

# Volleyball makes states

Carolyn Cicalese '10

The WTHS Varsity Girls Volleyball team ended their regular season on a positive note with a win over Oakcrest Oct. 29. The team moved into the state tournament with a 12-8 record and the home court advantage.

Township, seeded sixteenth, played seven-teenth seed, Colts Neck, at home on Nov. 3. The team played hard and easily won the first game, but fell in the second game. Their win in the third game moved them on to the next round Oct. 7 against first seeded Southern Regional, who had not lost a game all season.

Blockers like Amber Riley '09 were able to put up a good fight in stopping some of the hits, but still Township lost the match in two games. Even Township's best hitter, Megan Todd '09, was only able to thrown down a few "kills" or spikes, because Southern regional were a good passing team and used their speed and skills to make digs anywhere on the court.

Although Township only made it to the second round of the state tournament the team viewed it as a positive thing.

Senior Chrissie Duffield '09 said, "I think we were all so close this year and it showed on the court. We had so much fun on and off the court which really helped to get us to the second round of states. We haven't done that in years, so that in itself is an accomplishment."

Additionally, the team was able to win games against long time rivals Eastern and Cherokee which had not been done for years.

The team has five graduating seniors this year. Captains Todd and Duffield, along with Riley, Kimmy Cherico, and Sam King D'Ambra were able to lead the team to their numerous victories.

The team also had three girls who were selected to be on the All-Conference Teams. Making first-team were Todd and Stephanie Semple '10. Kaileen Bevenour '11, the varsity setter, was selected to second-team.

Next season looks just as promising. Though it is losing five vital members, the team has many young players who have been practicing with the varsity and preparing themselves for next year.

Duffied says, "I think the girls will have a good season next year, I mean this year our starting setter was only a sophomore so [the team] will probably be able to do some great things next year and go just as far or hopefully further."

Semple and Bevenour will step up and assume the roles of captains take on the responsibility of working towards another great season.

Head Coach Barbara McBrearty said, "Our strongest point this year was unity, and you could tell that on and off the court, the girls got along so well."

# 'Maids wrap historic year

Miranda Steinman '09

The Minutemaids Field Hockey team put up a fight, especially against their number one opponent, Eastern High School. Washington Township decided to shake things up.

"The most memorable game now that the season has ended was the Eastern victory on Sept. 19," said Coach Jeanine O'Connor.

"No matter what, this 2008 team will always be the team that beat Eastern after 10 years. We were the first South Jersey team to defeat Eastern in 189 games. It was historic and a great team accomplishment."

The Minutemaids broke this winning streak, and went up against them again in the playoffs. Eastern won 4-2, but it was still a close game. The two teams are now similar in strengths and both are top competitors.

Ending the regular season 17-2 (19-3 overall). The Minutmaids realized how far hard work could take them.

"It was even greater due to the awesome team chemistry that contributed to our great season," says O'Connor.

Senior captains Jordan Cotter, Sam



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

**The Minutemaids finished their season 19-3.**

DiCastelnuovo, and Marisa Schoepflin had much to do with the success of their team. Fellow seionrs, Katie Griffis, Frankie Contino, and Brooke Cima were said to have been natural leaders and supported their teammates.

"This group [of seniors]leaves us as impressive role models [who helped us become] Olympic Conference Co-Champions," said O'Connor, "We will miss their leadership and the fine young women they have become."

"As we move on we continue our quest for 'Everyday Greatness' where our TEAM was always more important than the individual'," she said.

# X-Country places 10th in state

Weston Eldridge '10

On Nov. 15, the Boys Varsity Cross Country team, lead by Xavier Fraction '09 and Anthony Dentino '11, placed tenth in the State Championship.

Coach Bill Albertson viewed the team's 5-2 season as a success, reeling off second place finishes in the Gloucester County Open, South Jersey Open, and Olympic Conference.

Albertson categorizes the South Jersey Open as one of their toughest defeats, losing by one point to Cherry Hill East. However, the team stayed optimistic and went on to finish in the top five in their section, qualifying them for the State Championship.

"Throughout the season, our top three runners ran together," Albertson said.

"We would have had even more success if the gap between our top seven was closer."

In cross country, the top seven runners from each team have their times recorded and added together. After the scores are tallied, the team with the lowest score wins.

One of the top seven, Fraction, was often seen at the front of the pack throughout his career.

"My favorite moment was when I won my first cross country meet ever, against Eastern High School," said Fraction, "I hope to run cross

country in college and study forensic science."

The team practiced every day after school, even in the cold or rainy weather. They would wear gloves, hats, whatever it took in order to get a good workout in.

"After a while we got used to running in the cold weather," said Chris Bucci '10.

Outside of school, the team would take it upon themselves to run on their own in order to stay in shape. Since cross country is all about endurance, there wer no days off in their eyes.

Albertson felt that their success dedication and work ethic was in direct correlation to their dedication and work ethic success of the season. The captain position was awarded to Greg Krause '09, a four-year member of the team.

The team collectively agreed that their most memorable moment was when they finished second in Olympic Conference, having their top three runners finish under 17 minutes.

Albertson was most proud of the contribution from the youth of his team. Dentino contributed immensely to the team, solid-ifying a position in the top five.

When the senior class moves on, the underclassman will have to step up. Albertson believes they are ready for that position.

"I'm looking forward to another successful season next year," said Albertson.

Issue 2

Washington Township High School, Sewell, NJ

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# The Patriot

## Crowning achievement

### Lettieri selected Homecoming Queen

Miranda Steinman '09

On Friday, Oct. 24, senior Jessica Lettieri's dreams came true. She was crowned homecoming queen during halftime of WTHS's homecoming game.

The journey to the throne began when 12 nominees were chosen for the homecoming court.

11/12 Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Bollendorf announced the nominees in school, and formally introduced them with their escorts at the Senior Kickoff dance.

The male population of the senior class selected the dozen. The entire class of 2009 were involved in voting for the queen.

The night began with plenty of activities. The nominees and their escorts got the crowd excited in the Spirit Parade when they performed an upbeat dance choreographed by Regina Vasallo '09.

After the performance, the girls were emotional as they changed for the main event.

"We were all so excited but nervous at the same time. Everyone was saying 'good luck' and that we'd



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

**Jessica Lettieri after being crowned homecoming queen takes a celebratory ride around the stadium with Nick Krauss.**

all be so happy for who ever it was that won," said Lettieri.

They changed into their gowns and lined up to be introduced to the enormous crowd in the stadium. Students and parents crowded to the fence to get the best look at the girls.

Each nominee was escorted down the track as the girls' activities and achievements were described. They were then lined up given a box containing a rose. There was one white rose in each of the 11 boxes,

but one red for the queen.

"I was so nervous!" said Lettieri, "I felt like I was going to pass out! I was really excited but kind of sad because the experience was so awesome and it was going to be over."

Lettieri slowly unwound the ribbon and cracked the lid to her long white box. When she found beautiful red roses inside, tears instantly began to pour down her face.

"I cried. I was so happy.." said

Lettieri, "I couldn't believe I got the red roses, it was unreal," said Jess.

A circle formed around her as the other nominees and their escorts congratulated her.

The crowd was ecstatic when Mr. Bollendorf announced the winner. Some people even began to cry. Many have said that Lettieri's personality and lightheartedness was perfect for the role of homecoming queen. Her friends praised her good nature and loyalty.

Alex Quin, '09, one of Lettiere's closest friends said, "She is someone who will be there for you through thick or thin. She's my studly best friend who is a tank and has a new found love for cheesy double beef burritos."

