

# The Raider Times

Thanksgiving Issue

Watertown High School

November 28, 2008

## Congratulations Lady Raiders! Field Hockey Teams Wins Div. 2 North Sectionals

By: Nick Lappen

November 12th, 2008 marked the end of the Watertown High School field hockey season, and also the end of the '09 girls' career. It was a solid season, which ended in a disappointing 3-2 loss to Hopkinton, but not before the WHS girls picked up the Middlesex League Title, and the Division 2 North Championship.

The WHS girls finished the season with a final record 16-1-5, going undefeated through the regular season. Six players, including seniors Taylor Connors, Ali Holland, and Tayler Mulcahy made the Middlesex League All-star team. Jessica Doggett, Lauren Giordano, and Kelsey Prendergast also made the All-star team. Senior Captain Sarah MacDougall credited junior Kelsey Prendergast saying, "She's one girl that hands down played her heart out every practice and every game, no matter what."

The season was full of hard fought games, and every tournament game was a pressure-packed ordeal, involving edge of your seat overtime victories. "Not a single game was given to us, we had to work hard for every win," says All-star goalie Taylor Connors.

When asked about the most memorable games, Sarah MacDougall said, "Wakefield, because for the first time, we just let loose and played our game. We dominated the entire time and went at them 110 percent. Also, the

Manchester game (Div. 2 North Finals), because the previous year, Manchester was the team that ended our season. We lost to them 3-0 in the North Quarter Finals. This time we played them, we proved to ourselves how far we've come and how much we've grown together as a team. This year, we were the ones that ended their season, which was completely gratifying."

The Raiders had every intention of starting out the season strong, and not slowing down. Senior Alison Holland played through a sprained thumb, and many players fought through serious injuries to keep their season alive. It was that same level of commitment that led the entire returning varsity team to drive all the way to Salem twice a week over the summer for intense unofficial scrimmages.

Coach Eileen Donahue put the Raiders through a grueling pre-season routine. In order to prepare them for the upcoming season she scheduled double session workouts, which often lasted around six hours. Pre-season games against some of the state's most talented opponents had the WHS girls prepared for a season that started off at fever pitch and never slowed down.

Team scavenger hunts and pasta dinners helped the team bond on a level no one had experienced before. "We were practically like family this year. Seeing each other seven days a week for this long is going to make it that



The 2008 Field Hockey Team

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

much harder when the seniors leave," said an emotional Kelsey Prendergast.

Even the underclassmen on the team felt like part of a family, coming together with the upperclassmen to form a sense of camaraderie and pride in what they were accomplishing. "We gelled a lot more this year. We worked together a lot more this year and didn't rely on one person," said sophomore All-star Jessica Doggett. "True that," added sophomore starter and all around clown Katie Carlson.

The '08 season will be remembered by Watertown as a year of redemption. The field hockey team

bounced back from a less than stellar season last year and stormed through the tournament, capturing the Division 2 North Championship. "This season was probably one of the most memorable and successful so far. It's exciting that we won those titles because we didn't win either of them last year and we had such a better team this year," says junior Allison Grizzey.

At WHS, Field hockey has traditionally been a strong program. The impressive history of the program has transformed a traditionally unpopular spectator sport into a town favorite.

## The Halloween Dance Happens This Year

By: Chloe Anderson

At the October 24th dance, the bump of the cafeteria was packed with Watertown High School students in their 2008 Halloween costumes. The cafeteria was so crowded that everyone was touching someone else and sweat was dripping from almost everyone.

The senior boys painted their faces with army colors, while many sophomore girls dressed as Patriot football players. However, the junior boys had the most outrageous costumes. Junior Tim Barba explains, "Well, I mean, it's junior year so we decided to not hold anything back. My group of friends decided that it was appropriate to go to the dance dressed as a whoopie cushion, coach Cacace, a cross-country runner, a penguin, a male stripper, and, yes, the plug and socket."

Each year a winner is picked from each grade for the best costume. This year's senior class winner, who will be receiving a free prom ticket, was Brendan Shaughnessy. Brendan was dressed as Mr. McDermott, complete with a pillow in his stomach, a balding head and, of course, the megaphone. The junior class winner of a free junior cruise



Seniors Anthony Alberico and Brendan Shaughnessy display their creative costumes.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

ticket was Scott Stafford who was dressed as coach Cacace, beard and all. The sophomore class winner was Roshelly dressed as a vampire, and the freshman class winner was Catherine Bartlett.

This was the freshmen and sophomores' first Halloween dance at the high school. This should've been 2011's second dance, but due to last year's cancellation, they never attended one. "For my first high school dance it was a lot of fun," says sophomore Abby Delaney. "It was just as fun as I heard it was going to be and I'm glad we had it this year."

After last year's cancellation, students had high hopes for the dance. "It was a really fun dance. I think more people came because of the new set up we have; every grade is involved and also because since there were no dances last year, people wanted to go to one again," senior Cory Stockmal says.

Ara Jaklian was the DJ for his first Watertown High dance and did an awesome job. All in all, the dance was a great success and earned a lot of money for all the grades.

# Announcements

## Seniors:

Class dues were to be paid in full on Friday, November 14. If you have not yet paid, see Ms. Kazarozian.

Yearbooks are on sale now. The price is now \$75. You may purchase books from Ms. O'Grady in Room 345.

## Juniors:

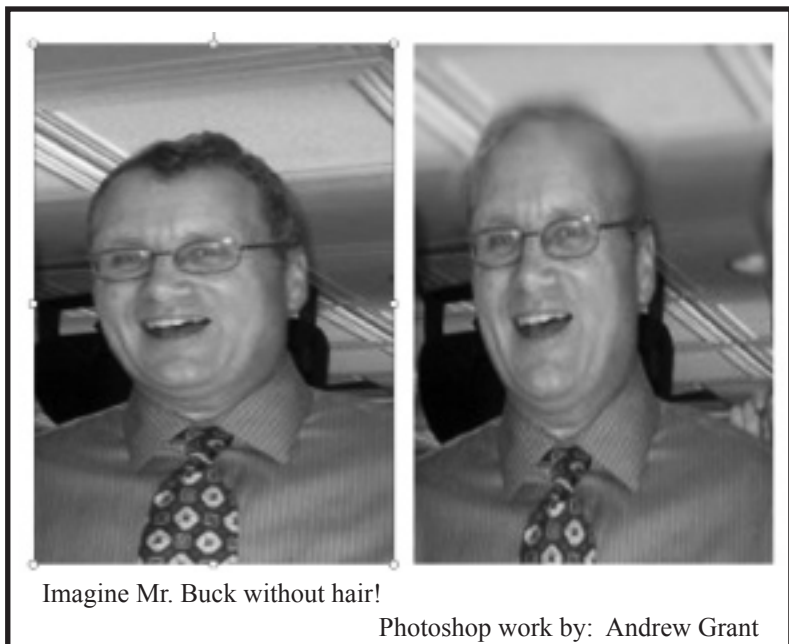
Purchase your Junior Cruise tickets now! Cruise tickets are on sale during lunch periods and after school in Room 216. An initial deposit of \$40 is due by Friday, December 5 to reserve a spot. All checks should be made out to Watertown High School. See Mr. Passeggio with any questions.

## Sophomores:

The class of 2011 is looking for sophomores who would like to serve as Class of 2011 representatives. These students would be volunteer assistants to the class officers and would help the class raise money and generate ideas for class trips and activities. If you are interested in being a class of 2011 representative, please see the class advisor, Ms. Trenholm, in room 215.

The class of 2011 is hoping to attend a Red Sox game as its annual class trip this year. This, of course, depends on whether the class can obtain tickets. Listen to future announcements on the PA about this trip, since we will only be ordering tickets for students who pay for them in advance.

# Buck's Invisible Hair



By: Andrew Grant

Imagine the witty and often soft-spoken Mr. Buck asking you to take out that assignment on *Candide* that was due three days ago- only bald!

This year under the direction of Mr. Buck, the WHS Invisible Children Club is working to raise money to help the children suffering in war-torn northern Uganda who have faced abductions for the past 23 years. At the same time, the WHS group hopes to raise awareness about their situation and the ways that we can help. The long-standing war between the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda has left thousands of innocent people dead and millions stranded. The chance for the children to gain access to a quality education and innovative economic opportunities are only two of the pressing goals of the Invisible Children organization.

The WHS club's goal is to raise \$5000 toward this cause by mid-December. So far, the organization has raised \$750. In order to spur the student body to donate money, the club is offering an incentive. If the \$5000

is raised, Mr. Buck, as well as other prospective teachers, will shave their heads. Other faculty who may also "go bald" are Mr. Mastro and Housemaster Mr. McDermott.

For only \$5 per student, about the cost of a lunch, translates to days of laughter and even ridicule. As for what he might look like, Mr. Buck replied, "Maybe Mr. Clean... if I hit the gym a little more."

The WHS Invisible Children Club is also working on t-shirt sales, a book drive, and an evening film showing of the newest Invisible Children movie, "GO." All of the money raised will go towards the \$5000 goal and directly to the children of Uganda.

When asked if he expected to meet the \$5000 goal, Mr. Buck replied, "The necessary publicity and a good scary picture of the final result might motivate the populous."

To contribute, stop by Mr. Buck's room (244), drop some spare change in the bucket, and compliment his *temporary* hairstyle.

# New Senior Officers

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

As we all know, senior year of high school is the most important year. To achieve success this year, we will rely on our newly elected officers, President Matt Sutherland, Vice President Mitchell Tolini, Secretary Brenda Souza, and Treasurer Jessica Afonso. Two of the main senior events at the end of the year include prom and graduation. Class officers play a large role in planning these events, especially in deciding the location for our prom. Our officers have already spent a whole day searching for the perfect spot for our prom. It's clear that they not only want to make a difference in our school, but that they are actually going to.

Our president, Matt Sutherland, is not only our class president now, but also led us through our 8<sup>th</sup> grade, and sophomore year of high school. Matt had been most excited to run for president *this* year, because it is such a crucial year for us. Later in life, he wishes to pursue politics, making these experiences very important for him. His greatest accomplishments include helping our middle school class rank in the top 5 nationally in 2 programs, Pennies for Patients and the Coats for Kids drive, which were great honors for living in such a small town. Matt has worked hard to get to where he is now. "I would just make an extra effort to talk to some people in the hall way, and in my different classes so just to let them know what my goals were for our senior year, and just to let our classmates know that I would work hard to get everything we needed to get done, done," said Sutherland.

Matt has many goals already planned for our big year. He wants to take fundraising to a new level by bringing all types of people to participate in different events together to raise money for our class. His plans also include selling "Raider Pride" apparel at sporting events throughout the year. Raising money for our class, results in less coming out of our own pockets for class events. "I hope to create an unforgettable prom and senior week, and just bring back the different events that makes our time at the high school a

memorable one," said Sutherland.

