

# The Raider Times

Senior Issue

Watertown High School

May 28, 2009

## Senior Events Start as Senior Year Ends

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

As graduation approaches for the seniors, so does many of the anticipated senior events. Events such as the prom, the wall painting at Victory Field, and the outing to Kimball Farm. All of these events take place in the last week of May and the first week of June. The school likes to have it this way so that seniors will be done with all their work and can spend their time creating fun memories from their last couple weeks in high school.

The event week begins on May 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 during the school day, when the seniors will file down to the auditorium to view the senior slide show. Seniors have been submitting pictures to our class officers from their elementary school years to present years of them with fellow classmates.

"The day of the slideshow will definitely leave many of us laughing," said senior Elizabeth Russo.

At 7:00 pm that night, seniors who have applied for in-school scholarships will gather in the auditorium and sit in front of the school committee to see if they have won any of the needed money for next years college tuition. This is a very nerve racking night for them, because a lot of seniors have applied for a lot of the



Senior girls at this winter's pep rally

Photo by: Lifetouch

same scholarships, but often there can only be one recipient. This makes the whole process a very competitive one.

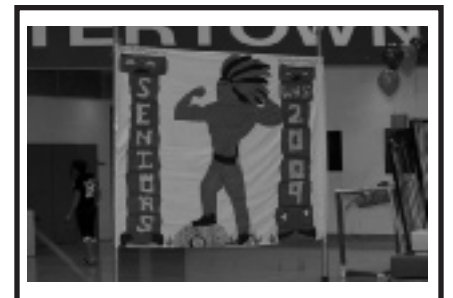
The next day, May 29<sup>th</sup>, is the seniors' last day of school. At 9:00 they will have a breakfast at the Greek Church Hall on Bigelow Ave. During the breakfast, their yearbooks will be distributed so they have the chance to sign each others. Later that day, the members of the class of 2009 will be preparing for their prom! This year, it is being held at the Hyatt Harborside Logan Airport in Boston at 6:30.

The following Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, the events continue. The seniors will report to Victory Field to paint their slogan on the bleachers, followed by a barbeque sponsored by the Watertown Police. On Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>, the seniors have their senior outing at Kimball Farm from 4-8. They should make sure to be in the WHS auditorium at 2:30 to make it on the bus on time. According to seniors from last year, this is one of the most enjoyable times they spend together as a class all year.

And June 5<sup>th</sup>, the most

anticipated day of the whole year for seniors is graduation. At 10:00 AM, if weather permits, the seniors will have graduation rehearsal at Victory Field. That evening, graduation takes place at 6:00 PM. At 11:00 PM, the graduates of WHS have the opportunity to attend the All-Night Party held in the Kelley Gymnasium. In past years, 99% of the senior classes have attended this event, so they are expecting the same great turnout.

As their time at WHS is winding down, this is a very exciting time for seniors. After the exciting senior events week is over, summer will be here. Since kindergarten, their lives have been like a routine, getting up and going to school everyday. Come August, many of them will head off to college, work, or the military, and their lives will continue to change from there. Not one day will ever be the same again.



## High School Musical a Success

By: Keith Singh

On the 26<sup>th</sup> of March the cast of "Anything Goes" assembled together, about to perform what they had been rehearsing since the eighth of January. Leaving behind whatever they faced in their personal lives and overcoming the various obstacles that stood in their way, the cast went out and performed, kicking off the first of three performances masterfully.

"Anything Goes" tells the story of a hapless everyday man Billy Crocker (Played by Patrick O'Brian) who sneaks onto a ocean liner to recapture the love of Hope Harcourt (Played by Grace

Gallant), even though she is expected to marry Evelyn Oakleigh (played by Harrison Ford). Billy is assisted in this love triangle by Reno Sweeney (played by Maddy Herzog) who happens to fall in love with Evelyn, through her own accord. Billy is also helped by Moonface Martin (played by Nick Metrano) a petty criminal, who helps him avoid his boss Elijah J Whitney (played by Justin DePamhillis) while giving him the guise of Public Enemy number one, the most notorious criminal in the America.

Through many hilarious

moments and entertaining musical numbers the characters discover what they were destined to have by the time the ship drops anchor.

Though the musical went along fantastically well, it wasn't without problems. Nearly two weeks before show time the auditorium curtain sparked a small fire during one of the rehearsals. This not only delayed the rehearsal, but also forced the cast to go on without a main curtain, a crucial element to theatrical performances. In addition to the fire the cast also had to face the obstacle of a limited budget.

With no costume budget the cast came together and obtained costumes for every part, even if it meant dipping into their own pockets.

The cast of "Anything Goes" ended their third performance on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The three performances brought around 400 people into the school auditorium, surpassing many recent plays. In The end "Anything Goes" was a smash hit, once again showing what the theatre program can bring to the table, solidifying its presence for hopefully many years to come.

## Fire Causes Ruckus

By: Keith Singh

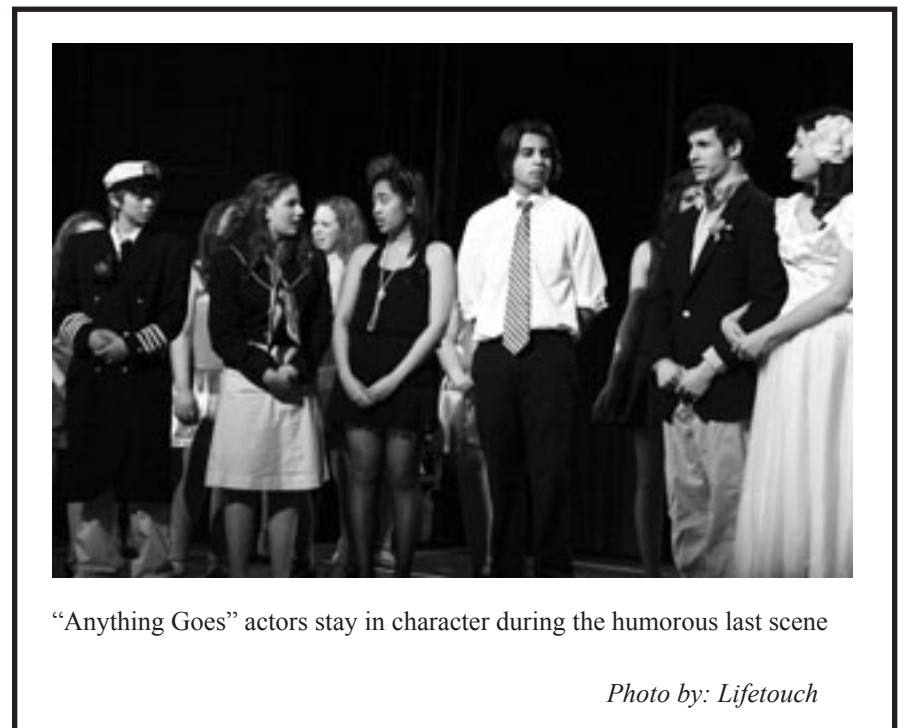
On March 18<sup>th</sup> the cast of "Anything Goes" was huddled around the stage receiving notes during rehearsal in the school auditorium. During this someone noticed an odd smoky odor coming from the stage. Soon, smoke was seen, coming from the house curtain. Beth Peters the director of "Anything Goes," quickly sent the students away from the stage, as she moved closer to inspected the origin of the smoke. After the stage lights were turned off, the cast members once again noticed smoke, but this time much thicker. After a few sparks were seen glowing from the curtain, the auditorium, and eventually the entire school was evacuated as the fire alarm was pulled.

Firefighters arrived on the scene arriving in three fire trucks. With the help of school maintenance workers, the curtain was dropped down, and the fire was quickly extinguished. Though the fire was not big, a large amount of smoke had filled the auditorium and the

surrounding hallways. Carbon monoxide levels were checked, as anxious cast members waited outside, awaiting some kind of update. Fire fighters opened all the auditorium doors and windows, giving the smoke a passageway to escape the building, which was aided by three high-powered fans.

After about two hours, students and the few remaining faculty members were allowed to re-enter the school, with the strong scent of smoke still lingering in the air. After a few things were removed from the auditorium, rehearsal was continued in the band room.

A stage light that had been moved to the side of the stage ended up being the culprit. Stage lights can reach extreme temperatures, which isn't a hazard when nothing is directly in front of them, but can be dangerous when pointing at something less than 15 feet away. In the end, no one was hurt, and "Anything Goes" went on without any problems.



"Anything Goes" actors stay in character during the humorous last scene

Photo by: Lifetouch

# WHS Blood Drive

By: Maddy Herzog

On Friday morning, March 20, an array of brave students began to accumulate in the gym, patiently waiting to donate blood at the annual Watertown High School Blood Drive. This was Mr. Rimas' seventh year organizing the altruistic event sponsored by the American Red Cross, which used to be run by now-retired Social Studies teacher, Mr. Hayward.

The week beforehand, students from Rimas' Civics classes set up a table in the cafeteria every day to sign students up and raise awareness about the procedure. On the day of the event, members of Student Council and Civics students volunteered in the gym all day, checking people in, and organizing snacks to keep students' blood sugar up. The first wary donors started wandering in at 8:00 A.M. and new ones continued to show up until 1 P.M.

The process was tedious, starting off with a wait that could last up to 45 minutes. Students and teachers who were signed up to donate got a number and name tag when they first walked in, and then sat patiently until they were called up by a Red Cross volunteer. The prospective donors then stepped into private booths where the Red Cross member asked a variety of questions about their basic information

and their medical history. Finally, they quickly, but still uncomfortably, pricked a fingertip and collected a miniscule sample of blood, to test the iron level. If the number on the small portable machine read 12.5 or above, then the person was free to donate, which unfortunately wasn't the case for several disappointed students.

Previously, a prerequisite for donating blood had been that the donor must be 17 years or older, but due to a new law in Massachusetts, 16-year-olds were now welcome to participate, as long as they got a permission slip signed by a guardian. The new, younger partakers have a local teenager to thank: 16-year-old Mark Chonofsky from Lexington. This year at Watertown High School, a total of 61 students and teachers showed up, and 48 were in the clear to donate, one more unit than had been collected at the 2008 WHS Blood Drive.

Rimas' hope for the future is "more participants!" He wants students to understand that it is not as terrifying as many assume it to be. "I used to refuse to give blood every time there was a drive at my school, but finally one year in college I did it and realized that it wasn't nearly as bad as I had anticipated it to be," Rimas explained. This year, only one student fainted, and that was only due to a phobia of seeing other people's blood. Other donors felt a little weak and tired afterwards but regained their strength within a day.

"It wasn't that bad. It didn't hurt; it was just kind of gross," junior Chloe Anderson shared.

Kelsey Prendergast added, "Afterwards was the worst part. And the waiting in the beginning."



Junior Adelina Grigoryan prepares to donate.  
Photos By Dan Dressler

# A Day of Silence

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

The Day of Silence is an entire day dedicated to drawing attention to the issue of bullying and harassment faced by LGBT students across the nation. By taking a stand with the use of silence, a space is provided for personal reflections about the consequence of being silent, and having been silenced by others. The Day of Silence is the largest student-led action that protests against bullying and harassment towards LGBT people. All those who participate are willing to dedicate a day long vow of silence in order to encourage "ending the silence."