Lettieri is involved in many school activities. She participates in winter and spring track, book club, Deca, and dance.

Lettieri is humble about her success.

"It's such an honor and the whole experience was so awesome. The memories I made with the other girls and throughout the whole experience was amazing. I love sharing that special bond with them. I love my homecoming girls! And most importantly thank you to all the people who voted for me! I'll remember it forever," Jess said.

# Homecoming provides chance to create, recall memories

Weston Eldridge '10

Excitement filled the chill air on the night of Oct. 24 as the homecoming experience gave everyone a chance to recollect with friends and have a good time. Students, along with alumni gathered to show their loyalty to WTHS.

"Homecoming helped get the year kick-started with two exciting weeks of football, a dance, and the homecoming queen competition," said Joe DeFillippo '10.

The night started with tailgating (sponsored by Outback Steakhouse) that raised money for Clayton's

Hope, a foundation raising money for Epilepsy awareness. As the food dwindled down, the Spirit Parade was quick to maintain the high level of excitement.

"The Spirit Parade is a great tradition that I look forward to every year," said Brandon Rempfer '10.

Clubs gathered together, parading along the track. Weeks of preparation went into the event, ranging from constructing floats and choreographing skits.

"I was involved in the Spirit Parade, I was a baby for the Student Council executive board," said DeFillippo.

See **HOMECOMING** p.3

## Why so late?

Due to production delays, we were unable to release the December issue before winter break. Instead of cancelling it, we decided to give the subjects and writers credit, and share this with you. We apologize for the inconvenience and are working to make sure the January issue is out on time.

-The Patriot editors



# Tailgating for good cause

Katie Mount '09

At Washington Township High School, there is one event that appeals not only to the school, but to the entire community as well. Homecoming is a traditional ceremony that gathers all age groups to create new memories and reminisce on old ones. WTHS incorporates many events into Homecoming, such as the Spirit Parade. This year, the DECA club introduced a new event by organizing a pregame fundraiser tailgating party. Although tailgating is common before WTHS football games, this was the first year that proceeds would be donated.

“We really wanted to do something to help the community and raise money for a good cause,” DECA Executive Vice President Mike Lizon '09 said.

Outback Steakhouse donated food and volunteered their time to help. Participants paid five dollars to create a platter which included hamburgers, fries, salad and choice of dessert. Along with food, DECA included raffles, games and music to entertain the visitors.



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

**DECA members present a check for \$1,204 to Clayton’s Hope to help fight epilepsy. The money was raised at a homecoming tailgate party with food donated and prepared by Outback Steakhouse.**

“I loved the tailgating,” Colleen Byrne '09 said. “The food was great, and I had so much fun.”

All the money raised from the event was generously donated to Clayton’s Hope, an organization dedicated to raising money for Epilepsy research. The foundation was created by Ashley Myers '11 and her family.

“The reason we picked Clayton’s Hope is because we know people in our school are affected by epilepsy,” Lizon said. “We thought it would be nice to donate to a foundation that contributed to fellow students of Washington Township.”

One of those students is Caitlin Bollendorf, daughter of Executive Assistant Principal Mr. Joseph

Bollendorf. Caitlin was diagnosed with Lennox-Gastaut syndrome when she was a toddler. He said this syndrome is a “complex and a difficult to control” form of epilepsy.

“I believe we’re a better school because we have kids like [Caitlin],” Bollendorf stated. “Students are very understanding, and I am always amazed at how well the other students treat them.”

The fundraising did not stop with the tailgating. On Nov. 1, the second annual Steps for Seizures, also founded by the Myers family, took place in Washington Lake Park. During homeroom, students were encouraged to donate and participate in the walk. At the event, DECA presented a check for \$1,204. The Bollendorf family was called onto the stage to say a few words of recognition.

“I was so overwhelmed by the response of our friends along with my second family, Washington Township,” Bollendorf said, “I couldn’t speak.”

For all of the words he couldn’t say, Caitlin made up for it by saying “Thank-you”.

# Symposium raises political awareness

Nicole Heath '10

On Wednesday Nov. 29 in the CBAC Washington Township High School held an electoral debate. One side was the Republicans led by teacher and NHS co-advisor Mr. Raymond Anderson, on the other the Democrats coached by history teacher, the enthusiastic Mr. Todd Oberhaltzer. Both teams consisted of a number of students with a mixed amount of upper and lower classmen. Hosted by Executive Principal Rosemarie Farrow, the debate was composed of question asking what each candidate, Barack Obama and John McCain, would do for the country if they were elected president.

Both teams consisted of many students, but four selected members were chosen to debate on stage, and in front of the cameras. For the democrats these debaters Stephen Choate 09’, Bethany Burns-Lynch 11’, Edward Boych ‘11 and senior Maggie Bonnani. The Republicans consisted mainly of upperclassmen with Kevin Lucero ’10, Erin Hills ’10, Ryan Bandura ‘10, and Joe Primavera ‘10.

Sponsored by National Honors Society, the debate was formal, equipped with a set amount of time for responses and rebuttal.

“I didn’t want it turning in to a screaming contest, which it didn’t, said Republican coach Anderson, “rather my goal, as NHS Co-Advisor, was dialogue and conversation.” Both teams were required to have their members, both onstage and off, dress appropriately.

The format for the symposium had two sections. The first round of questions was pre-prepared, while the second was phoned in by the school’s listening audience. Teams had to be ready for any question that might have come their way. Questions ranged from terrorism to health care, and even to questions about their vice president pick.

The Democrats were on the attack in their arguments. On the topic of the economy they argue that Barack Obama would not rebuild the economy by raising taxes, but would get rid of programs they were not working and costing the government much needed money. On the subject of President George Bush’s No Child Left Behind

policy, they criticized it saying it was a ‘one size fits all’ stance.

Despite of the fiery Democrats the Republicans held their ground. Led by well-spoken member Lucero, the Republicans defended the Patriot Act and applauded the success at stopping terrorist at Fort Dix. They also stating plans for rebuilding the economy, and reiterated the phrase ‘Senator John McCain is not Bush.’

The coaches were proud of their teams.

“I thought that the McCain team was superbly prepared. They came armed with research data, poise and grit in their presentation. They were fierce debaters and helped to elucidate the rationale for the McCain campaign,” said Oberhaltzer.

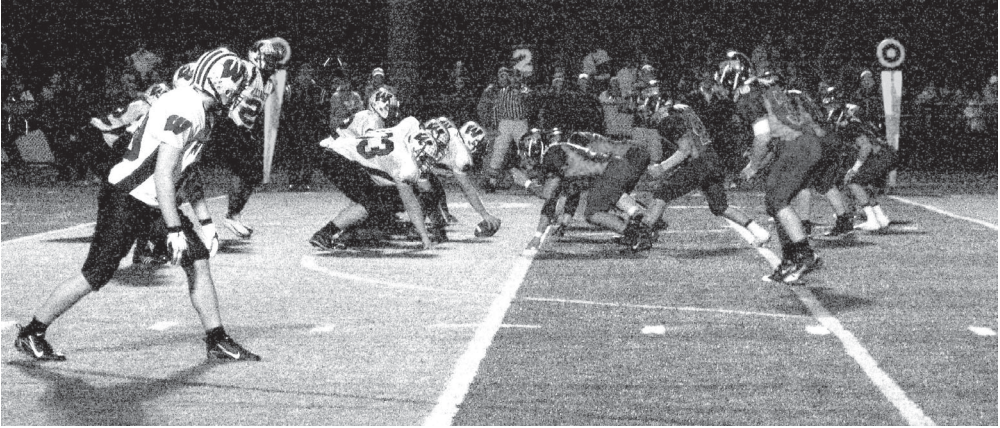
Mr. Anderson stated, “I think the Obama team was definitely louder, in volume, than the McCain team!”

