

Reason to dance

Monzo Madness draws record participants, donations

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Washington Township High School's 4th annual 24 hour dance-a-thon, Monzo Madness, proved more than ever how one day can make a lifetime of differences.

At 1 P.M. on Jan. 12, over 400 students began boogieing in the high school gym during the Interact Club sponsored event to raise money for Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS).

This year's Monzo Madness raised over \$15,000, more than all of the past three years combined.

"It was a huge success; I never thought we'd have such a great turnout and raise so much money," said Interact's Co-Vice President, Cait Chew '07.

This year, the contestant pairs had to get a \$75 minimum sponsored in order to participate, a \$25 dollar increase from last year.

"This didn't stop people from



Jaclyn Petruzzelli '07

Dancers were allowed to take a ten-minute break each hour

joining. The number of participants nearly doubled this year! They were not paying \$75 for 'tickets,' they were donating \$75 to save lives," said Interact's Co-President Kaitlyn Fernandez '07.

ALS, better known as "Lou Gehrig's disease", took the life of the baseball legend in his prime years of the game. ALS is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and

the spinal cord.

"Basically, your nerves quit telling your muscles what to do," said Mrs. Naval, advisor of the Interact Club. "With the disease, all your muscles start to lose control. Your legs go, your arms, your throat, all while your brain is fully functioning."

Naval's sister, Kathy Monzo, suffered from ALS and lost her 10 month battle in 2001. The dance marathon was begun in 2004 in her memory. Naval said it "raises awareness of this disease that can strike anyone."

Kathy Monzo was only 47 years old when she passed away, but touched many people in her lifetime. Naval mentioned, "Everybody liked my sister Kathy. She never fought, and I don't believe she ever said a mean word her whole life."

There is no known cure for this illness, and the average life **See MONZO Page 2**

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Bands rock for good cause

Stephanie Foran '08

During the holidays, most students at Washington Township spend time with their families, collecting gifts and money from various relatives.

However, three student musicians decided this year that it was their turn to give back to the community.

Stephanie Brettman '07, Joe Granato '07, and Mary Kramer '08 organized a benefit concert on Dec. 16, at Saint Thomas's Church in Glassboro. Over two hundred people attended to help a good cause.

"It was time to do something for someone else," stated Kramer, "We've all lived in Township all our lives and we just wanted to give something back to the community."



photo courtesy of Chelsea Zoladz '08

The Skeleton Rock Shock was one of the acts featured at Noise for Toys.

The cans, toys, and money collected went to help the Interfaith Hospitality Network and Samaritan Center to help support needy families around the area and give

something for kids to open on Christmas.

Kramer, Brettman, and Granato were all in bands playing at the concert. Brettman and Kramer played in Hey, Holden as drummer and bassist. Granato actually played in two bands, singing for As We Are and playing bass

with The Skeleton Rock Shock. Most people were very excited to see those three of the bands, but

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Planning, dedication create fun event

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expectancy of living with ALS is 2-5 years.

"The thing about this disease," said Naval, "is that the sufferers always die."

More research is needed to determine which genetic and/or environmental factors contribute to the development of ALS. Naval stated, "All the money raised goes to the ALS Foundation for research and purchases of equipment for sufferers of ALS."

An overwhelming amount of work goes into the planning.

"It really does take a lot of effort to have enough food for 400 people for 24 hours!" said Fernandez '07, "The Monday before Monzo, we only had 5 pizzas promised. But companies around town really went above and beyond....Plus, without the hard work of our members and the executive board, we wouldn't have gotten anywhere."

Co-Vice President Amanda Matticks '07 agreed, "After all of the hard work, it is great to see everyone having such a great time."

After each couple received their bright lime green Monzo Madness shirt and got their hands marked with a matching number, they were off to dance the night away. The night was filled with music from different eras, from the 1950's to the present time.

"I wanted to play a good combination of music with various tempos so the contestants wouldn't get tired that quickly or bored of the music," said DJ Chris "the new kid" Holleran '07.

There was a 10-minute rest every hour to take a bathroom break, eat the plentiful food supplied, or rest those aching feet. When the break is over, contestants had to get back on the floor in order to avoid elimination.

Not only do the couples raise money for an important cause, but most have a blast while doing it.

"It was the best 24 hours of my life! And it was all for a good cause," said Interact Executive Board member Marissa Fernandez '08.

But as the countdown grew smaller, so did the number of tired contestants. However, by 1P.M. the next day, another record was broken: 62 contestants remained standing.

"Dancing for 24 hours straight is physically and mentally exhausting, but the personal sacrifice is worth what we're able to do for others who are constantly suffering," said Interact Co-President Erin McFadden '07 and two-time Monzo finisher.

There was a surprisingly large amount of contestants left standing, so there was a drawing to give out gift certificates. But all finishers walk away with a feeling that is priceless.

NOISE from Page 1

there were others on the bill to satisfy musical tastes.

As We Are, the first band to play, kept the crowd energized with their interesting use of instruments, (keyboards in particular) and clean beat. They certainly got approval from the crowd.

"It's Aldrin [Abastillas] '08 and Craig [Hobbins] '08! They were freaking amazing!" exclaimed Nicole Black '08.

Stephanie Carr '07 was up next, singing a simply beautiful rendition of *Oh, Holy Night*.

"I was really excited to see her," Brettman stated, "She has a great voice."

Up next was Case Closed, a very popular local band from Glassboro, New Jersey. Lead singer Kurt had the crowd clapping and singing along with their song, *Hollywood and G-Boro*. All of the band members have amazing stage presence and definitely know how to get a crowd excited.

The fourth act up was Hey, Holden, which electrified the crowd with amazing guitar and drums.

"I was surprised. I hadn't heard them before," Chelsey Gordon '08 said smiling. "They're really good."

Hey, Holden's future is looking pretty bright; they're due to record an EP on January 6 and 7, 2007.

The Skeleton Rock Shock played after Hey, Holden, proving to be a huge crowd favorite.

"I'm excited to see them," Jenine Pilla '08 stated.

A small mosh pit erupted shortly after the band started

"I never expected to stay up all 24 hours. But once the halfway point passed, the temptation of making it all the way and being able to say I actually did it got the best of me," said first time participant and winner Jess VanMater '09. "Just knowing what those with Lou Gehrig's disease would give to be able to dance like we can--I decided to keep going till the end and I did."

The determination displayed in this year's contestants also made many proud.

"This year's dancers far exceeded my every expectation, making 2007 our most successful year yet," said Fernandez '07.

And this event has certainly come a long way. Co-Vice President of Interact, Tori Gilbert '07, who has participated in the dance marathon all four years, stated "Monzo started with only about 50 participants my freshmen year, and now there's over 400 this year. It's exciting to see how the event has grown and become so successful."

Bands supply "noise" for fans bringing toys



photo courtesy of Chelsea Zoladz '08

Hey Holden (pictured) was among the eight local acts who combined their talents to raise toy, cash and food donations for The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Gloucester County.

playing. They played a great set and knew how to get the room energized.

The next band to perform was Jamie Drive, a driven local band with blaring vocals and talented musicians. They had great charisma and got the crowd pumped. Another pit started on the floor, but this time it wasn't stopped until the end of their set.

Next to perform was supposed to be The Atlantic, the last band of the night. However, there was a special surprise appearance from Mayfair, who rocked the stage with one of their new songs. The guitars and vocals seemed to get the crowd excited the most. Mayfair is definitely a band to keep an eye out for in the future.

Finally, The Atlantic rocked the stage with the last set of the night. They were, without a doubt, one of the most popular bands there. Pat McCue's '08 voice went really well with the raging beat. They knew how to keep crowd entertained.

Granato, Brettman, and Kramer want to keep this benefit concert a yearly affair.

Granato said, "We're hoping to, but we don't know how long people will stay interested."

The Interfaith Hospitality Network of Gloucester County and St. Thomas's expressed their thanks to the three organizers who said they would gladly host another benefit show if it could be as popular as this one.

Delegates earn honors in Hershey

Laura Marder '07

At the Hershey Lodge on the weekend of January 6th it was difficult for an observer to tell if they were looking at the real UN's conference or a YMCA Model UN conference. Washington Township brought 90 students as delegates and officers to the conference this was a big increase compared to last year's 53 students. They were a part of the 1,100 delegates from 45 school and YMCA groups who took part in this life changing conference.

WTHS was well represented during the conference. Secretary General, the person in charge of the conference was Washington Township's Victoria Gilbert '07.

"She did a really good job," said Jackie Petrozelli '07, "there were some problems with the conference and she really did an amazing job at taking care of the issues without letting it affect the delegate's experience".

Township left with multiple awards. The distinguished country award was given to Saudi Arabia, represented by Rob Jordan '07, Katie Fernandez '07, Andrew Bunting '07, Brooks Kinch '10, Ryan Kinch '07 and Doug Tonkinson '07. Bunting was also recognized along with Lauren Kienzle '07 as premier diplomats. Tyler Harding (representing the Dominican Republic) won an award for his position paper.

"The debate at CONA is on a higher level of aggressiveness," commented Bunting, who went as a delegate last summer.

Gilbert, Laura Marder '07, John Mason, Fernandez and Brooks Kinch were selected to go CONA in the summer. Bunting, Michelle Scott '07, Cedrone and Petrozell were selected as alternates for CONA. Alaina Springsted was selected chair of Social, Humanitarian and Cultural committee for next year's conference in Hershey. All these awards created a wave of cheers across the huge WTHS delegation sitting in the front rows of the conference center.

Next year Washington Township will have Stephanie Foran '08, Kyle Bunting '10 and Felicia Revero '10 as Youth Secretariat. They will act as a student council



Photo courtesy of Model UN

Model UN Secretary General Tori Gilbert (front, center), with the other four year participants on their return from the Hershey conference.

for the YMCA and relay information back to the school. They will also play a big role in informing their delegation of issues at the 2007 conference.

Miss Kristin Harner, advisor of WTHS commented, after seeing Jerry Cedrone speak at closing ceremonies, "It's like déjà vu backwards because I know one day

I will see you yet again addressing a huge group of people with a moving speech, only in the future you will no longer be a student".

See U.N. page 4

Gilbert provides leadership in top Model UN post

Kaitlyn Fernandez '07

It seems amazing that people manage to stand out in a high school with more than 3,000 classmates, but Tori Gilbert is one of those names that you have probably heard over the loud speaker dozens of times throughout high school. How does she do it?

Eighteen year old Tori Gilbert is making a splash in her senior year at Washington Township. Not only is she part of the top 5% of her class, but she also actively participates in the school and the community.

Her long resume boasts acting as Interact's Executive Vice President, serving as a Cabinet member of the Youth & Government Conference, being piano section leader in the Symphony Orchestra, teaching CCD at Church of the Holy Family, and working part time during the school year.

But Gilbert's greatest involvement actually falls outside of school. Having participated in the Model United Nations club since her freshmen year, it is obvious that she knows a thing or two about international politics. Few people in our school know, however, that this past January she led a 1,200 student conference.

Every January the MUN club attends a conference in Hershey, Pennsylvania with more than 30 other schools.

Delegates debate international issues—like world hunger, nuclear proliferation, and global warming—and the entire conference is overseen by a senior delegate called the Secretary General. The Secretary General has many responsibilities, most importantly, setting the entire mood for the weekend conference.

Last year, Gilbert, not content to sit back and vote for others, ran for this position.

And she won.