Our vice president, secretary, and treasurer also have big ideas. Our vice president, Mitchell Tolini, thinks that one of the most important things to do is raise as much money as possible. "We are starting to think of different ways that we can raise money, and I think they will be received well within the community," explained Tolini. Secretary Brenda Souza wants to be a role model for our class by using her skills like organization, responsibility, and punctuality. Like Mitchell, she believes that raising money is very important, and she specifically wants to get everyone in our grade involved in the process. She thinks that everyone's opinions, whether in office or not, really matter and should be heard. "I don't want all of us to remember those negative remarks against our grade, whether its "our grade's too small and don't care about anything", or "we're going to have a bad prom" or "we're not united, it's like we have little cliques." Basically, Brenda wishes to bring us together this final year as a class. "We will definitely surprise many people and past seniors that had no hope for our grade to achieve anything at anytime! We will have the best year ever, resulting in the best prom ever also!" exclaimed Souza.

Our treasurer, Jessica Afonso also believes raising money is one of the most important components to lead our class to a successful year. She wishes to help other classes raise money. "We're also looking to get bake sales back (with healthier snacks). We're planning on making a lot of "Raider Fan" shirts, sweatpants, hats, etc. I am hoping to find a lot of ways to raise money so we can have a great senior prom location and not have to put too much money in from our own pockets!" Afonso stated.

From what the officers have said, it looks like this may be the year for seniors! Senior Elizabeth Russo said, "I think [the student elections] turned out pretty well and the students elected will do a good job this year with fundraising for prom and putting things together for our grade."

## The Raider Times 2008-2009 Staff List

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### Sports

Daniel Araujo  
Taylor Connors  
Kelsey Prendergast

### Freelance

Clara Gibbons  
Andrew Grant  
Rachel Pano



Advisor: Maurin O'Grady

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

# Award-Winning Journalist Visits WHS

By: Julia Brennan

Everybody has their own ideas about the press and journalists. For one hour on October 21<sup>st</sup>, many classes got to hear from Elaine McArdle, a journalist for *The Boston Globe*, and learned that there is so much more behind journalism than just writing stories.

Elaine McArdle graduated from law school, and after having loved it, she expected to love being a lawyer. However, that was not the case, and after working for a law firm in Austin, Texas for a year, she decided that the legal field was not for her.

While in college, she worked for the newspaper and loved it. After not experiencing any passion during her year as a lawyer, she tried being a journalist. But just because the career change made sense to her, did not mean that it made sense to the people in her life. In fact, they were less than thrilled with her decision, and they said that it was foolish of her to make it. After all, she had a job at a law firm and the success of lawyers is typically greater than the success of journalists.

At the beginning of her new career, she wrote for a small weekly paper on Cape Cod and also for legal newspapers, but out of all her jobs her favorite was being a court reporter in New Bedford. For eight years she has been a free-lance journalist for the *Globe* and *Boston Magazine*. Recently she wrote a book with Dr. Bernstein entitled *The Migraine Brain*.

Ms. McArdle shed some light on what being a journalist really consists

of and it is far from boring. She admits that it is hard because not everybody you work with shares your views on what is important for people to read. Sometimes it takes a lot of convincing and persuading to get coworkers to agree with you, explained McArdle.

There are times that McArdle has put her personal safety second to the prospect of a good story. She told us a story about a homeless man who had made a small house in the woods, and when she decided to write the story about it, she was compelled to go into the woods to look at it, despite possible danger. Her ideal job would be a war correspondent. Although now with a son, she says that her safety plays more of a role in what kind of research she does for her stories, but admits that she loves the thrill of going out to get information.

As far as getting reluctant people to talk, she said that "most people actually want to tell their story." The problem is, that some people twist the words of others to make them look bad. These people have usually been through something unpleasant, have had negative things printed about them, or have a public image to think of before they say anything. Having had much experience in this aspect of journalism, McArdle said she has learned to approach people the right way: with respect and without an agenda. It is natural for people to filter what they are about to say if they feel like they are being judged.

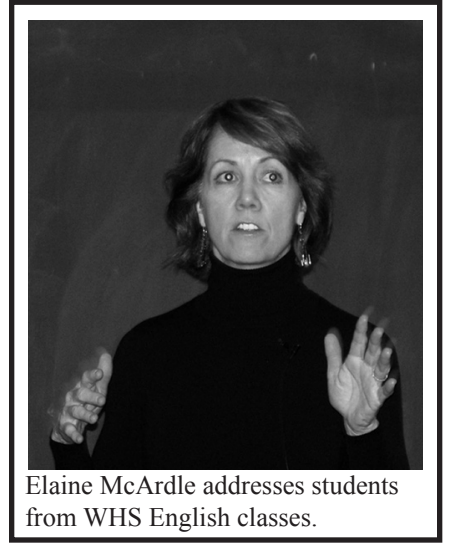
In order to be successful, it is absolutely necessary to be objective

and not to judge people. Having respect means always identifying yourself to a subject for who you are: a journalist. Her advice to future journalists is to not pretend to be someone else, because it is lying and it's also unfair.

Being accurate and fair is the responsibility of journalists and the press. Society relies on the press to get their information, and if the press inaccurately prints something then it hurts the credibility of the newspaper. People get the wrong idea about the current situation because they were given a skewed version of the matter. This does not mean that the papers should be filtered for content, because Freedom of the Press falls under the First Amendment. It is very difficult to be fair while not leaving anything out. If something is unfairly printed, then the reputation of somebody is jeopardized, as well as the company's credibility. If details are left out, then the content is being censored and the public is not getting the whole story.

In fact, detail is very important to Ms. McArdle. When asked by Junior Harrison Ford, "Who inspires you most as a writer?" she replied Capote. *In Cold Blood*, to be specific.

"Capote talked to so many people," she said and that the book is "rich with detail." But it is not just in literature that details matter. While interviewing people, she has learned to look for even the smallest responsive details or behaviors by the people she is interviewing. Specifically, she told us about one man who would go back



Elaine McArdle addresses students from WHS English classes.

and forth from speaking in the first person point-of-view to second person; from using "I" to "you." The memoir *Running With Scissors*, was another title she mentioned and then explained how it too was greatly detailed.

Before leaving the lecture hall, she left us all with a couple pieces of advice.

"Follow your passion," she said. "If there is something you really love doing, give it your best shot." Knowing from personal experience, McArdle adds that just because other people don't agree with what you want to do, it does not make your dreams any less valid.

"It's up to you to decide if you can do it," she said. Everyone she knew told her not to quit being a lawyer because it was crazy. Now she's a successful journalist, happily writing for two different newspapers.

## The Plan for Powder Puff

By: Kelsey Prendergast

The third annual Powder Puff game is quickly approaching, and the two squads are both getting ready for the action. The seniors have a 2-0 record in the game, however, this year's class of 2010 juniors are ready to put up a fight.

The seniors have a full coaching staff consisting of Justin Forman, Cory Stockmal, Kyle Stockmal, with Al Anzaldi at the helm. The coaches have put together an all-star game plan, and are ready to hit the field and look for another senior Powder Puff win. They have some organized plays that the coaches feel will be too much for the junior team to handle.

Senior coach Justin Forman stated about his game plan that, "The seniors' overall have improved a lot since last year's game. We have some set plays ready to go, and we know what to expect from the junior team. The juniors' biggest threat is Mia DePaolis and we're preparing to shut her down. As for our team's star, we don't have any. We're a team of senior girls

that all bring something to the field, and that's why we feel comfortable going into November's game."

The Juniors aren't listening to all the hype surrounding the seniors' team, though. "They don't know what's coming. Were an athletic team with a lot of skill. We have some key players but it's our overall team that's going to win on that field and get the first junior powder puff win!" said junior coach Steven Jewers. Kris Stinehart and David Woodland are also coaching alongside Jewers.

The junior team is scheduling practices and organizing a game plan to take on the "09er's". They look forward to covering star athletes such as Ali Holland, Taylor Connors, and Amanda Bonilla. The game looks promising and both sides are ready to try to take the other out. The game will be played the day of the fall pep rally at Victory Field. We all hope you come and support your class on November 26<sup>th</sup>

## Fresh Start for Sophomores

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

The sophomore class is finally looking forward to a fresh year, with their newly elected classmates in office. This year, the sophomores have many hopes for what is to be accomplished by their new class officers.

The elected sophomore officers include a group of hardworking and diligent students. The group consists of Aaron Parseghian as class president, Billy Stohlman as vice-president, Anthony Fiermonte as treasurer; Chris Roche as secretary, and Mandy Bueler on the executive committee.

Aaron Parseghian, the sophomore class president, is full of ideas. He believes he can make a positive impact on the class, and hopes to be the one to accomplish a lot for them. Aaron says, "I think our main focus this year, as a class, is to get a down payment of \$1,500 for next year's junior cruise. However, this is going to take a lot of fundraising and help from our classmates."

The vice-president, Billy Stohlman, adds that raising money for next year's junior cruise is also a goal of his. Billy says, "The goals for our sophomore class are to raise a lot of money to help pay for all trips and events for our future years

in high school, and also to have a fun and exciting end of the year trip."

The person responsible behind organizing sophomore class funds is Anthony Fiermonte, the treasurer. Anthony shares, "My job as treasurer is to be responsible for our grade funds, and the fundraising of money for our class. I hope to be successful and be a part of establishing lovely class trips for our grade."

Chris Roche, secretary of the sophomore class, also wants to help obtain great class trips, and claims that to be what drove him to run for class office.

As a grade overall, the sophomores look forward to the success of their class officers. In order to get a great final sophomore trip, and enough money for their juniors cruise next year, the sophomore class is willing to pull together and help fundraise for the money they need. A good luck goes out to the students in office, and there are high hopes for great leadership towards guiding them to a successful year.

Danny Kelly, a sophomore, is "Very happy with the results. I believe we have intelligent and hardworking officers, who will be productive for our class this year."

**Senior take on the Juniors  
November 26 at Victory!**

# Little Emitters Face Big Problems

By: Andrew Grant

With HIV/AIDS, hunger, and violence already plaguing the continent, another immediate and severe factor will cause a humanitarian crisis—global warming.

Those least responsible, suffer most. Africa will face the biggest burdens as global warming impacts the continent in the near future. A continent that only emits 3.8% of global green house gases will take the brunt of emission from around the world and face death in the millions.

“It is the poor, in Africa and developing small island states and elsewhere, who will suffer the most, even though they are the least responsible for global warming,” said U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at a press conference in 2007.

Experts say that global warming will lead to more droughts in the middle of the country and flooding along the coastline. Signs of global warming are already being noticed. Average temperatures in Africa have risen nearly .7 degrees Celsius over the last 100 years. Desertification of areas of the Sahara and shrinking of the Mount Kilimanjaro’s snow-caps have already become “potent symbols” of the rising environmental disaster, says a U.N. environmental agency. According to Anthony Nyong, a scientist at Jos University in Nigeria, if current trends continue, temperatures could rise by 2 degrees Celsius with rainfall declining by 10% by the mid-century mark.

David King, the British government chief scientific adviser claims that an *additional* 70 million Africans could face hunger issues

within the next 70 years. The African ecosystem would be the first to disappear. With this fading ecosystem, the extinction of plant species used in traditional medicines will be a problem as well. The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that 80% of the world’s population in developing countries rely on such plants for primary health care.