At the end of the debate teams were congratulated, and were given accolades by Principle Farrow for their hard work and preparation.

## Sports

# Trench Warfare

## Rushing attack leads Minutemen to playoff win



Gina Parker '08/ The Patriot

**Determined line play was the deciding factor that led to victory over Williamstown. It was the first time the two neighboring township schools met on the gridiron.**

Kevin Whitehead '10

Everyone expected a great battle and fittingly it was one that was won in the trenches.

The Washington Township High School football team defeated the (8-1) Williamstown Braves, 28-24, in come-from-behind fashion.

With a passionate home crowd providing motivation, running backs Brandon Colavita '09, Uriah Brickhouse '10, and Nick Krauss '09 ran behind a fierce, smash mouth offensive line including center Nick Walls '09, guards Anthony Egan '09 and Neil Vankawala '09, Tackles Brandon Maxwell '09 and Daniel Zeiders '09. Their solid play led Township to their South Jersey Group 4 first-round win.

“It felt great,” Colavita said. “It was the biggest win of my life. [It was a] great win.”

Colavita set up the winning score on defense by intercepting a pass on defense with 2:56 to go. Brickhouse and Krauss with an 18 yard run, a five yard run respectively, set up the Minutemen at the three yard line with 42 seconds left in the game. Colavita followed with a run of his own for the game winning touchdown, which propelled the Minutemen into the next round.

In all phases of the game, yards were hard to come by for each club. So hard that there were frequent measurements called by the officials. Both team’s offensive and defensive lines were grinding it out all night long.

“They did some different things offensively,” said Coach Mark Wechter. “We were able to adjust to them throughout the second half.”

Trailing 10-7, the Minutemen got an emotional lift on the last play of the second half. On fourth down and goal at the 1 yard line, their defense proved their grit, stopping the Braves and providing an enormous momentum shift leading into the locker room.

“We were great all night,” outside linebacker Dan

Finneran '10 said. “That [goal line stance] was a great team effort. It’s nice to see when you put in all the work throughout the week.”

The momentum carried over into the second half. On Williamstown’s first drive, they went three and out, after allowing a sack by Minutemen linebacker Zach Collings '09. It was the first Braves’ punt.

On the following Minutemen possession, Colavita followed his dominant line and broke out on a sweep, 43 yards for a touchdown, and their first lead, 14-10.

“He’s a stud. I wouldn’t want any other running back running the ball,” center Walls said.

Township’s interior line including Walls, Egan, Maxwell, Zeiders and Vankawala, were getting a big push for their running backs. Every time Walls lined up uncovered by the Braves’ nose tackle, there were big gains. That’s what set up Colavita’s dash to the end zone.

“[The lineman are] like a family. I love them all,” Nick Walls said.

Adding to the success of the Township ground game, quarterback Nick Valori '11 added a sneak for a touchdown with 4:18 to go in the second quarter.

Offensively, the Braves had a triple threat between quarterback Bill McCarty, and running backs Ron Gordan, and Lawrence Johnson. They were attempting to control the clock throughout the first half with the running game, and then tried to take it to the Minutemen in the second half.

Only half the plan worked as the Minutemen showed their fight and will in the second half.

Township has shown resiliency and determination all year. Against Triton, they were down in the first half, but came back to win.

The Minutemen have 42 seniors on their team.

“You know many people could have quit,” Wechter said. “The thing about us is that we just never give up. We’ve been working since January. We just have a great attitude.”

# Late run salvages season

Maggie Bonanni '09

The Minutemen Varsity Soccer team wrapped up the season with a final record of 8-8-1. With continuous improvement, especially during the final two weeks of the season, Coach Tom Patterson was impressed with the finish.

“We played well in a very competitive conference that featured teams capable of winning against any opponent; we faced five teams twice during the season and played better the second time around on each occasion,” he said.

One of those teams was Cherokee. The Minutemen lost their first game to them 2-0. This loss made the Minutemen examine their mistakes. When they played them again, a better organized defense led to a 2-0 win. This would be the theme for the rest of the season.

“We made a lot of improvement over the course of the season,” said Kyle Shaw '09, “We focused less on individual achievements and more on the team as a whole.”

A key factor in that improvement was their diligence, leadership, and a strenuous practice routine that gave them what they needed to work out problems.

“Our biggest weakness was our lack of connection throughout the field, we couldn’t get things to flow the way we wanted,” said team captain Ryan Hornibrook '09, “But we worked hard to figure out what was wrong and tried to fix it.”

Despite these weaknesses, the team pulled through managed to have a good season. The underclassmen on the varsity team step up and prepare for next year’s season.

“I think that next year’s team will be a very talented group. Hopefully they can use their experiences on Varsity this year to help them have a good record and do well in states,” said Shaw.



# Nick and Norah film does book justice

Brittany Tartaglia '09

It's a difficult task for producers and actors to capture a book on the big screen. Taking a few hundred pages and turning it into a 90 minute success is not as easy as people may think. A recent book-turned-movie was *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*.

The story is about two teens, Nick (Michael Cera) and Norah (Kat Dennings), who see each other and meet at a concert. Nick is a musician for a local band and Norah is the daughter of a well known music producer.

The two instantly fall for each other and drive around town to have an adventure and talk to one another. Along the way ex-boyfriends and girlfriends, friends, and emotions get in the way. If you did not read the book before seeing the movie there were a lot of surprises and unexpected turns.

*Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* was more than just a sappy teen romance film. It was also a comedy. The movie kept the

audience laughing throughout the entire movie. Norah's sarcasm mixed with Nick's timid nature is a great mix that makes for a lot of laughs.

The book was really good and entertaining. The movie was also great, but the fact that it was a movie based off of a book gave many viewers other thoughts.

I read the book long before the movie was out. I loved the story line as well as the songs they chose for the playlist.

Many critics also pass judgment on Michael Cera, saying he plays the same character in every one of his roles. Although this may be somewhat true, I think he played the part very well.

I was a little wary at first when I found out who would be playing Nick. The book described him as someone less timid and a bit more edgy. The one thing that remained the same about Nick's character was that he was a hopeless romantic.

It's understandable that a movie cuts out parts for time sake, but the movie makers did more then just cut a few minor scenes.



Google image

**Nick and Norah's is one story not lost in translation.**

For instance, the trailer advertising the movie clearly showed Norah asking Nick to be her boyfriend for five minutes. In the book, it was Nick that asked Norah.

It also seemed as if the movie was cut short. I think the reason for this is because some of the scenes from the book were cut such as the

hotel and diner scene.

Overall, I enjoyed the book over the movie. I think if I had seen just the movie without reading the book I would have enjoyed it a bit more. I recommend *Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist* for either a date with a special someone, or even going with a few friends.

## Television

# In with the new generation

Carolyn Cicalese '10

*Degrassi the Next Generation*, the controversial sensation that has been showing the troubled lives of teens for years, is really moving to the next generation.

All of our old favorites who have been captivating us for seasons are moving on and becoming adults.