Since then, she has spent every weekend, and most of her "free time," performing her duties as Secretary General for 2006-07 year. Her responsibilities included setting up the conference schedule, determining the opinion of the UN on all world issues, and acting as the conference figurehead.

The familiar face on the podium was exciting for WTHS delegates.

Lauren Kienzle '07 said, "I thought it was really cool that I could say to the other kids at conference, 'I sit next to her in Euro!'"

Michelle Scott '07, a WTHS representative and committee

president, said, "Sec-Gen is a really difficult job to pull off. Between organizing the conference schedule, working with advisors and officers, not to mention all the school work that she still has to do, it's a tremendous feat that she pulled it off so well."

Still, Gilbert remained modest, "The hard work wasn't the most important thing. My favorite part of the conference was being in the position to watch new delegates get up and speak for the first time and seeing their reaction."

Fellow students weren't so modest about her accomplishment.

Alaina Springsted '09 said, "Tori impressed us all! Sec-Gen is the most highly regarded position at MUN and she was a great role model."

Scott added, "A lot of the success of the conference can be directly attributed to her hard work. She made sure everyone was informed at all times."

In the end, Gilbert was proud of her hard work. Still, while she looks forward to returning as a college advisor in the future, she also anticipates the opportunity to finally sit back and focus on school work. Or not...depending on how much senioritis takes over.

Twilight dance glows in new venue

Laura Marder '07

illustration: Courtney Wright '07

The New Jersey State Aquarium, before seen as the hot spot for Elementary school field trips, transformed into an awe-inspiring dance hall for 900 WTHS students on Jan. 20.

This was a large amount of people compared to last year's 600. The increase was a result of Student Council's decision to hold the event at the aquarium, one of the biggest venues in South Jersey.

Even with the increase about 100 people were on the waiting list.

Many seniors thought the dance was much improved over last year's dance at Allettos.

Model UN building on conference success

From U.N. page 3

The club has worried in the past about its future because it was so heavily filled with seniors. This year 14 freshman and 14 sophomores joined, so the feeling among the leadership is that they will be able to keep the club strong. Many of the new members spoke up at conference and it was clear to many that they would bring a bright future to the club. Brooks Kinch was one of very few freshmen ever to be selected to go to CONA. This is an extreme honor to be recognized as a freshman.

"He was prepared before the conference, I was really proud of him," said Brookes's older brother Ryan.

Model UN will hold a meeting at the end of the year to get people's information who would like to join next year. New members are always welcome, even to just come and check it out.

Harner feels that the effort can prove beneficial.

"You make connections with other kids from all over, it gives you the chance to get involved more in what is going on in world," she stated.

"'06 missed out, Twilight was amazing this year!" exclaimed Tori Toczykowski '07.

"It was a better atmosphere. I loved the fishes above the main floor, and the beautiful tanks you could see when you walked around," said Angela Donato '07.

The event encompassed the entire first floor which consisted of the main dance floor as well as the fish tanks where tables were set up for dinner.

The food was said to be very pleasing and better than that at many other affairs people had attended.

"The bread sticks made the dance," said Allie Bassetci '08.

Breathalyzer tests were a newly implemented tool at the dance. Everyone had to take one in order to enter. It went very swiftly and didn't hold up the line like people had expected. Students simply had to say their name and grade or address into one of the five breathalyzers and they were

admitted within seconds.

WTHS staff and parents were content with the results. No one was detected to have been drinking. "I got really nervous, even though I wasn't drunk," commented

some students felt mistrusted by this testing but the majority found it to be very helpful.

"It was a lot better than last year when people were throwing up under the tables," said Jessica Constantini '07, "not having anyone drunk there made it a better atmosphere for a formal".

The dance floor was full of teens having a great time.

Speculation remained that because of the breathalyzers, which detected only alcohol, some in attendance wanted to try other drugs such as ecstasy and speed.

"I think it is sad that some people have to take something to not be them selves, they should be able to have fun without taking anything.

The people who did resort to pills, some worse for them then alcohol should ask themselves why they can't enjoy a night they will always remember sober," commented a student in the class of '07.

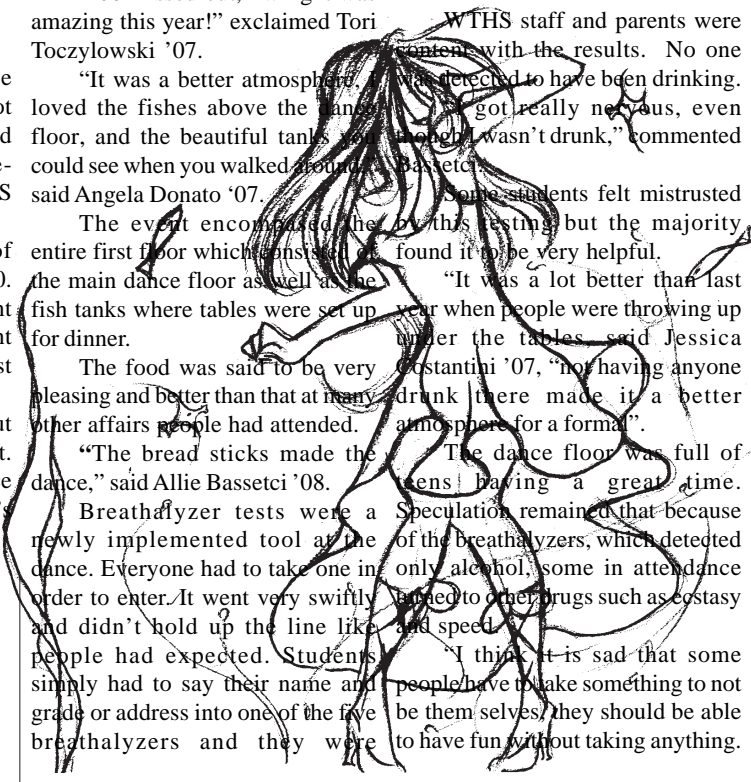
Most of the juniors were newcomers to formal dances. They have been accustomed to dances held at the school.

"It was a big improvement, I really liked the place, it would be cool if it were there again next year," said Mike Young '08.

Twilight unquestionably was a huge success this year.

Attendee's only real complaints were that they got lost driving into Camden and that their friends were stuck on the waitlist and couldn't come.

"We were happy with how it went this year. We really liked the aquarium, but are looking into changes for improvements for next year," said Student Council advisor, Mrs. Apryl Palazzo.



Early birds get their Way

Blaise Lacca '07

Dec. 22, 2006 was a day full of excitement, not only because it was the day before the holiday break, but mainly because of the unusual event that took place that morning.

As students walked into the halls that Friday morning, a few excited shouts were heard throughout the 11/12 wing. At first no one bothered to really pay attention to the voices since it was seven o'clock in the morning, but once the word got around, students were flocking to the school's court yard, to see the chickens in Quay Way.

"I was at my locker when I heard Vince Doud yelling about chickens in Quay Way and at first I didn't really hear him but then ... I was like, what the heck?" Loriel LaMaestra '07 said.

Students from all over the building were out in Quay Way wondering how the chickens got in to the courtyard. Right away rumors of a senior prank hit the halls and spread like a wild fire.

"Throughout the day I would here people talking about the chickens, and then one of my friends

told me it was a senior prank," said Allie Denicuolo '09.

Assistant Principal Mr. Joseph Bollendorf however had his own opinions has to how the chickens got in.

"The chickens were flying south for the winter and must have lost their way," said Bollendorf smiling.

Since Quay Way is a short cut from D-

hall to B-hall, the administrators had to step in not only for the student's safety, but for the chickens' as well. They decided to call on one of the town's local farming families, the Duffields, for help.

Arriving to the scene were Mr. David Duffield, Matt Duffield, Keith Duffield, and Chrissie Duffield '09.

"When I was called down to the office they didn't tell me anything about what was going on, but when I went to the 11/12 wing I saw the chickens and thought it was really funny," said Duffield.

Within 45 minutes the



The Patriot

The visiting chickens roamed Quay Way for two periods before being evicted.

Duffields had rounded up all but four of the chickens.

"We used an orange plastic net and slowly we closed in and grabbed them," Chrissie Duffield explained.

After the school's new feathery friends were caught, they were taken to Duffield Farm and put into cages.

The school's staff is still trying to figure what to do with its feathery new mascots since they seem to be quite adept at avoiding capture. At least one was still at large as of Jan 26.

"We are currently working on a humane situation as how to collect our little friends," said Bollendorf.

Opinions differ on death of Hussein

Stephanie Foran, '08

Former Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein was hanged for crimes against humanity before dawn on December 30, 2006. His death enraged his former supporters who claimed he was a martyr. Many people were also very happy that a tyrant who caused so many people pain was finally dead.

Even in Washington Township, opinions were varied on the execution. "I just don't like to talk about it," Mary Kramer ('08) shuddered quietly. Kramer feels the war in Iraq is a very touchy subject among students.

Many students believe that Hussein's hanging was justified, but felt that the way that the executioners carried out the sentence was extreme.

"There were indeed more humane ways to do it, but I think

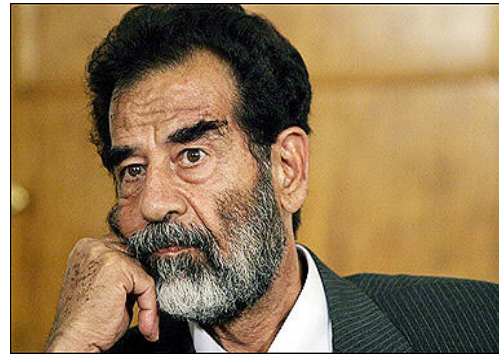
for what he did, he most certainly got what he deserved," said Dave Sillitti ('07). Some students were even a bit disappointed in how the Iraqi government handled the trial.

Aldrin Abastillas ('08) believed that, "Of course he deserved it, but it was kind of sad the way they did it."

Many students felt particularly that there could have been an alternative to his sentence. "Perhaps lethal injection would have been better," Sillitti continued. Some, however, thought it was fitting for the crimes the dictator committed.

"It's primitive," Kristen Linderman ('08) stated, "but oddly fitting for a man who committed genocide without batting an eye."

Some students believe that the United States should not get even more involved in the new Iraqi government. "I think the way they did it was fine," Roman Mykijewycz



Former Dictator Hussein awaiting judgement for crimes against Iraqi people

('08) said, "Since its Iraq's policy and not ours."

Many Iraqi citizens were outraged that their leader was killed, protesting in the streets of Baghdad and holding portraits of the former leader. But in other parts of the country, the streets rang with joy as they learned that the man who caused so much suffering was finally

vanquished.

"He oppressed so many people. It kind of seems like karma full strength," Allison Bittner ('08) declared. In the eyes of many Americans, the fate of the man who seemed so forlorn as he stood upon the gallows was exactly what he deserved.

No one knows

how this event will change history; of the world, Iraq, or even Washington Township.

"There's a lot of people who were opposed to it, and those people are going to end up starting a chain reaction and there's going to be one huge war," Chelsey Gordon ('08) contemplated, "Let's hope that doesn't happen."

DECA cashes in on school's favorite lunch

Mike Bradley, '07

On Wednesday, January 10, Washington High School was taken over by Grilled Cheese Man. It was just like any other day at WTHS with the exception of one of the student body's favorite lunches being served - grilled cheese sandwiches, hearty tomato soup, potato puffs, a blueberry muffin, and milk.

