

The Raider Times

May 28, 2008

Watertown High School

Edition Two

A, B, AB or O: What Do You Know? *Watertown High School Holds Annual Blood Drive*

By: Satenik Karapetyan

On Friday, March 28, WHS students and faculty arrived in high spirits to the gym, eager to donate blood during the Annual Red Cross Blood Drive. It was another successful year. "Over 75 people showed up, and about 60 pints of blood were donated," said Mr. Rimas, Civics teacher. "The Red Cross is always impressed with our students, and how good they are about donating."

This year marked the tenth annual Blood Drive held at the school. Mr. Rimas has been running it for the past six years, ever since he took over the Student Council. Rimas said, "There is a lot of emphasis put on doing community service in the school. I think donating just makes you feel good too. You're doing something to help somebody out, even though you don't know who. It's for a really good cause," Sophia Brown, senior, agrees. "It's a way you can help people, because unlike other things, you can't make blood."

There are simple eligibility requirements for giving blood. The donor must be at least 17 years-old, weigh at least 110 pounds, be in good health, and must not have a history of exposure to STDs, such as AIDS. Giving blood is simple, safe, and takes about one hour. The actual donation only takes six to ten minutes. Volunteers must complete a confidential form to answer questions regarding their general health. A nurse then pricks a finger to measure the amount of iron in the blood, and checks the donor's blood pressure, pulse, and temperature. If everything checks out, the blood is then collected using a sterile, single-use needle for each donor.

Most adults have 10 to 12 pints of blood in their body and slightly less than a pint of blood is taken. Once the donation is complete, beverages and snacks are offered to help the body adjust to the sudden decrease in fluid, while helping to retain proper blood sugar levels. Your body replaces that fluid within 24 hours.

Every unit of blood donated is carefully screened in a lab to detect the presence of possible disease and also to determine blood type (A, B, AB or O). The American Red Cross provides about half of the nation's blood supply which is roughly six million pints per year. Nationally, less than 5% of the population gives blood, which is used to support the remaining 95%. The Red Cross has seen a decline in volunteer donors over the past three years (Statistics from the Red Cross website), although blood is still greatly needed.

"I did it because I'd never donated before, and I thought it was for a really good cause," said Meaghan MacDonald, senior. "I fainted afterwards because I didn't really know what to expect. I thought I felt fine, but I guess I didn't. However, that doesn't stop me from wanting to do it again," Sophia Brown agrees. "My advice is to take it easy and make sure to take advantage of the food they bring." Just as many other students, she had to rest a while before she was able to do anything else, but agrees that she will donate again.

Donated blood is used in a number of ways to save lives. Each pint is precious and is always put to noble use. If needles and blood don't scare you away, then donating blood is certainly something to consider. "Someday you might be in a situation where you might really need the blood," MacDonald added.

It's a great way to give back to the community, and for some students a way to earn community service hours as well.

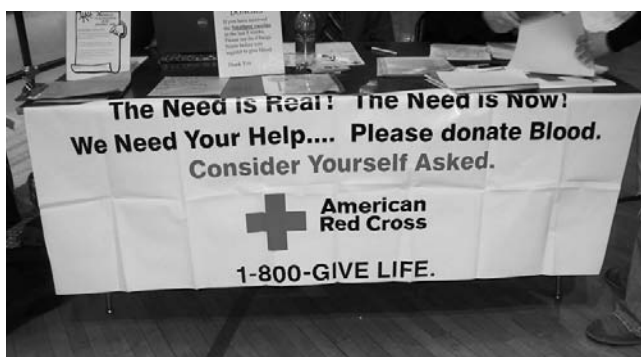


Photo by: Jackie Dupuis



Photo by: Jackie Dupuis

Watertown students and staff support the American Red Cross' efforts to enhance its blood supply.

Mr. Duggan Receives Award

By: Jackie Dupuis

When receiving the Amgen Award for Science Teacher Excellence (AASTE) on April 30, 2008, Mr. Duggan stated that his "greatest appreciation is to the students." However, what students should have asserted during the Wednesday morning ceremony in the Watertown High School Lecture Hall is how appreciative they are to have a teacher like Mr. Duggan.

It is not every day that Watertown High School has one of its own teachers recognized for outstanding teaching abilities. Duggan educates students through a more hands-on approach. Mr. Nofsker said, "The kind of excitement Mr. Duggan has brought to the physics program" is based upon his creative and innovative experiments. Duggan is able to inspire his students and create experiments that get the wheels turning, literally. "What you learn in the classroom is hard to translate into reality," said Mr. Duggan, and as true as that statement may be, Duggan's students have no trouble doing so because of the actual hands-on experiments.

The award is intended to recognize and honor science teachers who have significantly impacted their students in the field of science education. Each year, Amgen Inc. based out of Cambridge, Massachusetts, bestows the award acknowledging dedicated teachers, such as Mr. Duggan. Duggan, who was one of fifteen winners from the United States, received an award of \$5,000 and also a

\$5,000 grant to help build the science program and resources at Watertown High School.

The criteria that led Mr. Duggan to receiving the AASTE Award was based upon his "outstanding ability to inspire and motivate [his] students," said Chris Barr, Senior Project Manager at Amgen Inc. After seeing how Duggan and his Physics students continually produced fascinating results following a yo-yo experiment, Ms. Larkin nominated Duggan for the award. Larkin recognized that Duggan was a perfect example of a teacher who best "promotes science and innovation," the main criteria of the award.

Mr. Duggan's award is a great accomplishment not only to himself, but also for Watertown High School. "I'm delighted he has received it," said Ms. Larkin, Watertown High School Science Curriculum Coordinator. It is his demonstration of creative methods of teaching, such as the yo-yo experiment that educates students about the forces of gravity, rotational motion, and momentum, that has led to Mr. Duggan's recognition.

Dr. Koufman, Assistant Superintendent of Watertown Public Schools, stated that the students of Watertown High "are very lucky to have Mr. Duggan as [their] science teacher." And following his recent accolade, all who have had him as a teacher can agree.

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Photo by: Jackie Dupuis

Mr. Duggan (second from right) accepts the Amgen Award flanked by Science Coordinator Ms. Larkin and members of the Amgen Corporation.

Robotics Club Impresses at Contest

By: Maddy Herzog

Watertown High School's Robotics Club had a futuristic experience at Boston's annual robotics competition at Boston University's Agganis Arena in March. They put their brains, creativity, and business skills to the test during the three-day competition and the months of preparation leading up to it.

After the club's first meeting in early October, the twelve-member team spent the following six months learning all about mini-robots and fundraising energetically under the leadership of staff member Alan Epstein. The meetings began as a weekly ordeal but as the competition crept closer, the team met more regularly until they found themselves meeting everyday. Their enormous task was to create a robot that would complete certain tasks and participate in a series of "games" at the three-day competition. "The games and tasks are extremely complicated to explain," admitted team captain and sophomore Clara Gibbons, laughing.

With hours of determined fundraising behind them and several highly impressive sponsors, including the one and only NASA, the group created to create the robot of their dreams. Although they were paired with various different high school groups for the competition, some whose skills was relatively lacking, Watertown High was able to shine through. They were awarded the prestigious "Rookie All Star Award". Their notable individual robot and remarkable teamwork gave the WHS Robotics club a ticket to the championships in Atlanta, Georgia.

Epstein started the school's robotics team last year at the suggestion of the superintendent. "What appeals to me about the team is how it's a team sport that uses people's minds and inventive abilities," Epstein described. "Plus, more than a team competing with a robot, it's an entrepreneurial, non-profit business



Photo by: Dan White

Robotics Club member Amory Galili gives a proud thumbs-up in recognition of the club's performance.

in which members have to raise money, do budgets, write press releases, create marketing materials, design operational systems, manufacture a motorized vehicle, and deal with deadlines and temporary failures." Similar aspects fascinated Gibbons, as well. "I like that it combines science and math, which I'm good at, with business experience and lots of creativity." Gibbons' organizing tendencies contributed to her election as team captain.

A fortunate turn of events brought Fox News to Watertown High School giving the young club an opportunity to be featured on local news, exposing the group to hundreds of potential sponsors. The team has yet to decide who they will send to Nationals in Georgia, but any of the twelve dedicated members will represent the team outstandingly. For more information about the *FIRST* Robotics organization, visit www.USFirst.org.

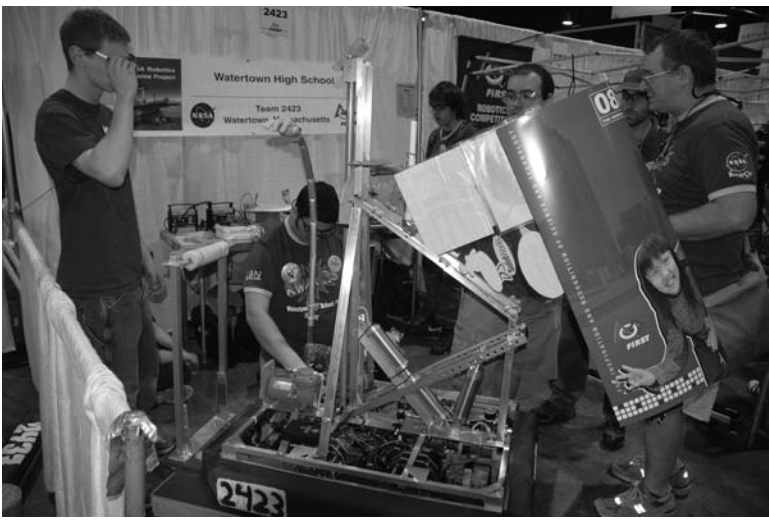


Photo by: Dan White

WHS Senior Ben-Hur Santana puts the finishing touches on the robot before entering the competition.



Photo by: Dan White

Watertown students wheel the robot onto the competition floor.

National Honors Society Inducts New Members

By: Maddy Herzog

Sporting the distinguished yellow sashes, members and new inductees of the National Honors Society and the Cum Laude Society marched down the aisles of the Watertown High School auditorium on Thursday evening, April 17th. Battling heavy workloads and frantic extracurricular schedules, new juniors and seniors were able to maintain an impressive grade point average, earning themselves a prestigious seat in the society among the 45 returning senior members.

Students with a GPA of over 3.5 were given the opportunity to try for a position in the society. Although receiving the application is an honor in itself, the induction system of applying signifies that top marks are not all it takes to represent the renowned organization. Prospective members must list all the activities they participated in throughout high school, either in school or otherwise, and especially emphasize leadership positions they held. Watertown's local leader of the National Honors Society, Donna Calleja, also consulted other faculty members to verify that the candidates displayed good behavior

and personality in class. The society strives for a community of well rounded students.

Although Watertown is a somewhat small suburb, it was the first public school in the country to join the National Honors Society and the school takes pride in its groundbreaking status. "This is one of my favorite evenings of the year, a close second to graduation," Principal Noftsker declared to the audience.

The ceremony was moving with symbolically lit candles, a chanted pledge to the society, and short speeches by the senior class officers. Each student received a certificate and pin, and refreshments were served at the conclusion. "The ceremony was a little long, but I felt honored to be a part of it," said junior Alison Marshall.

National Honor Society projects are already underway and senior members have started a bottle recycling project to make the high school a little "greener." With this final contribution and demonstration of NHS values by the seniors, the promising new junior members will no doubt follow in their footsteps.

Softball Returns to WHS Spring Sports

By: Eric Anastasi

After a season of the program being nonexistent, Watertown High School's softball team is back. John Rimas, who coached softball for three seasons, said, "We need to keep softball alive and for them [kids] to have fun."

The athletic director, Mr. Michael Lahiff, was looking for a head coach to "revive the program," said Rimas. To "get softball back" they needed girls who were willing to play the sport. There are approximately 15 girls who are currently on the roster with hopes that more will join the squad. The team is opened to girls that are freshman, sophomores, and even juniors. Seniors, however, are not yet allowed on the team.

The Lady Raiders will be competing in the Middlesex league playing a freshman schedule. Coach Rimas hopes

the girls can have fun and earn themselves a victory. In recent years, softball has fallen into a winning drought, but maybe this year will end with a different story.

Allison Grizey, a sophomore team member, said "We look good but we haven't had any outdoor practices yet, so [no one will know] until we get out there." Softball homeruns don't come too often but Grizey jokingly said, "I'm probably going to hit about 72 grand slams!"

However, there is no assistant coach and John Rimas is forced to handle the team all by himself. An assistant coach would help but the position requires a lot of commitment being that it does not pay and is strictly voluntary.

With the return of softball, "It gives another option for girls in the spring. We hope to bring it back," said a smiling Rimas.

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We're looking for more team members! If you would like to join the staff of the Raider Times, see Ms. O'Grady in Room 345.

Tantalizing Talents Take Center Stage at Mr. WHS Pageant

By: Jackie Dupuis

Despite sightings of Ronald McDonald, Britney Spears, and a Teletubbie at Watertown High School, it was not Halloween. On March 13, 2008, the eighth annual Mr. WHS competition, sponsored by the Sports Management Club, was held. Seven contestants took the auditorium stage showcasing terrific talents, amusing antics, and dancing displays. Seniors Jesse Brackett, Rico DePaolis, Ian Munger, Phil Sesay and Sean Taverna, along with juniors Al Anazaldi and Danny Yobaccio entertained the audience with their clever abilities.

The evening began with the introduction of each contestant wearing an original outfit. Ranging from an elf costume worn by Rico DePaolis to Sean Taverna's straight jacket and mask displaying a likeness to the infamous Hannibal Lecter, the contestants hoped to capture the attention of judges Mr. Buck, Emilie DeBaie, Ms. Kraemer, Will Leahy and Kyle Stockmal.

In the beachwear attire, all of the contestants had original costumes that they paraded on stage. Rico DePaolis led in the beachwear category with his inflatable pool and "man-servants." However, keeping the audience interested and amused, Sean Taverna came out wearing a Superman

t-shirt, which he ripped off to reveal "Kyle's better than Cory" sketched on his back. Jesse Brackett also amused the audience by flaunting a woman's one-piece red bathing suit and wearing a long blonde wig.

