in *Gilligan's Island*. The next year, despite my determination to be a man, I was skirted once more, this time a cheerleader in our '80s musical extravaganza.

By my junior year in High School I was a girl for Halloween without thinking twice. I remember how proud



Illustration by Helen Zeng '05

I was when I stopped a poor little princess in her tracks and watched her do a tearful double-take. The arrogance swelled as I was honked at by on-coming traffic on my mission for candy. Complete with a skirt, a stuffed bra, and a purse full of attitude, I was well on my way to glamour.

By now, if you're still reading, you know that I'll never have another

girlfriend while this is in print. So, I figure I'll just pour out my cross-dressing soul. I'm bound to have people stray a few feet from me in the hallways, and have some uber-macho manly men poke fun at me. But let's face it; there is a reason behind the numerous amounts of skirted gentlemen on Halloween. Basically, you aren't cool until you've cross-dressed.

## Teaching all the options

Lauren Nocella '05

Let's face it. Teenagers have sex. They know the dangers, and they know the consequences. Yet, they do it anyway.

What is the best way to prevent pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases?

Stop telling them not to do it, and start telling them how to do it the safe way. No matter what you say, preaching abstinence will do nothing to help young America. Teens need someone to talk to and places to go for help.

At Washington Township High School, I think we need something a little bit more than the school nurse. I suggest we have a "drop-in center." Where kids can visit with a pass from

their teacher to talk to a counselor about sex issues. Each meeting would be confidential. The counselor would be able to distribute contraception, pregnancy tests, and STD tests for free. The drop-in center would be full of information about sex, pregnancy, STD's, and rape. The counselor would also be able to refer and set up an appointment for a student at a confidential clinic such as Planned Parenthood.

Some kids don't practice safe sex because they don't have the money to buy contraception, they are embarrassed to go into a store and buy condoms, or they are too afraid to get tested. If only there was someone to guide them. A lot of parents feel uncomfortable talking with their kids about sex. Teens need

someone to talk to about these issues.

Distributing condoms will not encourage kids to have sex, but will protect them from fatal diseases. More kids are having sex than you think. At my old school in Philadelphia we had a "drop-in center." It worked very well, and many students were using the opportunities that it gave each day. The kids in my school were aware. They were being safe, and if they weren't practicing safe sex then they were not cool, and nobody wanted to be in a relationship with them. Parents who didn't want their kids to take advantage of the "drop-in center" simply wrote a note to the school, and the child was not permitted to stop by.

Although abstinence is the safest way to live life, it is not the path that most kids follow.

# Rude students need lesson in manners

Jamie Valentine '05

It seems like the students of Washington Township are getting ruder and more obnoxious each day. Kids talk back to teachers or refuse to listen, just because they feel like they can. In my gym class, several archery groups refused to listen to the lesson on basic safety rules, and then refused to follow those rules. Not only is this completely rude to the teacher, it is completely unsafe and puts the rest of the class in danger of losing an eye or something.

Handing out copies of this newspaper in lunches shows me a whole new level of rude. In six cafeterias full of teenagers, it's a big surprise if I get one please or thank you. Then, kids leave the papers on cafeteria tables, on the floor, or in water fountains. This is incredibly rude to your cafeteria workers, janitors, and especially the staff of the Patriot, who have worked very hard on each issue. If you don't want our paper, that's fine. But there's no need to trash the school.

It's bad enough within our hallowed halls, but it's even more embarrassing out in public, in front of other members of the community or even complete strangers. When I was on senior trip, I was flat out embarrassed to be seen wearing my bright yellow wristband. In the

happiest place on earth, large groups of seniors would smoke, curse loudly, make crude remarks, and talk about getting totally wasted. In particular, there is one loud, obnoxious chant that Township kids are particularly fond of. I was absolutely disgusted with the kind of activities that kids from our town were engaging in, especially in front of small, impressionable children. It's just something that you don't do.

Medieval Times is the sort of activity in which cheering is encouraged. I was impressed with the amount of noise our school made, but I was not impressed with the fact that many townshippers proceeded to actually *boo* a sixth grade marching band. I really hope it made those kids happy to ruin the evening of middle schoolers.

Every time I start to think Township kids are okay, they find a way to change my mind. During the Mr. Washington Township pageant, the crowd never went below a very loud hum, not even during the announcement of the winner. During the filler act performances, the crowd would converse loudly, run up the aisles, talk on cell phones, and have otherwise horrible show etiquette. I don't know about the rest of the school, but I was always taught that when someone is performing, you shut

your mouth. It's just what decent people do.

Mr. WT is another instance where cheering and chanting is encouraged, but of course, Township kids always take it too far. There was one group in particular who chanted very frequently. The chant, while pretty obnoxious and not even creative, didn't bother me. It was the fact that the chant continued long after the poor hosts resumed talking. I don't know what school district those kids go to, but in this district, every year, classroom rule number three has always been, Don't speak when others are speaking. Just because 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade teachers mistakenly believe that we are better than needing to hear the rules one more time, doesn't mean the rules of politeness cease to apply.

Booing middle schoolers and mouthing off to your teachers doesn't make you cool, it just makes life more annoying for the rest of us. Luckily, I'm going to a college a thousand miles away next year. Still, I worry about the fates of many Township Kids who are laboring under the delusion that they can survive in the real world behaving the way they do. They have to change somehow. My advice is that every once in awhile, think about what you're doing. If your mother would be embarrassed of your behavior, just stop.

## Silence prompts vocal response

Darby DeCicco '05

In a school as big as WTHS, it's not surprising to me that new events and organizations seem to crop up every year. It's also not surprising that because the school is so large, plenty of events go unnoticed by the majority of the student body.

What I did find awfully surprising was that in my four years at WTHS the first event that seems to have gained the notice of students of all types in all grades was met with such adversity from so many students.

The Gay and Straight Alliance's Day of Silence, a day designed to promote awareness of tolerance in all WTHS students, seemed to spark the interest of more students than any fundraiser, rally, or event in the past four years.

Of course, "interest" can mean a lot of things, and in the case of the Day of Silence it seemed that in most instances students had more interest in bashing the event than anything else. Conversation on the day itself and the days preceding it seemed to be

full of snide remarks, angry declarations, and generally homophobic sentiments.

This, obviously, is not a crime and I'm going to leave my opinion of *those* opinions on the backburner, because I do believe every student should have the right to express his or her beliefs.

What *does* bother me is that the single most talked-about event of the year seems to have been talked about because it gave so many students a chance to trash the same thing. Rather than students getting excited about an activity, event, or club they plan to get involved in or support, many WTHS students seem to have come together for the specific purpose of putting something down.

Somehow, this seems wrong.

With a student body of this size, you might think awareness endeavors or community service events would be full of active students. However, countless clubs and organizations run events and programs every school year – like S.A.V.E.'s Earth Day activities or

Interact's Buddy Walk – that go by unbeknownst to the majority of the student body. In the past, I chalked this up to the size of the school. I believed it was practically impossible to reach the majority of students in such a large school.

Now, however, I'm pretty sure that it's not a problem of reaching students, it's simply a problem of getting them to care. It seems to me now that the only way to get some people's attention is to give them something to ridicule, rage against, or complain about, and with so many causes out there worthy of a little positive attention, that seems like a shame.

# Skills testing receives "F"

Valerie Smaldone '05

Last week I overheard a conversation between two of my peers involving their third marking period grades. One of the students would have received straight A's but one class held her back. It wasn't Advanced English, nor Honors Physics, but gym class. She received a B in gym even though she changed and participated everyday. What lowered her grade? Skills testing.

Skills testing in gym is one of the most unfair things I have encountered in high school. Sit on the bleachers and watch me play during a volleyball match. My serves sail straight over the net and I can bump well from any position on the court. When the ball comes near me I do not jump out of the way, scream, or cover my head. I can hold my own on the court and play as well as anyone else. However, if I cannot manage to bump the ball *head level* ten times in a row; my teacher is going to lower my grade. Or how about the bump, set, spike drills? If the ball hits the ground in a game, the play stops. However, during skills testing I would be penalized if I couldn't bump the ball after it hit the ground. I understand that the teachers are looking for proper form, but some tests are not fair. Besides, some people just are not athletically talented.

Gym is not a talent contest. If one changed into gym clothes everyday and participated as much as he or she could, I do not feel that teachers should lower his or her grade. If a student needs to swing twenty times before she manages to hit a softball she obviously should not try out for the school's softball team, but if she tried her best, she deserves an 'A' for that day. Even if she is talented, everyone has an off day.

I sometimes walk out of gym with as much frustration as I would if I studied for days and still failed a test. Sometimes I don't blame students for not getting dressed. Participation is counting less and less these days. Skills testing can impose too much on students' grades in gym class and it just isn't right.