Mrs. Roseline Gill's 8th period Entrepreneurship class created the Grilled Cheese Man t-shirts that were sold to students on January 10. The shirts were designed black with a logo of Grilled Cheese Man on the front. The back of the shirt read, "Two grilled cheese is made to please." Students who purchased a t-shirt were eligible to win a free lunch on grilled cheese day.

Many students were left unsure of how the idea all began. The Grilled Cheese Man t-shirt was actually created to compete against Gill's 7th period Entrepreneurship class, who made the, "Heroes are made one game at a time" shirts to support the class of '07' in the annual Powder-puff football game. The proceeds of the



Rob Cavella '07/The Patriot

The 11-12 cafeteria staff makes over 1,100 sandwiches on a typical grilled cheese day

competition benefit the school's DECA program.

Gill said, "It was a perfect class project for the students to simulate creating a product, advertising and promoting it, while at the same time competing with each other. It has also turned into a great fundraiser for DECA."

The Grilled Cheese Man shirts were raved about in the hallways all day on grilled cheese day. Students also saw glimpses

of Grilled Cheese Man himself patrolling the school all day long. His identity is still a mystery. Bob Gorski, a student in Gill's 8th period Entrepreneurship class said, "Grilled Cheese Man comes to WTHS on grilled cheese day to assure all grilled cheese consumers are satisfied with their meal - he means no harm or distraction to other students."

As of January 12, Gill's 7th period's, "Heroes are made one

game at a time" shirts actually sold more than the Grilled Cheese Man shirts. However, 7th periods shirts were distributed much earlier in the year, and since grilled cheese day is a timely event occurring 1-2 times a month, Grilled Cheese Man shirts are expected to catch up in sales and be just as successful.

If you are interested, Grilled Cheese Man shirts can be purchased for \$10 in classroom G-115. Keep an eye out for students selling t-shirts in the hallways as well.

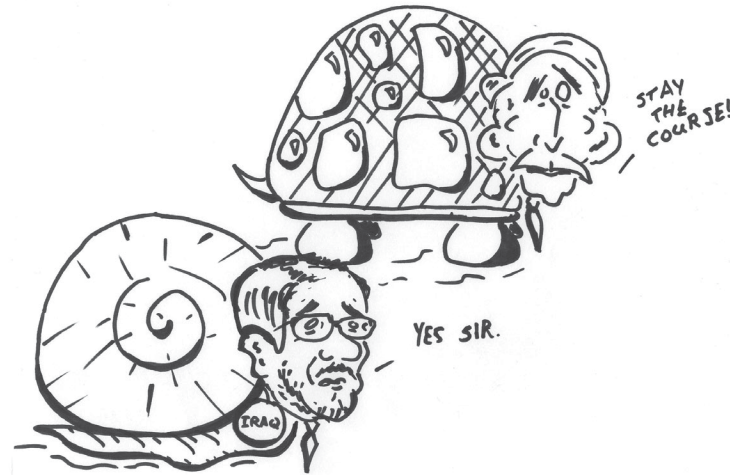
Commentary

Round up the troops

Blaise Lacca '07

It's time to ring the dinner bell and bring home the boys. For almost four years now our soldiers have been fighting hard in Iraq. Within the first few months they made incredible progress by capturing and/or killing Saddam Hussein's government officials and generals of his army. Then shortly after words on Dec. 14, 2004, our troops caught Saddam Hussein. But now it seems like all progress has slowed down to the extreme or almost stopped.

Since 2003, we have lost over 3,000 soldiers. These deaths didn't just happen in one giant battle or a few battles; they have been taken in chunks left and right. It seems to almost become the norm to wake up in the morning and read in the paper that about eleven or so troops had been killed by a suicide



Alex Parkin '08

car bombing or a sudden ambush attack by a terrorist group.

President George Bush said after U.S. troops had captured Saddam Hussein, they would stay in Iraq to help elect a leader for the country, and build up Iraq's police force and army. This was announced

in 2004. Today there is still no strong evidence of this army we were supposed to be building.

The President admitted that he was not happy with the slow progress that's going on in Iraq. Recently in his State of the Union Address he tried to drum up support for his plan to send

an additional 21,500 troops to Iraq. Even though Bush is facing opposition from his own party as well as the Democratic party, and Congress, he still has his mind set on sending more of our soldiers into Iraq.

"I fully understand they could try to stop me from doing it. But I've made my decision. And we're going forward," Bush told CBS' "60 Minutes" on Jan. 21.

While I admire the president's persistence and refusal to give up, his decision to send this mass amount of troops should have been done a while ago if not from the the start of the war. The help may be appreciated from the troops already in Iraq, but sending these men over will only result in a greater amount of casualties, and it would be better if Bush realizes the reality of the situation and finally brings our boys home.

From the editor's desk by Rob Cavella

January in February?

Yes, I know it's February and the January issue has just come out. A few delays on our end pushed us to the back of the district printing queue which is very full this time of year.

We are sorry about the inconvenience. Although some of the stories are not as timely as originally planned, we wanted to give some ink to the people and events that stood out in December & January. You may notice references to holiday tournaments that took place over the holidays, as well as a couple of winter sports previews, even though their seasons are well under way.

We plan to run the February issue right after this so that we will be back up to speed in covering the current achievements of our sports teams as well as student activities. The Patriot staff believes this one of our best issues, and we hope you enjoy it.

Make your voice heard. If you feel the need to speak out, use *The Patriot* as your platform. Whether they are political opinions, general commentaries, or highlights of people deserving recognition, send all written work to wthspatriot@gmail.com

The Patriot

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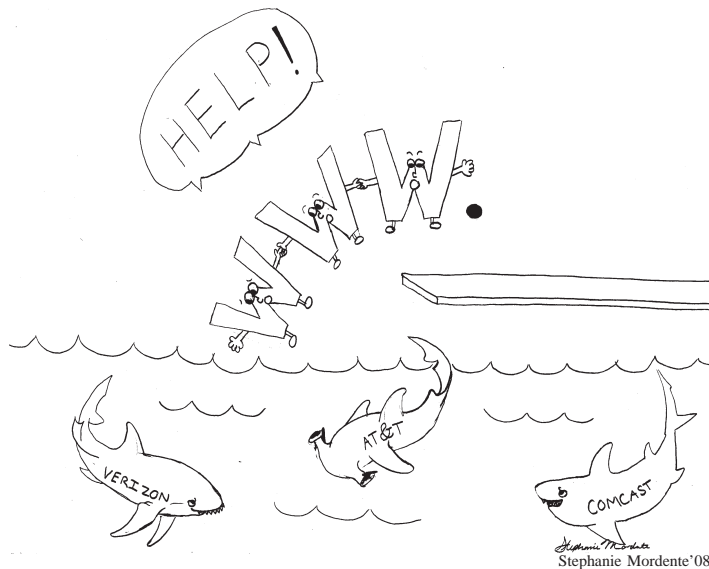
Rob Cavella '07

Americans share various luxuries that have started to become or presently are the staples of our way of life. Cellular communication, touch-screen sandwich ordering, and the ability to pause live television are all perks that are utilized without much thought nowadays.

One freedom that Americans take advantage of on a daily basis is now being threatened more than ever. The unbiased and facilitated surfing of the internet. This has become a privilege that is so second nature to us that we don't even notice how fragile and manipulated it could become. People could comfortably be forced to order at Wawa verbally and do without the ability to play back that one-handed catch during halftime, but an alteration to the speeds and way we view the internet would be an alteration to our way of life.

Sure your stomach starts to toss and turn with dread when someday, somehow the green light on your modem disappears and your hand turns white with rage gripping your computer mouse. The potential change in our internet experience that will take place this year may not be as dramatic as complete internet loss and a hair-pulling customer service call but it will induce the same kung fu mouse grip of frustration.

The large telephone and cable providers such as AT&T, Comcast,



and Verizon want to completely alter what's so sacred and pure to Internet user and web junkies alike. Equality. They want the right to pick what material can be viewed by the Internet Provider they represent. In addition they plan to charge big name websites like Google and E-bay a tax so that their sites can provide an EZ-Pass lane to their subscribers while other websites have to wait longer for their content to be viewed. This new scheme for IP's (Internet providers) to make even more money has been deemed by many web surfers as an infringement of first amendment rights.

Congress is convening again this month to take action. But action towards what is the question at hand.

Congressman Ed Markey from Massachusetts and Anthony Riddle, the executive director of the Alliance for the Community Media are two of the major advocates of net neutrality who are getting involved in the fight to keep the web neutral, they also provide links to e-mail your local congressman, donate to the cause, and an online petition that can be signed.

If you want to get involved and assist in the battle for fairness on the web, log onto www.savetheinternet.com and take a stand against this pollution of the internet before we all have to wait in line to see and listen to all the great things that the underdogs of the internet have to offer.

Take time for Tut

Rachel Brown '07

From Feb. 3, 2007 to Sept. 30, 2007 there will be an exciting new exhibit in the Franklin Institute. More than three thousand years after his death, the treasures of King Tutankhamun will be coming to Philadelphia, the final stop on the current U.S. tour. *Tutankhamun and the Golden Age of the Pharaohs* will be bringing close to 130 pieces of Egyptian antiquities to The Franklin Institute.

There will be 50 artifacts excavated from the tomb of King Tut that range from his royal diadem, or crown, to the confinettes that contained his organs. Additionally, there will be more than 70 pieces

from tombs of rulers also part of the 18th Dynasty of Egypt. All of the antiquities within this exhibit date back more than 3,500 years. These artifacts are very rare and priceless, not only because they tell us about King Tut and the Pharaohs, but because they tell us all about Ancient Egypt as well. Since most graves were raided by robbers, these artifacts are one of the few collections recovered intact.

Another exciting part of the exhibit, are groundbreaking CT scans of King Tut that will be on display. The scans of Tutankhamun that will be featured in the exhibit were captured through the use of a portable CT scanner, which allowed researchers to see through the

mummy's wrappings and for the first time, to collect a three-dimensional picture of Tutankhamun. These never-before-seen images will be on display in the final room of the exhibit, along with other dramatic images and video footage.

The people of Philadelphia area are very lucky to have such an exhibit so close to home. Since this is the first time in 26 years that the ancient treasures of King Tutankhamun's tomb are touring U.S. museums, area residents should take advantage of this once, a life time opportunity.

For information you can go to <http://www2.fi.edu/> or you can call 1-877-TUT-TKTS (888-8587).

Language curriculum should keep pace with changing world

Megan Robertson '09

At Washington Township High School, all students are required to take at least one year of a foreign language in order to graduate. Normally, the students may choose among Spanish, French, and German; however, the school district is considering adding more languages to the list: Chinese, Japanese, Italian, Arabic, and Hindi just to name a few. The addition of any of the listed languages would be very beneficial to students attending Washington Township schools.

The United States is a very diverse country with citizens speaking many different languages; therefore, the more languages students can learn in school, the easier it will be for them to communicate with people in their daily lives. It will also give them more options when it comes time for them to apply for jobs. There is definitely a growing need for people who can speak multiple languages.

It is also very important for Americans to be able to communicate with other countries. When it comes to trade and commerce, communication is a vital component. The United States does a lot of trade with China and Japan. In fact, most of the products Americans buy come from China; therefore, it would be a great benefit to learn Chinese or Japanese in high school. India is also another country who is advancing technologically, and many of India's inhabitants speak Hindi. Those few, who are fluent in such languages, will be very useful to the United States, and have a very good chance of being successful in life.

Therefore, the adding of any of the suggested languages can only help in the long run. Bilingual or even trilingual students will have a huge advantage over students who can only speak one language. This addition should broaden horizons and help to produce better citizens.