Performing standup comedy, Sean Taverna's main joke of the evening was "everything I touch turns into Skittles!" Spectacular dancing was performed by Phil Sesay and Danny Yobaccio also had some dance moves to show. Jesse Brackett gave a great acoustic performance on the guitar playing Dave Matthews' song "Crash into Me" with help from Eric Falter. Ian Munger showed off his talent in a game of "Guitar Hero" while Rico DePaolis displayed his possible future in speed eating by devouring five hamburgers in two minutes. DePaolis remained on the judges' good side by handing out a McDonald's hamburger to every member of the panel.

Nearing the end of the competition when the race for the title of Mr. WHS seemed tight, contestants still had another round in which to impress the judges. In tuxedos, escorted by girls in gowns, each competitor prepared for the question and answer segment which would wrap up the evening. However, Jesse Brackett chose a surprise escort of his own and walked out on stage with Ms. O'Grady.



Photo by: Sarah Ambrogne

Winner Sean Taverna addresses the crowd after he is crowned 2008 Mr. WHS.



Photo by: Sarah Ambrogne

Contestant Philip Sesay tries to impress the announcers, Sarah MacDougall and Pauline Barmakian, by showing off his 6-pack abs.

While judges were tallying the scores, contestants continued entertaining with original stories. They were faced with the task of trying to confuse the audience as to whose anecdote was true. Each contestant worked with the "mini golf" idea to deliver unbelievable and entertaining tales. However, Rico DePaolis told a tale of truth with a story of his adventure at a location on Cape Cod many years past.

DePaolis, voted the runner-up, preformed well and had clever costumes. First as an elf, his costume later resembled that of Ronald McDonald which greatly humored the audience. However, his impressive and witty acts were not enough

to capture the judges' votes, and Sean Taverna stole the show. Earning himself the enviable title of "Mr. WHS 2008," Taverna won an all day hall pass, a preferred parking spot located at the front of Watertown High School, and his choice of a take out lunch. He desired McDonalds, a meal DePaolis would have loved to savor.

After being nominated as a junior, Taverna has become the first person in Mr. WHS history to win the contest after being a two-time participant. It just goes to show that Taverna did not use all his best material the first time around and still had a few jokes up his sleeve.

Brewer Steps Down Mr. Brewer Advised Club for 9 Years

By: Sean Taverna

Mr. Brewer, the advisor for the class of 2008, has decided that he will not be supervising the Sports Management club next year.

Mr. Brewer and the students of the Sports Management club organize many of the extracurricular events at Watertown High. "We plan, script, and run the pep rallies, the Mr. WHS contest, and also the Powder Puff football game," said Mr. Brewer. Although the club requires a lot of dedication from its supervisor, who is also a teacher, husband, and father, Mr. Brewer doesn't take all of the credit. "The students do most of the work, I am just the organizer. It's really trying to get 20-30 teenagers to agree to something and get something done, which can be difficult. Mostly it's time; all of the kids are busy so meetings are usually at 6 or 7 at night" he said. Arriving at the high school earlier than

his students, the commitment becomes an extension to his workday. "Sometimes the meetings go until 10pm or later. It makes for long nights."

For nine years Mr. Brewer has run the club, but his reasons for leaving it are more than understandable. "Over the last few years, my own family life is getting busier, with 3 kids at home. While I really do enjoy working with [the club], it has become more and more unfair to my wife at home, and also I miss my kids," Brewer said.

While reducing his hours spent after school and away from his family, he will not be eliminating them. Mr. Brewer also supervises the fitness center every Monday through Friday until 6pm. Despite the fact that he hopes to spend more time at home next year, he is focusing on becoming a better teacher as well as a better father,

with a new AP Biology course in his plans. "Hopefully I'll see my kids more and be able to focus on teaching the new AP Bio course," he said. With his priorities in order, Mr. Brewer will still dedicate some of his time to the other aspects of the WHS community. "I'll still be busy with athletics, the fitness center, and class advising. Honestly, part of me will miss [Sports Management]. For the most part it was a lot of fun."

So far no other teachers have volunteered to take the job next year, and it is doubtful that there are any who could match the pace that Mr. Brewer was able to keep. "I do what I choose to do, so I guess I have only myself to blame for the long nights. I have always tried to do what the students want to do."



**Remember
to Recycle**

Diversity Day Celebrated at WHS

By: Clara Gibbons

On Thursday, March 20th, Watertown High School celebrated its annual "Diversity Day". Diversity Day was celebrated during all lunches with international pastries, candies, and more (bubble tea was a big hit). Games such as "International Trivia" were played and students put stars on a huge map of the world showing where their family comes from. A survey was also given out to students that asked them how they thought diversity could be better supported at the High School.

Will Steadman, a senior participating in the activities, was enthusiastic about the event. "It's great that we get so many people to get involved and

present their culture," he said. He added, smiling, "And you get to eat great food!"

Mr. McDermott was also pleased. "I think it's incredible," he said. "I'm very excited by the number of kids who are going up to the tables and trying to participate."

Diversity Day is hosted by the Watertown Peer Leaders, a group within the school made up of both students and adults. They work hard all year long trying to better the community in many kinds of ways- from trying to stop youth from making destructive decisions to hosting events like Diversity Day that celebrate differences.

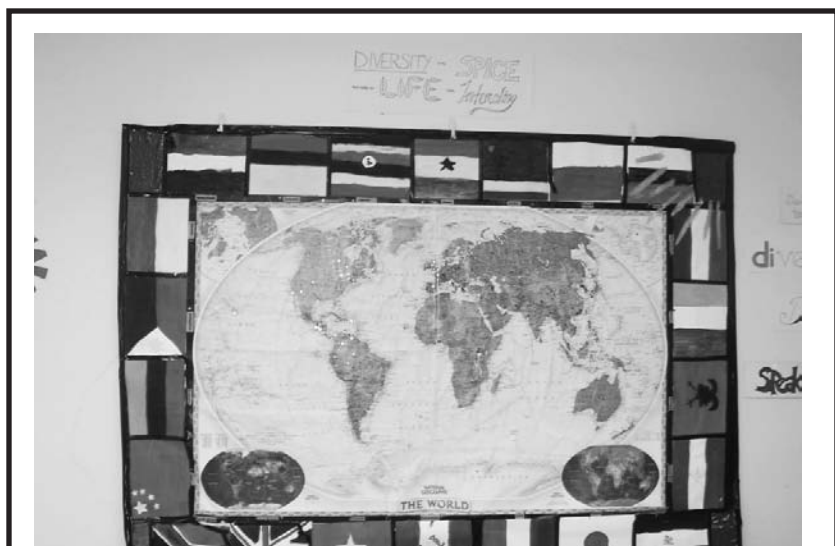


Photo by: Jackie Dupuis

The Diversity Day Quilt is displayed in the cafeteria to remind the WHS community to celebrate differences.

The Denial of Armenian Genocide Continues

By: Satenik Karapetyan

The purpose of the Armenian Club at Watertown High School is to bring students into one organization to celebrate and cherish the Armenian culture. Although students are from different countries and speak different languages or different Armenian dialects, there are no cultural gaps. The goal of the club is to educate students about the Armenian history and to help perpetuate the Armenian culture through various activities, including awareness and recognition of the Armenian Genocide. This goal is also achieved in the classroom. Students taking Armenian classes are taught the language, but students are also taught the history and traditions as well. It is important for the Armenians to remember their roots and their language. All of the Armenian Club members and Armenian students are proud to be part of a group that values a heritage and continues to emphasize the importance of maintaining an identity within the school and the Watertown community.

On Tuesday, April 29th, historian Dr. Dikran Kaligian, was invited to Watertown High School by the Armenian students to speak about the ongoing denial of the Armenian Genocide. Armenians worldwide commemorate the Genocide each year on April 24th, and this year marks the 93^d anniversary. The first genocide of the 20th century, it began on April 24th, 1915, when 1.5 million Armenians were killed at the hands of the Ottoman Turks during WWI. Dr. Kaligian is a professor of Armenian Genocide Studies at Clark University, chairman of the Armenian National Committee for Eastern US and the

associate editor of the Armenian Review.

Dr. Kaligian began his speech with a brief chronological overview of the history of the genocide, and then informed the students of present-day issues concerning the adamant Turkish denial. He stated the reasons which continuously prevent the American government from passing a resolution on the issue, one that would officially recognize the genocide here in the United States. He also emphasized the great lengths the Turkish government will go to prevent genocide discussion, even jeopardizing what students are taught in some schools. He spoke of the Turkish government's ties with the United States and of their use of "blackmail" to get what they want. His revealing words were captivating, and he was able to engage the students in his speech, by asking questions and encouraging answers. "I thought he was a really good speaker. It wasn't just a boring lecture. He had picked the most interesting facts to tell us, information that I know I would never have found out about on my own," said Ani Keshishyan, senior.

Armenian students at WHS proudly continue addressing the importance of the issue and maintaining the truth of their history. This history has united people universally in the cause of recognizing what happened, teaching about it to younger generations, and trying to prevent such tragedies from repeatedly occurring, without recognition. Although it has been difficult to achieve recognition, historians, such as Dr. Kaligian, and other Armenians believe that the people must continue to speak about the issue.

College Planning Night Held For Juniors

By Alison Marshall

On Thursday, April 10, 2008, Watertown High School hosted a College Planning Night for the school's junior class.

The night was organized by the headmaster, Mr. Noftsker, the two housemasters, Mr. McDermott and Mrs. DiNardo, and the four guidance counselors, Ms. Raider, Ms. Baker, Ms. Swift, and Ms. Dudley. As it is already April, it is crucial for the class of 2009 to start thinking about college. This information session lasted about two hours and featured important information about the complete process of college admissions. The dean of admissions from Stonehill University, Brian Murphy, and the dean of admissions from UMass-Dartmouth, Steve Briggs, came to talk to the students.

The first subject addressed was the usage of Naviance. Naviance is an online tool to help high school students through the process of searching and choosing schools that are right for them. Each junior has an account with Naviance; if you have not yet logged in and need help, schedule an appointment with your guidance counselor to learn more about it. Naviance has the tools to interpret your personality through surveys and help you decide what career may be best for you. From there on, it will lead you to the majors and schools that will best fit your interest.

Brian Murphy, the first to talk, stressed many important ideas to get across to students. The first thing he talked about was communication between students and parents. He said it is important for them to "be on the same page." He spoke further about the importance of deadlines. Be on time for college appointments and tours and make sure to constantly check in with your guidance counselor. Missing deadlines such as financial aid further into the process can make you lose your spot at that particular school. He advanced into talking about the application process: knowing which pieces of material were the most important. The essay is an important part because it shows who you are beyond your grades and GPA. Murphy described it as, "This is who I am, you are lucky to have me." Murphy stressed the importance of knowing yourself, by advising to make a list of your likes and dislikes. Know who you are so you can express that person to the college you want to get into. It would not be smart to walk into a college interview with nothing prepared to talk about. As for the SAT and ACT, colleges know that students crack under pressure and that the score may not reflect your academic ability. Though this is true, the better the score, the better you look. Courses are available for students in preparation for the SAT which will really help raise scores. GPAs reflect the high school career and how much time and effort is put into your studies. Honors and AP courses will give you "extra-credit" as Murphy said and show that you challenged yourself. Having a lot of extra curricular activities will show that you managed to balance your time between them and school work as well as showing how you gave back to your community and school.

Murphy also expressed how students should not just focus on one school. We all know about those excessive and annoying emails and letters we receive from colleges we've never heard of, but Murphy urges students to keep those for

more options. There is a reason they have contacted you, and it is most likely because your interests can be found there. Colleges can not accept every applicant, even if they are well qualified. The more options you have the better chance you have at getting in. Murphy says its ok to have a reasonable reach, give it a shot but do not rest all your hopes on that one school.

Second to talk, dean of admissions from UMass-Dartmouth, Steve Briggs, brought valuable advice as well as some humor. He started out with the three reasons students choose a college: where do they eat, where do they sleep, and what do the other students look like. He says this is the way that students scope it out. It is all about being comfortable in the place you will be living and studying. He went on to talk about the college plan between students and your parents. Briggs said, "These are the tools they need, a car to get to the college, a budget for gas, food and lodging, and a kitchen table to lay out your options." He also stressed the phrase, "Don't be late!" You don't want to miss your tour so plan out your weekend. For each college visit you make, map out your stay ahead of time so you don't waste time. Also, look up the school online before going there. Know what questions to ask and know where you will be. It is best, Briggs claimed, to visit schools while they are in session and you will be able to find students on the grounds. This will give you a better idea of what it will be like. Try and picture yourself there, see if you will fit in with the surroundings.

Briggs also expressed how lucky we are to be within two hours of some of the most selective schools in the country and a "top-notch" state university system. Briggs said that even if it is a reach, go look anyway. There is no harm in touring the campus and getting a feel for life there. Parents are urged to push their children forward. "They're going to fall, it's okay," said Briggs.

As Murphy said, Briggs, too, hopes students will try to find themselves. Writing down your skills and personality will help you personally and the college admissions while looking at your application. Make a résumé, the two both insisted. Don't be modest and put your best foot forward. As for teacher recommendations, choose the teachers that know you best. Choosing junior year or senior year teachers would be best because they "have a better understanding of you at a higher level," Murphy states.

To wrap things up, they talked about different types of admissions. Early decision is when you apply to a school in mid fall, and if you get accepted to that school you are obligated to go there. Early action is applying in mid-fall but, in contrast to early decision, you can apply to multiple schools and you are not committed to any of them. Regular admission usually has a deadline between late December and early February and you get your response letters by spring. With rolling admission, you apply and hear back within a couple of weeks.

The college night was very successful and the two guest speakers did a wonderful job in expressing the important parts of the process. All in all, juniors are highly recommended to start the college process and search now, since the next year will fly by.

Feature

At the Top of the Class: Christina Ioannidis and Noah Jefferson

By: Sarah Ambrogne

It's time to announce this year's valedictorian, Christina Ioannidis, and the salutatorian, Noah Jefferson - two outstanding students over achieving both in and out of school. Most may think that their success comes from a dull social life and sitting inside studying all day but both carry on more than just rigorous school work.

