

Toy drive braves cold

Rob Cavella '07

The onset of the winter months brings within them the standard snow dreams and brightly wrapped desires. But that's not all the season of snowflakes and sugar cookies has in store for the residents of Washington Township. There are families in need every Christmas in the Township as well as other towns who depend on the people that make winter "the season of giving".

On December 7th and 8th, Class Council held its annual "24 At the Core" toy drive and Christmas fundraiser. Centered around the core entrance, it was much more than a barrage of students with their heads down and hands out for donations. In replace of this bleak portrayal of Christmas good cheer was an immensely better exhibition of what it means to give as well as receive.

A bull-pen of rotating student Santa's and a collection of his helpers were busy at work gathering gifts and donations with a warming smile in the face of the forty degree weather



Christine Lafferty '07/The Patriot

Class council members (l-r) Jacqui Conroy, James Ford, Jamie Piotrowicz, Kelly Gallagher, and Kelsey Reynolds still smiling after the marathon toy drive.

that hit the high school's rendition on the south pole. Although the main purpose of the event was to help provide a better Christmas for families in need, many of the students that made the event possible received a valuable lesson from their altruism.

"It's a great cause that makes me feel like I'm making a difference for those less fortunate", commented senior Santa Nick Duerr '07.

In addition to the help it provided, it was also an event that radiated the essence of a celebration. Within the center of the candy caned red fence outside the doors of the core was an amplified I-pod projecting an array of Christmas favorites while one of the Santa Clauses awaited visitors and contributors to the twenty-four hour event. Free photos with Santa were offered as well as a look at the hard work that was put into making the center structure of WTHS a winter wonderland.

The first night of the event had a very large volume of parents and

children arriving to attend other events as well as the toy drive. The first night of the event was scheduled along a Financial Aid meeting and a

middle school concert both run within the high school during the night hours of the toy drive. Many children and families had the opportunity to observe and learn why winter is the season of giving.

"It's inspirational for young kids. It teaches them early on to contribute to the community and those in need", stated Jill Bollendorf '07.

Senior Class Council advisor, Mrs. Carol Costello feels very strongly about what the "24 At the Core" makes possible for many families in Washington Township. They get to have a fulfilling Christmas. In return for what each Class Council member makes possible for these families, they are provided with an emotionally fulfilling experience.

"We believe that every child should have something to open up on Christmas. In helping to accomplish this, the class officers receive a lesson for life, as well as life-long memories to take with them", commented Costello.

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Fire damages core lav, prompts investigation

Matt Neuteboom '08

An investigation is still underway to uncover what the cause was of the fire in the core girl's bathroom on November 27.

The Washington Township Police Dept. plans on pressing charges against those responsible for starting the fire. In this situation, the Washington Township Police Dept. in conjunction with the Gloucester County Prosecutors Office are investigating and will be the ones pressing charges.

Principal Rosemarie Farrow explained, "because an official investigation is still underway, we cannot give out any information as

to whom or what started it."

Even though no names could be mentioned, Farrow added "One thing I can say is that our administration thinks we have caught the person responsible."

The cleaning and repairs that had to be done on girl's bathroom will be about \$3,500.

The fire, though, was not the only thing that caused damage to the school. The sprinklers that were able to put out the fire caused some damage as well. The run-off from the sprinklers resulted in the core lobby being soaked, which led administrators to cut off access to the first floor in that area.

See FIRE page 2

Interact lends hand in spirit of giving

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

During the holiday season, many WTHS students look to give back to the community. One of the Interact Club's most rewarding projects in the spirit of the season of giving is "Holiday Families."

Through Holiday Families, Interact hosts one or two families that would not have otherwise been able to have a real Christmas. This year, the club "adopted" a foster family of eight. Because the father suffers with cancer and the parents struggle to provide a big Christmas for their six children, Interact stepped in to help.

To raise money for the project, Interact hosted their annual Skating Party for the district's elementary school students in early December. With this fundraiser, the club brought in \$1,153, several hundreds of dollars more than last year.

Using the raised money, Interact Chairperson Amanda Matticks '07 went shopping at Kohl's, Ross, and Toys R Us. With the ages and clothing sizes of the siblings, she was able to buy each child an outfit and some sort of age-appropriate toy.

"We try to find as much info on each person as we can, to make the gifts special and personal" states Matticks. The rest of the money was put into gift certificates for the parents.

Fellow Interact Co-Chair Meagan O'Kane '07 says, "I was very excited to be a part of this event. I love knowing that we can help this family provide their children with a happy holiday."

Matticks says, "It is a great event because we aren't just giving a dollar to an unknown charity. I know where these gifts are going and that it is making a huge difference in people's lives—most importantly the six children."

Send your ideas for news stories to...
wthspatriot@gmail.com

SURE hosts eclectic event

Dean Tatulli '07

On Friday December 3, S.U.R.E. (Students United for Respect and Equality) hosted their annual winter acoustic coffee house.

"The show was a major success," said Joe Granato '07, performer and Vice-President of the S.U.R.E. club.

The show was held in Cafeteria B which was outfitted with furniture and lamps that date back over 3 decades. The mood set was incredibly comfortable.

"The funny thing is, we don't serve coffee" laughed Granato.

The show lasted from 6:00pm to 10:15pm and featured the talents of twelve bands and solo artists.

"The bands this year were really tight, and made me and Jackie "Shibby" Van Orten's ['07 president of S.U.R.E.] jobs a lot easier, all of them were extremely cooperative," said Granato.

He credits all the shows success to Van Orten and Mr. Todd Oberholtzer who set up everything, organized the usage of the cafeteria, and brought down the furniture (with help from the club, of course).

Oberholtzer also rented the PA system used during the show.

"Without Mr. O and Jackie, this



Kyle Marr '07/The Patriot

The Fallen were one of the acts at the SURE Coffeehouse.

would have been impossible to coordinate; they were just so helpful throughout the whole time organizing," said Granato.

The coffee house also featured a full thrift shop complete with clothes ranging from tee-shirts and head-bands to satin blazers. A lot of people left the thrift with big smiles, gleaming with their new finds.

The thrift shop was run by Chelsea Zoladz, Brittany Noll, Alyssa Tin, Jacqui Evans, Kyleigh Nevins and Jenine Pilla. They claimed to be having a really great time just selling really cool stuff. The shop also had tee-shirts from one of the bands as well as CDs from the

bands. SAVE also sold clocks that they made out of recyclables.

Also on display was artwork that was displayed at the first acoustic coffeehouse.

"I think some of this art was around when Mr. O was in High School" said Granato.

A poster that was signed by all the original performers of the first coffeehouse was brought down and hung up on the wall too, as homage to the roots of the coffeehouse.

"The mood was just really great; it was so good that for a couple of hours you actually forget that you are sitting in a school cafeteria," Granato said.

Police investigate fire

FIRE from page 1

Farrow mentioned, "I was shocked by the amount of water that came out of the sprinklers. The core was completely flooded."

Janitors worked alongside the Washington Township Fire Dept. to get the core clean. Because of their efforts, the lobby was dry and safe to walk through by the end of that day.

"Fortunately, we don't believe there are any major damages," Farrow noted, mentioning the proximity of the incident to the CBAC. If the CBAC had been flooded, it would have been a much greater cost.

The fire was detected around 11AM, as students were changing from fourth to fifth period. Farrow was at the scene as the incident unfolded. When she smelled smoke, she had it investigated. She had not even returned to her office before the alarm sounded.

"Our school's alarm system is very sensitive. It worked exceptionally well in detecting the fire," Farrow commented.

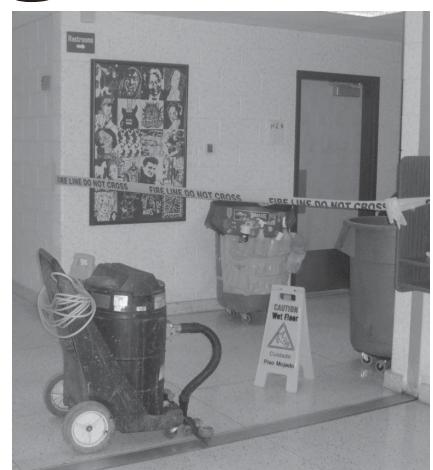
The alarm caused a bit of confusion among both staff and students.

Because the alarm had gone off earlier that morning, the school went into test mode for the rest of the day. Students were told to ignore any alarm and continue to their next class.

Consequently, when the fire triggered the alarm, Farrow had to use the public address system to tell students that the fire was real.

The girl's bathroom is already repaired and ready to be opened once again.

Thankful for the efficiency of both the faculty and the alarm



Chris Fox '10/The Patriot

The fire in the girls' lavatory closed the core lobby for most of the day.

system, the principal stated, "The staff and students can be sure that if there is a fire, our school's alarm system will be able to detect it and respond to it immediately."