Snyder selected Coach of the Year

Erin McFadden '07

Mr. Shane Snyder is a teacher in the WTHS Special Education department, but has been recently getting attention as the coach of this year's winning Minutemaids soccer team, leading the Minutemaids to the South Jersey Group IV Finals.

At the end of the season, Snyder was named Coach of the Year by both the *Gloucester County Times* and the South Jersey Coaches Association.

Snyder took the accolades humbly, saying, "That's not one of the goals in coaching, I'd rather win more games, but it's a special accomplishment."

"He has a very motivational style," said Kayla Mullen '07, co-captain of this year's team, of Snyder's coaching. "He knew we were underdogs this season, but he knew we could do well."

By reminding the girls that their talent was being largely underestimated, Snyder would inspire the girls to prove the critics



Erin McFadden '07/The Patriot

Snyder is known for his enthusiasm in and out of the classroom

wrong, explained Mullen.

Brian Sachs '07, who spent the season observing the Minutemaids soccer team as their manager, commented of Snyder, "He put pressure on me and the team to make sure we did everything right, but we still had fun."

When asked why this year's Minutemaids were so successful, Snyder credited the team, not his coaching strategies.

"It's more the girls," he said of the athletes he coached during the season. "They believed in putting the team before their own egos."

Snyder, who is in his eighth year of coaching Township soccer, has much experience with the sport.

"My two brothers and my dad played. I grew up being a coach's son," explained Snyder.

Snyder himself played from the age of five through high school and

college, and decided to maintain his interest in the sport through coaching when he became a teacher.

At WTHS, he volunteered with the boys' team for two years before becoming their junior varsity coach for two more. He has been varsity coach for the Minutemaids for the past four years.

Though he has been most recognized for his soccer coaching, Snyder's involvement at WTHS continues off the field. He also coaches the school's golf team in the spring and Powderpuff in November, and can often be seen chaperoning senior trip, proms, and DECA trips.

"I really like this school," explained Snyder, who admitted to being interested in "any sport-related activity" at WTHS.

Whether he is interacting with athletes, students, or colleagues, Snyder's enthusiasm and sense of humor are consistent.

Sachs, who also has Snyder for math, said of his teacher, "I have his class in the morning, but he doesn't need coffee. He has the energy!"

Global warming poses real threat

Alyssa Figueroa '08

Over the past 100 years, the Earth's temperature has increased by about 1°F. The Earth could be getting warmer on its own, but, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, many of the world's leading climate scientists think people's actions are greatly helping to make the earth warmer.

Global warming refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature. In the next 100 years, scientists expect Earth's temperature to increase 2 to 6°. This minute degree change seems insignificant, but consider that 18,000 years ago, at the peak of the Ice Age, the Earth was only 7° less than what it is now.

Climate changes can be extremely harmful, and a warmer Earth may lead to a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans.

Those who believe global warming is not affecting the Earth this very second are terribly wrong.

According to Philadelphia reports, our region reached a high of 72° on December 1. A direct effect of global warming? No one knows for sure, but it is certainly possible.

The weather is changing elsewhere, too. The hurricane season for the summer of 2005 was the most active and deadly on record. Hurricane Katrina's fatal blow swelled as it passed over the Gulf of Mexico, which was 5° warmer than usual.

Recent reports prove that glaciers are moving meters per hour and are thinning rapidly. The Arctic Ocean ice cap is the smallest it has ever been in modern times.

Global warming endangers animals, too. According to a new report from scientists and arctic natives, the Arctic is thawing very quickly, affecting human settlements and animal habitats.

The home of the beloved polar bear is disappearing. Sea ice, from which the polar bears hunt their prey, is quickly melting, and hunger

is hindering reproduction. The World Wildlife Fund stated that the polar bears could certainly be extinct by the end of the century.

Long-term effects of global warming on people range from heat stress, to extreme droughts that would cause famine.

There are many ways to help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases (which trap energy in the atmosphere and increase the Earth's temperature) put into the atmosphere.

One way to start is to open the blinds and turn off electronics not in use. Every time a switch is flipped, a factory emits carbon dioxide to make the energy needed. The CO₂ released from factories, landfills, and cars heats up the earth, causing



Alaskan polar bears face shrinking habitat due to global warming.

hurricanes, flash floods, and wildfires that destroy homes.

There are other simple ways to assist the earth. Carpooling, planting trees, recycling, buying recycled products, purchasing a small car, buying computers or stereos that save energy, or just spreading your knowledge on global warming can make a difference in saving our planet.

Festival of Lights a time for family

Christine Lafferty '07

It's tough to think of December without thinking of the holidays. One holiday that is often lost in the commercialization of Christmas and New Year's Eve is Hanukkah.

Hanukkah is a celebration of a miracle observed by the Jewish community in 165 B.C.E. A small band of Jewish soldiers, the Maccabees, defeated their enemies, the Seleucid Empire, and reoccupied their temple. They cleaned and repaired the Temple and when they finished they conducted a joyous dedication ceremony.

The Maccabees wanted to finish the night off by lighting the menorah, but could only find enough oil to light it for one night. The oil miraculously lasted eight days, creating the foundation for the holiday which is known as the Festival of Lights.

Mrs. Marsha Brumberg, a WTHS math teacher shared her thoughts feelings and traditions on the holiday celebration.

As with many holidays, food plays a symbolic role in Hanukkah. All the food made in honor of the miracle is made with oil. The most well known foods Hanukkah brings is potato latkes and jelly doughnuts.

"It all goes back to the oil", exclaims Brumberg.

Another food that is very interesting but not very well known is the cream cheese cookie. It is symbolic of a tactic used by Judah Maccabee's wife. She fed the enemy lots of cheese to make them thirsty. When they asked her for something to drink she gave them wine, making them weak with drunkenness and easier for the Maccabees to defeat.

Compared to other Jewish holidays like Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur, Hanukkah is considered a minor holiday. Students are not even granted excused absences from school.

"Hanukkah is a very happy holiday without a lot of religious significance", said Brumberg.

In addition to the cuisine of the holiday, the most well known tradition is lighting the menorah or the chanukiyah. The first night the shamesh, the tallest candle, and the first candle are lit. Each night that follows the shamesh is used to light



one of the seven other candles. Each time a candle is lit a blessing is said.

Lighting the menorah may be the most well known symbolic tradition, but when Hanukkah is mentioned the first thing that often comes to mind is the treasured

concept of eight days of gifts. Each day of gift giving is in commemoration of every day the Maccabee's menorah stayed lit. Each family has their own version of this practice.

Brumberg explained, "It's a

children's holiday." In her family once you become an adult, working and living on your own, you do not receive gifts anymore.

Lauren Finneran said, "A lot of families give multiple gifts a night, but we just do one because we also celebrate Christmas."

Brumberg believes that Hanukkah, like Christmas, has become artificially centered on the gift one receives instead of the act of giving. To acknowledge it as a time of sharing the Brumberg family, every year during Hanukkah, traditionally makes a cash donation to Mazon, a charity food bank for families that can't afford oil.

With traditions like this, for many Jewish families Hanukkah serves as a great opportunity to ignite something within themselves and share the light instead of merely creating it.

Extreme Sports by Chad Meadows '07

Slopes up for snowboarders

It is officially snowboarding season, with the weather right and the mountains covered with snow. If you enjoy snowboarding, or want to start, this is a great time to head up to the slopes.

When snowboarding for the first time, you could find any snowboard at a local toy store, but if you want to be serious about the sport, you should go to an actual shop.

The best shops in the South Jersey area are Threads and Sleds in Haddonfield, Danzeisen and Quigley (D and Q) in Cherry Hill, and Zumies in the Deptford Mall. Zumies would be your best bet if you want a good, inexpensive board. D and Q, however, has a great selection and is worth the drive. They currently have great specials which include a free lift ticket to Blue Mountain and other deals.

When purchasing equipment, you need to know some basics about the gear. You need a good board if you want to be a serious snowboarder. There are a lot of brand names that are worth the money. A good beginning board would normally run you about 200 to 300 dollars. But if you can't afford that,

or just don't want to spend it, you could always rent a board at the mountain.

The bindings are also an important aspect of your board. The bindings need to be light weight and strong. They can run from 30 to 300 dollars depending on what kind of quality you want.

Boots are also important, because a special kind of boot is needed for snowboarding. They can keep your ankles from breaking and prevent other injuries.

Once you've found the gear you want, you can start heading up to the mountains.

The Poconos, the closest mountain range to South Jersey, has some great mountains for beginners. These include Blue Mountain, Camelback, Elk Mountain, Jack Frost, and Big



Photo courtesy of www.skiblument.com

Snowboarding slopes can be found locally at resorts like Blue Mountain.

Boulder. The lift ticket prices for these mountains will run from 30 dollars to about 50 dollars depending on what time and what day you go and how many people are in your group.

No matter who you are, snowboarding can allow you to have fun being on the mountain doing something new. After a few purchases, you can be on the ski lift in no time.

Express your opinions,
report the news,
and get credit for it.

Sign up for Journalism

What's Happening

Come support teachers in the spotlight

Erin McFadden '07

WTHS students have plenty of opportunities to showcase their talents in music or acting, but until 1996, the staff remained an untapped source for entertainment.

That year, teachers Mrs. Debbie McFadden, Mrs. Carol DeLucas, and Mrs. Karen Muro conceived the idea for a faculty talent show.

"It was right before the Core was going to be built, and we knew it would be different working as one complex. We had a desire to bring the staff of the two sides of the campus together," explained McFadden, who has continued to produce the show bi-annually since the retirement of DeLucas and the passing of Muro.

The show is now run by McFadden and 11/12 secretaries Mrs. Pat Brown and Mrs. Criquette Norris. They share the responsibility

of recruiting acts, coordinating rehearsals, and publicizing the show.

It's a great deal of work, but worth it to the producers. Faculty across the high school are involved including instructional aids and administrators, and the talent show has truly become a unifying force at WTHS. Staff members aid McFadden, Brown, and Norris in all aspects of the show, providing the talent, promoting the show, and acting as stage crew members.

When asked why he has participated in acts and set building of the last several faculty talent shows, English teacher Mr. Jerry Cullen responded simply, "It's fun!"

"It's exciting for the staff to find hidden talents in our peers, and the kids, too, enjoy seeing teachers in another light," added McFadden.

WTHS students interested in seeing their favorite teachers and principals sing, dance, and even rap will not be disappointed by this year's show, themed "Township's Got Talent."

As with past years, the show will feature the accomplished musical talents of staff members in groups like the House Band—led by band director Mr. Jim Beyer—as well as choreographed dances and skits formulated by administrators, the guidance department, and individual teachers.

"There's grilled cheese in the act," bragged Mr. Rick Ambacher of Cullen's production, with which he is assisting. "We're using Power Point prowess to give a school history lesson. Teachers as you've never seen them will be shown."

With well over one hundred staff members involved in this year's production, there are plenty of other



Courtesy of Colonel Joe Wolozyn

Mr. Gregory Janicki will perform with the house band.

surprises to which students should look forward.

"Some people have been planning their acts since the last show," said McFadden. "Expect to be dazzled."

This year's edition of the show, which McFadden claims will be her last as producer, will be hitting the CBAC stage on Thursday, February

15th on its traditional date before the Presidents' Day break.

Tickets will be available during lunches in the days preceding the show and will also be sold by participating teachers. All show proceeds will benefit Project Graduation and the Renaissance club. Make sure to go out and support your teachers!



