

Fraction finds niche on the track

Stephanie Strucko '08

One of the sports that many people don't really know about here at WTHS is track and cross-country. One of the phenomenal athletes who is making a name for himself is Xavier Fraction '09 of the boys' distance team. Fraction has been running track for three years and cross-country for two years. He originally ran track to get in shape for the upcoming football season.

"I ran track my freshman year to stay in shape for the next football season. I found out that I was a better runner than football player," Fraction says.

He wanted to just stay in shape, but found out that he was a much better runner.

"My track coach, Boz, suggested that I do cross-country instead of football my sophomore year."

Coach Rich Bostwick was a big influence in Fraction running cross-country and keeping with track.

Fraction has accomplished many things in his past three years of running, but his best, he says, is when he beat Cherokee's Alex Yersak in the mile when all the odds were against him, and no one thought he could pull it off. In his junior year, Fraction ran the mile in 4 minutes 20 seconds in the State Group IV Championships and came in second place. Also, he and his 4x800 meter relay team made it to the most prestigious indoor track meet, the Millrose Games in Madison Square Garden.

Fraction has many goals for the future including breaking the school record for the mile, run under a four-minute mile, and make it to the Olympics.

A lot of preparation goes into the days before

a meet. The night before, Fraction likes to drink lots of water and get a good game of Guitar Hero in. The morning of, he eats a peanut butter and jelly sandwich and listens to music to get him pumped on the way to the meet. Before the race, he eats an energy bar and get focused on the race.

Fraction puts in a lot of mileage in the off-season between track and cross-country season, and also does some weight training.

When Fraction isn't running or training, he likes to sleep, listen to music, relax, and hang out with his friends. The most important thing in his life is his family, friends, and running, of course! His dad is his role model.

Fraction gives some advice to anyone who wants to run.

"Don't let anyone tell you what your abilities are because you can very well shock a lot of people if you put the work in," Fraction stated.

WTHS spring sports in Action



photos by A. J. Nisbet '08

Kurt Abrhams provides senior leadership along with a powerful shot for the Minutemen.



Jacqueline Hetzler '10 supplies solid offense for the Minutemaids.



The boys volleyball team recently beat Cherry Hill East to improve their already impressive record to 8-1. The team is also undefeated within their conference. Their only loss came to Collingswood earlier in the season.



Steve Romano '09 currently leads the Minutemen in goals.



Alyse Maiden '09 is a vital part of the Minutemaids lineup and among the team's leaders in goals.

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Molly Sweeney '08

It was a "Keene" ending for the 2008 Mr. Washington Township competition. Kwabena Keene '08 finished first among the twelve talented nominees.

Keene, Mr. November excelled in the April 24 competition among a group of notable characters who are well-known to Washington Township High School. This year, the competition consisted of twelve senior boys, any of whom could have easily won the competition. Many people, including some of the nominees, believed that Keene would win it from the very beginning.

Keene is well known to the majority of the senior class who familiarly refer to him by his last name only. He has distinguished himself as an excellent student, an amazing athlete, an astounding artist, and a terrific friend.

"I feel honored for being named Mr. Washington Township," said Keene, who was in a state of shock when his name was announced. "I really thought that Jeff [Salkowski] was going to win."

Even though Keene came up



Kwabena Keene is held aloft by fellow contestants after being crowned Mr. Washington Township.

with the win, the competition was tough. Mr. December, Mike Otto, obtained the honor of second runner-up, while Mr. August, Nick DiMattia placed third. These two, along with the rest of the superheroes, this year's theme, put on a very entertaining show that made it difficult for many to decide for whom to cast their vote.

Each of the nominees, along with most of the student body, has their favorite parts to the show. With the comedy in this year's show, it was difficult for many to choose which part was the best in their minds.

"I enjoyed the opening scene

the most," said Otto. "The feeling you get when you're dancing with your friends in front of a huge crowd of people is awesome."

Many of the competitors received a surprise at this point of the show. The boys did not know that smoke-effects were going to be used, and many of them liked this aspect a lot.

"The smoke during the first dance was really cool," said Mr. March, Jeff Salkowski. "None of us really knew that it was coming so it was really exciting."

The introduction dance was very popular among the competitors as their favorite part of the show.

"It was a huge adrenaline rush when the curtain opened and we were just about to start dancing and the crowd began to roar," said Mr. October, Mike Cotton. This competition is something that none of the candidates will ever forget.

The individual group dances were also a big hit among the nominees and the audience as well. This part of the show was Chris Gorz's (Mr. May) favorite part of the show.

"The group dances were really cool because we were able to express our individual talents at dancing," said Gorz. Along with being fun for the boys, this part of the show was also very entertaining to the audience.

The show also featured acts from the choreographers, Olivia Devine, Danielle DiNote, and Victoria Gallo, and student musicians Amber Lombo, Jessica Alamsha, and Harrison Ogalvie. At the end of the show, reigning Mr. Washington Township, Tim Dollarton, made an appearance to help honor Keene.

"The theme, the choreography, and especially the boys' personalities and dedication made the show a huge success," said Student Council emcee Sam Baranowski '08.

The memories from Mr. Washington Township 2008 will not only last a lifetime for the dozen competitors, but it also provides a shining memory for the class of 2008

Washington Twp. approves budget

Alyssa Figueroa '08

After the rather chaotic school year in the Washington Township School District, the district received a motivating surprise this past school board election. On April 15, 2008, residents of Washington Township voted in support of the proposed budget for the 2008-09 academic year. The budget, totaling \$67,786,250, was voted in favor by 2,910 residents and voted against by 2,741.

"This means there's much confidence in our academic programs, athletic programs, clubs, and faculty staying intact," stated

Washington Township High School Principal Mrs. Rosemarie Farrow. Indeed, failure to pass this year's proposed budget would have caused cuts.

"The proposed budget was lean already because the State only increases our state aid a little each year," stated Farrow.

She said certain areas of funding would have had to be cut, such as, perhaps, courtesy busing, non-varsity athletic programs, cutting programs or faculty, or increasing class sizes.

"It's nice to see that we don't have to cut programs that make the

See BUDGET p. 4

Inside...

Township Madness p. 3

Commentary p. 6

Features p. 8

Books p. 11

Odds & Ends p. 12

What's Happening p. 13

Lifestyles p. 14

Tech Talk p. 16

Entertainment p. 18

People p. 20

Sports p. 23

District Art Night erased from schedule

Matt Neuteboom '08

Imagine that you have prepared all year for an annual event where you will be able to show off your hard work. Now picture how you would react if you had just heard that the event was cancelled. That is what Washington Township School District art students and teachers had to deal with when they learned that the school's District Art Night would not take place this year.

District Art Night is an annual event which showcases students' artwork. The event, originally scheduled for Thursday, April 3 at WTHS, was cancelled due to the unresolved teacher contract negotiations.

The cancellation not only disappointed art teacher and students across the district, but also upset the community. The event normally attracts over 3000 community and family members, according to District Art Dept. Supervisor Mr. Robert Frampton.

"District art Night is the biggest night of the year for the art department. We have demonstrations and other works that show off our schools' skills. All our art get put on display, and hundreds of hours go

into preparing for it," said art teacher Kirsten Smith.

The cancellation of the event dashed the opportunity for students to share their work and came as a blow to the students and teacher in the art department.

Frampton said, "I'm disappointed that they cancelled the event, which displays the fine art of Washington Township. It was a good promotion for the art department."

Art teacher Mr. Robert Duca was also bothered by the cancellation.

"Self-confidence is a catchword in education," said Duca. "It is never given to you. It must be earned by doing something. And District Art Night gave students a chance to do something. It also gave them a chance to set goals for themselves by comparing themselves to other art students."

Another teacher in the art department who wished to remain anonymous said

"It's really discouraging for our students and our art department. The arts aren't really strongly supported by the district, and District Art Night is really our only night to show off what we do."

Principal Ms. Rosemarie Farrow felt that while the event was cancelled, the arts are still strongly supported by the school.

Farrow said, "It is true that District Art Night is a great time to showcase the wonderful Art Program that exists in our school district. Despite the cancellation this year, the Arts are alive and flourishing at the high school.

The recent expansion of A1 as an animation studio is just one example of the growing commitment to a strong Art program at the high school."

Senior art students were significantly affected by the cancellation because this would be their last year to show off their work. John Scuilli '08, who has been contributing to District Art Night since his freshman year, demonstrates his spray paint art in the core every year. John sells the



Maggie Bonanni '09/The Patriot

Despite the cancellation, art students are still working dilligently.

paintings he makes and gives a certain percentage of his profits back to the school. He said, "I was very upset. I look forward to it every year. There are certain people that come just to see me, and they were upset too."

However, the Senior Art Show, an event which is normally in conjunction with District Art Night, still took place. Sponsored by the

See ART NIGHT p. 5

Electronics charge debate in 9-10 wing

Mike Cedrone '10

The 2007-2008 school handbook states that cellular phones and unauthorized electronic devices are not permitted to be in use during school hours. Because compact disc players and pagers are not as prevalent, the main problem with electronics within Washington Township High School is the presence of iPods and cell phones.

Many students are frequently seen with an iPod in their ears or a cell phone in their hand, texting away. This has led to conflict over whether or not these electronics should be in use during the school day.

Although the majority of students feel that it is not a big deal, some teachers feel that the use of electronics during the school day could be dangerous.

"I can see why the administra-



Photo illustration by Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Cell phones are used primarily during homeroom and lunch periods.

tion wouldn't want you to listen to iPods in the hallway. Considering how loud some of you guys listen to your music, I don't know how you would be able to hear a teacher or

something like the fire alarm," said Mrs. Meares, an AP History teacher in the 9/10 wing.

When asked about the administration's view on cell phones and iPods in school, many of the teachers believed that the administration has been consistent with their enforcement of the rules and hasn't become stricter.

Mrs. Kirkpa-trick, a math teacher, feels that the rules are plain and simple. "The rules are very clear that iPods and cell phones are not allowed in school. These rules have been in place for a while, and no new rules have been added. Unfortunately not a lot of people follow the rules and teachers have to respond."

Many students feel differently. "I think we should be allowed the use of cell phones and iPods in the hallway and at lunch because it causes no major disturbance to any

members of faculty and does not inhibit the learning ability of our fellow classmates," said Chris Baldwin '10.

While some agree that use should be restricted, they believe some teachers take enforcement too far. Lynda Engsell '11, shares a somewhat similar view to that of the teachers.

"Students shouldn't be allowed to use cell phones in school. But teachers shouldn't be allowed to take cell phones away if students aren't doing anything wrong. I've seen some kids just looking at the time [on their phone] in the hallway and teachers take it away."

Many students think the school has tightened up security on the rule. Engsell said, "In the beginning of the year the teachers were really intense about not allowing iPods, and then they started to cool off. And now all

See ELECTRONICS p. 5

Sports

Continued dominance on the court

Richie Elles '08

Entering the 2007-2008 season, the Washington Township Girls Basketball Team looked to be counting on a cast of maturing role players, charged with the task of continuing the success of recent years. By the end of the year, the same players who were asked to take on leadership roles had stepped into the spotlight to guide the Minutemaids to a brilliant season and a 24-5 record.

Expectations were high following recent success, including an impressive 21-7 mark in head coach Jen Natale's inaugural season. With a heavy focus on teamwork and cooperation, the Minutemaids moved as one toward the ultimate goal of joining an elite group of dominant Olympic Conference teams.

An experienced core of players drove the squad, as the team had three senior captains over the season, each bringing something different to the table. Varsity starters Allie Bassetti '08, Gina Turdo '08, and Amanda Small '08 used their knowledge of the game to motivate and support the younger players.

Small '08, whose work ethic at practice went unmatched, commented on the importance of senior leadership and what it meant to the younger players.

"With experience comes



Provided by Gina Turdo '08

This year's entire Minutemaids team made contributions to their successful season.

knowledge," said Small, "We can leave what we've learned to help the more inexperienced players succeed in the future."

Under the tutelage of the talented upperclassmen, junior and sophomore teammates were able to flourish, contributing to the balanced attack that allowed the team to be so successful over the course of the long season. Starting guard Alyse Maiden '09 was left open and able to lead the team in three-point percentage on her way to averaging over five points, four assists, and two steals per game.

Along with Maiden, sophomore post player Ashley Giedemann '10 took advantage of the lessons taught by senior leaders, emerging as the team's leading scorer and an important presence in the paint. Giedemann averaged 11.6

points and six rebounds per contest, establishing herself as a key player in the future for the Minutemaids.

Coach Natale continues to build a strong team that can compete at the highest level. However, her largest impact on the players comes off the court, where she is able to help her maturing players gain valuable confidence in their skills. Natale believes that with a balanced attack of confident players, the sky is the limit for the team.

"I was extremely proud of what the girls accomplished this season," said the 2nd-year head coach, "Each member of the team was a major contributor to our team's success."