**Come watch the first ever  
Student Dodge Ball Tournament!  
Hosted by Student Council  
June 2nd @ 6pm in the 9/10 gym**



# COMICS



Chrissy Wood '06



Shane Walsh '06

**Calling all cartoonists!**  
 Send your comic ideas to  
[wthspatriot@gmail.com](mailto:wthspatriot@gmail.com)



Shane Walsh '06

# Features

## Favorite cookie packed with fat, carbs

Nabisco provides many healthier alternatives to classic Oreos

Bethany Messick '06

One-hundred sixty calories, twenty-four grams of carbohydrates, and seven grams of fat is what three of America's favorite cookie consists of. Nabisco's Oreo cookies are enjoyed by many, but do these people really know how unhealthy these delicious cookies are?

"Oh, oh, oh, ice cold milk and an Oreo cookie, they forever go together, what a classic combination when a dark delicious cookie meets an icy cold sensation like the one and only creamy, crunchy, chocolate O-R-E-O keeps your milk from getting lonely."

This familiar quote, written on the back of the Oreo package, can be somewhat misleading. Although eating Oreos encourages kids to drink more milk, the combination also causes them to take in more fats, sugars, calories, and carbohydrates adding to today's society's obesity problem.

Nabisco realizes that people these days are trying to cut back on calories, carbs, and/or fat so they have made a variety of Oreos to satisfy the different diets.

If you are looking to cut back on fat, there are Reduced Fat Oreo

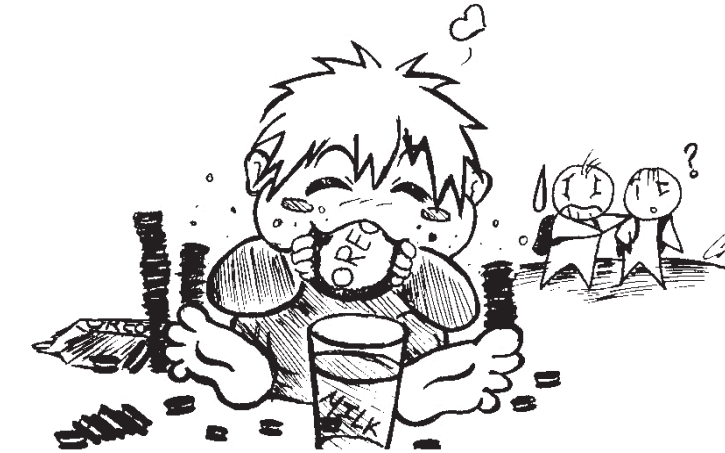


Illustration by Cassidy Matos '07

cookies. This sounds like a great way to cut back, but the Reduced Fat Oreos have more carbs and less crème filling than regular Oreos do. If you compare the Reduced Fat Oreos to the Double Stuffed Oreo's the Reduced Fat cookies actually have more calories and more carbs. The Double Stuffed Oreos have 140 calories, 20 carbs, and seven grams of fat. The Reduced Fat Oreos have 150 calories, 26 carbs, and 4.5 grams

of fat. The taste of the Reduced Fat cookies isn't all that great either. Nabisco puts less crème but more sugar into the recipe making it just a little bit off. It isn't the greatest cookie. You might want to just stick with the original Oreos and eat less of them.

Nabisco has also come out with the new CarbWell Oreos because of the no carb diet craze. These cookies have less fat, less carbs, and less

calories than both original and Double Stuffed Oreo's. They also taste as good as the more fattening Oreos do, and if you dunk them into milk you can't even tell the difference.

One other solution Nabisco has tried is the Hundred Calorie Packs. Although these are nothing like regular Oreos, these sugary, chocolate wafers taste great. These little packs are great for a quick snack, or if you are on the go. They only have two grams of fat, and 20 grams of carbs.

Another way to make Oreos and milk a little healthier is to drink skim milk or 1% milk. If you are just dunking your chocolate cookie into the milk anyway, there is no sense in drinking a full glass of whole milk. People are so concerned with the calcium and vitamins gained by drinking milk that they forget that milk has fat, carbs, and calories which make it fattening as well.

The next time you are about to indulge yourself in a few Oreos and milk, keep in mind the fact that in just a few Oreos there are many fats, calories, and carbs to watch out for. Picking up a box of the CarbWell cookies or the Hundred Calorie packs might just be a better idea than the Double Stuffed Oreos.

## Caloric info key to smarter fast food choices

Shana Menkevich '05

For many students, the hardest decision you will make some days is, "Wendy's or Taco Bell?". I surveyed about 20 people and asked them, "Wendy's or Taco Bell?" As it turns out, fifteen out of twenty responded Wendy's.

After each person had chosen, I then asked them what they would normally get to eat there.

For many of the people who chose Wendy's, the responses were very similar. Almost everyone chose to have french fries and some type of chicken, whether it was their chicken strips, nuggets, or a sandwich. Another thing that many of them couldn't go without was a frosty.

The people who answered Taco Bell, really didn't have any of their orders in common.

In addition, some of the people I asked replied, "I don't eat fast food, I am on a diet." Little do they know,



Illustration by Cassidy Matos '07

some of the choices at Wendy's aren't all that bad for you.

For example, if you go to Wendy's and order chicken nuggets, medium french fries, and a frosty, your caloric intake is not as bad as many other fast food locations. A medium french fry has 390 calories and 56 carbohydrates, an order of a 5 piece chicken nugget has 220

calories and 13 carbohydrates, and a frosty has 430 calories and 74 carbohydrates. Now if you choose to also purchase a bacon cheeseburger this would add 380 calories and 34 carbohydrates.

Now this may fill you up at Wendy's, but it could be much harder to find choices that filling at Taco Bell in the same calorie and

carbohydrate range.

A Taco Bell bean burrito has 600 calories and 82 carbohydrates. A Grande soft taco has 450 calories and 44 carbohydrates. By just purchasing these two items you can see the obvious difference between Wendy's and Taco Bell's calorie and carbohydrate count. With just these two items you may exceed your calorie count, but you may not be as full as you would like to be.

If you are one of those people who love food, especially fast food, but you still would like to watch your weight, then you are in luck. In order to accommodate people these days you are now able to go online and check out any restaurant's menu. This also gives you a chance to look up and compare calories and carbohydrates. With so much information on the internet these days, the choice between Wendy's or Taco Bell can be decided by just a few clicks of the mouse.

# Celebration brings education, fun to IMC

## 4th Annual Read Across America celebration is success

Ashley Horan '05

"This is the fourth year we've done Read Across America here at the high school, and it keeps getting bigger every year," said librarian Mrs. Ann Hill.

It may seem a little out of the ordinary for this kind of celebration to be taking place at the high school level, because it's usually elementary schools that focus on promoting reading during this day. However, many students and faculty here at WTHS were very excited to be involved.

The Read Across America celebration was held all day in the IMC. History, Sociology and Special Education classes, as well as anyone who felt like stopping in, were invited to observe and, in some cases, join in on the activities.

Mrs. Honora Kelley did a hula demonstration, and even asked students and teachers to join in. ASL classes signed the book Where's Spot and taught other students how to sign.

Mrs. Patricia Seagreaves gave a wonderful presentation on the



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

### Students and librarians celebrate this year's Read Across America celebration in the IMC.

Salem Witch Trials, to which she is very knowledgeable.

Mrs. Nancy Scarpachi's students did some performance art, which included acting out some favorite Dr. Seuss classes such as Green Eggs and

Ham. Some members of the book club talked about what their favorite novels are.

This year the IMC was also lucky to have Mr. John Campbell, author of They Were Ours, stop by

and talk about his book. They Were Ours profiles the lives and experiences of men from Gloucester County who participated in the Vietnam War.

Something that may not be related to reading, but definitely created a great atmosphere in the IMC were several musical performances by different teachers. English teacher Mr. Robert Hart was one of them. Hart has brought down his guitar and played a few tunes for the past four years that the library has had this Read Across America celebration.

If students or faculty were unable to stop by the IMC, they weren't necessarily missing out on all the fun. Members of the book club, Brittany Kaizer '06, Melissa Novak '06 and Brittany Killian '07, prowled the halls and lunchrooms dressed up as Cat in the Hats.

They asked trivia questions about Dr. Seuss such as, "What college did he attend?" or "What was the first book he ever published?" Candy prizes were given out to those students who answered correctly.

## Students learn Hawaiian art

Joe Comerford '06

Ms. Honora Kelley is a hula dancer as well as a Special Education teacher in our high school. Not only did she do a hula dancing routine for the Read Across America celebration, but she also taught the students about the origins of the hula and the Hawaiian Hula.

Kelley started learning the hula in 1991, and since then she has been to Hawaii three times to study the dance. While she was there she learned that the hula tells the story of the Hawaiian people.

She first became interested in hula dancing when she took a trip to Hawaii and saw some hula dancers perform. When she returned to the mainland she started taking classes.

"[Originally] when learning the hula you [weren't] allowed to write anything down, it [was] all learned orally. But now these rules have been narrowed, and you are allowed to write things down," said Kelley.

