

The Raider Times

New Year's Issue

Watertown High School

January 26, 2009

Parking Plagues Students

By: Maddy Herzog

As student parking tickets pile up, local residents become frustrated, and vandalism crimes ensue, student parking is becoming a prominent and familiar topic of discussion at Watertown High School. Parking spots near the high school for student drivers have always been a precious commodity, but this year, students are struggling more than ever with construction on Spring Street eliminating over fifty parking spots. The rewiring project on this crucial side street is expected to take at least another month.

"We don't have student parking and that's the reality," declared Principal Nofsker. "There's just no space," says Watertown Police Officer Ken Swift. "With about 700 students in the school and almost half driving, it's very difficult. There's just not a lot of parking." Many students are enraged over receiving parking tickets for violating the "No Parking from 7 AM to 9 AM" signs found on several side streets, including Marion, Marshall, and Katherine. "I receive about five or six complaints every couple of weeks from tenants on those streets, complaining about not being able to get out of their



driveways or traffic jams, etc." explains Swift. Students fervently object, demanding where else are they supposed to park. Some WHS

seniors commented that if residents are

so annoyed with these everyday high school necessities, they shouldn't have chosen to live in their present location.

Within the past week, some WHS drivers have protested the situation through vandalism. Eight "No Parking" signs on Marion Street, and a couple more near the teacher parking lot, were spray-painted an angry, opaque, black. According to Officer Swift, the incident is "still under investigation."

Absorbed in hectic high school lives full of long school days, homework, and extracurriculars, it is frustrating for students to have to struggle every morning just to find parking for school. "Sometimes it takes me over ten minutes to park my car and walk, so I end up being late to school," says Senior Liz Russo. Senior Cory Stockmal says, "Something needs to change. They keep taking away parking places but won't provide new ones. Faculty doesn't complain because they have their own lot, but we have been walking up and down hills for the past couple of months now."

The school administration and town officials' only suggestion is to park in the parking lot at Victory Field and walk to the high school. "It seems to be the only logical option," explains Officer Swift. "No parking restrictions will be enforced there. [Students] won't be bothered." Although a five-block walk through snow and sleet on a frigid winter morning does not sound appealing, it may be the only option for student drivers at Watertown High School.

"I'll be happy to talk to students and even help them individually," offers Swift. "Unfortunately there isn't a perfect solution here."

WHS Alumni Panel

By: Julia Brennan

The second period bell rang on Tuesday, December 23rd and Mr. McDermott's voice came over the loud speaker telling all of the seniors to report to their second period class before they went down to the gym. About five minutes later, the class of 2009 was seated on the bleachers (the same ones that the senior class occupies during the pep-rallies) and waited for the members of the class of 2008 to start speaking about their first semester out of high school.

Among the returning alumni were Laura Dickerson, Emilie DeBaie, Carlo Fierimonte, Jackie Dupuis and many other members of last year's class. They were seated in front of the bleachers waiting for Mr. McDermott to start asking questions.

Questions ranged from basic introductions to personal stories from many of the individual students. Most of the students said they live in doubles (rooms that are for two people), but there were a few that live in singles, and triples (although unforeseen situations

caused one triple to become a double).

"What was it like living away?" Mr. McDermott asked and most of the kids said that it was hard at first but they got used to it and now they all like it. So just because it took some getting used to does not mean that you should give up so easily. In fact, most of them like living away now.

Food was another big topic. As is the case for all different schools, some schools have good food and some students said their school food was less desirable. It really does depend on the school. UMass Amherst students said that their school has very good food and had won awards that only restaurants had won, so it was not all bad.

"Be prepared for anything," was their general advice. Roommates can be anybody and may be different than the people you grew up with. Roommate horror stories ranged from people talking on the phones all the time, to constantly having their girlfriends over, and to being exclusive. So

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Another Senior Victory

By: Liz Russo



The Senior Powder Puff team enthusiastically celebrates another victory.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

On Wednesday, November 26th, it got intense as the senior girls played the junior girls in the third annual Powder Puff Game. The juniors tried to put up a fight, but the Senior girls were just too good to let go of a win.

"They were just outmatched and we came ready to play," senior coach Justin Forman stated when talking about the game. Coach Al Anzaldi said, "It was the easiest win in my four year career. David Woodland, Steve Jewers and Kris Stinehart did not know we were coming for them." The Seniors won with the a score of 18-6 - impressive for only having one practice.

"That's all we needed," coach Cory Stockmal stated when talking about the lack of practices the team held before the big game. The senior girls had a strong team of athletics and had many threats in their offensive and defensive lines. Taylor Connors was the senior quarterback for the team, giving out two passes ending in touchdowns, and running the ball in herself, too. On defense, senior Elizabeth Russo was nominated to be MVP for the senior team. Coach Kyle Stockmal stated,

"Her ability to grab the flags was outstanding." Senior Anthony Alberico who was cheering on the seniors from the sidelines said, "she reminded me of myself on the football field."

The senior coaches put together an all-star team and the girls came ready to play. They had prepared plays and knew them well, which helped outmaneuver the juniors in reaching the end zone. "Our superior coaching was what won us the game," says coach Kyle Stockmal, "but we all know it was also the team's hard work and dedication that paid off in the end."

The Junior girls did put up a good fight with Brittany Obi-Tabot as the team's quarterback, giving the team one touchdown pass to junior Kelsey Prendergast, the only person to be able to slip through the seniors' defensive line.

"We were glad to go out with a victory!" all four coaches said while reminiscing on the game. This is the seniors' third consecutive win, lets hope the juniors will step up their game and claim a forth year win for the seniors in next year's Powder Puff Game.



Senior all-stars, Courtney Hopkins (Left) and Taylor Connors, help lead the team to victory

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

Duggan Tests Student Will

By: Mane Harutyunyan

For the past month or so, thoughts of rotational inertia, angular speed and centripetal acceleration have been consuming the minds of ninth grade students in Mr. Duggan's honors physics class. Students were required to build a yo-yo that would take the longest time to descend the 9.8m distance from the top of the center staircase. Restrictions on the mass, time, size and structure of the yo-yo added to the students' concerns. The grades are based on how slow the yo-yo travels, calculations based on rotational mechanics, and a one page write-up. This assignment has taken place every year accounting for 20% of the students' 2nd term grade. "Generally, I'd like to do other things, but it's such a good project," Mr. Duggan, 9th grade honors physics and physical science teacher, says.