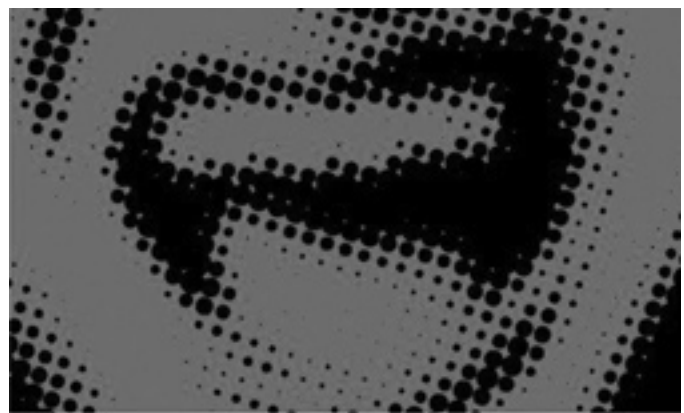
Watertown High School has been contributing to this cause for at least 5 years. It is used as a learning experience and displays the importance of raising awareness among WHS students. By contributing to the cause, it is hope that a more accepting environment will develop and a safe haven will be created for all different students. In order to support this cause, t-shirts were sold for students to wear, and the entire day of April 17, 2009 was set aside for students to become silent and involved. While being silent, a very important lesson was being taught to students. It is important for students to

become more accepting towards their peers, and to become educated about LGBT issue that occur not only here, but across the nation.

Ms. Wagner, who is a dedicated supporter to the cause shares, "the Day of Silence is an effort that can raise awareness on this issue, prompting people to talk and think about it. It helps people think about what change is needed in our community, and how The Day of Silence can be a building block in our efforts to create change."

Our school currently has 25-30 students who become involved and participate in The Day of Silence. It is always encouraged that more student become involved and realize that by saying trite phrases such as, "That's so gay", is hurtful and is discouraging. Everyone is different, and it is not something that should be used against people when there is nothing wrong with being different.

The Day of Silence should be used as a positive tool to create a positive change community-wide. As a result, students should think less about using hurtful phrases and actions against those who are different, and instead accept them as equal individuals.



## DAY of SILENCE

# Diversity Week

By: Maddy Herzog

Walking through the halls of Watertown High School, you are likely to see an abundance of diversity. Not only does Watertown, Massachusetts hold the second largest Armenian population in the United States, it is also home to many other ethnicities, including Greek, Italian, Middle Eastern, and Asian. Although our citizens of different backgrounds generally have amiable relationships within the town, at the high school level many students are uneducated about other groups. Four years ago, the Watertown Youth Coalition (WYC) and Peer Leaders started Diversity Day to try and fix that problem. Expanding on its mission to spread diversity and tolerance, Diversity Day evolved into a Diversity Week for the first time this year.

"[This week] gives students a chance to enjoy food from other countries and kind of open their eyes to the fact that the American life style isn't the only way of life," said Boris Osipov, a senior at WHS and a member of Peer Leaders. The global-themed week started off slow but picked up pace quickly. On Monday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, there was a table and display set up in the main lobby, where WYC and Peer Leader members served food from countries such as Italy, China,

Thailand, and India. Tuesday, Urban Improv, a group of actors from Jamaica Plain, came and performed several skits for classes concerning racism and other forms of prejudice. Wednesday featured a film festival during sixth period. Finally, on Friday, there was multiple displays and activities set up in the cafeteria for all three lunches. Students curiously approached at their own leisure to participate in activities and sample food. Additionally, each day of the week there was a raffle which involved answering trivia questions about other cultures; for instance, "How many times a day do Shi'ites pray?" The daily prizes included gift cards to stores such as Dunkin Donuts, Old Navy, and Game Stop, and gift baskets.

Members of WYC and Peer Leaders and their supervisor, Becket Rhodes, who also works at Wayside Multi Service Center in Watertown, were generally pleased with the results of this year's Diversity Week. "I was honestly surprised by some people's enthusiasm," admitted Boris. "People were genuinely interested and it was refreshing to see." Other WHS students who took leadership roles in the successful week were Eva Guo, Clara Gibbons, and Harrison Ford.

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

# Astronomy Students Go Star Gazing

By: Liz Russo

One Wednesday night April 30<sup>th</sup> thirty-seven students showed up at Moxley field to observe the stars under clear skies. Mr. Petricone in celebration of Astronomy week decided it was time for his astronomy class to assemble at Moxley field to look through the school telescope to see the rings of Saturn, along with the crescent moon, and point out some of the major constellations in the night sky.

The students gathered around 8pm just after dark to get the best view of the night sky. Mr. Petricone brought the school's telescope and placed it in the field for his students to gather around. He never knows how many of his students will show up but takes the chance anyways to see who is willing to take time to learn more about the stars. "It's nice of the kids to show up and take time out of their schedules," states Mr. P.

First Mr. Petricone sets up the telescope so it pointed to the planet Saturn, known for having the best set of rings in the Solar System. Each student took a turn to look through the telescope to see Saturn just as it would look like in magazines and books. Right beside Saturn students were able to see one of Saturn's moons Titan. Titan is a famous moon since it also holds an atmosphere much like the Earths. After each student has had a chance to look at Saturn and it's moon, the telescope is then pointed to the Earth's moon. It is the perfect time to look at the craters on the moons surface. The moon is a crescent moon where only a small part is lit up, this way the light reflecting off the moon into the

telescope will not be that bright making it easier to see the moons surface. The students observed the moon's shadow line where the lit part meets the dark side on the moon.

Mr. P then tells his students to gather round to have a look at the constellations featured in the night's clear skies. Mr. P uses a green laser pointer that goes on for about a mile; most of the students gasped when seeing the laser for it looked like it could reach the stars. The class pointed out constellations such as Leo the Lion, where Saturn was featured that night. Also pointed out was the Big Dipper, following its two front stars to find the North Star sitting in the night sky. The Gemini Twins, and the Great Dog Sirius were seen. The class was hoping to see Orion the hunter in the sky but it was too low in the horizon and a house was blocking the students view from the field. The class then pointed out the brightest stars in the sky such as, Capella, Arcturus, Castor and Pollux, Spica, Betelgeuse, and lastly the brightest star in the sky that night, Sirius. "I go home and think about who showed up, I give the kids that show up extra credit, but I don't tell them that in class," he says with a laugh.

After the students slowly start to leave. Some of the students even stayed behind to help pack up Mr. P's car. "Arthur Patsios and a couple of his friends were nice enough to help me out with the telescope," states Mr. P. Overall the night was a good, fun, successful night. Hopefully next years turn out will be just as enjoyable as this years.

# New Inductees Welcomed to NHS

By: Jenna Gilreath

On Thursday April 30<sup>th</sup> Watertown High's auditorium held proud family members and classmates of juniors and seniors who were being inducted and were inducted last year into the National Honor Society (NHS). The ceremony included words from Mr. Noftsker, current superintendent Dr. Heirsche and was led by the NHS officers Gaby D'Amico, Brian Field, Faye Hisoler and Andrew Grant.

This year, for National Honor Society where students have to obtain a 3.5 GPA, there were 5 seniors inducted as well as 34 juniors. Cum Laude, a society where students have a 4.0 GPA there were 6 seniors and 16 juniors inducted. Mrs. Calleja, our school's faculty advisor for this society has been running ceremonies and working with the students for 2 years now. She along with Gaylene Fantasia from the Superintendent's office work very hard to make the ceremony run smoothly. Mrs. Calleja works with the students to get their applications in, helps get photographers for the event, music selected, lighting and running the rehearsal for the event. Mrs. Fantasia orders the pins for the students, the certificates and she mails out invitations to the induction ceremony. Without these two, the ceremony would probably be a very difficult task.

Throughout the ceremony, students were presented with certificates of membership, pins and a stole which they will don at graduation. Senior Gaby D'Amico said that she personally "felt honored to take part in the ceremony."

As students were inducted into their respected societies, the officers of the NHS explained what each one was and what the different aspects of NHS and Cum Laude stood for. Mrs. Calleja "thought the officers did a wonderful job with their responsibility in the society."

All students inducted last year returned to welcome the new juniors and seniors. Overall, the ceremony was welcoming and was done very professionally in a way that recognized the students for all their hard work. A big thank you is deserved for all of the students and faculty that help make this event possible. The National Honor Society and Cum Laude induction ceremony is one that will hopefully continue for many years to come.



A junior NHS member gets inducted

Photo by: Lifetouch

# Watertown High Returns to China

By: Mane Harutyunyan

China stands proud as the world's largest country with a rapidly increasing population of 1.3 billion people. With the Great Wall of China being one of the "Seven Wonders of the World," it's no surprise that tourism is especially high there. The China Pathways Program offers a chance for high school students to immerse themselves into the fast-paced, exciting lifestyle of China. It unites China's past, present and future, offering insight into its history, art, politics, lifestyle and background. In a crowd of 150 students

from local school districts, 20 seats were open to Watertown students.

In a series of 10 days, Watertown students explored and were educated in Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai. Though the cost of the trip was expensive, settling in at about \$3,000, sophomore Hannah Barry says "it is completely worth it. You do so much that the price you pay for this trip is less than half of what you would pay if you planned the trip yourself." The trip involves a lot of sight-seeing, educational benefits are also inevitable. Bits and pieces of Chinese history and way of life come together through visits to schools, the Great Wall, Olympic Village, terra cotta warriors, pagodas and mosques, neighborhoods, museums and markets. "We did see a lot of sights, but it was always explained to us why they were relevant to China's history. We spent a lot of time in local areas, learning about how modern-

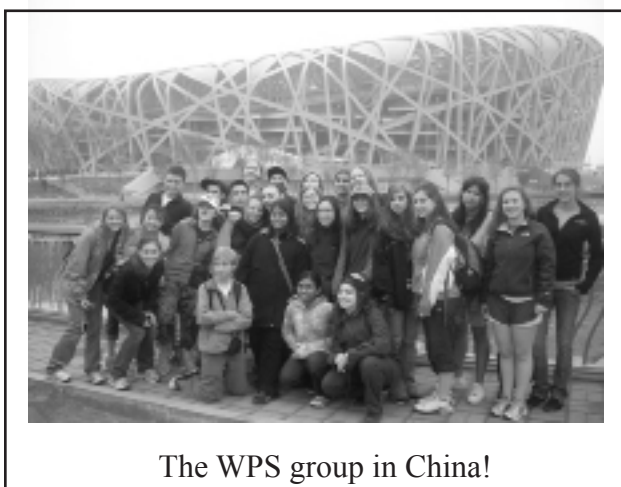
day Chinese live," says Barry.

