

The Raider Times

St. Patrick's Day Issue

Watertown High School

March 19, 2010

Track Teams Have Record Seasons

By: Mane Harutyunyan

In mind-blowing, extraordinary displays of physical strength, endurance and pure talent, competitors on the outdoor Track and Field team brought the "Watertown High School" name under the spotlight. The boys' team, coached by Mr. Thomas Wittenhagen who has been coaching since 2000, saw the rewards for their endless hours of hard work when 7 of its runners qualified for States and two ended up pushing all the way to Nationals.

At the annual Division Four gathering at Reggie Lewis, the Raiders finished with one of their best performances in a long time, being awarded 3rd place out of 42nd with an accumulation of 30 points. Even in the midst of this excitement, senior,

Nathan Wilson-Braun was the center of attention, having proven his status as "best in the state," winning the 55-meter hurdles in 7.57 seconds. This time set a new school record and broke the state meet record and the all-time Division Four record. Close friend and side-by-side athlete and valedictorian of the senior class, Timm Moan also impressed everyone in the 55-meter hurdles with a time of 7.87 seconds that earned him 3rd place as well as a ticket to All-States. As if these weren't amazing enough accomplishments for the Raiders, senior Kris Stinehart also qualified for All-States with a third place finish in the shot put, throwing a distance of 44 feet 10.75 inches. The 4x2 team of seniors Nathan Wilson-Braun, Tim Moan, Luke

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Students School Faculty in Game

By: Zohra Yaqhubi

Ending with a two point lead, the students stole the win in Friday's 59-57 Student v. Faculty Basketball Game at Watertown High School.

Ending the first quarter of the game with a 14 point lead, the students led with strong passes, heavy defense, and superior youthful energy. The students' team led a strong start with their 16 seniors, 3 juniors, one sophomore, and one freshman, making up their twenty-one person team, to the faculty's fifteen person roster.

With only fifteen players however, the faculty team still made their mark on the scoreboard. Heavy assists and shots by teachers Stephen Harrington, Charles Duggan and John Rimas as well as aggressive tactics on the court by Brian Brewer and David Mastro made it a close game at some points during the first half. Many members of the faculty team found the court a familiar place. Captains of the team, Harrington and Rimas, both coaches of Watertown High Basketball teams, found themselves playing against some of their own players, while other teachers like Maurin O'Grady were

in a familiar place having played high school ball a few years back.

After a well played hour long game, Senior Kevin O'Laughlin made his team's final shot with 32 seconds left on the board, sealing the deal. Students left victorious. "I chose to play the game not only because I saw it as a good chance to get back at the teachers, but also I knew it would be a lot of fun," said O'Laughlin. "Seeing the teachers on the court and out of the classrooms really made the game interesting and enjoyable for everyone involved."

Friday's Student v. Faculty Basketball Game held in Watertown High's gymnasium was never a tradition of the high school; however the idea came about as a fundraising tactic. Watertown High's Haiti Relief Club, alongside Ms. Maurin O'Grady, organized the event and everyone was more than willing to play. Having raised \$855.51 just from the event, it was a successful idea that is sure to stick.

Whether you were Team Students or Team Faculty, the game did not disappoint in a whirlwind of throws, shots, misses and some crazy tumbles.

Fit, Fun, for Life! WHS Receives Grant

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis



The updated fitness equipment in the WHS Fitness Center.

Photo by: Zohra Yaqhubi

There have been great changes in the school system of Watertown. We have been awarded over \$600,00 from a federal grant, known as the Carol White Physical Education Grant (PEP), in order to improve physical education programs and to help our district meet the national recommendation for minutes of vigorous physical activity per week within its PE classes.

Thanks to the help and dedication of Ms. Donna Ruseckas, the coordinator of the Physical Education Department, the district of Watertown was able to be awarded this grant. Ms. Ruseckas met with the Department Staff to put together a strategic plan to help bring the current Physical Education curriculum to a more advanced version that better suits our 21st century by adding more advanced technology such

as heart monitors. Along with a group effort with a writing firm, Ms. Ruseckas was able to collect and write the goals, budget, and strategic plan containing information and data that members of the department were able to contribute. By collecting the data of fitness testing scores and the results of teacher surveys based on our current PE program, the department was able to gather enough information in order to award Watertown with a fresh and healthier PE program for all of it's students.

The Carol White Physical Education Grant (PEP) is a Federal Grant. The purpose that it serves is to improve physical education programs in order to help guide school systems towards meeting the national recommendation for minutes of vigorous physical activity for an average of 150 minutes per week.

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Flooding Damages Classrooms

By: Aaron Parseghian

Starting on Saturday March 13, 2010, the northeast was victim to a ton of rainfall. Over a span of three days some metro-Boston areas accumulated upwards of eight inches of rain. All the while houses were flooding, schools were closing, and people were being affected everywhere. Even the high school had trouble escaping it.

"I don't remember any flooding to this degree in the high school, since



Trash bags were used to salvage some of Mr. Dressler's computers.

Photo by: Aaron Parseghian

I've been here, and I've been here a long time," said Housemaster Michael McDermott. The flooding seemed to reach all crevices after close to four inches of water was found on the fitness center, and some escaped into the tiles.

Also receiving damage were both Mrs. Calleja's and Mr. Dressler's art rooms. Mr. Dressler's room received the most damage, as the entire floor was covered in water and mud, the ceiling was cracking and leaking, and the dripping water damaged computers. "The exact amount of damage is unsure, and the school will be notified when we know [the extent]," said McDermott

As a result Headmaster Nofstker closed school promptly at 2:30 and cancelled all afternoon activities at the high school (which included the start of spring sports), so the janitorial staff could continue on cleaning up the mess.

Congratulations to Timm Moan, the MIAA's Student-Athlete for March 2010!

The next Raider Times will be our Spring Issue.....look for it in May.

Zeikel Wins iPod

By: Harrison Ford

In December 2009, just weeks before everybody's favorite holiday break, a school-wide raffle was set up by Mr. Philip Henry in which the prize was a brand-new 32G iPod Touch. The raffle was established "to help defray the cost of the trip," says Henry. The trip he is referring to is of course the upcoming week-long field trip to Spain in April, where students will be visiting such historic cities as Barcelona and Madrid.

The iPod was "acquired in exchange for frequent flyer points in the 'American Advantage Miles' program," says Henry. Though the amount of money made by sales of the one-dollar-tickets has not been determined, Spanish students are certainly benefiting from their fundraising. "The raffle was handled by the students themselves. The amount of money each student received was determined by the amount that he or she sold," Henry adds jokingly. "Some were better salesmen than others." The end result was stunning, as the iPod was raffled off at three times its original value (approximately eight-hundred dollars).

The raffle was an undeniable success. When 'Senor' Henry was asked if he agreed he replied, "I believe it was. But you might ask one or two students who participated in the raffle how it measured up to the car washes last summer or the activities at Faire on the Square last fall". Overall, the raffle was a well-deserved triumph for the



Ms. Zeikel proudly displays her new iPod.

Photo by: Chloe Anderson

hard working students and their exciting field trip.

Staff and students alike shelled out the Washingtons with the hope of winning the precious iPod. Some greatly helped the cause by buying way more than one ticket, like Mr. McDermott. As for the lucky winner, it was none other than statistics teacher Ms. Jill Zeikel, who had a mathematical approach when buying her tickets. "If you know how many were sold in total, you can figure out the probability of winning it. Don't think it was very high." When asked how she felt about winning, Zeikel stated simply, "Psyched. Very happy." It was indeed a selfless win, as she has the iPod to her ten year old niece for Christmas.

Fit, Fun, for Life

Continued from Page One

The WPS grant was awarded to help improve the PE program K-12 and the brand new improved PE program called Fit, Fun, for Life.

There are strict guidelines for all purchases made from the grant and other costs must reflect the goals of the grant. The program's 3 basic goals for the new program by the end of our 3 year duration of the grant include: Improving activity levels of all students by 25%; Increasing the variety of PE activities to include those that increase fitness and life skills; Improving fitness levels of students by 25% for a healthier fitness testing assessment. Also there is a focus on improving nutrition education. Each of these goals need to be met because we have the funding to purchase new equipment and train PE teachers how to implement and teach the new activities.

Watertown High School has already started with a change with a new and improved Fitness Center. The grant does not allow our funds to be used for construction, and therefore, now facilities can be changed that would alter the existing structure. When walking into the fitness center it is exciting to see the new treadmills, elliptical machines, spin bikes and rowers lined up in the back of the room in addition to more weighted bars, leg extension/curl machines, ab bench and Olympic bars.

Not only has their been an change in the structure of the fitness center, but also a change has been made to the PE curriculum. The previous curriculum has now been replaced with a fun and healthier one that includes activities, such as Snow Shoes, Tchoukball (a fun game that involves both teamwork as well as cardio); Lacrosse, Omnikin Games, Geo Fit

Dance (a fitness dance program); fencing, yoga, as well as new project adventure games and high elements.

The main focus and purpose of adopting this new curriculum is for the benefit of students. Lifetime skills and activities have been long overdue to teach students due to the lack of funding provided. Now with the help of the grant, our district can now afford activities that are fun, challenging, and fitness related. As a result of the need to raise the awareness of heart health within PE classes, Heart Monitors have now become a part of the PE curriculum for all grades 3-12. This is such a benefit for students because when kids participate in vigorous activity, it is now possible to receive printouts of student's heartbeat. New technology such as these HR allow records to be kept that would include the fitness testing scores and it also allows the district to report grant objectives accurately.

All PE classes are also given the opportunity to experience help from a Physical Education Specialist, Ms. Michelle Fitzgerald, who was hired from the money awarded from the grant. Ms. Fitzgerald's job is to assist with the new technology purchased from the funds of the grant and to help Ms. Ruseckas with equipment purchases.

There are many high hopes for what is to come during the next couple of years with the funding of the grant. It is expected that Watertown's PE curriculum will grow and advance in such a way that all students will become healthier and more active. Although PE classes will no longer include the infamous games of Ultimate Frisbee or Floor Hockey, it may be more exciting to experience a more modern and healthier outlook on new PE activities.

Track Teams' Success

Continued from Page One

McElroy and junior, James Holland finished second-place with a time of 1:35.79 and will also be attending the All-States.

The girl's track team also deserves recognition for outstanding performances by 2 dedicated track stars, junior Rachel Thomas and sophomore Talia Flores, for a second place finish in the high jump (with a jump of 5ft 2) and a fifth place finish in the long jump (with a distance of 16 ft), respectively. Because of their top 5 finishes, Thomas and Flores will be joining the boys at the All-States meet.

Wilson-Braun and Moan had outstanding performances at the All-States meet where they pushed Watertown High School Track and Field to a new standard. In the 55-meter hurdle, Moan finished 6th place with a time of 7.82 seconds and Wilson-Braun took 3rd with a time of 7.62 seconds.

"I think we both performed to the best of our abilities and placed the highest we've ever placed in the All-States league," says Wilson-Braun.

Moan agrees adding, "I'm really proud and excited for the both of us." Both athletes are eager to continue pursuing new goals in track and field throughout college.

Sadly, the boys' team also suffered a couple of misfortunes as the 50-yard shuttle relay team of Moan, Wilson-Braun, Holland and senior Kevin O'Laughlin was disqualified for a false start after seemingly breaking the Class D state record with a time of 4.55. Unfortunately, the streak of bad luck continued as the same relay team was unable to compete at the National level because of failure to adhere to academic performance requirements.

Even so, this year ends on a positive note for the track athletes who have had outstanding performances throughout. The bar of expectations has certainly been heightened for next year's track team. Meanwhile, Watertown High is reaping in the rewards of having such dedicated and clearly talented members of the team and looking forward to encouraging even more accomplishments to come in the outdoor track season.

Physics Classes Test Yo-Yos



Photo by: Zohra Yaqhubi

WHS Tournament Run

By: Jacqueline Tresca

Boys Basketball- Although Middlesex League leading scorer Marco Coppola, junior, managed to come away with 26 points, the Raiders just could not manage to pull away from the South Boston Knights, losing 57-52 in the first round of the tournament. Hitting 17 out of 23 free- throws, including three in the last 20.8 seconds of the game, the No. 12 ranked South Boston (11-10) grabbed the win over the No. 5 seeded Raiders (13-8) even after giving up a 10 point fourth quarter lead. Despite the Raiders hard work, which included nine points from senior Tim Barba and six from junior Connor Stockdale, there will unfortunately be no state championship for the boys this year.

Girls Basketball- Despite the effort of Middlesex League MVP senior Brittany Obi-Tabot, who had a game high 27 points, the Lady Raiders lost a tough one to Bishop Fenwick with a score of 77-38 in the first round of the Division 3 tournament. The effort of the fourteenth seeded Raiders (7-14), the believed underdogs to the No. 10 ranked Crusaders, just wasn't enough to stop junior guard Amy Pelletier's

12 points or the Crusader's tenacious defense. Although it may have been a disappointing end to the Raider's season, all of WHS will be looking forward to watching Obi-Tabot play at Division 1 Fairfield next year.

Boys Hockey- While the Raider boys hockey team can be proud to say that they made the tournament thanks to a .500 overall record, a first for the program in seven years, a great season for the boys just wasn't enough to propel them to a win against the Boston Latin Wolfpack, losing 5-2 in the first round of the tournament. Although the seventh seeded Raiders (13-5-3) came back with a strong second period after a tough first one against the tenth seeded Wolfpack (10-6-4), the third period proved to be an even tougher one, opening to a score of 4-1 in favor of Boston Latin. Despite the goals of sophomore Mike Martino (assisted by junior Greg Geagan) and senior Sean Bowler, the Raiders could not stop the Wolfpack. Hopefully, the hard work put in this season by the Raiders will lead to a successful tournament next year.