In the two months the students have to work on it, they face great amounts of stress, frustration and difficulties. "It seems easy, but it's actually hard. Kids cry, smash their yo-yo's after the project is over," Mr. Duggan says, rating it a full 10 on the difficulty scale. However, students are rewarded for their efforts. The average grade students receive are in the A to B range (scattered between 80% and 100%). Through their struggles,

students learn "how to be patient, keep working with frustration issues and from a physics point of view, how things move," Mr. Duggan says. The final results always range in successes and failures but "there are always some really impressive ones," Mr. Duggan, who acts as the judge, says. Previous record holder is Jeff Perrin, class of 2006, with a run of 13 minutes. Last year, Miranda Buehler, now a sophomore, broke that record with a yo-yo that made it down over a period of hours. The runs are yet to take place, but Mr. Duggan has high expectations for these students. He predicts that "this year is going to be good." Overall, students have a generally optimistic attitude towards this project that allows them to get out of their seats and do something abstract. It's only after they start the project that they start to dislike it.

On April 30, 2008, Mr. Duggan was awarded the Amgen award for "excellence in teaching" in regards to the yo-yo project. The yo-yo was granted one of the "outstanding projects of the year" and Mr. Duggan was granted \$10,000 in recognition, half of which went to benefit the school. The award was hand given by the Amgen Corporation, which gives out two awards to 2-4 people, per state, annually. Congratulations to Mr. Duggan!



Mr. Duggan's senior physics class anxiously watch a home-made "Yo-Yo" descend.

Photo by: Jonas Bellini

The Cast is Announced

By: Harrison Ford

After what feels like an eternity since our last musical, the wait is over! Get out the flapper dresses and sailor suits and prepare yourselves for this upcoming spring's production of Cole Porter's "Anything Goes!"

The story involves screwy hijinks aboard a cruise ship bound from New York to London. Billy Crocker, the hero, is a passenger madly in love with heiress Hope Harcourt who is engaged to wealthy brit Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Laughter and lunacy ensue when nightclub singer Reno Sweeney and second-rate gangster Moonface Martin try to help Billy in his pursuit of Hope's heart.

The cast of "Anything Goes!" is just as zany and lovable as its musical numbers. Peppared with dramatic veterans and rookies alike, this group is restless and ready for action! In the role of Billy Crocker is senior and fresh Drama Club newcomer Pat O'Brien. Playing Hope Harcourt is the lovely and talent-

ed sophomore Grace Gallant. Lord Evelyn Oakleigh will be played by yours truly, Reno Sweeney will be played by experienced senior Maddy Herzog, and in the role of Moonface Martin is hilarious senior Nick Metrano (also a relative newcomer).

The cast is also blessed with a variety of supporting roles. Angelic senior Faye Hisoler is cast as Moonface's sidekick, Bonnie. Senior and thespian Erik Salvucci will be playing Wall Street banker and Billy's boss, Elisha J Whitney. Colorful junior Erin Macri will star as Hope's nagging mother, Mrs. Evangeline Harcourt, and the list goes on and on.

With rehearsals beginning on January 8th, the show is due to perform in late March. Audiences will be thrilled to see a crop of new faces on the stage as well as some old familiar ones. If you liked our productions of "Les Miserables," "Working," and "Cinderella," you will love "Anything Goes!"

Zeikel Plans Ski Trip

By: Kelsey Prendergast

Anyone who has sat in one of Ms. Zeikel's classes knows how athletic she is. Her constant comparisons with math and sports are daily. She can manage to compare the angle of a field hockey shot with supplementary angles and skiing with inclines on graphs. Her love for sports is clear in the classroom but also after school hours when she is the girls tennis coach. We all know her love for tennis but are well aware with her obsession with skiing. When winter hits, it also brings some occasional weekends for Ms. Zeikel when she hits the road for Vermont.

Ms. Zeikel plans to set up a ski trip for Watertown High School for February 28, 2009 to venture to Loon

Mountain. She hopes to fill a bus of fifty students. This shouldn't be very hard to do as students are equally excited as her. "I've never been so stoked for the winter, especially with the ski trip coming up. I just got a new board, I'm going to be ripping and riding," says senior David Bastianelli

"As a long time skier, my goal to share my enjoyment of outdoor, winter activities. I figured by running a school trip I might introduce the sport to others or at least give those who already ski/board an opportunity to go somewhere they may not have been before," says Ms. Zeikel of her ski trip.

Overall, Ms. Zeikel has high hopes for the ski trip and believes that, "winter is too long to not play outside."



Ms. Zeikel is always prepared with an exciting math fact that connects to sports...especially skiing!

Photo by: Chloe Anderson

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The newspaper staff welcomes freelance writers. If you would like to work on *The Raider Times*, see Ms. O'Grady in Room 345.

Feature

Job Shadowing

By: Maddy Herzog

A step up from timidly following our parents around on “Take Your Child to Work Day,” February is Job Shadowing Month at Watertown High School. This unique opportunity has been organized and facilitated by School to Career Outreach Coordinator Rita Foglia for the past ten years, but the program stretches back decades. “It’s a great way for students to see what really goes on at the career that interests them,” says Foglia. “Most are shocked at what goes on during the work day.”

Foglia visits each grade’s English classes in mid-December to distribute applications. If interested, students list a couple career options that they may pursue. Then comes the tough part for Foglia. Sifting through hundreds of applications, she digs through her contacts and calls local businesses, ranging from fire stations to television studios, to see if they’d be willing to host students. Often, Foglia is met with friendly responses; she has found that most workplaces “love

having the students and love mentoring them.” Students are also given the option to shadow a family member or an adult they know, instead. In the past, up to 120 students have ventured out into the real world on a single day.