Of the squad's five losses, their final defeat at the hands of four-time defending champion Absegami was the toughest, as they were stopped in the semifinals during their quest

to win the Group IV State Tournament. Despite the late-season struggle, the Minutemaids still had a very successful winter campaign, improving their win total by three from last year.

Though the team did not repeat as Olympic Conference champions this year, the future looks bright for the maturing team. Heading into next year, twin guards Shawna Wert '09 and Dana Wert '09 will take the reins, looking for junior season success, in which they averaged 9.3 and 9.5 points per game respectively, to translate into senior dominance.

Natale is also optimistic heading into the offseason, but will never forget the team that she coached over the 2007-8 season.

"We had a fantastic season and we made unforgettable memories every day that we were together."

Minutemaids start season off strong

Mary Faralli '08

After ending last season with a 19-7 record coach, Tracy Burkart only wants to improve on that record this year.

"We are rebuilding this year," Burkart states, "So our goal is to put the best players in the right positions and hope to be very competitive, even though we're young".

This year the team is led by Captains Katie Margiotta '08, Maggie Brace '09, and Samantha Mulderig '09.

The team's goals are simple. Burkart stresses that the coaching staff strives to, "Create program unity and an environment where student-athletes grow as young responsible women by the time they leave WTHS."

"We've got a great group of girls this year," says Judy Cristelli '08, "I'm excited to see what we'll achieve".

Cristelli stresses that another goal for the season is to make it to the championship. According to Cristelli, the team's biggest competition this year is Eastern High School.

Rather than having a specific area of improvement, this upcoming season, according to Coach Burkart, has the girls working hard on all of the basics.

"We believe in constantly improving our fundamentals: hitting, fielding, throwing, and base running," says Burkart.

The girls are practicing six days a week, Monday through Saturday, dedicated to improve their record and perfect their skills.



A.J. Nisbet '08/The Patriot

Christina Austin delivers a pitch.

Helping students see the big picture

Brittany Tartaglia '09

Mrs. Eileen Lucarini is devoted to her students and dedicated to the goal of promoting tolerance.

Lucarini is a special education teacher who works as an in-class support teacher. She has been a teacher for 33 years, and has taught at a number of schools such as Camden County Vocational School, Delsea Regional H.S., Deptford H.S., and even some pre-school and elementary schools.

Lucarini loves to help kids and teens both in and outside of school.

"The most rewarding part of teaching is when I'm able to see how powerful [lessons] truly are and how helpful and important they can be," said Lucarini.

After school, Lucarini spends much of her time in community service projects.

"You get to see how the students are outside of the class... where they can meet new people with the same interests."

One of her biggest accomplish-



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Mrs. Lucarini helps her students find direction everyday in and out of the classroom.

ments is being an advisor for the Changing Our World Project, better known as COW. One of her favorite parts of being a COW advisor is seeing the kids growing and learning, and learn with them. She has been an advisor for the COW Project for the past four years, and has organized many events such as plays, fundraisers, Peace Child Israel, and more recently becoming a non-profit organization.

Peace Child Israel is a national organization, which had a small part in New Jersey. Eighteen teenagers from Tel-Aviv and Jaffa came to WTHS and the area. They realized through tolerance that they do not have to be enemies, and are more alike than they think.

She is a member of the Gloucester County Prosecutor's Office Tolerance Project and was also a S.U.R.E. advisor for several years.

Lucarini takes a lot of time from her life to spend on community service and kids.

"I think that it's something that we should encourage [kids] to do," she said.

Those close to her know how good-hearted she is.

Special Ed. department chair, Mrs. Cheryl Barnett said, "She is the champion of the underdogs, even if the underdog doesn't deserve it."

When Lucarini isn't working with community service or teaching, she enjoys spending time with her three kids. She was a single parent for many years, which has motivated her to help other people.

While growing up in Camden and Wildwood, Lucarini wanted to either be a social worker or a teacher. She has accomplished both.

Lucarini also loves music and sings in a band. She enjoys rhythm and blues, rock and roll, and even some hip-hop. Two of her favorite artists are Tupac and Kanye West.

"I like artists that have special meanings in their lyrics," she said.

Lucarini hopes to teach for many more years; however she has other hopes. She would like to be able to visit all of the blues cities.

"Some people call me crazy," she said, "but I believe that there is a good crazy and a bad crazy; I like to think of myself as the good crazy."

Laria achieves musical success

Maggie Bonanni '09

Every morning Steve Laraia '09 prepares himself for the long day ahead. In addition to his rigorous school schedule consisting of mostly advanced classes Laraia dedicates himself to playing the viola and the violin.

In third grade, Laraia started playing the viola. Originally, he chose the viola in order to be separate from his brother Paul Laraia, who plays the violin.

"Everyone [in grade school] wanted to play the violin; I wanted to choose differently," he said.

Throughout his eight years of play, Laraia has honed an aptitude towards music which has led him to great success within school and outside orchestras.

In Washington Township High School's Symphony Orchestra, he is currently the principal violist. He is Concert Master, which is detailed as being the first violin chair in the orchestra. He is also a mentor to many of the younger members of the orchestra.

"Steve is a great musician, and whenever someone has a question regarding the music, such as the best bowings or fingering to use, he gives you his best advice," said violinist Dan Rogers '08. "He does a phenomenal job leading the orchestra."

Outside of WTHS he is the Principal Violist of the All-South Jersey Orchestra, New Jersey All-State Orchestra, Washington Township Symphony Orchestra, and Settlement Orchestra. He has recently placed 3rd in the 11th Annual Sphinx Competition for young African American and Latino musicians.

"I [accomplish] it all by hard work, perseverance, and a strong love of music," said Laraia.

Throughout Laraia's music career, his brother Paul, who graduated in 2006, has always inspired him to reach for a higher level of musical skill. Since childhood, Steve often practiced above and beyond the needed in an effort to try to surpass Paul's achievements. He feels that it is this momentum that has made him such a successful student-musician.

"He always tries his best and always strives to do well and improve himself. As for motivation, he looks up to his brother Paul. Music is a bond between them," said friend Josette Pono '09.

Laraia also plays Tennis for WTHS. Although he has only been play-ing for a short time, he enjoys the game and wants to con-tinue playing



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Eight years of work and perseverance has led Laraia to success both inside and outside of the classroom.

in his senior year. "I play tennis because it is a really enjoyable sport," said Laraia. "I picked up tennis last year and am proud to say that this year I'm playing on varsity."

Balancing school, tennis, music, family and friends can be tough, but Laraia tries his best to keep it all up.

"Balancing all of those requires one to prioritize. It's hard, but possible," commented Laraia.

N.A.H.S. gives back through art

Stephanie Foran '08

The National Art Honor Society decided that it was their time to give back to the community. They decided that the perfect way to give back would be to participate in the Memory Project as a major community service project.

The Memory Project, founded by Ben Schumaker of Madison, Wisconsin, allows advanced high school art students to draw real-life portraits of abandoned, neglected, abused, or orphaned children in underdeveloped countries.

"It's something fun to help others," said Alyssa Pasquini '08, "It's good to give them something they really enjoy."

NAHS advisor Sybil Cohen first got the idea of participating in the Memory Project by seeing a story about it on a local TV show. The students were all enthusiastic about contributing, though it was optional



Maggie Bonanni '09/The Patriot

Students involved in the Memory Project drew portraits for a South American orphanage.

to participate.

Cohen stated, "It sends a message to the community that we have creative and caring students."

Students sent the finished portraits to the Memory Project in Wisconsin so that the director of the program could personally deliver them to the children.

"It's a way to brighten up their lives," said Cohen, "They often have no families or running history."

WTHS was assigned a South American orphanage and provided with photographs of eight orphans, all of which were given to participating NAHS members to do," said Parkin, "Art should do

more than sit in a museum."

Andrew Jackson '09, Angela Herzer '10, Kwabeena Keene '08, Chris Otto '10, Alyssa Pasquini '08, and Meghan Applegate '08).

"[The students] have the compassion and felt successful about creating a child's portrait," said Cohen.

The project's website, (www.thememoryproject.org) openly encourages students to interact and create bonds with foreign children through artistic expression. In addition to giving children a memoir of their youth, the Memory Project also promotes positive self-image and encourages them to

honor their heritage and their own identities. As a way of communication, The Memory Project also allows the children to draw pictures, portraits, or send letters back to the art students.

"It's basically just a nice thing to do," said Parkin, "Art should do

Freshman win Township Madness game

Katie Mount '09

The scores were coming in over the loudspeaker all day as the two classes battled for bragging rights. In the dying seconds, Steve Encarnation's '11 three point shot gave the freshmen a 187-184 victory over the sophomores in the Township Madness basketball game held on March 28 in the 9/10 gym.

Township Madness was a spirit competition between the two grades. Throughout March, students were asked to wear their designated color (freshmen: blue, sophomores: red) on Fridays. Homeroom teachers were to write down the number of students that wore the colors, and the teams were awarded points. Although the freshmen won the actual basketball game, the sophomores won the spirit award for wearing their color the most.

This year, the event was almost cancelled.

"Due to the large number of administrators on senior trip, which was a result of contract negotiations," Mrs. Gina Gallaher, an advisor for the sophomore class council, said, "We had no volunteers. The event had to be modified."

The students were not happy about the cancellation. The two grades planned a sit-in protest for the day that the event was supposed to take place (Mar. 28).

"The students were angry and expressed their desire to have the event," Gallaher said.

On March 25 the sophomore class council spoke to the Board of Education, urging them to settle the contract dilemma. In order to compensate for the cancellation, an alternative event was put into effect.

"When you are faced with a hurdle, there are choices on how to overcome the problem," Ms. Ann Moore, executive assistant principal said. "The moment we heard about the cancellation, we began to think of how to overcome the hurdle... somehow, someway, we were going to have Township Madness."

Gallaher and Mrs. Kimberly Griffiths, advisor for the freshmen class council, thought of a plan that would allow the kids to still enjoy the event.

"Special thanks are due to Ms. Moore who accepted our alternative plan," Gallaher said.

The Township Madness basketball game took place during the students' individual physical education periods, as opposed to having one assembly for all of the freshmen and sophomores to see the game being played. For some, this was a disappointment.

"I liked last year better because it was more like a whole class event," Angela Snyder '10 stated. "We were only able to watch for one period

of the game with our gym class, whereas last year we cheered together as one giant class."

After each period, the score was announced on the loudspeaker to update the staff and students who were unable to attend the game.

"I liked Township Madness," Blake Gourlay '11 said. "It was exciting to hear the score being announced, because it was such a close game."

The student game was not the only event to be affected. This year the staff was not able to participate because the game was now only during the physical education periods.

"I was upset because I love to watch and play in [Township Madness]." Mrs. Jennifer Monaco said. "Unless we had a free period, we weren't able to watch the game."

Next year, many hope that the old Township Madness will be brought. However, for Griffiths, she would like to see elements of the old Township Madness and the new one combined.

"For me, I'd love for the gym classes to still participate then have an assembly at the end of the day," Griffiths said. "That way, the students could see the end of the game all together."

Even though it had to be modified, the organizers considered the game to be a success.

"It was close all day; it couldn't have been more exciting," Griffiths stated. "The students are what made that event a success."

Scruffy look pays off for charity

Stephanie Foran '08

The Bring Your Own Beard contest, more affectionately known as B.Y.O.B by its participants, started on Feb. 14 and lasted until Mar. 18 and challenged twenty-three male faculty members to grow the biggest and best beard for the BUD Yahnke Scholarship Fund.

Mr. Shane Snyder, one of the organizers, believed that growing beards for a fundraiser was innovative and different.

Though it was a contest to grow the best beard, there were several important rules. All participants had to come in Feb. 14 clean-shaven and contribute \$10. They were not allowed to dye or groom with the beard, trim it above the chin line, or shave before the last day. If contestants were found guilty of breaking the rules, they had to give another five dollars and were disqualified from the contest. It sparked a friendly competition between the faculty members and gave them more incentive to win.

"Mr. Biebel thought Mr. Blaylock and I wouldn't look good with beards," said Snyder, "So we wanted to prove him wrong!"

The winner of the five-week contest was Mr. Jim Hallinan, who was rewarded with a cash prize and a sash proclaiming, "#1 beard." Selected as having the worst beard was Mr. Chris Mitchell, who was forced to also wear a sash with "Last Place Beard." However, several contestants did not come to the beard judging and Snyder claims one particular teacher would have challenged Mitchell for last place.



Photo courtesy of Mr. Biebel

Driver's Education teacher Mr. James Hallinan, far right, was voted to have the best beard by the participating teachers.

Some of the participants in the contest didn't even grow facial hair but chose to donate to the fund anyway. Proceeds from the event will go towards the BUD Yahnke Scholarship Fund, named after longtime Township teacher Bud Yahnke, who died of cancer in 2007.