You can also go to hula seminars on the mainlands that are taught by



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

### Students had fun learning hula history and even a couple moves from Mrs. Honora Kelley during the days festivities.

hula dance masters who come from Hawaii.

She explains that the hula was danced for the kings and queens and the gods and goddesses. Interestingly enough she explains that while hula dancers do show a substantial amount

of skin, they hold themselves in a high regard and skin is all that you are going to see.

"I like to hula dance because it feeds my soul; it is something that makes me feel young," said Kelley.

## Pisano 13th Mr. WT

*continued from Pisano p. 1*

With a tribute to their moms during which the contestants danced with their mothers on stage, to several choreographed dance routines, to a slide show containing pictures of the contestants both now and as children, the show was heard to be described as everything from "touching" to just plain "remarkable."

This ability to keep the entire crowd entertained seems to have set this year's Mr. Washington Township contestants apart in the minds of audience members and show members alike. Judging by the cheers and applause that greeted each contestant on the night of the event, it seems that Allyson Clark '05, Velasco's escort, spoke for everyone when she said it didn't matter who wore the crown.

"They're all winners," said Clark.

After witnessing their performances, it would be hard to argue.

# Class brings favorite books to life

Cheryl Supernavage '06  
Scott Grandrino '05

With costumes, props, comedy and drama, Mrs. Nancy Scarpaci's sophomore English students performed their own show in the IMC. They acted out poems, story excerpts and monologues in the Dramatic Reading section of Read

Across America.

Performing wasn't mandatory for Scarpaci's class, but it was extra credit. The students had about a week to practice on their own time to make it for Dr. Seuss's Birthday. The students who took the opportunity to perform are lovers of reading and acting.

"The books the students are reading from are their favorite books that they read when they were young," said Scarpaci. "The books that made them the readers that they are today."

Kate Montgomery '07, Reema Petel '07, and Alaina Renz '07 performed *Red Fish Blue Fish*.

"It was the first book I learned to read," said Montgomery. "It is also my favorite Dr.

Seuss book." She was happy to do the activity in celebration of Dr. Seuss's Birthday.

Kayleen Egan '07 performed by herself an excerpt from *Agamemnon*.

"It is not really my favorite, but I like the monologue. It's a strong character," said Egan. Egan knew *Agamemnon* well because she did it for her final in drama class last year. Egan also played Sam I Am in *Green Eggs and Ham* with Lauren DeFilippis '07, Meagan O'Kane '07, Jackie VanOrden '07 and Shae Weingarten '07.

Not leaving her students alone in reciting, Scarpaci worked on a piece as well. She dressed up in silk scarves and an older looking, fancy, women's hat. She read the poem "Warning" written by Jenny Joseph. The poem developed the Red Hats Society and is from the collection *When I Am an Old Woman I Shall Wear Purple* edited by Sandra Haldeman Martz. The book is a col-



Mike Jones '06/ The Patriot

**Mrs. Scarpaci's classes acted out episodes from their favorite books.**

lection of stories, poems and pictures of women growing old with humor, courage, passion and beauty.

"The book has a lot of heart in it. It teaches students to read with a lot of heart. Heart is what you need when you read a book."

The dramatic readings went on for three periods, each with different students and exciting new acts. Scarpaci is proud of all the hard work and dedication her students put into their performances and hopes the audience enjoyed them as much as she did.



Mike Jones '06/ The Patriot

**Sam-I-Am serves up *Green Eggs and Ham*.**

# Writer conveys human cost of Vietnam War

Darby DeCicco '05

Students who attended recent Read Across America activities in the IMC were treated to a discussion by writer John Campbell on his book *They Were Ours*, which he describes as a "living memorial" to all of the Gloucester County armed servicemen killed in Vietnam.

Campbell originally decided to write the book because of the negative view so many Americans have of America's role in Vietnam. In an attempt to dispute the idea that the lives lost in the war were wasted lives, Campbell set out to honor and remember the servicemen from our area who were killed during their involvement.

"I wanted to give people a better understanding of what we really lost in Vietnam," says Campbell, explaining that each life lost during the war changed the course both of the war and of history.

Campbell had the same goal when he arrived at WTHS for his discussion.

"I love talking to students," said Campbell of why he agreed to the requests of WTHS



Mike Jones '06/ The Patriot

**Guidance counselor, Mrs. Joan Wisniewski and writer, John Campbell.**

librarians and decided to be part of the Read Across America festivities.

In addition to his own book, Campbell brought with him and discussed *Battle Dressing*, a book written by Vietnam nurse Dana Shuster. "I just hope to give a few perspectives people don't normally think of," Campbell explained.

## A Beatle at Hart



Jamie Reccino '05/ The Patriot

**Self-professed Beatlemania, Mr. Robert Hart, shared his musical stylings with an appreciative audience on hand for Read Across America. Hart was one of several faculty members who shared their talents throughout the day.**

**Got a great idea for a news story?**

**Let us know.**

**wthspatriot@gmail.com**

# McGuire thrives on activity

## Student Council president wouldn't trade her job for anything

Lindsay Zoladz '05

This year at Washington Township High School, it was hard to open a newspaper or a school program without stumbling upon the name Christine McGuire '05.

As Student Council President, director of the Mr. Washington Township show, homecoming queen nominee and Monthly Rewind correspondent, McGuire is at the epicenter of virtually everything that's going on here at WTHS.

This past year was certainly McGuire's busiest. In addition to facing the stressful college search that every senior goes through, she also had to juggle the responsibilities of arguably the most demanding position in the school, Student Council President. In her downtime, McGuire even manages to work a part-time job at Aversa's Bakery.

"Sometimes my life gets pretty hectic," she said, "but this year has taught me a lot about time-management."

Being class president is one thing, but McGuire's highest honor is that she is the Vice President of the New Jersey Association of Student Council. It's a lofty title, but she earned it.

Last spring, she went to a convention at the State College of New Jersey, where she campaigned to

an audience of delegates from throughout the state. After each nominee spoke, the attendees elected McGuire Vice President.

Her interest in leadership can be traced back to fourth grade, when she was also the Student Council President of her class.

"Nobody really knew we had a

**"This year has taught me a lot about time-management."**

**- Christine McGuire**

Student Council in fourth grade," she said, though she has definitely risen to much more prominent positions since.

When McGuire was a student at Chestnut Ridge Middle School, she began to develop a serious interest in Student Council.

"Since then, I've always been involved in my school," she said.

From there, she went on to become Student Council Public Relations Director in 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Then, last spring, after a school-wide election she was elected Senior Class President.

As President, McGuire had quite a few notable accomplishments. She was instrumental in moving this year's graduation back outside as well as taking the infamous flip-flop restriction out of the dress code. She feels that her biggest accomplishment



Lauren VanAntwerp '05/ The Patriot

### Christine McGuire puts her power as Student Council President to use in achieving reforms and school unity.

was organizing this year's Mr. Washington Township show this April.

With a record number of ticket sales and an energetic audience, she felt "this year was our best show yet."

Next year, McGuire will attend George Mason University, where she plans to major in Government and International Politics.

"I'm hoping to get some internships," she said, "to point me

in the right direction."

After college, McGuire would like to go to law school, although she's not entirely sure what she wants to do as a career.

Though she doesn't deny that this was a strenuous year, it's clear that she wouldn't trade her experiences for anything. "At the end of the day," she said, "it's definitely worth all the work."

## Confessions by Darby DeCicco '05

### ...of a soon-to-be-graduate

I am scared.

Actually, I am terrified, petrified, and panic-stricken.

Okay, maybe that's not something I would normally admit to the entire student body, but some things you just can't keep to yourself.

The thing is, my senior year is drawing dangerously close to an end and while some people might think that's a reason for nothing but celebration, the long-anticipated arrival of my departure from WTHS is leaving me, well, afraid. After all, The Real World is more than just a show on MTV.

The way I see it, graduation has been built up throughout our lives as an achievement. An accomplishment. The apex of our academic careers. Whenever anybody talks about high school graduation it's all parties and congratulations and throwing your hat in the air. And all of that might be true. Making it

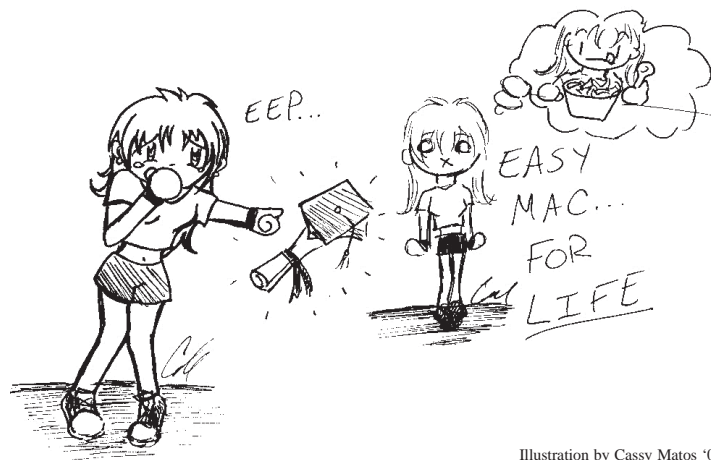


Illustration by Cassy Matos '07

through twelve years of school is no small feat, and anybody who graduates deserves to be proud.