Before their excursion, students are given a question packet to interview their hosts. It’s a “good way to start conversation” and to gather information about the extent of education necessary for the career, explains Foglia. While some students return confident that they’ve found the right career for them, others aren’t as satisfied. One student returned from an architecture firm, disappointed that all the architect did was sit in meetings all day. “The point is that even if students come back saying, ‘I definitely don’t want to do this,’ it’s still a good experience.” Imagine the years of training for the wrong career that could be saved by this one-day experience.

“The main thing to look for,” says Foglia, “is ‘Does that person enjoy what they do?’”

See Ms. Foglia for more details on Job Shadowing!

Preparing for Midterms

By: Keith Singh

With the midterms fast approaching, some people may be asking themselves how they are going to fare, while others may be asking how the midterms even work at Watertown High. Midterms are the first major tests that freshman take, usually taking up 25% of their second term grades for a class.

Midterms can vary greatly between teachers as well. Some teachers understand the stress experienced during midterms, and try to make it as least stressful as possible. However, though they don’t want to put stress on students, most teachers do take full advantage of being able to test students on everything they have learned during the first half of the year.

Many clichéd test-taking tips work for the midterms. Eating a good breakfast is a given, and always works. If you normally don’t eat in the morning, then you’ll notice the difference in how much better you’ll feel. Sleep is also very crucial to test taking. Go to bed earlier than you usually do, and make sure to wake up at least an hour before going off and taking the test. That hour in the morning will not only give you time to eat, but will also wake your body up, almost like warming up a car in the winter. Let your body slowly wake up, so that when you actually take the test, you can be at your 100%.

Then there are tips that are specific, catering towards certain circumstances. If your teacher lets you use notecards, take full advantage of them. I’ve seen kids pack entire chapters worth of information onto a side of

a notecard, with tiny handwriting or typed up, usually taped carefully so that it doesn’t smudge. Making a notecard is also a great study tool, because you pick up on a few things while making them.

Many times teachers won’t allow note cards. This is fine but you have to look for other opportunities to gain points elsewhere. Some teachers will offer extra credit work right before the midterms. This can be a perfect place to obtain a buffer for your grade. You might not be a jeopardy person, but if five or so points are on the line give it a go.

The other thing that is very important to getting a good grade on the midterms is being comfortable with where you’re taking your test. If you know you’re going to be in a seat where the sun is going to be in your face the entire time, don’t sit there!



One of the most important test-taking tips is eat your breakfast!

New Classes at WHS

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

From AP level classes, to Level 1, from Project Adventure to chemistry to broadcast journalism, Watertown High has it all. Students here are lucky enough to be able to pick from many different classes, taught by a wide range of our informative teachers. This year we had some new classes added to the curriculum, including AP Biology with Mr. Brewer and Engineering by Design with Mr. Loughran.

The AP Biology class has proven to be very difficult, but rewarding at the same time. The class is made up mostly juniors, with a couple seniors. It’s great that these kids have the opportunity to take on the challenge of a college level biology class. “I think it was a good idea to put AP Biology in the curriculum because most of the other kids in my class didn’t take biology as sophomores and they wanted to be able to take a harder version of the class. Mr. Brewer is perfect to teach the class because he knows how to be nice but not too nice. It’s his first time teaching an AP class, and I think he’s doing a

great job,” said junior Evan Hecht.

In every class, the students are always concerned with who the teacher is, because usually the teacher affects whether they like the class or not. In AP Biology, the students all seem to think Mr. Brewer is a great teacher, who keeps them all interested in the subject. “It’s a great class, it really is. We have a lot

of difficult material to cover in a very short time, but Mr. Brewer is somehow able to keep us engaged with his witty comments and interesting side facts. Or maybe it’s the occasional morning waffles. Either way, it is a tough class, but also a surprisingly enjoyable one,” said senior Andrew Grant. From what the students had to say, it seems like the department made a good decision in adding the class.

Another new and popular class is Engineering by Design. The school brought the technology teacher from the middle school, Mr. Loughran, to the high school to teach the class during sixth period. It has proven to be a very untraditional class, in that they don’t sit down every class and take notes. It’s very hands on, which the students enjoy. “Since this is the first year it is ever been taught at Watertown High, its pretty fun. We don’t just sit there and take notes, we actually build things while learning,” said junior RJ Sheehan.

Our school department made a good decision by adding these two classes. They are liked for different reasons. AP Biology offers new and challenging material while Engineering by Design offers a stray from traditional notes and powerpoints, with a hands on approach. Hopefully our school will find it in their budget to continue the classes onto next year so that more kids will be able to take them.

Attention Watertown High Students!

In the past month alone, there have been over 15 locker thefts. If you care about your iPods, cell phones, laptops, clothing, books, etc...

LOCK YOUR LOCKER!



Grant Places Second in Essay Contest

By: Chloe Anderson

Senior Andrew Grant won second place in the essay contest given by Mr. Rimas as a mandatory assignment, and senior Gaby Damico, won third place. The essay prompt was about how veterans help today’s youth. The essay was open to any student living in Watertown, but it was a requirement for all of Mr. Rimas’ Civics classes at the high school. For winning second place Andrew received a cash prize. “I knew some very good essays were going to be submitted, so I just did my best.” Andrew says

This is not the only essay contest Andrew has won. He received

second place in the Historical Society essay his freshman and sophomore year. “Gaby Damico got first place in the Historical Society Essay my freshman year, so it was nice to get back at her,” Andrew joked.

Along with writing the essay they also had to read the essay and record it. When asked if he would change anything to try and get first place, Andrew replied, “When we had to record our essay, I wasn’t very clear in my speech. But, overall I was fairly happy with the end product.” And he should be, because he did very well.

Feature Class: Project Adventure

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

Ms. Ruseckas's Project Adventure class has been getting great feedback from the WHS students. Project Adventure is a physical education course that mainly provides different challenging activities, in which students can learn how to problem solve, work together, and most importantly, have fun. The course demonstrates to students how to challenge themselves in a way where they can push themselves to their "highest element."