"It's a contest and we're just trying to do something different to raise money!" said Snyder.

Now that the contest is over, keeping the beards may be a different story. While some are

relaxing at the thought of not shaving for a few more weeks, others are anxious to get it off their face.

"This was just a little humor, and I can't wait to shave," stated Snyder.

On the other hand, teachers such as Mr. Jim Evangelisti and Mr. Steve Kean (who was disqualified for trimming) wanted to keep it for a bit longer.

"I enjoy it," Kean said, "It's grown on me."

Frosh actor takes the stage

Grace Glennan '11

Fifteen-year-old Andrew Rimby attends WTHS. Rimby has many interesting hobbies, which include Show Choir, Men's Ensemble, and acting. Rimby has been acting for eight years now. He has been in numerous school productions. Aside from acting in school plays, he also acts in a program during the summer called Summer Stage.

Rimby is making his high school debut in the musical, *Seussical*. *Seussical* is a story that combines two of Doctor Seuss's stories, *Horton Hears a Who*, and *A Story About a Boy named JoJo*, where Rimby is playing JoJo. Rimby was very eager for his first High School role.

"I feel proud and accomplished," Rimby stated enthusiastically about his first lead.

Rimby has received leads in Summer Stage plays as well, such as *Mulan* and *Wonderland*. In middle school he received leads in the plays, *Bye-Bye Birdie*, *The Outsiders*, and *Grease*.

He accredits some of his love

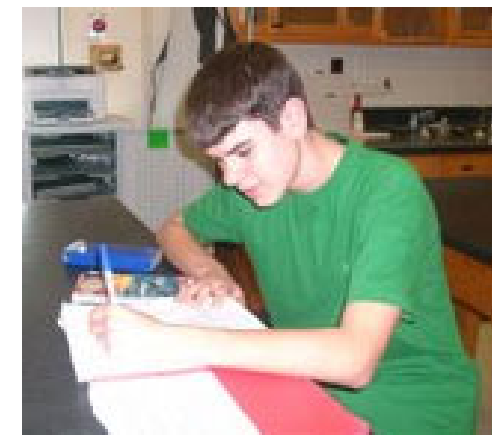
for acting to his mom. She brought him to his first musical at Haddonfield Memorial High School, where his aunt worked.

Acting is not all fun and games though, director James DiGennaro schedules practice six days a week. Actors need to be very dedicated and be confident. They cannot be afraid to sing in a musical. Good public speaking skills such as clarity of voice and a lot of emotion are important in acting as well.

To Rimby there is also a hard part of acting is trying to make sure you are on time to the rehearsals, and while rehearsing you need to be on the right pitch when you sing.

Rimby believes there definitely are rewarding parts to acting as well. Seeing the audience smiling and appreciating what you are doing when you come out on the stage is a gratifying part of acting.

Rimby acted outside of school as well as in school productions. He enjoys school acting better though because he is working hard all day



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Rimby is completely dedicated to his schoolwork as well as his career in acting.

in his classes, and after school he gets to relax from the day by doing something he loves. There is a difference between stage acting for something like Broadway and being either a movie or television actor.

Rimby prefers stage acting because it is harder than acting for movies or television. You only have one shot, if you make a mistake you have to go with it. You have to show a lot of emotion and if you make a mistake you have to use

improvisation. Stage acting keeps you on your toes.

School is also an important part of any teenager's life. Rimby's favorite subject is English, which he feels will help him later on in college as he pursues an acting career. Rimby wants to attend New York University, where he will pursue English and acting major.

Rimby has had a great deal of experiences with acting he has seen how influential and different each role can be.

"They have to be willing to make some sacrifices and be dedicated; knowing that you won't always get a main part and the part you get will help you in the future."

Rimby recommends this advice to anyone wishing to pursue a career in acting. Once he finishes college however, he has a dream shared by many actors.

"I want to see myself on Broadway and if not that, in a high school teaching English or on touring shows."

Gymnast finds support from friends, family

Vincent Rossi '10

Kevin Coroneos '10 is an average teenager. Like many teenagers, he works hard at school, participates in many activities, and enjoys being with friends.

Since age two, he has been a gymnast. He always had a special love for the sport, and enjoys everything about it.

Coroneos started entering competitions at age five. In the competitions, he participates in floor routines, vaulting, rings, pommel horse, and horizontal bars. The majority of his competitions are in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Las Vegas.

For the past three years, Coroneos has trained at Temple University.

"The gym is my second home," he said. He typically spends six days a week there.



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Coroneos wants to study politics along with coaching gymnastics.

During the week, the average day for Coroneos is waking up at six o'clock, going to school, coming home to do homework and eat a quick dinner, and heading to the gym. "Gymnastics owns me," he said. However, his hard work often pays off. Some notable

accomplishments Coroneos has achieved is first place finishes in state finals, first team All-American, and a first place trophy in the all-around event, a total of six events, in the Brian Babcock Invitational in Allentown, Pennsylvania.

Coroneos looks to continue gymnastics throughout high school and college.

Without his tremendously supportive family, perhaps Coroneos would not have achieved his accomplishments. He lives with his mother, father, and his only sister, who is four years younger than him. They are three people Coroneos loves to be around.

When Coroneos is not in the gym or spending time with friends or family, one can find him in front of his high definition television watching the Philadelphia Flyers. Like gymnastics, the Flyers occupy a chunk of his time.

"I grew up in the Wachovia Center. I've had season tickets for a while now," Coroneos said.

As the midway point of his high school career approaches, Coroneos looks ahead and plans to attend a four year college, possibly for a career in politics or law. Specific colleges he has in mind are the University of Illinois or Penn State University.

There, he plans to continue his lifelong hobby of gymnastics, but also focus on a new occupation for the rest of his life, as he does not plan to become a professional gymnast. He has contemplated coaching in the future.

Coroneos has established many accomplishments thus far, and he believes there is a lot more for him to achieve. Whatever he decides to do, he believes he can do, and he has possessed that attitude his entire life.

The Drama Dept.
Presents...

Dark of the Moon

By John Sandford

May 8 & 9 at 7:30

In the 11-12 Auditorium

Dr. Seuss tales captivate crowd



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

Nikki Black '08 (left) and Christie Garcia '08 took center stage as The Way Off Broadway Players, with direction from Mr. James DiGennaro, presented *Seussical the Musical* on March 13-18.

People

Wright choice for Teacher of the Year

Lillyan Ling '08

As students put down their backpacks, a tall scholarly figure enters the room with a quick clap of his hands. He swiftly remarks, "Okay, let's get to work! Be productive!"

Immediately a strong academic atmosphere overcomes the room: pencils are sharpened, textbooks opened, calculators readied. In Mr. David Wright's physics laboratory, students experience 45 minutes of mind expansion.

To most of his students, it seems fitting that he has been recognized as one of 2008's "Teachers of the Year."

"It's a pleasure to be recognized by my students and colleagues as Teacher of the Year," Wright said. "It is gratifying to receive this accolade."

He switched over to instructing the Honors and AP Physics courses.

"I love teaching," said Wright, of his 23 years at WTHS, "I love



Alyssa Figueroa '08/ The Patriot

Mr. David Wright considered becoming an engineer before choosing teaching as a career.

what I teach, and I am very appreciative of the opportunity the community gives me in working with their kids."

Wright's initial ambitions were aimed toward becoming an engineer. After two years at the engineering school Stevens Institute of Technology, he found his experience unfulfilling and transferred to Glassboro State College (present-

day Rowan University). Here, he changed his focus from engineering to instructing physics, and received his Bachelor's of Arts in Physical science.

However, his motivation to teach dates back to primary and secondary school.

"I've always enjoyed the process of learning," he explained. "Coming to understand something that I didn't understand before, that was something I always enjoyed."

With his love of learning, teaching seemed to be a natural progression for Wright.

"Explaining is something that I knew how to do ever since I was young," he said. "There was never a situation where something had to be explained and I wasn't able to explain it."

Drawing from this early-born interest, Wright was further inspired by some of his teachers.

"In sixth grade I had this teacher named Ms. Baymore," he recalled, "and she taught me the true

meaning of being an 'honors' student. It wasn't just someone who did a lot of work. It was a student of knowledge."

He also referred to "Mr. Hocking" who both taught with equal enthusiasm and skill. His students see him as not only a teacher, but also a well-rounded scholar.

"It's challenging," he stated, "but rewarding."

He added that "science isn't something that is taught in a corner, but something that must be specifically taught so that it can be integrated into the mind."

As for the future, Mr. Wright plans to continue teaching at the high school for years until he "grows up."

He laughs as he says this ironic term, but explains that even as a teacher, "learning is an ongoing process."

"I'm very fortunate to have found myself a comfortable niche," he reflected, where he can play a part in his students' transitions from

Callaway leads the way for student's success

Sarah Kurtz '10

Every year for fourteen years, Mr. Rob Callaway listened as "Teacher of the Year" was announced at Washington Township. But, ironically the year he was announced "Teacher of the Year", he was away on the DECA trip, feeling under the weather.

"Obviously, it came as a surprise and it's very humbling," said Callaway on his win of "Teacher of the Year."

Mr. Callaway attended Washington Township during his high school years. Of course, he loved history and was lucky enough to have some great history teachers, who are all retired now.

While attending Washington Township, Callaway took part in after school sports such as soccer for the school, and basketball for a recreational league. "I've since retired to bowling and golf," says Callaway.

As a senior in high school,

Callaway wasn't so sure about fully pursuing a career in teaching.

"At the time, the job market didn't seem all that promising. My sister, Carol, a former Teacher of the Year at Whitman Elementary School, encouraged me to pursue a teaching career even when I was a little older. It's been a very satisfying career and I'm glad I decided it wasn't too late to start a new career."

After high school, Callaway attended Glassboro State College, now known as Rowan University. He earned a Bachelor of a science degree in business administration. He later returned to Rowan to pursue a teaching career, particularly for Social Studies.

While in school, Callaway had to work very hard to maintain good grades. He said that a student's success is usually based on their self-motivation.

"I think you get out of school what you put into it, and I think the same is true of college as well."

Callaway feels that in high

school, students should learn to interact with others in a positive way, and respect others and respect the differences that make us all unique and special. He encourages every student to get involved in their school and community.

"As for the graduating seniors, "set goals and stay focused."

Callaway enjoys seeing students grow from freshman to seniors. "It's always satisfying to see students mature."

And as his students get ready to leave their sheltered world and enter the harsh reality, he says to keep a positive outlook on things because negativity does breed negativity.

Becoming "Teacher of the Year" at Washington Township is a great honor.

"I truly appreciate the many



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

A life-long sports fan, Mr. Rob Callaway works part-time as a sports writer.

sincere congratulations that my colleagues have directed my way, and "I'd also like to thank my students who took time out of their busy schedules to write and submit a nominating letter on my behalf."

Voters approve budget

BUDGET from p. 1

school what it is," said high school English teacher Mr. Richard Valerio. "The passage of the budget was a great show of support and validation from the community."

This passage is credited by many to the work done by the lunch ladies in an effort to pass the proposal of question #2 on this year's ballot, which would save the jobs of 73 Food and Nutrition Department workers.

"I have much gratitude to the lunch ladies who worked so hard to raise awareness in this board election," said high school History teacher Mr. Robert Barnshaw.

These possible cuts were determined by the New Jersey Department of Education, which made \$1.8 million worth of cuts, including the money used for health benefits for 73 employees of the food service department. In an effort to preserve these jobs, the district's Board of Education presented an additional proposal on the ballot to fund these benefits.

"I was thrilled, most especially that question #2 passed," stated Farrow. "The food service workers do a tremendous job here, and it would have been a real loss if they had to go."

Approving these proposals will result in an



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

In addition to approval of the budget, voters backed a question in support of the districts food service workers.

estimated total of an \$18.88 monthly increase in taxes for the average taxpayer. Although many may, perhaps, vote against the proposal because their children no longer attend the school district and do not want their taxes to rise, some believe it is still vital to continuously give support to education.

"My three kids are also out of [WTHS], but I believe we have to support the ongoing education in town," said Farrow. "Also, I see a

direct link in the value of my home I still own here and the quality of education this district offers."

Voter turnout was up with 1,100 more people voting this year than last year.

"I believe the work Project 540 does really helped to raise the consciousness of our own students," said Farrow.

Project 540 is an organization at WTHS that strives to make changes in the school. The four members of the leadership team, seniors Sam Baranowski, Katie Jewell, Doreen Mankus, and Justine Hunsicker, visited classrooms the day of the election to explain to students the budget proposals and encourage them to either vote if eligible, or inform their parents to vote.

"It was exciting the next day when students came up to us saying they voted," said Baranowski. "It was great to see that the four of us could help make a change in our community."

"I voted because I wanted to have a say in the proposals being presented," said Alex Parkin '08. Washington Township voters also chose three new members to the Board of Education: Scott Dzierzgowski, Kurt Snyder, and Chuck Wiseley.