Christina has a part-time job at Iggy's, plays on the varsity basketball team, runs cross country in the fall, spends time with her friends at the hippest parties and still finds time to study and take on challenging AP classes. Noah was captain of the wrestling team, captain of the cross-country team, takes part in the Biology Club's Bonaire trip every year and still achieves in difficult classes as well as Christina. Both show an extremely demanding schedule and still, somehow, pull it all off in the end.

Of course, these two are not perfect, everyone struggles at one point. "I got a 13 [out of 100] on a Worldy Wise exercise in 4th grade and I told myself, 'Self, never again!' But seriously, that was a low point until Mr. Neylon's class. I got a couple 50's in there," Christina said.

Noah seemed to have the same struggles as well and received a 15 on a quiz in Mr. Neylon's class. Obviously these two have learned from their mistakes in the past and managed to achieve the highest awards in their high school career. Even with the low grades on record, these two are deserving of the honorable recognition.

"I feel I deserve it because I have worked hard to earn my grades," Noah said. Christina agreed, she felt deserving of her award because she worked "relatively hard" to achieve it. "I've done well so I guess I deserve some recognition. At the same time, we have a really intelligent class so I guess we should all be recognized somehow," said Christina.

The hard work both have put in is not even stopping at graduation. Noah is attending Tufts University in the fall but he is still unsure of his major. Christina is attending Brandeis planning to major in chemistry and then attend medical school.

Both Noah and Christina are well rounded people and deserving of this recognition. They are sociable, relatable and all around great people and I wish them luck in the future.



Photo by: Sarah Ambrogne

Salutatorian Noah Jefferson and Valedictorian Christina Ioannidis pose together.

NHS Tries To Turn Raiders Green

By: Emily Izzo

As many students may have noticed, National Honor Society has placed a recycling bin in the cafeteria. The bin is for water bottles and cleaned out juice bottles. The National Honor Society and the school are excited to make Watertown High more eco-friendly.

As the world is raising environmental awareness many people in the school became interested in starting a recycling project to do their part. "It wasn't just the NHS officers ideas, everyone was really excited to start this project," said senior NHS secretary Christina Ioannidis. "NHS wanted to do something, and the group was surprised there weren't already recycling bins around the school. With so much global warming awareness, recycling was the easiest and the activity everyone agreed on," said senior NHS officer, Will Steadman. With something as simple as throwing a bottle in a bin, no one in the school should have a problem participating in this "green" activity.

If you take a look around Watertown High School, you notice there are significantly less bottles flung around the halls. "When the NHS members suggested the idea, Will Steadman and Mrs. Calleja really got the ball rolling on getting the bins and talking to administration," Ioannidis commented. So far the project is looking like a success, "the project is definitely working out, students are interested in not only participating but also helping out. People have to remember, it doesn't take much just to throw a water bottle out," Ioannidis explained. According to Steadman, so far there have been two full bins of bottles, and people are remembering to do their part.

For those students who would like to help out, talk to Mrs. Calleja or a NHS officer and you'll be more than welcome to help. For everyone else, remember to look for the painted trash can in the cafeteria and do your part, recycle.



Photo by: Jackie Dupuis

Mary O'Laughlin and Loryn Smith smile as they collect plastic bottles for recycling.

Boston Slims Down with Removal of Trans Fat

By: Maddy Herzog

With Yellow Fever, Small Pox, and Bubonic Plague in our nation's past, the United States is dawning on a new epidemic: Obesity. It may seem trivial compared to its forerunners, but unfortunately, the consequences are heavy.

In the past 40 years, the percentage of overweight Americans has crept up to 63 percent, 31 percent defined as obese. Though not revolutionary in their actions, the Boston Public Health Commission decided to do their part in decelerating our country's weight gain. On March 13, 2008, the city joined several other US cities in placing an official ban on the use of trans fat in restaurants, grocery stores, schools, hospitals, and other businesses. By September 13 of this year, all Boston companies will need to have formally eliminated trans fat from all food. Violations will result in fines up to \$1000.

Trans fat, a type of unsaturated fat also known as partially hydrogenated oil,

is popularly used in the food industry. Its high melting point "increases shelf-life" and emphasizes flavor, but the fat is not essential in any way to the various foods it is used in. Although Boston has stated that .5 grams of trans fat will be legal even after the ban is put into effect, doctors and scientists agree that even the tiniest amount of the fat is unhealthy. The consumption of trans fat, natural or partially hydrogenated, has been repeatedly linked with coronary heart disease. By 2009, trans fat bans are projected to prevent between 600 and 1200 heart disease diagnoses and 250 to 500 deaths.

The public response to the new ban has been varied. The local government's good intentions have pleased many, who are now relieved to not have to worry about dangerous fat intake when eating outside of their homes. Other citizens have interpreted the law differently and have angrily claimed that the ban is

removing their civil liberties and by telling them what they can and cannot eat. Brian C. commented on a www.Boston.com article saying, "Another example of big government getting bigger, welcome to the Nanny State, where the politicians treat the minions like children and tell them what to eat. What next, setting a bedtime for us?" Fellow Bostonian Joe agreed, adding, "We are ASSUMED unable to take care of ourselves." Despite the people's desire to cling to their rights, though, the government is only attempting to remove a prevalent threat to society.

The next time you go out to eat you can relish in the fact that your food definitely will not have any hazardous fats in it. However, the removal of trans fat will not miraculously transform your French fries into a health food. So to truly deflate the new epidemic, always remember: everything in moderation.

**Do you agree with the
new trans fat ban?**

**16 students were surveyed,
and the result is...**

NO - 3

YES - 10

NO OPINION - 3

What will be your Favorite WHS Memory?



Senor Henry's 5th period class junior year.

Gina Biondo



Powder Puff game and the Pajama Game.

Rebecca Melnick



Sarah's Fiesta with Jeff Babigian's mustache.

Ricky Strayhorn



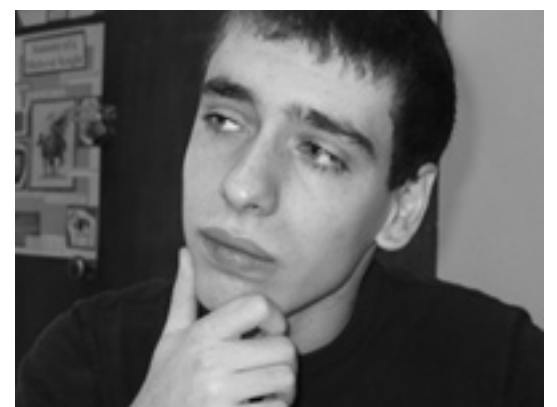
Performing in Les Mis when we had a really good cast in the right roles! I was devastated when it was over!

Alaina Antonelli



Les Miserables and Dramafest.

Marla DeMatos



Having Mr. Hayward for a teacher before he left.

Robert Stewart

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The Giant Cookie

By: Rachel Pano

Starting in April, 2008, the “giant cookie” (GC) of Watertown High was reinstated as a snack choice for students during lunch. The GC is an oversized chocolate chip cookie sold daily for one dollar a piece.

Averaging out at about six inches in diameter, the GC is the size of 3-4 average sized cookies (about the size of your hand from your wrist to the tip of your fingers), and large enough to feed a couple of students. Many students tend to share their cookie instead of consuming it themselves.

It appears that the cookies are selling well, despite its definite salty flavor. Many students believe that the salty and sometimes burnt flavors can be overlooked,

given the novelty of the concept of a giant cookie. Others enjoy the high cookie to chocolate chips ratio.

It's been years since the GC was last offered at WHS. “When I was younger, my sister used to buy [a giant cookie] for me and bring it home,” said Faye Hisoler, a junior at WHS. But, when Hisoler arrived at the high school, some six years later, the GC was no where to be found. The cookie was most likely deemed unhealthy, and thus taken from the usual menu, only to return now.

So, if you've yet to try one of the GC, shell out a buck at your next lunch and try what has come out of WHS folklore and into the actual repertoire.

Step to it and Save the Step Club

By: Erin Kazizian

A lot of people think that stepping is reserved for people of a certain race, with good dancing skills, or even for people who have the dance moves in *Step Up* memorized to the T, but it is not really like that. In January, the guidance intern Ms. Fontellio formed a six-member team of “steppers”. It was a group unlike anything Watertown High had yet to see, save for last year's Hip-Hop dancing club. “You make beats with your own body, and you dance to it [the rhythm] with music to try and enhance the beats,” senior Jackeline Lopez explained. “A common misconception is that step is only for African Americans, which is not true. Anyone can do it.”

Lopez is not new to Step. At her former school she was a member of the step team for two years before joining Step at WHS. Her first year in Step was a trial year much like this year at WHS, but conversely has developed into a strong team headed for what seems like yet another competition in April. However, Watertown's team has virtually disbanded after only two months in action. Step club is a great way to meet new people, learn to

work in a team, and gain more self-esteem; the only problem now is its non-existence to help rectify those great gains.

The club was put to a brisk halt for many reasons, though the most prevalent seem to be that the club was brand-new, did not have enough experience to go to competitions, and also the largest problem with clubs—the lack of a supervisor. After this year, Ms. Fontellio's hard work in putting the club together would not amount to much if she as their instructor and supervisor would no longer be a part of the club as her internship is due to end soon. If the club were to lose its chief instructor and supervisor simultaneously, who could the members find on such short notice to supervise and teach?

“I liked it because it wasn't ‘sports’, so it didn't need the normal sports commitment. I hope that [next year] people will stay committed and stay in the club,” Sayaka Shishido, a fellow stepper remarked wistfully. It seems a shame to put such a short-lived club off to the side, especially since it has so many good aspects. Could you step to it, and save the step club from dancing to it's own demise?

Check out the Sky with the Naked Eye

By: Erin Kazizian

On a typical summer's night, many people admire the bright stars in the sky, but do they ever really know what they are looking at?

June: Around the 2nd of this month, the moon will transition into its perigee phase, or the point in its cycle in when it becomes closest to the Earth. Due to the perigee phase, there will be extra high and low tides in certain areas, so take caution when at the beach! Saturn will start to drop in the Northern horizon towards the end of the month, as Jupiter appears to do a loop de loop while in retrograde. On the 10th there will be a half-moon, and the full moon will follow slightly more than one week later on the 18th.

You know that summer is on its way if you spot the “Summer Triangle.” Comprised of three stars (Altair, Deneb, and Vega), it is a relatively bright bunch illuminating the skies, especially because each of their respective magnitudes is below 1.5. Magnitudes are determined by an object's brightness; for example, the brighter you are the larger your magnitude becomes (measured in negative numbers). The human eye can see from 6 to 6.5

magnitude. The sun has a magnitude of nearly -27 during the daytime, and Uranus at its brightest is 6.5, so it is highly recommended that you use a telescope when looking at dull Uranus rather than the sun in all of its splendor.

As the Earth becomes increasingly populated, pollution rises as well, causing not only smog pollution, but also light pollution in addition to other types, which makes it more difficult to see objects in the sky. In cities, the dimmest stars that are visible are those of a magnitude of 3. The human eye however, can only see up to 6.5 in a rural, or a isolated area, so imagine how much less is visible in urban areas!

This summer, if you are sitting outside at night maybe with a pair of binoculars, try and spot the nebula, the cluster of baby stars in the constellation Orion, located in Orion's “belt” (the three stars in a row). It is one of the coolest things, especially if you have the chance to see it with the aid of a telescope or binoculars; if you do not have either available, you might just have to settle for something that is akin to colored dust.

What to do over the Summer?

By: Alison Marshall

Don't find yourself lounging around your house all summer long; there are tons of things you can get involved in around town. Maybe its time you start making some money. Camp Pequot is the local town camp which runs for 8 weeks of the summer from 9:00AM-2:30PM. The C.I.T. (counselor-in-training) and Junior Counselor staff is made up of high school students who can not attend the camp anymore because they are too old. With kids from ages 5 to 14 running around all day, they could use the extra help so stop by the Recreation Department at Town Hall and apply.

Don't forget to work some fun into your summer! Pack up the car, round up some friends, and take a day trip to the beach! One place that is fun to visit is Manchester by the Sea, in Manchester, where Singing Beach is located. The beach is quaint but fun, for more information about the beach and town, visit www.manchester.ma.us. Another fun beach town to visit is Rockport. With six beaches and many attractions including shopping and lighthouses, you can't go wrong; there is always something to do. Learn more about Rockport at www.rockportusa.com. Another favorite is Hampton Beach in New Hampshire. One side is fun on the beach while the other side is food, entertainment and shopping. To get more information go to www.hamptonbeach.org.

What's better in the middle of a long hot day than some ice cream? Luckily, there are tons of places near and around town to find some. First of all, for some

good soft serve check out Celebrities on Mt. Auburn Street. If you're in the mood for some traditional and some unique flavors, visit Brigham's on Trapelo Road. For another ice cream place that has unique flavors, try Cabot's on Washington Street in Newton. In the heat of the summer, you can't lose when it comes to picking ice cream.

For some fun outdoors without the long trip to the beach, take some friends out mini-golfing. “Golf on the Village Green” is a small mini-golf course in Natick right on Worcester Street. Kimball Farm not only has mini-golf, but ice cream and bumper boats, too. Kimball Farm is located in Westford.

If you like good music, you'll love the concert selection in and around Boston this summer. Dave Matthews Band is coming to the Tweeter Center the 24th and 25th of June, the perfect way to kick-off the summer. Also, don't miss Kenny Chesney at Gillette Stadium the 26th and 27th of July with special guest Leann Rimes so take out your cowboy hat and get ready for some country. Relax at the Jack Johnson concert the Tweeter Center on August 6th. Also, Tom Petty tickets aren't becoming any less expensive so get them while you can. See one of music's best bands, Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers, play the 13th of June at the TD Banknorth Garden and the 14th of June at the Tweeter Center.

Make the most of your summer and be active. Don't let the sun tire you out—there is so much to do!

What's in for Spring?

By: Emily Izzo

With the warm weather quickly approaching us and summer right around the corner, spring and summer clothes are on everyone's mind. This season's hot trends will surely have people rushing to the closest mall. Whether you follow every trend or march to the beat of your own drum, anyone can learn to love this season's trends.