When asked why she chose to teach Project Adventure, rather than a regular physical education class, Ms. Ruseckas shares, "It's a different, less traditional approach, to engage kids more. In this class, the students learn how to trust each other, have fun, and work as a team." She also revealed that for each of her classes, she has them create something called "The Full Value Contract." In this contract, the students list what they expect from each other, such as behavior and attitude. This way when someone approaches an activity that is not in their contract, they can

always go back and reread what they had brainstormed as a class.

Project Adventure recently took part in a rock climbing field trip during their unit. The classes travelled to the Metro Rock in Everett. There, they did some free climbing and had to pass a climbing assessment. The students were very excited to show off their rock-climbing licenses that they earned while there.

Sophmores Jessica Doggett and Nicole Blackwood explain that their favorite unit of Project Adventure was by far the wall climbing. However, wall climbing is not the only great experience you can gain from this course. They also said, "This course is really fun and you get to play interesting games that teach you certain important values. You get the freedom to explore different things, and it most definitely shows you how push yourself against your fears."

The course is highly recommended to any student who is up for the challenge of a great physical education.



THE COMMON
APPLICATION
For Undergraduate College Admission

Seniors have become very familiar with "Common App," the application that hundreds of colleges accept.

College Applications

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

Time has certainly flown by! I remember when we were all freshmen, and the nervous looks on our faces the first day of school. All of us shared one thing; the fear of fitting in. We were so intimidated by the upper classman and we were all wondering if we would ever make it there. As a class, we have successfully made it through a fast 3 years and are well on our way to having a great, memory filled senior year. But, we have now come up to a very scary time in our lives that is known as the college application time.

Some of our class has already applied early decision and early action, and are anxiously waiting to hear back. The rest of us are still immersed in the stressful process. Senior Elizabeth Russo is one of these students. "My applications aren't due until February and March but I have started to write my essay for the college application and after that I will start the rest of the applying process."

Many of the students I have talked to are very stressed about the whole thing. Combined with our senior thesis papers, there is just too much to get done. The senior thesis papers are infamous for bringing on stress, but that is not fully understood until it has begun. The process requires multiple steps to reach the final end product including finding your books, reading them, finding common themes, making in-depth note cards, finding secondary

sources, forming a general outline, a specific outline, and then writing a rough draft. Senior Nick Lappen said, "It's the most annoying, time consuming, stressful thing ever. Also, with our senior thesis papers it makes it all much worse."

Some of the students I asked were most concerned with the actual applications. They thought there were way too many things to fill out. Senior Mariam Chobanyan agreed with this saying, "Although we have the common application to save us time, I think that the applications should be more precise and less time consuming." Other students are feeling a lot of stress in the fact that one little application to a college or university determines the rest of your future. After all, it is just a few pieces of paper you turn in. "I'd say in many ways the application is the hardest part of the entire college process. In these few pages you have to sell yourself to the college and separate yourself from the massive amounts of other students who are fighting for the limited number of spots that each college has to offer," said senior Brian Field.

I think we are all very grateful that we only have to go through this once. It's a very stressful time for us, and we're all looking forward to when it starts to wind down a little. The acceptance letters will most likely be some of the best mail we'll ever get!

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you really don't know what they will be like until you meet them and have lived with them for a while.

Everybody agreed that different teachers and professors have their own styles and that once you learn how to do well in their class, life becomes easier. It is important that you make yourself known to the teacher. You want them to get to know you and you want a good grade. Sometimes it is a conversation with the professor after

class that can really make the difference.

Parties were one of the topics that captured the attention of the crowd. It was late into second period and people were beginning to get antsy and time was starting to get short. To paraphrase what they said: be careful, because bad things can happen and Mrs. Dudley added her own story to make students think twice before they do anything that they would not normally approve of.

Feature Teacher: Mr. Rimas

By: Andrew Grant

You may find him in the gym coaching the Varsity Girl's Basketball team, or in his second floor room egging on debates or perhaps in the hallway yelling "homeroom" between periods. Often regarded as one of the funniest and most well-liked teachers in the building, Mr. Rimas is this issue's feature teacher.

Most students know Mr. Rimas, the WHS Civics teacher. Although he has taught Civics for several years, he got his start elsewhere. Before coming to WHS he taught history at Haverhill High for seven years. Civics was only recently available at WHS, so it was not the only class he has taught (teaching psychology at one point). Although throughout his career he has stuck to teaching "history-related topics."

For the past 15 years of teaching Rimas has experienced many ups and downs in the classroom. His best moments as a teacher are those "when former students return to share their successes." But, unfortunate moments have also occurred over the years. "One year, a student came up to me, following the rules and asked for a pass to the nurse. He then threw up all over my shoes," says Rimas.

Some may have noticed a sticker with bold green lettering stamped on the back of a folder on his front desk that reads "Rimas for State Representative." Mr. Rimas ran for State

Representative in the town of Methuen just after graduating from college. As a young Colby graduate he had little experience, yet was still able to put up a strong fight, only losing the seat by 190 votes. He describes it as a "good experience" but realizes he was "too young." Having a family of five, he now says he has a "better sense of solutions needed in a community." And although he does not plan on running again in the future he "wouldn't rule it out."

In the classroom during a transition of activities or when commotion reaches a dull murmur, Rimas is always the one to crack a joke. Whether it's entering Mr. Mastro into online contests, prank calling Mr. Buck or discussing Ms. O'Grady's peanut butter and jelly lunch selection, there is always a laugh to be had. He often reads ridiculous news from the Boston Herald, that showcases some of the ever present foolhardiness of civilians across the country.

But after the hiatus in laughter, Mr. Rimas's Civics classes confront controversial issues in the news head on. Whether it is world news or just news from the halls of Watertown High, differing opinions persist. With news evolving continuously, there is always room for debate, discussion and learning. If your schedule permits, "Civics with Rimas" is a class you shouldn't miss at WHS.



Feature Teacher, Mr. Rimas, is always surrounded by smiling students, such as Junior, Khalik Monroe.

Photo by: Andrew Grant

Alternative Poet Visits Watertown High School

By: Keith Singh

Regie Gibson is an entertainer, writer, and musician, but more importantly he is a thinker, a ever learning philosopher. Regie Gibson came to the School on December 9th and did two "shows" in the lecture hall. Mr. Gibson's performance is what he describes as poetry fused with music.