Bensinger Impresses Science Students

By: Emily Brackett and Evan Hecht

When students were given the opportunity to attend a physics presentation by Brandeis professor Jim Bensinger on January 14th, many expected another boring slideshow that would simply excuse them from class. To their surprise, the reaction to the presentation was enthusiastic among most present.

"I thought it was going to be a stupid presentation about things I didn't understand," says senior Matt Tardiff. "As it turned out, it was about interesting things that were explained in a way that made sense to me."

Many other students echoed Tardiff's view. Even those who are not "science people" thought that Bensinger's work sounded both fascinating and relevant. Bensinger helps conduct and analyze experiments at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC) near Geneva, Switzerland. The LHC consists of roughly 27 kilometers of piping. Within the piping, atoms are expelled at high speeds and forced to collide inside a special chamber, where

they splinter into pieces, called quarks.

The details of each collision are analyzed by the surrounding equipment. The quarks they are interested in studying are useful in mapping out the history of subatomic particles. According to Bensinger, the type of collision that his team is concerned with occurs in roughly 1 out of every 1000 collisions. Other types of collisions can be important for other teams.

The teachers were impressed too. Charlie Duggan, a physics teacher, said "Even though I thought I already knew a lot about the LHC, Bensinger was able to provide valuable insight and knowledge because he has personally done so much work on the project."

Bensinger came to the school knowing that explaining complicated theories of physics would be a difficult task, but he hoped that it would inspire interest in subatomic physics. This was Bensinger's first high school lecture. The presentation went so well that he hopes to give similar ones at surrounding high schools.

Watertown Finishes Strong at NSSL Meet

By: Joseph Piccirilli

Do you know how many eggs a South African Penguin lays? Can you identify one type of a rock from another?

These are some of the challenges faced by students in the recent North Shore Science League meet held at Watertown High School. Many students from towns ranging from Amesbury to Swampscott competed in three different events; rocks, aquatic trivia, and a project that involved getting a marble to land on a target. The rock challenge was a test in the participants' ability to identify different types of rocks. Groups had to go to 26 different stations and identify the type of rock with the help of a rock book.

Students in the aquatic triva challenge had to answer questions on everything aquatic, from facts about the coral reef to knowing the life expectancy of certain sea creatures. Mr.Noftsker was simply amazed by some of the questions and said that it

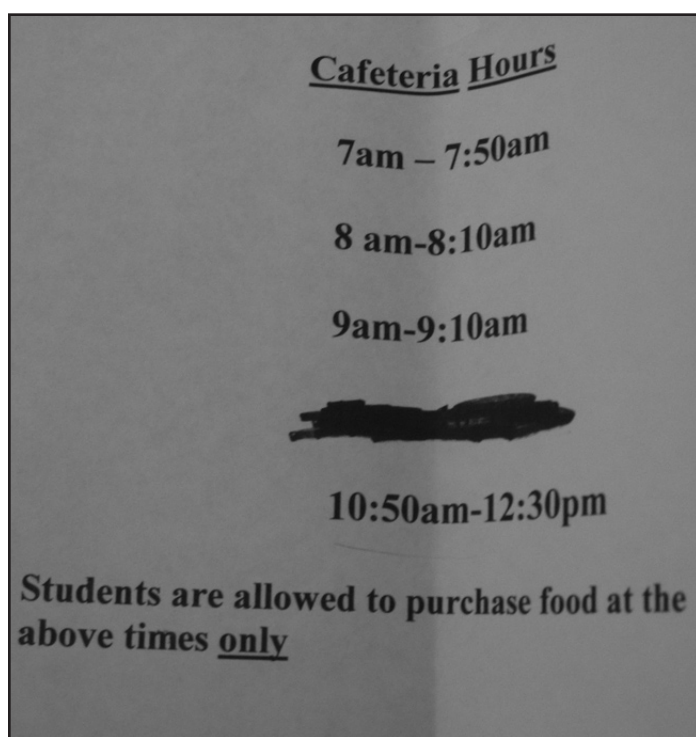
was great when students can partake in great activities like NSSL.

The flagship activity known simply as "the marble drop" was the hardest and most competitive of all the events. Using everyday objects, students had to make a ramp that dropped a marble off of a table and onto a target.

Teams can receive up to 50 points for each event and both our freshman and upperclassman teams did very well. The freshman scored 34.5, 30.5, and 48 points in the rocks, aquarium, and marble events respectively. Our upperclassman team scored 44.5, 44, and 39 points. Overall, our school came in 5th in the rock event, 6th in aquarium event and tied for 3rd in the marble drop. Mr.Duggan, who used to be the head of the NSSL, said that the events were a "great success", and he looks forward to the next meet. Watertown needs more students to join the team, so if you're interested, see Mr. Duggan.

New Cafeteria Restrictions

By: Raffi Kazanjian



Where do you think you're going? In the past few months, the rules in the Watertown High School Cafeteria have become stricter. There are teachers at both exits of the Cafeteria, who have been assigned to make sure that only one or two people can go to the bathroom at a time. These new rules have stopped some innocent students from getting things out of their lockers, but when you think about the big picture, the rules have been put in for a good cause.

The new rules are meant to keep students in the cafeteria during lunch instead of wandering the halls. According to Ms. DiNardo, the students who are wandering the halls during lunch are the ones to blame for the graffiti on the bathroom walls and the tearing down of posters in the hallways. Ms. DiNardo can not believe that these

kinds of things are happening in high school. Food fights are as frequent as they have ever been and kids often leave the cafeteria drenched in milk. Students are not picking up their trash, leaving empty trays, bags and half eaten sandwiches on the tables. "The majority of the 780 students here are great kids. It's a shame that they all have to suffer the consequences of the actions of a dozen kids. Everybody suffers when you don't act your age," said Ms. DiNardo

But Ms. DiNardo assures the students that there is hope to bring freedom back to the cafeteria. She says that a cleaner cafeteria and fewer people roaming the halls will make a good case to bring back the old rules or at least loosen up the current ones. But for now, you should go to your locker and to the bathroom before and after lunch so you don't have to leave the cafeteria.

WHS Helps Haiti

By: Brett McManus

As we all know Haiti was struck by a devastating earthquake on January 12, 2010, which registered as a 7.0 on the Richter scale. Watertown High School has decided to take action and help those affected by the earthquake by having a drive for food and clothes.

"It's good that we're helping the less fortunate," says junior James Dunoyer. For a week and a half students brought items such as old clothes and canned food to the main office. After a huge pile of donations had been collected, it was packaged up and sent to relieve the suffering of those in Haiti. Mrs. DiNardo's father arranged

the transport of all donated items.

It is estimated that almost 200,000 people may have been killed and almost one million people were left homeless due to this natural disaster. The Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince was hit hard and many buildings such as the Presidential Palace, the Haitian Parliament building, UN mission headquarters, and the National Cathedral were badly damaged or destroyed. Many organizations such as Hope for Haiti Now are working around the clock to help those who were affected by the earthquake.



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No Snow, but a Half day?

By: Ashley Caira

Half Day! The world traveled quickly via Facebook, texts, AOL Instant Messenger, ect. The Superintendent decided along with the state “for the safety of rush hour” That Watertown High School would get out at 12 p.m. on a Wednesday afternoon in February, explained, Ms. DiNardo. This would be an issue as students rushing out to either get in their own cars to get home or parents and guardians waiting in the line to grab their children would be dangerous in the amount of snow we were to have.

We were supposed to have at least ten or more inches of snow claimed some of the weather channels. “We literally only got two inches!” junior, Isilay Yalcin pointed out. As

students left school, we waited for the snow but it barely even showed. When the snow finally came down, there was little to nothing. “It is pretty ridiculous how everybody freaked out over the snow, even canceling schools and snow didn’t even cover the ground,” claimed, Junior, Kalli Fabrikarakis.

All in all, students were grateful for the short day. This included, junior Nicole Pinzone, ‘I’m surprised we had a half day but it was good.’ Ms. DiNardo also explained, “ It was a good call because it counts as a full day, instead of a snow day, and it was a good safety call.” Students will just have to see if another opportunity like that will ever arrive again.

Alan November Lectures WHS

By: Zohra Yaqhubi

Last December, Watertown High School invited guest speaker Alan November to come and conduct a lecture to a small group of students. Starting off with nothing more than a projection of the Google results page for the search “November”, Alan drew all listeners in on one common topic, technology.

“It’s not the technology itself that is important; it’s the way we use it,” says novemberlearning.com, Alan November’s main website. November led his audience through a journey of learning, teaching the importance of technology application in schools. He used commonalities, like Facebook, to teach students how important it is to use technology the right way.

“Nothing ever disappears,” he claimed after cautioning all to be careful what they post on the internet. Short demos proved this when November brought up an archival site in which he was able to retrieve web pages that have long disappeared from the web from past years.

His audience, consisting of Watertown High students participating in Virtual High School classes and Rosetta Stone language curriculums, was continuously captivated with his remarks on how it was easy for anybody to publish anything onto the web.

November, who has past experience in fields such as teaching, as a technology coordinator, alternative school director, city planner, and new

school designer brought with him a creative and motivating view of things on that December afternoon. Students and faculty members in the audience learned how application of technology in the right ways could be highly beneficial while sloppy searching could also lead the person searching into the hands of very biased sources.

November even went to the forbidden land that most in High Schools never even do so much as mention, not using Google. Proving his point through many projected live search experiments, November taught his audience how Google was not the only accurate method of searching to be used, and certainly not the best in some fields.

After leading his listeners through a few tips and tricks as to how to determine a reputable source and webpage, November concluded his message in as laid back a fashion as he started; drawing all pack to the center topic of application of technology in schools. Drawing to points of technology collaboration and and his ideas of technology assessment left his audience rethinking their approach to education in new terms.

Starting with friendly jokes and Q&A sessions about how to get his website top on the Google results page for “November”, Alan and his new engaging ideas about technology brought a fresh view and insight through Watertown High School’s doors.

By: Aaron Parseghian

“Got Men?” asks the newest of the strange flyers that are found around the corridors of Watertown High School. This is no surprise to students who over the past month saw various flyers describing that of different versions of men, “Alpha Men,” all have made an appearance at the school, whether it be randomly in the hallways, or on bulletin boards near the guidance office. “I’ve literally seen them everywhere,” said junior Greg Geagan.

The origins of the strange

posters printed on flimsy 8 ½ by 11 found at the school are unknown. Although it is stated that it is from a group known as “The Cult of Men”, no evidence about this cult has given enough proof that it actually exists. “I doubt it [the cult] exists, it’s probably just some stupid prank,” said Sophomore Ben Sampson.

Lately the school has seen a rise in vandalism, whether it be shaving cream incidents, or food fights at lunch. Despite these being childish pranks that students view as harmless, they are

By: Parisa Zarringhalam

Students Begin Haiti Relief Club

On January 12th the capital city of Haiti, Port-au-Prince, was hit by a massive earthquake, a 7.0 on the Richter scale, which destroyed most of the city. Now a humanitarian crisis is occurring, and the Haitian people are suffering without food, water, or medical care. We are coordinating fundraising here at WHS to support the relief effort, and so far have collected \$477.27 which will be sent to the American Red Cross Haiti Fund. Thank you for your generosity, and if you have not yet donated, please do!

Haiti is located on the western side of the island of Hispaniola, sharing it with the Dominican Republic, and is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. It was once a French slave colony, with sugar plantations. In 1804 Haiti had the first successful slave rebellion, was the first black-led republic of the world, and became the first independent nation in Latin America. Yet a history of violent political takeovers has kept the nation poverty-stricken. In 1957 the CIA helped François “Papa Doc” Duvalier become president. Duvalier soon announced himself President for Life and proved to be a vicious dictator whose regime was marked by autocracy, severe corruption, and terrorism by his personal militia, the *Tonton Macoutes*. An estimated 30,000 were killed and thousands more exiled because of his tendency to use murder and expulsion to suppress his opponents

during his reign. The Duvalier family continued to rule the country well into the 1980s, supported by American manufacturers and a trickle of U.S. military and economical aid that was supposed to help the people, but ended up going directly to Duvalier.

Today the average Haitian lives on \$2 per day, and 45% of the population are children. Port-au-Prince was an overcrowded city stuffed with poorly-constructed cement buildings, which collapsed in the earthquake. Hundreds of thousands were killed, injured, and left homeless. The government was disabled, and even the hospitals, schools and police force were mostly destroyed. Haitians are living in tent-cities that are like refugee camps, and many organizations are helping to distribute water, food, and medical care. The USS Comfort, a naval hospital ship, is anchored off Haiti, and doctors and nurses are treating amputees, crushed organs, and broken bones. Aftershocks have caused even more damage and the situation is turning out to be worse than people had predicted.

I believe it is our moral obligation, as citizens of the planet, to help those who are suffering in Haiti. If you don’t want to donate to the Red Cross then please consider donating to other organizations, like Doctors Without Borders, Partners in Health, or the U.N.



Sophomore Parisa Zarringhalam works a fundraising table in the cafeteria.

Photo by: Zohra Yaqhubi

A Cult Arrives at WHS?

By: Aaron Parseghian

“Got Men?” asks the newest of the strange flyers that are found around the corridors of Watertown High School. This is no surprise to students who over the past month saw various flyers describing that of different versions of men, “Alpha Men,” all have made an appearance at the school, whether it be randomly in the hallways, or on bulletin boards near the guidance office. “I’ve literally seen them everywhere,” said junior Greg Geagan.

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Lately the school has seen a rise in vandalism, whether it be shaving cream incidents, or food fights at lunch. Despite these being childish pranks that students view as harmless, they are

actually having negative affects on the school. For example, students are no longer allowed to leave the cafeteria during the lunch break. “It’s really a shame,” expressed history teacher James Buck. “Now the poor kid who wants to go get a book from his locker to read at lunch has to suffer.”