“Mock”umentary inspires outrage

Laura Marder '07

Borat was released into America and England on November 3rd 2006, accumulating \$109,136,807. This comedy fully known as *Borat: Cultural Learnings Of America For Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan*, brought laughter to some and anger to others.

The film centers on Borat Sagdiyev, (Baron Cohen) a journalist from a Kazakhstan network who travels from his home to the U.S. to make a documentary. Cohen is a well known English personality and is recently known for his HBO show “*Da Ali G Show*”. He is known for his alter egos and prank interviews. The film is not scripted which makes the real life encounters more audience enjoyable.

These encounters in states such as New York and California may have been hilarious to some viewers, but not to some of the people filmed unaware. People Borat approached on the streets and tried to kiss or make other jesters filed complaints about not having given their consent to be in such a movie.

Two anonymous plaintiffs are suing 20th Century Fox and One America Productions, claiming



English comic Baron Cohen’s humor in the faux documentary *Borat* is not proving universal.

members of their college fraternity were interviewed to become part of the film. They claimed that their frat brothers were brought to a “drinking establishment” and encouraged to drink before they were asked to sign a consent form. They remember the consent form saying that their identities would be kept secret and the film was just a documentary for Kazakhstan. The boys are in the film getting drunk with Borat and making bigoted comments. The plaintiffs

claim they suffered “humiliation, mental anguish, and emotional and physical distress, loss of reputation, goodwill and standing in the community...” wrote TMZ.com.

Many Americans agreed with smiling Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev when told reporters, “This film was created by a comedian so let’s laugh at it, that’s my attitude.”

The studio maintains the movie was created so people could just get

a good laugh. It wasn’t created to offend any particular religion or ethnicity. Most people say it equally offends all groups of people.

Even though the president of Kazakhstan was not in an uproar over the movie many other people in his country were.

“Roman Vassilenko, the press secretary for the Embassy of Kazakhstan, wants to clear up a few misconceptions about his country. Women are not kept in cages. The national sport is not shooting a dog and then having a party. You cannot earn a living being a Gypsy catcher. Wine is not made from fermented horse urine. It is not customary for a man to grab another man’s khrum. “Khrum” is not the word for testicles,” wrote the New Yorker in “Borat Doctrine” Issue 2004-09-20.

Still the off color religious and racial slurs meet with a mixed response. At recent showings of the film laughter is constantly blasting from the theatre when Borat is on screen; however it is also accompanied by a few people storming out disgusted and offended.

This movie is rated R for pervasive strong, crude and sexual content including graphic nudity, and language.

PTO serves up local eateries

Rob Cavella '07

The WTHS Parent Teacher Organization cooked up something special for all self-proclaimed connoisseurs of cuisine and people that just like to eat.

On Sunday October 15, the driven PTO of the high school made mouths water when the Core opened its doors to “A Taste of Washington Township”. This first annual food expo featured delectable dishes and finger food from thirty-five of the restaurants spread throughout the township.

Even the lunch ladies themselves made their presence felt with a showing of the baked good and deli style sandwiches from Washington Township Food Services that students get a small sampling of in their lunch line.

In actuality, it really is all about

the food. But this elaborate exposé of what Township’s eateries have to offer was much more than just a nice “spread”.

People clad in Mardi gras style Masks and beads were found leaving the Creole Cajun Cuisine Table. The WT food services department gave a taste of autumn indoors with their table decorated with beautiful colored leaves and fall tones. Fat Jack’s BBQ boasted various award trophies for their ribs.

In addition to the moods set by the establishments that graced the underclassman cafés, some great food was to be found as well. The Creole Café really struck a cord in many taste buds with their Cajun

crab cakes. The Pelican Fish Company was also a crowd pleaser with a sampling of flavor as complex as the name with their curried chicken mango croquettes.

Edible Arrangements pulled some major weight of their own with the large fruit bowls they gave out for free in a shopping bag to facilitate your travels; not to mention the amazing array of completely edible fruit bouquets they had on display. Oh yeah, there was music too.

WTHS’s own house band could be heard from the 9-10 gymnasium jamming out to the likings of Van Halen’s “Jump” as well as other classic rock songs. The members of the band were Mr. Van Antwerp

This elaborate exposé of what Township’s eateries have to offer was much more than just a nice “spread”.

Commentary

Form lessens repetition of applications

Erin McFadden '07

Common Application keeps seniors happy, sane.

"Reach schools," "good fit schools," "safety schools"—no matter what they're labeled, the number of schools to which college-bound seniors are expected to apply is seen by many as daunting, and with good reason. Despite complaints from universities, some students continue to apply to upward of ten schools, which requires filling out upward of ten applications.

This often is no simple feat, especially when seniors are also

trying to find the time to do the work necessary to get through the academics of their last year of high school.

But what smart seniors know is that, chances are, most of their schools will accept the same application with little additional hassle.

The Common Application, available on-line at commonapp.org, is acknowledged by 298 accredited colleges and universities. With the

exception of Ivy League institutions, the schools represent a broad gamut of schools.

The option to apply to a whole list of colleges essentially in one shot can be a lifesaver for the busy senior. While a student could spend hours writing out their name, address, and extra-curriculars over and over, the Common App only requires it once, allowing kids to spend more time actually doing those activities highlighted in their applications.

And for those whose résumés are already bountiful, the Common Application serves as a source of spare time that is so precious and rare in the last year of high school.

While some may be opposed to the idea of writing a single generic essay to be considered by multiple

schools, it actually makes things fairer and much easier for the applicant. They must be honest in representing themselves without considering what specific school will be judging their response.

For students who would miss the opportunity to specialize their writing, many universities require a supplement with a few short answer questions specific to the school.

The Common App is also a friend to teachers and guidance counselors. The same recommendation forms and grade reports that are part of the Application are accepted by all participating schools.

Finding out that all of their prospective schools accept the Common App is a huge relief for the college-bound senior. Even though most universities require a supplement form that may include additional essays, the application process seems much less overwhelming.

Letter:

Let's limit attendance

I do not believe the underclassmen should be allowed to attend the formal dances. The high school's formal dances should be reserved for junior and seniors only.

A freshman or sophomore going to the Winter Twilight Dance means that one fewer junior or senior who will be able to purchase a ticket. Even if the underclassman is asked by a junior or senior they should not have the privilege of being able to attend.

Every year there are a handful of juniors or seniors who are left out because the school ran out of tickets to sell because to many upper classmen who couldn't find a date within the junior and senior classes decide to take a sophomore or freshman. This is unfair to the rest of junior and senior classes. This also really hits hard in the senior class because this is one of the last few dances they will be able to attend.

Also underclassmen that come to the formal dances are often way

too immature yet. Some upper classmen tend to find under classmen on the annoying side at school social events.

And finally, younger classmen who attend all the formal dances right away have nothing to look forward to in their years to come in high school because they have already experienced all the dances. I went to the Winter Twilight as a freshman and sophomore and found by the time I was a junior, the highly anticipated formal had lost much of its flair because I already knew what the dance was like.

However, there may be one exception to this argument. The sophomores and freshman should be allowed to go to each other's dances due to the fact they are not full-out formal dances. They are held in the gym and they are not as important to the sophomore class or freshman class.

- Blaise Lacca '07

[Common Applications allow] kids to spend more time actually doing those activities highlighted in their applications.

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Powder Puff perspectives

Event unites classmates

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

Anyone who has seen the movie *Mean Girls* or just suffered through a day of high school knows at least one thing—girls are not always the nicest people around. High school can be one big drama, and girls are often the main stars. Until that one day every year.

Powder Puff. Seniors vs. Juniors. Red vs. Blue.

We had practiced for a week to learn different blitz formations and reverse run plays. The night before the game, girls from both teams covered the halls with their team's color: blue or red. Game day was an absolute whirlwind of school spirit with girls in full football gear and cheerleading boys showing off their legs in short skirts. It may sound like a pointless tradition, but don't scoff, this tradition was the greatest experience of my senior year so far.

Leading up to Powder Puff, I was worried about whether "Oh Seven" would be able to unify. Having lost last year's game, I knew there was a possibility that many of the seniors would not regenerate the spirit this game represents. In a grade often divided by different cliques and social groups, I didn't see how we could ever unite.

I was wrong.

The first sign of unity came on the practice field, where girls lined up against people they had never met. Across the line of scrimmage, pointers were given in a mutual effort to have the strongest team possible. We were banding together in a collective (superficial) hatred of the juniors.

The next sign came when it was time to decorate the halls. Coming to the school at 8 o'clock on Monday night to cover the halls with banners of red and white is a huge undertaking. However, with everyone helping everyone, the results were amazing.

By game time, you could feel the energy in the air. With each touchdown scored, huge cheers erupted from the 200 people on the sideline. I hugged the person closest to me—whether or not I had ever met them before. We were nervous, then exhilarated, and finally

triumphant as the final score of 74-55 was displayed on the score board.