In his first presentation he worked the crowd to sway emotions at his wish. With a simple joke describing his teenage life, he had the crowd laughing. A few minutes his description of a pool hall would have the crowd fascinated with his way with words.

Regie Gibson was raised in Chicago. His mother was a strict Jehovah's Witness and his father was a Police Officer. Regie had a younger brother, who he describes as getting all the "suave genes". Regie often stated that he leaned towards books and words, while his brother leaned towards basketball and women. Mr. Gibson expressed that women were a large part of his writing, even saying that writing was a motivator, and he thought that it would help him get women. His inspiration to write though is similar to many other writers. Regie writes to understand himself and the world around him. Through his writing he is able to compose his thoughts in a manner where things make a little bit more sense, and almost act as a template for his future thoughts and ideas.

One thing that Regie does that is interesting is that he "covers" other writers' work. Many music artists do

this but you do not see many poetry speakers do this mainly because they are trying to show their own work. I asked why Regie did this and he said it was simple because he wanted to "preserve other writers' work, and spread it, and try to get their messages and words out there."

One author that Regie reads from is Kent Foreman who is Regie's good friend and mentor. Kent Foreman also grew up in Chicago, but in a much different time. Kent who is 75 grew up in a segregated America. Regie says that knowing him has had a huge influence on him and his writing style. "The thing that makes writing pieces great is if the writing can have the same impact and meaning as it does today to a hundred years from today" says Regie. Kent Foreman's work is also very oral. His work is yet to be printed en masse and is heard more than it is read. This is why Regie performs his poems as well. "When Kent passes away, so does the knowledge of his work and that can't happen."

When I spoke to Regie, I couldn't help but feel that he had an outstanding presence. The way he spoke in front of an audience was the same way he spoke one-on-one. He was still very animated, yet calm. His words were packed with meaning, which was sometimes overwhelming but never stressful. Despite his presence and prophet-like way, Regie does not like to be referred to as a "guide." When I asked him about this, he replied, "Well



Regie Gibson performs for students in the Lecture Hall.

Photo by: Malcolm Cooke

who am I? I'm just a guy. Ask me something today, and you might get a different response tomorrow." That is how he described poetry as well. He described it as something ever evolving, he would say something one minute than have to correct it the next because it would have changed.

Something that all writers, no

matter what genre they write in, will face writer's block. Not knowing what to write, or not having motivation, or inspiration. I asked Regie was emotion helps him write the most. "Sorrow, sorrow is something that's so deep people have yet to describe it," Regie said. He says that sorrow is the one emotion that humans acknowledge the most and understand the most.

Opinion

The Neverending Battle Over Bake Sales

By: Nick Lappen

What happened to the Bake Sale at WHS? During my freshman year (2005-2006), bake sales happened just about twice a month. Now they don't happen at all. Besides being a great fundraiser and a relief from class, bake sales were also a big part of our school's personality.

Patrick O'Brien, a senior, recalls the effect bake sales had on his freshman and sophomore year Band class. "The Bake sales were a great distraction from a hard day and helped us raise money for our field trips." Meanwhile Bianca Jones, a sophomore, was unaware that WHS had ever even had bake sales, other than the Armenian cultural experiences.

Which brings up the question, why is the Armenian cultural experience allowed, while bake sales are not? Any argument for allowing/disallowing bake sales seems to apply to the Armenian

cultural experience. Most students around the school believe that both should be allowed. "It should be all or nothing," says Taylor Connors.

So why not all or nothing? Why can't we have bake sales but have an Armenian cultural experiences? Well according to school policy, bake sales are no longer allowed because it is too difficult to regulate ingredients, and students with allergies are put at risk. Here's a simple solution: if you are allergic to something which may be in a cookie, DON'T BUY A COOKIE.



Don't forget to recycle this paper!

The Gaza Conflict

By: Nick Lappen

On December 19, 2008, the ceasefire between Hamas and Israel was ended. Eight days later, the bombs began falling over Gaza. Within the first four minutes of the bombing, over 100 buildings in Gaza had been destroyed or hit, including office buildings, mosques and schools.

The conflict between Hamas and Israel has been ongoing for years, but a 6 month ceasefire had been in place up until December 19th. When the ceasefire ended, Israel refused to end the blockade it had on Gaza- a blockade which transforms the entire city of Gaza into a containment facility. From there, things quickly escalated, resulting in losses for both sides.

So let's look at the casualties. On the Israeli side 13 people have died so far (Jan 11th, 2009). Of those, three were civilian casualties. The remaining ten were Israeli soldiers. Around 150 Israelis have been wounded.

Now let's examine the Palestinian Side. On the first day alone 225 Palestinian people were killed. As of January 11th, 2009, 879 Palestinians have been reported dead. Of those 333 were civilians, and of those 333 257 were under the age of 18. Over 3,490 Palestinians have been wounded.

Israel claims they are attempting to destroy the aggressive radicals in Gaza, but how many of the children attending school in Gaza on

December 27th were radicals? You would think that the people who came so close to being completely eradicated in the 1940's would abhor this type of one-sided slaughter, not facilitate it. The Gaza massacre, as it is being called by many news outlets, is the second time Israel has had civilian blood on its hands this century.

Think back to July 2006, when Israel entered the Country of Lebanon to destroy the "terrorist" group Hezbollah. During that conflict, Israel was accused of numerous war crimes. Among other things, Israel was criticized for the use of brightly colored cluster bombs, which are known for attracting the attention of small children, then exploding in their hands when they go to pick them up. That July, Israel killed almost 2,000 Lebanese civilians.

I submit that Israel is no longer the victim in the Middle East. They are now the main aggressor, and the cause of the majority of the casualties in their "wars."

When Nazi Germany exterminated six million Jews, the world stepped in and stopped the genocide. Now Israel is the one responsible for the deaths of thousands. Will Israel have to kill six million before someone speaks up? How can you put a price on human life? Will we really allow Israel to literally get away with murder?