The major problem is that these students involved in the cult are wasting paper and ink, in a time where teachers and students are limited to the amount of paper they are given, and at that, an

amount that is not nearly enough. The postings of these flyers also create more work for janitors who already have enough work that they need to deal with.

History teacher Kraig Gustafson who was quite vocal on the matter said, “People are putting themselves above the community, it’s immature and selfish...and if they were real men, like their cult says, they would admit to their stupidity, and put on work duty to clean the school.”

Foods Classes Host Raider Cafe

By: Harrison Ford

On Friday, February 5th, foods teacher Ms. Johnson and her foods students hosted a "Raider Cafe" in which students worked hard to cook restaurant-quality food and serve it to various members of the Watertown High School faculty. The price of the meal, which consisted of freshly baked bread, zesty chicken soup and a slice of strawberry cheesecake for dessert, was seven dollars, a bargain considering all the effort and flavor the students put into it.

As one of the three assigned photographers for the event, I witnessed first hand all that went on behind the scenes. Ms. Johnson's food room was used for cooking and preparing the meals that were to be served, while the room next to it was transformed into a classy luncheon room in which the faculty sat and enjoyed their cuisine. The students were well organized though they had several tasks to perform such as baking bread, boiling water, stirring, cutting bread, and many more. To create a more authentic restaurant atmosphere, the students were required to wear white chef hats and aprons, making them look not only legitimate, but simply adorable.

The students went to great lengths in order to make the Raider Cafe a success. Senior Regina Moroso worked diligently as a doorperson, taking money

and attendance at the door. Juniors Shayla Titus and Kiley Alpaugh traveled with a Haiti Relief can, collecting donations to benefit sufferers of the recent earthquake. Samantha Rourke was a star-server, proudly donning her chef's hat and carrying the bread-basket whenever she was needed. Overall the students performed beautifully and left no member of the faculty disappointed.

Ultimately the amount of work put into the Raider Cafe is paralleled by the amount of fun the students had and how much the teachers, guidance counselors, and members of administration enjoyed themselves. Senior Shannon Moran had a positive outlook on the experience, stating "It was my third Raider Cafe and I had a lot of fun. I'm looking forward to the upcoming one in spring". Senior Brittany Obi-Tabot said that she was "a bit embarrassed," having to repeat the lines "bread, butter?" over and over again.

As for the money, Ms. Johnson took it with her to Market Basket with her and purchased groceries for her classes. "I have three dollars left," claims Johnson, proving that it takes a lot of money to keep the foods classes running. Johnson also said that they put more money into the Raider Cafe than what was earned, but the experience was totally worth it. "The next one is on April 1st," says Johnson. "I'm thinking stuffed shells."

It's Course Selection-Time at WHS

By: Sasha Grodsky

It's almost spring at Watertown High School, and that means many exciting opportunities. Winter sports are wrapping up, people are packing up their winter coats and clothes, and of course, it is time to choose new classes for next year.

For some students, this is as simple as asking their teachers what they should do next year, and signing their course selection sheets. For others, choosing next year's classes takes more time and consideration.

Sophomore Kip Strother says that when choosing her classes she "takes some really, really hard classes, and some really easy ones, so there's a balance". Kip is not alone in this. Many students try and choose a range of courses so that they will be taking some classes that challenge them, but some easy ones as well to create a balance. A good way to do this is by taking a mix of AP classes, such as English or Biology, honors and level one classes, and electives such as woodshop or art.

For other students, like junior Kiley Alpaugh it is important to have enough challenging classes, but also classes that interest them. Kiley shared that she tries to choose classes that "will help [her] decide what [she] wants to do with [her] life".

It is clear from the get-go for many students what their career path is, so their course selection is clear. Other students are not as clear on what

they want to do, so over their time at Watertown High School they try and take a range of classes, so they can try and figure out what they want to do. There are a number of classes that can be helpful in this matter, such as CAD and anatomy and physiology.

Still other kids are trying to take classes that will prepare them for college and boost their GPAs, such as AP and honors classes.

But not everyone even has an idea of what classes they want to or should take next year. Many students are still just trying to finish up this year, and have no idea where they will be in terms of classes come next September.

If you're not sure what classes to take, or what you want to do, it's good to try a mix of things. Watertown High School offers a wide variety of electives, and if the school does not have the class you're looking for, chances are, you can take a Virtual High School course. If you are interested in taking a VHS class, please talk to Ms. Leonard in the guidance department. And what about signing up for other classes? This year course selection is going to be a little bit different at Watertown High School. Instead of students receiving a sheet and getting their teachers to sign off on courses, students will be submitting their course choices electronically with the help of the guidance department.

So make sure you take a look at the program of studies before so you can see more of the selection of classes for next year. But don't worry too much. Classes can be added and dropped when necessary.

What is the Work Study Program?

By: Harrison Ford

Steeped in the turmoil of today's economy, students looking to join the work force are facing more difficulties than ever before. There is competition in almost every field and business, a well-known fact to those who are looking for a job for the first time in their young lives.

These students know that job-hunting in 2010 is a long, tedious, and seemingly futile process, but what they may not know is that Watertown High School offers a program that can aid their search. Run by Ms. Mary Russo, the Work Based Learning Vocational Program (or Work Study Program, for short) helps to set students up with paying jobs for which they also receive six academic credits. There are twenty-eight students currently enrolled in the program and the jobs offered range from positions in supermarkets to veterinary offices.

Requirements for the program include a commitment to work a minimum of four days a week (approximately twenty hours) and to

submit a signed time-sheet and copy of paycheck weekly. Ms. Russo helps each individual student by putting together a detailed resume and letting them know which jobs are hiring at the moment. Through the work study program, students learn the values of perseverance, loyalty, and responsibility.

There are many benefits to joining the program, as explained by senior Regina Moroso who states that "The Work Study program has given me a chance to improve my GPA, along with giving me more work experience before college". Her testimony is just one of the many positive outlooks on the program, which is successful of matching each student up with a stable job by the end of the school year.

For more information or questions about the Work Study Program, you can visit Ms. Russo in room, which is a branch of 222 located directly across from the main stairway. Joining the program is certainly worth it, and the possibilities are endless.

Blood Drive to Help Save Lives



American Red Cross Bulletin

What can you accomplish in around an hour? Well, in just one hour of your time you may help save up to as many as three lives by donating blood. And now you have a chance to do just that because Watertown High School is sponsoring a blood drive Friday, March 19, 2010 at the Gym 8:00-1:00 pm.

Odds are, you know someone who has needed blood. It might have even been you. Yet blood supplies in our area have reached dangerously low levels several times this year and the Red Cross is asking for your help. Your donation may make a lifesaving difference for a hospital patient in need...a mother, a father, a brother, a sister, and a friend.

Individuals who are at least 17

years of age (16 with parental permission slip), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school age donors have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

On the day of the drive, please bring your Red Cross blood donor card or other form of positive ID. Also it is important to be well rested, to have eaten a healthy breakfast or lunch and to drink extra glasses of water before you donate.

So make an appointment to donate blood at our upcoming blood drive and find out for yourself what it feels like to help save a life. To make an appointment, contact Mr. Rimas in Room 250.

If you are interested in the Work Study Program, see Ms. Russo

See Mr. Rimas before Friday March 19th to make an appointment to donate.



Feature



How Romantic was Valentine's Day at WHS?

What WHS had Planned for Valentines

By: Chole Anderson



Some people look forward to February 14th, Valentine's Day all year. They can't wait to celebrate with their significant others. They get all excited to be romantic and cute. It's the time of year when people really get to show off their romantic side, whether it is with a box of chocolates or a dozen roses. Others, however, dread the romantic season and can't wait for it to be over.

No matter what your stance, the holiday of love comes and goes each and every year. Back in Elementary School, Valentine's Day meant decorating a tissue box and waiting for your classmates to place their valentines and candy inside of it. But, that is not the case anymore. Plans for Valentine's Day range all over.

Valentine's Interview

By: Vanessa Souza

All students meet different levels of maturity for certain things. Everyone has different opinions, and feelings. Valentine's day is a special day for those who want to fire things up a bit. But asking students from WHS it is hard to figure out what people truly think and want. A sophomore's opinion is definitely different than a freshman. They may have something in common but agreeing is definitely out of their leagues. Interviewing sophomore Cindy Delacruz, and new student, and sophomore Roger dos Santos [who aren't a couple] proves this.

What is Valentines Day for you?

Cindy: A day to spend with a loved one

Roger: Well, I guess a romantic holiday?

How do you show love for an individual one?

Cindy: Buying them things such as flowers

Roger: Saying that you love them

What does the word LOVE mean to you?

Cindy: Love means you care about someone a lot, and you could even love him or her, they could be special if you want to

Roger: An unexplainable feeling

What might you give someone on Valentines Day?

Cindy: I think I could give flowers to my mom, and boyfriend I really don't know

The plans can be extravagant and end up costing a lot of money. Also, Valentine's Day plans can cost nothing. Money does not determine whether or not your Valentine's Day will be a good one or a bad one. Special plans for Valentine's Day differ depending on the person.

So, what are your plans for Valentines Day? "That Sunday is called sinful Sunday." Spanish teacher Senor Henry explained. "The church I go to believes that on that Sunday all your sins are forgiven, so I can eat all the chocolates and sweets I want." Senor also mentioned that later that day he would go out to dinner but, when asked "Con quien?" he only drew a large question mark on the board. Leaving his dinner guest a mystery. "Hopefully not a repeat of last year" laughed senior Kelsey Prendergast. "At a Mexican restaurant with Chloe." Was her response to what her plans were. The search continued and when Sophomore Victoria Quirk was asked she claimed "nothing yet." When Rimas was asked what his plans for valentines day were he simply replied, "nothing" and then laughed, "watching Billy Madison."

Roger: I would buy something that signifies our relationship

Best Valentines Day?

Cindy: I always had good ones

Roger: Went out to dinner, and then I asked her out.

Worst Valentines Day?

Cindy: Never had one

Roger: I had a girl's boyfriend chase me down

At what age are you planning on getting married?

Cindy: I would say about 22

Roger: Between 22- 28 sounds just right

Do you believe on arranged marriages?

Cindy: No because I believe that it's our choice, and being married forcefully isn't right

Roger: I can't say anything about it, because that isn't my plan

Do you thing it's better to be single or dating?

Cindy: Sometimes is better to be single, because you would have no problems, but then a person who is single gets lonely, and needs someone to comfort them and make it feel comfortable,

Roger: It could go both ways, depending who I'm and who that person is.



Watertown High's couple, Kayla Costa and Brendan Wojtowicz.

Photo by: Zohra Yaqhubi

Stories of Romance

By: Chloe Anderson



Mr. Rimas holding his favorite Romantic movie, "Billy Madison", with students Ryan Donnanvan, Connor Grimes and Shah Fisel

Photo by: Zohra Yaqhubi

Valentine's Day is one of the most romantic times of the year. All the couples and spouses try to do something special for one another and it's the one time of the year when being corny and cheesy is actually okay. Whether it's spending money and buying something nice or spending no money at all, couples all around try and do something romantic. WHS may not be the most romantic atmosphere, but students and faculty alike have stories of romantic experiences of their own, which arises the question, what's the most romantic thing you have ever done?

The most romantic thing Mr. Rimas has ever done was propose to his wife while watching "Billy Madison" at his house. "Nothing says I love you like 'Billy Madison'," says Rimas with a smile.

For the 2009 prom, senior Connor Grimes shaved the word "prom?" on the side of his head to ask 2009 graduate Annie Tarverna to the prom.

Mr. Mastro's most romantic experience was taking his wife out to lunch on a picnic. His wife had also never been to Providence so he took her there to go sightseeing.

Senior Steven Jewers claims in 7th grade he went to the house of the girl he loved and threw a pebble at her bedroom window until she came to it, and then whipped out his guitar and played a song that he wrote her.

Prime candidate for this question suggested by the senior boys was senior Scott Stafford. Scott could not pick just one romantic thing so he shared two. The first was. "I walked through a snow storm to go to Dunkins and then bring coffee to Maria cause she wasn't feeling well and I didn't have a car." And secondly, "I pretended I didn't remember Maria and my anniversary I surprised her with homemade chocolate covered strawberries that she loves"

Sophomore Victoria Quirk recalls having a boy bring her flowers in the middle of a snowstorm as her most romantic experience, "I haven't really done anything for anyone else," she laughs.

Some Good Romantic Movies

Titanic

The Notebook

A Walk to Rememberr

P.S. I Love You

She's All That

Pearl Harbor

Sleepless in Seattle

You've Got Mail

When Harry Met Sally

Your Mr. WHS Contestants

By: Chloe Anderson

A fairly recent tradition at Watertown High School, Mr. WHS will take place on March 18th. The contestants have been nominated and over the past few weeks, they have been brainstorm-

ing, practicing, and doing whatever they need to give their best performance in order to be crowned Mr. WHS. The rigorous competition includes casual wear, swim wear, and formal wear, as well as

a talent component. The competition will be fierce but along the way, there will be plenty of laughs. Catching up with the contestants, they were asked a series of questions.

Tickets: \$10.

Sean Bowler



RT: Why do you think you were nominated for Mr. WHS?

SB: Honestly, I have no idea.

RT: What are you going to bring to the competition?

SB: Myself...that is all I can say for now.

RT: What can we expect out of you?

SB: You can expect a landslide victory.

RT: Can you give us any hints about your performance?

SB: Nope.

RT: Why should you be Mr. WHS?

SB: Well, since Brian Dupuis is not competing, I don't think there is a chance that anyone else could beat me.

Nick Frankel



RT: Why do you think you were nominated for Mr. WHS?