This year's election brought much change to the Washington Township school district.

Farrow stated, "I believe the passage of the budget is incredibly uplifting and the beginning of a great turn around."

Sign up for Creative Writing & Journalism

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

Cancellation disappoints

ART NIGHT from p. 2

seniors to enter in two pieces of artwork to be put on display in the third floor gallery. The three best pieces of artwork went on to become permanent pieces in the gallery, and the artists receive scholarships from the PTO.

Despite the disappointment, many in the art department were not shocked by the cancellation. Frampton stated that the cancellation is inline with the rest of the cancellations that are happening this year.

Smith also agreed that "If the job action was in place, there was no way it was going to happen."

Despite the job action, classroom instruction continues unabated.

"Our teachers continue to offer the finest of instruction and our students are producing quality work," said Farrow, "We look forward to the great tradition of Art Night returning next year."

Open season on cell phones

ELECTRONICS from p. 2

Rumors about a competition between teachers in the 9/10 building to see what pod could collect the most iPods and cell phones. Signs that read "No Cell Phone Zone" and "Bring Your iPod To I Pod And It's Our Pod" can be seen in many rooms and hallways within the pods.

"Teachers basically got tired of kids not following the rules. We felt that it was just a better way to enforce the rules," said Kirkpatrick.

Whatever side one takes, pro or con, anyone can see that there is a controversy at hand. A solution may come out of the recent "Project 540" meetings. Some ideas are being considered surrounding the subject of allowing iPods in school. Other ideas focus on cell phones; one idea in particular involves clocks in the hallways or a four bell system, therefore causing kids to not have to use their cell phones to see the time.

Some feel that as long as technology advances year by year, there will always be surrounding controversy.

Commentary

Life on the weekends

Delia Mello '08

Playing beer pong, taking shots, hooking up, and smoking are all what one can find at a typical high school party. Having a party when your parents are out of town sounds pretty tempting to some, but not to me.

If you're not considered a "popular" student, you might dread Fridays. Fridays are days where after 8th period you listen to things like, "Yo, I'll see you at the banger tonight," or "Dude, I can't wait to get wasted." It's all made out to seem like a big, huge deal. If you're not there, you're not cool. If you don't drink, you're lame. How do you think kids who don't indulge themselves in weekend partying feel? Well for one, they must absolutely hate listening to these drinking stories week after week.

So if parties are the "cool" thing to do then I guess passing out and not remembering anything is cool. I guess regurgitating repeatedly from obsessive alcohol abuse is cool, too. The question you should ask yourself is whether or not you want to conform and join those participating in what they think is "in." Of course it's a yes or no answer, and it is your choice, but the consequences of this decision could affect the rest of your life. In the long run, those who choose no will learn to say no to pressure and not give into things that could possibly negatively affect their life.

It's all conformity; if one does it, the rest follow. Sure, it could introduce you to more friends and a more popular status, but is it worth it? If making a fool out of yourself is what popular is considered as these days then it's simply not worth it. What comes out of these weekends are unnecessary. The friends you make and actions you take are insignificant and irresponsible. There are better and healthier options and plenty of different ways to have fun. It's your choice to which road your life will take.

Voting for politics, not politicians

Devlin Rogers '08

To say that race, age, party, and gender will not play a part in the upcoming presidential election is unrealistic. We are extremely judgmental of one another and 2008 may be the year that truly exploits that. In a poll, almost one out of four voters in Ohio say that race will play a deciding factor in their vote. Seeing these stats, it's clear that too many people will vote for the politician, not the politics.

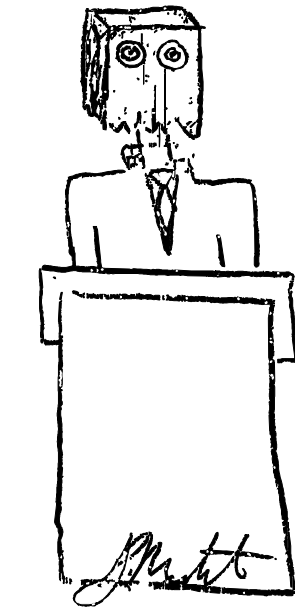
In no other election has a woman ever come as close to presidency as Sen. Hillary Clinton. This is a huge step for women's rights, which may change voter's minds. Some voters may know little about the Senator and vote just because she's a woman.

This is just as true on the other side of the spectrum. Some may not vote for Clinton because they're not ready to see women in the white house. Polls have shown that being a woman may have more of an influence on voters than being African-American.

As we know Hillary is former first lady to Bill Clinton. Many fans of Bill Clinton may vote solely on the fact that Hillary is a Clinton. Although it's probable that if Bill was to run in 2008, his campaign and Hillary's would be similar, a vote for Hillary is a vote for Hillary, not Bill. I fear that many will vote blindly because they agreed with the past Clinton administration.

Barack Obama is an African-American candidate for the Democratic nomination. Obama knows that race will come into play saying, "I guarantee you African-American turnout, if I'm the nominee, goes up 30 percent around the country, minimum," in June of 2007. Sadly, his campaign may also cause a rise in participation among those voters who do not want a minority in the office.

John McCain may be the most typical candidate in the presidential race. Despite the fact that he may be the oldest elected president at 71, he is running under the tarnished Republican Party. President Bush's approval rating is very low and



Stephanie Mordente '08

diminishes the entire party's reputation. I have heard many times they will not vote for another republican due to the Bush administration. Voting for the party and not the politician happens far too many times in my eyes.

Our country must not be run by reasons such as age, gender, or race, but rather the morals and ideas of the individual candidate. In this election I will vote for the candidate who best represents my interests.

The Patriot

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New Ferrell film falters at box office

Amber Lombo '08

When movie-goers think of Will Ferrell, what typically comes to mind are hilarious box office smashes. Whether it's older movies like *Night at the Roxbury*, *Elf*, or his newer film *Blades of Glory*, Ferrell's movies are guaranteed to make even the most critical viewers laugh.

This unfortunately is not the case with his most recent film *Semi-Pro*. Where the movie lacks foremost is in the plot.

Jackie Moon (Ferrell) is the star player of the Flint Tropics, a team in the American Basketball Association (ABA). The ABA is about to collapse and they plan to merge with the NBA.

However, the top four teams will be chosen and the rest will disband. Jackie Moon must become a better coach and lead his awful



Google Image

Jackie Moon is unfortunately a basketball player that will not go into the Hall of Fame.

team to victory. This plot is extremely similar to other sports movie.

The team is composed of poor players and one person must take charge to help them improve. The problem is, while this may be an interesting plot for a more serious sports movie, it does not carry well

in *Semi-Pro*.

Another issue is Ferrell's character is too similar to every other character we have seen him play. Jackie Moon is a middle-aged "ladies-man" who is trying to regain his youth. This character all too resembles Ron Burgundy in his film

Anchorman.

The film received an R rating which would suggest some foul language and suggestively funny humor. Recent R rated smash-hit comedies include *Superbad* and *Knocked Up*. *Semi-Pro* hardly compares to these movies. The movie itself should not have received an R rating. There is hardly any language and the humor is less than crude.

If you are expecting to see another one of Ferrell's hysterically funny movies, this isn't it. The jokes seem trite and it didn't make me laugh. I left the theatre more confused than anything. It was certainly disap-pointing to see Ferrell in a poor attempt at comedy.

Overall, I wouldn't suggest seeing this movie. It hardly compares to Ferrell's past movies. I left the theatre upset, expecting to be pleased. The story of Jackie Moon does not make the hall of fame.

Don't Stop the Music by Tara Rothrock '08

High energy ride worth the fare

Each edition of "Don't Stop the Music" will focus on a different MySpace band.

When you hear the word cab, you probably think of a yellow taxi cab. But now there's a new cab taking the US for a spin.

The Cab, a new band fresh from Las Vegas, just completed the *Really, Really Ridiculously Good Looking* tour starring Cobra Starship, Metro Station and We the Kings. The band is made up of Alex Deleon (lead vocals), Cash Colligan (bass), Alex Johnson (drums), Ian Crawford (guitar and vocals) and Alex Marshall (piano, guitar, vocals).

Blakely Tuten, a fan from Texas, went to this amazing tour and said, "Their performance was absolutely perfect. They know how to work a crowd and put on an amazing set. It was a flawless performance."

I also went to this concert and found myself blown away. Alex Marshall even took the time to take me and Danielle Burgo '08, Joanna Lobro '08 and Jenn Moran '08 backstage when we lost our spot in line talking to him.

"It made my night!" said Burgo with a smile.

This upbeat band from Las Vegas loves every second of touring and kicked off the *Long Hair Don't Care* tour featuring: We the Kings, Valencia, and Charlotte Sometimes on March 26.

After that tour ends, they'll join Metro Station again along with Forever the Sickest Kids and Danger: Radio on May 6. Although they travel in a small van, they enjoy the road and can't get enough of spreading their tunes to all the loving and adoring fans. Their lively music has even journeyed to the UK.

"Their music is so upbeat and catchy! I can just listen to 'I'll Run' over and over and never get sick of it!" said Emma Lee Brewer from Coventry, England.

Although the band has been on tour nonstop for the past several months, they have finally produced their very first album,

Whisper War due to come out April 29. The album has 12 songs to sing and dance to, including their newest single "One of THOSE

Nights" featuring Brendon Urie from Panic! at the Disco and Patrick Stump from Fall Out Boy.

This five piece band started off as an acoustic band in Colligan's garage about two years ago. Soon after, Deleon and Colligan recruited Johnson and some of their friends to form The Cab.

"We wanted to make sure we stayed away from regular rock music—we wanted to be different," said Deleon during a New York City interview. He uses his influences such as Maroon 5 and Justin Timberlake to create an R&B sound that blends well with rock.

The first song I was introduced to was the energetic song "I'll Run." I always find myself wanting to get up and dance when this memorable tune fills my ears. Not long after I listened to

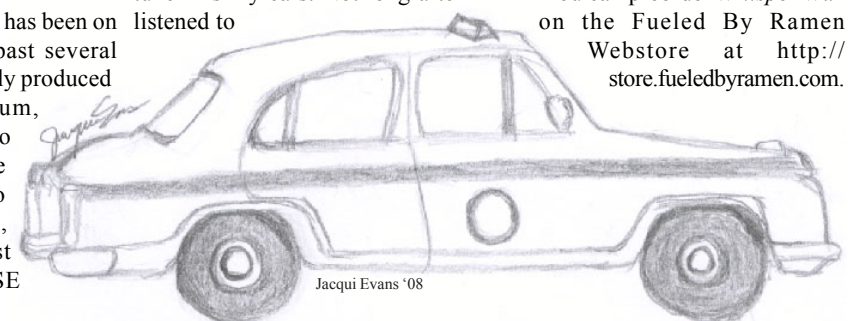
"Take My Hand" which may not have as much of an R&B influence as "I'll Run," but fans still eat it up.

"This song's always stuck in my head, but I don't care and I enjoy every second of it!" said Lobro.

During the Cab's performance at the RRRGL Tour, I listened to their new song "Risky Business." The crowd got really into the soulful feel, especially when Deleon had the crowd join in. He had the crowd shout "Keep Dancing!" after he sang "Stop Asking!" At first this song may come off as another jazzy, happy-go-lucky tune but when you listen to the lyrics closely, you see it is more serious and angry in tone.

To learn more about The Cab or listen to their songs, visit www.myspace.com/thecab.

You can preorder *Whisper War* on the Fueled by Ramen Webstore at <http://store.fueledbyramen.com>.



Jacqui Evans '08

Entertainment

Cobra Starship lives it up with latest

Stephanie Foran '08

Cobra Starship, the band who brought forth the now infamous "Snakes on a Plane" song, is back and better than ever with their second album, *Viva La Cobra!*

Led by frontman Gabe Saporta (formerly of Midtown), Cobra Starship has distinguished themselves among the alternative music scene.

Cobra Starship is composed of Gabe Saporta (lead vocals), Ryland Blackinton (guitar), Alex Suarez (bass), Nate Novarro (drums), and Victoria Asher (keytar). Formed in 2005 as Saporta's side project, Cobra Starship struck gold with their first single, "Bring It (Snakes on a Plane)" when it was featured in the 2006 movie, *Snakes on a Plane*.

Due to the movie's success, the band was launched into superstardom. Shortly after the movie premiered, Cobra Starship signed to DecayDance Records and released their first album, *While the City Sleeps, We Rule the Streets* in Oct.



Cobrastarship.com

Viva La Cobra! was originally titled, *If the World is Ending, We're Throwing the Party* after a line from their hit "Guilty Pleasure."

2006, which soared to number one on the U.S. Billboard Top Heat-seekers Chart.

The follow-up to Cobra's first album is truly a wonder. With catchy guitar rhythms and beats you can move to, it's impossible not to smile and start to dance while listening to it. The album's first single, "Guilty Pleasure" sounds like it's straight out

of the eighties with synthesizers, keytars, and all.