For that night, the seniors were united in a way I could never have dreamed. During a game of football with cross-dressing cheerleaders, we became more tightly knit than had ever been possible through talking.

It's not just the senior class that was united, though the class of 2007 may feel that bond most distinctly. This so-called "dumb tradition" spreads more school spirit through hallways than any other event of the year. As evidence, freshmen and sophomores look forward to the event, many dressing up for the team they support.

Believe it or not, even the juniors and seniors unite *on the field*. Though we joke about which class is better, the truth of the matter is that for that night, neither class could have any fun without the other.

There are those who say that Powder Puff isn't worth it. But this game isn't about them. It's about us. It's about every single player and cheerleader who chose to experience that common bond for a night. And, honestly, that is something that this school needs every once in a while.

Game divides, disrupts

Erin McFadden '07

The Powder Puff football game may be a long-standing tradition at WTHS, but why it perpetuates is a mystery. While the game is meant to raise school spirit, in reality, it does little but create an excuse for aggression and distraction in the school.

Girls who truly have school spirit show pride in their school and their class by involving themselves in activities and projecting a positive image for Washington Township. It seems that there are a number of Powder Puff participants who do not behave this way.

It seems that many of the girls are not enthusiastic about school activities any time of the year but November.

They just want to beat up juniors, or seniors, respectively.

While I, always wearing neutral purple on game day, have not been the recipient of much Powder Puff related harassment from anyone besides a disappointed classmate, I have watched my friends withstand much more aggressive torment due to the color of their jerseys.

While there has been improvement in Powder Puff decorum over the last year, the hallways remain war zones. Hostility is not exclusive to the football field. The school has seen decorations ruined and heard foul names screamed days before the actual game.

I don't see that as morale boosting.

It's just mean, not to mention disruptive.

Since Powder Puff traditionally takes place during the shortened school week before Thanksgiving, students have begun to infer that the entire week should be dedicated to nothing but the game.

On Monday, participants sport t-shirts bearing team names and slogans often indicating the violent way in which they plan to crush their opponents. Tuesday is wasted, as everyone is distracted by decoration hanging or destroying, face painting, and chant screaming. And Wednesday, winning seniors insisted on wearing their jerseys *again* just for the sake of creating more controversy.

That's three days of school that Powder Puff participants have taken. A game of football is no excuse to completely disregard the actual educational aspect of school. For those of us who are not Powder Puff enthusiasts, it's no fun to be surrounded by it not only in the hallways, but in classes as well.

The Powder Puff tradition has not fulfilled its purpose at WTHS. Every year, it is a source of hostility and disturbance in the school that absolutely cannot be disguised as spirit or unity. But pitting junior against senior, the school is condoning the unsavory activities of the segment of the population who, in general, do little else positive at WTHS.

While there are good kids participating in Powder Puff, they are certainly overshadowed by students who are successful in their attempts to wreak havoc in the hallways in the month of November.



Erin McFadden '07/The Patriot

The powder puff game generates a lot of energy at WTHS, but is it always positive?

Features

Rewind reels forward

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

Monthly Rewind is kind of a big deal.

In 1992, Mr. Marty Bouchard and his Advanced Television Production students launched the show, which airs on local cable for the benefit of the student body and the community.

The Television, Communications & Graphics program has since expanded and the students have grown more technically skilled. The one hour program of Washington Township news continues to air on the first Wednesday of every month on Channel 13.

October 2006 kicked off the 11th season of *Rewind* with a new crew, largely composed of seniors, and new producer, Ethan Thies '07. Their shows are about the students, sports, and activities at WTHS.

The two period, ten credit elective is also a class, and not an easy one.



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/The Patriot

The cast of *Monthly Rewind* learns and bonds while making the show.

According to cast member Michelle Scott '07, "It really shows us whether or not we're cut out for the field. The hardest thing is thinking up ideas and collecting interviews, but it's cool to edit and see it come to fruition."

In addition to the show, the crew is also responsible for filming school events, and the content for the video yearbook.

It takes driven students to participate in such a rigorous elective, and to enjoy it.

Eric Swiecinski '07, of growing fame from *Rewind* "Mail Time," says, "Rewind

and the whole communications program is by far the most fun I could've ever had in this school. The opportunity to bring to life on screen things that you have floating in your head... is beyond wild."

Senior Producer Thies is in charge of each production. He coordinates

the various segments into the final show. Also a member of *Rewind* Season 10, Thies is enthusiastic, "I spend so much time with these kids that we bond so closely together and become great friends."

Still early in the year, Mr. Bouchard praises this season as one of his best writing years, right next to Season 10. While many continue to compare the two seasons, Bouchard admits, "That happens every year. Each season is unique. Season 11 will rise to the occasion to match or surpass the previous season."

In the meantime, Season 11 continues to grow better with each installment. As viewer Brooke Petruzzelli '09 says, "It is really cool to see students like us showing up on real television and speaking out about the different things we do around Township."

Thies excels in two fields

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

Ethan Thies is not a figure that walks through any hallway unnoticed. At six and a half feet tall, this high school senior is immediately impressive.

But it is more than just height that makes Ethan stand out. As the leader of the Minutemen Football Team and *Monthly Rewind*, he has achieved more than most other seniors.

The end of the season brought the payoff for his hard work with the honors of Linemen of the Year in South Jersey, 1st Team All South Jersey, and 1st Team All-Academics.

Much of the beginning of Thies's year was spent in fall practices with the rest of the Minutemen Varsity Football team. Now in his third year as offensive tackle on the Varsity team, he was a senior captain and took on his leadership role without a problem.

Co-captain and friend Nick Duerr '07 said, "Ethan has character with everything that he does. He's a role model on the field, both for me

and for the younger players. He really has a great work ethic."

He found the perfect fit for his academic and football future when he visited West Point Academy. With his verbal agreement to play for Division I Army, he plans to major in education or business and hopes to coach someday. Thies looks forward to his future but said there is nothing he will miss so much from WTHS as "playing underneath the lights at Friday night home games."

Not simply content to excel on the football field, Ethan also holds the coveted position of Producer for *Monthly Rewind*, Season 11. Although he recognizes that this year's crew has big shoes to fill, as the show's veteran he has lead the new group to excel.

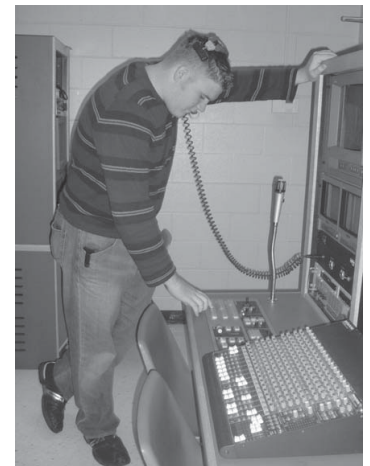
His responsibility is to edit and compile the final production before broadcast. The job takes hours in and out of school. Advisor Marty Bouchard explained that Thies was chosen as Producer because, "He is intelligent, dependable, and when I ask him to get stuff done, he does it, and does it right."

Thies said that it is no easy task, and it is surprising that he has still has the time to maintain a difficult course load and participate in NHS. "I'm dealing with different stresses this year with football and colleges trying to recruit me....And *Rewind* takes so much of my free time up," he said.

High school has not been an easy journey for Ethan. In his junior year, he lost his father, his grandfather, and Coach Tom Brown all within a very short time. The loss of so many important people brought into context everything that he had ever been taught. He always viewed his father as his biggest role model and Thies said, he can do nothing but "be happy with the time I had with [my dad] and always try to make him proud."

Of course, Ethan Thies is a bit of a role model himself.

Head Coach Mark Wechter said of his star player, "For a lot of kids, these losses would affect them negatively, but Ethan actually became a stronger person and a better player. To overcome that adversity is



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/The Patriot

Even senioritis has no effect on Thies's work ethic.

extremely characteristic of Ethan's strength."

While balancing athletics, extracurriculars, and academics on his tall shoulders, Thies has always made the most of his time at WTHS. And while his height may be intimidating, he is always ready to make a friend feel just a bit better with an easy-going smile.

Get to know Mr. O

Rachel Brown '10

If you're walking around K-pod and here music blasting from room K-212 you know it's the one and only Todd Oberholtzer's, also known as Mr. O or the 'O man', surround sound stereo. He doesn't just use the stereo system to play some of his favorite songs, like "Comfortably Numb" by Pink Floyd, between periods. He also uses his stereo to teach.

"I can't teach without music," Oberholtzer said.

When watching movies in class, Oberholtzer says it's like a movie theater because of the surround sound and a projector screen he has. He also uses audio clips on the stereo to teach in class.

Oberholtzer was born in Lancaster, PA and all of his relatives are Amish except for his parents who decided not to be Amish.