NF: Because everybody loves me.

RT: What are you going to bring to the competition?

NF: Much needed good looks.

RT: What can we expect out of you?

NF: The unexpected.

RT: Can you give us any hints about your performance?

NF: It's better than Alex Logan's.

RT: Why should you be Mr. WHS?

NF: Because all of the other contestants are clowns and nowhere near my level.

Mike D'Amico



RT: Why do you think you were nominated for Mr. WHS?

MD: I was nominated for Mr. WHS because I spent three straight lunches doing nothing but voting for myself.

RT: What are you going to bring to the competition?

MD: I will be bringing my A game that night.

RT: What can we expect out of you?

MD: Expect things to get saucy.

RT: Can you give us any hints about your performance?

MD: No

RT: Why should you be Mr. WHS?

MD: I should be Mr. WHS because I am clearly the most attractive contestant.

Alex Logan



RT: Why do you think you were nominated for Mr. WHS?

AL: Because I can rock a speedo like no one's business.

RT: What are you going to bring to the competition?

AL: I'm going to bring my determination, good attitude, and work ethic.

RT: What can we expect out of you?

AL: You can expect the famed Alex Logan Dance.

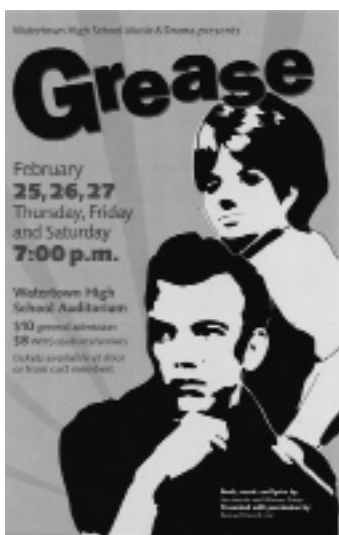
RT: Can you give us any hints about your performance?

AL: Human sacrifice.

The History of *Grease* Phenomenon

"Go Grease Lightning!"

By: Jacqueline Tresca



Kingston Mines Theatre in Chicago. After viewing the play set at Rydell High in Chicago, and revolving around common social issues such as teen pregnancy, gang violence, friendships, and teen relationships, Ken Waissman and Maxine Fox transformed *Grease* into the musical that went on to rock the country. Containing original hits such as "Summer Nights" and "Beauty School Dropout," the musical took off in a whirlwind. Although it first premiered at the Eden Theatre in downtown Manhattan on February 14, 1972, within four months the musical was a Broadway hit, first being performed at the Broadhurst theatre on June 7, 1972.

Directed by Tom Moore and choreographed by Patricia Birch, the original musical included a cast of Adrienne Barbeau, Barry Bostwick, Carole Demas, Timothy Meyers, and Walter Bobbie. These actors brought life to the roles of Sandy, Danny, Kenickie, and Roger. Based on the original play, the musical told a story that included a trying high school relationship between Sandy and Danny, a pregnancy scare for Rizzo, and the difficult decision between high school and beauty school for Frenchie. As all of this drama unfolds, Danny's T-Birds accept a challenge to race a rival gang. Of course, the plot is also chock full of fun, memorable songs that have lasted

for generations. It was this plot, these songs, and these actors that carried on the production for 3388 performances before the musical's finale.

Although the musical was a huge success, most are more familiar with the film production of *Grease*. However, this production did not come into being until 1978, several years after the reign of the musical. Written by Jim Jacobs, Warren Casey, Bronte Woodward, and Allan Carr, the movie version stayed very true to the musical, and included most of the popular songs. One popular addition to the movie was the song "You're the One that I Want," which, although not originally found in the musical, became a part of *Grease's* identity. Also a part of this identity was the beloved cast of the movie, including well-known actors such as John Travolta (Danny), Olivia Newton-John (Sandy), Jeff Conaway (Kenickie), and Frankie Avalon ("Beauty School Dropout"). Other cast members included Stockard Channing as Rizzo, Michael Tucci as Sonny, Didi Conn as Frenchie, Dinan Manoff as Marty, and Barry Pearl as Doody. Since its release on June 16, 1978, *Grease* the movie has reached millions of viewers and encouraged the production of a *Grease 2*, including a cast of Maxwell Caulfield, Michelle Pfeiffer, Lorna Luft and more.

These incredibly popular productions of *Grease* have encouraged renditions of the musical all over the country, including what is soon to come, a rendition right here at Watertown High School. Scheduled for the spring of this year, 2010, the cast includes students such as senior Katie Hayes as Sandy, junior Tyler Bartley as Danny, senior Jen Taylor as Rizzo, and junior Natalie Singer as Frenchie, along with many other talented students. According to junior Grace Gallant and Denny in the upcoming musical, the school rendition will be "...the same as the [original] musical. I've never seen the musical, but when I read over the script I liked the way it was cast because I think the characters fit the people who play them very well."

So what is it that has made this media production so famous and widespread? According to Gallant, it is such a success because "...the songs are really fun and catchy, and I guess you could say that people can relate to it." Whether it is due to the upbeat music, the talented casts, or the relatable plot, *Grease* has been a permanent fixture in pop culture since its first production in the 1970s. With that successful past, it looks as though we'll be singing "Go Grease Lightning" for decades to come.

"Grease Lightning, goooo Grease Lightning!" Everyone knows the words to that famous song. And what about "You're the One that I want?" We all know the words to that too right? That's because *Grease*, the Broadway musical- gone movie- gone school play has been such a large part of our culture for almost forty years now. What began as a small, off-Broadway production morphed into a cultural phenomenon.

In 1971, *Grease* premiered for the first time as a straight play at the

The Writers Behind the *Times*

By: Harrison Ford



The faces behind the stories!

Every time a new issue of *The Raider Times* is distributed at WHS, the hallways are filled with the echoing sound of rustling paper as freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors, and WHS staff alike leaf through the articles with their eyes glued to the page. Readers enjoy light-hearted sports stories as well as thought-provoking insights, but often times they have no idea who the faces are behind the print.

The Raider Times is home to a staff of fourteen students; three seniors, nine juniors, and two sophomores, who are devoted to bringing exclusive stories to the masses of Watertown High School. Many of the student journalists participate in a diverse range of outside-school activities including golf, school politics, drama club, ballet, and relief work in Nicaragua.

The members of *The Raider Times* staff are involved in the paper for a number of different reasons, "It fit into my schedule," claims sophomore Sasha Grodsky casually. Others, like

sophomore Zohra Yaqubi take a more passionate approach, "I took Journalism to be a part of *The Raider Times* and contribute articles on a wide array of topics to the student body". Others were simply attracted to journalism as a class, seeking to learn new things about professional writing and the media.

Despite their zest for journalism, the majority of *The Raider Times* staff has future goals that take an alternate route, like Sasha, "I want to be an architect and design really cool churches" or junior Aaron Parseghian who states "I plan on going to college, and doing something with either government or music".

As a group, we don't always agree on local and world issues, as evident in classroom debates regarding the Raider mascot, freedom of speech, and the JonBenet Ramsey scandal. Though we have conflicting views and ideas, we are constantly working together to bring breaking news, sports, feature, A&E, and opinion stories to *The Raider Times* and the WHS community.

What's in Style for the Spring?

By: Vanessa Souza

Is Spring here already? That's the question everyone is asking. It's the time of year where everything starts to come out by that I mean, new clothes, the flowers and leaves too. It's the time where everything is brighter. What's up for spring? Maybe some new clothing, some new trends.

Spring and Summer 2010 is all about mixing the outrageous with the elegant. There is a nod to trends of the past, but this spring, fashion is taking a big step in a new direction. It's about smart and sexy looks paired with sporty and delicate styles. Mixing every kind, being different, and making your point. Here you'll learn what's best for the hair, what's the best clothes, and how to wear it.

Neutral tones creates an elegant look. Neutral colors would be beige and many shades of grey. You could mix these colors by using a white shirt, and a beige flower shirt. Wearing a dress this season is a big deal. It has to be short in the front, longer in the back. That way you show off your legs more without being too out there. Blazers are also in style and it can be worn with a simple tank, or mix up some with colors. Skinny jeans. People still wear them but why not change it up a bit this spring? Forget the past, live in the moment, wear loose pants. Ripped jeans and torn denim is what people didn't think it would return to the fashion world and yet they are

now in style. Sometimes people don't want to over do it what they are wearing. If you like the school girl look, some knee high socks would be just perfect for you. You could wear with shorts, hot pants whatever you like.

Colors? Well bright colors would do some good. If you're going for the elegant look some colors to consider would be some whites, purple ash, beige, indigos, and every shade of brown. Don't overlap colors whatsoever. Some sporty colors would be neon green, peppermint, pink or maybe even a purple.

Accessories are a huge deal. Accessories bring out features you didn't know about. Wearing a belt, could put a new shape to your waist. A headband or a large bow, could bring out your new style of hair. Girls nowadays worry so much about their hair, and if they are in style or not. Especially spring/summer time when they go to pools, and maybe the beach, and they still want to look hot. Wearing a braid and using a clip on the side of your hair that should do it. Makeup is also a big deal, people worry about whether going light or pump it up. Wearing bold lipsticks would do best for spring. Some shades are pinks, and passion red, and also don't wear too much makeup on your eyes if you are going for the dark lips. Overall these are just some tips, but really do what you feel comfortable wearing or doing. Wear what makes you smile and be happy. Be yourself.

Global Warming! A Threat

By: Wajeeha Shams

Global Warming. Just by the sound of that word, we think about glaciers melting, the O-Zone hole, green house gases etc; however no one will take a step forward to ask "how can I stop global warming and save this planet, our planet?" It is something that holds our attention for a while and then we forget about it. On naturalnews.com an article about global warming told readers how people feel about global warming: "Scientists and climate experts have been sounding the alarm on global warming for more than a decade with little result. The vast majority of people have simply rolled their eyes at the prediction of widespread doom and gone about their business."

About five years back global warming was a huge issue among people; however, nowadays people seem to have forgotten about it. Though recycling and the use of green products have increased, it is still not enough because people simply do not care. Almost everyone has other issues that they have to deal with, other than saving our planet since we know that by the time global warming hits hard we will not be here. But why not make this planet better for the future generations?

A lot of people do not know what green house gases are? "It is the increasing of the hole in the atmosphere by the use of fossil fuels and CFC's (Chloral Fluro Carbons)," said Miss Kraemer. What if we immediately stop emitting greenhouses gas, would global warming stop completely? "It will decrease but it won't completely stop," answered Miss Kraemer.

Global Warming is an issue around the world and we as individuals can do so much to raise awareness. Mr. Rimas gave a few tips on how awareness can be raised in our community and among students, "Present the arguments, have them watch "Inconvenient Truth" (Al Gore's Documentary)."

But what has the country done to stop global warming? Are they paying



enough attention and have they raised awareness among people?

Time Magazine said in their article, "Global Warming Heats Up," March 2006, "A Collection of new global-warming books is hitting the shelves in Response to the awakening interest, followed closely by T.V and theatrical documentaries." In one of the recent articles "Global Warming" on December 2009 in *The New York Times*, it tells about what President Obama is doing to stop Global Warming. "President Obama and other leaders announced on Nov. 15.2009 what had already become evident- that no formal treaty could be produced any time soon. Instead the leaders pledged to reach a placeholder accord that would call for reduction in emission and increased emission and increased aid to help developing nations adapt to a changing climate and get access to non-polluting energy points."

Though we cannot stop global warming completely, it is our duty as citizens to protect our country and our planet. If we do not put a stop to this now, then no one will and global warming will increase as years go by making it harder for our future generations. It can be seen from this picture (on the left) that the temperature is getting warmer and even after looking at this we still do not seem to care about it.

With that said, we should spread the message to our community, because let's face it we have nowhere else to go and should do whatever we can to stop harming our planet, George Romney, the governor of Michigan in 1963 asked, "If not now, when? If not us, who?"

The Story behind St. Patrick's Day?

By: Alex Logan

Every year on March 17th everyone gets their chance to show their Irish pride, even if they're not Irish. No matter who they are or where they are from people can wear green and show their Irish pride. People all over the world will be celebrating the holiday in many different ways, but no matter how people celebrate they enjoy themselves.

The holiday celebrates Saint Patrick, who is one of the most commonly known patron saints of Ireland. He is attributed with bringing Christianity to Ireland and more mythically banishing all the snakes from Ireland. The reason that it is on March 17th is because it is the date claimed that Saint Patrick died. The date also falls during the catholic lent which makes the religious part of the holiday more prominent to some.

The holiday is traditionally celebrated as a religious holiday and to some people it still is. According to

Mr. O'Connor who grew up in the small town in county of Siglo and moved to America in 1960 when he was 15, Saint Patrick's Day is "A much bigger deal in America. We all wore green and picked our own shamrock and wore it in our lapel," explains Mr. O'Connor. He goes on to tell that there were no organized activities in his town, to see a parade you would have to go to a big city like Dublin. In small towns like the one Mr. O'Connor was born in, the celebration was more of a religious affair. "Everyone went to church and stayed with family," he reflects.

In the United States the celebration is more like the celebrations in the bigger cities of Ireland, a commercialized holiday with parades and parties. Even though it's not a family holiday here people still enjoy it and that's all that matters no matter how you celebrate.



By: Chloe Anderson

Ms. Trenholm was feature teacher once before, but she proves yet again why she was chosen. She teaches mathematics, and is also the advisor of the class of 2011. Those students who have had Ms. Trenholm before have grown to love her. Whether it be her fun and helpful teaching style, her hilarious stories about “Ma Trenholm”, “Jada the pit bull” and many other topics discussed, or her generous days when she brings in a box of doughnuts or bagels (sometimes even providing a toaster). Those students who have not taken one of her math classes are truly missing out.