Courtesy of Colonel Joe Wolozyn

Ms. Honora Kelley hula dances during the 2005 talent show.

Relay for Life

Sat., June 2nd, 2007

Relay For Life was designed to celebrate survivorship and raise money for research and programs of in the American Cancer Society.

The Kick-off Meeting

February 13th
7:30 PM
Café A

Feel free to stop by and learn all about Relay for Life. There will be snacks and refreshments!

Help save lives by forming a team with a group of your friends for a good cause!

March of Dimes *Saving Babies, Together*

Fundraising by the Interact Club begins **February 20th**.

There will be a MoD Walk **April 29th**.

All sales will be donated to the MoD Foundation dedicated to improving the health of babies by preventing birth defects, premature birth, and infant mortality.

**Tune in to see
Episode #6 of
Monthly Rewind
on Wed., March 7th
9:00 PM
Channel 13**

Come check out
the Faculty Talent Show

Thursday, February 15th, 2007

7:00 PM

in the CBAC

Lifestyles

Food for Thought by Lauren Finneran '08

Casual atmosphere makes for good time

Applebee's is a very commonly known restaurant across the country, and is a popular place for teenagers to socialize on weekends and late nights after most school dances.

Washington Township's branch of Applebee's is located on the Black Horse Pike. It is open until 1 A.M. on Friday and Saturday nights, midnight on weeknights, and 11 P.M. on Sunday nights.

Applebee's has an altogether casual feel with pictures decorating the walls and many different types of tables at which you can choose to sit. There is no real need to dress up. You can go with your family or friends for a causal night out.

Applebee's sells a large variety of foods. You can start off with an appetizer such as mozzarella sticks, chicken quesadillas, nachos nuevos, boneless buffalo wings, and many more.

These appetizers range in price from around \$4.50 to around \$9.50 depending on the size of the dish. There is also a wide range of main

dishes. You can order salads, steaks, sandwiches, burgers, chicken dishes, and pastas just to name a few. These dishes range from around \$7 to around \$16 depending on the order.

To top off your meal there is a variety of different absolutely wonderful desserts.

They have desserts such as a Maple Butter Blondie, Sizzling Apple Pie, the Triple Chocolate Meltdown, Chocolate Raspberry Layer Cake, Dreamsicle Cake, or a variety of different flavored milkshakes. These deserts range in price from \$4 to \$5 and some are very good for sharing.

One neat aspect of Applebees is that they offer "Carside to



Rob Cavella '07/The Patriot

The local Applebee's is a familiar sight to many residents of Washington Township

Go". With this option, food can be ordered by phone and picked up at the restaurant. Customers get to park in a special spot as a server bring the food out to your car. It is the same concept as a drive-thru, but with higher end food.

The pleasant atmosphere, variety and affordability of food, and amenities like Carside to Go make Applebee's a restaurant worth visiting.

Fashion File by Megan Robertson '09

Fashion statement passes test of time

Many fashion trends come and go, but this is not the case with the classic blue jean. Although the colors and styles have changed over the years, jeans are a classic staple found in everyone's closet. They are a versatile clothing item that can be made dressy with a nice top or casual with a sweatshirt and sneakers. They are even popular among some of the most stylish celebrities.

The word jean comes from a material produced in Europe. The material was named after sailors in Genoa, Italy. They got this name because all the clothes they wore were made from this material. The word Denim stems from the French word serge de Nimes. Serge means a kind of material and Nimes is a city in France.

Jeans have evolved greatly over the years. Denim was

commonly worn in the eighteenth and nineteenth century because it was a strong material that would not tear or wear out easily. Cowboys were shown wearing jeans in movies during the 1930s and made fashionable.

Jeans first became popular among teens in the 1950s, when they were seen as a sign of rebellion and were banned from some high schools. Embroidered and painted jeans became very fashionable from the 1960s-70s. High profile designers started making their own lines of jeans in the 1980s. This was when jean sales skyrocketed.

Khakis, chinos, combat, carpenters, and other branded sportswear pants came about in the 1990s to give jeans some competition. But denim was still very popular, especially if the jeans were altered to fit the wearer's

personal style. This was the time that new cuts, shapes, and styles came out. Recently, beat up jeans with torn knees have become a fashion statement.

The cut of jeans have improved to fit almost every body type. Some popular cuts include boot-cut, straight leg, and flare. They now even offer a variety of lengths for those who may be too short or too tall for the original length. There are many of options when it comes to washes of jeans. They can vary from the lightest of blues to a dark indigo or even black. Jeans are no longer just a basic blue trouser; they now include jackets and skirts as well.

All of this evolution has made the jean last in fashion, as it remains the most popular style of pant for modern teens and adults alike.

Mind, Body, Soul
by Margaret Bonnani '09

New vaccine prevents cancer

In recent months, one of the most important advances in women's health, says the American Cancer Society, was made possible. More than four thousand women per year die of cervical cancer. Scientists and researchers have been trying to find a cure or a preventative measure for it, and finally have with a vaccine called Gardasil.

Over time, studies have shown that practically all cases of cervical cancer are caused from a virus known as human papilloma virus, or HPV, a disease that can be transmitted sexually to men and women. Most cases of HPV are cured by the immune system, but not all. In about ten thousand women per year it develops into cervical cancer. A Pap test can find cancerous and precancerous cells in the cervix due to HPV, but many women do not get Pap tested.

There are about one hundred known strains of the HPV virus, and Gardasil protects against the four major types that cause cancer. It will not help existing infections, but does prevent new ones.

Dr. Kevin Ault of the Emory University School of Medicine, who led trials of the drug says that, "If everyone were to get the vaccine, and the vaccine would work as well as it had in the trials, you might get up to a seventy percent reduction in cervical cancer."

The Food and Drug Administration is allowing women between the ages of nine and twenty six to receive the vaccine. The drug was not tested in older women, but it is recommended that females who are in the tested age range get the vaccine. It requires three shots given over a six month period.

Some worry that the vaccine might lead teens to think that it makes sex safe, or that the drug might have side effects. Research on the drug is fairly new, and trials have so far shown no major side effects due to the drug. But other groups such as the Family Research Council say that they welcome the vaccine, so long as it is presented honestly.

Odds and Ends

You are the Man of the Year

Sarah Kurtz '10

It's the cover that everyone waits for right before the year ends: *Time Magazine's* "Man of the Year" cover, and this year it's You. The whole reason behind this is the World Wide Web, otherwise known as the internet. Only the most prestigious people have made the cover, and now I myself have graced it.

Time started this "contest of naming the person" in 1927, and since then it's been a hit. Everyone from Harriet Truman to Adolf Hitler has

also graced the cover. Every December we wait by the mailbox to see who has accomplished more this year than anyone else. And this year, when opening my mailbox, I saw my own reflection. A mirror has been placed onto the front of the cover simply stating that you yourself have accomplished great things this year.

The whole behind-the-scenes reasoning for this year's choice is the one thing that almost everyone in America has in their own house, the internet. Everything from YouTube

to MySpace has taken over. Hardly anyone even remembers what a dictionary is anymore with online Wikipedia. With the support of the millions of Americans that use it everyday, we've made it possible to keep adding thousands of websites every day, and still manage to have thousands of visits a day.

It's not just the numbers of time we go on the internet a day, it's how much we added to it. I guess you could call it an online community.

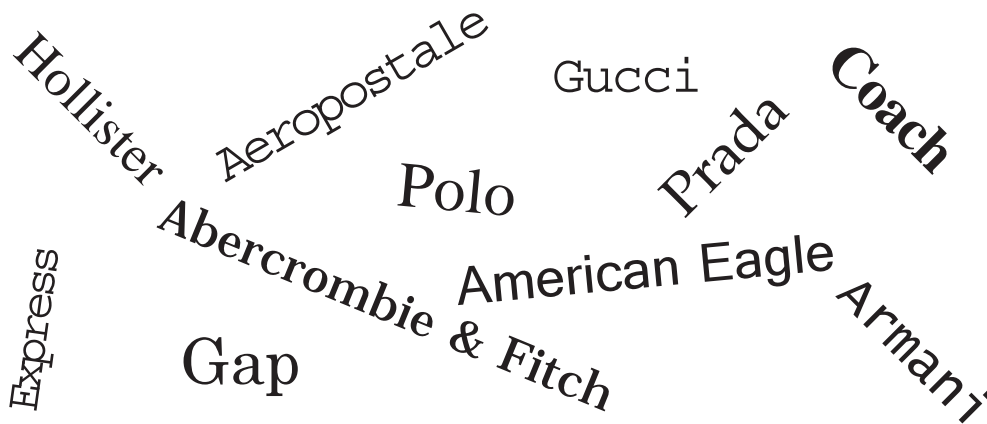
College students make Facebook profiles and post blogs

everyday to talk about everything from their candidate's defeat to song lyrics about getting dumped. The internet opens doors to a new universe, almost like another dimension. You can make your wildest dreams come true with the click of a mouse.

So celebrate yourself this year; you've accomplished a lot.

We've come a long way from just making fire. Now, we have pixels and high-definition television. Before you know it, our world as we know it will become nothing more than a computer screen filled with imagination. Now your dreams can become reality.

Brand names ... who needs 'em?



Robert Brennan '10

Nowadays American teenagers are all centered on one thing - clothes.

With stores like Abercrombie & Fitch, Hollister, and American Eagle, teens are spending massive amounts of money on clothing. A simple pair of men's jeans at Abercrombie & Fitch cost anywhere from \$70 to \$100. These jeans look no different than a pair of GAP jeans, but are much more expensive. Kohl's sells destroyed and faded jeans for \$15 to \$30, a difference of around \$50. The GAP sells jeans that are just as nice as Abercrombie jeans, if not nicer. The GAP has jeans that are made specifically for certain body types so anyone can wear them for an affordable price.

The prices at these "Brand Name" stores are outrageous, but not

many people care about price as long as the tag has a fancy name on it. Personally I think that as long as you are comfortable and think you look good, why spend extra?

If you like brand name clothes and think that they look better on you than others, you can go ahead and spend extra. I think that Kohl's and GAP clothes look just as good on me and are just as comfortable. I have bought jeans from some of the brand name stores I've mentioned and found them to be no different than my others. If you just try some clothes from non-brand name stores maybe you'll notice that there isn't much of a difference.

Another brand name item that I simply don't understand is Uggs. I've been told that they are comfortable and look nice, but I think they look terrible. Wearing boots in the summer? I think it is just

atrocious. People should stick to wearing Uggs or other boots in the winter when they are necessary.

Also, purses are now in much desire. Coach, Gucci, and Prada are all big names for purses. Some purses produced by these companies I believe are just ugly. Some of them have such colorful mixtures they make me want to have an epileptic fit. I may not be a girl, but I can see the usefulness of a purse. What I can't see is why girls want them to be decorated with a colorful "C" or have words all over them?

If the purse serves its purpose why does it need to be pretty? I have seen purses that work fine and look nice.

I just don't understand the Brand Name fiasco. Why spend extra for the same item that you can get for less? I don't understand, do you?

Alyssa Figueroa '08

A rose is a rose...