But even with all the partying and anticipation, nagging doubts about moving on and "growing up" seem to

keep surfacing.

What if I choose the wrong college? What if I never see any of my friends again? What if I can't make it in the real world?

Somehow, I just don't feel

prepared for whatever's coming next. No matter how many moments in high school seemed to be dramatic or difficult, I know there is more drama and conflict waiting for me than I could ever imagine. Suddenly, standing at the edge of the rest of my life, everything looks frightening.

Of course, I'm not completely lost when it comes to being out there on my own. I know how to separate my darks from my lights, I know how to make a paycheck stretch, and I even make a mean macaroni and cheese.

Yet, even with all of those accomplishments under my belt I know that nothing can prepare me for the real experience of the real world. Come June I'm going to have to suck it up, move on, and hopefully learn to make my own way.

After all, a girl cannot live on Easy Mac alone.

# No need to stress over the perfect prom dress

Amanda Mastranduono '05

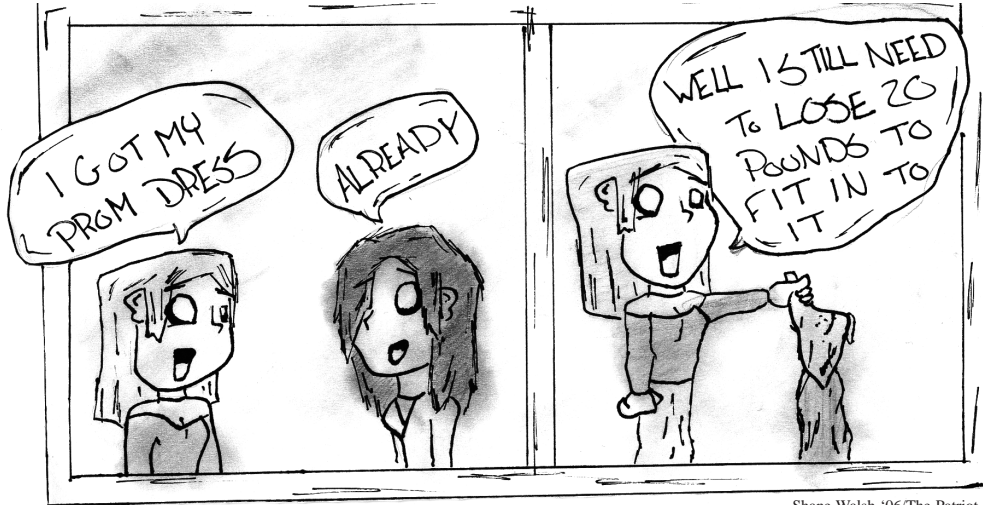
With prom right around the corner for students, stress levels start to build and problems tend to pop up. "Who am I going to go with? Do I pay or will he? What table are we going to sit at? Whose house are we going to for pictures? Does he know to get me flowers? Did anyone rent a limousine? What are we doing after?" The answers to these questions are fairly easy compared to when the question about "Where do I find the perfect dress?" arises.

Looking sensational on prom night is a very important goal for most girls. Prom is something that they will always remember and be constantly reminded of by the endless amounts of pictures taken that night. It is important to be prepared in advance so that there is less to worry about the night of prom.

Hair, make-up, nails, tanning, shoes, handbags, and jewelry are all added accessories that are almost never a problem finding or having done. When it comes time for the prom gown, that's when girls start to worry the most. From my experience of being a sales associate in a local bridal store, I know that gown shopping is not the easiest task in the world. My best advice is to be prepared and start early.

Prom season for most schools ranges anywhere from the beginning of March to the middle of June. Gown stores start to display their incoming prom lines as early as January so a smart thing to do is to start then. There are hundreds of styles and colors to choose from, but not all options are available in the store. Several small dress shops will order one sample gown for trying on purposes, and then it can be ordered in many sizes and color combinations. It can be slightly difficult to get the vision of how it will look after the gown fits you perfectly, but don't rule out that dress as an option. Ninety-nine percent of prom gowns arrive exactly how the girl imagines it would look, and the other one-percent is completely satisfied after alterations.

It has been proven several times that waiting until the last minute doesn't get you anywhere. Many stores today are keeping a record of which girl buys what gown so that no two girls end up wearing the same dress to the same prom. This is an awesome idea for those who want to be different and be the only one wearing that gown, but what if someone from your school goes to order the gown of your dreams right before you? Unfortunately, she



Shane Walsh '06/The Patriot

will be the one wearing it on prom night.

Another item to think about is the cost of your gown. If you are going to a store to order a gown, the prices will be about \$200-\$300 and then add another \$50-\$100 for alterations. These kinds of prices are not for everyone, so that is why there are other options. Department and dress stores such as

## Make-up Your Mind

Ashley Mackowiak '05

One of the most exciting times for girls is the prom season. The hustle and bustle of dress shopping, making hair and nail appointments, possible tanning; each event is more exciting than the next. With all things to think about hours before your date arrives, makeup seems to be a small after-thought.

There is usually two ways that girls do their makeup, either way over-the-top or barely there. They think it looks good, but in reality, they have no idea what others are thinking. Here are a few makeup tips that can help you look just right on prom night.

If you are new to wearing makeup, don't put anything on that will make you have a completely different look. You want your makeup choices to reflect whom you are, but also make you take a "step outside the box."

For the lighter and paler color dresses, light peaches, pinks or browns are good complimenting colors. A thin line of brown or grey eyeliner can help bring out the color of your eyes as well as enhance the shadow on the lid.

If you really want your makeup to stand out and show off your face along with your dark dress, there are a few ways to do it. The most

Sears, JC Penny, Strawbridges, Macy's, Deb, and Joyce Leslie have a nice selection of dresses; however, these stores often carry the same lines of formal wear. Chances are that another girl may have a gown like yours, but if that is not something that bothers you, you can get away with paying half the price of a prom gown from a bridal store.

Many girls become so tangled up in prom preparation that they forget to have fun. It is not exactly torture when you choose to get dressed up and go dancing will all of your friends for an evening so do not make it a dreadful experience. Get out there now and start shopping. Once the dirty work is all done, you can sit back, relax, and patiently wait for prom to come.

# Prom classy or prom trashy?

important thing to remember is not to cake it on. If you want to match the color of your dress to your eyes, use a lighter shade of the dark color and apply it on the outside corner of your eyes, right above the crease. Another way to liven up your eyes is to apply eyeliner. In this case, you are able to use the color of the dress, or maybe even a shade darker. Apply a thin line right about the last line.

For an even more drastic look, put a little bit of glitter right on that line.

Prom is a night everyone wants to remember for the good parts of it. You do not want to be remembered for your crazy new look that shocks everyone. Keep yourself simple on your most extravagant night to date; everything else will do the talking. Keep the dark hues for the runway and let your own look make you runaway.



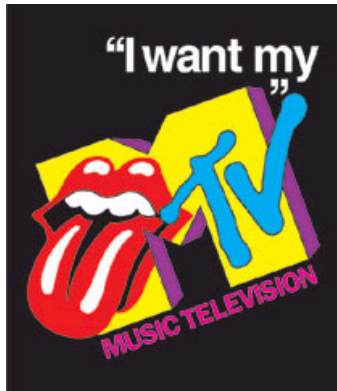
Illustration by Shane Walsh '06

## MTV losing touch with youth audience

Rachael LaBattaglia '06

MTV, once one of the coolest channels on television, has now become a disgrace.

The notion officially hit me one Saturday morning when I turned the TV on during breakfast. The show *My Super Sweet 16* was on. I decided to



www.idanda.net

MTV, once the coolest channel on TV, has now become a joke. **Out on DVD**

## Braff directs, stars in charming comedy/drama

Ashley Horan '05

*Garden State* is a comedy/drama starring director Zach Braff. Braff plays Andrew Largeman, a young man who returns home to his estranged family after being away for ten years. He has fallen into the rhythm of his boring life in LA, numb to everything because of the medication prescribed by his father, who is his psychiatrist.

Largeman comes off of his meds before his return to New Jersey, where he begins his journey to finding his true self. He meets up with an old friend from high school, Mark (Peter Sarsgaard), and makes a new friend, Sam (Natalie Portman). Sam helps Andrew rediscover himself, reintroducing him to feelings and emotions.