Arts & Entertainment

Fashion In 2008

By: Taylor Connors

Whatwashotin2008? Everyone must know what was in, to know what not to wear in 2009. Depending on location and gender, trends definitely will vary, but as far as some trends, it doesn't matter where you were in 2008, it was hot! For guys, it may have been a Johnny Cupcakes T-Shirt or Christian Audigier. For the ladies, maybe it was a scarf, warm, but classy, or those Ugg slip-on shoes, whether they are slippers, or shoes. They can be cute or scrub, but nevertheless, comfortable! No matter the weather, there was an outfit for anything.

Back to the guys, there were many fashion trends in 2008 that were more daring or flashy. Ed Hardy and Affliction were very popular in 2008. Sweatshirts, t-shirts and zip-ups were very "in." Then, there was of course Famous Stars and Straps, their clothing lines were booming in 2008 through the male population. They have casual and dressier clothing for any occasion. As far as pants and accessories, men's True Religion jeans were popular this

past year. Of course, if you have the jeans, you need a belt to match, silver studded belts were flooding the male population in the night life scene. For those guys that were more jock, Under Armor really took off this past year; most everyone that's active was caught sporting Under Armor. They have polo t-shirts for a more dressy, but still sporty look for the guys.

For the ladies, there were many new fashion trends in 2008, along with trends that have been carried over from past years. Ugg boots and skinny jeans started out in 2007 and were popularly carried over into 2008. Scarves were definitely one of the most dominant fashion statements this past year, and from the looks of it they will carry over into 2009. Towards the beginning of the year, wide leg jeans were very popular they have fizzled out. The slipper Uggs and moccasins were very popular this past year. There are dressier moccasins and more casual, comfortable too. Look out for the latest in 2009!



Twilight: The Movie

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

The cult series, *Twilight*, written by Stephanie Meyer, has captured the hearts and interest of millions of readers, daring enough to try the book for themselves. The series has done an astounding job of reeling readers into living and breathing the breathtaking plot. It keeps readers thinking about the book long after having read the last page. For that reason, the author herself has captured the true meaning of loving a book so much you can't seem to set it down.

Once the book had started to be made into a film, "Twilight" had become the most anticipated film of 2008. All of its readers couldn't wait until the release date of when they could experience a more realistic vision of their favorite Twilight characters. The film has succeeded in capturing the true plot of a dangerous yet star-crossed romance between a gorgeous charming vampire and a brave yet ordinary human. Robert Pattinson, who plays Edward Cullen in the film, does a great job of displaying the heart capturing, and charming personality of the vampire. Kristin Stewart, who plays the role as Bella Swan, also has fantastically portrayed

her role, as how love struck and endured Bella is by Edward.

The film has succeeded in not only pleasing the movie critics, but also the many loyal fans of the series, and for that reason it has been granted a 5 out of 5 star rating. The film is recommended to any of those who have not read the *Twilight* series. If surely they have not had the courage of personally reading the long book, then the movie will definitely give them the push they need to love the book just as much as its current readers do.



Book Of The Issue: *Marley and Me*

By: Julia Brennan

Marley and Me, written by John Grogan, is a true story about his dog Marley. Everyone knows that every little kid wants a puppy to play with; after all, they say a dog is a man's best friend. But people don't always realize just how important dogs are to some people.

Thunderstorms are among the thing that make Florida famous. To most people who live there, they are nothing new and people don't seem to be bothered by the daily violent thunderstorms, but not Marley. But then again, Marley is not like all other people because at the beginning of the book he is just a small puppy waiting with his the rest of hit litter to find a home. That's where John and Jenny come in. They are a newly married couple and go looking for a dog to add to their family. As a boy, John was taught not to get a timid dog and the puppy of his childhood is the dog that he will judge all other potential dogs by. But it is the dog that acts the opposite of Shaun the dog that John falls in love with.

After a few weeks of living with Marley, they discover that Marley is an exceptionally hyper and skittish dog that is terrified of thunderstorms. During the daily storms, he causes

structural damage to their house because he is so scared. Many times John and Jenny would come home after a storm to find something torn apart because Marley would react to the thunder. In attempt to train the dog, they enrolled him in obedience school, but he is kicked out because of his behavior. The whole book is filled with endearing stories that made up Marley's life.

It is a memorable story that is filled with humor that can be appreciated by anybody. Despite all of the trouble of Marley causes, it is hard to be mad at him because he is such a loveable dog.

This book is not the deep, challenging read that Charles Dickens is. It is lighthearted and endearing. Marley will leave a mark on whoever reads this. He also reminds us that not everything that causes a lot of trouble is a bad thing. Marley's antics are not something that can be easily forgotten and it is the antics that make it memorable. Whether Marley will be remembered as the dog that destroyed tables at a restaurant or the dog that swallowed the gold jewelry is up to the reader, who will no doubt have a favorite Marley story.

Marley and Me will premiere as a movie on Christmas Day (December 25th 2008) starring Owen Wilson and Jennifer Aniston.

Four Christmases

By: Mane Harutyunyan

His father, her mother, his mother and her father, all in one day. That's four Christmases too many for Kate and Brad who, for the past 3 years, have been avoiding spending Christmas with their divorced parents. This year, their luck runs out with their vacation to Fiji because all flights are cancelled. Now, Kate and Brad have no excuse but to make up the ground that they missed the past couple of years. "All we have to do is get through this day as quickly and painlessly as possible" is the motto they highlighted.

"Four Christmases," directed by Seth Gordon and released on November 26, 2008 features an all-star cast with Reese Witherspoon playing Kate and Vince Vaughn playing Brad. Other cast members include Academy, Emmy, Golden Globe and Oscar winners like Robert Duvall, Mary Steenburgen, Sissy Spacek and Jon Voight. "Four Christmases" is number 1 as of right now on the Top 10 Box Office.