Not only does the geography of Africa play into its impending danger, but its poverty, underdevelopment, and war contribute to the danger that severely changing weather patterns may bring. People already in a life-threatening situation have less flexibility to adjust to hard times. “Africa’s high vulnerability is not only due to climate change, but a combination of other stresses,” says Nyong.

Also the domino effects of global warming are uncountable. For example, it is estimated that with the flooding of coast lines, mosquitos will breed more rapidly and in return double in prevalence. This would cause the number of people at risk to this disease to rise by nearly 7.5 million. With this spread of West Nile, EEE etc., economies would suffer as well and resources will focus on managing the health of people.

Environmentalists understand the serious and significant impact that global warming may have on Africa and look to necessary solutions. “Sustainable development is no longer an option, it is a must,” says World Trade Organization head Pascal Lamy, yet others are less optimistic and feel the effects of global warming are inevitable. “Africa will remain vulnerable even if, globally, emissions peak and decline in the next 10 to 15 years,” South African Environment Minister, Marthinus Van Schalkwyk said.

# Presenting IParent

By: Kalli Fabrikarakis

“The new easy electronic access to your child’s current school records” is how IParent is described on the yellow handout that was given to all Watertown High School parents last week. IParent is open and ready for parents to sign up. This program is the latest link added to the Watertown High School website, and in just the first week of its opening, 60-70 parents are already accessing and using it. This program allows parents to be able to view their child’s minute-by-minute attendance, grades, progress reports, and report cards.

All parents have to do is go to the Watertown High School Website and click on the **IParent** link. Once the necessary information is completed and submitted, parents wait for an approved email from the principal saying that they are accepted to use the program. The school’s reasoning behind presenting IParent is that they themselves had the software in the school system, but wanted to open it up to the parents, in hope of establishing better parent

communication. Housemaster Mrs. DiNardo says, “I think it’s been great and we’ve had a lot of positive feedback from parents.”

Although this program has made a great impression on the parents themselves, it has yet to impress the students as well. When asked how he feels about the program, a student whose parents use the program claims that the program is a little too open in the amount of information given out. However, even though the program isn’t very appealing to students, not all of them have yet to complain about the program. A father, who has also already taken advantage of the program, claims that IParent is “A great way for parents to make sure their children are working to their full potential, and allows them to make sure their children are where they’re supposed to be.”

The program seems to be the new parent interest, attracting parents to sign up every day.

# The Results are In: Obama Wins

By: Clara Gibbons

The results are in, and they’re dramatic: Barack Obama is the new president-elect of the United States. Obama, the Democratic nominee for president, received 364 electoral votes. John McCain, the Republican nominee, received only 162.

The popular vote, though less striking, was still decisive: Barack Obama received 52.7% of the popular vote and John McCain received 46%.

The campaign was long for this election cycle- Obama announced that he would run for president in February of 2007- and many feared that the election itself would be long-lasting. But as soon as Pennsylvania went for Obama, many people saw an end in sight that was nearer than they had suspected. Then Obama won Ohio, Virginia, California- and the major news networks all declared him the winner.

“The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly,” John McCain announced in his concession speech given to supporters in Phoenix, Arizona. “...Senator Obama and I have had and argued our differences, and he has prevailed.”

Shortly after McCain spoke, Obama addressed his supporters at a huge rally in Chicago. In his speech, he acknowledged McCain, saying that he “fought long and hard in this campaign, and he’s fought even longer and harder for the country that he loves... we are better off for the service rendered by this brave and selfless leader.”

Obama went on to speak about the responsibility every American has to help their country, a message he brought up repeatedly during his campaign. “Let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility,” Obama declared, “where each of us resolves to pitch in and work harder and look after not only ourselves, but each other.”

Barack Obama is the first African-American to be elected president. This was a historic election, and its momentous result was not unnoticed by the students of Watertown High School.

“I was extremely happy,” said Michelle Ambila, a junior. “I was just proud of my country and proud of my race, and I think that was the reaction of a lot of people in the U.S.”

# WHS’ New Director: Ms. Cordell

By: Keith Singh

When the play “A Promise Defined” ended, Beth Peters announced she was leaving the high school and no longer directing plays. This came as a shock to the theatre kids and those outside of the theatre program as well. Many wondered who would take the role of director for the plays, and what condition the drama program would be in. When this year started, rumors started going around that Abigail Cordell would be stepping from the Middle School and entering the High School as the new director. These rumors ended up being completely true and a few days later announcements for “Harvey,” directed by Ms. Cordell, began to play.

Many may remember taking drama classes in the middle school with Ms. Cordell as she taught basics of drama and music history. Ms. Cordell still teaches at the middle school, and will still direct the Musical for the middle school, which takes the stage a week before the High School’s. Cordell is very excited about working with high school students, she explained that they

listened to their instincts more on stage. She noticed how they quickly adapted to her style of directing and they need a little time to review. This causes her to have high expectation for high school actors, and she expects them to be more interested in Drama and take it seriously. She says that the High School drama program is a “great way to get involved in acting” and is very flexible for newcomers. While she expects the older kids to know more about drama, new actors don’t need to worry about being flung onto stage for the first time. The way Cordell directs is very efficient as she breaks down scenes by the stage space, allowing actors to only worry about their lines.

Ms. Cordell is also very excited to see the matured faces of the kids she once taught. The first thing she mentioned was how great it would be to work with former students and to see how much they took away from her classes. She was very interested to note how they evolved inside and outside of drama, and how she meets surprised students in hallways.

# Feature

## Feature Teacher: Mr. Petricone

### *Seeing Stars (and Soccer Balls)*

By: Taylor Connors



Mr. P, a fan favorite among the students, is this issue's feature teacher!

Photo by: Liz Russon

"There are things in nature that are amazing, and I just want to share that with people," said Mr. Petricone.

Mr. Petricone, for anybody that knows him, is a terrific teacher and person. He is often known for his patented phrases such as, "stay calm!" or "stay with me!" His booming personality has been reeling students into his classes for 34 years. Yes, he has spent 34 years teaching in the Watertown Public Schools. He started off at the junior high school years ago. From there, he taught at Home-Base High School, which was located on Watertown Street. It was mostly made up of IDS students and it was his favorite place to teach. He liked it because he could really get to know the students due to the small size

of the classes. He was in charge of a lot there. Students would have to come to him and ask for permission for things, similar to Mr. McDermott's current role. It was in 1981 when he started teaching here at Watertown High.

It was not until his third year in college that Mr. Petricone decided that he would become a teacher. He knew that he loved science, but was undecided on a career. Now he teaches science for five periods a day, his favorite class being astronomy. There is always an interesting atmosphere in his classes. Students never really know what to expect, but they know they are going to learn something new and intriguing; he is full of facts.

Has his overall teaching experience here been good? He says "Absolutely! There is no other job I would have rather done. Even though I want to snap sometimes, every day's different." He has such a positive outlook on things. One of his favorite things about teaching here, is when he takes his students down to a field with

telescopes and the students look at Saturn and its rings for the first time. He loves their reactions when they see it; astronomy never ceases to amaze him.

He doesn't really have any bad experiences from Watertown and not much to complain about. The only thing that really bothers him is when students are disrespectful. He doesn't like getting into arguments with students or leaving issues unresolved. It will hang over his head until it is resolved, and then he is fine! It is really hard to disrespect Mr. Petricone as he shows utmost respect to his students.

Mr. Petricone is a tremendous part of Watertown High School. After 34 years, has he finally had enough? He's thinking of retiring at the end of this year, or the next. Part of him is looking forward to time off and sleeping in, but another part, a huge part, wants to continue to share science with whomever he can.

When he does leave, many will miss him. He truly deserves to be our feature teacher!

## Headmaster Noftsker: On The Inside

### *A Day in the Life of our Headmaster*

By: Nick Lappen

Imagine coming into school, dressed in a suit, and tailing Mr. Noftsker for the day. On October 21<sup>st</sup>, that's what I did. Up until that day, I had always seen Mr. Noftsker as most students see him. Aloof, distant, and disconnected from the student body or too preoccupied with financial or policy issues to really ever connect with the student body or the school culture. Basically, The Anti- Mr. McDermott.

What I found out on October 21<sup>st</sup> was quite the opposite. Mr. Noftsker, although very busy dealing with school policy, is also much more connected with his students than anyone thought. Stepping into his office, his walls are lined with pictures of, and gifts from past students. Phil Oates and John Kelly in ballerina outfits at a Mr. WHS contest, a police officer costume given by the class of '99, and photos of countless past graduations decorate his walls.

For the most part, Mr. Noftsker spends his day in the school building, occasionally venturing across the street to the administrative building. He is out in the halls before first period to usher kids to class everyday, and in front of the building to see students off every afternoon. He spends a lot of time walking around the school, talking to teachers about a number of issues, including using the main staircase as a forum for the upcoming election with Rimas and what to do with the medals that the band won in 2007 with Mr. Wulf. While wandering the halls with Mr. Noftsker, one thing I noticed is that he picks up every piece of trash he sees. The man cleans up as if his job title was

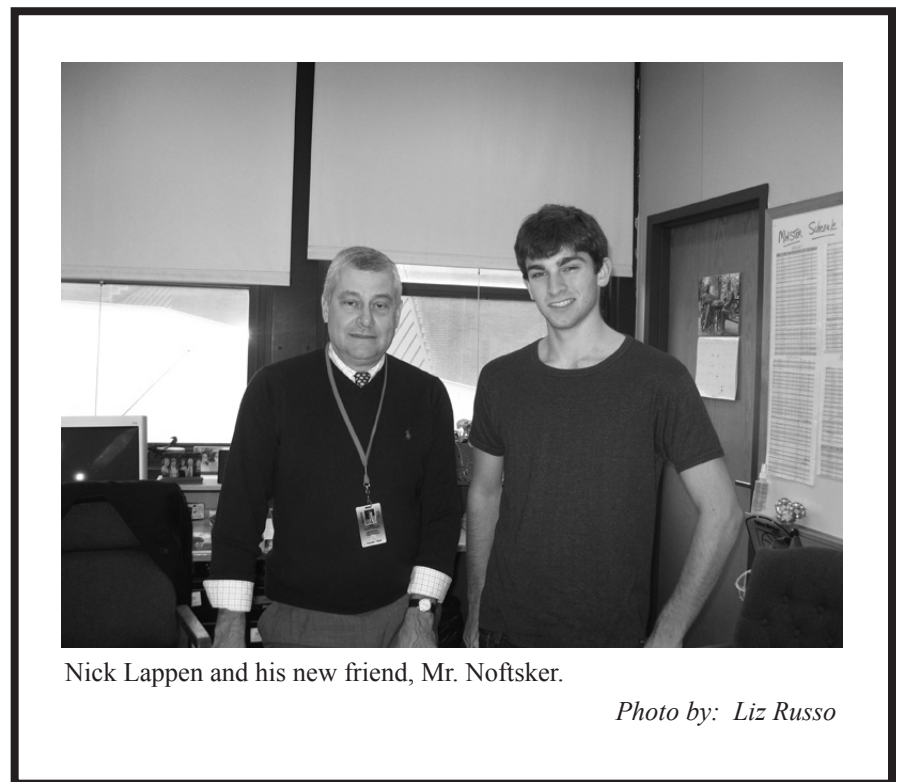
"Head Custodian" not "Headmaster."