Trends come and go, but this season trends to look out for are black and white prints, neutral leathers, bright colored clothes, shoes, and accessories, graphic jewelry, ombre, art and tribal prints, gladiator sandals (both flats and heels), safari, and color block, to name a few. Fashion experts from around the globe are all raving about these styles. They can be seen in any magazine's fashion section, including PEOPLE Style Watch, Vogue, and Instyle, as well as in many stores. With so many things in style, some may think they have to save up all their money just so they can splurge on a few designer items, but with stores like Target and Kohl's, both housing cheaper priced designer lines, people everywhere will be able to buy the trendiest clothes.

Many people are not fans of having to reinvent their wardrobe every season. For those who don't really pay much attention to what's in and what's out,

the classics are always going to be a safe bet. Big sunglasses, flip flops, sun dresses, tanks and skirts are things never to get rid of. What this season calls on is to dress up more main stream clothing articles with shoes or jewelry with a bold shape or design. The number one rule this season is to not be boring, and take as many risks as possible.

Not everyone agrees with current trends, and many people who roam the halls at Watertown High School had an opinion on what they will be wearing for the upcoming season. “I love gladiator sandals, but only in flats, and sometimes I think ombre looks nice,” said junior Ali Getz. “This season has a vintage feeling to it, it seems like what's old is new again...I like following trends, to a point, after a while I like to mix in my own style,” Getz continued. “I don't really like most of this seasons trends, they're not very attractive and I don't really see the appeal. I'm fine in flip flops and shorts, my only rule is to keep it feminine,” senior Alaina Antonelli commented.

No matter what season it is, or what trends are in, the only way to look effortlessly cool is to feel confident and comfortable in the outfit you're wearing. With so many things in for this season, originality is key.

Feature Senior Class: Civics

There's No Debate About Civics

By: Jackie Dupuis

Step inside Mr. Rimas' room and one probably will not notice any students learning out of textbooks. In fact, there might even be kids lounging around on the radiator rather than sitting at desks. Regardless of the comfortable atmosphere, there is still learning going on every day inside room 250.

The relaxed environment helps students feel comfortable voicing their opinions and letting their true feelings flow into debate. One might wonder what students learn in a class that allows freedom

of speech and minimal textbook work, but as senior Sophia Brown says, "you still get something out of it." Primarily a class taken by seniors, civics is available in both honors and level one levels. If interested in learning useful, life long information, civics is the class to take.

Learning about current occurrences rather than pre-historic events, the material Mr. Rimas teaches to his students can be used in all aspects of life. Acquiring knowledge of the presidential candidates and what issues each stands for,

Why Should Juniors Consider Civics for their Senior Schedules?

- * It prepares you to vote.*
- * You will become an informed voter and citizen in the real world.*
- * You have Rimas!*



Photo by: Sarah Ambrogne

WHS Civics leader, Mr. Rimas, lectures about seniors' civic duties as adults.

civics students learn important information regarding current affairs.

Obtaining details of events from local newspapers and asking his students their stance on certain topics, Rimas is able to convey to his pupils the importance of staying in tune with the news. By asking thought provoking questions, Mr. Rimas is able to spark a class debate. Whether "you choose to talk or not talk," as stated by Phil Sesay, or simply listen and observe, there is sure to be someone voicing their opinion regarding a particular subject.

Currently working on "project citizen," the project allows civics students to identify problems within the school or community and determine which level of action is appropriate for their predicament.

Students work in groups to gather information, examine solutions and create action plans.

Unlike math tests where the information does not always seem to facilitate to outside life, civics tests ask practical and useful facts. The exams in civics, such as the citizenship test, ask information that all students and citizens of America should know about their country and government.

Even with the little homework that is assigned, the relaxed atmosphere of civics, along with the insight that Rimas provides is sure to capture the interest of any student who takes the class. As to avoid missing a feuding debate inside room 250, "don't miss civics," says Rimas.

Feature Teacher: Mr. Buck

By: Alaina Antonelli

"I'm not worth it" was Mr. Buck's reaction when we informed him that he was being named Feature Teacher of this article. But, when we informed him that he was nominated and was given the title, he was very honored.

Mr. Buck teaches World History, both honors and level one, to juniors. Training for his certification ten or eleven years ago, Mr. Buck became a substitute teacher in Somerville. He joined the WHS Special Ed. Department eight years ago, and in 2006, took over the position of US history teacher when Mr. Hayward left halfway through the year.

"The main reason [I wanted to teach] is because I started to read and study a lot of history [after finishing school]. It was so much more exciting than it was when I was in school, and I wanted to pass that excitement onto other students," Mr. Buck said. Although his class provides a very laid back environment, there is still a lot of learning going on, and students all come to know and love Mr. Buck for his genuinely kind nature.

Because Mr. Buck took over for another teacher after midterms, he did not get the same opportunity to really get to know the students before starting the curriculum. Despite this difficulty, Mr.

Buck says, "I walked into a good situation. They happened to be really nice kids." The classes had been unfocused before Mr. Buck came, due to constant substitute teachers before finding Mr. Hayward's permanent replacement, and Mr. Buck says that the department was very glad to have someone teaching. However, he still had to show that he would do the job for them. In the end, he proved himself as he was given his own classes the next year, and this year as well.

Along with teaching, Mr. Buck supervises the Invisible Children club started at WHS last year. The club raises money for school-aged students in Africa whose lives and families have been torn apart due to war. But, even though he is in charge, Mr. Buck says that he isn't the reason the club thrived as it did. He says that the students made everything happen due to their energy. Mr. Buck says that he was willing to take on the club, but he wasn't sure he had the leadership skills to make anything happen. But, the students' energy showed him that he wouldn't be so much as a leader as another club-member, all striving to make the same thing happen.

Although the club hasn't been as strong this year, Mr. Buck has high hopes. He says that in some way, shape, or form, the

club should continue. "Even if we want to raise \$10,000 and we raise \$2,000, it makes a tremendous difference," he said. Invisible Children offers an amazing opportunity to look into the greater world, showing that everyone can make a difference. Even if the school did not continue with Invisible Children, however, Mr. Buck says that he would love to be involved with another club that focuses on helping the global environment.

Mr. Buck is loved by his students. Surprisingly sarcastic and always kind, he makes learning a subject easier, and he truly cares about his students. "When I first started doing this, I was used to working with smaller groups of kids," he said. "I didn't think I'd get to know the students. I ended up really getting to know them [though], and I met some great kids," Mr. Buck truly deserves the honor of Feature Teacher.



Photo by: Sarah Ambrogne

Mr. Buck proudly poses in front of a poster advertising the efforts of the Invisible Children Club, which he advises.

Mr. Buck Fun Facts:

- * He is the faculty trivia expert.*
- * He starred in a "Film Fest" feature.*
- * He advises the Invisible Children Club.*
- * He is funny!*

A Day in the Life of Mr. WHS

By: Sarah Ambrogne



“And the winner is!” they announced over the microphone and the entire audience waited patiently for the announcement of this year’s Mr. WHS. “Sean Taverna!” The audience celebrated this victorious win as he was crowned with the honor of being Mr. WHS 2008 right in line with school legacies.

But who is this Sean Taverna? We decided to take a look into who this winner

really is and who he was before being crowned.

“Last year I was talked into doing it, when Arshan dropped out, by seniors that were in Sports Management,” said Taverna for his main reason to find interest in the competition. Sadly, last year Taverna did not take the title and did put him

in doubt. This year he was convinced he would not compete unless his peers were to vote him in, but he was automatically in the competition due to his participation last year. “I won the contest without ever getting voted in. Now that’s the mark of a champion,” said the very confident Taverna.

Being crowned in this pageant was a life changer for Taverna. Not only is he

chased by “paparazzi” but students he has never talked to before are now approaching him. “It’s kind of cool knowing a lot more people,” Taverna stated. But don’t let his confidence fool you! When asked if he was expected to win, Taverna responded “Not at all. I felt good about my ideas but I thought my stand-up was really weak.” Although he had his doubts, it was reported from Sports Management members that Sean led by 16 points.

You can expect to see this Mr. WHS winner in more pageants in the future for he likes the feeling of the sash and uses it as a tool to pick up dates. “I’ve stopped using Tag all together,” Taverna said, “There’s enough females tackling me already.” Did this crazy red-head winner have any regrets? Of course not, except he was upset with himself for forgetting a few people in his performance. “I left out a lot of family members in my story. There’s Cousin JV, Flames Izzo, my sister Ashley Svendbye, and my mom Kristen Greim. [But] my twin Sean Mahoney definitely deserved the rose,” said Taverna for his final words on being the victorious Mr. WHS 2008.

Democratic Bios

By: Clara Gibbons

Barack Obama was born in Hawaii on March 4th, 1961. He graduated from Columbia University in 1983 and became a community organizer in Chicago, Illinois. In 1991, he received his law degree from Harvard University and began to practice law as a civil rights lawyer. In 2004 he successfully ran for Illinois Senator and was elected to the United States Senate.

Obama now lives in Chicago with his wife Michelle and his two daughters, Malia and Sasha.

Hillary Clinton was born on October 26th, 1947 in Illinois. She graduated from Wellesley College in 1969 and then from Yale Law School in 1973. She worked as a lawyer for many years. When her husband Bill was elected president in 1992, she didn’t put a stop to her career. She chaired the Task Force on National Health Reform and- though she was unsuccessful- tried to achieve national healthcare. In 2000, after her husband had served his two terms as president, she was elected New York Senator to the United States Senate.

Hillary Clinton lives in Chappaqua, New York, with her husband Bill. They have one daughter, Chelsea.

sources:

www.barackobama.com

www.hillaryclinton.com

www.whitehouse.gov/history/firstladies/hc42/html

Thirteen Reasons Why, But Only One to Read It

By: Satenik Karapetyan

Devastating and heartbreaking, the act of suicide often compels us to ask the same questions: Why? What could someone possibly be thinking? Was there any way to prevent it? In Jay Asher’s first novel, *13 Reasons Why*, these questions and many more are answered.

Clay Jensen returns home from school one day to find a package addressed to him on his porch. Inside he finds seven old-fashioned cassette tapes that were recorded by his classmate (and crush) Hannah Baker, and a map. Hannah, however, has been dead for two weeks. She had committed suicide. On the first tape, Hannah explains that there are 13 reasons why she decided to end her life. Clay is one of them. If he listens, he’ll find out why, and he will hear the whole story, the truth.

In total, twelve people are responsible for her demise, and each of the twelve must receive the tapes. Clay spends the night walking around his town with Hannah’s voice and map as his guide. He almost becomes a witness to Hannah’s pain. In the meantime, he also learns the truth about himself, a truth he never wanted to face.

In her own words, Hannah describes how her reputation was ruined, her parents neglected her, “friends” used her, and most importantly, when she reached out for help no one stepped forward. The difficulties of teen life, from rumors to relationships, and even to rape, come out in her story as she explains to her listeners that “in the end, everything

matters.” Although the lack of sympathy is hard to read, the book offers a very realistic view into the issue of suicide, which can commonly be taken too lightly.

Though not everyone can relate to thoughts of suicide, many can relate to Hannah’s situations. High school readers especially can identify with her feelings of loneliness and despair. Sadly, the reality is that Hannah Baker could be anyone. Readers realize how serious the impact of thoughtless actions and comments can be.

What really goes through the minds of people with suicidal thoughts? No one knows, because for every person there are different breaking points. This honest, touching story reveals how other people’s actions can ruin an individual’s faith in people. Intensely powerful and very real, *13 Reasons Why* reveals a brutal side of high school drama.

Written in a dual narrative, the writing is simple and moves quickly, as readers sail through the book eager to find out Clay’s role. It is a surprising twist. To some, the story may be a bit melodramatic. Hannah can come off as being a bitter drama queen who chooses to haunt the people she blames for making her life unbearable. However, her reasons are unique and intriguing because they are all interwoven with one another to tell a story of pain, suffering, and a final decision that comes so easily to some as the only way. Check out the high school’s book club’s choice for the month of April. It is definitely a must-read!

2008 PROM DRESSES

By: Lauren Metjian

Girls tallied= 16

DRESS COLORS

Blue	Green Red Pink	Purple	White Gold Yellow
6/16 38%	5/16 31%	3/16 19%	2/16 12%

PRICE RANGES

1 st place	\$300
2 nd place	\$200
3 rd place	Less than \$200

DRESS LENGTH

Long	14 (88%)
Short	2 (12%)

PURCHASE

In store	100%
Online	0%

STORES

1 st = Cache	50%
2 nd = Nordstrom’s	25%
3 rd = Macy’s	15%
4 th = Lord&Taylor and David’s Bridal	10%
5 th = BCBG, Saks	-1%

POST-PROM PLANS FOR DRESS

Keep	10
Donate	6

The Republican McCain

By: Clara Gibbons

John McCain is the presumptive Republican nominee for president. Here is a short biography of his very eventful life!


John McCain was born in the Panama Canal Zone on August 29, 1936. After graduating from the United States Naval Academy in 1958, he served as a pilot in the Vietnam War. Then, in 1967, his plane was shot down and he became a Prisoner of War for six years in Vietnam. When he was finally released, he went to and graduated from the National War College. In 1982 he was elected to the House of Representatives, where he served until he was elected to the Senate in 1987.

His years in the senate have given him lots of experience, and after having been beaten in 2000 for the Republican presidential nomination, he is now running for president again.

When he is not in Washington, McCain lives in Phoenix Arizona with his wife, Cindy. He has seven children and four grandchildren.

Would John McCain get your vote? If you aren’t sure, go to www.votesmart.org and look up John McCain. You can see his voting record, transcripts of his speeches, and more!

www.johnmccain.com



Consider
13 Reasons Why
as a Summer
Reading
Selection!

Arts & Entertainment

Third Eye Blind Leaves Audience With Both Eyes Open

By: Alaina Antonelli

On Saturday, March 22nd at Brandeis University in Waltham, MA, 90's rock band Third Eye Blind performed to a sold out audience. Everyone was prepared for an amazing show, and that's exactly what the band delivered.