Or is it? On Valentine's Day, roses are a time-honored gift. Roses come in an array of beautiful colors. However, some people forget that the color of a rose carries with it a certain meaning. Making sure you pick out the right color roses for someone is not only extremely thoughtful, but it is helpful in making sure you don't send the wrong message. (We wouldn't want to give our crush a 'friendship' rose, and give our best friend the rose of 'desire'!) Here's how to not mix those precious meanings up:

- Red roses are the traditional "Valentine roses" which symbolize romantic love.
- Purple roses are given to those whom you fell in love with at first sight. Aww!
- Coral and oranges roses symbolize desire. Watch out!
- Yellow roses symbolize joy and friendship.
- Pink roses are given as a way to express gratitude and appreciation.
- Peach roses symbolize sympathy.
- White roses symbolize modesty, respect, and admiration.

Game Reviews

Family Guy fathers lame spinoff

Matt Neuteboom '08

Licensed titles have had a bad streak in the past. TV show and movie-based games are almost always poorly made, and are usually only meant to promote that movie anyway. The *Family Guy* video game falls right into this category.

Surprised, maybe? Don't be. After playing this I can assure you that this is one of the most poorly made games of 2006.

The basic outline of the story is that Stewie Griffin is (once again) attempting global domination. His plans are stopped, however, by Bertram, his half-brother. From there the plot develops as Stewie tries to stop Bertram's mysterious "master plan."

While this initial plot seems

thin at first, it only gets even worse. The storyline becomes extremely disjointed, feeling very thrown together. It fails to bring you into the game, and even more so it does not feel like an episode of *Family Guy* at all.

The game play is divided up into three sections: Stewie's, which is a mixture of platforming and shooting, Brian's, an old-school stealth rehash, and Peter's, which for some reason, is just him kicking the crap out of people.

Brian and Peter's sections are easily the worst this game has to offer. Brian's stealth section is a very rigid "memorize the character's path" type of stealth. Not only is enemy AI non-existent, but the part itself is frustrating as anything. The game only offers one solution to any



The Griffin family in a seemingly normal family setting.

puzzle, and repeating long segments is *torture*. You eventually start hoping that you're done his section even before it starts.

Peter's is not much better. The concept of his part is to pretty much

hurt anyone that stands in your path, regardless of the plot or context. After a while it breaks down into a tiring button-masher, with no real variation in the game play. Fighting feels very forced and gets boring quickly.

Stewie's section is the most bearable. It offers a break from Brian and Peter's horrendous playtime with a bit of puzzle solving. Don't expect to see anything more than average here, though. Most of the puzzles have been done a million times before by other video games. Don't be surprised if you find yourself thinking "Yea, I've done this exact thing in another game."

The humor might have offered a nice break from the plot if it actually had something not ripped from the show. Seriously, has *Family Guy* made any new jokes in the past two seasons? The game abuses running gags to make it seem funnier (If I have to hear Stewie shout "Victory is mine!" one more time, I'm going to chuck my controller through the TV screen.)

I wish there was some redeeming factors about this game, but there really isn't. Even at its best parts, the game is simply mediocre. You don't want to imagine how I feel about its worst parts. Fans of the show will be seriously let down by this game. The *Family Guy* video game gets a disappointing 4 out of 10.

GameBoy by Alfred Wainwright '07

Elite Beat Agents

Elite Beat Agents is a game for the Nintendo DS released on November 6th 2006.

It is a rhythm game similar to DDR except instead of dancing around on a large arrowed place mat, you must use the DS stylus to hit beats markers on the touch screen. It's a difficult game but you enjoy it nonetheless. Game play is actually pretty simple. It's just the way that certain people will try to play it that makes it hard. There are three types of beat markers to hit. They are Hit Markers, Phase Markers, and Spin Markers.

For Hit markers, you must tap the markers in numerical order when they appear on screen. That's not all you have to do though. If you tap it too early or too late you get an X, which loses your points. Also, to get credit for the hit markers, you must wait for a circle that surrounds the Beat to close almost completely before you tap it.

Phase Markers are similar to Hit Markers in the same form of the closing circle. But when you tap the



phase marker, it has a path that it's on, and when you tap the beat a ball starts rolling in that pathway and you must keep your stylus on it until it reaches the end of the path where you must release it before the beat goes off the path, which will lose you large amounts of points.

The final kind of marker, the spin marker, is probably the simplest of all the beats. To gain credit for them you must spin the stylus on the screen inside the large circle until the sides of the screen all start lighting up.

Your total points are measured on your Elite-O-Meter. Your Elite-

O-Meter tells you if you are passing the song or not. It's located on the top part of the touch screen. That way you don't have to strain yourself and look at the top screen.

The main plot of the game is different than most rhythm games. It consists of a team of 1 to 3 going around the world visiting depressed people. When they find such a person they attempt to cheer them up with their comedic dancing style.

It features music from Sum 41, Avril Lavigne, Queen, and The Jackson 5. There are a large variety of songs ranging from Punk Rock, Funk, Pop, and Disco. Some music choices won't be as recognizable to the players.

It is very difficult to play unless alone in a very quiet room. Even if in that lone room it can be difficult to play because some of the timings are incredibly hard to get down during the first couple runs of the game. It can be frustrating but otherwise it's great game choice for you to play when you need to listen to some music and relax.

Exposing Reality by Randall Beatrice '08

A closer look at *Inconvenient Truth*

Each installment of *Exposing Reality* will explore the world of documentary filmmaking and direct readers to significant films made in recent years.

Sometimes a documentary film attempts to send out a powerful message of warning to viewers. *An Inconvenient Truth* does this without hesitation.

Directed by Davis Guggenheim and narrated by Vice President Al Gore, this documentary, released in theatres summer 2006, is designed to teach audiences around the world about the consequences of recklessly abusing the environment and what we can do to reverse the effects. It primarily focuses on global warming and climate change.

Now on DVD, the film is also loosely based on Al Gore's novel of the same name and on a multimedia presentation that Gore developed



Photo Courtesy of www.climatecrisis.net

Gore's documentary forces audiences to recognize global warming.

over many years as part of an educational campaign on the environment.

Though many people do not believe that the recent damages to the environment were caused by the

manmade actions and global warming, Gore backs up all of his ideas with very reliable sources and scientific evidence.

He investigates the political side of this issue as well displaying

how our economy has been strongly affected. Many segments refute critics who say that global warming is insignificant or unproven.

Gore notes that if appropriate action is taken soon, the problems with global warming can be successfully revived by releasing less carbon dioxide and growing more plants or trees. He also calls upon viewers to learn how they can help in this initiative.

This movie does a great job of scaring people into action because of all of the disasters that could occur in the long run. Gore also does a great job himself of presenting his opinion and persuading others to join his cause.

In conclusion, I felt this was a worthy film to show to anyone who is either interested or doesn't understand or believe in these environmental changes which are simultaneously being ignored and created by the general public.

Join the Cult by Matt Neuteboom '08

A serving of 80's angst

Each installment of *Join the Cult* will explore a film that has achieved cult status among fans.

The jock, the brain, the criminal, the basket case, and the princess. These are the labels we put on ourselves and each other and these are the stereotypes *The Breakfast Club* seeks to destroy.

The movie centers around five completely different students that meet for detention on a Saturday. All of these kids seemingly have nothing in common with each other, and don't even try to talk with one another. Vernon, the overbearing school principal, leaves them in the library for eight hours to write an essay by the end of the detention.

All of the kids act cold and detached from each other until the obnoxious criminal, Bender (Judd Nelson), sets everyone off against each other with his wild behavior. Once they start shouting though, they learn things about each other that they never knew before.

Bender, although all of the students tease him as being unwanted, is strangely the only person with enough courage to do what others won't: question people's deepest held beliefs and feelings.

Throughout the movie he acts as sort of a catalyst, constantly prodding the other kids to answer his awkward questions. Although in the beginning he does it only to tease the other students, he eventually starts a whole chain of events that opens all of the other kids up to each other.

The Breakfast Club is a timeless classic because almost anyone can deeply relate to the issues presented in the movie. The movie brings forth and openly discusses things that almost all of us have thought about before. In the short 90 minutes the movie lasts, *The Breakfast Club* manages to touch on the subjects of drugs, sex, peer pressure, parental pressure, and the future.

Anyone who watches can immediately relate to the characters. The thing is, however, that you don't just relate to one, you can relate all of the characters in some way or another. Each of them is bothered by something that all of us has had to deal with at some point, which why the movie does such a good job of relating ourselves to the problems of the characters.

Adults can even relate to this movie even though they are long past high school. Parents and teachers, remember your old days in high school and try to remember how hard it was to fit in or get along with your own parents. A movie like this is bound to no age group.

If you haven't seen this yet, and don't understand what all the fuss is about, I urge you to go out and see it for yourself. Once you see it, you will immediately understand why so many people fall in love with this movie. *The Breakfast Club* is a great film, and worthy of the praise it gets.

You always wanted to write for the school paper but never have time after school.

You like to write short stories and poetry but never seem to make the time to sit down and work on them.

If this sounds familiar, sign up for Journalism & Creative Writing next year.

Earn credits doing something you enjoy.

Alice Nine: A Wonderland in Japan

Each installment of *Rock Across the Sea* will focus on the Japanese rock scene and its principal performers.

Alice Nine is perhaps one of the most popular Japanese rock bands in the twenty-first century. Though their appearance has been seen as womanly and feministic, these men certainly know how to shock their fans with amazing songs, lyrics, and music.

The five member band was formed by the drummer, Nao, in April 2004. The lead singer is more commonly known as Shou on stage. Hitoro is the lead guitarist while Tora backs him up on rhythm guitar. Finally, Saga keeps the beat with his amazing bass skills.

This J-Rock band is signed to the independent record label, PS Company which has produced popular bands such as Kagrra, Ayabie, and Gazette. They are signed to the very same label as the rockstar, Miyavi. Alice Nine was a near instant success, gathering all kinds of fans over the country of

Japan. Their first concert was performed at Ikebukuro Cyber on May 11, 2004. PS Company discovered this fresh young talent and signed them almost immediately. Their first hit was, *Namae wa, imada muhi*, and the band sold every single copy of it. Soon after the band started touring with Kagrra and Ayabie, which lead them to their first solo tour in 2005.

From a fan's perspective, Alice Nine is the epitome of rock. They are a part of a genre called, 'Visual Kei', where the members of the band get very dressed up to go on stage—sometimes even in drag. However, it doesn't change their music. Such hits as *Yami ni Chiru Sakura* seem almost timid in the opening, but it soon changes to a hard rock supernova. They also have more pop-oriented songs, such as *Kousai Stripe* and *H.A.N.A.B.I.* These guys seem like the type who would do just about anything to make their fans happy.

Like Miyavi and other Japanese bands, all of their songs are in Japanese. Many dedicated American fans, try to learn the songs in



Japanese band, Alice Nine, find fans on both sides of the Pacific with their pop rock sensibility.

Japanese and know what they mean in English. Many Japanese bands have extremely deep meanings hidden in their songs for those willing to explore Japanese.

Alice Nine has not scheduled any tours in America, but hopefully they will be making a stop here soon.

They is certainly a band to watch out for. They have already taken the Japanese Indie-rock scene by storm, now what's next? If you're interested in learning more about this awesome band or any of their songs, their website is <http://www.pscompany.co.jp/alicenine/>.

Eminem mixes it up in new album

Mitch Bracke '10

On December 5, Eminem (Marshall Mathers) released a new album called *The Re-Up*. Once again, it is another chart topper and is a very popular CD throughout the United States.

The album has 22 tracks on it, with different types of beats and styles throughout every song. Conceived as a mixtape, *The Re-Up* brings genuine star power with nine new Eminem performances, as well as four appearances by 50 Cent and various appearances by of D12, along with Obie Trice and Akon (including a remix of his chart topping hit "Smack That").