*Garden State* is essentially about the journey a man takes to finding out who he really is and what his purpose is in life. It's not hard to express sympathy for the main character, because of the difficult struggles he has faced in his life. It is a bit strange when Andrew meets Sam, the compulsive liar, but their relationship is admirable. It seems as though they give each other exactly what was missing in each of their lives. It is fulfilling to watch Andrew slowly make the transition back to a thinking, feeling human being. This is a good movie for

watch the new show, which featured teenagers planning the ultimate Sweet 16 party. As I munched on my cereal, I watched two grossly rich girls plan a party unlike one I ever had experienced or ever will experience. The party, held at the Hard Rock Café, would have special guests Unwritten Law (Beyonce wanted too much money). The party was a bit chaotic at times, since everyone wanted to get inside this exclusive party, but overall looked pretty fun. My mouth dropped open in shock as one of two birthday girls said that party was "nothing special". I realized that I had just watched a show about some of the biggest snobs out there. I had wasted my time watching two rich girls complain about the Sweet 16 party of a lifetime.

After watching one of the *many* programs that showcased snobs, I came to the conclusion that MTV had just completely run out of good programming ideas. Did I really want to watch a bunch of rich kids whine on television? A channel that thinks some

anyone to watch, because we've all been unsure about ourselves at one point or another.

Braff is very convincing, playing the role of the depressed Andrew Largeman. He gets props for being able to portray a character that is so different from the goofy medical resident, John Dorian, whom he plays on the hit television show, *Scrubs*.

Although called *Garden State*, there wasn't anything obviously distinguishing the setting as New

Justine Jacobs '06

As a high school student who starts her day before the sun even rises, I tend to get to bed pretty early. However, *Grey's Anatomy* has given me a newfound motivation to stay up on Sunday nights.

The ABC show follows Meredith Grey (Ellen Pompeo), a surgical intern just starting out at Seattle Grace Hospital. It sounds like your average medical drama, but throw in a diverse group of fellow interns, a few tough senior residents, and a potential love interest that just happens to be Meredith's boss, and you have the kind of show that can follow mega-hit *Desperate Housewives* and keep viewers tuned in.

kid would answer "yes" to that question has really hit rock bottom.

Most of MTV's new shows are at an all-time low. *Wanna Come In?*, a show about people trying to win money on blind dates, is one of the many shows that MTV has aired that seems to show how low people regard relationships these days. If that isn't bad enough, how about people picking who they want to date by a room search? Yes, folks, we're in the great era of judging people for dates by solely what is found in their bedrooms. Considering my room barely reflects who I am, I find *Room Raiders* quite pointless.

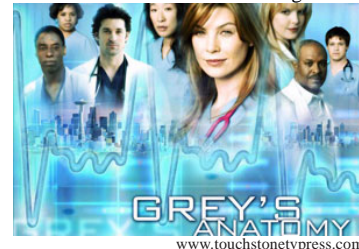
MTV also loves to show viewers the lives of musical families. The drama of the dysfunctional Osbournes somehow still amuses people. I guess people can feel good that there are families out there that are having more problems than their own. However, I can't understand how people can still watch the Simpson family. One sister is enough. I would prefer no Simpson at all. The viewers of *Newlyweds*,

Jersey. It's a bit of a let-down, especially for the New Jerseyans who can't help but feel proud that their state is being recognized by the entertainment industry. On the other hand, if you were worried that there'd be too many references to the state, and non-New Jersey native wouldn't be able to appreciate them, you don't have to worry. It's a quality film that can be enjoyed by anyone, as long as you have an appreciation for the importance of life's journeys.

## Interns provide cure for reality TV

In fact, *Grey's Anatomy* is everything a TV viewer could hope for. It's very well written and has an excellent cast. It's also pretty original.

While medical shows are a dime a dozen, they've never been treated this way before. *Grey's Anatomy* lies somewhere in between the laugh-out-



**Grey's Anatomy provides a happy medium between silly *Scrubs* and the intense *ER*.**

surprisingly not shocked that Jessica and Nick are still married, already know how dumb Jessica Simpson is capable of acting. Turning to *The Ashlee Simpson Show* is no comfort either. If MTV wants to waste time following around a new "rock star", it should at least pick someone who better displays talent. MTV's next move is to invade the life of Blink 182's Travis Barker in *Meet the Barkers*.

The "music" part of Music Television is almost gone. Videos are played on weekday mornings when half of MTV's viewers are in school. The countdown show *Total Request Live* only shows each video about halfway through. *TRL* was the coolest show back when half of the country's teenage girls were obsessed with groups of five young men who could charm girls with some of the corniest love songs ever written. The boy band days are over, and quite frankly, so are the good old days of *TRL*.

MTV has some shows that have proved to be acceptable. They have aired some more educational programming such as the *True Life* series and MTV News specials, and shows such as *Boiling Points* and *Punk'd* offer much needed comic relief. However, MTV considerably lowered its standards by concentrating on groups of spoiled rich people. The majority of MTV's shows have nothing to do with music anymore and are becoming a total waste of time.

MTV seems to have forgotten that its original appeal was music, and has also forgotten the purpose of television. MTV has ceased to entertain.

loud antics of *Scrubs* and the unrealistic intensity of *ER*. It takes a good look at both the professional and personal lives of its characters, never getting too heavy or too silly.

*Grey's Anatomy* is also more about content and less about gore than many medical dramas tend to be. While episodes aren't totally blood free, viewers with more squeamish stomachs don't need to worry about averting their eyes during the show's surgical procedures.

Above all else, *Grey's Anatomy* is a welcome relief from the pervasiveness of reality television. Its quality as a well-written, well-acted, old-fashioned television drama surpasses that of the competition and is certainly enough to keep me up to eleven on a school night.

# Disney on ice theory doesn't hold water

Reuben Gutierrez '05

On December 15<sup>th</sup>, 1966, an American legend died. Walt Disney, a true American icon, loved for the joy and happiness he brought to the world, had passed away. His creativity had ended, though his legacy would live on forever. There was still hope for a new tomorrow. The Walt Disney Company went on without its founder and is most definitely still prospering as it entertains Americans today.

In the midst of news of technological advancements in medicine, many have come to the conclusion that Disney had requested to be cryogenically frozen. Was he preserved in ice until a cure for his cause of death would be found? No. The rumor that Walt Disney was cryogenically frozen and would be woken up in the far future is entirely false and was never intended by Disney himself.

Bob Thomas, author of the biography *Walt Disney: An American Original*, wrote "Sorrow and disbelief

encircled the world. Newspapers in every country in the world reported the news of Walt Disney's death, and citizens everywhere felt the loss." Thomas goes on to explain that Disney had censored news of his health ailments from the public, so news of his death was all the more sudden and shocking to the world.

No one knows where or with whom this rumor originated. It may have resulted from the reaction to the death of such a prominent figure of the entertainment industry. "No doubt, there are many that didn't want to accept that "Uncle Walt" was gone. The desire to keep Walt alive (or at least his cultivated image), may have been at the root of the rumor that somehow, someday, he may be back," reports the *Los Angeles Grim Society* in an article entitled "The 'Disney on Ice' Rumor."

Most rumors have stated that Disney would return from his cryogenic storage chamber once new medical procedures were discovered to



**Disney's legacy will forever live in the company he created and the memories of his fans**

correct his ailments. Even if Disney had been preserved, there would need to be a medical miracle to fix the damages done internally to his body. Disney's excessive smoking habits caused him to develop a cancerous lung. Thomas wrote: "On Wednesday, November 2, he entered St. Joseph's Hospital for more tests. This time X rays revealed a spot the

size of a walnut on the left lung. Doctors told him surgery was imperative."

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, doctors operated on Disney and removed his left lung. Though the cancerous lung had been removed, the surgeon told Disney's immediate family – his wife Lilly and his daughters Diane and Sharon – that Disney had not much longer to live. A little more than a month later, Disney died of an acute circulatory collapse.

With his death, many have believed that Disney had been put in a cryogenics tube ("directly under Disneyland's 'Pirates of the Caribbean' attraction is the most frequently mentioned site," reports Barbara and David P. Mikkelson, authors of the *Urban Legends Reference Pages*) where he would wait for his cure.

This belief is entirely false since his body is no longer, in layman's terms, in one piece. Disney was cremated, as verified on his official death certificate. According to Thomas, "The funeral was as Walt had specified – private. The body was cremated, and only the immediate family was present for the simple service at Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale [California] on the day after he died."

To the chagrin of Disney fans and believers of this myth, Walt Disney will not return to the mortal world in the far future. Though Disney may not and will not be around anymore, his legacy will forever live on in the company he created and the memories of his fans.

## Wilco's *Ghost* charming, regardless of hype

Lindsay Zoladz '05

There is one downside to making a widely-acclaimed, ground-breaking and all around wonderful album: the follow-up. All of those phrases of praise were used to describe Wilco's 2002 release *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, so it seemed like the path was paved for the inevitable disappointment of its successor.

This situation provides a band with two options: they can either stick with the formula that has worked for them and release an album almost identical to the one before it, or they can shatter all precedents and try to make something completely different. Wilco opted for the latter and isolated some of their previous album's die-hard fans.