"Before I wanted to become a teacher I wanted to be just like Keith Richards, but not now he's kind of weird looking now," Oberholtzer laughed.

Since he was in 5th grade Oberholtzer has wanted to be a teacher.

"There was one guy teacher in



Lauren Meloni '08

Mr. Oberholtzer always makes class interesting for his students.

my school and he was like a super star so I thought if you were a guy teacher you could be a super star."

He was not Oberholtzer's only influence. His high school, which was Haddonfield High school, really opened his eyes to learning and because of that male teacher and his high school teachers he decided to become a teacher.

"If I could be anything but a teacher I would be an actor (but not weird like Tom Cruise), a democrat politician, or I would be emperor of

the world if everyone would be okay with that."

Oberholtzer has been teaching for thirteen years at WTHS and when he was a student teacher he worked at Camden High teaching US History 1. Now he teaches Honors World History and he says he wouldn't give up teaching history for any other subject because it is too interesting.

After school he runs the SURE club which is a club that promotes a positive school climate by building cooperation and understanding

among students of diverse cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds. He also says that they just like to have fun.

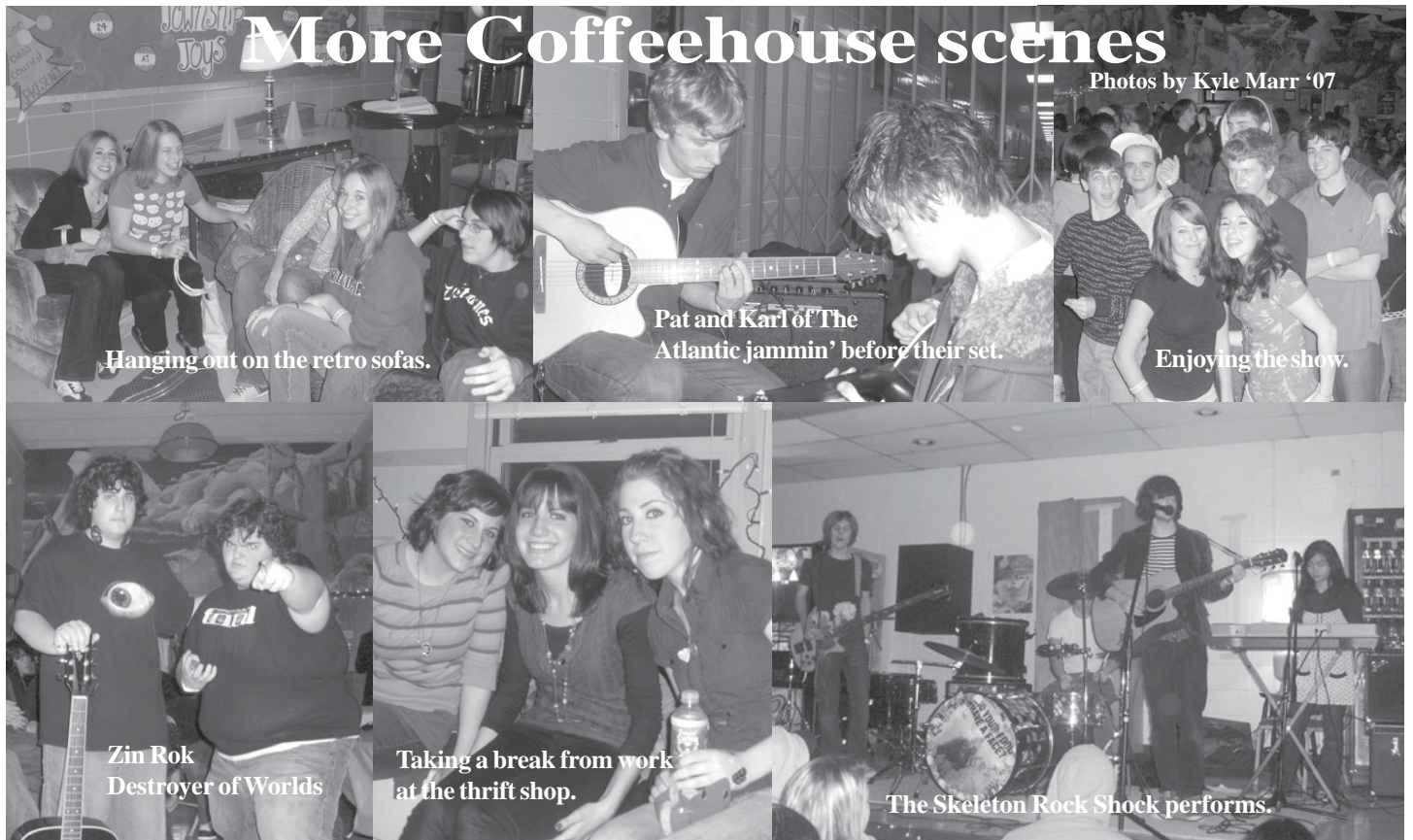
When he's not teaching Oberholtzer enjoys listening to music to bands like The Who whom he followed on tour for a year, playing the guitar, reading, traveling all over the world, and playing Madden on his Play Station.

He also likes to watch political television shows and loves political films. He also like British comedies and loves the movie *Fahrenheit 911*.

Also in his free time he likes to make power points for his classes, do research, and he likes to write political articles that sometimes get published.

Oberholtzer feels that high school has a lot to offer and wishes that more students would take the time to recognize that.

"I believe that all my students are very nice people and will be all successful. To all the students of Washington Township I'd like to say that it is a tough world out there, and where you are now is very forgiving, where you have an army of people who care about you. Take advantage of what you have here."



More Coffeehouse scenes

Photos by Kyle Marr '07

Hanging out on the retro sofas.

Pat and Karl of The Atlantic jammin' before their set.

Enjoying the show.

Zin Rok Destroyer of Worlds

Taking a break from work at the thrift shop.

The Skeleton Rock Shock performs.

Happy Holidays!

Memory

The sad stocking stuffer

Alyssa Figueroa '08

At the age of four, a well-intended stocking stuffer destroyed my hopes, my dreams, my future huge savings account, and my Christmas.

After waking up with my usual spunk every Christmas morning, I made my quick run to wake up each of my family members and then headed for the Christmas tree to see what Santa had left me. All the presents I opened that day must have slipped my mind, since the last gift I received left me traumatized.

I thought the excitement of tearing the wrapping paper off new toys was over, but my mom informed *me* that Santa had informed *her* that he left something for me in my stocking. I ran over to check and sure enough I pulled out a netted bag full of gold coins. GOLD COINS! I started adding them up according to their value imprinted on them, \$500...\$1000...\$2000 (yeah, I knew how to add big numbers at 4!). I looked up at my family, noticing they were not as nearly as thrilled as I was. "What's the matter with you?!? Aren't you excited that we're rich?!?"

After my mom informed me of the catastrophic news, I was so upset, confused, and mad at Santa for playing that evil trick on me! Chocolate wrapped in gold foil! Who knew? I could have bought 500 Barbies with the money I thought I had! It was like thinking you won the lottery, then after you double-check the numbers, realizing you didn't. It took a few hours to recover, but it will take a whole lifetime to forget. And no, I never ate the wicked chocolate.

Moral of the story? : All that glitters is *not* gold.

Opinion

The turkey got gypped

Michelle Scott '07

We're finally deep into the heart of December and everyone's getting ready for their holiday festivities (with or without snow). Amidst the hustle and bustle of last minute gift shopping, relatives who magically show up to functions without an invitation, and our very own seniors rushing to beat college deadlines, it's hard to think of a time before all the chaos.

If we did think back to when the first Christmas tree was put up and all the holiday promotions started airing, we wouldn't be transported back to early December, late November, or even the day after Thanksgiving. No, no—the holiday rush starts long before that.

Many people start popping up trees and starting their gift lists as early as the beginning of November, forgetting all about turkey-day. And for the handful that actually does wait, Thanksgiving is nothing more than the official sign that the holiday craze has begun! So do you know who gets gypped of their holiday? Yes, the Pilgrims and the Native



Americans to an extent, but most importantly, the American turkey! Every Thanksgiving in the United States, 45 million turkeys go from gobble-gobbling, overweight birds to the centerpiece on our table.

Personally, I think that would merit at least thinking about waiting to put up your decorations early. These birds have gone from being the innocent jolly bird that nestled around the Plymouth colony (yes, I know they didn't eat turkey on the first Thanksgiving, but it's the concept I'm going for) to being an American staple. Whether or not this neglect of the turkey's sacrifice

and overlooking of the holiday in general comes from the vegetarians and the "don't eat meat, but I'll eat fish" hypocrites remains to be proved, it's clear that we should at least respect the turkey for the one day allotted to it by Honest Abe.