Prior to actually traveling to China, students were required to attend classes that gave them a brief overview of Chinese culture before actually being in the center of it. Each student was expected to take at least two classes with topics ranging from teenage life, Chinese folk lore, mandarin, music, etc. Although the trip features group activities and careful chaperoning, students also have time go out at night and survey the streets of China for themselves, benefiting from first hand exposure. Even with the additional independence the students are given, they are expected to act respectful and follow rules, as usual. To insure safety, check-ins are constant and students are required to always carry their passports on them.

The trip is another chapter in the lives of those attending students who always return awed by the adventures China has to offer. People



going on the trip are usually motivated by personal interests and aspire to learn about other countries and the China trip always fulfills. Why China? "Because it's a growing world power and their culture and history is so ancient and very interesting," Barry explains. This event is run annually during April vacation and from year to year, has been characterized by words like "awesome," "eye-opening" and "memorable." The "best experience of your life" lies beneath the layers of ancient history and a dominating culture in the heart of China.



The WPS group in China!

# Feature

## WHS Alum Shares College Experiences

By: Jenna Gilreath



For the seniors of 2009, our life as we know it is about to change. A new unknown world is headed our way, full of classes, loans, jobs and decisions. At this time 12 years ago, the members of the class of 1997 were feeling the same way. In order to find out how

things have changed for graduates of Watertown High after graduation I spoke with Andrew Allegro. Andrew was a graduate in 1997 from WHS and he was also the class president. Through talking with him, I was able to get a better understanding of just what life is like for him now.

Andrew went through grades K-12 at Watertown Public Schools and is now going for his graduate degree at UMASS Boston. Looking back at graduation, three words that come to mind include "overwhelming," "fast," and "fun"! His favorite class was Calculus with Ms. Manning and he also had a few things to say when it came to the college process along with growing up after graduation.

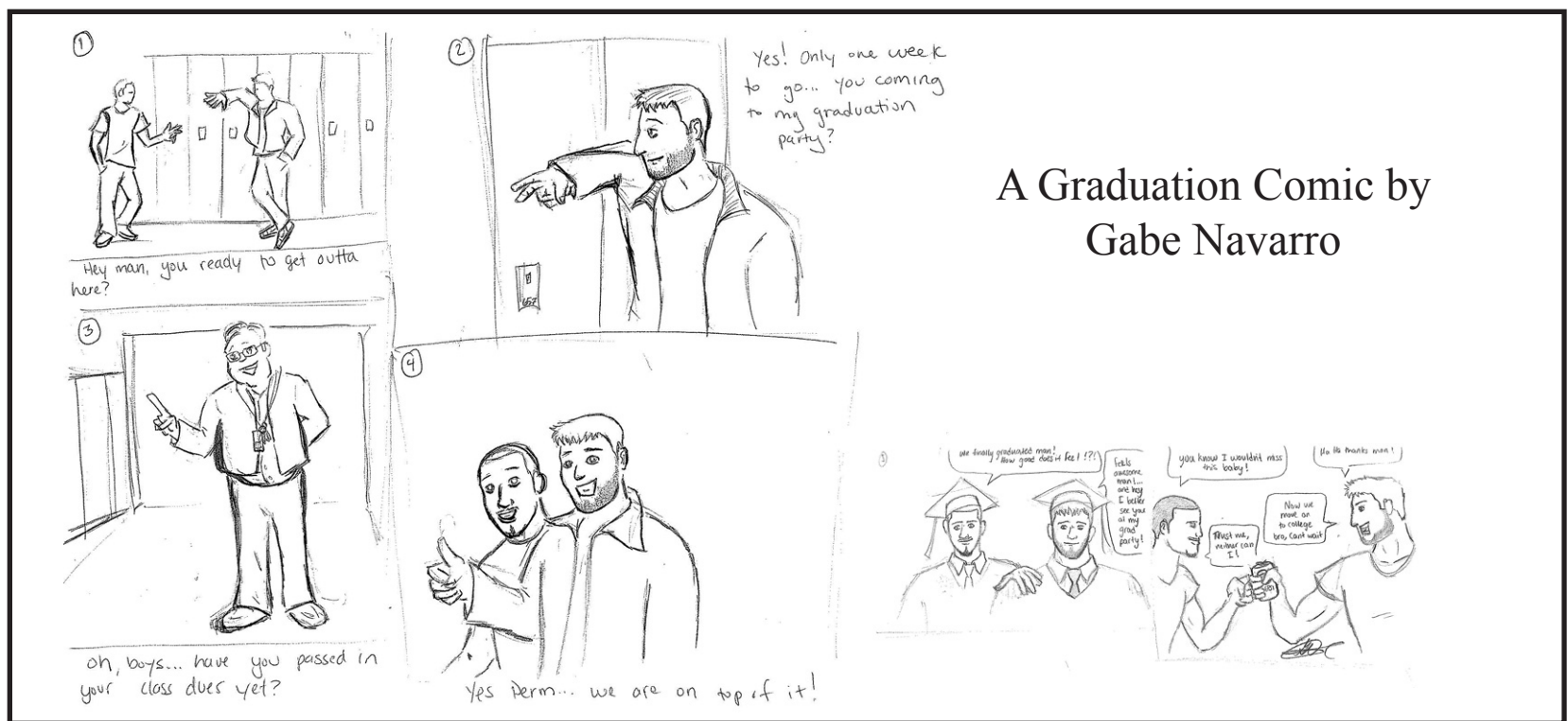
According to Andrew, with college comes freedom, a more

flexible schedule, and more real life responsibility. Although the economy has changed, he says, "Colleges are pretty consistent with enrollment." The only thing he thinks has changed is the need for SAT scores. When he went to college, the SAT was heavily weighted for acceptance.

In high school, we have clubs and sports to partake in and it is very routine. Although groups of friends may split up in college, Andrew still finds himself talking with some of his best friends he had in high school, today. If there was one thing he wishes he could have done differently when it came to the college process, he said it would be trying to get more time with his guidance counselor. There are so many colleges out there, he wish he had looked more.

Overall, things have changed for Andrew Allegro a lot since his graduation day in June of 1997. He is working full time at the Watertown Boys and Girls Club, where he is known as "Double A" while he is in school for his graduate degree. If there was one piece of advice that Andrew could give the class of 2009 it would be to "set realistic goals."

It's hard to believe that in 12 years, we the class of 2009, will be able to respond to an interview like his about our high school careers and the changes we will face. Andrew also wanted to relay the message that now we are going into college, and getting ready to turn 18 if we are not already, it is time to grow up and work hard.



A Graduation Comic by Gabe Navarro

## National Honors Society Lives on at WHS

By: Shelby Austin-Manning



In 1906, Dr. Abram W. Harris, who was the director of the Tome School in Maryland, along with other board members, established the "Interscholarship Fraternity," which encouraged good schoolwork. By 1920, the board changed the name to the Cum Laude Society. A member of the board was Watertown High School's headmaster at the time, Edwin H. Whitehill. The society's motto begins with "Arte," which means excellence. It is not limited to just academic greatness, but also includes extracurricular's like sport participation and community

service that the students participate in. The second is "Dike," meaning justice which includes the concept of what is appropriate in school. The third term is "Temay," which means honor. This includes the virtues of dignity and honesty. Watertown High was actually one of the two first public schools admitted into the society in 1920.

In 1919, during a board meeting, Principal Edward Rynearson from Pittsburg, PA encouraged members to create a National Honor Society. By 1921, they passed the idea and formed the society. The point of forming this society was to give more credit to the athletes in the school that were not recognized in the Cum Laude Society. The National Honor Society was established at Watertown High in 1938. The students in it today are recognized for their character, leadership, service to their families, and their community service.

At our own Watertown High School, our art teacher Mrs. Calleja is our National Honor Society supervisor. In her second year being in charge, Mrs. Calleja proves she can get the job done well. She spends a lot of time outside

of school hours dedicating to herself to the program. There are meetings with all the members before school once a month, and another day a month for only the officers. She also spends a lot of time reviewing all the applications from the juniors in the spring. She told me that the criteria for admission into the National Honor Society and the Cum Laude Society are the same throughout the country. In the middle of junior year, a student must have a 3.5 grade point average or above, participate in Watertown High School extra activities, do community service, and show good discipline to qualify for the National Honor Society. If a student has a grade point average of above 4.0, they are automatically inducted into the Cum Laude Society.

This year the induction ceremony took place on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The ceremony recognizes the current members, and the juniors that qualify will get inducted into the society on that day. The ceremony requires a lot of planning and preparing on Mrs. Calleja's part. "The ceremony wouldn't be able to come together without the help of Gaylene Fantasia, who dedicates

a lot of time to making the certificates for the students. She is so easy to work with, and together we work hard to pull the ceremony together for the students," said Mrs. Calleja. When I asked her about her favorite part of being in charge of the National Honor Society, she told me that she loves being given the opportunity to meet new students that haven't been in her art classes before.

The National Honor Society this year participated in a food drive and a recycling project. They have made signs and hung them all around the school, and have constructed recycle bins which were placed in the cafeteria for the students to recycle their bottles. Another thing they are doing is volunteering to tutor fellow students in our school. Whether it's better for the student to come before or after school, the members will try to meet their needs as best as they can. So if you are a freshmen or a sophomore and don't meet the requirements, I strongly suggest to work hard for the next couple years to get your grades up. Being part of the society is a great honor, and you wouldn't want to miss out!

# “We Have Taso!”

By: Andrew Grant

It's hard to be an upperclassman at Watertown High School and not know of Taso Kalpakidis, commonly known as “Taso”. Having a strong presence in his graduating class, he does not go unnoticed within the walls of WHS. If his name does not ring a bell, walk down the hall and you are bound to hear someone holler “Taso!” Moments later he's sure to turn the corner. Taso's vocal, spirited and overall cheerful attitude toward life has marks him as one of the most notorious students to enter and (eventually) leave our high school.

As a senior this year, Taso will be graduating on June 5th with the other 156 students of the Class of 2009. Just like many of his classmates, Taso has lasting memories of his years and his friends at the school. And although Taso may have collected a few more friends and had a few more memories than most of us, his recollections of these favorite

times are still just as vivid. He says his first memory at Watertown High School was when he DJed at the high school basketball games with George (his older cousin). This later transformed into a hobby. Taso continued to DJ throughout his years at Watertown High School with DJ Lil Papa (George), pumping up the players and fans at nearly every Raider basketball home game.

Aside from DJ'ing Taso describes his best memories as simply “going to school with different people every day and every year.” Although he admits that sometimes going to school feels like “going to work,” he still encourages others with the rhyming phrase “don't be a fool and stay in school.” Through these years that Taso has “stayed in school” he has noticed Watertown students have “changed for the better.”

From among Taso's classmates

comes nothing but praise. Shelby Austin-Manning says, “Taso is the kind of person that will always make you laugh.” And Libby Emery echoes her statement, saying “He's a funny guy and I am glad that he is finally leaving with our class.” Others enjoy his personality, but also admire his persistent attitude. Brian Field says, “You 'gotta admire his determination, most people in his position probably would have given up on school by now. It takes a lot of courage to do what he's doing.” Overall the consensus among seniors is that they are pleased Taso will be walking the line with the Class of 2009. Nick Lappen summed up the thoughts of this year's seniors best by saying, “We will be honored to walk the line at graduation with such a Watertown legend.”