The night began with a set from the opening band Rogue Heroes. Despite a noble effort, the band failed to gain audience support and participation. Myself, my friends and many fellow concert goers were left bored during their performance, anxiously awaiting Third Eye Blind's set.

After a long set-up period, Third Eye Blind finally made their way to the stage and played an astounding show. The band played a great mix of old and new songs, performing fan favorites such as "Semi-Charmed Life" and "How's It Gonna Be?", along with a selection of new material from a soon-to-be released CD. After their set was done, the audience called for an encore, and the band gave in, playing three more songs and officially wowing the crowd. Third Eye Blind was definitely worth more than the \$20 it cost to watch them, which was why I was more

than happy to buy a t-shirt from a supply of memorabilia in order to support them.

The only aspect of the night that ruined the show was the audience. Stuck in a crowded gym with no chairs to sit on or put purses or coats on, all participants were hot and sweaty before the show began. The sweat moved from person to person as bodies kept touching due to the limited space. There were even people smoking in the gym. On top of this, people kept moshing, which seemed inappropriately matched with Third Eye Blind's mostly mellow music. The moshing was almost unbearable, as innocent people were being thrown around and hit. One rowdy, dirty audience member was even seemingly rubbing her body against other people on purpose to annoy them. I thought a fight would break out with this girl.

Luckily, Third Eye Blind's stellar performance made up for the unruly audience. With a great set list and definite showmanship, the concert was incredible, and Third Eye Blind is definitely a band that is worth seeing.

"Disturbia" Review

By: Lauren Metjian

In 2007, DreamWorks Productions released the film *Disturbia*, a suspense thriller about one boy's struggle living under constraints of house arrest. In the film, the main character, Kale, lives an average life as a teenage boy until one day when an innocent fishing trip with his father turns fatal. During their drive home, Kale and his father get into a tragic car accident, resulting in his father's death. After that, Kale loses his interest in school, and punches his Spanish teacher for a snide remark made about his deceased father. The result is three months house arrest. Since he is under 18, he is fortunate to not have to go to prison. From then on, he watches the lives of the new girl next door, two young mischievous boys, and the assumed "murderer" in the neighborhood from his window. His imagination leads him to constant trouble with the law, sometimes, escaping the limits of his 100 foot radius, which almost lands him in prison, and adds to his mother's mistrust. Kale, however, is determined to uncover that the man is in fact a murderer. In the end, Kale uncovers the truth, and is granted freedom from his punishment. Although he caused problems, is for the good of society, because he proves that the assumed murderer is in fact guilty of multiple murders.

The film keeps you on your toes and at the edge of your seat, while grasping your attention the whole time. In fact, the plot and storyline are both based on Alfred Hitchcock's 1954 film *Rear Window*, which is also about a man's struggle with his own "house arrest" (although it is due to a leg injury). Since the main character of *Rear Window*, L.B Jeffries, cannot live out the life of his own due to his injury, he is entertained by the people's lives that he spies on.

This film is a great success for Shia LaBeouf's (Kale) acting career. He is most popularly recognized as "Stanley Yelnats" from the film "Holes" in 2003, as well as "Louis Stevens" from the Disney Channel original series "Even Stevens". *Disturbia* has put LaBeouf on the right track for bigger and better opportunities as an actor, and is definitely building his name in the movie industry.

This year, the movie has been nominated for the People's Choice Awards' "Favorite Movie Drama", the Empire Award's "Best Thriller", and has won two Teen Choice Awards' categories for "Choice Movie Actor: Horror/Thriller - Shia LaBeouf" and "Choice Movie: Breakout Male - Shia LaBeouf", overall a great achievement for such a young actor.

CMT Awards Show Impresses Viewers

By: Alison Marshall

Country Music Television hosted its 7th annual Music Awards on Monday, April 14, 2008 at the Curb Event Center in the heart of country life, Nashville, TN.

The night rolled out with a "red carpet special" (which was actually purple) starting at 7:00 PM. Lance Smith and Katie Cook hosted this portion by chatting with the stars as they arrived. Special interviews featured Taylor Swift, Toby Keith, Jewel and many more. The country celebrities appeared in full southern attire, including belt buckles bigger than Texas, heavy accents, and too many cowboy hats to count. Leann Rimes' confidence and humor about her flapper-inspired dress won her the "Dr. Pepper Bold Red Carpet Award." Fans and musicians started becoming anxious as the countdown to the Music Awards started ticking down to just a few minutes.

The Music Awards, hosted by Miley and Billy Ray Cyrus, finally began at 8:00PM. What makes these awards so great is that they are voted on by the fans. This year, four and 1/2 million fans voted, which was a record. The awards were given out in the finest country style, the winners receiving "buckles." The night started out with a comic routine centered on Trace Atkins' search for CMT Music Awards tickets for his family. This skit featured Miley and Billy Ray Cyrus, along with John McCain, Gretchen Wilson, Barack Obama, and Hillary Clinton while they too searched for tickets. It was immediately followed by an energetic performance by Keith Urban with Brooks & Dunn performing "Raise the Barn." Billy Ray opened with calling the CMT Music Awards, "The best night in the world." Country music superstar, Martina McBride, joined the stage to present the first award for "Group Video of the Year." The "buckle" was awarded

to Rascal Flatts for their video "Take Me There." Billy Ray announced that for each winner chosen, \$2, 500 will be given to the winner's favorite charity courtesy of Country Music Television.

Another amazing performance came from Leann Rimes singing "Nothin' Better to Do," which was nominated for "Best Female Video." Following this Taylor Swift made an appearance on stage to present the award for "Breakthrough Video of the Year." She took home the buckle in 2007 and was thrilled to pass it on to her good friend, Kellie Pickler for her video, "I Wonder." Rascal Flatts' "Bop That Head" performance got the entire crowd on their feet, moving to their catchy new single. James Otto kept the audience going, performing his single, "I Just Got Started Lovin' You."

Tom Arnold and Jewel took the stage to introduce Sugarland, who performed the hit 80's song "Life in a Northern Town" along with Little Big Town and Jake Owen. Paula Abdul brought out the next performance which was the married couple, Tim McGraw and Faith Hill, who performed their intimate hit song "I Need You." Kim Daily, from ABC's Private Practice presented the award for female video of the year which Taylor Swift took home for her video, "Our Song." Snoop Dog made a special appearance along side Jason Aldean. The two introduced country inspiration Alan Jackson. Following this, the couple Blake Shelton and Miranda Lambert presented the award for the video collaboration of the year. Bon Jovi and Leann Rimes took home the buckle for their video, "'Till We Ain't Strangers Anymore." Next the two hosts, Miley and Billy Ray, made a special performance of their father-daughter duo,

CMT Music Award Winners

Video of the Year: "Our Song" Taylor Swift

Duo Video of the Year: "Stay" Sugarland

Male Video of the Year: "I Got My Game On" Trace Atkins

Wide Open Country Video of the Year: "Gone, Gone, Gone (Done Moved On)" Allison Krauss and Robert Plant

Collaboration Video of the Year: "'Till We Ain't Strangers Anymore" Bon Jovi ft. Leann Rimes

Female Video of the Year: "Our Song" Taylor Swift

Performance of the Year: "I Wonder" Kelly Pickler

Comedy Video of the Year: "Online" Brad Paisley

Tearjerker Video of the Year: "I Wonder" Kelly Pickler

Supporting Character of the Year: "I Got My Game" Rodney Carrington

Video Director of the Year: "High Maintenance Woman," "I Got My Game On," "Love Me If You Can" Michael Salomon

tear-jerking song, "Get Ready, Set, Don't Go."

Dancing with the Stars participants, Julianne Hough, Josh Star, and Sarah Evans came out to introduce Brad Paisley's performance of "I'm Still a Guy." Tim McGraw and Faith Hill returned to the stage to present the award for "Wide Open Video of the Year," which Allison Krauss and Robert Plant won the award for their song, "Gone, Gone, Gone." More accolades followed including the award for "Male Video of the Year" which country music legend, Reba McEntire presented. In this category, Trace Atkins took the buckle for his video "I Got My Game On."

The already-award-winning

Taylor Swift then performed her new hit single "Picture to Burn." She later won the most prestigious award of the night, "Video of the Year." Sugarland took home another highly honored award, "Duo of the Year."

Other great performances that night came from Toby Keith who sang "She's a Hottie" and Kenny Chesney who sang his hit off his new album, "Never Wanted Nothing More." The new starlet Carrie Underwood wrapped up the show performing her single "All-American Girl." From the purple carpet to the big voices, Country Music Television put on one of its best music awards yet.

Entertainment: A Year In Review

By: Alaina Antonelli

SEPTEMBER 2007

- Singer Britney Spears' lackluster performance at MTV's Video Music Awards draws criticism by all that watched the program. Her "comeback" seems hopeless. Later that same month, she is charged with a hit and run and for driving without a license.
- "Gossip Girl," based on the bestselling book series, premieres on the CW and quickly becomes this season's hot new show.
- 90's pop group the Spice Girls begin a new world tour after a long absence.
- "The OC" actress Mischa Barton is arrested on suspicion of DUI and also possession of marijuana and a controlled substance, along with driving without a valid license.
- Child Welfare investigators visit Britney Spears to look into "child abuse and neglect" allegations.

JANUARY 2008

- It is made public that the movie version of "Sex and the City" will open nationwide in theaters on May 30, 2008.
- Comedian Whoopi Goldberg becomes Rosie O'Donnell's permanent replacement on "The View" after Rosie leaves the show at the end of her contract.
- Australian actor Heath Ledger dies at the age of 28, due to an overdose. Both celebrities and fans everywhere are left mourning and wondering about the release of Ledger's films that were due out later this year.
- Actress Angelina Jolie announces that she is pregnant again and actor Matthew McConaughey makes it public that he is going to be a father, while singer Christina Aguilera welcomes a baby boy and tabloid princess Nicole Richie gives birth to a baby girl.
- The original boy band New Kids on the Block (popular in the 80's) announces plans to begin touring again.
- "Rock of Love", about Poison's lead singer Bret Michaels looking for love, begins its second season on VH1.
- Due to the writer's strike, the Golden Globes are cancelled, as television stars stand by and support the writers.
- Fox debuts the controversial new game show "The Moment of Truth", in which contestants answer true/false questions about the secrets in their lives for big money. People question the morals of the show.
- Famous Italian fashion designer Valentino has his final runway show, as he retires from the business after 45 years.
- Police are called to the home of Britney Spears after a nearly three hour custody standoff with her kids, resulting in Britney being taken away by ambulance. That same month, Kevin Federline gets sole custody of the ex-couple's two children.

OCTOBER 2007

- Actress Pamela Anderson and Rick Solomon (Shannen Doherty's and Paris Hilton's ex) get married. It is Pam's third marriage, and it came quickly after her separation from Kid Rock.
- Actress Reese Witherspoon tells Ellen DeGeneres on the show "Ellen" that she and actor Jake Gyllenhaal had been seeing each other, but denies that they are officially dating.
- Actress Lindsay Lohan leaves rehab after a stint beginning in August of that same year. The actress was eager to get back to work after her months away.
- Britney Spears is booked with charges for her hit and run, but avoids criminal trial. That same month, Britney has to give up custody of her two children, Sean Preston and Jayden James.
- The Red Sox win the World Series. It is their second win in three years.

NOVEMBER 2007

- The writer's strike begins, leaving television viewers without new episodes of their favorite shows for 100 days.
- Disney announces plans to create a "Hannah Montana" movie based on the popular television character.
- Rapper Kanye West's mother, Donda West, dies at the age of 58 during a plastic surgery procedure.

DECEMBER 2007

- Actress Jessica Alba announces that she is pregnant.
- Actress Jamie Lynn Spears (Britney's younger sister) announces that she, too, is pregnant. Her pregnancy starts controversy, due to the fact that the mother-to-be was only 16 years old.
- Indie comedy "Juno", about a teenage girl who finds out she is pregnant, becomes a surprise hit at the box office and also with critics.

Students Write Spring Play

By: Alaina Antonelli

There has been a lot of controversy within the drama community at the high school in past years when discussing the spring play. This is most likely because there has not been one since 2005. This year, with the musical having been moved to the fall, the time has opened up for students to participate in the spring play. But, this isn't the typical play experience. This year, rather than perform a famous production, students will work together to create a show, writing, acting and directing it (along with many other technicalities) on their own, with the help of English and drama teacher, Ms. Peters.

"What we're doing is we're coming together as a group of actors, writers, directors and designers to create a play from the ground up," Ms. Peters explained. By doing writing exercises and warm up activities at practice, students work together to make a show.

Many students were confused when hearing that a prewritten play wouldn't be used for the spring production. According to Ms. Peters, she went through many titles and students didn't seem excited about any one in particular. With such apathy over play choices, a good opportunity arose to allow the different styles from the various plays and students to come together to create something new.

"I think the show will be a mix of comedy and drama about the issues that are important to students at the high school. [Non-drama] students will be more supportive of the other students in the show," says Ms. Peters. She, along with the actors and writers of the production, believe this to be true. "If we write about realistic issues and situations that students can relate to, the show should be much more successful," explained senior Lauren Vincent, a writer and actress in the show.

The approach during rehearsal is even different than during past productions. Rather than taking scenes, rehearsing them to death and then moving on to the next one, the students participating are more in charge of rehearsal. For example, during "the writer's phase", the writers choose which exercises they want to do and create activities. Because the ensemble has gotten to know each other over the past few weeks, they are past the introduction phase and are now "moving onto the meat of the show," Ms. Peters said.

Ms. Peters seems optimistic about this playmaking process, but she is aware that it shouldn't be overdone. "I think that it is a good project to do every few years. Maybe within every four year cycle," she said. She also said, however, that doing the playmaking process limits possibilities for shows, because there aren't enough play opportunities throughout the year. Students would benefit more from performing prewritten plays as well as creating a show of their own.

With this unique approach to the usual play experience, Ms. Peters has many expectations and hopes for the actors, herself and audience alike. "I hope the students get the experience of getting to choose what they want to create theater about, by accepting the challenge and meeting what they want accomplished," she said. "It's a privilege to get to spend the time with the kids when they're being creative." According to Ms. Peters, along with her appreciation for the students' own ideas, the community should appreciate it as well.