The real point of the album, however, is to introduce new Shady MCs Stat Quo, and Bobby Creekwater. Despite a careful production, *The Re-Up* brings some of the spare, raw feel of an underground release. The tracks are comprised mostly of Dr. Dre-styled keyboards and tight, flowing beats



www.eminem.com/

Eminem continues to draw huge crowds with his music.

that leave plenty of room for the rappers to spit at such targets as Mariah Carey and others. Despite all of the "calling out" of various artists, 50 Cent does give props to separate artist The Game at one point in the album.

Among the most interesting moments are Eminem's infamous defiance while rapping "Public Enemy" and "No Apologies." The good-humored 50 Cent features "The Re-Up" and "Jimmy Crack Corn," which joke at other artists and talk trash on them.

The minute-long song, "Trapped" is by Eminem's band D12 and brings some new style to the D12 raps. "There He Is," uses cuts from former rap-legend Proof and is one of the more popular songs on the album.

If there's one thing you can take from this mixtape, is that Eminem is back and despite critics calling it another, "album where he talks about his horrible life, production in most areas is up very high and is continuing to grow. There's no

competition when it comes to who has better beat game.

Mathers' next album will be more anticipated than the one which has and will drop from Def Jam's newest artists. It's not an LP, but instead a mixtape, supposedly going to be better than any other mixtape produced before. *The Re-Up* shows us how low rap is and how much higher above rap Eminem is.

Join *The Patriot*

Tuesdays

D-8

It's never too late to join.

Check our e-board on the district website for the next meeting time.

**Contact us at:
wthspatriot@gmail.com**

Save the cheerleader, save the world

Kate Fernandez '07

It begins with the simple discovery of a genetics professor in India—there are people with super powers living among us—and evolves into an ever growing mystery propelled by the cryptic mantra “Save the Cheerleader, Save the World.”

From the imagination of creator/writer Tim Kring (“Crossing Jordan”), the self-proclaimed NBC “epic drama” *Heroes* successfully merges the success of *X-Men* and *Lost* into a series that is taking TV viewers by storm. The weekly installments chronicle the lives of ordinary people who discover they possess extraordinary abilities.

Together, their ultimate destiny is nothing less than saving the world.

In New York City, a young man tries to convince his politician brother that he can fly. A high school

cheerleader from Texas learns that she is totally indestructible—even facing death. A Las Vegas stripper discovers that her mirror image might be another personality entirely—and it is not very happy. A drug-addicted artist can paint the future. A Los Angeles cop can read minds. A Japanese office worker can manipulate time by will power alone.

Seems too bizarre to have gained success? In actuality, the show has managed to gain tremendous viewership, press, and critical praise.

When the series premiered, it attracted 14.3 million viewers. *Heroes* recently won the People’s Choice Award for “Favorite



Indestructible cheerleader, Claire (Hayden Panettiere) struggles to understand her super powers.

New TV Drama.” The actors have become overnight success stories. Already, many feel that the drama

might single-handedly save NBC from falling behind the other networks.

Just as with the hugely popular *Lost*, *Heroes* is inspiring (and is dependent upon) a huge internet following with its own graphic comic, theories, games, and blogs.

The slogan “Save the Cheerleader, Save the World,” has become a catchphrase referenced in daily conversation. And yet, despite this clamor, only 11 episodes have aired. What makes *Heroes* so popular?

Perhaps it is the world we live in today, but many viewers (this one included) seem genuinely inspired by the idea that ordinary people could have extraordinary abilities. Other viewers may be relieved for a new show that isn’t about the life of crime scene investigators.

Edge-of-your-seat action and unfolding mysteries continue to bring viewers in each week. Though not a flawless series, it is certainly the most fascinating of the season. There seems to be a countless number of possible superhero powers that the creators can give to new characters to keep the series from going stale.

Heroes is reportedly already outlined for the next five years. With one episode story arcs that air as comic book installments, each episode is clearly building to a larger picture of a mission to prevent a massive explosion that will destroy NYC.

This end is becoming increasingly clarified with the apocalyptic visions of the artist Isaac, whose artistic creations have an uncanny tendency of coming true. As the heroes discover their own strengths and limits, they also begin to interact with each other. All the while, a mysterious serial killer, Sylar, seems intent on killing the heroes one by one.

Just one question remains for the second half of the season—who is on Sylar’s list?

Of course, it is like pulling teeth for answers to be handed away. December 4th marked the last episode before a *Heroes* hiatus that lasted until January 22nd.

During breaks in the season, viewers will have to content themselves with re-watching

6th season villains don’t know Jack

Richie Elles '08

For some, twenty-four hours can seem like an eternity, whether time is spent in the classroom, at home doing homework, or simply anticipating a big event. For fans of the hit series *24*, the duration of one day can last nearly six months.

The dramatic and thrilling show features an agent who is a member of the Los Angeles Counter-Terrorist Unit (CTU), Jack Bauer, who is portrayed by Kiefer Sutherland. Each season is just a single day of crisis in the life of Bauer involving terrorist and conspiracy plots, with each episode being an hour in real-time, current with events in the life of Jack Bauer and his team of field agents.

Beginning this January on FOX, the sixth season of *24* will premiere in a two-night, four-hour event that will shock viewers across the nation and keep fans on the edge of their seat. But this season of *24* brings a different element to the series, with Jack Bauer starting off the season as a prisoner of the Chinese government after a masked break-in to the Chinese Embassy to



Kiefer Sutherland returns as Agent Jack Bauer for the sixth season of *24*.

obtain a key witness from a previous season.

Throughout the different seasons, Jack has faced enemies from all different areas of the world, some even inside the American government. The show draws viewers with its very real and possible threats in a time when our everyday lives are based around national security and prevention of the same attacks presented on the show.

Action is a prime element in the show’s make-up, as there is a firefight or thrilling chase scene several times in each episode. Jack Bauer is trained to perfection and is often motivated by a personal reason, such as the safety of his family and friends or the death of innocent Americans. Bauer’s cunning and clever plans combined with the ability to improvise when something goes wrong make *24* a solid choice for those looking for an action-filled program.

Though mostly praised for its heart-racing action, *24* has a dramatic element that is easily worked into the plot to coincide with the developing storyline. Events ranging from the death of Jack’s wife to the bonds formed between CTU agents provide an emotional aspect, away from the fighting and violence associated with combating terrorism.

With both exciting action and strong drama, *24* is one of the most complete shows on television and is looking to make a return to the network spotlight. The series is continually picking up viewers who quickly become engrossed in the story, and with a program of this

Film

Blood Diamond sparkles

Nicole Heath '10

"In America it's bling bling. In Africa it's bling bang,"- Danny Archer.

This is the saying that brought thousands of people to the theaters to view Leonardo DiCaprio's new film, *Blood Diamond*. Though this movie was rated B- by Yahoo critics, *Blood Diamond* is nothing short of an A+.

The movie begins following the life of Solomon Vandy (Dijmon Hounsou), a Sierre Leone fisherman in 1999 when Sierre Leone was on the brink of civil war. Vandy is thrust into action when rebel forces raid his small village and kidnap his son.

Barely escaping death Solomon is sent to work in the diamond fields. Through a sequence of painful events, Vandy finds himself working with diamond smuggler Danny Archer, played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Together the two must find a rare, pink diamond worth more than either of them could imagine. Finding this diamond can change the course of both their lives.

Blood Diamond gives the



Leonardo DiCaprio & Dijmon Hounsou are diamond hunters seeking their fortune in war torn Africa.

audience a complete story with an ending that will leave them leaving satisfied.

The film does lack an original storyline with the normal story of a father trying to find his family in the middle of chaos. Though the plot may seem a bit over used, it is developed nicely throughout the film.

The acting alone could carry

the movie with two strong actors such as Dijmon Hounsou and Leonardo DiCaprio. The sincerity and authenticity these two actors add to their characters is what makes the movie great.

Though it was not as perfect as *The Man in the Iron Mask*, DiCaprio should be complimented on his accent. At times during the movie

his accent seemed a bit forced out. But like in all of his films, he gave an Oscar-winning performance.

DiCaprio might be the star in this movie, but Dijmon Hounsou stole the show with his powerful acting. Hounsou became his character by displaying a range of emotions from grief to anger. With many emotional scenes throughout the movie Hounsou displayed the qualities of a best actor winner.

Shot in the wild of Mozambique and South Africa this movie shows the raw beauty of rural Africa.

The quality of the movie comes as no surprise from film director Edward Zwick.

With hit movies like *The Siege* and *Glory*, it is no wonder that Zwick was able to produce a film on the same caliber as *The Legend of the Falls*.

Violence and strong language is used throughout the film. Though *Blood Diamond* is rated R, it is a must-see movie. With its outstanding acting, breathtaking setting, and heart wrenching plot, *Blood Diamond* is one of the best films of the year.

Film

Night filled with life

Laura Marder '07

Being a night security guard is usually a tedious job, but somebody's got to do it. In the film *Night at the Museum* a 20th Century Fox production, Ben Stiller, playing Larry David, is just the man for the job.

David has struggled for jobs in the past, disappointing his ex-wife and most importantly, his son. He is faced with an ultimatum of settling with a job he is not in love with or loosing all rights to see his son. Not wanting his son to see him as a dead-beat dad, he steps up and takes the first job he finds. He decides to go to a job agency and gets set up to become a night guard at the Museum of Natural History.

The job turns out to be a job of more then he expected when on the first night he has a mind-blowing discovery that "at night, history at

the museum truly does come to life." The skeleton dinosaur playing fetch and the animals running wild fills the screen with superb special effects. The artifacts in the museum add life lessons as well as comedy to the film.

This film is stuffed with high-caliber comedic talent: Ricky Gravies as the uptight, malapropistic curator, Owen Wilson and Steve Coonan as turf-warring miniatures, and Dick Van Dyke, Bill Cubs and Mickey Rooney as a trio of young-at-heart guards in a hurry to retire.

Through his nights at work Daley learns life changing lessons and puts his all into the job. He gains the pride from his son, as well as himself. He learns the lesson of not giving up by working in the museum even after he felt he couldn't handle it.

This movie plays on all the emotions, viewers cried, laughed and sat at the edge of their seats during the film. It pleases such a wide range



Ben Stiller, pictured here with Robin Williams as Teddy Roosevelt, plays a night watchman who discovers the secret life of the museum exhibits.

of viewers; therefore it is doing very consecutive weeks. Family well in the box office. The film has friendly and date appropriate, taken in \$24 million and stayed on the everyone is enjoying Ben Stiller's top at the box office for three performance.

Wrestlers champs at Princeton

Maria Brasco '10

Washington Township captured five weight class championships and won first place over eight other schools for the first time in seven years Dec. 16, 2006 at Princeton High School in Princeton, New Jersey.

"We have so many individually skilled kids this year," stated Coach Fetty with enthusiasm, "We have many talented freshmen that we are expecting a lot from this year."

Eight TWP varsity wrestlers went to the championships for their weight class. Five out of that eight won in their division. James Higgins (103) and Colin Walsh (140), both freshmen, were two of the five that won the championships for their weight class.

Anthony Curcio, a sophomore, weighing in at 112 pounds came in first place out of his weight class. Tommy Williamson (160) and Joe Price (171), both seniors, were the other two of the five that won their weight division.

Second Place varsity TWP wrestlers were senior Lavar Archie (285), junior Eric Sandy (152), and a



Lillyan Ling '08/The Patriot

The wrestling team trains long hours running to build stamina.

sophomore Steven Ambrose (119). TWP varsity third place winners were Ed DePhillipo (215) and Kevin Ambrose(125).