One aspect that appeals to fans is that Cobra Starship is completely unafraid to experiment with instruments and different sounds. They often use techno and even rap in their songs, such as "Kiss My Sass" and "Scandalous!" featuring Travis McCoy of Gym Class Heroes and

rapper V.I.P.

Their second single, "The City is At War," begins with—you guessed it—a synthesizer and a very techno-esque beat. Another aspect that makes the song stand out is that Saporta himself raps the first few lines, which adds a nice hip-hop vibe. Like all of their other songs, "The City is At War" is completely impossible not to love.

Cobra Starship is exactly what a band should be about—making music and loving every minute of it. They poke fun at common pop references. In "Kiss My Sass," Saporta sings about "bringing sassyback," a joke on Justin Timberlake's song "SexyBack."

Though their lyrics are humorous and upbeat and their music catchy, I couldn't help but be disappointed at the length of the album, standing only thirty-five minutes long.

But despite that, I absolutely loved this album and would highly recommend it to anyone who loves to get up and dance.

Rivalry runs rampant in *Other Boleyn Girl*

Sarah Kurtz '10

"Delightfully delectable" is one of many phrases that comes to mind when describing *The Other Boleyn Girl*, directed by Justin Chadwick. The movie is based off the novel by Philippa Gregory, and takes place during the time of King Henry VIII's reign of England. The movie revolves around betrayal and sibling rivalry between two sisters fighting for King Henry's affection.

At the beginning, Anne Boleyn (Natalie Portman) is convinced by her uncle and father to become the king's mistress so she could provide him with a male heir since Queen Catherine, his wife, failed to do so. However, her younger sister, Mary Boleyn (Scarlett Johansson) seems to catch his eye instead.

Mary becomes pregnant by the King and remains bedridden for several months. While her sister is incapacitated, Anne uses her wiles to seduce him. After Mary has the baby, the king is no longer interested in her or the child.

After Mary gives birth, Anne convinces King Henry (Eric Bana) to send Mary and her newborn into exile. Anne then finally convinces him to annul his marriage to Queen Catherine, though he disagrees at first. Eventually he annuls his marriage and Anne continues with her plan to withhold any intimate contact to get what she wants.

The actresses portraying the two sisters lit up the screen as they captivated audiences in this stunning feature.

During the trials of Henry's annulment, all of England is against Anne. Shortly after the trials start, Mary returns to the English court to be at Anne's side. The loyalty and love Mary shows for Anne is astounding after everything

she went through.

Things go bad for Anne very quickly afterwards; Henry blames her for the fall of his Church and England. In a violent attack, Henry rapes her and she becomes pregnant with his daughter, Elizabeth. A few months later Henry rapes her again, resulting in Anne's miscarriage of a baby boy. Panicked, Anne considers sleeping with her brother George to provide him an heir.

However, King Henry finds out about her plan and puts her on trial for treason, the punishment being death.

The actresses portraying the two sisters lit up the screen as they captivated audiences in this stunning feature. Both Johansson and Portman uses British accents and though fake, both are completely believable. Johansson was able to capture the passion between King Henry and Mary in even the most subtle, romantic scenes. Even in more vulgar scenes, Johansson played it cool. She was believable, and more importantly, enjoyable. Portman was devious yet innocent even though her role was difficult, continuing to impress throughout the movie.

Though full of historical information, not all of it is accurate. In the movie, Anne was the older of the two sisters, while Mary was the older sister in real life. Mary Boleyn also had two children (Catherine and Henry Carey), but only Henry's birth was shown in the movie. Another fault was that Anne was never actually sent to France for punishment, but rather sent to study the ways of the French court.

If you like passionate movies full of deceit, *The Other Boleyn Girl* is your cup of tea.

Senior's last year is sold short

Matt Neuteboom '08

"It will be your turn someday."

That's what all of our teachers told us back in the day when all we wanted to do was participate in senior activities. We had to wait. This year it was our turn. The class of '08 wanted to finally win the Powderpuff game and go on Senior Trip with our teachers. We wanted the privileges that we had anticipated for so many years.

Now that it's finally our time to shine, it seems like we're getting the short end of the stick as many events we waited years for have been cancelled, delayed, compromised due to the contract negotiations and lack of teacher volunteerism.

What happened to our turn?

For example, take a look at Senior Trip. It's one of the biggest privileges of a student's high school career, and it's exclusive to seniors. However, some of the magic was taken away when they announced that no teachers were participating. Although the trip was fun and the administrators did an excellent job as chaperones, being able to go on the trip with



Alex Parkin '08

my favorite teachers was something I had been looking forward to.

The Powderpuff game was another cause for disappointment. The class of 2008 suffered a defeat last year. Our only solace was knowing that this year we would be in the dominant position and it would be our turn to leave the juniors in the dust.

However, this event was delayed until June, and while we are lucky that there is a possibility of it running at all, the fact that it was delayed for so long seems to have

dulled the excitement. With the game set so close to graduation, it's hard to imagine everyone having the same spirit toward the event as they would have had in the fall.

Most recently, the school's District Art Night was cancelled. Many senior artists were disappointed that they would not be able to participate in the event in their last year of high school. As seniors, the art students have much more to contribute than in previous years, and the fact that District Art Night was their only chance to show

Middle school drama in high school halls

Patrick McCue '08

Whatever they may be to you, your BFFs, Bestest, Amigos, we all have best friends that we would die for. It's just as common as breathing. These are the people with whom we create eternal memories. For years and years, we share our lives together.

I will often see people who call themselves "best friends" fighting and arguing like there is no tomorrow. How does that make any sense at all? If they are the best friends that you can find, you should keep looking. The people that you would sacrifice anything for should not be the same people that you fight with on a daily basis.

Since the seventh grade, I have had the same group of best friends. We call ourselves ABH (the meaning is top secret). The group name actually came from making fun of people that at the time made names for their groups of friends. Ironically, the seven of us were the only group that stuck with it.

I am sure that you can remember the good old middle school days; the drama, the fights, the mayhem. It would be a miracle if you didn't get in a single fight with any of your friends; at least that is what I've been told. For me, fights didn't happen in my group

of friends. The only arguments we had were about our different philosophies and paradoxes. Our fights never involved girlfriends of two weeks, talking behind each others' backs, or the printed out AIM conversation someone is showing everybody.

That was seventh grade, and while the majority of students have grown out of that in high school, you can still find these petty little fights happening almost everyday. We all have to realize that we enjoy our times together laughing, rather than screaming.

I am positive that if a group of seventh graders can understand that fighting isn't worth it, that a group of seniors in high school should be able to do the same. Let's wake up, people. Don't worry about who has the same prom dress (we've all been there), or who our ex-girlfriend of last year is flirting with.

off their work makes losing the event a terrible blow.

The contract impasse caused other smaller events to fall like dominos. The Coffeehouses, Mr. Washington Township Dance, and dozens of other unnamed activities have been cancelled because they rely on teacher volunteers. Clearly this shows how much WTHS relies on the generosity of teachers who volunteer their time for these events.

However, it is unfortunate that in order to make people realize this, the variety of activities the high school offers has had to suffer and the seniors have had to sacrifice their privileges. As my last year here at WTHS, I was hoping this would be a memorable year.

If anything is to be learned from this, it is that the BOE, the teachers' union, and any other parties involved should conclude contract negotiations as soon as possible. When negotiations are dragged out, students suffer. I hope in the future everyone will realize what a negative impact this dilemma has had on our school year, and will never let something like this happen again. The next contract negotiation is only two years away.

Got Opinions?



Email us at
wthspatriot@gmail.com

Features

Something More... by Nikki Black '08

Pop culture invades teen minds

Recently a friend told me she would like to get me drunk; she wanted to see if I'd be a depressed drunk, because I'm usually so upbeat otherwise. After considering whether or not a potentially depressed state sounded like a good incentive to try drinking, I kindly declined.

Sometimes it seems as though teenaged society is drowning in a sea of harmful substances and meaningless pop-culture, when we should be focusing our energies on some serious soul searching and works that could have an impact on our lives.

The teenage years are synonymous with a realization of identity, which is affected by who we choose to associate with and the activities in which we involve ourselves. My fondest memories are not of wild parties, but of in depth conversations with close friends that have immensely affected my perception of self and of society.

It is better to engage in activities that are fulfilling and



Jacquelyn Evans '08

Many students find themselves participating in activities that ultimately harm, rather than help, them.

meaningful than those that leave one feeling empty the next day. It is also far more satisfying for these activities to have been the product of a sound mind than of one affected by chemicals. It's also highly

than the latest exploits of starlets. Instead of spending time surfing internet pages for celebrity gossip, we should be pouring over literature that is going to give us a better sense of who we are. We also need to skip the "young adult" novels filled with overdone drama and fictional gossip (we get enough of both in reality).

The same concept applies to music. It seems as though many popular "artists" are idolized merely because they can turn out catchy tunes quickly.

However, these songs are not going to be remembered as socially important and will most likely have very little impact on the way we view ourselves and others. A catchy song is fun once in a while, but it becomes a problem when the soundtrack to what can potentially be the best years of our lives lacks meaning anything.

I want to remember these years as a time when I found myself, and not as a time when I lost myself to Paris Hilton or alcoholism.

Identifying, overcoming dangers of stress

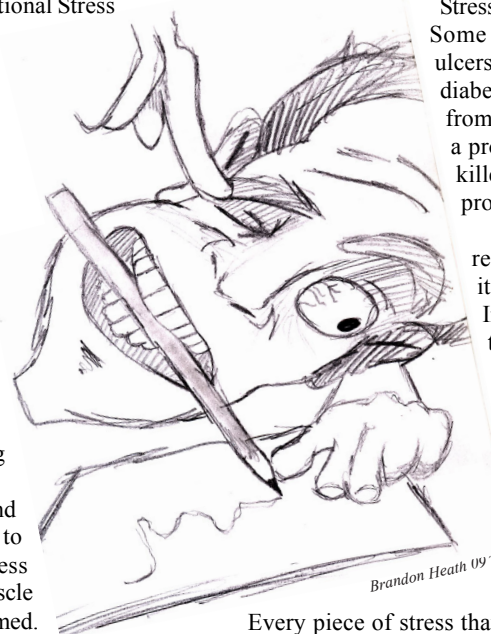
Lauren Finneran '08

For the past 16 years, April has been National Stress Awareness month. But with the beginning of the final marking period, students are finding themselves dealing with more stress. Health care professionals are looking for ways to educate students and the general public about the dangers of stress and what they can do to prevent and cope with it. The Health Resource Network is a non-profit organization that deals with many health issues.

Although many people recognize that they might be stressed, not many people actually know what stress is and what causes it. Stress is, according to about.com, "the body's response to changes in life". Stress is an inevitable part of everyday life, there is bad stress and good stress, the important thing to concentrate on is lowering the amount of unnecessary bad stress from life.

Stress is sometimes easy to recognize and other times, it is barely there at all. According to helpguide.org, some common symptoms of stress include headaches, irritability, lower back pain, muscle tension, insomnia, or feeling completely overwhelmed. Not everyone will experiences all or any of these

symptoms. but experiencing these symptoms frequently can definitely be a sign of high amounts of stress.



Brandon Heath '09

Stress can be very harmful for a person's overall health. Some physical health concerns include migraines, ulcers, high blood pressure, heart disease, asthma, or diabetes. Emotional health problems, which can result from stress, are anxiety and depression. Stress is not a problem to be taken lightly. While stress can be a killer in itself, it is even worse to think that other problems can stem from simple stress.

One of the best ways to prevent stress is to relax. When a situation feels overwhelming or like it's a lot to handle, take a step back and just breathe. In order to avoid stress in the first place, work on time management skills, they will really be helpful in stopping stress before it begins. Set aside time to unwind and be comfortable and happy. Take a long bubble bath, go for a walk, take a yoga class, write in a journal, watch a funny movie, get a massage, or listen to music. These simple things can really eliminate unnecessary stressors.

Students should take time to learn about stress and work on eliminating personal stress. Every piece of stress that is eliminated daily will really help in the long run and make for a more simple and stress-free future.

Gill's Gaming by Tom Gill '10

Army of Two serves up cooperative game

Tom Gill '09

Army of Two is a third-person shooter game for the Xbox 360 and the PS3. Developed by Electronics Arts, the game allows one or two players to take the role of its two main characters, Rios and Salem, who are ex-Marines that now work for a company that is something like a mercenary group.

The premise of the game is that teamwork must be utilized by the two teammates throughout the game. Ironically enough, the game's name is a play on the "army of one" rule in shooter games, where the player is typically forced to take down the entire opposing army by himself. While Army of Two is your everyday third person shooter game, it does add something to the overworked shooter genre.