But it's not just the turkey issue that roasts my stuffing and mashes my potatoes; I think that Americans in general have lost the true meaning of Thanksgiving. It's an easy thing to do, living in a country where everything's commercialized and constantly telling you to prepare-for-the-next-big-sale-to-buy-your-loved-one-that-special-gift-for-that-other-holiday. But come on! Is it that hard to celebrate the holiday at hand without wanting to jump to the next one?

Well, it being December and all makes my proposal seem a little late, but it's never too early to change your outlook on a holiday. When Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa, or Festivus rolls around, remember to look around you and appreciate the holiday for what it is—not what other holiday it means you're closer to.

Opinion

Most wonderful time of the year?

Lauren Finneran '08

The holiday season is a time for giving. It is a time to forget about yourself and to work to help or better someone else's life. No matter what holiday you might celebrate during this time, if any at all, most people still believe in this basic idea of being giving, generous, and kind.

Although this is how people should act, much of the time this is not the case. During this time of year, everyone gets so stressed out and just plain mean. If you're sitting there saying, that's not me, then take a second to think about it. Do you start to feel angry when you're waiting in a long line? Do you get frustrated when you can't find exactly what you need? Mostly

everyone is guilty of this. People get way to stressed out during this season, and forget the meaning of the holidays completely.

It seems like as soon as Thanksgiving is over, people instantly become nasty. They fight for sales in stores, have little to no patience, and are in such a constant hurry. No one lets someone who has fewer items than they in the supermarket cut in front of them in line. Often they don't even acknowledge each other's presence. It's like everyone goes along on their own tracks and just worries about getting what they need done what they need to get done.

Because everyone is so busy during this time of year, it becomes hard to enjoy the season. You are so

stressed out that you don't even appreciate the gifts that you are buying for others or the thought that you are putting into them. Consequently, everyone is miserable around this time of the year.

So this holiday season, please remember this. When you're waiting in a long line, take the time to say hi to the person in front of you, or be just a little bit nicer to the person who is waiting on you. Just by that random act of kindness, you will be sure to brighten up your own day as well as someone else's. By at least being aware of this change in attitudes, you will be able to have a better attitude yourself and hopefully help others to have a better attitude during this season.

Holiday Word Search

M G Z L C D P C F D S G U F Q R G Y
 E I A X D G K W A N Z A A B C B O W
 N T E K A L F W O N S T N E H V W J
 O O A R E T N I W V D Y S T O E U O
 R R U R R C T G O I J L O B A Q H Y
 A A B V B A R N N G T R E T G P L T
 H X Y D R E I D E L J X R G Z V Y N
 F K R O E H L M F S R G T F N E T Z
 I B C N G R R E Q Z E A K B R R Z P
 P E O Q N T W S C N F R H I L S M C
 D K C P I C R T K O V A P B O D C H
 A L C R G Z Q S R S K N C T W D J W
 D M V X X A G T D C U I A Y E L U V
 F Q T P H G L I V O Y K R N V Q H U

CANDLE DREIDEL KINARA PRESENT SNOWFLAKE
 CELEBRATE GINGERBREAD KWANZAA RED TOYS
 DECORATIONS GREEN MENORAH SANTA WINTER

Holiday Survey Results

Top 10 Overall Songs

1. All I Want for X-mas is You
2. Jingle Bells
3. Jingle Bell Rock
4. Christmas Shoes
5. Winter Wonderland
6. Christmas Song
7. Carol of the Bells
8. Rudolph the Red nosed Reindeer
9. Silent Night
10. Grandma got run over by a reindeer

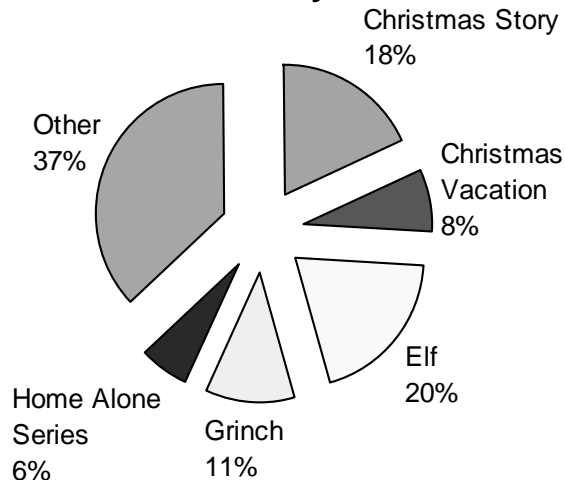
Top 10 Most Unique Gifts

10. everything
9. Tickle Me Elmo
8. a monkey
7. a hippo
6. no stress
5. no home work
4. an island
3. world peace
2. world domination
1. Red Rider BB gun

Number One song by grade

9th Grade- Jingle Bells
 10th grade- (tie) Jingle Bells & All I Want for Christmas is You
 11th grade- Jingle Bell Rock
 12th grade- All I Want for Christmas is You

Favorite Holiday Movies



Data assembled by
 Alanna Pyle '10

With help from:
 Nicole Heath '10
 Julia Hahn '10

Top 5 Gifts Desired

1. Clothes-32 votes
2. Money-29 votes
3. I-Pod-22 votes
4. Car-15 votes
5. Guy/Girl-14 votes

Total Respondants- 308
 9th Grade- 19 boys 28 girls
 10th Grade- 34 boys 58 girls
 11th Grade- 30 boys 50 girls
 12th Grade- 31 boys 54 girls

If you could have anything for the holidays what would it be?



"A nice week-long cruise to somewhere exotic."

Brian McGlaughin
 Freshman



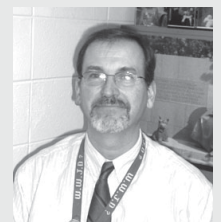
"To meet Paul Walker and go on an amazing date!" **Megan Todd**
 Sophomore



"True love. No amount of money could ever come close." **Erik Forgrave**
 Junior



"A too cute Twilight dress." **Michelle Scott**
 Senior



"That our faith would replace our fear." **Mr. Barnshaw**
 Teacher

What's Happening

Twilight: Under the Sea

Melissa Cheng '07

Winter Twilight...I can safely say that we are anxiously awaiting the January dance at the aquarium.

"Everything's going really well. We've double checked the reservation and are in the process of planning the decorations," said Student Council President Amanda Esposito.

Looks like the large turn out has become a problem with ticket sales. Esposito defends, "We never expected so many people. With tables, the aquarium only holds 800 people and we already sold 900 and

will have to accomodate for that."

It will be more "room-y" compared to past years, but will the lights still be on? Too much light was a pretty big issue last year and forced Student Council to rethink traditional Twilight plans.

Esposito comments, "I didn't go last year, but I can see how that would be an issue. It's dark in there to begin with and the lights will have to stay on for a little bit so they can check everyone in, but I'll make sure they're out in the first half an hour."

Of course, if students are thinking that they will be able to get away with drinking (before or at

Twilight), they'll going to come face to face with recent addition to dance regulation: the breathalyzer test.

While there will still be a waiting line like every other dance, this time, no one will be able to enter without first being screened with the breathalyzer. It should only be a brief stop. If you *do* fail the test, however, you'll be taken aside to another area to be further tested.

Think you can get away with anything else? "We're in Camden," Esposito humorously points out, "We're going to have cops everywhere." And while sneaking away into the "off-limits" area of the aquarium is completely out of the question, so is sneaking out.

The tickets were fairly expensive this year (\$110 per couple), but holding dances runs at a high cost. Esposito shared that the ticket prices are only so high to pay for the larger, nicer place, as well as the food and decorations.

With the new expense, limos, party buses, and trolleys may be a little out of the question. So, if you trust someone to drive, then the good news is that there's a parking lot this year. That makes driving an option... if Camden doesn't scare you.

January 20 is coming up. Mark your calendars, find your wetsuits, and get ready to dance with the fish.



Courtesy of www.njaquarium.org

Twilight '07 attendees will be 1st at WTHS to dance with the fish.

Spirited Creatures return

Lauren Meloni '09

Spirit, loyalty, pride, good sportsmanship—Bleacher Creatures!

Started a few years to infuse Township with new school spirit, the Creatures cheer during the football and basketball season. This year, the group of Township enthusiasts is called the 12th Man.

The rules are simple: no foul chants; be polite to all spectators, coaches, players, officials, cheerleaders; and follow the WTHS Student Code of Conduct.

With all grades able to participate, the number of members has skyrocketed to 300 students.

"In the past the senior class ran Bleachers Creatures themselves. It was more of a privilege to be a part of it. But, as Coach Wechter always said, 'Spirit starts right when you walk in the door,'" said Mrs. Gina Gallaher, one of the four advisors.

"Before the games we met outside of O'Brian hall so everyone could walk in together as a group," said Gallaher.

With this year's new rally towels and t-shirts worn to the games in support of the team, the Creatures are moving as a cohesive force.