This holiday starter was a successful romantic comedy filled with unpredictable surprises. Both Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn embraced their characters very well and took the movie to a higher level, although this comedy was more of Vince Vaughn's forte. The cast was much



better than the content. The overall plot of the story was simple, but good performances by the actors drew your attention away from that. The movie highlights the theme of family but with a different, more humorous angle. A good movie to see with friends. It'll keep you laughing from start to finish. The previews don't do much justice for the movie, considering a lot of the better moments are left out. The movie is short and sweet and keeps the audience drawn in. The chronology flows perfectly and there are no uncertainties in the end. The actors were admirably characterized and it was overall a good movie. Don't miss it!

What Was Big In 08 ...And Predictions For 09

By Chloe Anderson

2008 Trends

Celebrities:

Lil' Wayne-

Lil' Wayne and others say he is the "best rapper alive".

Lil' Wayne's popularity skyrocketed in 2008.



Miley Cyrus-

Hannah Montana star, Miley Cyrus, broke out of her shell, pursuing her career as Miley. Her solo career was very successful with her first single, "See you Again" and her other hit "Seven Things I Hate About You."

Michael Phelps-

At the 2008 summer Olympics Michael Phelps dominated. He broke the record for number of medals won at the Olympic Games.

Britney Spears-

Britney began 2008 still recovering from tough events in 2007.

In 2008 Britney won 3 MTV video music awards which was a huge comeback for her.

She had a MTV documentary about her on MTV explaining her tough life, in which she cleared some things up.

Her new CD "Circus" came out in the end of 2008.

Other '08 obsessions:

Twilight-

In 2008 the Twilight books became a hit.

With the book's great success, the movie was sure to be a hit.

The night before the movie came out there were people lined up outside.

The movie raked in 7 million dollars in movie sales.

The iPhone-

The iPhone had people camping out in front of Apple stores waiting for it. The phone, priced at \$299, has many high tech features.

Going Green-

In 2008 many people made the decision to go green and change the way they live.

Many companies joined the trend, developing products that are eco-friendly.

2009 Predictions

Celebrities:

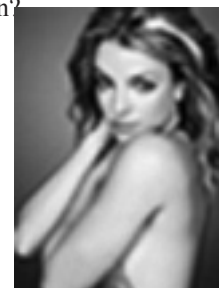
Lil' Wayne will still be featured in almost every song played on the radio.

Miley's success in the beginning of 2008 will start to fade away. Maybe in 2009 it's time for a new hit.

With his victories, his popularity will rise and his fan base grew. Without the Olympic games, will his popularity remain?

Britney's new CD will send her success into 2009.

Britney will always make headlines.



What will '09 bring:

Although, some say the movie was not as good as the book, the series will continue its success.

The movies of the two sequels are due out at the end of 2009 and 2010.

Apple or another cell phone company is sure to come up with a new high tech cell phone for 2009.

The going green trend is sure to stay in 2009.

It only just began and its only going to grow in years to come.

The Dark Knight Impresses

By: Mane Harutyunyan

The highly-anticipated Batman movie, "The Dark Knight," lived up to its hype. Released on July 18, 2008, "The Dark Knight" attracted audiences everywhere and broke several records. Its release premiered in 4,366 theaters including 94 in IMAX. It beat former record holder "Spider-Man 3" in the biggest three-day opening weekend of all time and "Titanic" in reaching the \$500 million mark the fastest.

In this movie, Batman, played by Christian Bale, tries to undo the terror that the Joker, Heath Ledger, is spreading through Gotham City. Batman combines with Lieutenant Jim Gordon, Gary Oldman, and District Attorney Harvey Dent, Aaron Eckhart, to fight the Joker and his accomplices. The unpredictable twists in the plot and the addition of new actors add to the interest of the story. "The Dark Knight" engrossed a large fan base of an average of 50,413 (regular theaters) and 19,733 (IMAX version). People rated it

a "must-go" on Fandango.com calling it an "amazing movie with great acting and full of surprises."

Fans felt especially engaged in the IMAX version in which "the picture and sound were unbelievable." Critics were equally enthusiastic. *The Rolling Stone* "can only speak superlatives of Ledger, who is mad-crazy-blazing brilliant as the Joker." *The Los Angeles Times* says, "because these kinds of movies are only as strong as their villains, a good part of the credit for the potency of "The Dark Knight"



has to go to the unusual and unusually creepy and sadistic way the Joker was conceptualized."

"The Dark Knight" currently holds a 90% positive review from Top Critics on Rotten Tomatoes and a 94% positive review on the average meter. *USA Today* calls it a "thrilling, intelligent, morally complex and masterfully crafted film... probably the best superhero movie to date." And it seems viewers cannot get enough. Fans wait anxiously for the release of the film on DVD and Blu-ray Disc on December 9. It will include a one-disc edition DVD, a two-disc Special Edition DVD, a two-disc edition Blu-ray and a Special Edition Blu-Ray package.

It's no question that the introduction of Heath Ledger as the Joker was a big cause of excitement. When asked, "Why Heath Ledger as the Joker?" director Christopher Nolan said, "Because he is fearless." This translated on screen through Ledger's personality. Heath Ledger's careful manipulation of

the Joker's psychotic mind, lean posture, distinctive tongue flip and unique voice formed an indelible character.

The Internet Movie Data Base (IMDB) says, "to prepare for his role as the Joker, Heath Ledger lived alone in a hotel room for a month, formulating the character's psychology, posture and voice (the last one he found most difficult to do). He started a diary, in which he wrote the Joker's thoughts and feelings to guide himself during the performance. Ledger also took inspiration from "A Clockwork Orange's" Alex and Sid Vicious."

In embracing his role completely, Heath Ledger was able to introduce a new angle to the original Joker. Many considered his repeated line "Why so serious?" a highlight of the movie as well as the saying, "What doesn't kill you, only makes you stranger." In the end, it's not enough to read about it. Everyone is encouraged to see for themselves what some fans are calling "the best movie ever."

Feature Male and Female Athletes

Sean Mahoney

By: Taylor Connors

Senior ice hockey goalie and Captain Sean Mahoney has been a key factor in the team's successes. Sean has been playing hockey since he was only five years old. He also used to play some baseball and even tried basketball for a while. Now, he is an ice hockey player all year-round. He is dedicated and hard-working and his work ethic permeates through to the entire team. When Sean is not playing hockey, he is balancing schoolwork and time with his friends.