Some of the beloved cast members such as Spinner the rebellious cancer patient, Jimmy the paralyzed ex basketball star, Paige the cheerleader turned lesbian, Marco the best friend, and Jay the bad boy mechanic, have all left Degrassi High School. Emma, Liberty, and Manny are on the episodes every now and then so we can check up on their college lives and deal with issues like joining a sorority, living in dorms, and making new friends.

Now the show is dominated by the younger group who were just the

little brothers and sisters of the previous stars. Danny, Liberty's little brother and his friend Derek were the annoying pests when they were thirteen and now they're seniors.

Degrassi is ruled by Mia, who was JT's girlfriend before he died. She is a mother, a spirit squad member, and now a model. Also forming the next generation is Spinner's old girlfriend Jane. She used to be a student at Degrassi's arch-enemy Lakehurst, and now she has just joined the football team at Degrassi.

There is also an even younger crowd- the freshmen- who will live on in Degrassi for years after the Seniors graduate. Darcy's little sister Claire has entered the show with a few insecurities and a lot of intelligence. The new freshmen K.T., Sav's little sister Alli, and the star student Connor will be ready to take the show over and share their



The-N.com

**This year *Degrassi* introduces a new cast of freshmen. Their addition introduces new personalities and conflicts to the series.**

The topics on the show seem as if they are getting more and more advanced too. Before, issues like sex seemed like they were such a big deal on the show, and now the discussion of it seems like one of the show's main focal points.

Also, now they're dealing with the potential issue of Riley, the jock

boy, falling for Peter, Mia's new boyfriend. This issue seems reminiscent to when Paige, the spirit squad captain realized that she was a lesbian.

Nothing really seems off limits at this point, and even though the acting isn't anywhere near perfect, you wouldn't even think of changing the channel.

# Colavita TDs cap Homecoming win

Kevin Whitehead '10

Washington Township running back Brandon Colavita '09 wrote a new chapter of excellence to an old rivalry and brought much excitement to an enormous Homecoming crowd in the process. The win boosted them to a 3-1 record.

Colavita ran for 220 yards and five touchdowns, on only eight carries, as the Minutemen beat Lenape 35-14, Friday night. Colavita accounted for all the team's scoring.

"That was the most I've ever scored. It all goes to my line and the blocking," Colavita said.

The Minutemen were coming off their first loss of the season and Coach Mark Wechter had his team ready to bounce back.

"We had to get back to the basics. We were trying to get back to being a fundamentally sound football team," Wechter stated.

On all sides of the ball, the Minutemen were dominating the line of scrimmage. The first team defense only gave up one score all night and the special teams made Lenape work with a long field every drive.

"Our defense and special teams have been solid all year. Kicking, punting, and the coverage [team] did a great job."



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

**The WTHS Minutemen football team prepares to take the field.**

The Minutemen led the entire football game. It all started with their first play from scrimmage. Colavita took a pitch from quarterback Nick Valori '11 and sprinted right by the outside linebacker and safety for a 56-yard run and a 7-0 lead.

"We needed that," Wechter said. "We needed to be on the board for our confidence."

With that score, they never looked back. Lenape was chasing the game for the rest of the night. The

lone bright spot of the first half for Lenape was a quarterback sneak at the 2-yard line for a touchdown. They cut the lead in half at that point.

"They had a nice drive on us. They did some different things offensively. We were able to adjust," Wechter said.

On the following Township possession, Colavita broke away from the pack yet again. With 6:54 left in the second quarter, he ran 37 yards for a 21-7 lead.

"He's explosive. He's got breakaway speed and the power to run you over. He's the total package," Wechter said.

The Minutemen defense was looking for a spark after giving up the first touchdown. Washington Township found it when safety Dan Finneran '10 had a sack for a loss of eight yards. Lenape then had to punt after failing a critical 3<sup>rd</sup> down conversion.

The defense was all around the ball. Lenape stuck to the run, despite trailing the whole game. The Minutemen defense looked like they knew what was coming on every play.

The win Friday night gave much to cheer about for both the football game and the Homecoming Crown.

"It feels good to win in front of everybody. [As quarterback,] There's a lot of pressure on me," Valori said.

The Minutemen's smash-mouth line is anchored by center Nick Walls '09 made big holes for Colavita. His speed and power did the rest.

"I have a lot of confidence in our offense. They [Lenape] were a tough team but we really came out strong," Valori said.

## Legacy lives on

**HOMEcoming** from p.1

The crowning of the homecoming queen, Jess Lattieri, gave the crowd something to cheer about.

"It was something special to be an escort because all the other escorts were really cool," said Justin Bernardo '09, "It's an event that you want to be a part of because of all the excitement."

The center piece of the evening was the game itself. The Township Varsity football team capped off a 35-14 victory.

"The dominant effort by the football team was a perfect ending to the night," said Dave Lanza '10.

For many the good times of homecoming continue after graduation. Even alumni came out

to show their support for the homecoming tradition, sharing the experience with their children and former classmates.

"I came back for homecoming to see my friends," said Victoria Gallo '08, "I have such good memories of high school, so it was nice to be back."

After all is said and done, it's safe to say that the homecoming tradition will live on for years to come. With all that the night offers, everyone goes home with lasting memories.

"I plan on coming home to future homecomings because it's always a big football game and it's one of the few times you'll be able to catch up with high school friends," explained Bernardo.

## Students show spirit



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

**The Spirit Parade is a special event at WTHS. It is an opportunity where student organizations can not only showcase their talents, but their school spirit. The winners of the parade were Freshman/Sophomore class Council, with Junior/Senior Class Council taking second place and Dance Club taking third.**



Commentary

# Senior privilege, junior problem

Luke Verrillo ‘10

Every morning, students watch as an array of cars, big and small pull into the school’s parking lot. Seniors and faculty members alike have the opportunity to drive their respective automobiles into assigned spots, easily filling up the 11/12 parking lot. A question emerges: what happens to the unoccupied spots in other areas of the building?

As of now, all underclassmen are prohibited from driving themselves to school, absolutely no exceptions. It’s a rule that has been observed for many years now, yet debate still arises when the topic is presented. This year, the discord remains the same. Whether it’s a matter of fairness or practical usage, members of the junior class are dissatisfied.



Maggie Bonanni ‘09/The Patriot

**Parking spaces are prized real estate at WTHS.**

Emily Cushman ‘10, whose had her license since July, said “I want to drive to school so that I can make my 2:30 shift at Commerce Bank. It’s not fair that, with all the empty spots at the 9/10 and Core, juniors can’t drive to school!”

The point made regarding the vacant parking space at the 9/10

Wing and Core is a common issue brought up by the class of 2010. Cushman adds, “What’s the point of a huge parking lot that we can’t even use?”

Many seniors have a differnet opinion. Erica Saldia, a senior who drives to school every morning, said, “Driving to a school and using the

parking lot is something that the senior class has earned. I had to wait for a spot; my friends had to wait for parking spots, too. Juniors need to be patient.”

One idea that merits further discussion is the possibility of a lottery system.

Tracy Chranowski ‘10, suggested, “Seniors should be eligible for parking spots first, definitely. But then, for the open spaces, juniors should enter their name into a drawing and have the rest of the parking lot divvied up amongst the underclassmen,”

The parking lot debate creates an undeniable rift between the senior and junior classes. With the school year moving full speed ahead and the unused parking spots still vacant, something needs to be done to make these spaces available to juniors.

# Hallway music gets students in step

Kate Virsprill ‘10

For years, WTHS students have been caught off guard by the seemingly premature ringing of the class dismissal bell. It always seems as if there is not enough time for students to promptly get to class. I am always shocked at the bell ringing and feel it is simply impossible for five minutes to go by so quickly.