This Is Not Easy Listening

By: Sean Taverna

Even though the metal band Bullet for My Valentine is based in Wales, UK, they could probably be heard across the ocean right here in Boston. Their second album, "Scream Aim Fire," was released in March of 2008, and it's loud and fast. They've already started making a name for themselves, with "4 Words (To Choke Upon)", a track from their debut album, The Poison (2006), being featured in the game Madden 06, and this CD is bound to gain some serious attention.

Evolving from catchy choruses,

Bullet sounds harder and faster than before. It sounds like the guitarist took a couple "Guitar Workshop" classes, because his riffs are far more complicated. On their first album some of the best songs would start off slow and dramatic, but on the second album the drums are relentlessly attacked instead. While a couple songs sound kind of "emo" ("Hearts Burst Into Fire"), the album starts off intense and keeps the fast pace going. Fans of Avenged Sevenfold and Killswitch Engage would enjoy this album because of the similar styles, not to say

- now for her bitter divorce from actor Charlie Sheen and then stealing her best friend Heather Locklear's husband, musician Richie Sambora.
- Tabloid favorite Paris Hilton begins dating Benji Madden of Good Charlotte. Hilton is the best friend of Nicole Richie, who has a child with Joel Madden, brother of Benji.
- Lauren Conrad of "The Hills" and "Laguna Beach" comes out with her own clothing line, "The Lauren Conrad Collection".
- Rapper Flavor Flav returns to VH1 a third time with the newest season of his search for true love "Flavor of Love".

MARCH 2008

- Actor Patrick Swayze of "Dirty Dancing" fame announces that he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in January, which is one of the most fatal forms of cancer.
- Singer and actress Jennifer Lopez gives birth to twins, a boy and a girl.
- "Gossip Girl" actor Chace Crawford and "American Idol" winner Carrie Underwood split after six months of dating.
- MTV's hit reality dance competition "America's Best Dance Crew" announces the winning crew is Jabbawockies, beating Boston natives Status Quo.
- The movie "21" which takes place at MIT, and is about college students who learn how to count cards, is released in theaters. It is based on the book Bringing Down the House.
- Heidi Montag of "The Hills" launches her own clothing line (a month after former best friend Lauren Conrad launched hers), entitled "Heidiwood".
- Pamela Anderson and Rick Solomon annul their marriage after six months.
- Singer Madonna is inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

APRIL 2008

- Rapper Jay Z and singer Beyonce get married in a simple celebration. The couple had been dating since 2002.
- Pamela Anderson announces that she, like Denise Richards, has struck a deal with E! Entertainment to film a show based on her life.
- Neil Diamond, whose song "Sweet Caroline" is a staple at Red Sox games, is announced to perform at Fenway Park.
- Thomas Beatie, a transgendered man, becomes famous after an appearance on Oprah announcing his pregnancy due to artificial insemination after his wife was unable to get pregnant. He is then known as "the pregnant man".
- Actor Charlton Heston dies at the age of 85, two years after being diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. The actor was made famous for his role in "Ben Hur" and also the original "Planet of the Apes".

that Bullet doesn't bring something new to the table. The vocals sound like Avenged Sevenfold, and the guitar in some songs ("Take It Out On Me") sounds almost like Metallica. Overall, Scream Aim Fire rocks my socks harder than a washing machine.

Download:
"Waking the Demon"
"Scream Aim Fire"
"End of Days"

Heath Ledger: A Fallen Star

By: Sophie Brown

Born on April 4th, 1979 in Perth, Western Australia Heath Andrew Ledger was the son of a mining engineer and teacher. Though born into a distinguished family that owned an engineering company, from an early age Heath knew he wanted to act. By his teens Ledger was securing himself work in Australian television and films. Ledger's debut role was a homosexual bicyclist on the Australian TV series, *Sweat* in 1996 about people wanting to make it to the Olympics.

It was *10 Things I Hate About You*, a movie adaptation of Shakespeare's play *Taming of the Shrew*, with Julia Styles in 1999 that launched his career. After his role in that, Ledger began being typecast as a teen "hunk", which he did not like. Wanting to escape that fate, he accepted a role in a very serious war drama *The Patriot* (2000).

What followed was an inconsistency of roles, as Ledger started accepting every character role, to avoid being typecast. Some of his roles received praise such as his small role in *Monsters Ball* (2001). Other films he participated in did not receive such praise. One of these was his version of *Ned Kelly* in 2003, which caused some production companies to later hesitate before offering Ledger roles.

Ledger's well-deserved success came in *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) in which he played Ennis Del Mar, a homosexual cowboy alongside Jake Gyllenhaal. For his outstanding performance, *Brokeback Mountain* (2005) was nominated for an Oscar and a British Academy of Film and Television Arts Award.

After a continuously successful and busy career, Heath Andrew Ledger, at the young age of 29 was found dead on January 22nd, 2008 in his apartment in the Manhattan neighborhood of SoHo, New York. A bottle of prescription sleeping pills lay nearby. It was concluded weeks later that he died of an accidental overdose of prescription drugs including painkillers, sleeping pills, and anti-anxiety medication.

Ledger's wide variety of roles are not seen a lot today in actors and his ability to rid himself of that typecast is an accomplishment in itself. Many actors and actresses settle or give up trying to do so. Heath Ledger's many roles will be remembered and his presence in the Hollywood community will be greatly missed.

List of Ledger's Films:

2009: "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" (filming was in progress)
2008: "The Dark Knight"
2007: "I'm Not There"
2006: "Candy"
2005: "Brokeback Mountain"
2005: "Casanova"
2005: "The Brothers Grimm"
2005: "Lords of Dogtown"
2005: "Two Hands"
2004: "Ned Kelly"
2003: "The Order"
2002: "The Four Feathers"
2001: "Monster's Ball"
2001: "A Knight's Tale"
2000: "The Patriot"
2000: "The Art of War"
1999: "10 Things I Hate About You"
1997: "Paws"
1997: "Blackrock"
1992: "Clowning Around"
www.imdb.com

"Superhero Movie" Couldn't Rescue Me From Boredom

By: Robert Stewart

I had high hopes for "Superhero Movie", a film which parodies the superhero genre of films, starring Drake Bell and Leslie Neilson. From the creators of the hilarious "The Naked Gun" and "Scary Movie," this movie wasn't nearly as good.

The movie tells the tale of a high school boy trying to get the girl he has secretly admired for some time to notice him. While on a school field trip, he is bitten by a mutant bug and gains superpowers. While uncomfortable with his newly acquired abilities, he manages to gain the interest of his long-time crush. Amongst saving the city and fighting crime, he struggles to cope with his personal life. Especially when his new girlfriend and his family find themselves in trouble.

Even though I thought this movie was better than recent parody films such as "Date Movie" and "Epic Movie", that's not saying much. This film had a few

funny jokes, but for the most part, jokes were greeted with awkward silence by those in the theatre. This created a very boring atmosphere and about halfway through the movie, I felt as if it couldn't end soon enough. The few jokes that did manage to crack a few smiles were scarce, leaving most people in the theatre suffering through long, boring stretches of film.

The movie tends to rely on a lot of pop culture references in addition poking fun at the superhero genre. In my opinion, this made the movie seem desperate for a few laughs.

"Superhero Movie" just didn't do it for me. I still feel it's better than the recent string of parody movies that have come out in the past few years, but it's just a disappointment when compared to classics like "The Naked Gun" and "Scary Movie".

Pretty Pricey Pizza

By: Sean Taverna

The Upper Crust has some good pizza. It's a new restaurant to Watertown, at 94 Main St. right across from the fire station, but it's not unknown to the Boston area. There are 10 locations in and around the city, and it was awarded "Best of Boston 2005" and "Best of Boston 2006" by *Boston* magazine. Is it better than Cristo's Seven Star Pizza, the restaurant it replaced? The Upper Crust puts Cristo's to shame. Instead of the Greek-style pizza that Cristo's had, the Upper Crust has "an authentic, thin crust Neapolitan style pizza," as the menu describes it.

Where pizza is the restaurant's main focus, the only other foods they serve being lasagna, calzones, and salad. The styles of pizza they have are Pizza Margherita (cheese pizza), white pizza (without tomato sauce), red pizza (without cheese) and pizza made with whole-wheat dough. They have almost 50 different toppings, with many that most other restaurants don't, like banana peppers and chourizo (Brazilian sausage). Their specialty pizzas are named for people and places around Boston, like "The Newbury Street," which has veal, mozzarella cheese, marinara sauce, and basil, and the "Beacon Hill," which has sun-dried tomatoes and eggplant. For slices they offer cheese, pepperoni, or the "Slice of

the Day," featuring different toppings from their menu each day. A good one to try is the "Eggplant and Diced Tomato." The slices are heated up after you order and are given to you within minutes. The pizza tastes fresh and is overall pretty satisfying.

The way the restaurant was built is clever. It's set up so that through the window people can see the eating area on the left and the inside of the kitchen on the right, and when customers go through the door they're walking straight toward the counter. The inside is really clean as well. There are 4 plasma TV's, and the ceiling has rows of pizza pans hanging from it. While staring at the ceiling, WHS senior Wes Voris said, "Dude, it's like UFO's!"

But wait?! What about the price? Be ready to cough up some dough (haha, ya get it?) when going to The Upper Crust. A large 18-inch cheese pizza is \$15, with each topping being \$1.50 extra. Small specialty pizzas are around \$15, and the larges are around \$20. Slices of cheese and pepperoni are \$3, and the "Slice of the Day" is \$3.33. The quantity is as good as the quality though; a slice from The Upper Crust is about twice the size of a slice from another restaurant. Places like Domino's don't taste as good as The Upper Crust (they deliver, too) but the pizza costs about twice as much. The quality and the size make it worth the extra money. Choose wisely.....

Stellina's Review

By: Emily Izzo

There is a quaint little restaurant in Watertown Square that most people tend to walk by and want to try, but they can never remember it. The restaurant, Stellina's, is worth remembering if you want to spend a good chunk of change on mediocre homemade food.

The food was average. The spaghetti and meatballs tasted good, as well as the portabella mushrooms, but the meal was not worth the \$18.00 it costs. Prior to the meal, a bread basket served with hummus was presented to us, which was my favorite part of the meal. With a menu as limited as Stellina's, and prices as expensive as they are, it isn't a worthwhile visit.

The atmosphere should have made up for it. The restaurant was dark and gloomy and very small with a fancy feel. There was dark wood chairs and tables and dimly lit lamps on each table. Although the evening was pleasant, there were a few similar complaints among fellow guests.

Overall, Stellina's is a restaurant worth trying if you're a steak or seafood lover, but if you're looking for a simple meal it is worth skipping. I am happy I tried it, but with such a below par restaurant located next to Not Your Average Joe's, it seems as though Stellina's should be renamed Average Joes's.

Watertown's Annual Art Show

By: Ali Getz

The Watertown Public Schools Art Show has been held for many years. Every year in March and April, the Art show is held at the Watertown Mall. The show displays the work of students at the elementary, middle and high school level. The pieces vary from paintings and collages to mosaics and sculptures. The work is selected by art teachers and, with student permission, submitted to the show. Most students are very willing to enter their work into the show. "There's a lot of really good pieces there, getting to have something put in it is flattering," says junior and student artist Shelby Austin-Manning.

Students, parents, faculty and everyone else in the community are invited to the event to see the extraordinary talent these students possess. The art is displayed on the walls and bulletin boards, labeled with students' names, grades and schools. Some of the art may be deceiving, even the younger artists have turned out some incredibly professional looking pieces of



artwork. Students get to take home their art work after the show to keep at home or in their portfolios at school. The art show took place from March 28th - April 11th, 2008. On the 31st of March, the community was invited to the reception from 6-8 pm where food and refreshments were served.

Do You Want to Be a Top Model?

By: Sarah Ambrogne

The 10th season of America's Next Top Model was turned around completely full of shocking series firsts. Not only did the competition go back to its roots of New York City, when it previously took place in Los Angeles, Tyra Banks also opened up the competition to more girls than usual.

The crazy, mouth opening moments of the show started on the season premiere, when at the last moment Tyra had decided she would open up a 14th spot for an aspiring model, Dominique, who in the end made it to the top four. What the judges didn't know that on the second night, at their first judging, one models, Stacey, decided to leave because she just "wasn't into fashion". During their once in a lifetime runway show in New York City she decided that paying hundreds of dollars was absurd and she wanted nothing to do with it.

Also, during that first night of judging, Tyra introduced that someone would be taking the place of the beloved judge Twiggy, who had been a part of the show since season five. Out came the former supermodel Paulina Porizkova, who seemed sweet and innocent but was

tough when it came time to judge the girls, quite opposite of Twiggy.

The season was filled with crazy moments with first time models and heated competition but no one will forget the history marking moment of the winner of America's Next Top Model, season ten. The final two came down to Anya, a very high-fashion looking model, and Whitney, the full-figured model, the first to make it this far in the competition. Tyra stood in front of the two girls, and everyone watching held their breath right before the announcement. "And America's Next Top Model is," Tyra said slower than ever, "Whitney!"

It was an inspiring moment to see the first, deserving 'full-figure' model win the entire competition. Not only does she make a statement that a model doesn't need to starve herself and girls can look up to someone with curves, she was also beautifully photographed throughout the entire competition. Congratulations to Whitney, and there goes another season of the reality TV show favorite, America's Next Top Model.

Local Author Visits Watertown High School

By: Sophia Brown

On March 14, 2008 in the Watertown High School lecture hall, local author Rishi Reddi read a piece of her short story "Lord Krishna" from her book Karma and Other Stories. In this story, a teenager of Indian descent is understandably offended by his teacher who used a picture of the Hindu deity as a picture of Satan to the class. The teenager, Krishna is hurt and embarrassed by this and eventually told his parents who still follow their Hindu beliefs even after leaving their home country when they came to America.

After reading part of this story, Reddi asked the audience, consisting of Watertown High School students, teachers and administrators what they thought they would do if put in the situation that Krishna from her story was in. After some hesitation, some spoke up and expressed their thoughts. Even though people had different answers, the general consensus was that they would be offended but were not certain as to what they would or would not do in response.