Mr. Noftsker's day is filled with meetings, and he often doesn't finish at the High School until well past 7:00 PM. In the one day I followed him, he met with Mr. McDermott, Mrs. DiNardo, Mr. Cooke, *Globe* journalist Elaine McArdle, and Ms. Montgomery, to discuss everything from Journalism, to MCAS, to closing the bump.

Before I began this article, I had no idea what Mr. Noftsker's background with the school was. In 1982, he began teaching English at the East Jr. High School. Then he taught at WHS for a while. In 1992, he moved up to Vice Principal, a role similar to Mr. McDermott's current position. In March 2004, when Principal Leuke stepped down, Mr. Noftsker replaced him. Since then, he has been working as Headmaster to make the high school a great experience for every student attending.

His six years as Headmaster have been relatively eventful. From bomb threats to state championships, he's seen just about everything. "You have to have a frame of reference. A certain play, a state championship, a bus mix-up... it's not just athletics, it's not just musicals, it's all those things together. Every class is unique. Not better or worse, just different," says Noftsker.

About halfway through my day, Mr. Noftsker took me to the Elbow Room above the library to show me a project he has been working on. He's managed to track down memorabilia from past classes at WHS, and is making



Nick Lappen and his new friend, Mr. Noftsker.

Photo by: Liz Russo

a sort of museum, called the Alumni Room. He's even got original photos of the first ever field hockey team at WHS, pictures of the first basketball team, and two of the original chairs from the old auditorium, among other things. Mr. Noftsker believes the room is going to be something special eventually; a place where students can see what our school once was and what we've always been about. A place that creates a sense of pride and history.

While shadowing Mr. Noftsker, I heard and saw a lot of things, but the one thing I heard that really stood out was

Mr. Noftsker's response to the question, "What is your favorite thing about being a principal?" He quickly stated, "Interacting with students, watching them come in as freshmen, and seeing them graduate. National Honor Society, Awards Night, all of that." His favorite time of the year is graduation. "It's a nervous and harrowing time, but it's my favorite night of the year. Helping students, acknowledging their work... that's special. Seeing them graduate. And then you start all over again next fall."

# The View: Freshman and Seniors

*How does a senior see WHS differently than his freshman brother?*

*An interview with the Field brothers...*

By: Nick Lappen



Nolan and Brian Field  
Photo by: Nick Lappen

**Nick Lappen:** What has WHS been like for you so far?

**Brian Field:** Well it's been a good 4 years. Starting off freshman year I was a little nervous like anybody would be, but the combination of the teachers and kids have made it a great experience. Having teachers like Kearney and Mogrady, and coaches like Witt and Kramedog made these 4 years so much fun. Or something like that. Feel free to change my quotes as need be.

**Nolan Field:** It's been interesting. It's a lot different than the middle school, and

a lot better. You have more freedoms, and the high school has a much better schedule.

**Nick Lappen:** What is your proudest moment at WHS?

**Brian Field:** Tough one. Honestly, I have no idea. But if I had to pick something probably introducing the yellow line challenge to the cross-country team. That will be a legacy that will carry on for all eternity. And all thanks to me. But I guess academic achievement would be a close second. Well actually, no. I am cross-country captain. So I guess academic achievement would be 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Nolan Field:** Getting a 100 on one of my English tests, and also knowing I did well on my Pringles project for Mr. Duggan.

**Nick Lappen:** What is your funniest memory at WHS?

**Brian Field:** Two years with Mr. Kearney. Everything the guy said was hilarious, and the classes were amazing. But the kids... Pat hiding in the closet, Kearney making fun of Taylor. You know.

**Nolan Field:** The time Bivob asked

Mr. Duggan if he could copy down the seating chart for the class.

**Nick Lappen:** If you could change one thing about WHS what would you change?

**Brian Field:** Man, another tough question. Probably bring back the bagels, make the lunch a lot more respectable. I think Ryan Hopkins would back me up on that one.

**Nolan Field:** Lunches. It's unfair that some lunches are really crowded and others are totally empty. Closing the bump made it almost impossible to get a seat in some lunches. They should never try that again.

**Nick Lappen:** What has been your most embarrassing moment at WHS?

**Brian Field:** I'd have to say passing out in front of like 75 kids and interrupting a guest speaker who was talking about the Armenian Genocide. The best part was it was all on tape because I was filming the guy. I did it with grace though, and I managed to get my best pan ever. (Technical term for cameramen). I mean, as far as passing out goes, I'd say I did it pretty darn well.

**Nolan Field:** When I walked into Mr. Buck's class instead of Mastro's. It was pretty awkward and embarrassing. I felt like the stereotypical stupid freshman.

**Nick Lappen:** Who is your favorite teacher?

**Brian Field:** Kearney. He doesn't teach at the school anymore but it doesn't matter. His classes were epic and he was hilarious. An all-around good guy.

**Nolan Field:** Mastro. Because he's funny and he gets in your face. I love his nicknames. He calls Kelly Rooney rooster, and I'm Lil' Fields... I don't like that one as much.

**Nick Lappen:** What advice would you give to this year's freshmen?

**Brian Field:** You need to take school seriously, but it can't be all that your concerned about because making friends, relaxing, and having a good time is also important. I guess the key is to find a balance, and it's not easy, but it's worth it.

**Nick Lappen:** What advice would you give to your peers?

**Nolan Field:** Stay focused, go to class, and not to be an idiot.

## Feature Class: Cosmetology

By: Maddy Herzog

Thinking of school doesn't often conjure up images of hair dye and French manicures, but for the participants of Watertown High School's cosmetology program, a perfect hairstyle is an A+.

"It's a fantastic opportunity for kids who are better with hands-on," says Marie Hannon, Career and Technical Ed. Curriculum Coordinator. Hannon has facilitated the program for almost 15 years and is constantly amazed at the success that the students exhibit.

Cosmetology, the study and application of beauty treatment, might seem like a simple way to get out of algebra or biology or history class but the program is highly intensive. The process begins with an application. Interested students must provide stellar attendance and grade records along with an essay and interview. Only a select few apply for this opportunity, yet several students are turned down each year. Admission includes a two-year training curriculum at Blaine Beauty School in Waltham fully paid for by Watertown High School. "This is what [some students] would like to do and we want to support that," expresses Hannon. The students leave school early, right after fourth period, but their day is extended until four, working hard at Blaine. "They have to persevere through a very long day and deserve credit for doing both [schools]," Hannon adds. "I admire them for doing it every single day."

At Blaine, students spend their

first year learning the basics: hair, skin, and nail care. The very next year, the seniors are "out on the floor," snipping and styling with other professional stylists. After a total of 1000 hours, over the course of their junior and senior years, participants are ready to take the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Beauty Exam, ultimately resulting in a legal license. From there, students are doubly prepared for the real world, equipped with a high school diploma and a beauty certification.

The greatest reward for Hannon is seeing the pride and satisfaction on the graduate's faces. "A former student came banging on my door last year, ecstatically holding her license." She is now attending college and working at a salon. In the fifteen years that Hannon has organized the scholarship, one male has participated. He now owns a salon on Newbury St. in Boston.

Blaine provides multiple career opportunities for young students, and at the same time a great community. Senior Annie O'Connell reports, "It's a very friendly place where I made lots of friends from Newton, Waltham and Belmont High." Although Annie did not continue the program for her senior year due to scheduling issues, she hopes to finish her hours and obtain her license after high school. Not many people are aware of this great opportunity. Annie adds, "The program is something I would definitely suggest to other people who think they might be interested in that field."

If you want to submit a class to be considered for Feature Class, see a Raider Times staff member.

## Our Next President

By: Maddy Herzog

America saw its first African-American mayor in Cleveland in 1967, its first African-American governor in Virginia in 1990, and on Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2008, the whole world watched as we elected our first African-American president. As Barack Obama gave one of his famously eloquent speeches accepting the position of President of the United States of America, Oprah Winfrey, Jesse Jackson and countless others swelled with pride and wiped away tears, with good reason. Not only is this a momentous event in African-American history, citizens of every race know that this is the start of something new; a glimpse of hope for our collapsing nation.

Our new president-elect came from humble beginnings. Raised by his single mother and his grandparents in Hawaii and even Indonesia for a period of time, Obama was influenced by their strong characters and southern Kansas values. He left home in 1983 to attend Columbia University, paying with loans throughout the four years. After graduation, he moved to Chicago where he worked at Christian churches and helped communities in need.

Obama moved east to go to law school at Harvard University, but quickly returned to Chicago after he earned his degree and worked at a law firm, taught law, and continued community-organizing projects. He also met his current wife, Michelle. He served in the Illinois Senate from 1997-2004 while continuing to teach at the University of Chicago Law School. In 2005, he was sworn into U.S. Senate, becoming the fifth ever African-American Senator in U.S. history. Mr. and Mrs. Obama have two daughters, Malia and Sasha, ten and seven respectively.

In his campaign, Obama promised to focus on issues such as affordable and accessible health care for all, and lower taxes for working families and small businesses. He is also planning to focus on improving the quality and affordability of education and to peacefully end violence in Iraq. Although not all Americans agree with all of Obama's policies, namely the 47% who didn't vote for him, hopefully all can accept our soon-to-be president and appreciate that his goals are only to benefit our nation. As they say, once you've hit rock bottom there's nowhere to go but up.



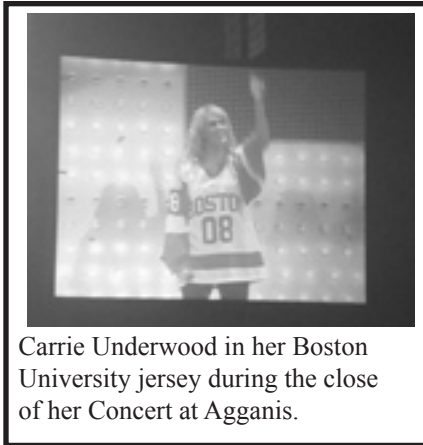
Watertown High School students expressed their interest in this historical election by posting signs and pictures supporting their favorite candidates.

Photo By: Keith Singh

# Arts & Entertainment

## Country Star Comes To Boston

By: Jenna Gilreath



Carrie Underwood in her Boston University jersey during the close of her Concert at Agganis.

A sold-out Agganis Arena held a screaming audience full of cowboy hats and “Carnival Ride Tour 2008” tee shirts on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Carrie Underwood was playing in Boston and people of all ages were in attendance. Not only was this a huge event for the fans, but it was also a historic moment for the arena itself as this was the first country concert to be held at Agganis. As people entered the arena, the local country radio station held raffles, and tee shirts, posters, key chains and tour books were sold. People were snapping photos with each other anxiously waiting for the show to begin.

Opening up for Underwood was “Little Big Town,” a band from Tennessee who wasn’t as big of a hit as the main act. The four-person group played hits such as “I’m With the Band,” “Good as Gone,” and ended with their Certified Gold single, “Boondocks.” Although the members of this group were still trying to get the crowd singing and clapping along, the majority of the crowd came “strolling in” after they departed from the stage.