Clearly Taso is well liked among the students, but he is also a favorite among the faculty at WHS. Ms. O'Grady says

“everyone knows Taso's legendary status.” Some of the teachers have even known Taso for a very long time. Mr. Rimas says, “I have known Taso longer than my three youngest kids.” He adds, “I will miss seeing the Warn-a-brotha t-shirt on a weekly basis.” Mr. Brewer joked “I remember seeing him my first day of teaching at the high school... 14 years ago.”

As the year winds down, Taso faces his last days in Watertown High School and will surely be missed among many. The basketball games will no longer have a student DJ firing up the crowd, at the pep rallies students will no longer be able to chat “We have Taso,” with an echo from a previous class yelling, “We had Taso.” Also people will no longer ponder the question “Who is that grown man, walking in and out of class rooms?” But as Taso leaves the school that he says “is a part of me [him],” he will surely be missed by many.

## The News at WHS

By: Chloe Anderson



The Raider Times staff of 2009 shows off a recent issue.

Photo by: Maurin O'Grady

Journalism has only been offered to students at WHS for a short time. This is the second year for the Raider Times. Journalism is offered as an English elective but can't replace a regular English class, as some students like to think. It runs for a full year and is worth 6 credits. At times the class can move at a very fast pace, usually while getting the final copy of the newspaper together, and making sure everything is perfect. Yet, when you finally finish the paper and it is hot off the press, it is a great feeling to see your published work. The class can also be laid back and fun. “With the limited English electives the school offers Journalism is a good choice. It's a really good class if you're interested in writing,” says junior Kelsey Prendergast, Raider Times staff member and sports editor.

The class teaches the fundamentals of journalistic writing, such as how to write news, feature, reviews and editorial articles. Each type of writing has its own unit and assignment in which you write a piece using a specific type of writing. The assignment may not be to just write a news article but to instead take a well-known fairy tale and to write a news story about that or watch one of Ms. O'Grady's favorite movies and write a news story based on the plot. You also learn how to be a true journalist and how to follow the code of ethics.

Along with learning how to write, you learn how to use the software, In-Design. You learn how to place articles, Photoshop pictures and also place those pictures. The software is what puts the newspaper all together. Each section has an editor who is in charge of all the articles for that section. They are also in charge of placing all the pictures and articles in that section and making sure they all fit. Editing all the articles, photoshopping the pictures, placing the articles, and also printing the paper takes quite a lot of time and hard work.

Ms. O'Grady who is very enthusiastic about journalism teaches the class. “Journalism is so different from other English classes. It's very different from the regular curriculum,” Ms. O'Grady says when asked why she loves teaching journalism. Every time a student comes up with a new idea for the paper she is thrilled and can't wait to get started. Ms. O'Grady has to edit all of the Raider Time's articles and make sure they can be printed. “Everyone is always working on something different; different articles,” Ms. O'Grady continues.

If you enjoy writing and want to see your work published, Journalism is a good class for you. You are usually able to write about anything you want. You always have a story to cover and always have something to do.



## Advice for Juniors

By: Chloe Anderson

The 09 kids are running out of time as the seniors of WHS. Their time as seniors is slowly coming to an end and it is time for the torch to be passed to the graduating class of 2010. The soon-to-be seniors have no idea what to expect for next year; what college applications are like, what the infamous STP is like, and how it feels to be at the top of the school. Being a senior in high school only happens once and it only lasts for a year. Senior year can be one of the most important years of your life. There are so many different ways to approach it. The 09 seniors had this advice for the class of 2010...

“Don't just try and take the easy way out for classes. If you're really interested in going to the best college you can, you have to challenge yourself with classes that you know you could do well in if you work hard,” says Cory Stockmal about not slacking off during your senior year.

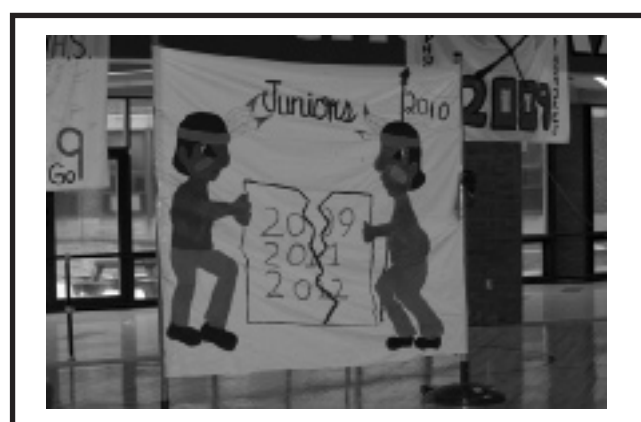
“It's been a great last year of high school, kind of sad that it's coming

to an end though,” says an emotional Ryan LaVache. “Do your senior thesis, when your told to do it because mine's... still not done.” He continues, laughing.

“Everyone says senior year is a slide but, for me, I had sports, college applications, senior thesis and scholarships, on top of a decently heavy workload. My advice for incoming seniors is to stay ahead of everything, and don't put anything off,” says Sarah MacDougall.

“All seniors next year need to live it up. Do as little work as you possibly can and just make it last because it goes so fast and before you know it, some of the people you were best friends with are going to be out of your life and you will wish you had one more year,” says Anthony Alberico.

Senior year is so many things, exciting, stressful, and overwhelming and the time of your life. With a little advice from the '09 kids, maybe it won't be so bad.



# Arts & Entertainment

## Opera House Spectators Have “Time of Their Life”

By: Taylor Connors

“Nobody puts Baby in a corner.” That was the famous line that helped the 1987 romantic phenomenon “Dirty Dancing” take off. The film was full of great dance routines and fabulous love scenes, making it a hit across America. It came as no surprise when the “Broadway Across America” performance of “Dirty Dancing” was an instant hit at the Boston Opera House.

The essence of the relationship between bad boy Johnny Castle and peace seeking teen “Baby” was really captured in the play. The riveting love story put other romantic plays to shame. The upbeat soundtrack kept the audience dancing along to the songs of the 60’s.

The film and play take place in the summer of 1963, when Baby is a teen with a future set on the Peace Corps. She is forced to spend most of the summer at a resort with her family, where she meets her first true love, Johnny Castle. He is a “bad boy” dance instructor with a bad reputation, just trying to get by. “I carried a watermelon,” were the first words that “Baby” said to Johnny; neither of them would have thought that they would soon be in love.

When Johnny’s friend and dance partner Penny has an accidental pregnancy, she is faced with some serious problems. An unprofessional abortion has Baby’s father, the doctor, picking up the pieces and banning Baby from associating with Johnny or his friends. Baby loves dancing and loves Johnny, so she sneakily continues their relationship, and does what makes her happy. Almost every scene in the play is done tremendously well and with great energy. The audience is left with happy, sad and excited emotions as they exit the Opera House. The cast is a great assortment of talented actors and

dancers.

Aide from the fine acting the set for the play was phenomenal. The center of the stage rotated and it was fantastically played out. The scene from the film with Johnny and Baby balancing on a log in the woods was amazingly decorated with a giant log that dropped down and an exquisite backdrop of the forest, almost identical to the movie. The two hour and 50 minute show was worth the time and money spent.

From February 7<sup>th</sup> to April 12<sup>th</sup>, the play was at the Boston Opera House. The music and atmosphere makes the audience feel like they are a part of the film. The play was almost identical to the film in most regards. There were one or two parts that were added in to the play, but none for the worse. The detailed back-drops and phenomenal props make the play a great experience. Twenty-two years later, the film is still being celebrated across America. The moving love story of Baby and Johnny



Baby and Johnny in one of their many dance scenes

## Harry Potter Fans Should Prepare for Next Movie Debut

By: Mane Harutyunyan



The ever-famous trio, Harry, Ron and Hermione are back this year competing in the summer heat for the ultimate title of “best summer release of 2009.” There’s no doubt “Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince” will follow in the footsteps of its preceding five films, as fans are already obsessing over its release. As the 6<sup>th</sup> installment of this highly-successful series, the “Half Blood Prince” has fans casting aside all plans on July 17 in order to witness the movie on opening day.

The Harry Potter craze began in 2001 with the release of Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. The movie satisfied fans loyal to the best-selling novels written by J.K Rowling and provoked the introduction of a new fad. With this support, the movies skyrocketed to the top, being nominated for a total of 6 Academy Awards. Although Harry Potter was released in the media world in 2001, the first book was published 4 years earlier in 1997. Since then it has captured the attention

of people of all age groups and genders worldwide.

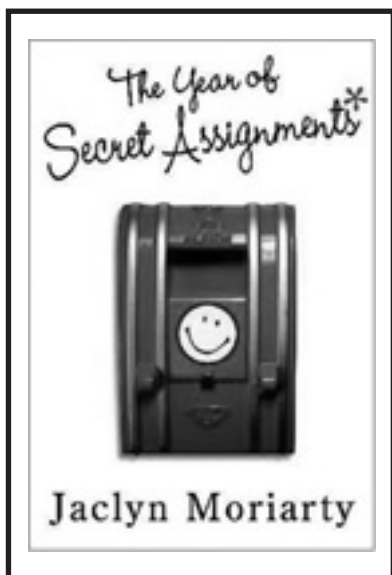
The book follows the adventures of Harry Potter (Daniel Radcliffe), an adolescent, new to the wizarding world but nevertheless a prominent figure in it. Harry’s fame arrives from his history with the dark wizard, Lord Voldemort (Ralph Fiennes), who finds Harry’s existence a threat in his plan to rule over the wizarding and human worlds. Throughout his confrontations with Voldemort, Harry finds help and support in his best friends Hermione Granger (Emma Watson), and Ron Weasley (Rupert Grint) and through his struggles, uncovers the underlying themes of friendship, love, care and strength.

The “Half Blood Prince” focuses more on Harry’s life at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry, weaving in relationships and a new love interest. The movie also introduces a new cast member playing Horace Slughorn, the new potions teacher. As always, trouble finds Harry but this time it is in the form of an old potions textbook known to have been owned by “the Half Blood Prince.” The “Prince” inscribed his own spells and notes in the textbook that proved to be strong sources of dark magic. Harry becomes obsessed with uncovering the secret behind the identity of the Prince and, in his quest, is driven into the arms of Lord Voldemort.

Fans hold their breath, counting down the days until the premier of the “Half Blood Prince.” With the unbelievable triumphs of the “Sorcerer’s Stone”, “Chamber of Secrets”, “Prisoner of Azkaban”, “Goblet of Fire” and “Order of Phoenix”, it is evident that the sixth movie will be nothing short of spectacular.

## The Year of Secret Assignments

By: Julia Brennan



When we were younger, perhaps in elementary school, it was not uncommon to have a pen pal. Today, schools even organize it for children to write to children in other areas of the world. Maybe some of us wrote to the person through the school assigned and maybe others wrote to a family member or a friend who lived far away.