"I'm really happy with the way the reading turned out," says WHS English teacher, Mrs. Honig. "I have been to a lot of readings but have never been to one in which the author interacted with the audience in the way Rishi Reddi interacted with my students. She asked questions about what we thought motivated her characters. She really engaged many of us in a discussion of one of her stories."

Born in Hyderabad, India and growing up in England as well as the United States, Reddi knows a lot about different cultures. This knowledge is shared in her short stories and in doing so she created her own mini genre in which she is able to tell a story. Reddi's writing gives insight into the lives of those from different countries, religions, beliefs, or cultures who now live in the United States.

Writing books is not Rishi Reddi's only profession. As a graduate of Swarthmore College and Northeastern University of Law, she has been a lawyer for the Massachusetts Secretary of Environment, an enforcement attorney for the state and federal environmental protection agencies. It was at Swarthmore College that Reddi met Mrs. Honig, Watertown High School English and Humanities teacher. It was her friendship with Reddi that made her visit possible. "If I had not gone to college with Reddi, the truth is I probably would not have asked her to come to WHS. There are not too many writers that take time out of their lives to come speak to high school students. Knowing Rishi made it easier for me to ask her," said Honig.

Reddi's work has in no way



Photo by: Malcolm Cooke
Author Rishi Reddi speaks to WHS students.

gone unnoticed. Some of her recognition for her writing was in 2004 when she received an Individual Artist's Grant from the Massachusetts Cultural Council, her stories from her book, Karma and Other Stories have appeared in literary review publications such as *The Harvard Review*, *Prairie Schooner*, and the *Louisville Review*, just to name a few. Reddi's work can also be found in the Best American Short Stories 2005.

At the end of her reading, a student asked Reddi if she made a lot of money from her books, to which she gave a friendly laugh and said that she probably makes about one dollar for every book sold. From this, it is easy to see that she writes for pleasure and not to make money and that it takes more than just the love of writing to get published. Needless to say, the success of her writing shows that hard work does indeed pay off.

When asked about how she felt about Rishi Reddi's visit to Watertown High School, Mrs. Honig replied, "Reddi did an excellent job taking the pulse of the students at the reading. She read in an animated way, asked very thought provoking questions, and spoke about her writing. The only thing I would have liked would have been more time. I hope that we will be lucky enough to have her come back next year."

The Yellow Dress Returns to WHS WHS takes action to prevent dating and domestic violence

Press Release:

A recent *Journal of the American Medical Association* article found that one in five girls are victims of dating violence. Students, administrators and faculty at Watertown High School are working to prevent the problem of dating violence in our school. Students saw *The Yellow Dress*, a powerful and dramatic one-woman play with music. *The Yellow Dress* was performed at Watertown High School on Monday, April 15, 2008. The play and the required follow-up discussion raises awareness about relationship abuse. WHS PTSO brought the program to young people at Watertown High School in an effort to prevent dating and domestic violence. "This program will help students (community members/parents) identify the warning signs of abusive behaviors, understand the unique aspects of teen dating violence, and learn how to help friends and family members and develop school community awareness of the issue," said the actress. "Our hope is to develop a school and community culture that does not endorse, promote or accept violence in relationships."

The Yellow Dress program is produced and directed by Deana's Educational Theater, a non-profit organization based in Stoneham, MA that is dedicated to promoting healthy relationships. Deana's Educational Theater was established in 1994 after the death of Deana Brisbois, a young woman from Topsfield MA who was a victim of dating violence. The organization provides theater and arts-based educational programs to schools and communities around the United States.

According to Sher Quaday, Executive Director of Deana's Educational Theater, *The Yellow Dress Program* is a good first step to developing an effective dating violence prevention program. "Schools report that the program has both an immediate and long-term effect on students. *The Yellow Dress* is an incredibly powerful performance. It is a great tool, and when used together with a curriculum and other school and community efforts, it has great potential to effectively reduce the incidence of teen dating violence."

SENIOR WEEK

MAY 29....SLIDE SHOW AND ICE CREAM SOCIAL
MAY 30....YEARBOOK BREAKFAST AND WALL PAINTING
JUNE 2....SENIOR PROM AT DANVERSPORT
JUNE 4....KIMBALL'S OUTING
JUNE 6....GRADUATION AND ALL-NIGHT PARTY



Photo by: Malcolm Cooke
English Teacher Joanna Honig poses with college friend Rishi Reddi after her lecture.

Opinion

Universal Healthcare- Helpful or Hurtful?

By: Rachel Pano

With the recent presidential nominations taking place, the question of universal healthcare has risen to new heights.

Some people feel that universal healthcare would not only be bad for the economy, but that it would harm the quality of healthcare as well. As the American economy worsens, would a leap in taxes be too hard on the nation?

It has been noted that already many of America's best and brightest, who would have chosen to become doctors 20 years ago, are choosing to go into business instead of medicine. This significant shift in to non-medicine related jobs is due to the decrease in doctors' income in relation to the increase in educational expenses, rising malpractice insurance premiums and ever increasing malpractice suits with enormous settlements.

If universal healthcare is instated, doctors' salaries will drop even more and America will lose its standing as one of the world's leading providers of high quality healthcare. "[Instating universal health care would] be socialist, and we're a capitalist country," said Gabriela D'Amico, a junior

at Watertown High School. The change, although beneficial in theory, could have a catastrophic outcome.

Even so, there are others who support universal healthcare because it ensures that everyone would receive health coverage. "I'm a little skeptical about how it could affect the economy, but I still think it's a good thing, despite the potential strain," said Tova Kornfeld, a student teacher in the history department. "I think [universal healthcare] can guarantee healthcare and protection for those typically unable to afford it."

True though that may be, one false move could ruin American healthcare. "I think all United States citizens should be allowed to have free healthcare," said Satenik Karapetyan, a senior at Watertown High School, "but it has to be done in a way where people can keep track of who's getting it, who's not getting it, who should be getting it, who shouldn't be getting it."

Universal healthcare is becoming an increasingly prominent subject in the current presidential race. As the U.S. contemplates universal healthcare, every American needs to assess exactly what they are willing to risk.

No Bake Sales: Only Cultural Experiences

By: Sarah Ambrogne

No Halloween dance, no Mardi Gras dance, no bake sale, it's senior year! How do we make our money? The 'no bake sale' rule was a heart break to all students who looked for a tasty treat on Fridays while supporting school clubs and organizations. The 'no bake sale' rule is followed. They are not allowed it is understood but students are upset about the one exception.

The Armenian Club has had two 'Cultural Experiences' this year which do not differ at all from bake sales held in the past. During the school day they set up a table selling Armenian food for students to buy but why are they the only exception? When going around the school to interview fellow students not one could tell the difference between a bake sale and cultural experience, except for the name. The students understand that it's a nice way to learn about another culture, but isn't that what 'Diversity Day' is for?

"It's really unfair. No one group should be allowed to have a bake sale when no one [else] can, no matter the reason," said senior Robert Stewart. There are so many other important clubs, like the Armenian Club, that were turned down

and denied the right to have a bake sale. Who is to say one club is more important and in more financial need than others? In our public school we are taught to treat everyone equally, that we are all different but yet, the same. If this school wants to have a 'Cultural Experience', all cultures should be included, not just one.

"The Armenian club is a school group, just like all the others," said Sean Taverna, also a senior, "other clubs should be able to do bake sales, too."

This is not an opinion against the Armenian club and what it stands for; it is a stand for other clubs and cultures to have an equal opportunity to raise money. If Invisible Children or the girls hockey team want to have a 'Cultural Experience', then they should be allowed to as well as the Armenian club.

Our school has so many ethnicities and cultures throughout the grades, why are we limited to just one 'Cultural Experience' a year? It just does not seem fair that one club could find a way around the 'no bake sale' rule and all others must find another way to raise money. The rule states - 'no bake sales', and that is the way it should be.

Senior Study Truly is a Life Saver

By: Joey Paulino

I believe every senior should include a study in his or her schedule. Being a senior privilege, only seniors are allowed to leave during either first period study or last period study. It gives more time to rest from school and, if you have friends in the study, gives you more time to hang out.

Senior study helps relieve the stress of school. Just knowing that you leave early almost everyday is relieving. Every year, seniors have loads of work to do such as, senior thesis, college essays, and college applications and for some, SAT's.

Indoors or Outdoors?

By: Robert Stewart

Graduation is probably the most memorable experience of anyone's high school career. Watertown High School is like most other high schools in the area in the sense that we usually hold graduation ceremonies outdoors, weather permitting. However, when the forecast calls for rain, graduation takes place in the hot, muggy gym.

Many students, such as senior Alaina Antonelli, feel this dulls the experience. "I've been to two indoor ones and two outdoors ones and the outdoor ones have always been a better experience," she said.

I can understand why. Our gym is always hot and humid, and overcrowding it with people certainly won't help.

There are some seniors that miss out. A few seniors that signed up for study had a fifth period study because of class restrictions and don't get to leave. Although, being one period off of leaving everyday is kind of annoying, it isn't all that bad. Having a study in general gives you some down time and can let you get some extra work done.

I believe everyone should have a senior study, as long as they are seniors. One of the few privileges seniors have should be exercised as much as possible to reduce stress and help cool down.

Outdoors just seems like the traditional way to hold graduation ceremonies. "It's really nice outside," said senior Emily Izzo. "I feel like more people will enjoy it."

"I feel bad for the P.T.A. because if there's an indoor graduation, they have to take down graduation decorations in the gym to put up the All-Night Party decorations in the same day," senior Sarah Ambrogne pointed.

I'd rather have a rain date than an indoor graduation. I just don't think graduation would be the same in the school gym. I'd much rather receive my diploma at Victory Field, even if the ceremony was rescheduled due to rain, than in our school gym.

Informal Class Meetings

By: Erin Kazizian

When it comes to class meetings, events and trips are discussed but the finer details of high school life do not always seem to be the topic at hand. For more in-depth matters, junior and senior meetings are usually best-suited. They do not usually last more than an hour, though guidance counselors are always willing to put in the effort no matter how long it takes; undoubtedly a plus for people who like to ask a lot of questions.

In junior year, it is often easy to brush off the lurking feeling of having to schedule a meeting. Making a meeting that must coincide with two schedules is often a task in itself. There will be people that think that somehow things will work out with or without a meeting and people who responsibly and promptly schedule a meeting. If there are those like me-and of course, there undoubtedly are some of those in the former rather than the latter-junior meetings were either not an idea whatsoever, or something that was brilliantly put-off until senior year. For all scary sentiments which they exude, the meetings really aren't bad. Until senior year, I had not had the foggiest idea of where I was going to apply for college, or if I was even going to go to college. Yet, it is May and a college is waiting for my arrival in September.

The easiest way to go about the meetings is to make an appointment, and make sure to get a hall pass. In addition, it is important to let your teacher know if you will be absent from class for the period; both the teacher and the student gain from this. Then make sure to bring all questions along, as they are absolutely necessary since the meeting becomes pointless

without them! As a junior, prospective colleges and standardized testing should be on the agenda, whereas seniors should be finalizing all standardized testing, asking about all deadlines, and not be hesitant to ask questions. Even if "a million people" have asked a question first, if you do not understand the duty is no one's but your own to find out the answer, so do not be shy! No question should be embarrassing enough to not have it be asked.

Standardized testing has a way of being tricky sometimes, especially when you need to make sure to sign up for the right test. A word to the wise: all SAT language tests with listening can only be taken once a year during the fall session, so sign up while you can! As difficult as the senior thesis is, it is incredibly important not to fall behind with any due dates, because it will not become any easier if it is put off longer than its original date. The guidance counselors and Mrs. Conway would really appreciate it if college, FAFSA, and scholarship deadlines are made a top priority. Although most applications are still accepted under the condition that the postmark is the day of or before the deadline, make every effort to send all applications out by their due date.

Finally, something all guidance counselors would readily say, relax, because all things come with time, and as long as all of the deadlines and testing have been completed properly, there should be nothing to worry about! Just remember to be organized and write things down! Retrospect is always the clearest way to think. The problem is that it has already happened, so take the advice and make the meetings.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of Watertown High School or the "Raider Times" staff.

Don't Boycott the Olympics

By: Clara Gibbons

I got back very recently from a trip to China, and now that I'm home, everyone asks me what the most interesting thing to see there was. Well, it wasn't the Great Wall, or the Terra Cotta Warriors, or the Forbidden City- not for me. For me, the most interesting thing to see in China was how incredibly prominent the Olympics were. The Olympics were everywhere; personified by five animal figures and then spread across the entire country in schools, parks, magazines, stores, subways- the list goes on and on. Not only were the Olympics ubiquitous, they were also an obvious source of national pride for the Chinese people I met.

It seems that when people criticize China and call for a boycott of the Olympics, they forget that a country's people can be very different from its government. It is not the average Chinese person who commits the offences so many Westerners are angry about (they aren't personally supporting genocide in Darfur, they aren't imprisoning anyone they feel is against the government). So, when people from outside of China call for a boycott, the Chinese people are hurt and insulted. If they haven't done anything wrong, why do "foreigners" want to take away one of their largest sources of national pride? The Olympics aren't just about giving the Chinese government a big honor, they are about giving China- and the Chinese people- a big honor.

And believe me, for the Chinese, it IS an honor. China has a history of being at odds with the West, from Opium Wars with Europe to acts passed in America that excluded the majority of Chinese immigration to the US. When China won the bid for the 2008 Olympics, it was as though the West was finally admitting that China is a modern country and is on its way to becoming a major world power. Now, the protests and proposed boycotts are like a refusal of that, like the West abandoning China once again as "inferior".

Oh, I know about China's record just as well as the next person. The government has a very bad habit of killing everyone it's the least bit frightened of, factories and sweatshops have absolutely deplorable working conditions, Tibet is trying to separate itself but can't, China is supporting the genocide in Darfur... If one was to take a quick look at the issues, it's easy to see why so many people are calling for a boycott of the Olympics. But before you decide to hold that opinion, take a step back and ask yourself: What would

boycotting actually accomplish? Would it really make any of these issues better?