During the break, the stage crews came out and dropped the “Little Big Town” banner to reveal a full stage, including a cat walk, staircases and a full band setup. About a half hour later, a portion of the lights shut off quickly and a five-minute countdown appeared on a large screen. It was clear that Carrie Underwood was close by and ready to appear on stage! With one minute to go, the arena all rose to their feet and began chants. Flashes went off from anxious people with cameras as the band took their places. Finally, the clock hit zero and a short movie of Carrie Underwood walking through the desert was shown on the screen, leading up to the start of her hit “Flat on the Floor.” An energized Underwood came up from the floor of the stage in a gold top with black pants and waved back to everyone who was waving at her.

As the show went on, Carrie Underwood continued singing hits such as “Some Hearts,” “Last Name,” and “All American Girl,” during which she even brought up a young child from the audience. Sarah, age 5, joined Carrie on the stage and when Carrie asked if she knew the words to help her finish the song, Sarah replied with a shy head shake to say no. Carrie responded with “I don’t know them either, I just make it up!”

Later in the show the audience was given a glimpse of Carrie’s career, her life, and how everything started. Videos were shown of the numerous awards she has won, the moment when she won “American Idol”, and her music videos. Before singing “Don’t forget to Remember Me,” Carrie, age 25, informed us about her personal life and how she was hesitant to go on tour. “My management told me if you play, they’ll come,” she told the audience who responded with loud cheers as a smile grew on Underwood’s face. Carrie also mentioned why she tried out for “American Idol.” “I had one semester left of school, and I was like ‘what am I gonna do?’ and I didn’t know what to do, so I tried out for ‘American Idol’... and I think it worked!” Underwood said with a laugh.

During the video about Carrie’s career, fans screeched as different songs played and images of various magazine covers, interviews, performances and behind the scene shots were shown on the screen. Throughout the show, Underwood seemed very grateful to the fans and kept her energy up. She told the crowd that she wasn’t a very good dancer, so they would have to dance for her!

After four costume changes, amazing laser light spectacles, and many “thank yous” to the audience, Carrie sang her last song of the night. She ended with *Billboard Hot Country* song number one smash hit “Before He Cheats,” during which she donned a Boston University hockey jersey. The name? Underwood. The Number? 08. The crowd rose to their feet and helped Carrie sing one of the last choruses of the song as she smiled and signaled for them to continue. Just as the crowd finished, thousands of pieces of confetti blew up into the air and the night was unfortunately over.

The concert couldn’t have been more entertaining. Walking to the car, many people’s conversations all led to the same point: it was one of the best concerts they had ever been to. Carrie Underwood’s tour runs through the next few months, and hopefully one of her shows will lead her to Boston yet again!

## So You Think You Can Dance?

By: Mane Harutyunyan

“Welcome to So You Think You Can Dance!” A crowded Agganis Arena at Boston University welcomed the Top 11 contestants of season four’s “So You Think You Can Dance” (SYTYCD) on Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. The hit TV show made Boston one of its stops on the 2008 nationwide tour consisting of America’s 11 favorite dancers. The show opened up with a video of Nigel Lythgoe, producer and judge of SYTYCD, showing clips of some of the most memorable tryouts for the show. Nigel gave the title of most memorable contestant to Robert Muriane, a Popper from Los Angeles, California, whom Nigel had called his “favorite dancer of 2008.” The dancers stepped on stage and the audience cheered as they performed a group dance and then introduced themselves separately. This year’s Top 11 consisted of Comfort Fedoke, Jessica King, Gev Manoukian, Kherington Payne, Will Wingfield, Chelsie Hightower, Mark Kanemura, Courtney Galiano, Katee Shean, Twitch Boss and America’s favorite dancer of 2008, Joshua Allen. Guest stars included Chelsea Traille and Thayne Jaspersen.

The tour lasted three hours and included some of the most favorable dances of the season. Personal favorites were Katee and Joshua’s Hip hop routine to “No Air,” Kherington and Twitch’s Viennese waltz to “A New Day Has Come,” Chelsie and Mark’s Hip hop routine to “Bleeding Love,” Katee and Twitch’s Contemporary routine to “Mercy,” and Courtney and Mark’s Jazz routine to “The Garden.” The finale of the tour included a special surprise for the audience; the entire Top 11 cast danced together to Michael Jackson’s “Thriller.” The SYTYCD cast had prepared skits, one of which included a dilemma between Gev and Courtney. Gev’s crush on Courtney was apparent throughout the entire season four, but Courtney had a boyfriend and wasn’t interested. In this skit, Gev finally got his wish as Courtney kissed him towards the closing of the show to screams and “aw’s” from the audience. Another highlight of the tour was Gev dressing up in women’s clothes in an attempt to get Courtney’s attention.

Cast members in turn had their chance to comment on their experiences during SYTYCD season four. Programs being sold at the door also had personal messages from each of the Top 11. Joshua Allen, winner of SYTYCD 2008 and a Hip Hopper/Popper from Texas says, “I have never had the opportunity to be a part of something like this before. I’m looking forward to being in front of thousands of fans and traveling to all different cities...Always go for your dreams and never let anyone tell

you that you can’t make it, because the sky is the limit.” Runner-up Stephen “Twitch” Boss coined the term “Super Twitch” on the show and has forever since been known as a superhero. The freestyle Hip Hop artist from Alabama says, “Hello citizens, I’d like to send very special thanks to those who have shown love and support throughout this journey. Keep your head up because the sky is the limit! Tap into your super-hero and let’s save this world. Up, up and away. Much love, captain Twitch.” The other two members of the top four were Katee Shean, a contemporary dancer from California and Courtney Galiano, a contemporary dancer from New York.

One of the most watched reality TV shows in the U.S maintained its success with season four. Voters called in over a million votes to choose America’s favorite dancer of 2008. This season introduced new characters, diverse dance styles, amazing choreographers and surprising versatility. Season four included particularly strong choreography by Tyce Diorio, Mia Michaels, Tabitha and Napoleon, Jean-Marc Genereux, Mandy Moore, Lil’ C, Alex Da Silva, Sonya Tayeh, and some former SYTYCD contestants. The panel of judges included the usual Mary Murphy and Nigel Lythgoe, plus guest stars Lil’ C, Debbie Allen, Mia Michaels, Adam Shankman, and many others. The dances expanded to include styles from all over the world this season. It ranged from Hip Hop to Viennese Waltz to Mamba. Nigel said SYTYCD would like to continue to pursue this diversity in future seasons.

Narrowed down from thousands of contestants, America’s favorite eleven is touring all across the country in over forty locations. Cast members are working hard to give back to the fans and entertain them through their performances. Fans are just as eager to attend these performances and show their support for their favorite dancers. The Top 11 are continuing their intense touring throughout the U.S until their final show on November 17th in Tampa, Florida. Don’t miss the chance to buy tickets to see these amazing performers, and watch “So You Think You Can Dance” season five, auditions starting Thursday, November 13. Nigel says, “I truly believe that the standard of dancing is improving from season to season. We certainly enjoyed a very strong Top 10 this year. But the most outstanding element for me in season four was having two untrained dancers in our top four. Joshua and Twitch were exceptional in most of the genres they danced in. What they both lacked in training and technique they made up for in heart, humor and hard work. They were truly inspirational.”

# “Harvey” Impresses

By: Jenna Gilreath

On Saturday, November 15<sup>th</sup> at seven o'clock the lights in the auditorium at Watertown High School dimmed to mark the beginning of the second show of the 2008 fall play. “Harvey,” a play by Mary Chase and directed by Ms. Cordell featured talent from students at WHS and I will admit, was the first play that I have attended in my four years at the high school; so I wasn't sure at first what to expect.

While sitting in the audience, families and friends of the performers were anxiously waiting for the play to begin and were wondering how the students were feeling. Costume Mistress and Senior at WHS Caitlin Feeney was excited because Friday night went smoothly but also said “it had started to rain about an hour before the show; I was praying people were still going to come regardless because the cast and crew had done so much work to make this show possible. Overall I think everyone was excited and anxious for the second show because Friday had gone well; it seemed like we would have a good show regardless.”

About eighty people attended the play that ran for about a total of two hours and thirty minutes. Act 1 scene 1 began with students such as Erin Macri playing Veta Simmons, who throughout the play is concerned for her brother Elwood Dowd, played by Keith Singh, who sees a six foot tall rabbit named “Harvey”. As the play continued, Elwood and his sister along with niece played by Jenna Caskie go to Dr. William Chumley and Lyman Sanderson, played by Nick Metrano and Nicholas Epstein. The whole idea of the play as it came across to me was that Dowd's family, doctors and friends were trying to figure out how he was seeing this rabbit and how they would be able to prevent it before the chaos continues to his family.

The costumes and the set assisting the actors portray the story included tight buns and curls in the girls' hair and makeup on all to influence their appearance for their age. Sets included the living room of Veta Simmons included with Brown walls, Couch with phone and a painting which Elwood

changes during the middle of the play of Harvey and himself. Some of the other scenes took place in Doctor Chumley and Sanderson's office which had green colored walls accompanied with a telephone, desk for nurse Ruth Kelly, played by Tovia Seigel and lots of open walking space for Duane Wilson, played by Erik Salvucci, to walk patients to other rooms in the office (Backstage) to get evaluated.

The play overall ran very smoothly and had many points that caused laughter in the audience. Juniors Erin Macri and Keith Singh seemed to have portrayed their characters extremely well by their body language. Between Erin's change in voice and hand waving and Keith's actions toward the invisible rabbit, I felt like I was witnessing a true family talk about a topic to other people outside of the family. Senior Nick Metrano who said that he “was a little nervous since it was my first play I had done in over a year” played a strong role in his first play at WHS and he showed no signs of nervousness when communicating with the other characters on stage. Erik Salvucci played his character of Duane Wilson well by using dry humor and sarcasm to get the point across to those as to whom he was sharing he stage with.

Although there may have been a few slight delays here and there and some lines stumbled upon, the actors quickly caught themselves and continued on to put on a great show! This was a play that I myself was not familiar with and the students at WHS acted it out very well and the crowd which Caitlin Feeney says was the “largest of all the shows” agreed with me by cheering on the students behind the scenes as well as on the stage during the final bow. Metrano also says “After Sunday's show I was kind of relived. I thought good, no more rehearsals and no more performances. The next day it when there was no rehearsal I thought, ‘Man, really wish there was rehearsal.’”

We at the *Raider Times* would like to congratulate Ms. Cordell along with the rest of the cast of “Harvey” on a job well done!

# Bestseller Full of Vampires and Romance

By: Julia Brennan

We've all seen the obsession with Edward, Emmet, Bella and the other members of the Cullen family all over the internet, especially Facebook, but to the people who haven't read Stephanie Meyer's *Twilight* series, the references make no sense.

Edward is one of the seven members of the mysterious Cullen family that lives in the small, perpetually rainy and cold Forks, Washington. All of the siblings, Edward, Alice, Jasper, Emmet and Rosalie, are adopted by Carlisle and his wife Esme and none of them are actually related.