Jaclyn Moriarty’s *The Year of Secret Assignments* takes that tradition and puts a simple spin on it. At least, it seems simple at first. Six high school students, three girls from one school and three boys from another, write letters back and forth throughout the year.

The book is written almost entirely in the letters they write to each other and the thoughts they write to

themselves so we, the reader, get to read everything that is being said. We read things that not even the teachers know, because, although it is just a school project, they promised confidentiality. It becomes clear, very early on, that these are not just the “how are you?” and “what’s going on?” letters that you would expect. In order to gain the other’s trust, they set up secret assignments and give their honest opinions. Assignments start out small, and then grow in magnitude.

But it would not be high school fiction if there was no drama, and two correspondents, Cassie and Matthew, find plenty of it. When memories of the past come up, things are bound to get ugly. You find out that the quiet

person is the one who had the most to hide and her pen pal has no real reason to act as mean as he did. While those two feud back and forth, the four other writers occupy themselves with stealing tests from the teacher’s car and other “assignments”.

For readers who do not like the usual paragraph format that books have, this is a nice change. It is written in real life letters that are not always pages upon pages long. In fact, some are short and rather mean. Each of the six students has a unique personality of their own and the relationships between all the characters make the story even more intriguing.

# Summer Concerts

By: Jenna Gilreath

When summer rolls around and you are looking for things to do, maybe a concert or performance is just what you need! Comedians, country music, pop and oldies, here is a list of concerts coming to Boston and other surrounding areas this summer.

## June

- 6<sup>th</sup>: Chelsea Handler– Cape Cod Melody Tent
- 10<sup>th</sup>: Vince Gill– Lowell Memorial Auditorium
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Earth, Wind and Fire– Agganis Arena
- 18<sup>th</sup>: New Kids on The Block– Mohegan Sun, CT
- 24<sup>th</sup>: No Doubt and Paramore– Mohegan Sun, CT
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Jamie Kennedy– Wilbur Theatre
- 26<sup>th</sup>: Kathy Griffin– MGM Grand, CT
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Taking Back Sunday– House of Blues
- 27<sup>th</sup>: Jimmy Buffet– Comcast Center



## July

- 10<sup>th</sup>: Joel McHale – Cape Cod Melody Tent
- 12<sup>th</sup>: Montgomery Gentry – Mohegan Sun, CT
- 16<sup>th</sup>: Drake Bell – South Shore Music Circus
- 17<sup>th</sup>: Jonas Brothers World Tour – TD Banknorth
- 18<sup>th</sup>: Elton John and Billy Joel – Gillette Stadium
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Leann Rimes – South Shore
- 19<sup>th</sup>: Beach Boys – Cape Cod Melody Tent
- 31<sup>st</sup>: Keith Urban – TD Banknorth

## August

- 15<sup>th</sup>: Kenny Chesney– Gillette Stadium
- 22<sup>nd</sup>: BB King– South Shore Music Circus
- 28<sup>th</sup>: Taylor Swift– Mohegan Sun
- 29<sup>th</sup>: Sarah Evans- Lowell Memorial Auditorium

# PTO Plans Party

By: Elizabeth Russo

Each year the senior class counts down the days until graduation. It's a fun and exciting day for everyone in the senior class. The seniors can look forward to the future, the next chapter in their lives. After the graduation ceremony, parents used to be concerned about the safety of their children, but graduation is a time to celebrate, not a time to worry. The All Night Party was started for that reason alone: to keep the senior class safe.

The All Night Party goes all the way back to the '60s and was originally run by outside organizations. It lasted a few years but died off. In 1992 Lucile Dicker, a parent of the PTSO, decided it was a good idea to bring the celebratory party back. It's a way for the class to have a safe, fun environment to celebrate. It's also a way for parents to know exactly where their children are, and that they are safe.

Fundraising for the fun-filled night is a year round job. It takes months of preparing and organizing, and takes a ton of support to make things possible. "The event doesn't work if there is no cooperation from underclassmen parents," states PTSO president Judy Gilreath. Fundraising for the event is the main focus for the PTSO. The PTSO spends weeks making phone calls, and sending letters to gain support.

The All Night Party happens the night of graduation, and decorating takes all day and the night before. It starts at 11P.M. sharp and if you don't show up by then, you're not allowed in. The night is filled with fun activities, and good food, up until 5A.M. When asking what kind of events were planned their only response was it was a "secret." "It's a night of food and fun," says Judy Gilreath. The PTSO tries to bring something new to the event each year. It all comes down to how much support and money is in the treasury. In the past years the event had activities such as Dance Dance Revolution, volleyball, and obstacle courses. Out of the entire senior class, around 85-90% show up. The event gets bigger and better each year. Mr. Noftsker stated, "It is the best event of all the activities of Senior Week." This will be Mr. Noftsker's 17<sup>th</sup> year staying up all night with the celebrating class.

"It was a great night to share with friends looking back on the years together...we finally made it," says Carlo Fierimonte, part of the senior class of 2008. It's a night where the senior class can come back to the high school as the alumni of the school and celebrate together. Mrs DiNardo states, "all the cliques disappear for one night."

# New H.O.B. Location

By: Jenna Gilreath

Turn down Lansdowne Street in Boston behind the historic Fenway Park and you will find a vast amount of restaurants and nightlife. About midway down the street a long, vertical, flashing sign shines with blue lettering and the well-known logo of a heart on fire. Staff and security dawn an all black attire and small crowds of people enter and exit the facility for various concerts, events or even just to grab a bite to eat. The time has come; the House of Blues (HOB) has been revamped and moved from Harvard Square into Boston.

Cambridge, Massachusetts is where the original House of Blues opened its doors in 1992. Originally, it was used to promote African American culture through music and art. Financially, the HOB in Cambridge was taken care of by Paul Schaffer, Aerosmith and Jim Belushi to name a few.

Now where Avalon used to be, the HOB opened its doors early 2009. Offering a restaurant with a "southern-style cuisine", a store to buy official merchandise and a music hall to house many different groups the HOB seems

to be off to a wonderful start.

I myself went for a concert to the HOB in February and I have to say, the outer appearance by what is the labeled "Music Hall" is very deceiving to the eye. Inside it is very spacious. The setup is all general admission so fans of the acts performing all squeeze in tight to get a good look at them. There are two other levels of standing room (with a few chairs and tables scattered around), but you need to reserve a spot to be admitted to that area.

Art adorns the walls, a helpful wait staff and security team joke around with each other to keep the atmosphere light and friendly, and overall I was very impressed with the HOB. Over the next few months shows scheduled include the Dropkick Murphys, New Found Glory, Lady Gaga, The B-52s, Lilly Allen and Katy Perry to name a few. The widespread genres of music listed above are only a few of the acts that management is hoping to bring more people into the House of Blues. From what I can tell, this is probably going to be one of the busiest places on Lansdowne Street for a long time.

# Summer Jobs

By: Kelsey Prendergast

From the upcoming freshmen to graduating seniors, summer is on the mind once nice weather rolls around. With the beach, vacations, flip-flops, pools and ice cream that all come with the joy of summer, there is also that summer job in the back of everyone's mind. Everyone needs a way to have money all summer to do what he or she wants. Some choose to work at camps in town so they can have the nights and weekends off, while others work at a local bakery, supermarket, restaurant or ice cream shop.

"It's convenient and it's money," says junior Chloe Anderson about her job at Ohlins' Bakery in Belmont. When asking senior Ryan LaVache about his job at Boston Boxing, he said, "I enjoy it. I don't mind working 3-6 P.M. and I get to sleep late and go out after." Many high school students work for the town or recreation, where they can work at parks such as Victory Field or Arsenal Park. They have all kinds of

equipment, such as art supplies, gimp, beads, basketballs, soccer balls and kick balls in order to keep the kids having fun. Working for the town can also involve driving around in those yellow trucks, painting fire hydrants, putting up street signs or painting the lines on the fields in town.

However, working for the recreation usually lands you at Camp Pequot as a counselor, junior counselor, or CIT. "I look forward to going to work everyday. I enjoy it so much. There is such a good group of people that work there and we are able to have a lot of fun while working. Sometimes the kids can be a pain but I've never gone a day of work without a smile on my face," says sophomore Bianca Jones about her job at CampPequot. Overall, summer comes with a lot of freedom and a relaxing life style. Yet, everyone needs a little summer job on the side to make some money.



Pop star Jesse McCartney performed at the new House of Blues location in early 2009  
Photo by: Jenna Gilreath

# A “Sure To Please” Italian Restaurant

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis, Mane Harutyunyan and Keith Singh

Walking through the veranda style back entrance, and going through the dimly lit passageway, the aroma of various seafood and sauces begin to engulf your senses, giving you the feeling that you’re close to dining at a small Italian seaside villa. This is the sensation you get when you first enter The Verona restaurant, aptly named after the northern Italian city, this restaurant, near the end of Mount Auburn Street, is sure to please.

The first thing you notice as you reach the dining area of Verona’s is the fine craftsmanship that embodies the restaurant. From the sky blue ceiling that gives you the feeling of an open countryside skyline, to the various art pieces on the walls designed to look like your dining alongside the beaches of Italy. One can truly lose their mind in their settings. Overall the atmosphere really gets your attention, without

seeming too gimmicky, or getting in the way. It becomes the perfect thing to look at while waiting for your food.

The talented owner/chef of this fantastic Italian restaurant is Tino Farese. Tino’s dedication to the restaurant and the love for his work shows in the quality his delicious Italian cuisine. Three types of menus (take-out catering, function and dinner) exist to provide customers with a diverse set of options at top convenience. With categories of “appetizers and salads,” “imported and homemade pasta,” “specialties of the house,” “Italian favorites,” “American favorites” and “fresh seafood,” dinner at Verona’s is sure to be a crowd-pleaser. The anniversary promotional value is a gift on a silver platter offering a complete dinner for two for \$15 a person. The dinner includes a soup or salad as an appetizer, any entrée from the entire menu, potato & vegetable or

pasta, bread and butter, selected desserts and tea or coffee. This affordable dinner choice proves “big things come in small packages.” In fact, the dishes are so entirely filled that finishing your plate is almost a challenge.

Personal selections included fried calamari, Caesar salad, garlic bread, shrimp and mushrooms sautéed in garlic butter over linguine, boneless breast of chicken parmigiana and homemade fettuccine with marinara sauce, all of which were nothing short of perfect. Although everything on the menu exceeds expectations, recommendations include linguine carbonara, broiled scrod, fisherman’s platter and shrimp scampi. To add the icing on the cake, a delicious, hot cup of Indian pudding topped with French vanilla ice cream earned the title of “best dessert.” Runner-up desserts strawberry Jell-O and chocolate tapioca will also

guarantee satisfaction.

As if this fine Italian cuisine is not enough to attract its loving customers, all employees at Verona’s are comforting and dedicated to making each dining experience a memorable one for all. Nothing is better than being greeted and seated by a smiling waitress, who is gladly willing to make you feel at home, and is ready to take your order. To all newcomers, the waitresses are very informed as to what’s the specialty of the day, or what may be a delicious choice for a meal. One of the most important factors to a successful restaurant is the service, in which Verona’s has most definitely mastered.