Each mission starts out with this "army of two" getting hired to hunt down and execute a target. Despite the promises that the game would bring change to the third person shooter genre, the game play is quite linear. There isn't too much freedom with how you go about taking down your target. You go through the missions and in the end you simply fight your target.

The game however, does use the two-man aspect well. The



Google image

In Army of Two, teamwork is not just recommended but required in order to advance.

"Aggro" meter, for instance, is used to determine who gets shot at more by the enemy. If you shoot more enemies than your partner, you get the aggro on your side, while your teammate gets ignored by the enemy, allowing him to become almost "invisible" to them. You can also get more aggro based on the gun you are using (the bigger the gun, the more aggro you get).

If you're playing with a computer controlled ally taking control of your teammate is quite simple. You can use your D-pad to tell him to move, hold, or regroup, and pressing the same direction twice will tell him to become aggressive.

This is pretty well done because instead of your teammate just standing around and getting himself killed when you tell him to hold, he will find the closest cover near him. Another good aspect is that if your teammate gets shot down, he can still shoot while you come in and drag him to cover to heal him.

However, the only problem overall with this feature is that when you tell your teammate to move, they'll just keep moving forward and you can't control where he goes.

The game's A.I. is pretty good. Enemies hide behind cover and move around trying to outflank you.

However, they also have an almost perfect shot and can hit you easily, which doesn't make the game play very balanced.

The game's extras are also pretty interesting. You earn credits when you complete missions during the story and you can buy new masks, new guns, upgrade your guns, or even customize them.

The multiplayer portion of the game is mediocre. You can only play two-on-two, and the game play is all objective based, which may not be appealing to a lot of the gaming community.

However, the online cooperative mode is more fun than the game itself because you're playing the same game, but with another human instead of an AI. You can use all of the things you have from your single player game and play any mission you want. This is where the replay value of the game really is. If anyone is going to keep playing this game it would be for the online co-op. Unfortunately, once you beat the campaign of the game there isn't much left to do.

This game isn't that bad, but there isn't enough in it to keep you coming back. It's more of a rental than a buy if you're interested in playing it.

Dangers of iPods not well heard by consumers

Margaret Bonanni '09

Technology is always improving the way that people store and listen to music. While much advancement has been made in the past decade, one device has risen above its competitors. Many music enthusiasts are drawn to Apple's iPod. Not only is it an innovative and convenient way to carry hundreds of songs, but it is also compact, with some models smaller than cell phones.

Although iPods have revolutionized the way the world listens to music, they have also had negative effects on their users. Since

their debut, they have been linked with hearing damage, and in more severe cases, hearing loss.

The iPod has the highest volume levels among its competitors and consumers often raise the volume too high, causing Noise Induced Hearing Loss. The effects of NIHL can be temporary or permanent. Additionally, these effects can have a varying effect on consumers because the damage depends on the frequency and time-span of the exposure.

A consumer's hearing can also be damaged because of the iPod's headphones. The ear-buds that come with iPods are hazardous because

they fit directly into the ear, causing the sound to flow directly to the eardrum. Because these ear-buds do not fit securely into the ear, noise can also interfere with the music, which inevitably makes the listener raise the volume. An iPod's headphones increase the average sound of music by about nine decibels, and are equivalent to the sound of a lawn mower, which can cause intense damage.

A way to avoid potential damage is to use sound isolating headphones. These headphones fit securely into ears, so background noises can not interfere with the music. This allows for a decrease in volume, so the music can be kept at a safe level. Consumers can also lower the volume, or using the iPod less frequently.

Although iPods have the capability to cause hearing loss, they can ultimately be used safely if consumers make a few simple adjustments to their music habits.

**Tech savvy?
Game expert?**

*The Tech section
wants your opinions.*

Contact the
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Attn: Tech Talk

Tech Talk

Super Smash Bros. Brawl hits shelves

Matt Neuteboom '08

It's been delayed countless times since its announcement at E3 in 2006. It's been in the works for seven years.

Now, after all of the hype, Nintendo released the long awaited title *Super Smash Bros. Brawl* on March 9 for the Nintendo Wii.

Following the successes of its two predecessors, *Super Smash Bros.* and *Super Smash Bros. Melee*, *Brawl* has been one of the most highly anticipated titles for this generation of platforms. The *Smash* series has been one of the most highly successful series of games in the world, so naturally gamers have been expecting *Brawl* to surpass the previous two games.

Fortunately, the developers delivered with *Brawl*. Featuring more game modes, dozens of new characters and stages, and tons of new content, *Brawl* not only improves upon all of its old game modes but brings even more new features to the table.

Techknowledge by David Clements '08

Who will bear the blame?

Suppose, for a moment, that technology has completely killed all of my brain cells. Whose fault is it? Is it mine, my parent's, the companies' that make it, or is it the government's fault?

Suppose it truly is my fault. Nobody is forcing me to buy a cell phone that also takes pictures, plays games, gives me instant news updates, and lets me check my email while being hands-free so I can drive at the same time. I enjoy having carpal-tunnel syndrome in my fingers from texting. Doesn't everyone?

In all seriousness, I do not believe that the technology itself is to blame. Like I said, the companies are certainly not forcing us to buy their products (of course, they're not stopping us, either). However, it is not 100% the consumer's fault either, even though a large part of the responsibility does fall on them. In

The concept behind *Brawl* is simple. Just take a bunch of characters from Nintendo franchises and allow one to four players fight each other with them. Yet with this simple formula, Nintendo has managed to create a wildly successful series of games.

Multiplayer mode, the most appealing aspect of *Brawl*, has been improved with the addition of new characters, stages, and items. The amount of secret content that can be unlocked for multiplayer is remarkable, virtually guaranteeing that no two matches will ever be played the same way. The new "assist trophies" have also allowed Nintendo to pack in more characters from their games without needing to make them all playable.

Weaker characters, such as Ice Climbers or Kirby, have been beefed up while overpowered ones, such as Sheik/Zelda, have been toned down.

And while *Brawl* is mostly a multiplayer game, Nintendo has still added more to the single player mode. In addition to bringing back



Google image

Super Smash Bros. Brawl raises the bar for multiplayer fighting games.

old favorites such as classic mode, break the targets, multi-man melee, and the home-run contest, Nintendo added a storyline mode to the *Smash* series for the first time.

Entitled "The Subspace Emissary," the mode unites every single character from the game into one overarching storyline. This essentially strengthens the single

player aspect of *Smash* with more hours of game play, and to make things even better, you can play co-op with a friend, who can join in with you at any time.

Other features include an online service, which has been sought by players since *Melee* came out in 2001. While it is a nice gesture, it does feel like it's a day late, a dollar short. First of all, it tends to be laggy over a WiFi connection.

In addition, the lack of a unified gaming service (such as the 360's Xbox Live) and the fact that your opponents are randomly selected each time makes it a lot less fun than if you were playing with friends.

The new mapmaker modes also allows for some interesting games with your friends. While it has once again been sought after for years, the mode does seem stripped down. The tools at your disposal, as well as the customization options, are extremely limited. Still, it is fun to show off stages to your friends and it still provides plenty of enjoyment.

However, with all of this content, it's impossible to be bored with *Brawl*. It's absolutely amazing how much Nintendo was able to cram everything into one game. It's hard to imagine how they will ever surpass this game in another sequel. *Brawl* is worth every penny, and is guaranteed to entertain you and your friends just as long and as well as predecessors have.

the case of younger children, I'd put a fair amount of the blame on the parents for not paying attention to the fact that their kids play video games or watch television all day long.

What makes things worse is that more and more often, parents turn on the makers of the shows or games for destroying their children's minds. I find it strange that some parents are complaining that their kids are too violent these days, yet their six-year-old is playing Grand Theft Auto III without them even noticing.

Teenagers, however, are just as bad, if not worse. If we've learned anything, it's that teenagers tend to have some problems multitasking. Therefore, I cannot understand why they believe they have the ability to talk on a cell phone and drive through rush-hour traffic at the same time. I hear time and time again how car accidents occur due to one or

both of the drivers talking on the phone while driving. But for some odd reason, all of these events never sink in, and I still see it every day.

Then there is the government. Everyone blames the government. Why? It's probably because it's their job to run the country, so they think that the government needs to deal with every little problem. However, the government should be last to bear the blame. They've already passed laws regarding cell phones and driving, put ratings and warning labels on movies and video games, and yet people continue to distract them from the war in Iraq and ask them to do more about our youth.

According to some, our youth are brain-dead, violent, obese, and lack the necessary communications skills to function in society. Can we really blame new technology for all of that?

A league of their own

Science students test their knowledge in competition

Matt Neuteboom '08

Though Cafeteria C/D was filled with 250 students from around the county, the room was quiet save for the tapping of calculator keys and the scratching of pencils.

On March 13, Washington Township High School hosted the Regional Science League Competitions. Four times a year, students from around the region meet to academically compete against each other in various areas of science.

Buses arrived at 3:00 to drop off students at the 9/10 cafeteria. Students were given 50 minutes to complete a multiple choice test in one of the following areas: earth science, biology, chemistry, or physics.

Students from the same school testing in the same subject are arranged into teams of four. The two highest scores in the group go on to count as that team's results.

"We've been competitive this year. It's definitely a rebuilding year for us, but we've been doing fine," said Mr. David Wright, co-advisor of Washington Township's Science League.

This year Washington Township entered two teams in each area. Each of the two teams entered in a first and second level, with the second level being harder than the first. At the competitions, Washington Township placed third in Bio I, fourth in Physics I, and fourth in Chem I.

"I wanted to see us improve our scores and do better than last year," said club president Erin Duffy '08.

After testing, students were treated to pizza and soda, courtesy of Washington Township High School. In the meantime, club advisors graded the tests in order to determine who had won.

"Tests are scored on the premises," said Wright, "so you know who wins before you even get back on the buses to go home."

Washington Township's Science League organized the entire event.

"I know what really needs to be done. It's not too



Gina Parker '09/Staff

Teacher of the year, Mr. David Wright helps students prepare for the highly competitive event.

bad, just time consuming," said Wright.

However, Wright said he shared most of the responsibility with the members of the club. He stated "I'm just the advisor. I'm only here to do the stuff the kids aren't allowed to do, like see the tests."

As well, in addition to being scored on a local level, scores also get compared on a statewide level. Last year, Washington Township won an award in Physics II for being in the top 10% in the state.

Washington Township also competes in other events throughout the year. They attend the TEAMS (Test of Engineering, Aptitude, and Math and Science) competition, as well as at Merck State Science Day, where they took 1st place in Gloucester County division last year.

Led by Wright and Mr. Costantinos Tsoukalis, Washington Township's Science League has attended these competitive events for over 25 years.

"We really want students to see that there are other kids out there who want to pursue the same academic interest as they do," said Wright.

"It allows me to find an outlet for my scientific interest. It lets me really find out what I'm into," said Mahesh Vallah.

Science League encourages anyone who is interested in any area of science to come out and join them in the competitions.

PDA draws attention

Nikki Black '08

We've all seen it: couples flirting, holding hands, and kissing in the hallways. Public Displays of Affection, or PDA, are very prevalent in the hallways of Washington Township High School, and students and staff all seem to have an opinion on the subject.

Many students feel that PDA is all right, as long as the couples do not go overboard.

"There's nothing wrong with showing affection publicly, but people have to learn not to cross the line from cute into nauseating," said Kristen Linderman, '08. Bianca Beck, '08, also felt the same "as long as it doesn't turn into a make-out fest."

Some students feel that PDA in the hall isn't a problem, or even noticeable. "I don't really mind it, because I'm walking so fast to get to my next class I barely even see it," said Aldrin Abastillas, '08.

However, some students feel that seeing PDA in the hallway is inescapable. "It's the kind of thing you see all the time, I try not to let it bother me," said Owen Montgomery, '08.

Others are offended by such displays of affection, such as Mr. Richard Valerio, who stated "It offends my sensibilities; I don't need to see it."

According to the student handbook, "excessive displays of affection" such as "kissing and embracing" are punishable by disciplinary action and parents will be contacted in the event that a student refuses to cooperate.

"The hallway isn't the right place for it, but I don't think that there should be any sort of punishment," said Kyle Rosa, '08. Linderman shares this viewpoint, and stated "I don't think there should be a punishment for it, because I would hope that people would be smart enough to realize that excessive PDA is gross."

It seems that the majority feels that PDA is definitely apparent in our hallways, but not so much that it presents a problem or needs to be acted upon by the administration.

The Patriot's Online!

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Extended Edition

With more articles and more pictures

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Seniors storm sunshine state

A look back into the "magical week"

Amber Lombo '08'

The sun is shining the grass is green, and everyone has senioritis. Teachers are finding it hard to get students to pay attention, saying their brains are still in Florida.

The Washington Township seniors recently took a five day trip to Walt Disney World. They left on Tuesday, March 25th and returned Saturday, March 29th.