Ms. Trenholm has been teaching at the high school level for 28 years. She started off teaching at Austin Preparatory School in Reading. Then, in 1986 she was hired at Watertown High School. Her job was only supposed to be one year, but the teacher she was replacing who left on maternity leave never returned. So ever since then she has been at WHS, for a grand total of 24 years. “I often tell people that getting a job at Watertown High School was the best thing that ever happened to me. It is a joy to work with such a wonderful and talented faculty and staff and the students at this school are just phenomenal.” Ms. Trenholm says. Her first plan was to teach at the college level. “Thank goodness I became a high school teacher. I always think of my life as a

string of accidental decisions which happened to work out to my benefit every time!” she said. Ms. Trenholm did teach at UMASS Boston, and one semester at Wheelock College, Quincy College and Norfolk Prison.

Ms. Trenholm attended UMASS Boston and started off as a German major. She quickly changed her major to business during freshman orientation week, and then yet again to mathematics after her first calculus class. “I remember taking my calculus book every Tuesday and Thursday and going up to the 6th floor of the library at UMASS Boston and studying while watching the planes land across the harbor at Logan Airport. I took 18 math courses, beginning with calculus, as an undergraduate math major and loved every one of them.” Ms. Trenholm says. After graduating UMASS Boston, she became a teaching fellow at Boston College where she earned a masters in Mathematics while teaching her first college level classes. Ms. Trenholm adds, “I always enjoyed tutoring and that was probably an indication of what I wanted to do. I hated math in high school, absolutely couldn’t stand it, preferring to study French and German instead. But after one math course in college, I was hooked.”

Today at WHS Ms. Trenholm

teaches Algebra I, Honors and AP Statistics, and AP Statistics for Virtual High School. “The online class, another accidental decision which has worked out well, is so much fun to teach. This year, I have students from all over the world, including several from China. Although it’s difficult to become accustomed to the occasional Yankees fan in the class, it’s a nice change and quite a challenge to teach the AP Statistics curriculum online.” Ms. Trenholm comments about her experiences with her VHS course. Her challenging schedule of classes she teaches are also another prime example of why she was chosen for feature teacher. Ms. Trenholm remarks, “My esteemed colleague, David Passeggio, often says that teaching is not a career, it’s a lifestyle, and this is so true. I love working with and getting to know students and those at WHS have truly enriched my life.”

When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, Ms. Trenholm answered, “My favorite part of teaching is getting to know the students, especially before and after school or with emails they’ll send you with updates of what’s going on in their lives. As a teacher, it’s also so rewarding to know that you’ve played a small role in the life of a student, and taught them skills or introduced them to a subject which they’ll be able to use later in life.”



Photos by Zohra Yaqhubi

Ms. Trenholm is currently enrolled in an online teaching certificate program through Plymouth State College and VHS. “My future plans involve taking some writing classes during the summer. I’d love to write a book, but so would everyone else for that matter!” Ms. Trenholm says about her life outside of WHS. She also adds, “I spend a great deal of my free time with my 7 year old pit bull, Jada, who is running my life and dictating my every move.”

Ms. Trenholm is truly a great teacher. After your first class with her you know the class will not be like any math class before. Even if you hate math, taking statistics with Ms. Trenholm might be able to change that (I know it did for me.) She is an extremely nice person, saying this about the class of 2010” Visitors, including student teachers, often comment on how uniquely friendly the students at this school are, and I know that I often take these students for granted. This year’s senior class, for example, is a prime example of this. Many of us who work here will be so sad to see them graduate in June.”

If you don’t already know what math classes you want to take in the future at WHS, the “Trenholm experience” is highly recommended, and so is having fun and learning the way she makes it possible.

Feature Class: Legal Issues

By: Harrison Ford

Senior year brings on a wide range of opportunities that are not available to underclassmen. One perk of being a twelfth-grader is the access to courses that are specifically for seniors. For grade twelve social studies, students are able to pick from psychology, civics, and law. All are worth-while and beneficial, but law is unique in its own way. As young adults preparing to go forth and prosper in the “real world”, seniors have a lot to learn about the American Legal System (which is the actual title for law class).

Sandra Hoffman, who has been teaching Law at WHS for seven years, believes that students have a lot to learn regarding the laws of our country and how they vary depending on the state, “Students are usually surprised to learn about the history of juvenile justice and how some juvenile offenders are handled and treated in states outside Massachusetts”. This topic is of special interest to Hoffman, who comments, “I am fascinated by all areas of the law and how law reflects a society’s moral and social values, but I think I enjoy teaching about the history of juvenile law and justice”.

Not all issues brought up in law class are about felonies, as Mrs. Hoffman

points out, “Most students are eager to learn about the criminal side of law, but once we start to talk about civil law, these students are introduced to areas of law that are more practical and relevant to their lives, such as consumer protection, landlord/tenant rights, family law, and contract law”.

Those who take law are also subject to class activities such as a prison field trip. This trip usually takes place in November and is designed to give students an inside look at the life of a hardened criminal and the concrete effects of crime and punishment. But not all is serious when it comes to law, as Mrs. Hoffman manages to maintain a fun class atmosphere. When senior Jamie Almasian was asked her favorite part about law, she stated “Hoffman, because she calls Mr. Buck a genj”.

So juniors, when signing your course-selection sheets in the spring, take Mrs. Hoffman’s wise words into consideration, “Juniors should consider taking the American Legal System as one of their senior electives because hopefully they will gain a better understanding of the law and everything we do as members of a society”.



Ms. Hoffman addressing a Legal Issues class.

Photo By: Chloe Anderson

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Arts & Entertainment

WHS' Spring Musical, *Grease*, Rocks WHS Best Entertainment of the Decade 2000-2009

By: Jaqueline Tresca

"Summer lovin' happened so fast...." when *Grease* lightening swept WHS from Thursday, February 26 through Saturday, February 28 when the school production of *Grease* the musical hit the stage. Directed and choreographed by Ms. Abigail Cordell, (middle school music, chorus, and drama teacher) the school version stayed true to the original musical, including well-known songs such as "We Go Together" and "Grease Lightening."

The cast of this year's spring musical included some annual performers as well as some new faces on the stage. Lead roles were filled by many new comers to the high school drama program, including students Tyler Bartley, junior, as Danny Zuko, Katie Hayes, senior, as Sandra D., Jen Taylor, senior, as Rizzo, and Majed Abbas, senior, as Kenickie. As part of their Pink Lady and Thunderbird possies, junior students Grace Gallant, Isilay Yalcin, and Natalie Ras-Singer filled the roles of Jan, Marty, and Frenchie, while seniors Kevin O'Laughlin and Evan Hect, and sophomore Justin Depamphilis, took on the parts of Roger, Doody, and Sonny. Other key

roles included those of seniors Charlotte Fitts-Sprague as Patty Simcock, Erin Macri as Ms. Lynch, and Harrison Ford as the guardian angel, as well as those of sophomores Ben Wetherbee as Eugene and Jenna Caski as Cha-Cha.

To really get the crowd going, Bartley and Hayes started the musical with a powerful version of "Summer Lovin'." Followed by many great solos and whole-ensemble pieces, the musical talent of this year's cast proved to be very high. This talent was demonstrated throughout songs such as "Freddie My Love," (Yalcin's solo), "Sandra D." (Taylor's solo), and "Mooning Over You," (O'Laughlin and Gallant's duet). Paired with these popular songs, the dancing and acting of the cast proved to truly entertain the audience.

Through their hard work and talent, the cast of *Grease* put on a great performance that pulled in one of the largest crowds that any WHS school production has ever seen. Backed by a large ensemble, band, and tech crew, the musical proved to be a great success. The halls of WHS will be bouncing with the sound of "Grease Lightening" for years to come!

By: Zohra Yaqhubi, Harrison Ford, Brett McManus

Sure this past decade has been dubbed the "Decade From Hell" by some in the newswriting business, Time Magazine claiming that the '00s were the some of the worst years to date, but entertainment-wise, this decade was full of actors, writers, and artists that set the bar extremely high for the next decade.

Many exceptional stars stepped into the limelight during this decade, some more exceptional than others. According to "Entertainment Weekly's" December 11th 2009 issue, the Entertainers of the Decade were narrowed down to some of the following people, Johnny Depp who critics appointed, "one of the finest actors of his generation". Depp stood out in his most "unlikely" roles such as Captain Jack Sparrow in the "Pirates" trilogy.

J.K. Rowling, who exploded onto the scene with the emergence of everybody's favorite wizard, Harry Potter, had 12 million copies of Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows go to print in the U.S., selling 8.3 million copies here in the first 24 hours alone. Of course the Harry Potter craze doesn't end there as the movies have made \$5.4 billion more than any other franchise.

Tina Fey, whether it's her writing, creation, acting or comedy, America has seemed to fall in love with her incredibly awkward yet addictive comedy style.

Oprah Winfrey, who "Entertainment Weekly" writer Tim Stack says "has created a veritable Oprah-verse through her taste and branding" has had a 25 year run of her daytime talk show -which she plans to end in 2011- and has become a household name in the past decade with her work in television, politics, movies, radio, and education.

John Lasseter is Pixar's founding creative force. Although his name is not the most recognizable, his seven feature films have been nominated for 25 Oscars in the past decade, to give you a snippet of his resume.

Meryl Streep, who has been dubbed the actress who "can do anything" really did do everything in the past decade. Whether it was being a Devil wearing Prada, or a legendary chef, Streep gave viewers a meaningful performance of everyone she has played.

Steve Jobs "steered Apple through a veritable media revolution." says Adam B. Vary, of "Entertainment Weekly." From the first ipod in 2001, which junior James Dunoyer calls the best year of the decade for him because this was when "the ipod craze came about", the industry of music has forever been changed by Steve Jobs and Apple.

In the past decade, along with the many emergences of new entertainers of all sorts, we also lost many stars. People like Michael Jackson, Farrah Fawcett, Patrick Swayze, Bea Arthur, Natasha Richardson, Dom Deluise, and Brittany Murphy were among some of

the "Late Greats" -as "Entertainment Weekly" put it- from 2009 alone. George Harrison, "The Quiet Beatle", lost his battle with cancer in 2001 and Katherine Hepburn, four-time Oscar winner died in 2003. Many notable deaths occurred throughout the decade and although lives have been lost, their legends live on in entertainment history.

Movies, movies, movies! 2000 through 2009 held explosions in box offices. Records were smashed and actors emerged in movies such as "The Lord of The Rings", "Gladiator", "The Dark Knight", "The 40 Year-Old Virgin" and more. It was the decade of movie-goers and movie lovers and saw movies like "Slumdog Millionaire", "Million Dollar Baby", and "Crash" take home the Best Picture award at the Academy Awards. And when it wasn't movies, American's nationwide were glued to their seats for television series.

Television was huge in the past decade. ABC set the viewing record in 2009, estimating a total of 1.4 million viewers for a single prime time show. "The Sopranos", "Lost", "Gilmore Girls", "The Daily Show", "American Idol", "Arrested Development" and "The Comeback" were shows that ranked in the top 10 in Entertainment Weekly's Best of the Decade Issue. David Chase, creator of "The Sopranos", dubbed the best television show of the decade "took a baseball bat to the knees of the term 'family drama' and created this landmark Mafioso show," says "Entertainment Weekly." Chase himself called his hit cast "a family... [with] true affection and respect." Although TV is still going strong, many find themselves on the internet on sites like hulu.com, watching their favorite shows. Junior James Dunoyer praises it saying, "it has all kinds of TV entertainment all in one place."

Although movies and television held an enormous audience, the following of readers behind authors and books was not lost. Ranking in EW's top 10 were *The Road*, *On Beauty*, *Say You're One Of Them*, *The Corrections*, *Snow* and the Harry Potter series, among others. J.K. Rowling, not only was honored as an Entertainer of the Year, but also held the position of Bestselling Author of the Decade, selling 29,084,999 volumes worldwide according to The Telegraph in the UK.

The past decade has accumulated much speculation and criticism for many occurrences, but in entertainment's view, it's been one of the best. Dunoyer says that he would best describe this past decade in entertainment as "a breakthrough in inappropriate humor". In entertainment, "we're in the business of silver linings" says EW magazine. Whether it was movies, tv shows, albums, books, characters, episodes, or trends, the last decade did not failed to entertain. And now, with the new decade upon us, all we can wish for is more of what the last has brought us, entertainment that hits the bullseye.



Senior Majed Abbas in full character as his starring role as Kenicky.



Senior, Majed Abbas dancing to "Grease-lightning".



Senior best friends Charlotte Fitts-Sprague and Erin Macri belting out Rydell's High Allma Mater.



The Pink Ladies all together on stage for their big performance.

Photos courtesy of Lifetouch Studios.

Movie Corner: Staff Recommendations

Fantastic Mr. Fox is Fantastic

By: Sasha Grodsky

"Fantastic Mr. Fox" is what all children's movies should be. It is not too long, it is fast paced, and it assumes that children are smarter than most adults give them credit. The movie is eighty-seven minutes of snappy dialogue and adorably animated critters. Fans of Roald Dahl's original story of the same title will not be disappointed as director Wes Anderson manages to stay true to the book while still adding his own creative touches.

The movie is about Mr. Fox-voiced by George Clooney- an ex-chicken thief who was forced to quit his fiendish ways upon learning about the pregnancy of his wife, voiced by Meryl Streep. Many years later, Mr. Fox is itching for just one more heist, and so he hatches a plan to steal from the three richest, meanest farmers around, Misters Boggis, Bunce, and Bean. The farmers are not happy at having their

livelihood snatched out from under their noses by a wild animal, and soon decide to put a stop to Mr Fox's shenanigans.