Overall a trip to The Verona Restaurant is sure to please. With a great atmosphere, amazing food, and friendly service, Verona’s is something any Watertown local needs to check out if they haven’t already.

# Opinion

## Lack of Choices

By: Maddy Herzog

Speech, Debate Team, Model U.N., Asian Cultural Club, Student Political Magazine, Student Art Magazine, Russian Club. These were just several of the rich and diverse extracurriculars and electives that students listed on the Northwestern Class of 2013 online discussion thread. I can’t even imagine how long their resumes must’ve been on their college application. In comparison, I pictured my meager, one-page list. Aside from sports, most of my extracurriculars had been scrounged up from various out of school communities.

In a time when the college application process is more cutthroat than ever, Watertown High School students are at a disadvantage. After grades and test scores, admission officers carefully scan lists of extracurriculars and look at class choices. How are our course loads supposed to stand out among millions when our electives barely exceed art, photography, and foods class.

Francis Parker High School in San Diego, CA, for example, offers Shakespeare Seminar, Theater, Theatre Production, Musical Theatre, Directing, Stonecarving, Pottery, Motion Media Art, Java Programming, Global Issues & Social Justice, Genghis to Godzilla-Modern Asian Culture, Speech Communications, Student Government, Martial Arts, and Sports Medicine, among many other courses.

Watertown High School does offer several great programs such as Childhood Development, Foods and Nutrition, and Media courses in a beautiful and professional studio, but it certainly does not have something for everybody. There are hardly any academic electives. The only elective

I was proud to display on my transcript was Journalism, a class in its infant years and the only English department elective. What’s more, attaining this one basic and useful class caused another wonderful English elective, Creative Writing, to disappear. Most other academic departments have no electives at all. What’s more, we are rapidly losing funding for electives. Some classes like electronic music have already disappeared and rumors have been spreading that the entire Drama program may vanish soon.

Another high school aspect that we miss out on at Watertown High School is a diverse club scene. Again, we have several successful clubs, including a renowned Robotics Club, but due to our small size and lack of funding, after school selection is very limited. Friends from a nearby high school, Buckingham, Browne and Nichols, tell me about the vast array of clubs, ranging from Gardening Club to Xtreme Club. Even aside from these humorous, slightly ridiculous clubs, we are missing important clubs such as Speech or Debate Team or Model U.N. Clubs like these are viewed very highly by colleges and provide vital experience for students who are interested in certain majors in college or careers in life.

It is an increased struggle for us to beat out students from these other, more endowed high schools for precious university acceptances. Although my bitterness is minimal since I was accepted into the college of my choice, I was significantly shocked when I saw the resumes of other future Northwestern students compared to mine. Looking back, it seems like a miracle that admissions officers noticed me at all.

## Where are the Trees?

By: Nick Lappen

Most every student who attended the JR Lowell School has fond memories of the three large trees, which stood out front of the school. The trees marked the boundary for students playing at recess. “Don’t go past the trees,” the lunch ladies used to say.

But now that the trees have been removed what will students use as a boundary? The destruction of the trees has left many Lowell school alumni upset. Taylor Connors described the act as “despicable.” While fellow Lowell school alumni Chris McDermott was “flabbergasted.” Students have long held the tradition of painting the trees when they graduate, and now that tradition will die.

The death of the trees has been a major source of outcry from the Lowell school community. Julia Tolman sees it as a “disgrace”, while Colin Geagan could only describe the horrific destruction of the trees as

“traumatizing”.

But what about the notion that these trees were rotting and unsafe? “Garbage,” claims Tyler Romanelli. When asked about the possibility of these trees being dangerous to students Dillon O’Reilly had only one response: “preposterous”. The destruction of the trees has done more harm than it has done good. Leaving students like RJ Sheehan feeling “distracted,” while others like Mike D’Amico have turned to anger, describing his feelings as “outraged.”

Overall, the community seems mildly upset over the removal of the trees. It is this writer’s opinion that the least they could do is maybe plant some bushes or something. Possibly a shrubbery or two. Nothing big, just something to sort of say, “Hey guys, our bad, we screwed up on this one.” Sort of like an apology for chopping down our childhood.

## Is Turf Better?

By: Kelsey Prendergast

Does a WHS athlete traveling to Woburn, Bentley and Lexington in order to be ready for the next tournament game seem fair? Squeezing into two cars in order to be able to use the hour and a half to two hours allotted on a field belonging to another school, just doesn’t seem fair. You better hope your coach has some great connections in order to get you on the turf in these other towns. Yet, your opponent is out there practicing on their own home turf for the three plus hours they have to work on anything needed. For Watertown, those measures are taken once tournament rolls around in order to come out with the win.

Having all grass fields is a great disadvantage while playing these turf teams. In every sport, there are certain skills only used on turf and when you play the teams on their home turf the skills are easily used against you. When attending summer camps or playing on club teams, you will always be playing on turf so you learn certain tricks and skills to use on that surface. Yet, when

it comes to the season, you are unable to even use the tricks or skills you were taught because they do not work on grass!

Placing turf at Victory Field would, of course, involve a lot of money, time and work from Watertown. Also, the teams would have to share the field amongst themselves. They would have to schedule games and practices at all different times so every team would be able to use to available turf. Yet, there would be lights so some teams would have night practices. The question is how does Watertown High School get a brand new gym? Is money a problem with the addition of turf to Watertown’s Victory Field? If Watertown High School is able to get a new gym, which does not affect the basketball team’s performance on the court, then why shouldn’t their teams that have been playing on grass in a turf-born league get the chance to have turf get put in?

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

# Tanning Can Cost You More Than Just Money

By: Mane Harutyunyan

Once upon a time, women were independent thinkers. Welcome to present day reality where the image of an “ideal” woman peeks through the tan, heavily-made-up face of another month’s celebrity adorning the cover of Seventeen magazine. Somewhere in history, priorities were cast aside to make room for time spent on beauty and physical appearance. The motto “true beauty is on the inside” has virtually disappeared and Vogue magazine is the new Bible. Among Maybelline’s “Lash Stiletto” mascara, Covergirl’s “Wetslick Fruit Spritzers” lip gloss and Revlon’s “Colorstay” foundation lies a new craze. More than 2 million Americans are baking in tanning salons every single day in the United States.

As time progresses, women find themselves conforming to the pressures of society. There is that little, but inevitable, amount of jealousy and desire in every single woman to be physically more attractive than the girl standing next to her. Amplifying this

desire causes women to go to great lengths to make themselves feel more confident and the media is silently motivating them. Beauty is tan. Tan is beauty. Women all over the world are cooking like steaks on a grill to achieve that seemingly “beautiful, deep, golden skin tone.” Every day, the world advertises and displays that “perfect” girl. The faces change but the message behind it remains the same. Struggling to keep up with the latest fads, women are now lining up like mindless robots at the doors of tanning salons. The biggest motivation is personal satisfaction. People want to feel good about themselves. People want to fit in. Ironically, a tan signifies a healthy body, a promise a lot of people refuse to ignore. But since when did it become acceptable to sacrifice well-being for body image? Looks over health? Matter over mind? Your skin is just a vessel for who you are. Since when did that vessel have to be beautiful?

As if neglecting sun tan lotion

wasn’t enough, people are beginning to get frustrated with the time it takes to tan naturally and turning over to tanning indoors. Women dive into tanning beds unknowingly thinking it is safer than the tan you get from being outdoors. But in fact, the Ultra Violet (UV) lights from tanning beds are 2-8 times more powerful than the rays given off from the sun and far more menacing to the skin. At that close range and with that much concentrated power, tanning beds penetrate deep into the skin and cause damage. Skin burns, rashes, irritation, eye injuries, premature aging and in severe but not uncommon cases, cancer, are among the effects of tanning. Even with this knowledge, people are unwilling to believe they can be affected. To the contrary, not only is the influence of Melanoma (a severe type of skin cancer) quickly rising for women under the age of 40 but skin cancer is also the most common form of cancer with 90% of all these diagnoses being traced back to excessive UV exposure.

In some cases, tanning becomes an obsession so that women lie in tanning booths as often as their own beds at night. Thousands of people all over the United States are routinely going to tanning salons to maintain that “glow” year round. Some have even taken it a step further and installed tanning beds in their own homes, a process costing around \$2-3,000. After a certain point, tanning becomes second nature to women who refuse to believe any harm can come to them until it’s already too late to turn back. The term “tanorexia” was coined to characterize those people addicted to tanning salons. Although an obsession to this extent is rare, it is still present and classified alongside eating disorders and depression as a disease.

Women nowadays are riding in a carriage pulled by the unbearable standards of society. Every tan Barbie and celebrity is a tug towards the wrong path. Take control of the reins. There’s nothing wrong with being the odd one out.

## Senior Pranks

By: Nick Lappen

At high schools across America the senior prank has long been a way for graduating students to blow off steam. Students often collaborate to do something funny, clever, or school spirit oriented towards the end of the year. Some traditional pranks include re-arranging classrooms, placing strange objects, such as cars, on the roof of the school, or releasing animals in the building.

At WHS, the senior prank is often forgotten or overlooked by graduating seniors. The administration is very much against senior pranks here. Mr. McDermott said the senior prank is “generally disruptive” and is “a sad way to end your four years here.” The administration has pushed for students to take part in a senior spirit day, instead of a prank. On such a day seniors would all wear school colors and dress in goofy outfits to celebrate the end of their four years at WHS.

Although the senior prank seems to be a non-issue at WHS, over

the years there have been some pretty troublesome pranks perpetrated by WHS seniors. One year students broke into the school and rubbed Vaseline on all locker’s locks, and doorknobs in the school, making them impossible to open. Although hilarious this caused a lot of trouble and extra work for janitors. A less amusing prank involved students stealing a school bus and parking it on school grounds. The students were prosecuted for their actions.

Some of the best know pranks were done by students at MIT. MIT students once disassembled a police cruiser, and then reassembled it on the roof of the Engineering building on the MIT campus. Another classic school prank involves filling a body of water on school grounds, such as a pool or fountain, with bubble bath.

If you’re looking for inspiration for a senior prank the Internet is full of ideas. Many of them are school appropriate and very amusing. Hopefully if there is a senior prank this year it will be tasteful and amusing.

## No Dances?

By: Chloe Anderson

The biggest dance at the high school has always been the Halloween dance. But, why can’t other dances be just as popular? The winter formal and the Spring Fling are always infamous for being cancelled or having a total of twenty people there. The Halloween dance is so talked up by upperclassmen that underclassmen also believe it is the only good dance the high school hosts. If one dance can be good, can’t they all?

There has always been talk about changing the themes of the winter formal and the spring fling. There had been talk of a Sadie Hawkins Dance, a Mardi Gras themed dance and any other theme. But these themed dances never seem to happen. Each grade is supposed to host a dance and the proceeds go to the grade. If there is only one dance a year the money will only go to the senior class, leaving the other classes to find other ways to make money. If students want to have activities, class dues and

other things at lower prices holding dances and having a lot of people attend could help lower these prices.