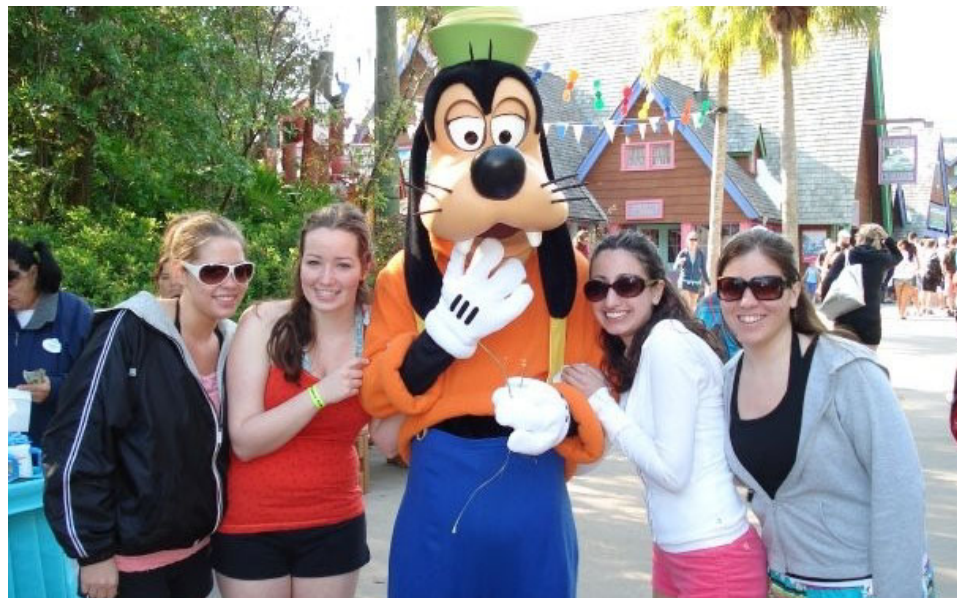
This year was a new experience, because due to the lack of teacher contracts, the teachers chose not to chaperone the trip. Instead, Washington Township's administrators went along with the students. This caused worry for many students but proved to be a good experience.

"I really didn't mind the administrators going with us. They were there to make sure we didn't get in trouble, but also wanted us to have a good time," said Molly Sweeny '08, "Mr. Dempsey was on my bus and he wasn't there to discipline us; he was there to have fun. It was a great time."

During the five day trip, the seniors visited MGM, Blizzard Beach, Magic Kingdom, Epcot, Animal Kingdom, and Universal Studios.

Michelle Martin '08 said,

"I enjoyed Islands of Adventure for the rides,



Matt Neuteboom '08/ The Patriot

Students enjoyed taking a break from the school year as well as seeing some of their favorite characters.

but my favorite was Epcot. It was really cool, and I liked visiting all the different countries."

Although many thought it was a fun filled trip, some students complained that it was too

much in such little time. By the end of the trip many students were exhausted.

"I understand why they kept us moving and busy, but I would have enjoyed more time to just chill and talk to people at the hotel," said Danielle Pulcini '08.

This year's class thought it would be funny to have senior prank while on the trip. On their last night at 2:08, 3:08, and 4:08 students ran through the All Star hotel, making huge amounts of noise and jumping into the hotel pool.

"Personally, I thought it was hilarious. I actually didn't think they were going to do it until I heard the stampede of people," said Stephanie Strucko '08.

On the other hand, some people didn't think the "prank" was too funny.

"It was funny the first time in the spirit of senior year," says Pulcini, "but after that it was a bit excessive."

While most enjoyed the trip, others like Delia Mello '08 think the trip caused many problems between friends.

"Everybody seemed to come back with a problem of their own. If it wasn't fighting between roommates, it was people abandoning their friends," said Mello, "It was a relaxing time, but it was also a real trouble maker."

But overall the trip was a great bonding experience. Pat McCue '08 said,

"It was the best time of my life!" Having such an extremely large class it was nice for 610 of the seniors to finally get together in one place.

"I got to meet people I normally don't hang out with in school," said Mello. "It made senior year more memorable."

Perspective

Tragic lesson in off-road safety hits home

Jessica McFadden '10

Around ten o'clock pm on April 5, 2008, Dominique Dezii's life was cut short when her all-terrain vehicle was hit by a car.

Dominique, of Winslow Township, was thrown two hundred feet from the quad, and killed on impact. Her boyfriend and another friend were also on the quad, and were only severely injured. My cousin, Dominique Dezii, was only thirteen years old when she was killed.

It was hard to believe, at first, that Dominique was not coming home that night. She was such an energetic, high spirited girl, that just loved to have fun.

When we first found out about her death, we wanted to blame the seventeen-year-old driver of the Nissan that hit them, and then we just let it go. Then the police told us that Dominique and her friends weren't wearing helmets when they were on their quad that fateful night.

If Dominique had been wearing a helmet, the possibility of her surviving would have been so much higher. If you ride on a quad, or a motorcycle, or even a bike, it is vital that you

and your friends wear helmets at all times! In 2006, more than 111 children under the age of sixteen were killed in accidents which involved all terrain vehicles, as reported on www.atvsafety.gov.

Even more than that were the injuries, which were up in the thirty-thousands. One safety tip that is very important for you to know when planning to ride on an ATV or "quad", is to definitely wear a helmet! Wearing a helmet increases your accident survival rate, so it is best to strap one on when going out for a ride.

Some quads are built for one, two, or even three people, and it is safest to only let the amount of people recommended by the manufacturer of the quad to ride at a time. One last tip, is to not go riding alone. If you are riding alone, and crash, the chances of you getting help are slim. It is best to always ride with a partner or a friend.

We all need to help to decrease the rate of deaths due to all-terrain vehicles.

It is so simple to do. Just wear a helmet and don't ride alone. By doing these simple things, you can save your life, and the life of a friend, or even a stranger!

Yoga, Now by Jordan Lyons '09

Yoga exercises mind as well as body

Each issue of Yoga, Now will focus on the ancient art of yoga and its translation into modern times.

Yoga is a group of ancient spiritual practices originating in India. Outside of India, yoga mainly pertains to the practice of postures of Hatha Yoga, or to a form of exercise. Yoga is a form of physical purification of the body, as well as the mind. Yoga practices to understand the nature of the elusive element we know as our 'mind'. Practitioners also try to understand the mind's different states of being, impediments to growth, and the methods of containing it for the achievement of absolute self realization.

The central idea of yoga is that nothing else exists beyond the mind and its consciousness. Yoga centers on the mind being the only ultimate reality. Through regular practice of yoga, it is believed that

we become more aware of the interconnections between our emotional, mental and physical levels.

Over time, this awareness leads to a better understanding and knowledge of the more subtle areas of existence. The ultimate goal of yoga is to make it possible to put together the gross material, physical, mental, intellectual and spiritual levels within your being.

Some yoga benefits are that it is very helpful with your asthma, respiration problems, high blood pressure, pain management, back pain, arthritis, weight reduction, self awareness, mental performance, mood change and vitality, pride and knowledge. Some may believe or say that yoga is their overall cure. Also, through regular practice of yoga, the spine flexibility is increased, the skin gets firmed up and the tension of muscles is removed and poor postures are cured. It is said that yoga can take



Google image

Yoga not only exercises the body but helps to purify the mind as well.

years from one's face and adds years to one's life.

Yoga is probably the only form of exercise which massages all the internal glands and organs of the body, including those, such as the prostate that hardly get externally stimulated during our entire lifetime.

By increased blood circulation to various parts of the body, this helps the flushing of toxins and provides nourishment for the body.

All in all, yoga is known to be well nourishing to our bodies. Yoga will have the benefit of relieving stress from school and/or home.

Teens go under knife to improve self-esteem

Sarah Kurtz '10

In this day and age more and more teenagers are getting plastic surgery to enhance their appearance. Some say that it's to give them confidence, while others are just truly not happy with the way they look. Part of the reason cosmetic surgery has become so popular is because of the media. It seems that everyday more magazines or TV shows are informing us on the new updates stars have made on their bodies or faces by going under the knife.

"The way the media portrays the way people should look is just unrealistic, which gives teenagers and unrealistic idea of what they want to look like," said Gabby Cristelli '10

We all know the infamous *Victoria's Secret* models and how amazing they all look in magazines and on TV. Some girls aspire to look just like them. And if going under the knife to achieve that look is what it takes, some girls are willing to take the chance. The media makes it seem



Most doctors agree that teenagers do not understand the costs and complications of plastic surgery.

that unless you are a size two, you're fat. And if you have a bump on your nose or you are flat-chested, you're now unattractive. It's especially hard to be happy with what you look like with reality shows like ABC's *Extreme Makeover*, or MTV's *I Want a Famous Face* on air. The shows completely alter peoples' looks by undergoing surgery after surgery.

It used to be a car for a graduation present. Now it's

Confidence is more attractive in a girl than appearance sometimes." Ant Fantazzi '10

Breast augmentation and even liposuction are favorites among the young patients too.

Most doctors would agree that teenagers are too young and shortsighted to understand the complications of surgery, particularly the risks that implants may pose and the long-term maintenance they require.

But is having self esteem issues really enough reason to have a surgery to alter your body permanently? Shouldn't you be happy with what you were born with?

Sadly enough most teenagers think that changing the way they look will make them happier. And if by chance you do get surgery done to enhance your looks and it makes you more confident, that's great. But keep in mind, plastic surgery doesn't always work perfectly. So if you are considering having cosmetic surgery done, do your research, and steer clear of Michael Jackson's surgeon.

Lifestyles

The best thing since sliced bread

Lauren Finneran '08

Panera Bread, as the name implies, features bread type products. However, Panera is more than just a bakery; it is a wonderful restaurant and café.

There currently is not a Panera close by, but if you are in the mood for some good food and a slightly different set of scenery, it is definitely worth the drive.

There are many Paneras in the Cherry Hill and Voorhees area. Two of the most common are the one at the Promenade, and the one near the Cheesecake Factory.

Panera Bread has a vast array of items on their menu.

They have all different types of bagels and breakfast spreads and many different bakery type items. Their bakery items include everything from muffins and pastries, to cookies and brownies. If you're in the mood for something that more closely resembles a meal, you are also in luck. If it's a sandwich that you crave, try a hot panini, or a hot or cold café sandwich. If you're with a group of people, try a crispani.

A crispani is a pizza type dish that comes in all types of meat and vegetable combos. Many locations only offer this dish after 4 p.m. so be careful. Panera



also offers many different options for soups. They also offer salads and fruit cups and special half salad/half sandwich combos to allow customers to try different dishes. Need a drink? Panera has many to choose from. There are Starbucks type hot or cold drinks, teas, and even a soda fountain.

Panera is not set up like many other places. It is designed to have a more casual atmosphere. There is a counter near the entrance to order and pay for food. Down the counter a little ways is a pick-up area and then a restaurant full of table options. There are seats outside for the sunny afternoons or warm summer nights, booths for more intimate occasions, and there are even couches and chairs by a fireplace if you so desire. There are no waiters or waitresses, so you can sit at Panera for as long as you please. There are multiple trashcans located throughout the restaurant and everyone has the responsibility of cleaning up after him or herself.

Although at this point in time, Panera is a bit of a hike away, it is well worth the trip. It is very rewarding and is sure to impress. Panera Bread has great food, a friendly staff, and is an all around wonderful experience.

Travel

One big happy island

Taylor Cohen '08

White sand, bright blue water, and the warm sun, welcome to Aruba! After traveling to the gorgeous island this past February, I discovered what all the talk was about. Within the past four years more and more people have been talking about this small island as a wonderful place for vacation. With activities that interest families, kids, teens, and adults there's always something to do while in Aruba!

The bright blue ocean is accompanied by the white, hot sand. The water is perfectly cold because once you lay on the beach you are going to need to cool off! Lots of tourists relax on the private beaches or unwind in a big raft in the ocean. If you're into some

adventure tubing it is available through reservations.

If you like to go out at night Aruba is just the place for that. With many clubs and bars located right on the beach or in the hotels you will never want to leave! Each bar has live music or a special DJ every night. At Mambo Beach Bar, salsa dancers perform every Thursday and teach the audience. The casino is also a very popular place in Aruba. At many of the resorts 18 you are legal to gamble away your allowance. Slot machines, poker, black jack, and even dice games are just some that are available to use. In Aruba it's very easy to relax all day and be out all night.

During the day the island awakes with a warm breeze, hot sun, and a great breakfast. Most tourists lay out by their hotel pool

or on their private beach. If you into something more thrilling, boat rides, water skiing, and beach bars are available. The afternoon in Aruba is something that is very relaxing and calming. Lunch is served around noon on the beaches and many sandwiches can be purchased at the bars or little restaurants. To end the night, a walk on the beach is the perfect thing to do. The island pays for palm trees to be lit up and has many benches to rest.