Fellow teammate and tri-captain Matt Sutherland said that Sean leads by example. "He's the most consistent overall player on the team," he went on to say. Sean is clearly respected on his team. Sean's hard work off season definitely pays off when it comes time to play. He played on the St. Moritz Devils club team, Boston Jr. Eagle's team and then throughout the spring and summer he plays on spring leagues and in tournaments. This dedication probably lead to Sean being team MVP both his sophomore and junior year for the Watertown High School hockey team. "He's one of the top goalies in the league and it's great to have him on the team," said fellow teammate and senior Dylan Aucoin.

Of course, all of Sean's achievements don't come easily; he works hard for everything he gets granted and he is clearly very gifted in reacting to the puck on the ice. They play in a very competitive league, so no single game is a given for the team. "We battle through the whole league

with five or six teams being top 20 in the state. It's a battle every night," said senior tri-captain Sean Mahoney of their grueling season. Sean thinks that the team will look better than they were last season, and he hopes to stay in every game, knowing that it is a very tough league, but he has before and is believed to have no trouble rising to the occasion. As long as he continues to lead by example, the team should be fine. "He always makes people, like underclassmen, feel comfortable but he is also very positive and when he needs to be, crazy," Matt Sutherland said of Mahoney before their first game of the season.

Being a goalie is not an easy job, but Mahoney seems to have no trouble. Staying focused throughout an entire game can be a very difficult thing to do. Of course, the opposing team screening him, and blocking his vision of the ice adds to the challenges. However, the most difficult part of Mahoney's job on the team is the pressure he says. Although his teammates are behind him with everything he does, there is still an insane amount of pressure on Mahoney in net every game. With crowds cheering and his defense in front of him, it's hard not to let the nerves and anxiety get the best of him. He somehow manages to turn those nerves into excitement though and pulls through every game for the Raiders.

Mahoney plans to attend prep school next year to better his grades and then hopefully play hockey in college. We wish him the best and believe that there is a bright future ahead of him.



WHS Goalie Sean Mahoney makes a save.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

Alison Holland

By: Kelsey Prendergast

Senior all-around athlete Alison Holland impresses a crowd no matter what sport she plays. She proved herself at Victory Field this year throughout the field hockey season by leading the Watertown High School field hockey team to a Middlesex League and Division 2 North Championship. As a captain of the field hockey team, she was chosen as a Middlesex League All-Star along with five others from the Watertown team. Not only does she excel in field hockey but in track she is a known threat.

This is Holland's third season as the girl's track captain with two seasons as a junior captain in indoor and outdoor track and this winter again as indoor track captain. Her accomplishments for track at Watertown High, include five most valuable player awards, top jumper, top freshmen, two top sophomore, two top junior and two top sprinter awards. Holland holds many school records at the high school as well. In indoor track she holds the record for the 45 yard hurdles and 55 meter hurdles and the long jump. In outdoor track she has the record for the triple jump. Holland has attended the state track meet several times and often moving on to the All State meet and just last winter she moved on to the New England track meet, which is unheard of at Watertown High. At these track meets you must qualify with a certain time and compete against the best athletes in the state. "I've worked really hard, and the girls on the team have pushed me, and that's what has gotten me to the level I'm at now," says Holland of her achievements.

Holland does not just excel in one event. She has participated in the long jump, triple jump, high jump, 300 meters, hurdles, 4x2 relay, 4x4 relay,



Track star Ali Holland places in the long jump.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

4x1 relay, 45 yard dash 100 meters, and 200 meters.

Sophomore Bianca Jones who plays all three sports with Holland says, "She is dedicated to all aspects of her life including athletics and school and manages to enjoy it all at the same time." Holland has personal achievements, but also shares it throughout the team as she did when she recently led the girl's indoor track team to their first victory in four years. Not only is Holland a key aspect in athletics at Watertown High, she also is a member of the National Honors Society and an officer for the seniors. Holland says, "I would defiantly consider myself a student-athlete."



High School Gridiron Controversy

By: Raffi Kazanjian

The Massachusetts Division 2 football playoff game between Mansfield and Bishop Feehan was ready to be played when the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) learned that Mansfield had used an ineligible, fifth year player in two of this seasons games.

Mansfield, the winner of the Hockomock Conference and Bishop Feehan, the winner of the Eastern Athletic Conference had met in the same playoff game last year, where Bishop Feehan came back from a 14-0 deficit to upset the Hornets 23-21.

On December 2nd, Mansfield was granted a temporary injunction in

Taunton Superior Court, allowing the team to play the game. Later that day, the MIAA announced that they would file a motion to overturn the decision which would cancel the game, forcing Mansfield to forfeit and advancing Bishop Feehan to the Division 2 Super Bowl against Walpole.

In the afternoon court session, Judge John P. Connor Jr. of the Taunton Superior Court pointed to the MIAA member handbook which states that schools are to be given the chance to appeal a punishment before the organization's board of directors. Connor made clear that MIAA rules state that waivers for fifth year athletes of the fall season must be granted by

September 22nd. Mansfield principal Joseph Maruszczak appealed the forfeit decision but the request was declined because the MIAA said that the date to apply for a waiver had passed.

Later that day, the MIAA tried to setup a waiver procedure for Mansfield but notified the judge that they could not congregate the seventeen member board of directors before the scheduled game. Judge Connor concluded that ultimately, Mansfield is at fault and that Mansfield would still be forced to forfeit the game if they should win.

The next day, December 3rd, MIAA spokesmen Paul Wetzel announced that they would not file an appeal against the Superior Court ruling

that granted Mansfield the injunction to play the playoff game, especially due to the timing of the situation. Therefore the game would be played and Mansfield would not be forced to forfeit. The game was rescheduled for 7 p.m. that day at Bridgewater-Raynham High school.

The game was dominated by the Mansfield defense which did not allow a first down until late in the fourth quarter and held the Bishop Feehan offense to a total of 17 yards. The 22-6 victory led the Mansfield Hornets to the Division 2 Super Bowl game at Gillette Stadium, December 6th, where they would eventually lose to Walpole 41-21.