Dave Helterban (215) and Karch Connors (189), two TWP heavy weight junior varsity wrestlers came in first place for their weight class. Mike Miller (285) and freshman Chuck Everham (152) came in second place in their weight class.

Many individuals have stepped up this year, which could lead to an outstanding record for this season. Many freshman, as you can see, are really showing the coaches and their team members what they have to offer for the team.

"If Frodo Baggins was half the man that James Higgins is," Price '07 jokingly exclaimed, "The Lord of the Rings would have never

existed!"

Even though TWP has started out with a great season, some changes will have to be made in order to fill in the spot for the junior captain Matt Betteridge '08.

About two to three weeks ago, Betteridge '08 and Williamson '07 were wrestling at practice. Williamson put him into a move and hurt Betteridge's leg. Betteridge was in pain but insisted to keep wrestling.

Betteridge was wrestling at the tournament and about five minutes into his first match he broke his fibula. Betteridge is out for the rest of the season which opens up a spot for someone.

For now, Eric Sandy '08 will be training to wrestle in Betteridge's place at 160. Chuck Everham '10 and Lorenzo Muniz '08 will be wrestling off for Sandy's old spot. The outcome of this could affect the team greatly.

"With no doubt, whoever fills in the empty spots will give it their all to prove they deserve that varsity letter with or without the present circumstances," stated Frank Higgins.

From the Sidelines by Maria Brasco '10

Managers play essential role

On a daily basis, Danielle Brasco '09, Kimmy Cherico '09, Chrissie Duffield '09, and Liz Keefer '08, help out the Washington Township wrestling team tremendously by writing/checking/filing paper work and keeping the coaches organized.

Everyday after school the girls walk to O'Brian Hall and begin their afternoon by watching the boys warm-up to 80's music. After all the boys have left the building to go run, the girls get down to work. Someone will do attendance; another will do the match schedule. It may sound easy but working for three busy coaches with very chaotic schedules doesn't help.

Coach Ross is expecting a baby in the upcoming months and Coach Fetty just had twins. But some how, everyday, the girls manage to get

instructions from the coaches and get everything done. They even manage to order pizza every Friday.

"It's our thing! Every Friday someone will order pizza and fries to end our busy week with some fun!" explained Cherico.

The managers' days are not short. A usual day is about seven-hour school day; following about a four-hour afternoon managing.

"When you think about all the hours we spend at school it's scary. We spend most of our week in school or on school grounds," stated Keefer, "It may sound boring or tiring but in the end it's all worth it. We get to be involved in the makings of a successful wrestling team; that's great in itself."

The athletes, managers, and coaches all make up the team. Without



photo courtesy of wrestling

The wrestling managers take a break at the end of a busy day.

one the team could not thrive.

Having six managers and about forty athletes, of course there will be restrictions. Although we may be motivation for the boys to work harder, they are not allowed to

socialize during practice. The managers may be motivating but the wrestlers entertain them everyday.

"Seeing the boys slamming each other onto the mats is always amusing!"

Cheerleaders capture national title

A.J. Nisbet '08

This school year the WTHS cheerleading team looks to continue their success by adding an eighth Olympic Conference title in a row to their list of accomplishments.

"Olympics Conference is the most important to WTHS cheerleaders," said Mrs. Atkinson, the teams coach. "We have won the Olympic Conference Grand Championship title seven years in a row."

So far on the road to accomplish their goals, the team has already won its first four competitions. The team has already defended its WSF [World Spirit Federation] National Championship and recently won first place at World Cup in Old Bridge, New Jersey.

"I'm proud of their accomplishments so far. However, I don't focus on their wins. I focus on their performances and progression throughout the year," said Atkinson.

This year, the varsity team consists of 25 girls, three of them being freshman.

"We have 3 freshmen on the team this season. They are all very talented and contribute to our team," Atkinson said.



A.J. Nisbet '08/ The Patriot

The cheerleading team recently defended its WSF title.

While the WTHS cheerleading team has a winning tradition, Atkinson says that the team's goal is "to be proud of their performance every time they compete or perform for a team."

If you are not able to see the team compete at competitions, where sometimes they travel to far venues, you can catch them perform right here at home basketball games.

In most high school sports, teams usually have one captain, and some

assistants. The WTHS cheerleading team has "senior captains."

"Everyone on the team can lead, but our seniors are our captains. Some are more vocal and some lead more by example," said Atkinson.

Most recently the team hosted the Washington Township High school Invitational competition. During this event, the cheerleaders had to escort teams to the practice gym, then to the competition in the

9/10 gym. Others delivered cheergrams to girls on some of the competing teams.

"The competition we hosted on 1/28 was a great success. It is a wonderful fundraiser for our program. Our booster club worked tirelessly and put on a great event," said Atkinson.

"I really enjoyed helping out at the event because I liked my job. I was assigned a team for the day and it was my responsibility to make sure they arrived to stretch on time, got to the band room in the 11/12 to warm up, and back to the 9/10 to perform," said Christy Pettit '08.

While the team does not compete when they host a competition, they were able to make money in many ways. First, to enter the competition you had to pay a small fee. Also, throughout the day the cafeteria was open for refreshments. Also throughout the competition, people could purchase cheergrams. The money made goes to booster club for various things like battle at the capitol, competition fees, and the scholarship they give out each year.

With an already successful start to their season, the WTHS cheerleading team looks to keep up its winning tradition.

Bowling team starts off strong

Margaret Bonanni '09

When most people think of Township sports football, basketball, and baseball are some that come to mind. One of the sports that lack recognition is bowling.

Students from Township make up a varsity team, and junior varsity team, and even a practice squad. A large portion of the team is lower classman such as John Bartosiewicz, a freshman, who bowled a three-hundred in his Saturday league competition.

"My older brother, Brent, taught me how to bowl. It feels good knowing that I have so much talent and get to bowl with such an amazing team," said Bartosiewicz.

Like many of the people on the bowling team, Bartosiewicz feels that although he's good, he still has a lot to learn during the season. The

team believes that no matter how physically in shape you are, bowling is a mental game, and you can always improve your approach.

So far, the team is 5-1-1, with half the season left.

"We're definitely not the best team; we still have room to grow, and things to learn like keeping a consistent score," said Christine Fraser '07, this year's team captain.

The game of bowling is a very unique sport. Like swimming or diving, a bowler can not effect how well a competitor performs. Players can only bowl their best and knock down as many pins as they can. One of the keys to a team's success is coming together and being united.

"I think we're a great team, and I always look forward to coming to practice. I couldn't imagine it any other way," said



Margaret Bonanni '09/The Patriot

The TWP bowling team looks to finish their season strong.

Alaina Lincoln '09, a dedicated member of the bowling team.

The bowling team has upcoming matches in January and

February, all taking place at the Brunswick Lanes. Fans are encouraged to come out and support their WTHS bowling team.

Team chemistry propels success

Matt Wagner '10

The boys' varsity basketball team has gotten off to a hot start by winning the Gloucester County Christmas Tournament. They pulled off wins over Williamstown and Paulsboro.

Twenty-four year coaching veteran Mr. Robert Byatt has high praise for his 2006-2007 boys varsity basketball team.

"They compete as hard as any team I've ever coached", he said.

After the loss of eight key seniors last year, including explosive point guard Dan

Betteridge, the team looks for a way to maintain a strong attack. To lead the attack Coach Byatt looks to stand out

players Alonzo Galliard, a six foot four senior who can rebound and score inside the paint. Also, talented shooters and defensive players are Greg Prince, Joe Favatella, and Mike Bradley.

These two and the rest of the team will try to improve on last year's strong 21-7 record. The team will have their eye on success in a few tournaments this year such as the ALS classic and hopefully the State Championship Tournament. To get there the team will need improvement on its weaknesses such as rebounding.

"In general the team is not very big," says Byatt, "so all five guys will need to help with rebounding."

He uses helpful drills during practice to improve on agility, awareness, and skill. The team

"They compete as hard as any team I've ever coached."

-Coach Byatt

spends half the practice on individual offensive and defensive drills. The other half is used for team drills. Byatt tries to make each drill as competitive as possible. Practice will improve strengths, which the coach sees as defense and heart.

"Defense is the key to our team every year," said Byatt.

What coach Byatt continues to stress is the amount of heart the team has. "On paper, we may not look as good as last year, but I think this team is closer." He believes that this year's team can use chemistry to put forth a strong effort.

Six time NBA champion, Michael Jordan once said, "One thing I believe to the fullest is that if you think and achieve as a team, the individual accolades will take care of themselves. Talent wins games, but teamwork and intelligence wins championships."

No matter how much talent a team has, chemistry and closeness is an important factor in winning. It will be tough to replace last year's



/The Patriot

Captains Greg Prince and Alonzo Galliard provide leadership at both ends of the court.

talent, but with strong defense, emerging players, and an excellent amount of work ethic, this team has potential for a successful season.

Girls track prepped for strong season

Matt Neuteboom '08

It takes agility, dedication, and endurance to be on the Girls Winter Track team. Every day after school, the team practices rigorously to improve their times to bring home the gold medal.

Led by Coach Burdsall, the track team meets until 4:30 every day to practice and work out. The girls on the Winter Track team attend the practices to do running drills and

speed runs in order to lower their times. The girls work to improve their speed, technique, and endurance.

Coach Burdsall commented "For the meets we run indoors, but we do practice a lot outdoors.

When it becomes to cold or rainy to train outside though, the team will meet upstairs in the core lobby in order to get their training done. No matter what the weather, the team is determined to practice their running.

All season long the girls prepare for the many competitions they attend. In these past weeks, they've

gone to the Hispanic Games, the Buena Polar Bear Meet, the Seton Hall Meets, and the New Jersey State Relay Championship.

Coach Burdsall said, "there were lots of big teams from all over the tri-state area attending these meets."

A few of the runners were lucky enough to take home medals. In the Hispanic Games, Michelle Martin placed 7th in the 400m dash, with a 59.5s time. Melissa Oliver placed 3rd in the Shot Put competition at the Seton Hall Meet with a distance of 29 ft.3 in. Michelle Martin, Vivian Dim, Kim Krauss, and Meagan Robertson placed 5th in the Sprint Medley.

The girls are motivated to compete and improve their times by the team captions. Brittany Hannigan, Melissa Oliver, Michelle Martin, Steph Strucko, Cait Paulson, and Amando all lead the team as captains. They work to keep the team together and to keep everyone active in their training.

Burdsall said "They're not always the best runners, but role

models for the rest of the team. They show qualities of responsibility and leadership, and they're people that the rest of the team can sort of look up to."

The captains encourage the runners to not only train to earn medals for the team, but to aim for their personal goals as well. "We want for everybody to set their own personal goals and lower their times" said Brittany Hannigan '07.

Girls Winter Track is not all about the winning and the achievement though. The captains explained that many of the girls have a sense of bonding between each other. Brittany Hannigan said that "the team is like a family, and we enjoy being around each other. We sort of understand what each other has to go through every day."

The team is already looking forward to a good year. They've lost a few girls from last year due to graduation. However, the coach's hopes seemed high.

"We're going to have a nice season this year," Burdsall stated.

NEXT ISSUE:

Winter Sports
Wrap-ups/Updates

-Girls Basketball
-Ice Hockey
-Boys Track
Boys Tennis Preview

**Join
The Patriot!**

Meetings held on
Tuesdays in
Room D-8.