I doubt it very much and am highly skeptical of the good that boycotting would do. Let's just imagine that Bush changes his mind about the boycott and that the US decides not to participate in the Beijing Olympics. Where would we be then? Well...

China would still have very close ties to the United States because of our business with each other. But the relationship between the average Chinese and average American would be far more strained, with the Chinese feeling patronized and insulted and the American feeling morally superior in some way. As for government policy in China, it wouldn't be very different. The CCP isn't going to suddenly become democratic and free all of its political prisoners, boycott or no boycott. Currently, in fact, the more other countries criticize China and call for a boycott, the more the Chinese group around their party and follow its leadership. And in this version of the future, the US is far less likely to influence China after the Olympics are over. We will have lost China's trust, and it'll be a while before we get our next chance to win it back.

Now let's look at what might happen if we go to the Olympics. As with the previous model, business will remain strong between China and the US. But unlike if we boycott, relationships between the average Chinese and average American will be stronger. China will remember America's loyalty and will- I assume- be grateful. With this increased trust between the two countries, China will be more likely to listen to what America will say. Though there will not be any overnight changes, policies will be influenced slowly but surely, and friendships will continue to be built up. America has an annoying tendency to think it can insult countries and then change the countries' policies- this idea is wrong. If the US wants to change the Chinese government, it must gain the respect of China first.

So yes, China has a bad record, and yes, it might make you feel good to call for a boycott of its Olympics. But if you want to help change that record, not just embarrass and insult the Chinese people, don't boycott. It's not about whether or not you approve of China's record- I don't know anyone who does. It's about whether you want a temporary feeling of moral superiority or a lasting job of encouraging China, not condemning it.

The only way to deal is to sleep, which a lot of people couldn't do. Also, the smog in China was horrible. Sometimes it was really hard to breathe without coughing.

Q: Are you happy with how it was organized?

A: The trip was really well done. I'm very impressed with EF Tours. Our tour guide Li Jun (John) was amazing and made sure none of us got lost somewhere in China.

Q: Did you get to meet the locals? How was that?

A: It was so much fun meeting locals. The kids were very respectful and wouldn't look us in the eyes. They were shy and very sweet. The people in the markets were uninhibited. While two of our chaperones were trying on jeans,

Too Much Pressure from the Press?

By: Sophia Brown

Lurking in the bushes and camping out in cars, the paparazzi has become a notorious predator in Los Angeles, CA that will stop at nothing to capture its prey-celebrities. The aggressive photographers, newscasters and journalists, have become a serious problem in Los Angeles and a new press law was proposed to improve this current situation.

A new press law was proposed by Los Angeles, CA City Councilman Dennis Zine last month. This law is often referred to as either the "Anti-Stalkerazzi" or "Anti-Paparazzi" law was originally proposed in the year of 1998 but it was not brought up again after the year 2005.

While the aggressive tactics of the paparazzi have always been a problem and more often than not threaten the safety of others, it was Britney Spears's latest incident that caused people to acknowledge it and was, according to Zine, "the final straw."

On January 31st, Britney Spears struggled to leave her (Los Angeles) home safely when her ambulance was surrounded by photographers and ended up having to be escorted by police cars and helicopters to the hospital. In addition to significantly compromising her health in this emergency, the transportation used cost Los Angeles taxpayers around \$25,000.

This new proposal is intended to protect celebrities when they travel around Los Angeles. "If we think back a few years, Princess Diana was driving down the road, paparazzi chasing her (limousine). A crash occurred, Princess Diana died. I don't want to see that happen here in Los Angeles," said Zine recalling the tragic death of Princess Diana (1997).

In emphasizing that Britney was not the reason for proposing this law Zine said, "It's not going to be called the 'Britney Spears Law', I am not going to give her credit for that because it is not about Britney Spears, it's about the paparazzi violating everybody else's rights, freedoms, and privileges."

The proposed anti-paparazzi law

would make it a Federal crime to chase someone in a way that risks bodily harm in an effort to photograph or record in any way the person for commercial purposes would result in a mandatory prison sentences. At least a 20-year sentence in the case of a death and at least 5 years in the case of physical injury. In addition to incarceration, a paparazzo is liable for three times the damages they inflict and, lose any payments their published photos might earn. The publisher(s) may be liable as well.

In eliminating any possible loopholes in the potential law, the definition of trespassing will be changed; making a photographer's use of a telephoto lens grounds for a civil trespassing suit if the pictures could not otherwise be taken without setting foot on private property.

There is debate among the legislation regarding First Amendment rights, freedom of speech and freedom of the press, and if imposing such a law would be a violation of them. In response to this, Erwin Chemerinsky, a leading constitutional law professor said that there is no constitutional right to reckless endangerment or to trespass. The city council will now debate whether stars should be viable for protection by City Hall but it has not been announced when they will make the final decision.

Regardless of the decision made, what does it say about society when someone of minor cultural significance like Britney Spears contributes to the possible enactment of a significant law?

Is there something wrong when a society becomes so celebrity obsessed and intrigued by the shortcomings, tragedies, and accomplishments of others that it has become okay to violate, terrorize, or hurt the people of interest in the process? The world as a whole may never have an answer to any of these questions but if this new law is passed, we know that at least we will have a better idea of where the state if California stands on this pressing issue.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of Watertown High School or the "Raider Times" staff.

Q and A with Rachel Pano, China Visitor

By: Satenik Karapetyan

Q: What did you think of the trip?

A: The trip was amazing. Many times, when people ask me about it, I am at a loss for words. It was life changing.

Q: What was your favorite part, the best day?

A: My favorite part would have to be going to the schools and into the markets where I could witness the culture. It's so different from ours.

Q: Was there anything you didn't like about the trip?

A: The plane ride was traumatizing. You hear about people who have taken it and you figure, "no problem, it will be tough but I can take it." Then your six hours in and you realize you're not even half done. Some kids cried, some vomited, and I started to feel increasingly claustrophobic.

the woman selling the jeans spanked a chaperone and said, "Very Sessy (Sexy)!"

Q: What was the hardest thing you had to deal with?

A: The plane ride. That and food. I don't eat red meat and I try to avoid fat and sodium because I'm a health freak. Needless to say, I ate a lot of rice.

Q: What did you think of the food? It's usually said that Chinese food in America is very different from the food in China.

A: The food was very different, but sometimes, when the restaurants found out a bunch of American school kids were coming, they'd bring out French fries and sweet and sour meats. We ate a lot of bok choy, eggplant, meats, and rice. Lots and Lots of rice...more rice than anyone should ever eat.

Q: Would you return to China in the future? Why or Why not?

A: I know that I will return to China someday. I loved the scenery and the people. You'd be surprised how many attractive Asian guys there are!

Q: Would you recommend others to go in the future?

A: I would definitely recommend this trip to others! It was fun and at the same time a learning experience. China is quickly becoming a world power and America is borrowing millions of dollars from it to pay for the war in Iraq. It's essential to understand China, and the best way to understand a country and the people is to visit.

Sports

Senior Feature Athletes

Compiled by: Jackie Dupuis

Will Steadman

Senior Will Steadman serves up more than points on the tennis court. The MIT bound senior also takes challenging AP courses and still manages to get straight A's. Well known around school for his tall height and intelligent demeanor, Steadman also has a passion for tennis.

After having played soccer for most of his life, four years ago Steadman decided to take a hit at tennis. Instantly falling in love with the sport, he realized that tennis may possibly be something, other than academics, that he could excel at. "In tennis the best shot is the overhead and since I'm tall I can smash it," says Steadman.

As a member of the boys' varsity tennis team, Steadman does his best to balance school and athletics. Along with his rigorous academic schedule and involvement in the school band, Steadman does admit it's hard to find a medium between the two. Missing quite a few practices last season, "this year I made sure nothing conflicted with tennis," explained Steadman. Placing tennis at the top of his busy schedule during the months of March through June, Will Steadman is able to spend time with friends while playing the sport he enjoys.

Tennis is a way for Steadman to put the books away for a couple of hours



and concentrate on something that does not pertain to academics. Even though he plays for fun, Steadman is still contemplating the idea of continuing tennis in college, "since I'm going to MIT, I'm pretty sure I can make the team, but we'll see," says Steadman.

Already an accomplished scholar, there is surely more to come from Will Steadman both academically and athletically. Already accepted and planning to attend MIT for this coming fall, there is no doubt that Will Steadman will continue to serve up his straight A's in college.

Noah Jefferson

The class of 2008 salutatorian, Noah Jefferson, has accomplished more than just earning good grades throughout his high school career. This Tufts University bound senior was a four-year member of the varsity cross-country and wrestling teams, and also served as a co-captain for each team during his senior year.

"I have been wrestling for 7 years," said Jefferson. First introduced to wrestling in sixth grade, Jefferson knew that it would be an activity he would enjoy. A three-year member on the middle school wrestling team, Jefferson then brought his knowledge of the sport to the high school team.

Even though most are unfamiliar with his accomplishments, Jefferson has earned quite a few. This past season, he placed fifth at the Division Three State Meet and also qualified to wrestle in the All-States, a first in Watertown wrestling history. Over the course of his four years on the wrestling team, Jefferson has won 100 matches, an achievement that has gone unnoticed by many. Quietly making his way to the top, it is Jefferson's drive to excel that has aided in his success both on and off the mat.

"It is the motivation to win and be a champion," says Jefferson, which has helped him become an accomplished wrestler and scholar. Even though he



excels on the cross-country course as well, Jefferson says that wrestling is by far his favorite sport.

Unfortunately for Noah Jefferson, Tufts University does not have a wrestling team. However, Jefferson says that he "will continue to help the Watertown team," acting as a volunteer coach, while attending college. As far as running goes, Jefferson is sure to continue the lifelong activity for years to come.

Whether he is excelling in the classroom or working his way up the ranks to be second in his senior class of over 200 students, Noah Jefferson is sure to gain recognition. After earning one hundred victories in wrestling, one can be sure that Noah Jefferson will be able to conquer the academics at Tufts University next fall as well.

Emilie DeBaie

Kicking, dribbling and sprinting her way to success, senior, Emilie DeBaie first displayed her versatile athletic abilities at a young age.

Introduced to soccer at the age of five, it was instantly evident that the sport was a new passion. Interested in pursuing other athletic options, "I started playing basketball when I was in third grade," she recalls. Enjoying the exercise of running, and motivated to stay in shape for soccer and basketball, DeBaie continues that she then "began track in [the] seventh grade."

Other than basketball, soccer and track, DeBaie has also participated in softball and ice hockey. However, realizing that the other three sports were where she possessed the most talent, DeBaie stopped playing softball and ice hockey before entering high school.

Days, months and years of practice later, senior Emilie DeBaie is approaching the final lap of her outstanding athletic career. No stranger to the competitive world of athletics, she has served as one of the captains on the soccer, basketball and track teams. DeBaie has also been recognized as a Middlesex League All-Star on more than one occasion in all three sports.

Not only a talented athlete on the soccer field and basketball court, but DeBaie has also sprinted her way into the record books for track. In 2006, she broke the Watertown High School outdoor track record in the one mile with a time of 5:28.5. As if this was not enough, she also broke the record in the two mile with a time of 12:33.3 in the same season. Her other accomplishments include the award of Top Freshman in 2005, as well as Top Distance runner both her sophomore and junior years. When asked what her favorite sport is, DeBaie quickly responds, "either soccer or basketball, but if Mastro is reading this [article] it is track!"

As her high school athletic career comes to an end, there is still one memory that remains: the 2007-2008 basketball season. Why, one might ask? The answer is simple. "We had so much fun, plus we won a tournament game," says DeBaie.

After playing sports for so many years, Emilie DeBaie has learned the importance of time management. "I find it very easy to balance sports and school because I have been doing it for so long," she says. Enrolled in courses at the AP and honors levels, she still finds time to make the honor roll in addition to her other accolades.

With the deadline for college decisions fast approaching, DeBaie knows one thing for sure, "I definitely will play one of the three [sports] in college, whether it be intramural or varsity," she says.



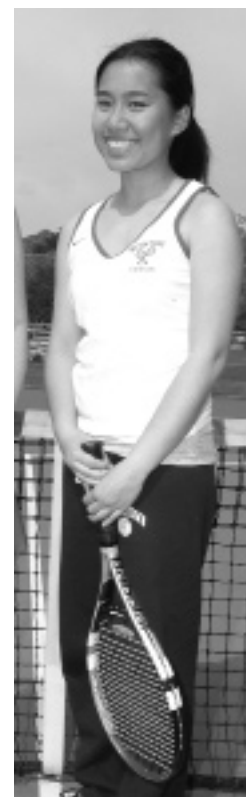
Judy Choy

Whether she is on the tennis or volleyball court, senior Judy Choy is sure to be serving up an impressive game. The college bound senior only started playing both sports in high school and has been improving ever since.

Unlike most athletes who have been playing sports their whole lives, Choy's athletic career began just four years ago. "I have been playing tennis only since freshman year and volleyball only since last year when the school started the "club" team," she says. Even though she has not been playing for a long time, she still possess the same amount of talent as other veteran competitors.

After only two seasons of volleyball, Choy has already earned accolades. Honored as a North-Shore League All-Star for the 2007 volleyball season, she also served as one of the team's captains. Choy also continues her leadership role on the tennis court as well, serving as a co-captain for the varsity girls team.

This multi-sport participant states that tennis is by far her favorite. "I love



it. There is no day that I wouldn't want to play," she states. During the months of March through June, Choy is on a tight schedule balancing orchestra, school and tennis. However, "playing a sport really helps me stay on track in school," she says. It is Choy's ability to balance extracurricular activities and academics that has landed her an acceptance at Boston University this fall.

As Choy's debut as a Watertown High School athlete comes to a close, she states that there is the possibility of continuing athletics at the next level. "I will definitely try to play intramural tennis in college. Volleyball possibly," she says. Choy states that "tennis is a life long sport.

You can play until way into your 70's," and whether or not she decides to play competitively in college, one can bet she will still continue to play for fun.

Congratulations to all WHS athletes on a great year!