The charm of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* was its ability to hide sweet, earnest melodies under layers of sonic fuzz and dissonance. Their next album, *A Ghost is Born*, which was released in June 2004, has a much more sparse sound. While *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* used a number of different instruments to achieve its sound, *Ghost* focuses mainly on just piano and guitar.

*A Ghost is Born* is not for impatient listeners. Songs take quite a long time to get to the hook (if there is a hook at all). The album's third track "Spiders (Kidsmoke)" has some good ideas, but it redundantly plods on for over 10 minutes and becomes



boring halfway through.

Listeners who hit the 'seek' button midway through the song are in for a treat, though. The next track, "Muzzle of Bees" is a gorgeous, rustic ballad full of finger-picking and frontman Jeff Tweedy's clumsy, mumbled poetry ("There's a random painted highway and a muzzle of bees/ My sleeves have come unstitched from climbing your trees").

The next two tracks don't differ much from the ones before them. Then comes the turning point: "Wishful Thinking". It signifies a complete transition in the vibe of the album; this track would be the beginning of 'Side B' if this was still the age of vinyl. The song is more in vein of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot* than any song on the album so far; it opens with atmospheric buzz that then parts to reveal a delicate, piano/acoustic guitar ballad. "Company in My Back" also sounds a lot like the Wilco that

fans have come to love; their cacophonous quirks are embraced and placed front-and-center rather than hidden.

"I'm A Wheel" is the only true rock number on *Ghost*. It's a good song, although it does contain the line "1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9/Once in Germany someone said 'nien'", which just may be a contender for the worst lyric of all-time. Still, as a songwriter proven time and time again to be incredibly talented, it's likely that Tweedy intended this song's lyrics to be tongue-in-cheek.

"Less Than You Think" is, along with "Wishful Thinking", the other high-point of the album. The song itself is only 3 minutes long, but it fades into almost 15 minutes of ambient noise. You'd think the album is over at this point, but those who are patient enough to wait, or smart enough to press the 'seek' button, will be met with the true closing number, "The Late Greats". This song is unfortunate and unnecessary. Wilco should have just closed the album with "Less Than You Think", because concluding it with such a throw-away pop number causes such a gorgeous, delicate album to end on a bit of a sour note.

For Wilco's fifth proper album, they seemed to shun the old "If-it-ain't-broke-don't-fix-it" mantra that so many bands hide behind after releasing a breakthrough album. Though *A Ghost is Born* fails to reach the heights of *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*,

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# Mulan II breaks the unfortunate mold of Disney sequels

Reuben Gutierrez '05

Many people have either rejoiced or cringed at the sound of a sequel to a film. With the booming success of the 1993 VHS release of *Return of Jafar* and 1999's theatrical release of *Toy Story 2*, Disney had decided to invest in the success of continuing their beloved



ultimatedisney.com

**Mulan, shows again that she can do anything the guys can do.**

films. Unfortunately, many people have reacted negatively. The animated nightmares of *Return of Jafar*, *Cinderella II: Dreams Come True*, and other Disney direct-to-video and DVD releases are not the best examples of a true and well-working sequel. The recent release of *Mulan II* is certainly an exception. This animated feature makes a good effort to live up to its predecessor, having beautiful animation, a powerful story, strong themes, decent music, and most of the original cast.

The end of *Mulan* left some wondering, "Okay, what happens next?" General Li Shang's arrival at the Fa home certainly seemed to set up for a sequel, just as it was meant to.

## New movie will hold you Hostage

Scott Grandrino '05

A good suspense movie is one where the main character is stuck in a "win/lose" type situation.

The new suspense thriller *Hostage*, starring Bruce Willis, is just that type of movie.

Bruce Willis's character, Jeff Taley, is a former hostage negotiator that retires to a small town in California to lead its police department. Walter Smith, played by Kevin Pollack, is a wealthy business man who owns an expensive mansion on the hills outside the small town in California, where he lives with his daughter and son.

Smith and his family become hostages when a band of teenagers kidnap them in their own house in attempt to steal the family car. The teenage crooks' plan goes awry, and they find themselves trapped in the Smiths' high-security house.

I would like to make it clear that *Mulan II* has been planned for production since *Mulan* was still in the writing stage. According to Olivier Mouroux of animated-movies.com (a site which sadly no longer exists since Mouroux had begun his career with Dreamworks Animation), the writers had written enough story material for three movies, thus creating a *Mulan* trilogy.

*Mulan II* picks up with Shang's proposal to Mulan, though their wedding plans are interrupted when the Emperor requests for them to complete another mission. The threat of a Mongolian attack increases and in order to create a stronger front for China, the Emperor arranges for an alliance with the kingdom of Qui Gong.

Mulan and General Shang are sent to escort the Emperor's three daughters as they journey to Qui Gong and marry the Lord Chin's three sons. Mulan objects to the idea of an arranged marriage, but goes on to complete the mission despite her objections. Her three friends from the army as well as Mushu and Cri-Kee accompany Mulan and Shang to Qui Gong and by the end of the movie, the mission is completed; though not as originally planned.

*Mulan II* definitely has a good, strong screenplay, develops the personalities of both secondary and new characters, and presents a few

Smith works secretly for top business criminals. On the day of the kidnapping, he was supposed to deliver confidential information to them. The material never got to the criminals and they become particularly irritated.

The secret business criminals kidnap Taley's family and threaten to kill them if he doesn't retrieve the confidential information, but if Taley attempts to go in the house to obtain the material, the teenagers will kill the Smith family.

This is when the movie becomes suspenseful. Willis's character is thrown into a chaotic situation in where he needs to make a decision and quick.

*Hostage* kept me on the edge of my seat. It was exciting to the end. Willis was outstanding in the role of Jeff Taley.

I recommend this movie to anyone. It's an action-packed suspense thriller that will keep you on the edge of your seat. This is a movie you will enjoy.

unexpected powerful and emotional scenes.

*Mulan's* theme of conflict between tradition and true feelings is seen again, though this time with the three princesses, as they discover their honorable duty to China, the Emperor, and their father goes against their true feelings. "Like Other Girls," the psychedelic and energetic show-stopping song, in a way reckons back to *Mulan's* "Reflection" as the girls realize they want to break away from their princess images and practices and just simply be their true selves. The music of *Mulan II*, though not as great as its predecessor's, brings back melodies and styles from *Mulan* (thankfully unlike the bubble-gum-pop filled soundtrack of *Cinderella II*) and does well to develop the story, characters, and emphasize emotions and themes.

A sensible plot and fitting music are only a few factors that make up a good sequel. The original film was done by Walt Disney Feature Animation, but Disney likes to give its sequel projects to its television animation studios (with the exception of *The Rescuers Down Under* and *Fantasia 2000*).

Though some of the characters looked somewhat unlike their previous

## Unique sound of The Sawtooth Grin will blow you away

Keith Hallion '05

When I first heard The Sawtooth Grin, I was floored by the sheer brutality and unique sound that they manage to integrate into every single track. Both releases, *Cuddlemonster* and *Pervavor*, fall into a genre all their own, described as a mix between an organized tech-metal masterpieces and a lawnmower running over a cat.

*Cuddlemonster* begins with an awkward sounding instrument and cuts right into the song, catching your ears and your head off guard. With a song a mere minute long and a song over four minutes, it is obvious The Sawtooth Grin isn't interested in length, but rather how well the song flows. It is hard to believe that this five piece is actually playing music and not just slapping away at their instrument, doing their own thing. The vocalist, if that is what you want to call him, is one of a kind and has a sound unlike anything I have ever heard before. His scream is high pitched but still devastating, only adding to the band's sound. The drum

selves at times and the color palette slightly strayed from the darker tones of the original, the animators of DisneyToon Studios overall did a good job of recapturing the look of *Mulan*, helping to achieve the status of a good sequel.

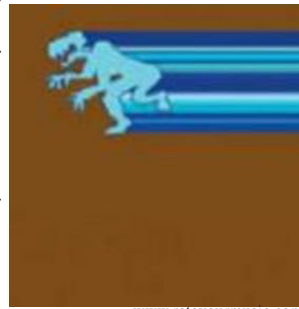
Nearly the entire cast returned with the additions of notable actresses Lucy Liu and Sandra Oh and voice actors Lauren Tom (*Futurama*), Judy Kuhn (*Pocahontas*) and Mark Moseley. Eddie Murphy's absence is noticeable, but Moseley does a good job of pulling off his voice and humor. Moseley had done Murphy before, providing Mushu's voice in *Mulan* video games and Disney appearances, as well as Donkey's singing voice in *Shrek* and *Shrek* video games.

Since it is difficult for the sequel (and any sequel) to surpass the original and some scenes were a bit predictable, I give *Mulan II* a seven out of ten. Unlike the action packed adventure of *Mulan*, *Mulan II* overall came to be a fun and fresh romantic comedy/family film about one's true feelings and the triumph of one's heart. Despite this difference, *Mulan II* is definitely one of Disney's better sequels and deserves a viewing by anyone who has seen the original.

tracks are so cluttered and all over the place, where in reality they are well-coordinated, crafted over tons and tons of practice. The snare hits and blast beats are performed masterfully and timed with great precision. The entire set sounds perfect.