When Bella Swan arrives in Forks to live with her father, Police Chief Charlie Swan, she does not have high expectations. The gray weather and small size is a drastic change from huge and sunny Phoenix that she comes from. Her mother recently remarried a younger baseball player and was constantly traveling with him. When Bella goes to school, she is easily identified by the entire school as Charlie's daughter. People know who she is and she resents that. Out of curiosity she asks her new friends about the Cullens and why they sit alone at lunch and why they never actually eat. Naturally, people have numerous theories about them. Most of them are way off and assume that they are just rich and stuck-up.

Over the next couple of weeks when Bella is paired as Edward's lab partner, she finds out small clues about who he really is and why his family is so secretive. For the few rare days when the sun does shine, most kids are excited and hurry outside to enjoy the fresh air, but the Cullens are never present in school. Whenever the weather is nice, they are always “camping.” Her suspicions are intensified when Edward singlehandedly stops a van from crushing her.

One night in the city, Bella runs into Edward after being cornered by a bunch of men and he tells her the truth about him and his family. They are all vampires who have chosen not to hunt human blood so they can have more normal lives. Instead of hunting people, they chose to hunt animals so that they can live somewhat normally. So when the sun shines they are usually hunting.

Edward's ability to tell when her extreme clumsiness is about to get her into trouble is explained by the senses some of them have that people do not. Alice has the ability to see things in the future and knows what people are going to do next. Jasper can control the emotions of the people around him and Edward can hear people's thoughts as if they were saying them out loud. He can hear everyone's mind, except Bella's, and nobody really knows why.

The author came up with the idea for these books through a dream that she had. Rachel Pano, a senior, said that author Stephanie Meyer is “an amazing storyteller” and she writes her characters very well. The reader loves the characters that are meant to be loved and hates the characters that are meant to be hated. With all books that add the element of romance, it is hard to completely avoid clichés.

“There are too many stories for it to be completely original,” Rachel said, and that each story has some clichés in them. It's just how it plays out. While it is hard to be original, Meyer does an excellent job of creating events that keep the readers' attention through the whole book. Each of the four books in the series focuses on the life of another Cullen family member. They have to use their past experiences to face the obstacles that they come to. With the romance, the battle between good and evil, the action and the unforgettable characters, the series is making its name known all over.

The romance is not overdone. Yes, the characters are in love, but the characters still have to go through the same things that everyone else has to. They still have to go to school, do homework, go to work, apply to colleges and graduate. In addition to that, they have supernatural forces to deal with and a huge secret to keep from the human world, specifically Bella's father Charlie. During all of the conflicts, Bella is still trying to figure out where she fits into the new world that she has entered.

The books in the *Twilight* series are *Twilight*, *New Moon*, *Eclipse* and *Breaking Dawn*.

# Behind the Scenes of “Harvey”

By: Keith Singh

The crowd is silent, the stage is bright with lights, and the tension of a play that had been two months in the making is coming to fruition. The director Abigail Cordell finishes giving her introduction and the crowd gives its applause. The actors are in their places, and the tech crew gives the signal to start the show.

“Harvey” is a 1944 play that was turned into a 1950's film that made the story famous, yet unknown to most students in the school. When announcements were heard about “Harvey” people were puzzled and didn't know what to expect, a play about a six foot tall white rabbit, that no one can see? Auditions began and by September 23<sup>rd</sup> the cast was set, and

the play was taking a step closer to its November 14<sup>th</sup> opening.

The rehearsals began with a slow start. The cast would only meet three times a week for the first few weeks, and would be warming up to the script. The cast also had to get used to a new director, Ms. Cordell. Though many were familiar with her, the majority of the cast was unaware of her directing style, which focused on movement and stage presence.

When October was well underway the cast started to become nervous about the fast approaching opening night. They hadn't worked with any props, the set wasn't built at all, and the majority of the cast didn't understand the inner workings of Harvey. With

such high expectations, and an ominous shadow cast by the 1950's movie, the play looked like it would have to be pushed back to a later date for better preparation, but that wasn't going to happen.

Two weeks were left until showtime and the cast knew they had to pull together to pull Harvey off. The tech crew worked until the late hours and built a set that would be able to be used as more than one setting. They weren't completely off the hook though, as they still had a major issue standing in their way. Two doors were needed to stand in the middle of the stage, acting as an entrance and an exit for many of the actors. The cast became very troubled when these doors weren't up, two days

before opening night. The actors knew they were in trouble beyond the doors though. They were feeling uneasy about their lines, and uneasy about the play itself. When time was crucial though the cast pulled together. Some actors were going home well past their schedule, staying until ten in the school to get their lines just right.

November 14<sup>th</sup> came. The actors made their way on stage knowing this was their moment of truth. With high expectations from the audience, and even higher expectations from themselves the cast of Harvey delivered.

# Opinion

## Off Campus Privilege Remains Off Campus

By: Liz Russo

When thinking of senior year, we think of applying to college, going to prom, having graduation, saying goodbyes, and leaving for college at the end of the summer. What is missing from our high school, though, are the classic senior privileges. Only the seniors that are fortunate enough to have a study first or last period seem to be the privileged. What about the seniors who weren't lucky enough to get those studies? Students in second through fifth period remain confined within the designated area of the cafeteria doing some school work but mostly sitting around. What if things were different with senior privileges?

WHS seniors are given the privilege of being able to leave school first or sixth period if they have a study. Students with a first period study have to be signed in by the time the second period bell rings, with the risk of being late to second period. Students with a sixth period study are able to leave at 1:30 when fifth period comes to an end. Also, students with a float study are able to come in late or leave if it is day one or day six. However, all seniors should be given a chance to experience open campus. Seniors with studies throughout the day should also be able to sign themselves in and out, to leave school property. This way, students could possibly run an errand they wouldn't be able to do after school, due to sports, or other activities. Students could go home to relax for an hour then return to school rested and ready to go. Students could leave to grab a bite to eat, or run to the convenience store for a snack.

I can understand why some teachers would dislike the idea of an

open campus. If students left during fifth period and continually came tardy to their sixth period class, it would constantly disrupt class. There is also the risk that a student may be injured while off campus. However, senior students are responsible enough to sign themselves in and out of study at the correct time.

If students are supposed to behave like mature adults, then they should be given the chance to show that they are. The seniors in the school are very responsible and wouldn't disregard the rules that would come along with an open campus. Students would agree to be on time for their next class, and never skip classes. If their grades were suffering, students would be prohibited from leaving school grounds. Failure to fulfill any of these requirements would lead to the privileges for that student being taken away. Other punishments could include early morning sessions or loss of other privileges. It's the matter of the students taking the responsibility to follow the rules of the school and of the privileges of open campus. The school should also think of the senior class students as mature and responsible. If mistakes are made with the way things are run, then the students should be given the chance to learn from their mistakes.

All and all, leaving school during a study should be permitted. Some students might find it less stressful to be able to be out of school for an hour. The fact that the school board doesn't put enough trust into our senior class is almost degrading. We should be treated like the adults that we are becoming.

the topic came up. "The repercussions of an income tax cut won't affect me at all," he argued. But that's where he's wrong. It doesn't matter that he doesn't have kids or own property. The removal of the income tax will affect everybody.

First, public schools' already measly funding will plummet. Class size will increase as teachers are let go. After-school programs and extracurriculars will be cut. Many books and other supplies at our school are in less than ideal condition but without income tax those books will have to last for generations to come.

While citizens are celebrating the extra numbers in their paychecks, property taxes will creep up. Money has to come from somewhere. If it's not being taken from us in some way, it's not going to magically appear. Some people do not own property, as my uncle smugly pointed out, but the economic cycle will catch up to them at some point regardless. If they are renters, landlords will hike up the monthly fees.

Public safety will decline in general. With New England's famously

## Not Everyone Looks Good in Red

By: Julia Brennan

Red and White. Last year, these were the colors selected for the seniors to walk the graduation line in. The class officers for the class of 2008, supported by class advisor Mr. Brewer and Principal Noftsker, voted to change the colors of the caps and gowns. As of right now, the 2009 boys will wear red and the girls will wear white.

Since the 1950's, the caps and gowns have been all black for both the boys and the girls. In fact, many students can say that their parents graduated in black, and the same thing could be said for some of the faculty. This makes the black caps and gowns a part of history. It is tradition.

Change is not a bad thing, and something that may seem small in the grand scheme of things should be easily alterable, but the colors red and white better represent the colors of Waltham than Watertown. If not at graduation, then when should we best represent our town?

The colors raise a varied response from the current senior class of 2009. Many members of the class do not want to graduate in red and white because they feel that the colors should not be the colors to represent Watertown at graduation. Other students like the red and white caps and gowns.

"Things will be more colorful on graduation day," senior Andrew Grant said. The red and white *will* pop out more on Victory Field (where graduation is usually held, weather permitting, as it has not for the past two years). It is a special event and the black is almost somber compared to the bright red.

There are also students who think that the class needs to be uniform instead of separating the grade according to gender. Girls' soccer captain Jackie Vanderkeyl said that she likes the gowns to be "all the same color."

The class of 2007 was the most recent class to graduate in the traditional black caps and gowns. When asked about the new colors, a member of the class said that the "red and white is a little too flashy", but he also agreed that the black was somber.

unpredictable weather, plows are crucial. But with less taxes, there will be less street clearing. Police officers and firefighters will be less accessible. After dialing 911, the longer wait could end up being fatal. Also, broken roads and bridges will frustratingly remain in their current state.

In Watertown, schools will lose 5,071,28 dollars and the town will lose 5,845,689 dollars. That's 85 and 65 percent of the current state aid, respectively. The only way to prevent this fate is to raise awareness. Most of the people voting for this proposal don't realize the harmful consequences. If Massachusetts' citizens have all the facts, they should recognize the income tax cut for what it is: a reckless idea.

Black unified the class instead of separating it according to gender, although the black seemed to accent the somber weather that forced the event into the gym. When the weather is dark and gray, it is evident inside the building, too. Therefore a happy event such as graduation should not be celebrated in black when the weather outside is already dark enough.

This year's senior class advisor Mrs. Hoffman said that she is in favor of the traditional black caps and gowns. From a historical standpoint, the black is a part of Watertown history because of the length of time that it was worn for. However, history is changed quite often in Watertown with every new sports record that is broken. But as far as history is concerned, it is really for the home jerseys that white is used. It is customary of the Middlesex League that for home games a lighter color is worn and for away games the jerseys are the dominant school colors. It is the colors of the away jerseys that the towns are known for and in Watertown, the away jerseys are either red or black. This further supports the idea that white is not the best color to represent Watertown.

If the senior class of 2008 was given the authority to change the colors, the class of 2009 should be given the same authority. When students are given the opportunity to voice their opinions, it makes them feel like they are on a more even level with the administration. When an agreement can be made between the students and the faculty it makes the school run smoother because both sides feel as though they are having their opinions heard. Even if the administration was to listen to the thoughts of just a large portion of the class, they would have more control of what they feel their graduation should be like.