Numerous ideas have been thrown around to fix this irritating problem. Some students suggested that digital clocks should be put on the corners of each hallway. Although this is a more exact approach, it can be a distraction in the hallways, which are already clogged enough. Other students thought that loudspeaker announcements would do the trick. This idea is not only tedious, but it is boring.

With all ideas considered, I believe that what the administration has decided is better than any announcement.

Now, thirty seconds before the final bell rings, a musical interlude plays. Not only is the musical interlude novel and exciting, but it is not distracting. It also helps to relax students, and can make the difference between being late, and being on time to class.

The music in the hallways is a good idea because it’s new and exciting. Using music is the

perfect way to catch students’ attention and a great topic to discuss during the monotonous school day. You can also employ a lot of variety while choosing songs. You can theme music, like holiday music during December or Disney songs the days before the senior depart for senior trip. You can also use different genres like hip-hop, rock, and classical so that every student, throughout the course of the year, can hear something that they like. Whether it is a classic Beatles song or a Halloween-themed melody, the music that plays through the loudspeaker before the bell rings is a preferable alternative to being late.

Music also puts everyone in a better mood. Stress is an inevitable factor in daily school life. Papers, homework, drama, and grades put everyone on edge. Before, there was no quick fix to this problem. I believe the music that plays through the loudspeakers does a great job at putting people in a better mood. No one can resist smiling at the Spongebob Squarepants theme song. Many students, me included, actually catch themselves singing.

Time flies by quickly in the hallways of WTHS, and students can not help being late to class. I feel that the music in-between class periods help us get to class on time, and offer an exciting alternative for a boring school day.

## The Patriot

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## Music

# New sound wave radiates from Miami

Mike Cedrone ‘10

As many of you may remember, it was about a year and a half ago that Soulja Boy came out with his notorious *Crank That (Soulja Boy)*, which garnered much success.

Many of you may also remember that in the following months there were many covers and remixes of that song, one of which was done by two kids from Miami, Florida. Nabil Moo (Instruments/ Programming/Additional Vocals) and Matt Mihana (Vocals), formerly of We are the Calvary, created I Set My Friends On Fire and one of the heaviest cover’s of a rap song in a while. Their rock/screamo cover of *Crank That* exploded onto the Myspace music scene, gaining almost 50,000 plays per day.

The popularity of this song, helped to lock them a spot on the 2008 Bamboozle Festival and helped to also gain the attention of Brett Gurewitz and Epitaph Records, home to bands such as New Found Glory, Bring Me the Horizon, Story of the Year, and Escape the Fate.

This is no one hit wonder band, however. During the time between creating the Crank That cover and being signed, ISMFOF pumped out jams like *ASL, Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholder*, and *HxC 2-Step* that make you feel a sensation to move,

but also run as soon as possible to the nearest lyrics website to read along with the song. Though many would try to pinpoint one genre on these songs, it is very difficult. They have a comedic swagger to their lyrics that is reminiscent of Blink -182, but in no way sound like them, having a sound that would make anyone’s guess at a genre tag as good as the next. In a very simplistic explanation ISMFOF combines electronica with grind and hardcore, however the song structures are much more complex than that, with each song having a different vibe and sound.

Following being signed, ISMFOF went to the studio to record their debut album, You Can’t Spell Slaughter Without Laughter, which came out October 7th.

The first single, which was not officially released but is on rotation in the band’ myspace music player, is *But The Nuns Are Watching....* Personally, I believe that this song is by far the best that they have created. It shows their true talents at writing songs that make you want to get up and jump around thrashing your arms like its no one’s business.

The remainder of the album, which contains re-mastered versions of *ASL, Beauty in the Eyes of the Beholder, Crank That*, and *HxC 2-Step*, as well as an array of others, are very amazing as well.

On the bands Myspace



Google Image

**Nabil and Matt reside in Miami, Florida.**

bulletins and profile on the Epitaph website, Matt and Nabil made comments on the new album before it was released.

According to Matt, “The album will have every genre you ever heard of mixed into one big bowl. It’s going to be crazy! Not your usual listen.”

Nabil also commented saying , “Fans should brace themselves for something that is very different and unique, but also very familiar at the same time. We pride ourselves on thinking outside the box as well as not having any limitations; musically or creatively-speaking.”

While fully agreeing with Matt and Nabil, I must say that You Can’t Spell Slaughter Without Laughter has

been one of the most anticipated albums of the year and is by far one of the best released.

October 7<sup>th</sup> has been marked as a day that a new sound finally came around. I Set My Friends On Fire shatters the generic pop-punk mold of many bands that have one record and shoots into the limelight, smiling on MTV, redoing a sound that has been around since Blink. I Set My Friends On Fire brings something fresh to the table and does it well.

Be sure to hit up your nearest CD store, whether it be Target, Best Buy, or Hot Topic and pick up You Can’t Spell Slaughter Without Laughter, which will be sure to make you jump around uncontrollably every time you listen to it.

*Films of Today*by Diana Lezenby ‘10

# What’s hot this winter

Each issue, Diana will give capsule reviews on the hottest movies in theaters.

Four Christmases

Quantum of Solace

Bolt

*Four Christmases* has only been out for a week and has already made over 46 million dollars. With an award winning cast it’s easy to love this comedy. *Four Christmases* is starring Vince Vaughn (Wedding Crashers) and Reese Witherspoon (Legally Blonde). Their chemistry on set transfers to their relationship on screen. Vaughn and Witherspoon’s humor makes you laugh out loud. It is easy to connect and relate to each character in *Four Christmases*.

*Quantum of Solace* was number one in the box office when it first came out, and made over 67 million dollars in its first week. Some viewers expected more. After leaving the theater you might hear “It was good, but not good enough”. *Quantum of Solace* is another James Bond movie with Daniel Craig as Bond. The movie is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence and action. If you like James Bond or action, you will probably like this. Just don’t go into the movie with your expectations too high.

The animated family action film *Bolt* will have everyone wanting more. The animation is so real that you forget that you are watching a cartoon. The movie is number two in the box office this week. *Bolt* has made over 66 million dollars. The action sequences leave you on the edge of your seat. Yet the heart warming parts will have everyone saying “Aw.” The voices in *Bolt* include John Travolta (Hairspray) and Miley Cyrus (Hannah Montana). Everyone will enjoy this animated film, no matter how old you are.



Arts & Entertainment

# Twilight movie disappoints

Miranda Steinman '09

The lights finally dimmed and the theater clapped excitedly as the introduction music to *Twilight* finally began. Most of us had been there since around ten o'clock that night, and were starting to fall asleep.

The series had been a # 1 bestseller and was quickly becoming a cult sensation. For that reason, so many people were eager to be the firsts to see the beloved Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson), the vampire hero of the novel, jump off the pages and onto the big screen.

On Friday, November 21, hundreds of people packed in to several theatres at Regal Cinema and anticipated one of the best movies of the year.

Unfortunately, however, this wish was not fulfilled.

The film began with Bella (Kristen Stewart) moving to Forks, Washington to live with her dad, Charlie (Billy Burke). She is skeptical of this new rainy town, but soon makes a few new friends. Eric (Justin Chon) is the first person Bella comes across. Mike (Michael Welch) is Bella's second encounter, who is pretty obnoxious in the



Guardian.co.uk

**Edward proves his skill by taking Bella through the tree tops.** movie, but his characteristics are similar to the book.