Mr. Fox and the rest of the forest creatures go on the lam and dig their way under the forest. This would not be a Wes Anderson movie if there were not some type of family conflict, so while they are digging their way to freedom, Mr. Fox and his son voiced by Wes Anderson regular, typically surly Jason Schwartzman, navigate their way through the complicated world of parent-teen relationships.

The rest of the movie wraps up nicely, ending with a few quick and funny fight scenes. With a cute, if not especially memorable soundtrack and cameos by Bill Murray and Owen Wilson, the *Fantastic Mr. Fox* is an entertaining hour and a half escape to a world of wild animals.

The Kite Runner

By: Wajeeha Shams

The Kite Runner movie, directed by Marc Foster, is based on Khaled Hosseini's novel. The story is based on kite flying and the movie begins with beautiful kites flying in Kabul, Afghanistan. It is about the Soviet invasion, friendship, guilt, redemption, love, survival etc. The movie is about two young friends, Hassan, played by Ahmad Khan Mahmoodzada, and Amir, played by Zekiria Ebrahimi. Hassan is a servant and works in Amir's house.

Even though Hassan is a good friend, Amir betrays him when he doesn't stand up for him. Amir frames Hassan which results in he and his father's removal from the house. After the Soviet invasion Amir and his father played by Homayoun Ershadi, move to California. Amir then played in the film by the Scottish-born Khalid Abdalla [a 38 year old novelist who has a great life with his wife]. However, he still cannot

forgive himself for betraying Hassan, when the chance for redemption comes when Amir receives a phone call from a family friend.

The movie has a lot of twists and turns filled with deep emotions. It is in English (subtitles). The locations and characters in the movie are very similar to the details of the novel. In the *Chicago Sun-Times*, Roger Ebert says, "How long has it been since you saw a movie that succeeds as pure story?" and responds by giving this movie an A. The actors have done exceptionally well, especially Ahmed Khan, who plays young Hassan. The fans of the book will not be disappointed and will enjoy this movie a lot. It covers the book very well with only small parts of the book missing. The movie will provide a good way for people to learn more about Afghan history and culture.

Shutter Island Will Make You Shudder

By: Jacqueline Tresca

Shutter Island, directed by Martin Scorsese, has been in theaters for almost a month now and the mixed reviews are finally in. Although some may say that it's boring and cheesy, this is definitely a movie worth shelling out \$11 for. Boasting an all-star cast made up of stars such as Leonardo DiCaprio, Mark Ruffalo, Michelle Williams, and Ben Kingsley, the movie takes place at a fictional island not far from Boston that is home to the infamous Ashecliffe Hospital for the criminally insane.

It is to this hospital that U.S. Marshal Teddy Daniels (DiCaprio) and his partner, Chuck Aule (Ruffalo), are sent to investigate the disappearance of a patient. However, it is not a mere coincidence that Daniels is assigned to this particular case. The criminal who started the fire that led to the death of his wife resides in the hospital on this island. But there's even more to it than that. Daniels believes that something

strange is going on at the island and what he finds during one of the biggest hurricanes to ever hit Shutter Island is pretty shocking. Even more shocking though is the twist that is sure to spin your mind and make you leave that theater wondering what the truth is on Shutter Island.

Although slightly creepy this movie is certainly no horror film. Intertwined with Daniels' visions of his wife Dolores (Williams), the marshal's encounters with doctors like Doctor Cawley (Kingsley), patients, and strange occurrences, *Shutter Island* has a truly puzzling plot that is more of a mind-boggling thriller than a scary movie. The special effects are certainly not those of *Avatar*, but the storm itself demonstrates some technical genius. If you're in the mood for a twisted thriller, forget any negative reviews that you may have heard about this movie and check out *Shutter Island* today!

The Lovely Bones is a Lovely Movie

By: Wajeeha Shams

"The Lovely Bones" is based on Alice Sebold's novel. The book has established many fans after only a couple years after its success, Peter Jackson (director of *Heavenly Creatures* and *Lord of the Rings*) has made this book come alive on the big screen.

The story takes place in the 1970s in a suburban area. It starts off with fourteen year old Susie Salmon (Saoirse Ronan), an average teenager in high school. One day when she is walking home from school, she decides to take the shortcut through the corn field where she is raped and then murdered. After she is in heaven she sees her family but they are not able to see her. She is killed by her neighbor whom Susie calls Mr. Harvey, played by Stanley Tucci, but no one knows it is him. Her father, played by Mark Wahlberg and mother, played by Rachel Weisz, struggle to find Susie's murderer as well as to keep their family together. They attempt to deal with her disappearance in their own ways. Her mother wants to forget about it while her father refuses to give up the search for Susie's murderer. Susie, who is in "the in-between" (place between heaven and earth) tries to help her family solve her murder.

Saoirse Ronan fits in as the character of Susie because her acting

skills are incredible. She delivers a lot of emotion through her eyes. She is also able to carry difficult scenes, like the rape scene and when she is confused about why people cannot see her. When her soul walks the earth, immediately after her death and when she is finally sent to "the in-between world". Stanley Tucci is almost unrecognizable with his blue contacts and blonde hair. In the movie he has done a remarkable job playing the character of Mr. Harvey; the movie shows a completely different side of him.

The movie contains a lot of special effects to show Susie's "in-between world". Fans of the book might still prefer it over the movie, mostly because of the descriptive details that are in the book, but are missing from the movie. The movie is rated PG 13 so both parents and teenagers will enjoy it. The movie is great because it sends out a message to its viewers, such as the meaning of family and love. It is filled with emotions and the suspense will catch the attention of everyone. The movie deals with emotions of adults and teenagers and how they deal with their loss and how they can find happiness. Many adults and teenagers have liked the book and will like the movie as well.

Precious is Worthy of Awards

By: Harrison Ford

On March 7th, 2010, millions watched as veteran actress and comedienne Mo'Nique won the Best Supporting Actress Oscar for her riveting performance in *Precious: Based On The Novel Push By Sapphire*. The Oscar was well deserved, as Mo'Nique helped to make *Precious* one of the most provocative and talked about movies of 2009.

The film, directed by Lee Daniels and produced by a team that includes Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry, takes place in Harlem circa 1987 and tells the harrowing story of Claireece "Precious" Jones (Gabourey Sidibe), a sixteen year old girl who gets kicked out of school for being pregnant with her second child. While trying to continue her education at an alternative high school, Precious must also juggle constant physical and mental abuse from her mother (Mo'Nique), trauma from being raped by her own father, and the arrival of her baby boy.

Precious suffers much adversity over the course of the film, but its message is ultimately one of strength, perseverance, and the ability to find beauty while surrounded by ugliness. The film covers taboo subjects such as teen pregnancy, rape, abuse, poverty, homosexuality and HIV with such gritty authenticity that the viewer can't help but be pulled in to the world of *Precious*, sympathize with her, and root for her every step of the way. While *Precious* is filled with harsh dialogue and imagery, the film is utterly poetic, managing to capture and glorify the brief moments of joy in the title character's grim life.



Though the storyline is candid and powerful, the movie is ultimately held together by stellar performances from a talented cast. Mo'Nique is both heartbreaking and terrifying as Precious' dysfunctional mother. Newcomer Gabourey Sidibe is captivating in the title role, earning both Golden Globe and Academy Award nominations for Best Actress, a major landmark considering this is her first film. Paula Patton and Mariah Carey also bring depth to the film through their strong supporting roles Precious' passionate teacher and no-nonsense social worker.

Precious is now out on DVD. I highly recommend this amazing movie for all sorts of viewers (except those with an aversion to graphic content) as it will open eyes and hearts galore.

The 2010 Oscars

By: Mane Harutyunyan

The road to the Oscars is one paved with struggle, competition, hard work and persistence. The big names of Hollywood were once little people in this world, barely able to make themselves heard let alone being awarded for their performances. On March 7th, 2010, the 82nd Annual Academy Awards were held in the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood in honor of the year's greatest accomplishments in the movie industry. Each year, the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences recognizes the excellence of these professionals in fields varying from "best actor" to "best sound editing." The 13 inch tall, 8 pound gold-plated statuette is a symbol of achievement and admiration for actors, directors, writers, producers and technicians alike.

This year's pre-Oscars buzz was featured around the same couple of movies. "Avatar" takes viewers into a different world beyond human imagination. It tells the story of a hero embarking on an adventure to save the alien world. Directed by James Cameron, the Oscar-winning director of "Titanic," this movie was expected to take home most of the major titles of the evening. Rivaling alongside "Avatar" was "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" which introduced new faces to the industry and told the poignant tale of 16 year old Claireece "Precious" Jones who sought a chance to suppress the sexual and physical abuse she endured in her past and instead push for a better future. The most popular movie of the night went to "The Hurt Locker," which earned the most recognition including the title of "best picture" and "best directing."



This was also a highlight of the night considering this was the first time in Oscar history that a woman, Kathryn Bigelow took the prize of "best directing." This movie rightfully earned its award by capturing the attention of audiences everywhere with its riveting portrayal of military heroes who challenge all odds and save other people's lives while endangering their own.

Mixed in with these memorable films were "Crazy Heart," "The Blind Side," "District 9," "An Education," "Inglourious Basterds," "A Serious Man," "Up," and "Up in the Air" which were also nominees in the "best picture" category. This was an unusual year in the sense that there were 10 nominations in this category vs. the standard 5.

Other outstanding moments included performer Neil Patrick Harris' opening act and constant hilarious jokes by co-hosts Steve Martin and Alec Baldwin. However, the best Oscar moment hands-down goes to Ben Stiller who got on stage in full avatar-esque makeup and costume. A combination of new faces, unexpected wins and extraordinary performances made this years Academy Awards a landmark moment in cinematic history.

Interpreter of Maladies: A Great Read

By: Sasha Grodsky

The Interpreter of Maladies is a collection of nine short stories written by Jhumpa Lahiri, the author of The Namesake. The collection won the 2000 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, and for good reason. Although The Namesake is the best known of Lahiri's books, and was recently turned into a feature film, short stories are where her talent really shines.

The stories in the collection have no direct connection, except for the fact that almost all of them take place either in Cambridge, Massachusetts or India.

Each story is elegantly crafted and draws the reader so deeply in, that when it ends it is hard to believe that

it was only a short story. Almost all of the stories are tragic, and all of them are tear-jerkers.

The first story, and one of the most powerful stories, was called *A Temporary Matter*. It tells the story of a young Indian couple who has recently lost a child, which has all but destroyed their marriage. It is told from the perspective of the husband Shukumar. The story follows him as he and his wife become increasingly disconnected from each other, to the point where they are almost strangers living in the same house.

Despite some tragedy, The Interpreter of Maladies as a whole is beautiful and moving. It is fairly short, and definitely worth reading.

Alice in Wonderland: The Movie

By: Ashley Caira

Trapped under pressure of marrying Hamish (Leo Bill), Alice (Mia Wasikowska) flees the garden they are in, and hopes to follow the rabbit that once took her away to "Wonderland", which is later made known that in fact, the location was truly "Underland."

Tim Burton directed the sequel to the well known, Alice in Wonderland book, by Lewis Carrol in 1865 and also the original movie created by Disney. Alice chases the rabbit and climbs down a rabbit hole in order to continue the chase. When she reaches Underland she is faced with people asking if she is the "real Alice" and is faced this question

throughout the whole movie. She runs into the Mad Hatter who is played by Johnny Depp. Going through the movie you view flashbacks of the old one and even face new characters like the White Queen (Anne Hathaway) and the Red Queen (Helena Bonham Carter).

I would recommend this movie giving it, eight stars out of ten. Although, be prepared for differences from the original Disney movie. Also, the 3-D effects could have been a little better. All in all, Tim Burton has successfully created another movie that fans filled seats to view.

Some Ideas for Weekend Fun

By: Jacqueline Tresca

"There's nothing to do!" We have all expressed that thought before. Living in little Watertown, Massachusetts, sometimes it is hard to find something exciting to do on the weekends. With two boring malls and no in-town amusements, there just never seems to be anything to do. "I always find myself doing the same things over and over," says junior Mane Harutyunyan. So what should your plans include for this weekend?

Unfortunately, if you want to get out of the house, you will have to *really* get out of the house. Try driving up to Fresh Pond or even into Boston to catch one of the many new movies out this winter season, such as "Dear John" or "Shutter Island." Tired of the movies? Try ice-skating on Frog Pond in Boston. Maybe the cold is not for you. The Atrium, Burlington, and Cambridge Side Galleria malls boast many popular stores and will give you the warm atmosphere you are looking for. "Lanes and Games" in Arlington is always a fun bowling alley with a

group of friends. Or instead, check out one of the many delicious restaurants around Watertown, like Panera Bread, for dinner or even a light lunch. There are endless possibilities for things to do over the weekend. "I like to hang out with friends, go to the movies, and go to the gym every Saturday. This week I'm going to the Museum of Science to see the Harry Potter exhibit," says Harutyunyan.

However, after a while these ordinary activities can get a little redundant. If you are looking for something really "out-of-the-box" to do this weekend, go back to the basics. Have a game night, post web cam videos with friends, or go to a high school sporting event. Have friends over and host a movie night. Grab a hot drink at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts and go for a walk around town. Have an ordinary sleepover. There are many little things that can be done, and cheaply, even in a town like Watertown. They may seem simple, but these activities are more fun than they appear, especially with a great group of friends.

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Hosted by the WHS Peer Leaders

Opinion

Opposing Viewpoints: The Legalization of Marijuana

Legalize It?

By: Jeremy Stark

The debate has been going on since the criminalization of cannabis in 1937. Should marijuana be legalized? Many people have their own opinions on the matter, but I personally believe that yes, it should be. But why?