The turnout has been amazing, and Township pride is really starting to shine through in the hallways before a big game. While being part

of a group itself shows spirit and pride, being a part of Bleacher Creatures shows that you are supportive of your school.

If you are interested in joining Bleacher Creatures/The 12th Man group, you can contact any of the following teachers: Coach Mark Wechter or Gallaher in the 9/10 building, or Mrs. Jennifer Wisor or Mr. John Tirico in the 11/12.

Although the fall season had only a few home and away games for the group, the winter season brings the beginning of a new sport—basketball!

As games begin this December, the Creatures are sure to come out to cheer.

Get the Hot Ticket at the CBAC

Many students still have not realized that WTHS is home to one of the "best concert venues in Philadelphia area"—the Commerce Bank Arts Centre.

Shows that students and faculty of WTHS are interested in—see *Rent* review, pg. 11—are coming to the theatre each month.

And an affordable show or concert at our state-of-the-art theatre might even be the perfect holiday gift....

Upcoming Shows:

Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat
National Broadway Tour!
Monday, January 8
7:30 PM

Cinderella
State Ballet Theatre of Russia
Thursday, January 18
7:30 PM

Faculty Talent Show!
Come see all of your favorite teachers showing off their talents on stage!
Thursday, February 15

David Cassidy
in Concert
Friday, February 23
8:00 PM

Buying tickets:

Online at Ticket Master
Or at the CBAC Box Office in the Core

Business Hours:
Monday-Friday
9 AM - 4 PM
(856) 256-8660

If you need more info, go to...
<http://www.sjlivearts.com/>

Cabaret highlights senior talent

Margaret Bonanni '09

Out of all the theatrical productions our school produces one of the most anticipated and comedic event is Senior Directed Cabaret.

With unique scenarios and hysterical punch lines, Cabaret shocks audience with its blast of comedy from present to past.

"I think everyone will be really pleased. We definitely directed it to

teenagers, but I'm sure everyone who comes will leave with a huge smile on their face," says Kayleen Egan, who, along with Jackie Nagle, have been chosen to direct this year.

The nomination process for the show is student determined. A cast meeting held in May determines which two rising seniors will assume the director positions the following year. All junior cast members are eligible to try out and give a speech.

The cast then votes on who will direct them. Nagle says, "I was so honored to be chosen to direct SDC 2007. It feels really great to know that everyone trusts you to direct their show."

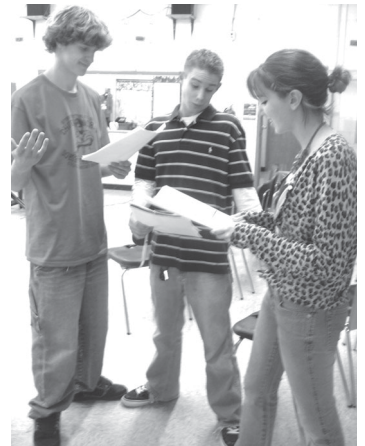
Senior Directed Cabaret has two very accomplished directors this year with distinct theatre backgrounds.

Together, they have been in over eleven shows: *Fall of the House of Usher*, *The Remarkable Incident at Carson's Corner*, *Play On*, *The Wizard of Oz*, previous Senior Directed Cabaret shows, and many more productions.

They will also face the difficult challenges in directing a major production. Obstacles include scarce resources, a low budget, balancing school work with rehearsal, putting together a successful show, a sixty people cast, and responsibility for the entire production.

"It's the biggest challenge any one can take on. It's challenging to direct any show. The balance of school and SDC will be the hardest thing for me. I pull all-nighters at least once a week with all the work I get with my AP classes, so sleep will not be an option for the next two months," says Kayleen.

The triumph of these obstacles will be easy to overcome for the directors, due to their close friendship. The girls met in their



Kaitlyn Fernandez '07/ The Patriot

Chuck Sakenas, Carl Jewell, and Nikki Black spend long hours in rehearsal.

Exploring the Theatre class during freshmen year, and have shared drama classes and friendship ever since.

"I was thrilled to know I was going to be working with one of my best friends," says Jackie, "I've been ready. If something happens along the way I know Kay will be right there to help me, like I'll be right by her side to help her. She's one of the only people that can make me laugh."

This year's show can be expected to leave you crying with laughter. Not only have the scripts been chosen by the directors, but also they include traditions of SDC, including a scene from Christopher Durang, one of our generation's most prominent playwrights, and a scene with the legendary cow.

Jackie says, "A major tradition of SDC is that you need a cow. Somewhere in your show you need to have someone come out in a cow suit. Also just have crazy things throughout the show. You can definitely look forward to an amazing show."



Courtesy of Laura Dixon '07

Directors Nagle and Egan (at the Halloween Festival) know a thing or two about acting crazy.

Rent cast shines at CBAC

Rachel Brown '10

On Thursday, November 30th, the Broadway Musical Tour of *RENT* performed at the Commerce Bank Arts Centre here at Washington Township High School.

The play was absolutely amazing with its abstract urban stage, controversial plot, and incredible cast and crew.

Written by Jonathan Larson in 1996, *Rent* is an American Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical. After a brief stint in an off-Broadway theatre, where the play received much critical praise, it moved onto Broadway and has been performed ever since.

Rent follows one year in the lives of eight friends in New York City as they struggle with relationships, loss, love, creativity, the purpose of living, housing, and AIDS.

Leading the cast is the narrator, nerdy filmmaker Mark Cohen (Harley Jay) who documents the lives of his Bohemian friends and their lifestyle. The object of Mark's affection and ex-girlfriend that he has

yet to get over, Maureen Johnson (Tracy McDowell), is in love with Harvard-educated public interest lawyer Joanne Jefferson, (Chante Carmel Frierson). His roommate, HIV-positive musician and former junkie Roger Davis (Declan Dennett) is falling in love with Mimi Marquez (Krystal Brown), the HIV-positive, drug addict, exotic dancer. Mark and Roger's former roommate, HIV-positive computer genius Tom Collins (Warren G. Nolan) finds true love when he meets HIV-positive drag queen street musician Angel (Melvin Bell III). Finally, Benjamin Coffin III (Michael Ifill) rounds out the cast as their former friend who married for money and has since "abandoned his principles."

For the most part the plot centers on how Benny, who is landlord to Mark's building, wants to build a high tech studio on a lot filled with poor people. Eclectic performer Maureen schedules a protest to stop Benny's scheme on Christmas Eve. At the protest a riot erupts. Benny retaliates by locking everyone out of the building.

While the year brings love, it also brings tragedy as relationships break down. The characters finally reunite and agree to continue living each day to the fullest.

Overall, I found the play to be absolutely incredible. Being in the theatre was overwhelming and breathtaking.

The songs were incredible. "Goodbye Love" was the best involving the whole cast because it was very heart-breaking and showed how everyone was acting after the tragedy. Mimi's big number "Out Tonight" was amazing, and she was my favorite character.

I was disappointed with the song "Tango Maureen" because it was nothing like what I had pictured. Still, I would still recommend that everyone go see the play at the Nederlander Theatre on Broadway. At the very least, I recommend that you buy or rent the movie, directed by Chris Columbus in 2005. The movie differs from the play with some parts cut out, but it is still amazing and even showcases most of the original Broadway cast in it.

Come check out the
**Senior Directed
 Cabaret '07**
on
Jan. 18 & 19
at the
11/12 Auditorium

Tech Talk

PS3 launch sparks violence

Matt Neuteboom '08

Shootings and robberies are most commonly associated with things like cars, money, and jewelry. It is surprising and depressing to hear then, that something as simple as a game console sparked riots and muggings across the country.

On November 17, the PlayStation 3 (PS3) launch day, news stations and sites around the country reported robberies, muggings, shootings, and even a drive-by that resulted from the PS3 launch.

The long lines and cramped conditions made shoppers an easy target for thieves. Thieves were also aware of the high price of the PS3, which caused many to bring large amounts of money to the stores. Some people were even shot for *refusing* to give up their money.

Reports came in of PS3s being stolen themselves. Many stores were short supplied, making the console a rare commodity. The PS3 is worth its weight in gold, with eBay reporting systems being sold for an average of \$2,600 a piece.

But the blame should not be solely placed upon the shoulders of the bad guys. Ordinary, law-abiding citizens greatly contributed to the chaos. Not only gamers but moms



Illustration: Cassie Matos '07

and dads crowded lines in order to get a PS3 for Christmas.

As the supplies ran short at each store, fights broke out between people for spots in line. A full-scale riot even broke out in Boston, where the mayor had to call in the police to control the crowd.

The violence didn't end outside however. CNN reported that when store doors opened, customers stampeded in order to get their hands on a system, which resulted in trampling and rampaging.