Personally, I think that the boys should wear black and the girls should wear red. The black would offset the amount of flashiness that the white would create and the red would offset the dark effect that black can sometimes have on people. Especially if the weather outside does not allow an outdoor graduation.

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

*Editor's Note: Since this article was written, the election occurred and Question 1 did not pass!*

## Vote No on Question 1

By: Maddy Herzog

Every two weeks comes the long-awaited paycheck; the reassurance that my late school nights and sacrificed weekends are in fact worth something. But like every other working American, a chunk of money seems to be missing from the carefully calculated salary. The culprit? Income tax. For most people the tax is simply regarded as a sneaky thief, but it is judged too quickly. Income tax is the foundation of our communities and the fuel of our economy.

As if the November election wasn't stressful or life-changing enough, the referendums on this fall's ballot could affect our lives just as much as a new president. A small group of citizens were pushing for an elimination of Massachusetts' income tax. This would result in disaster. Taxes pay for public services that everyone benefits from. There are so many everyday comforts that we take for granted that are backed by government resources. The proposal earned itself a spot as "Question #1" below the candidate's names.

During a recent family gathering, while talking with my uncle,

# The STP: Senior Year's Infamy

By: Jenna Gilreath

What is senior year best known for? Could it be the graduation parties, prom, painting the wall? Sure, some of these things are probably what come to mind first, but right now for the senior class of Watertown High, it is all about the Senior Thesis Paper (STP). The STP is a paper that all seniors must write if they want to receive a diploma. In order to complete the thesis, students dissect novels suggested by teachers and find themes and ideas that support a thesis statement that they devise. The process is organized into steps that include creating note cards, outlines and rough drafts all leading to a final copy. In most classes, the STP preparation begins in late September even though the final product isn't due until January.

From an outside perspective, this paper may seem daunting because of its 6-page length or its significance, while to others it may seem simple because of the large amount of time given. Elizabeth Emery, Nick Metrano, Herling Romero and Annie Taverna have all taken time to answer a few questions to set the record straight about how STP work fits into daily life, and how its importance may in fact help the seniors in the future.

## What English are you taking/with what teacher?

EE: Ms. Honig, Humanities (Honors)

NM: Ms. Piscatelli, Contemporary Literature

HR: Ms. Honig, Humanities

AT: Ms. Reagan, Humanities

## What book(s) are you reading and how would you rate them (1 being the worst through 5 being the best)?

EE: *Jane Eyre*, 4/5

NM: *Terrorist*, 1/5

HR: *Heart of Darkness*, 5/5

AT: *Island of Dr. Moreau*, 3/5

## How do you feel about the senior thesis being a requirement to graduate?

EE: "I think it is a good idea just because it makes people take it more seriously."

NM: "I think that the idea is solid; however the way that we have to do it is not. We should not be forced to write note cards. And having to base the topics off of books of fiction is wrong. We should get to chose what type of essay we have to write, whether it be argumentative or otherwise and choose sources that may be but is not limited to book works, articles, past essays, and, if able, interviews with experts on the given topic."

HR: "It gets us ready for what we're expected to do in college so in that respect I like it but it is overwhelming how much we have to do in a short

period of time and it almost seems like the essay will be the easiest part at the end but I guess that's the point of doing the note cards. I just wish we had a little more time. If we hadn't decided our books in those few days we had to pick, we would have less than two weeks to finish the book twice and do the note cards for it."

AT: "I think that it is hard especially since I have two jobs and play a fall sport, although I do not think that it is unreasonable. It is very overwhelming, I think instead of having 20 or 30 cards due on one day 5 cards should be due a night or something."

## Do you think it will help us in the future for college?

EE: "Yes, I definitely think it'll help a lot with the reading and writing we will have to be prepared for in college."

NM: "Not all people, different colleges require different things, some of them are more hands-on learning and don't require such long papers."

HR: "I feel like these hard deadlines with no excuses are exactly like the ones we will encounter in college so it gets us prepared. It seems like it will be a great help."

AT: "I do think that it will be very helpful in college."

## Is it difficult to read and follow everything on schedule considering as seniors we have a very busy year with

## sports, work, community service, etc.?

EE: "I was very stressed out because I only had about a week to read a 450 page book, so I had to always make time every night to read even if it meant staying up very late. But luckily I have a second book and I can space out my work this time."

NM: "Yes, I think it's very difficult."

HR: "It's definitely an added worry but it's not something that is impossible. You definitely can't procrastinate on this one too much if you want an 'A'. All the quotes you pick have to be relevant to your themes you picked out and connecting them to other parts of the book can get somewhat difficult. This is something you definitely want to focus on but I think it's great that the English teachers understand that it's a big work load and don't assign any homework on top of the thesis."

AT: "Yeah, definitely. Senior year is overwhelming enough as it is with all the work for college and sports, it's hard to do it all and get time in for sleeping, never mind a life."

Overall, when looking at the above information provided by these seniors, it seems as though the thesis at times may be stressful and time consuming, but it is a good concept for getting ready for college and others may not.

# What Would You Like For Lunch?

By: Shelby Austin-Manning

School lunches have always been an easily debatable topic. There are many different opinions on what a good school lunch is. At Watertown High, I personally do not believe our school lunches are too good. However, I also can see why it is difficult to have a great menu for school lunches, considering we only have a certain amount of money to dedicate to our food. Every time our school's budget is cut, some money is taken away from our food, which is beyond cafeteria staff's control. With this said, I believe that they could find some ways to improve the lunches that not many of us think too positively about.

One of the main reasons I don't think our lunches at Watertown High are good is due to the lack of variety. There need to be more healthy choices that are universally liked. For example, I think they should consider wraps, more fruits and vegetables, and other nutritious options. Teen obesity is becoming a growing problem in our world today.

According to a teen obesity article, found at [pamf.org](http://pamf.org), 15% or 9 million children ages 6-19 are overweight. That is due to lack of exercise, but also from them not eating right. Also, in my research I discovered that no matter what your age is, if you are obese you are susceptible to heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, stroke, and cancer. I think to help kids, we need to start changing our menus, forcing our generations to start eating healthier.

The menu is very plain, boring, and even though they say they will make changes to the selection, they never do. I use to love buying the pizza pretzels freshmen year, but now I bring my lunch to school everyday. The only time I buy school lunch is when it's a salad bar because the food is not that great! I said senior Elizabeth Russo, when asked her opinion of the food.

When we were in middle school, I remember coming up to the high school for move up day and hearing about all the variety of healthy

foods we would have. So, the question is, were they just trying to promote their great lunches to our frightened 8<sup>th</sup> grade class?

Many of the students I spoke with told me now they really don't like the food at all. Senior Jenna Gilreath said, I don't even buy lunch, and instead have to bring my own lunch because I don't like the options there. The only thing I do buy occasionally is the salads. The school does provide a salad bar with fresh vegetables, and a wide variety of dressings, which proves to be popular with the students. Senior Jill Brennan said, I only buy the deli sandwiches, but usually I just bring my own lunch because I don't like any of the other options.

Contrary to the beliefs of certain students, the head of the lunch department in our school, Jeana Calleva, said, I think overall, students are happy with the meals we provide. We have a wide variety of nutritious food for them to choose from. Maybe if they knew

that the students, in fact, didn't enjoy the lunches, they would change them.

Getting back to the variety of food, I don't think that the cafeteria offers enough options for kids who are vegetarian or vegan. These kids are forced to either bring their own healthy packed lunch, or get something like chips or ice cream from the cafeteria, which is not always what people wish to eat for a lunch. Ms. O Grady, a vegetarian herself, disagreed saying "I like the school lunches, because I like being able to go down to the cafe and grab a peanut butter and jelly sandwich."

Overall, I think there needs to be a change in terms of our cafeteria food. They need to start realizing how important teenager's diets are, and to start providing more options for them. By our school changing its menu in the cafeteria, it will benefit the school's students, which should be the ultimate goal.



A crowd waits in line to purchase lunch in the cafeteria.

Photo by: Julia Brennan

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

# Melina Kapotsis: Brick Wall!



Melina blocks a shot on goal.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

By: Liz Russo

Sophomore Melina Kapotsis is one of the most talked about players on the Watertown High School girl's soccer team. Melina has been playing soccer for ten years and only seems to be getting better.

Melina Kapotsis first starting playing soccer when she was just five years old. Every Saturday during soccer season she would join all the other five-year-olds at the Watertown Youth Soccer Leagues Little Kicker's practice. Melina's father was the one who first got Melina into playing soccer. He had played the game all his life and was also a goalie. "I actually hated soccer," says Melina of her opinion when she was younger, "I told him I was only doing it for him, then he told me I didn't have to do it if I didn't want to. I decided I would only do it for one more year." That final year of soccer changed everything about Melina's outlook. "My coach put me in the net, and I loved it," says Melina about her first time playing goalie, "I saved a shot and all the parents cheered. It was the first time I did something good in soccer, and I loved the feeling." After that she couldn't get enough of soccer and decided to continue on with the sport.

Her father used to train her in their back yard every single day during the off season. "I was the one who asked him to train me, so I had to do them," says Melina talking about drills in her backyard. Finally, when she was nine years old, Melina started going to goalie clinics to improve even more. Three years later Melina tried out for the club team Boston Blast and made the cut. Melina played her first year of Boston Blast as the only goalie getting lots of playing time. Her second year, she would switch off each half with another goalie, and also play the field. Melina talked about how during that season the game was tied up and came down to the penalty kicks. Her coach picked her to play net and the team ended up winning the game. After playing for Boston Blast for two years, Melina went on to play for Boston Bolts. This team's goalies consisted of Melina and one other girl. Just like Boston Blast, Melina would play the first half while the other girl played the second. The other goalie

ended up quitting, leaving Melina the goalie position all to herself.

This is Melina's second year playing as the WHS girl's varsity soccer team's goalie. Melina talked about her past experiences playing goalie for the team, for instance, last year's incident when she accidentally broke Stoneham's forward's ankle. "I came out on a breakaway and saved the ball, but she tried to kick the ball out of my hands. As she kicked me she didn't stop running, she just flew over me, did a somersault in the air, landing on her ankle, and it broke. She actually kind of hurt me in the process, I almost didn't get up either, but I was so mad that I had to keep playing," says Melina. Melina also talks about one of her best experiences during the Belmont game, revealing that after the third goal it was one of the best games she had ever played. "The ref came up to me at the end of the game and told me one day he'll see me on ESPN. It was awesome; I saved so many breakaways. I still get really excited thinking about it." When asked about how she likes playing for the school Melina said, "I am so happy playing for our team. Losing doesn't even bother me because I get so much action and have improved so much."

Senior Leah Beland comments on Melina's playing saying, "I've never seen someone so young with such talent. She always seems to know where the ball is going to be, and not only that but she always gets there." Last year Melina came in second for MVP in the Middlesex League for goalie. In December, Melina will start playing on the Olympic Development Program which runs until July. When asked if she would continue on with soccer after high school Melina said she definitely plans to play. She would love to play for D1 soccer in college and would even love to play professionally. "It would be crazy but I really hope I could do it," states Melina about her future goals.