You cannot take The Sawtooth Grin too seriously, though, with song titles like "Meat-Hook Marty And The Pajama Party" or "Sometimes She Tasted Like Burnt Plastic Smells," it is obvious that the band encourages having fun with music and not taking it too seriously all the time. In the song "Boxcutter Facelift," the group recorded some unusual whistling layered over a slow drum beat that is tastefully hilarious.

The Sawtooth Grin manages to incorporate catchy dance chords, sporadic jazz timing and heavy grind noise into their music, giving them such an unprecedented sound. Both albums are musical violence at its best that literally scream at you to listen. There is no doubt in my mind that this band will blow you away, if it doesn't blow out your ear drums first.



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## Boys lacrosse hopes to complete expectations

Scott Grandrino '05

This year's boys' lacrosse team is a young, hard fought, promising team with big goals and expectations.

One of their goals is to win the conference and make states. Another goal is to beat hated-rivals Shawnee and Cherokee. They're halfway to their goal having beaten Shawnee earlier this year. Though they lost to Cherokee the first time out, they have another shot at them later in the season.

Although these are there goals, the team is "a little behind" said Varsity assistant coach and JV head

coach, Costantinos Tsoukalis, on achieving them.

As of April 22, the Varsity team had a record of 4-2 and the JV team was 3-1. One of their losses was to Eastern which Tsoukalis said they "weren't expecting."

One of the main concerns for the varsity team was their offense. Assistant coach Tsoukalis, or Coach "T" as many of the students call him, said that the team's offense needed improvement from last year.

Last year the team struggled scoring, which cost them many games. Tsoukalis has said he has seen "more scoring this year."

He is less concerned about defense. "The defense is more settled down, and they know their role," he said.

Aside from those goals, one of Coach T's aspirations is to "have a well organized, respectful team." He knows he has that type of team.

The team consists of veteran seniors, and young rising juniors and underclassmen.

The seniors on the team are Kyle Gallagher, Chris Alves, Dan Richie, Dan Wachter, Bret Swiecinski, Jim Pierson, and Keith Duffield. Gallagher, Alves, and Wachter are the three captains, but Coach T said the seniors have "banded together" and

have all become good leaders and role models for the younger players.

Tsoukalis plans to coach the younger players and get them prepared to play on the Varsity level.

A few players he will rely on this year, and hopes will step up next year to replace the seniors are Matt Cutrufello '07, Eric Lamb '06, Mike Mellace '07, Doug '07 and Tim '08 Tonkinson, Wayne Surtorio '06, and Tom '06 and Anthony '08 Verchio.

The 2005 boys' lacrosse team will play hard to have a great season and complete their goals, and Tsoukalis knows that the team will continue to get better in the future.

## Back to back (x3)

### Cheerleaders continue dynasty with sixth straight title

Richie Elles '08

Led by Coach Lauryn Atkinson, the Winter Varsity Cheerleading squad has done it again.

For the sixth straight year, the girls have captured the Olympic Conference Grand Championship. Such a streak ranks among the top in school history.

The squad received an even higher ranking as they represented WTHS proudly and won the New Jersey Cheerleading Coaches Association State Championship.

After finishing first in nine out of ten competitive events, the girls also easily clinched the Group IV and Mega Large Division Titles.

The squad not only enjoyed battling other schools in competitions, but cheering for both the boys and girls varsity basketball teams on home and away games into the playoffs.

The seniors are glad they will leave the team on a high note.

"I thought it was cool that we walk away this year with two state championship titles," said Michelle DeVuono '05.

The coaches were excited also, as they were an instrumental part of

the sixth straight championship run.

"The entire coaching staff is very proud of their success," commented Atkinson.

The coaches' fall expectations were met and exceeded in both the standings and on personal levels.

Atkinson stressed points that would be the basis of their performance and also make new friends on the team.

Teamwork was the most important, and only working together could such a feat as the division and state championships be reached.

The girls bonded over the season, learned to trust each other, and it showed in the final standings.

Another important factor in the successful season was the work ethic shown by the entire squad.

"The girls just worked hard and performed well," explained Atkinson. "They put a lot of time in, and it paid off."

Like the teams before, this year's squad has left expectations high for next year.

Many of the juniors are ready and willing to step into the roles of the captains and lead our Township cheerleaders to yet another successful season.

## Tennis looks promising

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The 2005 boys' tennis team is in prime position to make a run to the top. This year's veteran team, led by superstar singles player, Will Haight '06, is looking to make a run at a Conference championship.

"We want to have a strong showing in the Olympic Conference, and we want to win the Gloucester County Times Tournament which is something we haven't done since I've been here," said Haight.

The team has a new look on the sidelines this year. Longtime coach Bill McBride had to resign from coaching before the season because of personal reasons. Taking over for him as head coach is Mr. Rich Flemming, his assistant is Girl's Tennis Coach Mrs. Donna Costa.

According to Haight, the majority players on the squad who have had McBride as their coach for the past few years have taken a bit of time adjusting to Flemming's different coaching style. It took some time for the players to get used to the practice changes, but now that they have become familiar with the coaching staff, the team seems to be gelling at the right time.

The team currently stands at 6-1, and as a collective unit, they have not played this well in years (Last year they finished with a 10-8 record). Despite the improvement that was made, the aforementioned Haight believes that there is always more room for improvement, especially if the team wants to become an elite team in the conference.

"For us to be successful," Haight began, "we have to have improvements made in our doubles teams. They are going to have to give us more production this year. Also, for the leaders of the team, we are going to have to close out matches that we have leads in. We won't be able to let up at any time."

Haight and the other veterans on the team, such as Alan Umali '05 and Matt Behr '05, have put the team on their shoulders. They are helped out by the other experienced players.

In fact, there are four seniors on the roster, as well as several much improved juniors to anchor the unit.

The team will have the opportunity to upset conference rival Cherry Hill East, as they play the favorites to win the Olympic Conference twice this season.

Cherry Hill East is expected to be the team's most difficult opponent because, as several players on the Township team say, their training regimen is amazing, and that they play every single match to their fullest potential.

If the Township tennis team gets the much needed production from their doubles teams, their singles players will have enough talent to pull this team to a potentially high record that they have not seen in several years.

They strike fear into the hearts of their opponents due to the team's talent level, their wealth of experience, and their leadership; they will use all of these things in an attempt to have a very successful season.

## Like talking sports?

Join S.T.A.T. Pack. Look for posters for next meeting in room D-5.

# Wade's apathetic attitude may cost his job

Rob Czyzewicz '06

There comes a time in every general manager's life where he himself must step up to the plate.

Every one of them has an obligation to their fan base to put the best product on the field that is possible.

Only teams with financial problems, such as the Pittsburgh Pirates or the Kansas City Royals, have an excuse to not put a winning product out.

But, a team like the Phillies, who ranked fifth in the major leagues in team payroll last year with one of \$95 million, has no excuse.

And who was there to blame? The manager?

Well, they blamed the former, Larry Bowa, but it clearly was not his fault.

Blame the players? They are who they are, and they are just not good enough.

Blame the owner? He puts out the money to fund a championship team. That leaves nobody to blame other than Edward Wade, the organizations beloved General Manager.

Wade is a man who does spend money, and he deserves credit for that.

Now, if only he spent the money wisely, then we would have had a parade or two down Broad Street in late October the past few years.

Wade has a reputation of spending high in the off season, and not doing anything at the trade deadline.

A certain six year, \$50 million contract given to Pat Burrell comes to mind. Not to mention paying Jim Thome like an MVP, though he is obviously not one.

And now we arrive to off-season 2004-2005.

Let's compare the acquisitions of all of the teams in the National League East, shall we?

Where to start? Well, the New York Mets have signed future Hall of Fame pitcher Pedro Martinez and breakout superstar Carlos Beltran. The Florida Marlins, who won the World Series just two seasons ago, added the league's ERA guru, Al Leiter, as well as All Star first baseman Carlos Delgado.

The Atlanta Braves, who have won the division thirteen years in a row, traded for Cy Young contender Tim Hudson.

Even the new Washington Nationals signed former All Star pitcher Esteban Loaiza along with outfielder Jose Guillen and All Star third baseman Vincent Castilla, who led the majors in RBI last year.

All four of these teams have significantly improved themselves. And then, there's Ed Wade's Phillies.

The Fightin' Phils have "wowed" their fans by signing often

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## This will be the put up or shut up season for Ed Wade

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injured pitcher Jon Leiber and 38 year old centerfielder Kenny Lofton.

The signing of Lofton probably came two and a half years too late.

He really could have helped a team fighting for the playoffs that season.

Oh wait, he did! He batted .414 for the Chicago Cubs in the playoffs that year. Whoops, missed that one, didn't you Ed?