Other schools are always having formal dances and almost all the students attend. Some schools do not have them in their cafeterias, they rent function halls. Some of these formal dances schools are just as big as prom, they even take limos. Maybe a turn off to students is the fact that the dance is held in the cafeteria but the school does not have enough money to rent out a place especially with the fact that they never know how many students will actually attend.

If people got rid of the stereotype that the Halloween dance is the only good dance more people would attend. If everyone just decides to attend the other dances it would be just like the Halloween dance only without the costumes. If there was a theme it would also make it a better time!

## Red Raider Mascot

### Causes Tension

By: Taylor Connors



Offensive, or a part of our tradition here at Watertown High? That is the question that has many current and former students at W.H.S. up in arms. Were the Watertown Red Raiders intended to be politically incorrect? No. In fact, representing our history is almost noble. We are not negatively promoting Native American culture. We are proudly representing Watertown and its history.

The Red Raiders mascot has been representing our athletic program for over fifty years. That is something to be proud of, not something to be taken away from us. Watertown High School is full of respectable students and staff, which is known throughout the Middlesex League. We don’t stereotype or segregate, in fact we are one of the more diverse schools; especially considering our size. There has never been any negative connotation as to our mascot here at W.H.S. As long as it stays that way, there is no reason why we shouldn’t be allowed to celebrate our winnings as the Red Raiders.

The color red historically

represents courage. That is exactly what we are standing for when we call ourselves the Red Raiders. Our dedicated athletes have courageous performances day in and day out, leaving all they have on the court or field. If celebrating our history and proudly wearing red is to be banned, then what is next? Traditions like pep rallies, proms, Thanksgiving football rivalries, etc are what make W.H.S. the unified high school that it is. Taking away our mascot will take away a giant piece of what we stand for.

The term “Raider” is by no means directly offensive to any group of people; it simply means a warrior of some sort. Vikings, tribes and other groups who have fought for what they stood for have called themselves “Raiders”. If the students here at Watertown High were shouting ethnic slurs at the top of their lungs at basketball and football games, then maybe we would have an argument to be resolved. However, this is simply a matter that has recently been blown way out of proportion.

Watertown Red Raiders athletic teams are courageous fighters, that’s all there is to it. There is no need for an argument or a change in a tradition that has lasted nearly a half of a century without any issues. We are a very diverse school, understanding that many cultures have sensitivities. Being called the Red Raiders is not something that needs to be changed or altered in any way. The students here at Watertown High need to speak out for our traditional mascot, to keep our school proudly representing what we stand for.

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# Who Will Bail Out School Systems?

By: Keith Singh

Suppose the government was supplying your company with the funds required to run your company, you would make sure you use that money to its full use wouldn't you? Well with the current economy a lot of companies actually are in that situation. Those companies though, are under close scrutiny of the public, media, and close watch from their investors (Uncle Sam). So why aren't public schools more closely watched? Most people don't think of their local school system as a company, but with the economy in the dumps, isn't regulating education across the nation as important as regulating a failing car company? By the looks of our school, it becomes rather apparent that the government really couldn't care less how towns use their investor's money. Let's just say if Watertown Public Schools was a car company, we would be packing our bags and moving out of Detroit, or trying to come up with a future failure plan of partnering up with some European car company (sorry Chrysler but you know it's going to happen).

The school system has been rather tactical with the metaphorical demise of our car company. It has not only destroyed itself through recent bad spending, but also through the atrophy of previous spending habits. We'll start with the recent bad spending. If you've been in a gym class at the WHS this year, you'll notice the shiny new floor the school has put under your feet. How amazing is that? You can almost see the reflection of your pathetic attempts to fight over the seven deflated basketballs that are supposed to hold over your ever-growing gym class. It's no secret that the school doesn't have the most up to date sports equipment, but why does it insist on shoving horrible fitness equipment down your throat? Many of the Fitness Centers cardio machines don't work, yet the school keeps buying random junk to put down in that basement room. Apparently quantity does mean more than quality to our school.

Let's jump to the other spectrum now for a moment. Have you ever wondered why some rooms

have a mix of decent desks, and then a handful of World War era desks that can barely hold up a notebook? It's because the school has a sick sense of humor. They're trying to go for that "retro" appeal, which is going pretty well for them. We have the books from the 70's, the chalkboards from the 60's, and hey, perhaps even the asbestos from the 50's. How lucky are we that our school has a theme?

Lets go back to recent bad spending. Remember how last year all the teachers had those white Macbooks? You notice how gray Dells have replaced them? Do you know why, because I surely don't. You know who else doesn't know, the teachers who use them. Could this possibly be the school's sick sense of humor kicking in again? It must be, because last week the school let out an email about how we're dangerously low on paper. The school has money to buy completely new laptops, to replace perfectly fine laptops, but can't drive down to Staples to buy paper. Who could have seen this coming though? Who would know a public school would need paper? The administration certainly didn't, but then again why blame them, they were far too busy trying to improve the budget, apparently there are more useless things the school can buy.

So what can get the school out of this mess? They could try and stop rampant spending, and put that money to better use. The school though will probably not do that, and instead try to cut back on more things we already lack. They have already started with mailing notifications, which isn't that bad. What's next though? Cutting teachers, and making classes bigger than they already are? The economy will eventually get better, as history shows, but will our school system be able to bounce back? Or will it continue to make bad business decisions, ending up like the banks and car companies of today? Only time will tell, but if the school does see darker days, there might not be a bailout.

# What Comes Next for a Graduating Senior?

By: Jill Brennan

As we grow up, our goals become more important and our decisions become more crucial for us because they affect our futures more directly. A soccer game that once meant everything to you in the third grade might not seem so important to you now because your priorities have changed. However, by now, many seniors have decided which college they are going to, a decision will leave an impact that lasts longer than the third grade soccer game did.

Each of us gets something different out of high school. We meet new people and learn something while we are there, but we also get a little glimpse of working through authoritative systems in order to get what we want. Sometimes, it took a little more than a peaceful comment to make everyone aware of our discontent, but our opinions were heard through our actions. We all have opinions but it is important for us not to act rashly. We are becoming more unwilling to change our opinions, and that is all a part of becoming adults.

There are a lot of things that we can take away from school. Some are good and some are bad. We have the happy memories from the last four years of our friends. We also have all of the work that we have done over the years. In the end, we realize that where we are going in life depends greatly on the work that we do today. Fortunately, we have spent four years with our favorite teachers and our favorite classes that we look forward to going to each day.

"The teachers at WHS have really prepared us for college," Faye Hisoler, a member of the Class of '09, said. In addition to their subject they have also taught us "techniques to succeed".

Next year, we are going to be in completely new situations than the ones we are in today. Some of us are moving away to college, some of us are commuting to college and some of us are moving on to other opportunities. In order to get the most out of the next few years, I think it is important that we take as many lessons, both the good and the bad, from high school as we can. Sometimes, our opinions were not given the credit that they deserved. Many of us have been unhappy with the decisions that have been made in the last couple of years. Learning from them is the best we can do.

In the future, our actions will stay with us longer than they do now. Next year, we get to start over with people who have not known us as long. A bad day in your senior year of high school can be easily disregarded because people know us so well, especially being in such a small school. But rash actions in our first semester of college will reflect directly on us because people do not know us as well. Students, like Junior Stephanie Barker, agree that there has been a recent increase in disciplinary problems and that people should work to stop them.

When the administration made a decision that we did not like, we went on strike to get our point across. In the future, going on strike could lose you your job or get you in trouble with your school because there are other people out there willing to put up with things.

The future is unknown so we cannot predict exactly what will happen. We cannot know how we would act in a situation until we are in that circumstance. But we can take what we know from high school and prevent ourselves from making any mistakes again.

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# The Future of Watertown High's Bake Sales

By: Keith Singh

The bake sales have been a huge subject of controversy in the past year and a half. Once bake sales were banned, the student body quickly proposed a new solution. The last bake sale opinion article though, brought up a new argument to the already staggering conflict of bake sales in the Watertown High School.

For a while the students were just angry that the school wasn't allowing them to hold bake sales, minimizing profits of extracurricular activities, and stopping the occasional in school field trip to go to sale. After a few months people started noticing Armenian Culture Experiences, and the club's sale of food. People were quick to make accusations that the Armenian Club was getting away with a "bake sale". The Armenian Club had a very similar setup to bake sales, with an

abundant amount of food being sold as the main attraction. People were quick to overlook though the Cultural Experience aspect of the club's outings though. Beyond food, the club offers information and tries to raise awareness for various things. The fact that the club serves food during this should not raise issues within the student body. The students need to stop blaming or arguing with the Armenian Club and where they stand, and instead argue about their own actual bake sale issues. By arguing and pointing fingers at the Armenian Club, we aren't getting anywhere. Instead we should point out the flaws of the administration's decisions of allowing food to be sold from one venue but not another, without trying to bring Cultural Experiences down.

One of these flaws within the administration for allowing food to be

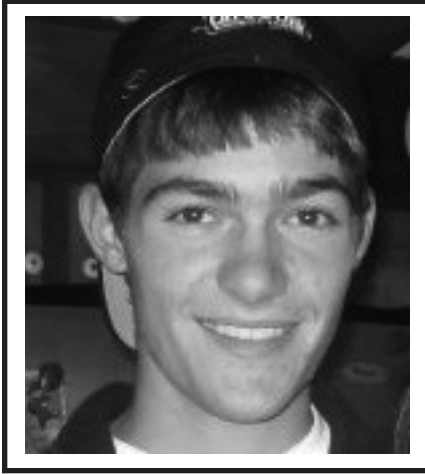
sold is the argument that the school has to watch out for allergens in food. Though this sounds like a noble cause, it is one that is very easy to fix. As Nick Lappen said in the previous bake sale article "don't eat it!" referring to food that might be a danger to you. Looking out for the students doesn't seem to be the major concern for the school; instead it seems to be the profits. When the Armenian Clubs go out and do their cultural experiences they are forced to do them on the third floor, when lunch is not in session. Obviously the school is worried that the experience might drain positional buyers of lunch from the cafeteria. Could this be the same worry that is holding bake sales back? Most likely. Considering the school has hiked prices of lunch from \$2.75 to \$3.50 the school probably should be worried.

The easy solution for clubs

and sports who want to hold bake sales would probably be to try to talk to the administration and allow them to hold bake sales after school or before school, if lunch profits are really a huge deal. If the clubs held them after school, the argument that the bake sales disrupt classes would also disappear. The argument about keeping kids healthy and away from allergens would also diminish slightly, because the liability for the school would be less. As horrible as it sounds, if a kid starts having a reaction from a food outside of school hours, the school would be less liable compared to the kid having a reaction during school hours. Whatever the future is for bake sales, the school needs to come up with a final decision, for the upcoming years.=

# Tips From a College Freshman

By: Shelby Austin-Manning



College is a big step that many students decide to take after high school. They know that filling out all those applications in the winter will soon payoff. Preparing all summer to live away from home, the future college students gather everything they need. This is just what college freshman Mark Russo did last year.