This type of behavior shouldn't be accepted. These are not just fans and nerds waiting outside, these are parents and friends. Doesn't anyone have enough self-control that they can avoid a riot while waiting for a game system?

This type of chaos is not seen when a new movie comes out, nor a new CD or DVD. Is the gift of a PS3 or the money really worth someone's life?

Some blame Sony for the lack of consoles being shipped to America, but truthfully, it is the shoppers' faults.

The PS3 launch is an example of humanity's worst moments, when we have to resort to violence to get what we want. If you do not have the control to remain patient for a game system, then perhaps you don't deserve one at all.

New software to chip at Windows' market

Melissa Cheng '07

Sun Microsystems is creating a no cost and open alternative to the Windows environment. What they've got: Solaris Enterprise System. This is supposedly going to be the software platform of choice for the next generation.

Based on what Sun calls "tremendous momentum" with this new Solaris Operating System (Solaris 10), the company is making the Java Enterprise System and its components available at no cost for both development and deployment.

Analysts are commending Sun

for being "innovative, bold and experimenting," but are still skeptical over the actual outcome from this unspoken competition between Sun and Microsoft's Windows.

However, this Solaris Enterprise System seems to be deemed top-of-the-line.

With the Solaris 10 Operating System, you get more than six hundred new features, such as DTrace, Predictive Self-Healing, Solaris Containers, and Solaris ZFS.

The Solaris Enterprise System also includes 188 software products from the F/OSS (free-open source

software) community, so you don't have to download, compile, test, and integrate the tools you need. Some of these would be the Apache and Tomcat software for network and web services, Bison and Python tools for software development, IP Filter and Secure Shell utilities for security and GNOME and Evolution software for desktop usability.

The Sun Java Enterprise System is a revolutionary, subscription-based approach to infrastructure software that reduces cost and complexity throughout the data center.

Along with the other new

components, the standard GNU development (free of use) utilities and must-have tools such as the Perl and Python programming languages, are just a few more reasons to upgrade. Sun Studio, Sun Java Studio Creator, and the Sun Java Studio Enterprise are some of the Sun developer tools included with the Solaris Enterprise System.

The Sun Java Desktop System incorporates some of the very best of open source new methods with important contributions from Sun. This gives users a state-of-the-art, fully integrated desktop client environment.

The Final Round

Stallone puts an exclamation point on the *Rocky* saga

Rob Cavella '07

Christmas just got a whole lot more interesting. Sylvester Stallone decided to provide a gift for all wrapped in film with a simple nametag attached, Rocky Balboa. Thirty years after the first glimpse of the Italian Stallion, the legend is back...again. One of the greatest underdog stories in the history of cinema has returned for a sixth and final round.

Sylvester Stallone plays the now fifty-four year old Rocky Balboa in the latest installment of Hollywood's favorite boxing legacy. All of the main characters are played by the same people.

Burt Young returns as Rocky best friend and brother-in-law Pauly, as well as his trainer Duke (Tony Burton), (Rocky IIV, IV). The new additions to the film include Milo Ventimiglia (Gilmore Girls) who plays Rocky's son along with the reigning heavyweight champion of the movie, Mason "The Line" Dixon. Dixon is played by Antonio Tarver, a real professional contender (although in reality he is a middleweight). The final and most tragic of character changes within the film is the departing of Rocky's life long love and wife Adrian.

Within the movie Balboa witnesses a cyber boxing match on television that pairs him with Dixon



The Italian Stallion unleashes his wrath of the southpaw curse

in a cyber match as an effort to figure out who would win in a match between champions of two different generations. After Rocky notices his knockout of Dixon in the computer generated match, he becomes

inspired and nostalgic to pick up the gloves once again.

At first he only plans to fight local exhibitions, but soon after renewing his boxing license, Dixon's promoter comes to see with

something different in mind. He thinks Rocky should participate in a rematch with Dixon, only this time it would be the real thing.

Balboa takes the fight as his last stand in the ring. Unlike many people who express their grief in silence, Rocky will show his by taking punishment within the ring that he loves. (Hopefully he's still got enough left to dish out some of his own).

Rocky is once again torn between his need to be in the ring and a seemingly unstoppable opponent in his path. Not only will he be fighting the reigning champ Mason Dixon, but he will be going up against time as well.

Rocky Balboa has faced and triumphed many impediments throughout his career, but he has never had to face himself.

On December 20th come out and watch the final championship round of Philly's hero to put a cap one of the greatest boxing careers Hollywood has ever given us.

Bobby explores last day of RFK

Josh Bennett '07

Bobby tells the story of the assassination of U.S. Senator Robert F. Kennedy at the Ambassador hotel on June 6th, 1968, centering around twenty-two people who were present at the hotel at the time of his demise.

Directed by Emilio Estevez, this film is nothing but excellent; a complete masterpiece if you will. His direction and ideas are absolutely flawless as he commands a huge impressive cast including Anthony Hopkins, Joshua Jackson, Ashton Kutcher, Heather Graham, Shia Labeouf, Lindsay Lohan, William. H. Macy, Helen Hunt, Emilio Estevez, Laurence Fishburne, Nick Cannon, Martin Sheen, Christian Slater, Demi Moore, Sharon Stone, and Elijah Wood. Although all their roles are significantly small, each member

brings an outstanding performance to the film.

The film tells the story through an interesting method. All the characters are shown for only a brief period of time as the day of June 6th progresses. Despite the huge cast of characters and many story lines, it never seems too difficult to recall what the character was doing the last time they appeared. Furthermore, and interesting enough, real footage of Kennedy is intertwined within the entire film, giving you a great feel of what the man was actually like.

What makes the film so engaging is that it's actually a true story. With the exception of a few not-so noticeable changes, most of it is very accurate. Bobby concludes with Kennedy's actual final speech before being assassinated and it is quite something to see. At the time, America was in quite a bad era. With the Vietnam war continuously killing



For Estevez, making *Bobby* was a life-long dream

thousands of Americans, and the public generally not supporting the war, this man looked to be the fix of all the problems. This film displays Kennedy with nothing false, displaying him for what he actual was: a new hope for our country.

Interact
Coat Drive!

**Drop off old winter
coats throughout
January**

Donation boxes
can be found in
any of the Main

Film

Royale revives Bond franchise

Randall Beatrice '08

Casino Royale establishes a whole new timeline and a reinvention of the protagonist, James Bond himself.

Based on Ian Fleming's first published novel of the same name, *Casino Royale* portrays how Bond's status as a "Double 0" agent began but focuses primarily on his duty to stop a corrupt banker from winning a casino tournament and using the prize money to fund terrorist activities.

With nearly two and half hours of spectacular action sequences, 007 travels the world, engages in foot pursuits through a construction site in Madagascar, car chases in a Miami airport, and even shoot-outs inside a toppling building in Venice.

Every fight scene is choreographed perfectly, which proves that computer CGI isn't always necessary.



Daniel Craig brings new energy to the role of James Bond.

Despite all the ridiculous action, the plot remains solid throughout the entire film and offers turns and twists that no moviegoer could accurately predict. All of the characters have their own missions and personalities.

Bond is explored more

realistically than before. He no longer puts faith into his gadgets, now makes mistakes and has a sense of humor like everyone else.

Viewers are in for a huge surprise when they see how excellent Daniel Craig is in replacing Pierce Brosnan. I'm sure that his

achievement as Bond will grant him more work and respect within the film industry.

Not only is the acting remarkable, but the film is also directed very well. The flick has a much darker tone than the other's in the series and yet it manages to stay in place with its predecessors.

Like all Bond films, *Casino Royale* has its signature song as it opens with an interesting Audioslave music video using cel shading and rotoscoping animation.

Critics and fans are calling it the best movie of the fall season and possibly the most well respected Bond cinema since *Goldeneye*.

This was my favorite movie so far this year and I highly recommend this film for any 007 fan or newcomers who have never seen a Bond film.

A perfect 10 out of 10, no matter how many times I see it!

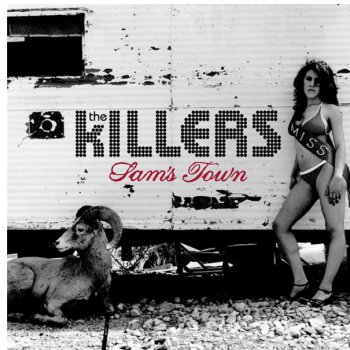
Killers explore new creative territory

Joe Granato '07

When I heard The Killers released a new album I was less than excited. I expected their second attempt to be something falling short of their freshman release, *Hot Fuss*, which sold over five million copies. However, when I was given *Sam's Town* I was astonished at not only the musicianship but to the extent which Brandon Flowers' (lead singer) song writing had matured.

The first time I listened to this album I wasn't able to pick a favorite song and honestly questioned which ones were going to be played on the radio. The album is full of hits including "Bones", a single for which Tim Burton recently directed a music video. "Enterlude" and "Exitlude" act as bookends of the album addressing the audience as if the listeners are visiting *Sam's Town*, with lines like, "We hope you enjoy(ed) your stay."