Jessica's (Anna Kendrick) performance was not convincing. She seemed inexperienced and fake. She is supposed to become Bella's close girlfriend, but their relationship is hardly observable.

Edward Cullen is the heartthrob of the series. He is a "vegetarian" vampire along with his family of immortals. They drink only animal blood and live in the town disguised humans. Edward is described as the most perfect being Bella had ever seen.

Jacob (Taylor Lautner), a family friend of Bella's, reveals to

Their relationship moves more quickly than necessary.

As the movie progressed, so did my disappointment. I was not expecting the movie to be exactly like the book, because it is impossible to cram 500 or so pages into two hours.

However, this movie left out so many important details that I could only imagine the difficulty some viewers had deciphering it if they had not read the book.

On November 22, 2008, Summit Entertainment announced that they were officially working on the *Twilight* sequel, *New Moon*. Many fans are excited that Summit is searching for a new director for the movie. I'm hoping that this will eliminate the Indie feel to the film, which is inappropriate for its plot and atmosphere.

The soundtrack of the movie is one good aspect. It has a variety of bands and styles. It was a refreshing blend of music genres.

I would hardly recommend seeing this movie, although some fanatics of the series feel it a necessity. Let's hope that a new director will bring fresh ideas and a more efficient way to depict the next part of this story.

The characters in the movie speak only a few times before confessing their desire for each other.

Throughout the film, Agent Strahm unlocks Hoffman's path and attempts to stop him at all costs. However, Hoffman is just as creative and morbid as John and Amanda.

In this film, we also learn of Hoffman's past and his connection to John Kramer. Hoffman was involved in more schemes than the viewer would expect. We also see Hoffman's first subjects in his own traps. Five people are all put to the test to pass four trapped rooms and have to work as a team in order to escape. They must also figure out why they were chosen to be put through this torment.

*Saw V* is very similar to its precursors and follows the idea of appreciating life. This *Saw* film did,

however, differ from the other four. The *Saw* trilogy is known for its extreme violence and gruesome, graphic images, but this film went over and beyond limits.

Hoffman is a totally different Jigsaw than Kramer. Hoffman is vicious and creative in his own way that differs from the original Jigsaw.

Out of all the *Saw* films, this one had to be the least enjoyable. The first and fourth were the most intriguing of the five. Still, it was a decent bloodlust film and I would recommend it to anyone interested in the horror genre.

As the trailers had said, "You'll never believe how it ends!" We will just have to wait and see how it will all conclude in *Saw VI* next year.

# Gas prices surprise drivers

Anthony Rue '09

In the economic recession that is the United States of America in 2008, the country has seen one diamond in the rough: Plunging gas prices. Many drivers couldn't believe their eyes when they went to their local station and saw that the prices had fallen. It was less than one year ago that gas prices were at a national average of more than three dollars per gallon (according to a report on [dailyfuelconomytip.com](http://dailyfuelconomytip.com))

The question people are asking now is obvious: will gas prices return to \$4 a gallon.

The answer is actually dependant upon the worldwide economy troubles that many nations are dealing with right now. Oil growth is developing at an exceedingly lesser pace than usual in oil dependant areas such as the Middle East and Asia. (Because these countries are involved in their own economic problems, the United States and other countries are able to get oil at a cheaper price than in the past.) Also, according to the Federal Energy Information Administration, the United States is expected to use less oil in 2009 than it did in 2008.

Economic troubles in other areas of the world, coupled with the fact that America is expected to use less oil in the future than it has in the recent past, leads to the belief that yes, oil prices will be staying relatively low for the foreseeable future. Demand for gas is historically higher in the spring, so an increase may be in store during the April and May months.

Even then, don't expect to see gas prices reaching the levels of four dollars per gallon at that time.

# Holidays not so happy

Brittany Tartaglia '09

With the amount of time for the holiday shopping season dwindling away, the amount of people that do last minute shopping seems to increase. Part of the fun of holiday shopping is doing it as late as possible in order to take advantage of the sales. This is the time of year where everyone is supposed to be merry and kind to everyone around them; however it's the negative in people that seems to come out.

Working in the mall myself, I pay attention to the people around me and I see how they act with others including myself. Part of my job is to greet and see if customers need any help. It's always expected that when I ask someone if they need help that some want it and some don't. That was never an issue with me. It's the rude and obnoxious few that really annoy me. The one's that just glare and walk away, or the few that respond with an angry comment. It can be frustrating, but I've never had to deal with anything too serious.

After dealing with some of the customers throughout my shift, I look forward to my break, which on most days only consists of fifteen minutes. During this time I normally walk to the food court, order food, and then eat before returning back to work. During the holidays the mall is always more crowded, causing longer waiting lines and making it difficult to find a open table to eat at. Usually I find a table just fine on my own; however a co-worker of mine was not so fortunate.



google image

**With all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, its difficult to keep spirits high.**

During the crazy holiday season she ordered food and found a table to eat at. She spilled some of her soda and cleaned it up. She then walked to the trash can to throw out the napkins, with her food still on the table, and when she returned four others had sat down at the table with their own food. She tried to nicely tell them that she was sitting there and that she hadn't even touched her food yet. Their response was that there were four of them and one of her, and that they deserved the table more then she did.

When a situation like that happens, its hard to react. Most people aren't used to that kind of attitude from others. Being a quiet person, she simply picked up her food and left. If that had been me I would have argued with the others. Actually, just to prove a point, I would have pulled up a chair and sat at the table with them to show I wouldn't move. That is just one example of how ignorant people can be during the holidays.

Everyone is rushed with work, shopping, and other priorities, but it's never an excuse for acting rudely to others. I'm not saying that everyone has to be in the greatest mood ever. Everyone has their off days, but it just seems that sometimes during this time of year some go out of their way to be mean. The holidays are supposed to be a fun time of year filled with friends, family, and joy. So have a *Happy* Holiday and a *Merry* Christmas.

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Features

Lives of Military Brats by David Kramer ‘09

Tours make the heart grow fonder

For each installment will discuss a different aspects of what it is like to grow up with a parent in the armed forces.

Everyday we hear on the news about military personnel being deployed to Iraq or Afghanistan, and everyday, a family is left at home without a brother, sister, mother, or father. Although Iraq and Afghanistan are the most dangerous places to be deployed in today’s world, military personnel are still sent to other parts of the world, such as South Korea, Germany, Italy, and Japan. While theses tours of duty are still less dangerous, they are still distant and hard to cope with.

Personally, I’ve only experienced one overseas deployment. My dad, George Kramer, has been in the United States Air Force for the past 26 years. He served a two-year tour in South Korea, and was then deployed to Italy seven years later for a six month tour of duty.

I can still remember the night before my dad left. I followed him everywhere he went just so I could spend as much time with him as possible. He was leaving my family home in Texas for half a year. The next morning, he dropped me off at school and told me that I should take good care of my sister and mother. He gave me a hug goodbye, and that was the last time I would see him until July of ‘98.



Courtesy of the Kramer Family

Master Sergeant George Kramer has served in the United States Air Force for twenty six years.

In today’s world, most deployments range from 12 to 14 months. It’s hard to imagine a family without their mother, father, sister, or brother for that long, let alone inside a combat zone in Afghanistan or Iraq. Luckily, my ad was deployed to a non-combat zone in Italy for a 6-month tour of duty in support of the Kosovo War. The

upcoming months were very hard for me and my family.