With a talent like Melina's, the referee from the Belmont game must be right. There's no doubt in my mind that we're all going to see her playing on E.S.P.N one day. Until then the next two years Melina will be playing for our very own Raider team. Look for her on the field as number 23 or in her yellow goalie jersey number 00.

# Fall All-Stars

By: Kelsey Prendergast

## Football

Senior and co-captain Anthony Alberico is a key component on the Watertown High School football team. As the linebacker he gains a lot of ground on the field and plays an aggressive defense. He takes off with speed down the field and has made many successful runs for the team leading to touchdowns. "He plays with a very high intensity and leads by the way he plays," speaks junior Steve Jewers of Anthony Alberico. He is clearly a leader for the rest of the team and is looked upon highly by his teammates.

## Volleyball

Senior and co-captain Annie Taverna is an intense player on the court as the middle hitter and shows a love for the game. She has been with volleyball since day one when they started it at Watertown High as a club. Now with the help of her and other teammates, it has made it's way to the varsity level. "[Annie's] been there since the start and really wanted to establish volleyball as a sport in Watertown. She's a great captain and we all love her," says junior Gloria Kimera.

## Field Hockey

Senior Taylor Connors and four year varsity player for the field hockey team plays a key position as the goalie. Her impressive foot work and determination is apparent to everyone when she is in net. Her many shutouts for the field hockey team helps them strive for victory which reflects on their winning record. "She's always constructive, keeps us in the games and picks us up when we are down," explains sophomore Jessica Doggett of her teammate's role.

## Boys Soccer

Senior Norbert Tecun is a consistent left full back for Watertown High's boy's soccer team. He is an overall team player and is someone to always depend on. "I always feel more confident when Norbert is playing behind me. He always plays well and helps out the team in any way possible," says senior Matt Sutherland.

## Girls Soccer

Senior and co-captain Jackie Van der Kyle is said to be "nasty at her position," by junior Mia DePolis. She plays as a strong, aggressive sweeper for the Watertown High girl's soccer team. Her knowledge of the game and intense play keeps the girl's defense strong. "She's good at cutting off the angle when the other team tries to attack the net," states Depolis. She is a strong leader for team and a great role model on the field.

## Golf

Senior and co-captain Brendan Shaughnessy is an ideal member of the Watertown High golf team. Senior Herling Romero says, "In golf, there is naturally only a few things you can do to help your team. You see your team members before and after your round and your out there on your own, and Brendan did everything he could in those few moments with the team to keep everyone calm and relaxed. Then he did as best he could out of the golf course and helped the team with his individual performance. He did his best to always give us a chance to compete." His own achievements on the course help others improve themselves and reach their own potential.

## Girls Cross Country

Senior Maddy Herzog is an important member of the Watertown High girls cross country team. She helped the team on their first victory in four years. Her consistently improving times reflect her hard work she puts in at practice. "Maddy is a great runner and team leader, when she made a new personal record it showed how hard of a worker she is," says senior Alison Marshall about her teammate Maddy Herzog.

## Boys Cross Country

Junior Ken Szubzda plays an important role on the Watertown High boys' cross country team. He is constantly leading the boy's team to victory with his remarkable times. One of his times consist of the fifteenth best time ever recorded on that course. "Ken is an incredible runner with a lot of heart. He has led our team all season and is not turning back any time soon," said senior Nick Lappen about his teammate.



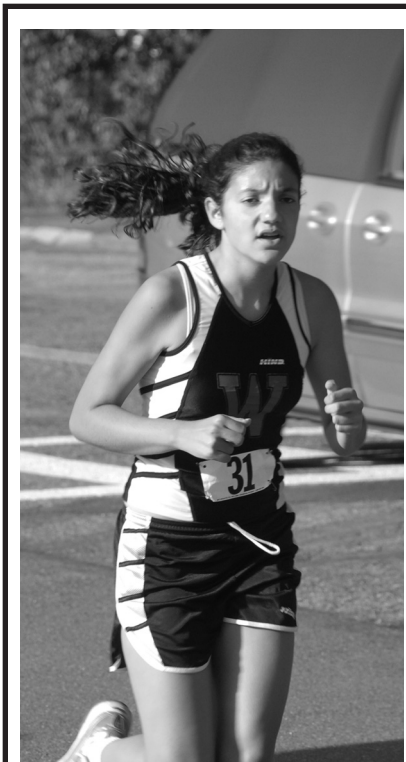
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# Sports

## Feature Female and Male Athlete

### Gaby D'Amico



Gaby D'Amico running at one of her cross country meets.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

By: Jenna Gilreath

Gaby D'Amico, a senior at Watertown High School, is a prime example of a hard worker. Not only does she work hard to excel at school, but she also strives to improve at cross country. Due to these laudable characteristics, Gaby has been selected

as our feature female athlete!

For the past two years, Gaby has been running for the cross country team, which all started because of a love for another sport. Freshman year began a career in track for her and she wanted to improve her technique in running. She was heard about cross country from her track coach, Coach Wittenhagen. "Witt recruited me...and I like Witt as a coach," D'Amico says. In fact, the coaches are what seem to keep Gaby interested in her sport. She says that they "make it fun" for her and this much must be true because the girl's cross country team won their first meet in 3 years, which was exhilarating to Gaby and her team.

D'Amico, who says that her favorite class is AP Chemistry, admits that balancing school and cross country can be difficult. Her days include attending school, going to practice (which usually consists of running 4 to 5 miles a day), doing her homework, eating with her family, and showering then going to bed to do it all over again the next day. She says this routine makes her drained and very tired, but apparently it's paying off!

This year, Gaby has improved her times at almost every meet. If she were to give advice to underclassmen it would be, "Join! It's so much fun. Don't be intimidated by the distance." We, at the Raider Times, wish Gaby luck in her upcoming meets and also with the rest of her senior year! Go Raiders!

### Andrew Grant

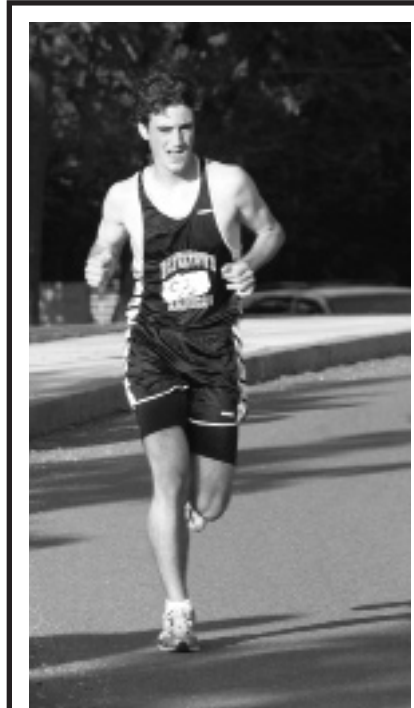
By: Taylor Connors

Andrew Grant was "one of those kids who hated running the mile in gym class," which is unusual to hear coming from such a successful runner now. He has been dedicated to running cross-country since his freshman year here at Watertown High. While in high school, Andrew has also been involved in basketball, soccer, baseball, and now indoor and outdoor track. It seems the only sport that really stuck with him was running.

Andrew's favorite part of cross-country is after a run or race. He loves having a "runner's high" as they call it. He has always liked the team aspect of track, but it is also an independent sport. "The loss of just one runner can greatly affect the meet, but you can compete against yourself and time. One number, your time, defines where you stand on the team, in the league, or even in the state."

Andrew's best moment in XC came this season when the boys team defeated Stoneham in Watertown. He felt like it avenged last year's narrow loss to Stoneham, during which two of Watertown's top runners got lost on the course. "It was also a critical point in the boys season, giving us the momentum to pick up a few more wins in the season."

Andrew's worst moment came during his junior year in spring track when he tripped in the long jump, sprained his ankle, and got his



Andrew Grant at his cross country meet.

Photo by: Lifetouch Studios

third fault. "Andrew is one of the most resilient kids on the team. Every time he feels he hasn't reached his potential, you can visibly see him trying harder the next day," says fellow teammate Nick "The Conductor" Lappen. After falling in the long jump, Andrew spent the next few weeks on crutches. Luckily for Watertown, he's come a long way since then, and is now one of Watertown's best athletes.

## Cheering Squad gets New Coaches

By: Chloe Anderson

The Watertown High School cheerleading team had been searching for a new coach since last year. The team had a rough time with coaches and needed someone to turn the program around. The task seemed like a lost cause, as there were no coaches looking for a new team, until August, when a few of the seniors found two coaches who would be able to take on the challenge. Heather Brown and Tom Delia were asked if they were interested in a coaching job at WHS. They were interviewed and they got the job.

Head Coach Heather Brown had been cheering for ten years, but she didn't start off as cheerleader. Before she cheered, she played ice hockey for seven years, until the seventh grade. She started cheering with Pop Warner, and then she cheered at Cheer Gym All stars, which is now Celebrity All star. She was captain of her high school squad her junior and senior year. Heather was part of the NCA (National Cheerleaders Association) All-American for two years and her senior year she was part of NCA Top All-American, which is only the best of the best cheerleaders. Once out of high school she joined UCA (Universal Cheerleaders Association) in February 2006 and joined STAFF there. STAFF is a group of amazing cheerleaders who work the camps they

hold and teach other teams the basics of cheering. She has traveled to camps all over working for UCA. Heather has coached Pop Warner and other all-star teams. She has also worked at Full Out Cheer and East Elite. She is truly an experienced cheerleader.

Assistant Coach Tom Delia (or Drill Sergeant/Tommy Boy as the team calls him) has been cheering for 16 years. Before he cheered he was a football player and just started cheering to do something fun. He was also a baseball player. "He was the All-American baseball player", Heather says. He has been on the UCA staff like Heather for six years, and has been on NCA for three years. Tom has coached at Pace College and Challenge All Stars. Tom also did a tour in Iraq in 04-05 as part of operation Iraqi Freedom. Tom has also worked at Full Out and East Elite.

Many people believe that cheering is not a sport or that it is a joke and doesn't require a lot of hard work. "Cheering is the only sport where you rely on everyone," Heather says. "No one shines more than anyone. You also have to trust each other, especially in stunting. There is no other sport that you are throwing people up into the air." Heather also says that cheering requires every part of your body. Participants need flexibility, strength,

endurance and heart. Heather believes a cheering team is truly a family. "I'm not going to do this for my own spotlight," Heather says about being on a cheerleading team. If it's so easy, why doesn't everyone do it? "Cheering is not for everyone," Heather says.

Heather and Tom have worked the team more than they have ever been worked before. The practices have been long, hard and full of stunting and conditioning. "They are very dependable and know a great deal about cheerleading", says senior Capitan

Amanda Bonilla. "We are ready to show off our new skills we have been taught," Amanda says about the team's upcoming competitions: Middlesex League on November 5<sup>th</sup>, Woburn Memorial Invitational on November 10<sup>th</sup>, and Falcons Invitational on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Heather and Tom have made up a whole competition routine by themselves. They have high hopes for the season and also for the program in its many years to come. They hope that WHS cheerleading will soon be treated as a real sport.



WHS cheerleaders with coaches Heather and Tom at the Middlesex League Competition