All in all, Aruba is one happy island in itself. It's relaxing, fun, and adventurous all at the same time and has something for everybody. So next time you're planning a family vacation, or even want to go away with your friends, keep Aruba in mind!

Mind, Body, and Soul

by Maggie Bonanni '09

Chicken soup for the stressed soul

Being a teen can be stressful. Balancing school, friends, relationships, work, college-planning, and family can sometimes be too much for one to handle.

Over time, I have tried different ways of dealing with stress. Whether it was running, working out, or writing my feelings down, nothing gave me the desired effect. I wanted a method that would take away the stress and help me prevent future stress-outs.

During Christmas, I talked to my cousin, who is currently in her last year at Penn State University. She is also under massive stress, and suggested that I try reading a *Chicken Soup* book.

I took her suggestion into consideration. I never got into the *Chicken Soup* Series or any inspiration book for that matter. It just was not my first-choice book pick. Despite that, I decided that it couldn't hurt to give it a shot.

The stories made me unwind and opened my eyes. All of them were real life stories, and were written by people who went through the same stuff I'm currently going through. Not only did they hit close to home, but after reading them I walked away with something valuable: a way to deal with what was stressing me out.

Chicken Soup also has a book for everyone, from *Chicken Soup for the Romantic Soul* to *Chicken Soup for the American Idol Soul*. No matter what book you choose, there is bound to be one that suits your interest.

Although being in high school can be stressful, there's always a way to offset what is going on around you. If nothing else works, give *Chicken Soup* a try. It might work better than you would expect.

Books

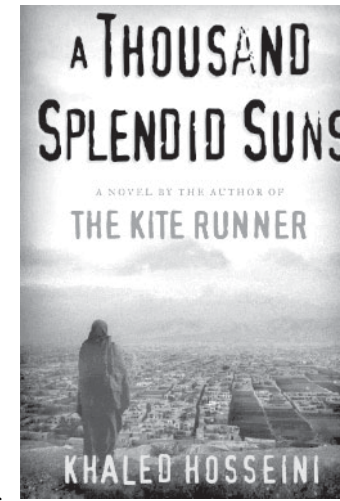
An enlightening look at Afghan culture

Matthew Griechen '10

There are many areas of the world in which the government systems, the state of security and the culture are incredibly different from the normal standards that we have become accustomed to in the United States of America. In the book *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khaled Hosseini, the culture of Afghanistan is analyzed along with that nation's political instability during the 1970s through the late 1990s. This novel provides an insightful look into Afghan culture.

Hosseini creates an incredible book by using the personal story of two women in Afghanistan during this time period to illustrate many themes that are derived from the interactions these women have with each other and the world.

The two main characters of *A Thousand Splendid Suns* are Miriam, a Herati woman, and Laila, a woman who was born in Kabul. Although the stories of these two women are fictional, Hosseini bases them in events that are believable



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A Thousand Splendid Suns depicts the political instability in Afghanistan during the 1970s through the late 1990s.

and fit the time period in order to illustrate his message of awareness.

The experiences of Miriam show the status of women in Afghan society. She is treated as property throughout her life. Even though her father is very wealthy, she is forced

to live a harsh life in poverty because she was a harami (child born out of wedlock). Through Laila's experiences, Hosseini exposes the horrors of violence in Afghanistan.

Beginning in the 1970s, the political leadership of Afghanistan shifted. Then there was a state of uncertainty as militants fought factional wars across Kabul, when finally the Taliban took control.

With the use of flourishing

language and his stories of two women growing up in a war torn Afghanistan, Hosseini creates a novel that has the potential to bring about a large degree of intellectual change. Although many of the themes in the book are concerning the state of Afghanistan in the aforementioned time period, the most important theme of the story evolved from the struggle of two women against the oppressive forces in their culture. Mariam and Laila are exposed to strict Islamist laws that prevent them from living their lives. Their struggle to break free of their bound status reveals the courage of humans in the face of

oppression.

Although this story is not extremely violent and does not have particularly vulgar sections, it does contain some scenes that can be disturbing. Because the book takes place during a time period marked by violence and terror from the Taliban, Hosseini included incidents that allow the story to fully develop and the reader to grasp the emotion of the time period.

A Thousand Splendid Suns is one of the most powerful novels in the contemporary literary society, in that it analyzes events that were and still are profound issues in the global society through detailing the life stories of two women. If the contents of this book sound interesting, you can also read Hosseini's other novel, *The Kite Runner*. This book is incredibly interesting and I believe that its message is of the most profound importance.

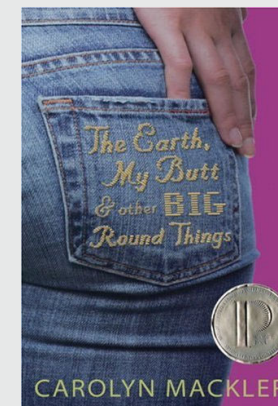
Hosseini achieves the lofty goal of increasing the knowledge of the international community through the passionate and courageous stories of Laila and Mariam.

Meet Carolyn Mackler!

Mackler is the author of the award winning book *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big, Round Things*. The novel was awarded with the Michael L. Printz award. On May 9, she will be visiting W.T.H.S. to discuss the book.



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In order to meet Mackler, students must have read the book and have gone to one of the book club discussion days. Interested students unable to attend discussion days should go to the IMC's eboard to respond to questions concerning the novel. Those who answer at least two of the questions will receive an invite to meet the author.

All of those who attend will receive a free t-shirt.

Owners of Mackler's novels are invited to bring them; she will be signing books.

Have you read any interesting books lately?

Share your opinion with us!

Please send all book reviews to wthspatriot@gmail.com.

Odds & Ends

Nerd, Geek, Dork by Danielle Pulcini '08

What's the Difference?

My father has affectionately coined a term just for me, "Nork." It is a combination of nerd and dork.

Ignorantly I thought the term fit me quite well. However, I opened the dictionary to find that I might be more appropriately considered a "Neek," a balanced mix of a nerd and a geek.

The *Encarta World English Dictionary* states that nerd is an offensive term that purposely insults a person's social skills or intelligence. It is a term usually reserved for males, yet, it applies to me when my social skills are lagging and I am speaking on stereotypical male topics like sports or food (and the only one listening is a pleasant cement wall).

A nerd may also refer to an enthusiast who seems obsessively focused on a topic that is seen as too technical or scientific. If you toss out the "technical or scientific" part, I am the epitome of a nerd.

Some high school students look forward to prom or summer. I get uncontrollably excited for book discussions and nightly anticipate the British Broadcasting Company's newscast at seven.

The origin of nerd is uncertain, but it is sometimes credited to Dr. Seuss. In *If I Ran the Zoo*, "nerd" is used by the good doctor to identify a small incensed humanoid animal. At least his "hippo-heimers" did not catch on. How nerd got its present meaning is unclear.

According to Encarta, a geek is defined as



Alex Parkin '08

"somebody who is considered unattractive and socially awkward". In this case, I have a soft spot for geeks. In my mind, awkward people are on the same tier as Superman and Spiderman (prior

to the third movie).

Geek may also be used to refer to someone who takes excessive pride in technology, most specifically computers. This definition does not suit me as I had to consult my mother to help me set up a Yahoo account, and I am a firm believer that yelling at the computer causes it to load quicker.

The origin of geek is uncertain, but possibly comes from the Low German term *gek* meaning "fool." This origin may be rooted in a third definition of geek, a carnival performer who has an outrageous act.

Dork is another "offensive term" describing someone unattractive and socially inept. The origin of the word comes from an alternate meaning that is best saved for health classes and the highly inappropriate conversations I do not wish to overhear in the locker room.

A sufferer of social phobia could be considered a "dork." My rant on the usage of Oxford commas in a Disney restroom while another woman at the sink shot me a worried look as if to say 'you poor child; what a bleak romantic life you must lead' might be considered a dorky moment.

At the conclusion of my extensive research, I have discovered that all three terms apply to me. So thank you *Encarta World English Dictionary* for solidifying my inadequate social position, as if the sideways looks were not good enough evidence.

Life As... by Nicole Heath

...A Non-Smoker

I'm outside the 11/12 auditorium waiting for the 3:20 late bus. It's wet, windy, and 3:40. As I calculate the amount of homework I have and how I can fit it into my T.V. schedule, a group of upper-classmen leaves the building. As the trio waits, one girl pulls a pack of cigarettes out of her purse.

Great.

Now it's wet, windy, and reeks of burning tobacco. As I stood there, I wondered, "Am I invisible." Maybe it's me, but I don't like it when smokers 'light one up' when I'm standing right next to them. But unfortunately this isn't the first time.

How many times have you been in your car on a stuffy day when you let down your window to get some air? But then you see the person in the car across from you who decides he doesn't want smoke in his car, so he holds his cigarette out the window. Then the smoke gets in your

face and car, forcing you to roll up your window. If smokers don't want smoke in their car, then maybe they shouldn't *smoke* while driving.

These are the things non-smokers, like myself, have to go through on a regular basis. Personally that doesn't seem quite fair. If you want to smoke, then walk a few feet away from people. You don't know who's a smoker or a non-smoker, so you should be considerate enough to walk away.

Are non-smokers just supposed to take it if someone smokes around them? When someone lights up around me, I feel like saying, "Hey! What's your problem? Go somewhere else!"

But that's not correct etiquette. So I'm forced to just give them a look or walk away.

If someone wants to blow toxic fumes around then they shouldn't force other people to inhale them. That's what really ticks me off.

The government agency, Center for Disease

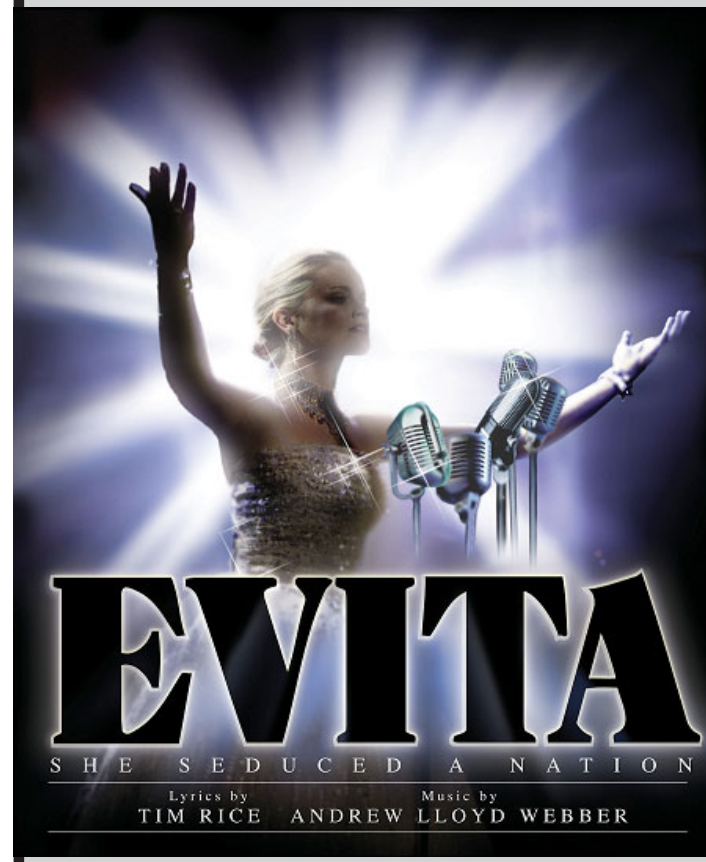
Control and Prevention (CDC) states that "secondhand smoke contains at least 250 chemicals known to be toxic, including more than 50 that can cause cancer." The CDC estimates 126 million non-smokers have been exposed to second hand smoke. That's a fairly large number. I won't even go into how bad second hand smoke is for children.

With these statistics, I don't want anyone smoking around me. Why would I want to make myself susceptible to cancer? Should smokers have the right to expose others to the poison they bought?

Alas, there is hope. With new laws passing and more quit-smoking drugs on the market, not to mention the people behind the *sunny side of the truth* and *whudafxup* commercials, the number of people exposed to second hand smoke will decrease. Hopefully one day non-smokers won't have to deal with smoke at all.

What's Happening

**THURSDAY, MAY 8
7:30PM**



TICKETS: \$46-\$57

Help Donate Blood!
**Interact
Blood Drive**



May 2
One bag of blood
helps three people.

CONGRATULATIONS!
to the winners of the
senior art piece



1st: Alex Parkin
2nd: Kwabeena

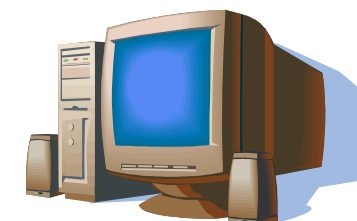
UP-COMING WTHS CONCERTS
7PM IN THE CBAC



WED. 5/7 CONCERT
WED. 5/14 CHORAL CONCERT
TUES. 5/22 COMBINED CONCERT

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