Keeping contact with someone overseas is very difficult as a kid. You tend not to talk to that person everyday since you have chores and other schoolwork. I can still remember how my dad would send me hand-written letters with Italian postcards. It would be two to three weeks apart that I’d be able to talk to my dad on a phone, so letters were the main source of communication. Toward the end of my dad’s deployment, I became very anxious, doing my best to call him everyday to see when he would start packing for home.

The day he came home I remember me, my mother, and my sister waiting at the airport for four hours. His arrival time was 8pm, but we all got there at 4pm. Regardless, the time flew by because we knew that my dad would finally be home, and that we’d finally be able to spend some time with him. When his plane arrived, we crowded to the gate (back then you were allowed to go to the gate where all the passengers came out) and surprisingly, he was the first one out of the dock. I remember me and my sis running right up to him, and he dropped his bags and bear hugged the both of us (remember, I was only seven) Following us was my mother, who was very, very happy to see him. Finally, the 6 month deployment was finished, and my dad was back home in the states.

Seniors take lead role  
Senior directed cabaret preparation begins

Alysa Couce ‘09

On Thursday Nov. 20, only a handful of students auditioned for Senior Directed Cabaret. But the next day, about twenty-five students came, making the tryouts last until 6:30. Senior Directed is a performance of several skits directed by two Seniors.

After a long day directors Lindsey Carbone and Dave Samsel said that the students were excellent but made it hard to assign parts.

“Tryouts were tiring,” Samsel said, “but it’s all worth it.” The auditions ran on for so long that some students did not get to perform until five or later. However determined students endured the delay.

“It’s worth the wait, I’m excited

about this year’s performance,” Chris Adams ‘09 said.

Samsel and Carbone say they work very well together and have comedy skits along with musical performances in store for SDC. Some of the skits being performed will be “Miss Swan,” “Bon Qui Qui,” “Stuart” and other skits from *Mad TV*.

Songs from Rent will also be performed along with skits from *All That*.

“It’s stressful having so much responsibility, but rewarding at the same time,” Carbone said.

The performance will be Jan. 22 and 23. Many students have said they enjoy SDC because the skits are up-to-date and extremely funny.

Last year SDC was directed by Nikki Black and Kristy Garcia.



Alysa Couce 12”

Students endured a long wait in order to audition for a position in the upcoming Student Directed Cabaret.

Carbone and Samsel hope to follow higher keeping the tradition of SDC in their footsteps and set the bar as ‘an event to look forward to’.

Books

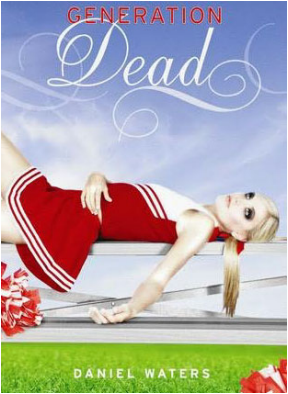
Zombie novel conveys message on morality

Brittany Tartaglia ’09

Losing a friend can be a very traumatic event. The only thing more traumatic is when the person comes back as a zombie, or in Daniel Waters’ *Generation Dead*, the living impaired.

In this novel, there is a strange phenomenon occurring. American teenagers that have died are not staying dead. No one can explain why these teens are resurrecting or why some manage to function like their old selves.

The zombies are not what you may think at first. Some can talk and function properly, and have minds of their own. Some feel that they need to group together while others want to socialize with the living. They can, however, be killed again so that they can’t come back again.



fantasticfiction.com

Students are conflicted on whether or not to accept their zombie classmates.

Oakvale High’s resident goth, Phoebe Kendall, is one of the only live people who tries to communicate and befriend the dead. Particu-

larly, she tries to befriend Tommy Williams, the leader of the dead kids. As her feelings for Tommy become stronger, this creates a conflict for her best friend Adam, who has a romantic interest in Phoebe.

Adam’s character is probably the most confused. He wants to help Phoebe and support her, but he is also the star of the football team. The team spends the majority of their free time trying to rid their school of the living impaired. Complications arise when Tommy tries out for the team. Throughout the course of the book, the dead kids open up more to Phoebe and the others who give them a chance.

The book has both strong and weak points. One positive aspect was the character development. The zombies mirrored human characteristics and traits. I was surprised at

how well Waters was able to detail so many characters and make them all unique. The book was really diverse and creative. The cover is a bit deceiving with a dead, goth cheerleader on a bleacher. It does not pertain to the novel at all. The book has been met with mixed reviews. Personally I did not like the ending. It somewhat leaves an opening for a sequel although there are no rumors that there will be one.

I especially liked that the book had a moral to it. Waters uses his novel to vicariously show how minorities are treated and ostracized by society. The novel drives home the point that sometimes it just takes one or two people to make a major difference in society. As a vampire novel lover, I was hesitant at first to read this book, however, in the end I realized it was well worth it.

Dust the Spine by Theresa Digravio ‘12

Sci-fi show inspires novel spin-off

*Dust the Spine* is a new column that will review novels that, although not new, still deserve spotlight.

Take fast-paced action, big explosions, ugly aliens, flying cities and combine them with smirking air force majors, uptight marine colonels, and snarky scientists. This blend creates an interesting plot that is sure to captivate readers.

*Stargate Atlantis: Rising* by Sally Malcolm is the first spin-off of the sci-fi famed show Stargate: SG-1. Stargate fans will love it, and newcomers will easily be able to pick up on the plot. This book is the scripted/extended version of the Stargate Atlantis series pilot, which came out in 2004.

Following the discovery of a 10,000 year old ancient weapons outpost buried deep under the ice and snow of the Antarctic, the SGC (Stargate Command) sends a team of explorers, scientists and military from twelve different countries, to what they hope is the lost, ancient city of Atlantis.

The problem: the supposed location of Atlantis is deep in the heart of the Pegasus galaxy, there is only enough power for a one way trip. If they walk through the Stargate (an alien, ring-shaped device discovered in Egypt in the 1940s, it sends travelers to other planets via a wormhole) the Atlantis expedition will have no way back to Earth, and no way of knowing what awaits them on the other side.

This book is one of the best that I have ever read. The novel follows their expedition to Atlantis, documenting every twist and turn they encounter. Its fast-paced action and exhilarating plotline are inspirational. You are able to understand how the characters think, their personalities, and some of their pasts minutes after they are first introduced.

The author allows you to dive into the characters’ minds. Dr. Meredith Rodney McKay, an expert on the Stargate and wormholes, is snarky, impatient, easily annoyed, and has a short fuse. These characteristics are shown throughout the book, just like the other character’s qualities.

(McKay’s point of view)

McKay strove to sound soothing. It wasn’t a skill that came naturally. “There’s nothing to be afraid of—“You don’t understand.” Beckett was pleading now, actually pleading. The man was beginning to border on pathetic. “I break things like this.”

*Oh, for the love of-* “This device has survived intact for millions of years; it will survive you.” McKay shoved the doctor toward the chair. “Now sit down, close your eyes and concentrate.”

*...Patience, Patience...* Resisting the urge to pull the gene out of Beckett with a pair of tweezers, McKay forced himself to be reasonable.

...”Shut up and concentrate.” McKay snapped. (pages 21-22)

Malcom has a gift for imagery. You can clearly visualize the characters and picture the different settings and situations unfolding.

*Stargate Atlantis: Rising* is a thriller that is nearly impossible to put down once you have started reading it.

Have any old books lying around?

The WTHS Student Book Club & IMC Staff are now taking donations of new or gently used books for the Great Reads Book Sale.