All of these tunes are great but once you reach track three you'll realize it is the golden boy of the album. If there is a secret recipe for



The Killers mature with their latest CD, *Sam's Town*.

a flawless rock single "When You Were Young" followed the ingredients perfectly. Its memorable chorus alone was enough to cause me to start belting out Killers' lyrics during a trig test.

Most bands open their second album with their tails between their legs, trying to create a new sound while not venturing too far from what made them popular. The Killers, however, took their second release in a completely new direction and never looked back. They traded in their eyeliner and brit-pop

party music for mustaches and something much more American.

This drastic makeover has caused many reviews of this album to be less than flattering. *Sam's Town* is obviously modeled after all of The Killers' musical idols. However as Flowers attempts to drop his vocal rage to the likes of Bruce Springsteen one starts to ponder the difference between playing homage and blatant copying. The Queen-like epic choruses that are randomly squeezed in each song suggest that the band was perhaps trying a bit too hard. They've definitely grown up on this album however their attempt to achieve respect by crossing over to a more mature sound is like watching a ten year old try on his father's shoes.

Flowers' confidence on *Sam's Town* successfully avoided the dreaded sophomore curse and positioned themselves in a musical place that offers room to grow.

Though this album gives off an almost hokey vibe at first listen, you soon come to find that it's full of stories to which we can all relate.

Sam's Town is the memoir of the people we've met through life, our home town and what we remember from our childhood. Flowers sums it up best on "When you were young" with the line "...sometimes you close your eyes and see the place where you use to live."

There are many albums that are the soundtracks to our lives but *Sam's Town* is the story of it.

Senior Trip

Last Payment Due - January 8-12

Senior T-shirts

On sale - January 22-26

Sports

Seniors lead young swim squad

Nick Verrillo '08

Swimming is the one sport where you cannot affect how well your competition performs, you can only swim as fast as you can and hope for a great finish.

At WTHS, the boy's swim team has endured many ups and downs. The team qualified for state playoffs for the first time five years ago, but recently they have been very successful. They have qualified for the NJSIAA state playoffs three times in a row.

This season, they hope to rebuild the team with many young and talented underclassmen along with the upperclassmen who returned from last year's squad.

After losing ten graduating seniors last year, including key members like diver Justin Huckel and swimmer Tom Power, this year will be challenging.

Coach Albertson said, "We have a lot of varsity letter winners that are returning from last year including seniors Bill Cregar, Andrew Wood, Blaise Lacca, Sean Williams, Justin Rempfer, juniors Matt Marzolf, Corey Eldridge and Nick Verrillo and sophomore Charlie



Kyle Marr '07/The Patriot

Senior co-captain, Blaise Lacca '07 is one of the upperclassmen providing leadership and motivation for this year's team.

Borney. We have swimmers that have improved a lot from last year such as Billy DeMarco and Nico Apadula. We also have some new freshmen that have swimming experience along with three solid divers who are all underclassmen. Even though the team has lost ten seniors to graduation and we are considered a rebuilding team, we should be competitive."

Blaise Lacca '07, a senior captain who has been a varsity

swimmer in each of his four years on the team, rallies the team before a big meet.

"If it's a meet that is most likely going to come down to the last relay, then I'll start going a little bit crazy behind the block and then our guys usually start going nuts," he said, "Most of all it is our cheers that get us crazy because they are really goofy and unique but they just work."

Lacca is a team leader in and out of the pool. When not swimming,

Lacca organizes captain's practices, attends team pasta parties, and also deals with ordering team warm-ups. But this senior really shines while in the water. He is a key part of the 200M and 400M A freestyle relay this year and will team up with Andrew Wood '07, Bill DeMarco '08, and returning state champion Billy Cregar '07.

Another great leader heading into the season is Justin Rempfer '07. Rempfer worked hard on his way up to the position of captain. His first three years he swam on the JV team but still appeared in varsity meets. This year he is swimming in every meet and is helping the team in many events.

"I have never missed any meets and rarely miss practice. I always try my best when competing and while practicing. It feels good that all of my hard work has finally gotten me somewhere. I worked my way up the ladder and got better and better each year," Rempfer said.

The boys' swimming and diving team is underway in a season that will test their mettle and pride. But with coaching and leadership from such promising talent they feel they are up for the challenge.

Fall Athletic Standouts

Ethan Thies '07

football

1st Team All South Jersey
offensive lineman

Touchdown Club
of Southern NJ

"Lineman of the Year"

Shawna Wert '09

girls soccer

2nd Team All South Jersey

Molly Duvall '07

girls volleyball

2nd Team All South Jersey

Sammi Jones '08

gymnastics

3rd All Around in State Championship

Megan Scarpinato '07

field hockey

Glouster County Times

Field Hockey

"Player of the Year"

Trish Young '07

girls tennis

Glouster County Times

"Tennis Player of the Year"

Terrell Mack '07

football

2nd Team All South Jersey
defensive lineman

Home Basketball Schedule

Boys

Thu 01/04 v.s. Pennsauken

Sat 01/13 vs Cherry Hill
West

Sat 01/20 vs Salem

Girls

Thu 12/21 vs Cherry Hill

East

Thu 12/28 WT Tournament

Fri 12/29 WT Tournament

Sat 01/06 vs Paul VI

Check dynacal on the district website for times

Seniors shine again

Richie Elles '07

For one week each year, WTHS is thrown into frenzy as both juniors and seniors gear up for one of the biggest and most hyped events of the school year. The traditional Powderpuff football game features girls the 11th and 12th grades battling for bragging rights and ultimate supremacy on the gridiron. This year's game was just another chapter in the long story of senior dominance. With an inspired offensive performance and key defensive stops, the Class of '07 dominated, winning by a score of 74-55.

The juniors, dressed in traditional blue, got out to an early 21-7 lead with an 85-yard touchdown run by Alyssa Pasquini '08 on

the second junior possession. But after the quick offensive flurry from the elated juniors, the seniors and their massive cheering section took over.

For the juniors, their success in the beginning of the game was fueled by the overall excitement of the night, which was the best part of the experience for many. Allison Murawski '08, quarterback of one of the top offensive units, described her enjoyable Powderpuff appearance despite the loss.

"It was really fun, meeting new people and learning to work with

them as a team," said Murawski, "I had a great time, and I can't wait for next year's game."

The quick lead built by the junior team seemed to awaken a sleeping giant, as the senior offense scored thirty points in the second quarter. Shontae Smith '07 highlighted the offensive avalanche with a 62-yard dash to the endzone, using outstanding speed to break to the outside and sprint down the sidelines nearly untouched. The solid second quarter by the seniors gave the Class of '07 a 44-29 halftime lead, which proved to only get larger as the game neared its conclusion.

With the Township girls playing football, both the junior and senior guys were charged with the task of cheering their team on, as well as providing the crowd with a halftime show. The cheerleaders, with only a week of practice, gave students and parents alike a well-executed routine that represented each class very well.

First-year cheerleader Dan Bower '08 took part in the halftime events after a week of hard work preparing for the big night.

"The practices were tough at times and we had to learn a lot. But in the end, we really put on a good show for the players and the crowd," Bower said.

When play resumed at the start

"We worked really hard and played well as a team. We knew that we had to step up on defense to hold the juniors, and we just made a great effort."

- Kate Montgomery '07 middle linebacker



Erin McFadden '07/ The Patriot

The scoreboard tells the story as the seniors storm the field after their 74-55 victory.

of the third quarter, the seniors' defense was lights-out, allowing a meager eight points in the fifteen minutes. By the end of the game, the defense had forced the juniors to lose yardage on 17 of their 45 offensive plays. "Big Red", a key defensive unit for the seniors, was a major contributor in the defensive effort. Their talented middle linebacker and defensive captain Kate Montgomery '07 commented on the seniors' victory.

"We worked really hard and played well as a team. We knew that we had to step up on defense to hold the juniors, and we just made a great effort," said Montgomery.

In the final quarter, the juniors' last attempt at a comeback was stifled as Smith '07 struck again, this time running 85 yards for the score. With

the game out of reach, the teams exchanged scores once more before the final whistle. When the clock hit zero, the seniors mobbed the field in a sea of red, celebrating their triumph over the heralded juniors.

By the end of the game, '07 had out-gained '08 by 171 yards and did not allow the juniors a single third-down conversion. For the juniors, there's always next year and another game to be played. But for the Class of '07, Powderpuff was more than just a game. It was a part of their legacy, which will live on in the school and in the memories of each student for years to come.

* A special thank you to Mr. Robert Callaway for providing all game statistics.



Senior cheerleaders and players show their loyalties by wearing red on game day.

Rob Cavella '07/ The Patriot