Mark graduated in 2008 from our own Watertown High School. Filling out many applications senior year, he landed on University of Hartford in Connecticut. "The school was the perfect match for me," Mark said. "They gave me more money than any other university, and it was one of the few schools around here with my major." Mark knew he wanted to go into sciences, and decided on radiologic technology as a major. He described it as dealing with "X rays and diagnostic imaging

in terms of MRIs and CAT scans."

Mark attended orientation in June. Although he arrived late because of the popular wall painting senior event back in Watertown, he said it was easy to fit right in. "It was fun because we got a chance to meet a lot of the incoming freshmen and pick our schedule for first semester and got to know the campus better," he said.

August quickly came around, and his senior summer was over. Moving in at the end of August, he described the experience as crazy. "I lost my key on the first day but later luckily I found it. I also was glad my dorm was on the first floor, so it wasn't that much of a pain carrying everything in. However, I did realize all the things I had forgotten like my phone charger, so I didn't have a phone for a while which wasn't good," Mark said.

Something most people want to know about before they go to college is what the living situation is like. They want to know how big the rooms are, where the bathrooms are, and who their roommate will be. Mark didn't get to choose his dorm, but he did luck out. "I got put in the RA's old room so it was the first time freshmen were living there. It wasn't like the other rooms, because it was smaller, but on the plus side they did have a private bathroom which I liked." Mark found out who was going to be his roommate in early August. They actually met up a few

times and found out they had the same interests, like baseball. "He hung out with me and my friends so I got to know him pretty well, and because we had the same interests it was easy to get along. Since my room was smaller, we had 2 other suitemates that were basically my roommates and I also got really close to them. They were from different states but they were still easy to get along with and we all became really close friends."

College food can be a problem for some students. It is definitely a big adjustment to make, because your parents aren't there to make you anything you want. "It took about a week to adjust to the food. It was really good, but it just didn't always agree with your stomach. But there are a lot of places to order food, and a place open until 3 am for people that are out late on the weekends," says Mark.

Another huge thing to consider when moving away from home is how much you will miss everyone. It's hard to leave your family, and to go and live with a class of over 500 kids that you do not know. When I asked Mark about this he responded, "I got homesick. I did miss being away from my family, but also my friends. I was really close to my friends in Watertown, so it was sad being away from them for so long. Luckily, I did have some people from Watertown who go to my school too, so it wasn't too bad."

When attending a university,

we all want to know whether we will have enough to do to occupy our time. When I asked Mark about this he told me, "There is a lot to do on the weekends. The first week was easy because all the frats wanted to get to know the incoming freshmen, so we got invited to a lot of places to see which ones we like the most." When asked about a normal weekend at Hartford, he said that there is always something to do.

Mark decided to not play any sports his freshmen year. He wanted to get to know the school first, and be able to get all his work for classes done on time without worrying about a sport. This is also why he didn't have an on-campus job. Instead, he spent his time challenging himself by taking many different classes, including writing courses, Organic Chemistry, Math, Intro to Health Professions, and some elective courses, like Computer and Philosophy.

College life is a huge adjustment for anyone. Living away from home can be scary, but rewarding at the same time. It teaches students to be independent. They are forced to balance their classes and social life, without their parents holding their hands and helping them every step of the way like it was before. Mark is a great example of someone who adjusted to college life very quickly and was able to make friends fast. "I love the college experience so far, and I can't wait for next year."

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## Sports

### Will Coach Mastro Leave Girls Track?

By: Maddy Herzog

If you attend Watertown High School, you are bound to interact with David Mastro at some point. Whether it's sitting, slightly intimidated in his freshman U.S. history class, or being screamed at as you sprint around a track, the lovable, 5'2 character has left his mark. However, Mastro may soon be absent from his most common habitat, Victory Field. He's currently debating whether or not to leave his position of girl's track coach.

For the past nine years, Mastro has coached girl's track and during the first six of those years he also coached boy's and girl's soccer. "It's a lot," Mastro said. For the entire time he has been teaching he has also been a coach; he's never had a break. From November to June his schedule is virtually booked and by Sunday, his one day off, he's exhausted. "I feel like I run and run and run..." he said, no pun intended. One of his main concerns is having more time to spend with his wife, who has been putting up with his hectic scholastic and athletic schedule for thirteen years now.

Don't get him wrong though, it will not be an easy decision to turn his



The 2009 Girls Track Team. Coach Mastro is front and center.

Photo by: Lifetouch

back on the talented bunch of runners he has been working with and that he could work with in the future. "I love all these kids tremendously," Mastro expressed. "They are the hardest working people I know and they're busy with other obligations, too. They really respond

to my coaching." He also admitted that many in the community have told him he'd be a "fool to leave" his coaching job.

It is possible, though, that Mastro is worn out. There is no one who can deny that he leaves his blood,

sweat, and tears on the track and field each meet, each season, each year. "I wear my emotions on my sleeve during track meets," he said. He has even earned renown at many other Middlesex League schools as the not-so-tall coach who jumps up and down screaming during meets. "Everyone definitely knows when to move their arms more," Senior Nick Lappen said, alluding to one of Mastro's more frequent cries. "I'm not your typical track coach who just sits there quietly," Mastro states. "I have emotion and passion, and that helps energize the runners, in my opinion." As a result though, Mastro goes home physically and emotionally drained after a meet.

Mastro hopes to have a final decision by the spring track banquet. The track department will lose much of its character without Mastro, that's for sure. "Will it lower my overall stress? Yes, probably," said Mastro about leaving his coaching position. It will probably also give his voice some rest and relaxation it hasn't had for 13 years.

# Feature Male and Female Athletes

## Taylor Connors *All-Around Athlete*

By: Kelsey Prendergast



Taylor Connors with the javelin at a track meet.

*Photo by: Lifetouch*

Senior Taylor Connors is a powerhouse on the track, field, and court. Her amazing goalie skills helped carry the field hockey team to the Division 2 state semi-final game. Facing a triple overtime game, she stayed strong in the net to come out with a breathtaking win in a game early on in the tournament. Connors defeated the odds in the tournament, with almost every game coming down to overtime and playing with injuries, as well. That kind of skill doesn't come without a lot of hard work and dedication. Connors has participated in a New England premier showcase where she was named an all-star and practiced alongside the field hockey team throughout the off-

season. All the playing paid off, with the field hockey team bringing back two banners: Middlesex League Champs and North Champs falling one game short of the State Championship.

"She's not only a hard worker but also a very good asset to our team and is one of the many reasons for our success," says sophomore Jessica Doggett. Without Connors in net, the team could not have gotten as far as they did. Connors herself has been named Middlesex League all-star, Best of 60, and 2008 Tribune Player of the Year. "I love playing sports with Taylor, she's so dedicated and dependable. Not only that, it is so fun to be on a team with her. When I would play defense, I loved hearing her crack jokes in the background. She always puts a smile on my face," states sophomore Bianca Jones.

She is a leader on the court as well, where she has led the girls' basketball team to the tournament. During spring track, she's known as the top thrower of the girls' outdoor track team. On the track team she is the one to beat at the javelin. She throws a remarkable 112 feet, even though she only needs 87 feet to qualify for states. Connors has previously placed in the state meet and moved on to All-States. At track practice, you can often see Connors out-throwing the guys on the boys' track team and sometimes taking a break from throwing and picking up the baton to run the anchor in the girls' 4 by 1 relay. She is a true, year-round athlete with incredible athletic ability in every sport. Connors hopes to participate in either track or field hockey next year in college.

## Jeff Gonzalez

### *Backbone for the Baseball Team*

By: Maddy Herzog

You would never guess that senior, varsity baseball tri-captain Jeff Gonzalez didn't even know the rules of baseball until he was 11. He played his first game with his cousins and after sending the ball out of sight, Jeff knew he liked baseball. "It's my kind of sport, you don't have to run that much and you can be lazy sometimes even," Jeff joked. Since that day, baseball has been his life and "just being in the presence of a baseball diamond makes [his] day." He values time spent with his teammates, including his co-captains, senior Justin Forman and junior Tim Barbra, and loves shouting things at them when they're up at bat. Jeff's passion for the game especially shined through his freshman and sophomore years when he was named Team MVP twice in a row.

Jeff also plays soccer, his first sport, in the fall. "I have played soccer since I could walk because my dad taught me how to play, but it never sunk in as my favorite sport like baseball did," he explained. Nevertheless, he still enjoys it and brings much to the field



Jeff Gonzalez as catcher during his baseball game.

*Photo by: Lifetouch*

and team. Aside from sports, Jeff enjoys attending church and participating in activities with his congregation. One of his favorite quotes is, "There are three things in my life which I really love God, my family, and baseball. The only problem- once baseball season starts I change the order around a bit." His dedication to Raider athletics and his activities out of school is what earned Jeff the title of Feature Athlete.

## Faye Hisoler *A Champion on the Court*

By: Jenna Gilreath

For some people, balancing extracurricular activities and school can be a difficult task. Faye Hisoler, however, is able to balance playing tennis, staying involved in clubs, and keeping her high rank in the senior class, all at the same time. This is why Faye has been selected as one of the Feature Athletes of the issue.

Faye started playing tennis five years ago. One of her friends played and she decided to try it out. She realized she loved the sport and ended up trying out at the high school level. With a busy schedule that includes meetings for Invisible Children and National Honor Society and rehearsing for musicals, Faye thinks that tennis is a "stress reliever." "I don't feel that it takes time away from my studies", says Faye whose favorite class is Chemistry with Ms. Kraemer. She also adds, "the skills I learn from tennis help me do well in school."

Faye's favorite memory during tennis was her first win. Along with winning, Faye also loves interacting with her teammates. As a tennis player she usually sticks to doubles; she loves having another person on the court



Faye at one of her tennis matches.

*Photo by: Lifetouch*

with her. "I love having someone I can share wins with and learn through experiencing tough losses."

We at the Raider Times wish Faye luck with her tennis season this year!

## Herling Romero *Keeping the Tennis Team Alive*

By: Kelsey Prendergast



Herling during a tennis match at Victory Field.

*Photo by: Lifetouch*

Senior Herling Romero has been playing tennis since his freshmen year at Watertown High. His father's friend got him interested during the summer entering high school. He also plays golf for the high school and

enjoys being involved in as many sports as possible.

Herling is attending Boston College in the fall, which proves his outstanding ability to balance his school load and participate in varsity sports. Herling is looking forward to playing sports in college whether it be golf or tennis; he uses sports as a way to release how competitive he is. Herling describes his favorite memory from Watertown High tennis being, "At one of our matches Gerry Mee got stung by a bee and fell to the ground screaming, "I'm Hit!" in the middle of a point." Tennis can be an enjoyable sport but can also involve some hard work along with time management skills. Herling describes his experience of managing a competitive school load and sports by saying, "I am pretty laid back and don't stress that much so it is pretty easy for me." Herling explains that the tennis team looks pretty good this year with the help of a new teammate, Pablo who, "makes our singles more consistent." Also, he noted that they only lost one senior so they are looking like a strong team.

# Congratulations Graduates!