It's a drug, after all, that damages brain cells and also impairs judgement and leads to poor decision making. Sounds like alcohol doesn't it? That's my thought. If anything, we should learn from history. In the 1920's the 18th amendment abolished the sale, manufacture, transport and consumption of alcohol in the United States. This period known as "Prohibition" lasted from 1919 to 1933. What the USA saw during this time was a rise in crime and Mafia activity as "bootleggers," or illegal dealers of alcohol, similar to today's marijuana dealers, smuggled alcohol through the country, and a violent and profitable black market for alcohol flourished. As crime was on the rise, the country knew that alcohol had to be legalized once again, and on March 23, 1933 President Franklin Roosevelt signed the 21st amendment legalizing alcohol. The country was glad, and the violence and criminal activity that spawned as a result of black market alcohol and bootlegging disappeared as alcohol was sold legally.

Doesn't it only make sense to legally sell marijuana as well? Of course it would be regulated and sold exactly like alcohol, the legal age being 21, driving under the influence of marijuana being severely punished, etc. The things it would do for our country however would be considerable. The legal sale of marijuana would make the black market for marijuana disappear entirely. It would also make it harder for teens to obtain marijuana with the absence of street dealers, and even keep kids from dealing, a huge problem in today's school systems. Teens deal marijuana because it is in demand, it is profitable and because they can deal to large social networks that they have. If marijuana is legalized however, it will make marijuana dealing disappear,

which would be very beneficial to the scholastic environments.

Another great thing that would come from the legalization of marijuana would be the economic benefit. Marijuana is often grown outside of the U.S. and smuggled inside the country's borders. People who spend their money on this marijuana are giving money away to foreign lands. If it were legalized, taxed, and sold domestically the money would circulate throughout the United States. The large market for marijuana would have people spending money on marijuana from small businesses or large producers rather than from street dealers; the money would help stimulate the economy rather than help stimulate criminal activity.

Another point to consider: hemp production in the U.S. has a huge obstacle, and that is the criminalization of marijuana. If marijuana were legalized, the hemp industry could more easily grow and produce hemp, a valuable and diverse agricultural crop that can also be developed as a bio-fuel to reduce carbon emissions (might I add that as a bio-fuel source, hemp does not increase demand and price for food like corn would for example). Lastly, the legalization of marijuana would create a new marijuana market and increase the production of hemp products, thus making more jobs for the American people, and as a bio-fuel, hemp is great for going green and being environmentally friendly.

The arguments against marijuana are all health related, stating that the long term effects of marijuana can be harmful to the user, cause lung cancer, possibilities of addiction and of course, the altered perception of reality that can potentially be dangerous. However, if tobacco and alcohol have the exact same risks, and both are legal, taxed, and regulated, then why shouldn't marijuana be as well? The benefits are substantial.

This country could definitely benefit from the legalization of marijuana.

2012, The End?

By: Brett McManus

On December 21, 2012, something incredible is supposed to happen. Life as we know it is going to be completely annihilated. Many people speculate this for many reasons, such as the end of the Mayan calendar, geomagnetic reversal, the collision of the planet "Nibiru", or black hole alignment will bring about the apocalypse. Each one of these theories is just as unlikely as the next.

For instance, modern day Mayan calendar gives no importance to the year 2012 and Mayan elder Apolinario Chile Pixtun along with Mexican archaeologist Guillermo Bernal both say that "apocalypse" is a Western idea that has little or nothing to do with

Mayan beliefs. As to why people think the world is going to end because the calendar of a long extinct civilization ends is completely illogical.

Other theories about the end of time are just as ill thought out as the ending of the Mayan calendar. One such example of this is supporters of the Nibiru collision who claim that a planet called Nibiru will collide with the earth in 2012. To date there is absolutely no scientific evidence to back this up. When it comes to 2012 being the end of the world, logic and reason should be used to determine whether or not we are all going to be wiped of the Earth, not belief in fanatic cult groups.

Or Not?

By: Mane Harutyunyan

This kid is a nightmare. He trudges through life on a one-way path that only leads him further and further down into the black abyss. But he just keeps walking. He's waist-deep in problems, drowning in his own misery. But he just keeps moving. Shoulders hunched, arms limp, feet dragging, he looks straight ahead; his bloodshot eyes glossy and unfocused. But there's nothing to see. No vestige of a future, no hints of happiness. He carries with him the weed in his hand and the heavy weight of loneliness in his heart. He's an outsider. "The problem child." But he wasn't always like this.

Rewind back to 6 months ago. He fit the persona of a typical teenager: decent grades in honors classes, active in sports year round, good relationship with friends and family and basically, an overall social and likable guy. He had dreams of attending college on a basketball scholarship. He had hopes of being a role model for his younger brother to look up to. He had close friends, family and a girlfriend who supported him in whatever he chose to pursue. The doors of opportunities were wide open until he turned his back on them that one day in late December. Two words: "smoke this," and like the call of the siren, he was seduced by the deceiving appeals of marijuana. 6 months later: he has nothing. It doesn't take much to realize that within that time period, his developing addiction shattered his world until it came to rest like broken pieces of glass at his feet. This is the reality of it. And this.. is a true story.

But why is it that everything is perceived as a story until it happens to you? Then and only then is it considered reality. But now the reality of it is that marijuana is the most widely used illicit drug among teens and each year hundreds of thousands of people are treated for marijuana dependence. It's not like we're not all familiar with it either. I walk the same hallways as all of you here do. I've got ears and you've got ears. Stories spread, pictures surface and before long it's not too hard to spot the "stoner kids." It's almost as if they have BEWARE OF DANGER tattoos stamped across their foreheads but even though we're all fully aware of the consequences, they still manage to suck some of us in and force us to cross that portal into a new world. At first,

weed can seem good. It's *supposed* to be good. To many, it allows the mind to completely drift away from problems in the real world and instead focus on this new utopia. However, danger lurks within every inhale of marijuana. It is physically an addictive drug and to make matters worse, the marijuana available to teenagers today is much stronger than that offered in the 1960's. As the users' obsession deepens, they begin to intake heavier doses to reach their desired state sometimes even lacing it with other potent drugs. At that point, marijuana becomes an escape passage from problems at school, home or with friends and one finds themselves crossing that portal more often than originally intended. And that is when going back doesn't even register as an option.

The "official" definition of marijuana as found on dictionary.com is "a preparation made from the dried flower clusters and leaves of the cannabis plant; addictive, and usually smoked or eaten to induce euphoria." Compare this with the modern, teenage viewpoint posted on websites like urbandictionary.com that define marijuana as "God's gift to mankind." Really? Well, this "gift" was accountable for 215,666 emergency room visits in 2005. It's linked to increased anxiety and panic attacks, thoughts of suicide, poor performance in school, loss of interests and depression. Teenagers who use it are nine times more likely to get involved with other drugs, five times more likely to steal and four times more likely to become violent. Put that on your Christmas list.

Maybe none of this is news to you. Maybe you don't care. But maybe, that's not my point. Drug resistance is a group effort that extends beyond the decisions you make for yourself. The main goal is to build up a new future whose foundation doesn't rest on a group of druggies. This starts by healthy decision making on your part and branches out to the rest of the community. Marijuana has been introduced for recreational purposes since early 20th century. It is factors like peer pressure and the younger kids imitating their older siblings that encourage the growing rate of marijuana users reaching all the way back to innocent sixth grade kids. It is time to extract the poison we're injecting into our society and break the bonds that are tying us down to this jaded youth.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Raider Times staff or its advisor.

Are Holidays Too Materialistic?

By: James Dunoyer

What do Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Valentine's Day all have in common? At some point in time a trip must be taken to the store. When at the store you are bound to notice the countless elaborate decorations scattered everywhere in sight. There is no way to avoid the materialistic messages begging you to open your wallet during the holidays. On the heels of Halloween, the Christmas decorations spring up, and the day after Christmas the stores turn pink with Valentine's Day decorations. The urge to spend more money is at its peak, so I ask myself: "have holidays become too materialistic?"

There was once a more simple time, when Christmas was simply a

celebration of Jesus' birthday, and when Valentine's Day was simply a time for lovers to express their love. However, now the pressure is on. I fear for the man who doesn't shower his presumptuous girlfriend with gifts on Valentine's Day, and even more for the man without a job who has the onerous task of satisfying his children on Christmas, when all of their other friends got the newest and greatest game system or cell phone.

Marketers are attacking the heart and soul of the holidays. They are taking away from the true meaning, a meaning that requires you to look beyond the decorations in order to see.

Don't Lower the Drinking Age

By: Kalli Fabrikarakas

It is experience, not the law, that brings maturity, and for this reason the drinking age should not be lowered from twenty-one to eighteen. Those who are in favor of lowering the drinking age believe that eighteen is the age at which teenagers are now accepted and looked upon as adults. It is the age that is considered the bridge between adolescence and adulthood. Turning eighteen for many young adults means that they have just entered a new world of new opportunities and a new lifestyle. However, being given all of these opportunities does not mean that these young adults have the responsibility and experience to handle things such as alcohol maturely. Studies show that an eighteen year-old brain is still developing compared to the brain of a twenty-one year old, which is fully developed. Why trust someone who has a brain that is still developing, to drink a substance that can affect their judgment and behavior?

All of the students at WHS, including myself, are below the age of twenty-one. Yet despite the fact that we are below the age of twenty-one, does it mean that we have not reached a point in our lives involving an experience where we have been exposed to alcohol? No. Being a high school student and a citizen under the age of twenty-one has encouraged me to research the topic of underage drinking because this issue is extremely beneficial to address this school of, and although may share different view points regarding this issue, are still involved in the same problem.

In the 1980's, the U.S government set the legal drinking age to twenty-one. The reasons for this change were primarily to lower the rates of teenage alcoholism and the issue of drunk driving. Proponents of this particular law, strongly agree that by increasing the legal drinking age, alcohol consumption among teens is being reduced, and as a result, is furthermore providing a safer environment for teenagers. There is always the argument that regardless

of how high the legal drinking age is changed, it will never reduce the allure of alcohol for people below the age limit. However, according to the Alcohol Policies Project, if the drinking age is indeed lowered, then alcohol will become more available to an even younger generation, and there will be an even greater opportunity to obtain it illegally.

The majority, 70%, of all teenagers drink alcohol, and 60% of all teenage deaths involved in car accidents, are alcohol related. This issue causes a major threat to the lives of teenagers and contributes to the fact that more teenagers die in alcohol-related car crashes than any other cause. Did you know that every twenty-two minutes, someone dies in an alcohol related motor vehicle accident? How can future generations contribute or offer anything to society if their potential is being cut short by alcoholism and alcohol related accidents.

It is important to ask ourselves about the maturity and responsibility level that deserves the drinking age limit to be lowered? Is this something that can show society that people aged eighteen deserve to be trusted with the responsibility of drinking, along with driving? Especially since no one regardless of age should drink and drive? Absolutely not. If anything, these facts show that drinking causes poor judgment among people and the more one drinks, the more judgment they lose.

I encourage this school to learn about underage drinking and to ask yourselves if lowering the drinking age limit is worth the lives of both a person who made a poor judgment as a result of drinking and driving and the possible victim who may be you or even somebody you know.

Can Money Buy Love?

By: Ashley Caira

What is Valentine's Day? Why should people be forced to express their love for one another that one day? According to the dictionary, Valentine's Day is on February 14, observed in honor of St. Valentine as a day for the exchange of valentines and other tokens of affection.

Yet has this holiday grown to be too materialistic? It is almost a competition among woman now. Which husband bought the biggest bouquet of flowers, or who had the most romantic date. Valentine's Day used to be a holiday where people did little things for one another. Even for the younger kids, things have changed. Now, they compete with each other on who gets the best one. People should be able to express their love without having to spend \$42.95 at the local florist! Love is a feeling that should be expressed all the time not just once a year, where you save up all of your money and spend it on dinner, movies, and a bouquet of flowers. It just does not make sense to me. Be grateful you have each other! Why spend so much?

"Valentine's Day can be fun, when you have someone. But when you don't it's just a reminder that you are alone," explained junior Nicole Pinzone. I agree with her, yes Valentine's Day can be nice, but what about all of the single people? It is just another night at home, while you're surrounded by love and all that comes with it. That special day should be recognized with a loved one, not the whole world. Even, walking into Stop and Shop, the florist and bakery are both surrounded by hearts and pink. All advertisements to get you to spend more money! There are other options than blowing \$50.00 or more!

On the other hand, I can see why people enjoy Valentine's Day, when you're with the one you love and just spend time together it can be not only fun, but amazing. Why does money have to be involved now? Why not just stay at home, cook a nice small meal and watch a movie? Valentine's Day is about enjoying each other's company not their wallet.

An Opinion on Valentine's Day?

What does Valentine's Day Mean to You?

By: Alex Logan

Valentines Day has never really affected me. It just seems like any other day on the calendar, the only difference being that people give chocolate to you. I don't know why it doesn't mean much to me, it might be because it's a very commercial holiday with no real meaning behind it, or it might be the fact that I don't have a girlfriend (ladies), or it could be that I don't eat chocolate. Whatever my reason is for not being a big fan of the holiday I know not every person thinks the way that I do.

Some people feel like the holiday is fun. "Valentine's Day is a day where couples can show their affection and love for the one they like and it's okay to be corny," explains Kalli Fabrikarakas. I do understand

how people, like Kalli, feel about the holiday, and I don't necessarily agree with it but I have no problem with the fact that people enjoy Valentine's Day, its just I tend to agree more with people like senior Harrison Ford and sophomore Zohra Yaqubi, who say, "We think it's a generic, made for consumer holiday that is nice in certain aspects but for people who are single. Valentine's day is just like any other day in the winter... but with more chocolate."

Zohra and Harrison share my opinion about the holiday thinking that it's just another day.