Scott Grandrino '05

A little over a year ago, the city of Philadelphia was blessed by the football gods. An All-Pro athlete landed in the "City of Brotherly Love", and received much "Brotherly Love" from the fans.

That athlete is Terrell Owens, and after one year playing with the Eagles, the city has less "Brotherly Love" for him.

Many knew, including myself, that Owens has an attitude problem and can sometimes be a jerk. But the way he played this year, and the way he got along with the rest of the team, I thought T.O.'s bad ways were over.

But I was wrong.

And I was really wrong. ONE YEAR! That's all it took. One year for T.O. to bring his devilish side out and cause chaos for the Eagles.

I don't understand why T.O. thinks he wants more money. I think he's making enough as it is. And he's only one year into his contract.

Last year the team played amazing, finishing on top of the NFC

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## Poor T.O. Let me play him a sad song on the world's smallest violin!

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and going all the way to the Super Bowl. T.O. knows that the Eagles can get back to the big game and win it, and he's got six more years to do it in so why is he causing trouble.

I understand that football to us fans is an event to watch for our enjoyment, but for T.O. and other

These "big" acquisitions of the Phillies this off-season are simply not enough.

If something more is not done, the Phillies could realistically finish last in this suddenly competitive division.

Let's remember Mr. Wade, to contend for a championship, a team needs a top notch starting rotation and a solid bullpen, not mediocre ones.

This will be the put up or shut up season for Ed Wade.

If he makes some moves at the trade deadline to get his team over the hump, then he will have saved his job.

If he reverts back to form, then the Phillies will disappoint once again, and Ed Wade will be watching the 2006 Phillies on television while he's standing and waiting in an unemployment line.



Ed Wade may not be laughing this offseason if the Phillies don't make the postseason.

# Owens' ego won't fly with birds

Scott Grandrino '05



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## Elated WR Terrell Owens, here holding the NFC Championship Trophy, may not be around long enough to see another one.

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professional players it is their career. And I know that in your career you want to make the most amount of money possible.

And this is all T.O. is trying to do. But, you have to keep in mind that if the Eagles do negotiate T.O.'s contract then they'll be opening the floodgates.

Everyone else on the team will want more money. Why should T.O. get more money and not the rest of the team? It wouldn't be fair and then the team would have major mayhem.

The one stupid thing that he did which made me have less respect for him was going on live television on MSNBC and crying to the fans saying

that he needs more money to support his family.

Poor T.O. Let me play him a sad song on the world's smallest violin!

How much money does this man need? He's making enough to support his family, my family, and probably half of the families that live in Philadelphia!

Acting like a little baby didn't earn sympathy from me. What it earned him was an Oscar for best Actor.

Philadelphia's sports radio 610 WIP has loads of sympathy for T.O. They feel so bad that Angelo Caltaldi, talk show host of the morning show, has established a charity for T.O. Any unused items from anyone can be donated to T.O., because his family is in need. T.O.'s ten million dollar contract just isn't enough.

The other thing that bothered me about this whole T.O. situation is when he opened his big, disturbing, ignorant mouth to ESPN and talked down on Donovan McNabb.

That's wrong. You don't talk down on your teammates, especially the teammates that you have a close bond with.

T.O.'s problem with his contract concerns the Eagles staff, not his teammates. He should leave them out of it.

T.O.'s salary is perfectly fine as it is. If he wants to renegotiate, he should win us fans a championship first. Then he can talk about renegotiations.

Until then he should do something he's never done before.

Just shut his trap!

# Girls swimming completes great season

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The 2004-2005 Girls Swim Team just came off of a terrific season, finishing at 8-4-1. They did so, in part, because of their valuable experienced swimmers.

"We had seven seniors this year: Kara DiPinto, KerryAnn Farrell, Claudia Jalio, Krystina Tucci, Emily Verno, Shannon Irwin, and Colleen Avery", said Coach Jessica Slates.

"I credit them because they had to accept a new coaching staff coming in, and they had to understand that the program they had known for three years was changing."

Slates went on to say that the

team was constantly responding well to the changes. And throughout the season, they did just that. They finished first in Gloucester County and second in their league.

**"It was a great achievement to make it to the tournament"**  
-Coach Slates

"At the relay carnival, we placed third. We then placed second at the South Jersey Swim League meet, and fourth at the Invitational meet", said Slates.

The team also beat Cherry Hill

East for the first time ever.

A main goal before the season was to have the girls develop a strong team bond, and to be motivated to win every time they hit the water. Over the course of the season, the girls seemed to develop a stronger sense of what it takes to be a winning team.

Their improvement got them all the way to the fifth seed in the State Tournament. Unfortunately for the team, they lost to the fourth seeded team.

"Even though we lost, I think it was a learning experience for all. It was a great achievement to make it to the tournament and we are proud

of the girls for their hard work" said Slates.

The key performers that helped the team succeed were Jamie Noonan '08, Cassie Cregar '07, Andrea Castiglione '07, diver Kate Bodman '07, and Jackie Mannon '06.

The team is expected to improve next year. The younger swimmers all know their responsibilities for being on the team and they will know the coaching expectations for next season.

Slates is looking forward to the opportunity for success that the girls have next year, saying, "I think that knowing right from the beginning what is expected will ultimately make us a stronger program."

# Boys swim to respectable year

Rob Czyzewicz '06

The Township Boys Swimming team, led by Coach Bill Albertson, finished the 2004-2005 season with a winning record. They finished the year at 6-4 due mostly to their hard work and overall dedication to the team.

Before the season, Albertson, the sixth year coach, said that the goal for the team was to go to states and try to advance further than last season.

They overcame the adversity of having lost one of their best swimmers, Brandon Boucher '06 to a broken arm in the beginning of the season.

In fact, the team did accomplish their goal of getting to states.

First, however, they won the Gloucester County Meet.

At that meet, the team dominated by winning eight out of a possible thirteen events.

They were led by Eric Beitz '06 who took first in the 200 meter

freestyle.

The team then moved on to the state tournament for the second year in a row. They were seated seventh, and they were defeated by the favorite, second seated Cherry Hill East.

"Cherry Hill East has been one of the teams to beat all season long", said Albertson. "They are one of the best in the state."

Despite the first round loss in the states, there were some bright spots for the members of the squad.

Swimmer Billy Cregar '07 finished in fourth place in two different individual events.

In addition, the team's two relay squads finished 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the state. The relay teams were led by Ryan O'Shea '05, Blaise Lacca '07, Andrew

**"Most of our swimmers have matured over the past season. We will definitely have an improved team next year."**

-Eric Beitz

Wood '07, and Billy Cregar '07.

"The team did meet our pre-season goals" said Albertson.

"I am real proud of the team for swimming the way they did this season without Boucher."

Next season appears to be looking promising in terms of the roster. The team is losing three seniors: Ryan O'Shea, Eric Shoyer, and Tom

Canataro, all of whom have been important to the team's success.

Despite the losses, there will be many swimmers ready to take their place.

In fact, a good portion of the team will be seniors next year, and they should be ready to lead the team to victories in their meets.

"Our swimmers will benefit from another year of experience" said swimmer Eric Beitz '06, "Most of our swimmers have matured over the past season. We will definitely have an improved team next year."

It seems as though the boys' swim team will use the experiences of this season to make themselves a stronger unit that is ready to achieve great things.

# RUFL: Not Just For Hippies

Mike Jones '06

You know that you've made a difference in sports when the football team no longer shouts obscenities at the cross country team as they run by, but only one sound is heard: "RUFL!"

RUFL, (pronounced ROO-ful,) is an acronym for the Recreational Ultimate Frisbee League. The league was founded mainly by Jim Piddington, and other Township runners in the fall of this year. It has grown to now have over seventy active members.

It started in the most unlikely of places, a cross country practice. When Piddington suggested some kind of league for fellow frisbee fanatics, the team happened to agree.

That was the birth of the Recreational Ultimate Frisbee league.

From that point on there was constant planning. Though the ex-



Mike Jones '06/The Patriot

**RUFL players display a combination of speed, athleticism and quick thinking.**

pected number of kids was only around fifty, we planned for more.

Soon the league was all-set-up and the draft was well on its way.

There are currently pick-up

games every Saturday in Washington Lake Park (we meet at the snack bar) at two o'clock.

The starting date for the league is unknown, but a primary draft has already taken place. For all new members there will be a secondary draft, so it is not too late to sign up.

Also, there will be a summer league for everyone who feels they can not participate in the spring league for whatever reason.

No adult has a hand in RUFL; it is run completely by its founders. There is no sign up fee; the only money you will need is to help your team captain pay for uniforms. This will cost you roughly twelve dollars depending on the shirts (each player gets two shirts), and please no checks people we're just kids!

For more information on RUFL: go to the league web site at [www.rufl.tk](http://www.rufl.tk).

**Think you can handle the RUFL Big Boys? Saturdays, 2 o'clock at the park (meet at snack bar). Just bring sneakers and uhh... your A-game.**