Maybe some day I will understand the allure of Valentine's Day, but for now I will stick to my opinion and continue to not care about it.

The opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily reflect those of the Raider Times staff or its advisor.

Do you have a strong opinion? Share it with us. See Ms. O'Grady for details.

To Eat or Not to Eat: A Wrestler's Diet

By: Alex Logan

It's winter, which means that it's time for winter sports team to start practicing; it also means that it's time for all the wrestlers to start cutting weight. Wrestling is the only high school sport that requires participants to manage their weight. Because of this challenge there are many different ways to lose weight in short amounts of time that wrestlers can use, some ways to do this are good for your body, some ways aren't necessarily beneficial to your health, but also not too bad for you over time either. And then there are some ways that aren't healthy for you at all and can become hurtful to your body when done over long periods of time.

The healthiest way to wrestle would be to "wrestle at a weight that can be maintained comfortably" according to Mr. Di Benedetti, which means for some people staying as close as possible to their natural weight. But if you have a good amount of body fat, losing weight can still be a healthy option, as long as it is done right. The right way to lose weight would be to lose the weight over a longer period of time through dieting and exercise, and trying to stay within seven to ten percent of your body fat percentage. The best time to start losing weight would be at least three months before the season, for the healthiest results. During the season should be a time for maintaining weight. A healthy way to do this would be to stay within three or four pounds from your weight class, and sustain a healthy diet and exercise program that includes intense cardio exercises to keep up conditioning, and control weight. Maintaining weight is a hard part of wrestling. In order to cope with this, wrestlers try to find quick ways to shed a pound or two

When cutting weight a wrestler will think to himself, "what is the quickest way I can lose the most weight?" This question will most likely yield the answer of running with layers. Whether it is on a treadmill, track, or the heated stairs across from Mr. Di Benedetti's room on the first floor, running with layers of clothes will make you sweat. When a wrestler sweats they not only drain their body of as much liquid as they can but they also won't allow themselves enough water for proper re-hydration. The worst of the intentional dehydration is usually done the night of a match when the wrestler will have to make weight the following morning. Even though the bulk of the dehydration is done over one night it can still affect a wrestler, according

to Mr. Di Benedetti, for every one percent of water lost the body will lose the ability to perform by three to four percent. So even though it has no long-term affects on your health, this method of dehydration to lose weight is still not very good for you. Sometime a wrestler will have to lose a pound or so before weigh-ins the day of a match. This can be done by chewing gum and spitting in to a bottle, the gum makes you salivate so there is more to spit. This method of weight cutting causes dehydration so is not really good for you but it's only for a short period of time because a wrestler will drink water immediately after making weight.

Methods of weight cutting that are the unhealthiest and are usually done when a wrestler is overweight by a lot. These methods of weight cutting are partly responsible for giving people the idea that wrestling is a crazy sport. They all involve extreme dehydration and food and water deprivation in order to cut weight. Some examples are running in a plastic sweat suit or with a trash bag, which causes you to sweat a lot and to lose a large amount of water weight in short periods of time. After this is done a wrestler will only take a minimal amount of fluids into his body, which is bad for your health over time.

Another way that wrestlers will try and cut weight is to go to a sauna. The sauna will cause a wrestler to sweat without doing anything and only dehydrates the wrestler, which is unhealthy for the body. Some times when a sauna is not available, a wrestler will improvise by using the shower, by turning the shower on as hot as you can withstand and going in for a long period of time and running in place. This can act as a sauna and causes you to sweat and is not good for you. All of these methods that promote dehydration, which is detrimental to your long-term health, Mr. DiBenedetti tells, "dehydration can cause kidney damage and electro light imbalances causing problems with the muscles." And for this reason these weight-cutting methods are illegalized by the MIAA.

Cutting and maintaining weight is one of the greatest challenges in the sport of wrestling which is one of the most challenging sports, and when done in a proper way it should benefit your health over all but when done the wrong way it will not only hurt your body but also your ability to wrestle.

Lacrosse: the New Sport at WHS

By: Aaron Parseghian

The fastest sport on two feet, otherwise known as lacrosse, is set to make its first appearance at Watertown High School this spring. After being pushed by students and parents in the community and a strong youth program that has been built up, the school decided to add a boys JV lacrosse team, and girl's freshmen team.

After looking at a few candidates, Athletic Director Michael Lahiff, decided to hire Chris Burns former coach of division 1 Billerica Memorial High School. Coach Burns boasts quite impressive records during his coaching career. After coaching six years at BMHS, Burns accumulated a record of 102-25, made it to the Massachusetts state championship game, and was named Boston Globe coach of the year in 2008.

As a program just starting out for the first time, Coach Burns has a few main goals for this year. "This year we want teach the players proper fundamentals, and we want players to develop a high lacrosse IQ that will be needed to be successful at the varsity level." Coach Burns stays true to this statement as each player received a six section binder full of defensive and offensive sets, and a glossary of terms that will be used throughout the

year. "The binder really helps," says sophomore rookie laxer Ben Sampson, "A lot of these terms are brand new to me, and it is definitely a useful tool."

The future of Watertown High School lacrosse is hopeful one, "We want to prepare the team to be a competitive varsity program next year, and to understand the commitment that is needed to be successful," said Burns. Burns who has notably coached many college players, one professional player, and eight high school all-Americans, is determined to extend the career of all the players he coaches to the college level. "Eventually, [WHS can] bring a lacrosse state championship to the school and town."

However, a thank you should be also given to Bob and Joanna Johnson who helped create a youth program in Watertown, as their son Matt who will be a freshmen attackman for Watertown's first team, showed great interest in the sport. Also helping out with the program is former college goalie for Bryant University and youth coach Mike Forgione, and Chemistry teacher/football coach Gary Bridge.

For more information about the lacrosse team, visit it's website at www.watertownlax.org.

Olympics Recap

By: Brett McManus

This past February in Vancouver, Canada countries from around the world sent their best athletes to compete in the 2010 winter Olympics. This year was a rather eventful one with the U.S. bringing home 37 medals, the most medals any country has ever brought back for the winter Olympics. The Olympics lasted for sixteen days with much triumph, upsets and tragedy.

The U.S. men's hockey team pulled off an unexpected 5-3 win against team Canada to put them as the first seed. Unfortunately they lost in a close game during overtime in the gold medal round. The Canadians also set the record for the most gold medals ever won by

winning 14 gold medals. The record was previously held by Norway in 2002.

Tragically a men's luger from the Republic of Georgia was killed during a training round. The luger was only 21 years old.

A total of fifteen sporting events were held during this year's games with eighty-two nations competing. The total cost of the 2010 Olympics was estimated to have been somewhere around 6 billion dollars. The next winter Olympics is scheduled to take place in Sochi, Russia in 2014.

A Day in the Life of a Sports Journalist

By Aaron Parseghian

At around twelve o'clock on January 30, 2010 I arrived at the main entrance to the T.D. Banknorth Garden, to attend a Boston Blazers professional lacrosse game, amongst the rest of the general public, as if I was attending any other game. Confused as to where to go I followed the rest of the crowd to the main court/field entrance, and proceeded to ask the security for help.

"Excuse me sir, how do I get to the east security entrance." The man looks at me like I have a thousand heads. "Well who do you know?" he questions. I went on to tell him that I was working with a student reporter program, granting me access to areas that would normally be off limits to the general public. He then pulls me

away from the crowd and whispers me directions like its some mission for a C.I.A. operative.

I make my way outside, up a ramp, and through security doors to receive my media credentials, my ticket to most off limit areas. My first stop was the third floor, where I walked through the player's tunnel, saw the Bruins locker-room, and saw the Will McDonough journalist room.

When the game started I took my seat, (which could be anywhere I wanted to sit) in the front row right next to the action, sitting next to professional photographers, and EMT's for the game. I stayed in my seat to watch the action of players like reigning M.V.P. Dan

Dawson, and defensemen Kyle Ross.

At halftime, I navigated my way to the press boxes on the ninth floor, sitting with people with notebooks and laptops in hand, taking notes of the game. I helped myself to the complimentary refreshments, and went through the television, radio, and media control boxes.

When the game ended, with the Blazers winning 11-9 I exited where the rest of the public would, through a door that camouflaged in with the rest of the wall. As I was leaving a kid asked me "Hey, can you get me a shirt?"

It's really cool to see how much power the media gets compared

to the general public. Access anywhere is granted, free food, and views of the game from new perspectives. It was also funny to see how little kids almost viewed me as a celebrity, asking if I can get them free merchandise.

The job of a sports journalist is quite a fun one, watching and getting special treatment at sporting events, and then writing about either the game or your experience. Furthermore, I could eventually see myself pursuing it as major in college, or professionally later in my life.

Sports

This Issue's Feature Athletes

Connor Stockdale: Junior Basketball Captain

By: Chloe Anderson



Stockdale moves the ball upcourt.

Photo by: Lifetouch

Junior, Connor Stockdale is this issue's feature male athlete. Connor is known for his skills on the basketball court. The starting center is a big part of the defending state champion WHS basketball team. Connor has been playing Bidy Basketball like most kids at that age. Connor said that throughout the years "it (basketball) teaches me how to be a part of a team and work with others." All basketball players can agree that there is so much to love about the game of basketball.

But, Connor's favorite part, "stuffing kids" he says with a laugh. Also in the world of basketball there are a lot of people and players to look up to and have as a role model. Connor's role models are Billy Stolman and Kevin Garnett. The boys' basketball teams are known to be tough ones and sometimes getting school work can be a challenge. "Sometimes I find it difficult to get homework done after a hard practice,"

admits Connor.

To prepare for a game Connor says, "I'll be the first one in the locker room and listen to my iPod by myself." Connor also says before every game he listens to "Bring your whole crew" by DMX. Basketball comes with a lot of challenges and obstacles for Connor. The hardest part of basketball

is "stopping myself from yelling at the ref and getting a technical foul."

Connor already has one state championship ring on his finger as a junior. Who knows, maybe he can get another one his senior year. *The Raider Times* would like to wish Connor and the rest of the boys' basketball team good luck with their season and seasons to come.

Fun Facts on Conner

Name: Connor Stockdale

Sports played: Basketball, little league baseball

Age: 17

Birthday: December 1, 1992

Greatest athletic achievement: Winning the state championship

Caroline Balley: Cheering on the Raiders

By: Zohra Yaqhubi

Every issue, *The Raider Times* newspaper staff nominates several students, both girls and boys, to dub the Feature Athlete of the Issue. In this issue, head cheerleader, Caroline Balley was nominated and assumed the position.

Although she modestly states that she doesn't deem her activity "a sport" her long hours of physical training have given her the strength to

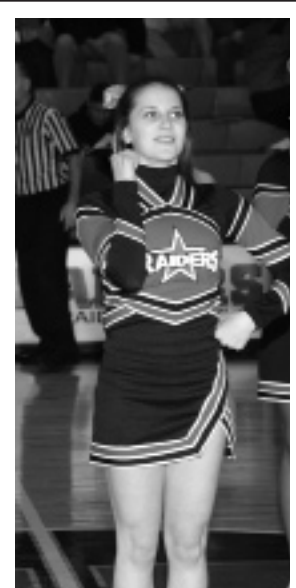
carry on feats of seemingly impossible stunts and routines. "I love being on the team...I enjoy going to the games and hanging out with the girls," says Balley about her views on being a part of the team.

Caroline started gymnastics at age one and by age seven "[she] had gotten tired with it, disliking all of the events except floor. Because of this, I would watch the cheerleading team at

the gym wishing that some day I would be on their team". And sure enough, ten years later, Caroline now heads the Watertown Raiders Cheerleading squad.

Caroline is now more than happy with her position saying that she enjoys cheerleading "because it's an energetic, competitive sport that provides a lot of fun." Not only is she happy with her position, but Caroline is more than qualified as Cheer Captain as a result of many years of gymnastics and cheerleading. "Overtime, I have been able to practice and perfect the skills that I have learned, as well as continuing to learn more," says Balley of her experience.

The basketball cheerleaders are working hard and the effort is showing through. Caroline Balley's excellent skills in the field are the backbone of Watertown High School's cheerleading community and will be dearly missed when she graduates in June.



Caroline cheers on the basketball team at a recent game.

Photo by: Lifetouch

Fun Facts on Caroline

Name: Caroline Balley

Sports Played: Winter Cheering

Age: 17

Birthday: April 18, 1992

Greatest athletic achievement: Becoming cheer captain.

Senior Wrestlers Leave Team

By: Aaron Parseghian

After a less than noteworthy season of 9-21 last year, the Watertown High School wrestling team was in the midst of a rebuilding season. Second year coach Paul Murphy planned on utilizing sectional champion Collin Geagan, and his number of seniors as a weapon to more victories. However, there was one issue, the seniors have left.

Within a week of the season starting, seven seniors left the team,

including tri-captains, Mike D'Amico, David Woodland, and Cesar Hagopian, reasons of which were unclear among the other teammates and coaches. "Well, everyone had their own reasons for leaving, but what we all had in common was that we didn't like the direction that the program was heading and felt that we got nothing in return for our hard work," said senior Mike Damico. The wrestlers clearly felt strongly about their disapproval of the direction of the program as they sat out

their entire senior season. I feel like I understand the problems that they had with the program but I believe they may have handled those issues in a wrong way," said current junior co-captain Alex Logan.

The now much younger wrestling team is struggling with the lack of veteran wrestlers on the squad. The veterans usually represented coach like figures, which helped the younger teammates, strategize, and execute

maneuvers. "The seniors are missed a lot, and having them on the team would definitely make the freshmen better," said other junior co-captain Collin Geagan.

All in all despite, the loss of the seniors, the wrestling team is doing all they can to turn this program into a winning one, and to keep it around Watertown High School for generations to come.