Drop off books in the IMC or any main office.

Proceeds from the sale will benefit the Book Club’s literacy outreach program.



## Tech Talk

# Fallout 3 provides post-apocalyptic fun

Tom Gill '10

*Fallout 3* is one of the most anticipated video games to come out this year. With its vast open-world set in Washington D.C. and characters you meet during the game, *Fallout 3* is one game that has lived up to its hype.

Set in the post-apocalyptic wastelands of Washington D.C., *Fallout 3* places you in the shoes of a man who lives in an underground vault. This vault was built to protect you from the nuclear radiation on the surface of the city. When your father leaves the vault one day, you embark on a quest to search for him.

On your journey you are faced with tough decisions that you must make. Depending on what you choose to do, the outcome of the game and the city around you will be affected.

During your quest you will come across many diverse enemies, friends, cities, and quests. All of the missions have unique experiences which prevent the game from becoming redundant. With the game's unique interface system, Pip-Boy 3000, you can control all of your missions, weapons, and health.



www.pcgames.de

***Fallout 3* makes you fear what could happen next, all the while still making you want to see more.**

There are many things that make *Fallout 3* different than any other game like it, such as Oblivion, or any FPS games, for that matter. Though *Fallout 3* is set in the First Person point of view, you will never confuse it with any other First Person Shooter games. Your character moves much slower, and at times you have difficulty shooting your enemies. This is due to the fact that you're not a trained killer, you're just a man looking for your father. Though this game isn't a big First

Person Shooter game, you can still tweak your skills so that your character is good at shooting, and you don't have such a problem killing enemies.

One of the most hyped aspects of *Fallout 3* is the V.A.T.S. System. V.A.T.S. Stands for Vault-Tec Assisted Targeting System. V.A.T.S allows you to stop time and pick a body part on the enemy that you wish to shoot, while it shows you the percent of a chance you have of hitting that body part, and use action

points to shoot that body part with extreme effectiveness and sometimes a nice little dismemberment of your foe. The action points that you use regenerate after use. Depending on what weapon you use, the action points are taken away at different rates. Even if many action points are taken, you will still be able to use V.A.T.S often because the action points regenerate fairly quickly.

The enemies in this game are diverse and creative. They all seem to be mutated forms of predecessors, such as giant fire ants and roaches. There are also some enemies that are a direct product of the illustrator's imagination, such as the Deathclaw. No matter what level you are on, the enemies you face are always hard to kill. This makes the game more interesting and challenging because it makes you fear what is lurking in the dark corners of rooms sometimes.

This game is so immersing you will find its emotional hook addictive. With tons of side missions and the main story quest, this game will give you hours of fun. If you are looking for a game that will captivate you, *Fallout 3* will not disappoint.

# Gears of War series returns after two year break

David Kramer '09'

*Gears of War 2* is a new and absolutely brilliant title that has come out exclusively for the Xbox 360 console. After a two year break from the gears action, *Epic Games* has finally release the long awaited sequel.

*Gears of War 2* takes place six months after the detonation of the Lightmass Bomb where Gears of War ended. After months of peace, cities start vanishing underground. This leads the COG (Coalition of Ordered Governments) to suspect the resurgence of the locust horde, resulting in a massive counter-attack to save humanity and the precious city of Jacinto.

Like the first game, players function as Sargeant Marcus Fenix, the leader of "Delta Squad". Along

with Fenix come three other returning Delta Squad soldiers, Baird, Dom, and "Cole Train".

The gameplay aspect of *GOW2* is similar to the original *Gears of War*. From chain sawing an enemy to pieces to popping someone with the longshot, the game has still kept its "awesomeness". The "takedown" features have definitely changed for the better of the game. Instead of just pressing the X button, you now have three different buttons you can push (X, Y, B) which can change how you takedown your opponent. Some weapons have also changed in the way they fire. The locust assault rifle now packs an extra punch, instead of its original burst fire mode.

Although campaign mode is brilliant, the game sees its longest legs from its multiplayer gameplay.

A new addictive and strategic co-op Horde mode has been added, consisting of five players fighting off simultaneous waves of locusts with a variety of weapons.

Two new multiplayer game modes have also been added known as Submission and Wingman. In Submission, players must capture the "meat flag" and bring him to the scoring zone to fend off opposing players. Wingman on the other hand consists of five, two-man teams fighting against each other with only one life at hand, which creates a new level of intensity.

What really impressed me was the improvement of graphics from the original *GOW*. The environment has literally been enhanced. When playing, you'll notice burnt cars, crumbling buildings, smoke, and character detail unlike any game

you've ever seen. The levels have severely been adjusted to match the overall theme of the game. For experienced gamers, playing this on an HDTV or HD-monitor is absolute eye candy. Audio in *GOW2* is also very realistic. The sounds of the weapons are very detailed and similar to real-world sounds. As for music, Steve Jablonsky has done a great job of creating music that has an electric move, depending on what you are doing in the game.

Overall, *Gears of War 2* is an absolutely awesome game. It offers great gameplay and a phenomenal graphics engine. Different multiplayer modes and co-op can really keep gamers occupied for the longest time, and unfortunately, addicted. Be on the lookout for this game to be named Game of the Year for 2008.

# Activism sparks lifestyle change

Jenn Gordun '11

Freshmen, John Maroldo and Nicole Huhn both live a lifestyle that has recently become more popular in the past few years.

With a diet that consists of absolutely no meat, they believe that being a vegetarian isn't as hard as it seems.

Maroldo and Huhn were not always vegetarians. Both started this lifestyle four years ago and were motivated for moral reasons.

"I finally realized that the meat I was eating came from living things, and I knew that it wasn't right." Said Maroldo.

Maroldo first got interested in becoming a vegetarian when a friend told him about PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals), an animals rights association. Maroldo is now a member of PETA, and he

says that it is easy and a great way to get involved with this cause.

Maroldo said that registered members of PETA receive a weekly newsletter informing the members about petitions to sign for animal rights, and are offered other free and easy ways to help out. Also, members of PETA receive free things in the mail, like free animal rights stickers.

"Being a member of PETA is an easy and effective way to get involved and help a good cause," says Maroldo.

"I do not believe in inhumane suffering of innocent creatures," Maroldo said. He believes that people should stand up for the animals that are killed for food, because they don't have a voice of their own. He wants to supply their voices and speak out against those who believe that it's okay to slaughter animals



Yahoo Images

**PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) is an organization that is dedicated to fighting for animal rights.**

for nourishment.

Maroldo and Huhn both say that people occasionally criticize their diets, not exactly in a mean

way, but in a way that questions the point of being a vegetarian.

People who are not vegetarian are a little curious about a "plant-eater's" diet. Some believe all they eat are salads and vegetables. Maroldo and Huhn both say that it is not true.

"Almost anything made out of meat, can be [created] in veggie-form," Huhn said.

Maroldo said that veggie nuggets and soy burgers are delicious, and are "great and a tasteful way to stay vegetarian."

Huhn finds that tofu is appetizing and a "good replacement for meat in your diet."

Some non-vegetarians say that it would be too difficult to not even eat a single piece of meat for the rest of their lives. Even some vegetarians can find it to be very difficult to stay true to their meatless diets.

Huhn said, "Sometimes when I'm around meat, it smells really good."

She believes that eating meat is wrong, but on occasions it can smell extremely appetizing. The delicious aroma does not sway her to go against her lifestyle. Sometimes she feels that it just takes a little extra will power.

Maroldo said he has never had a hard time keeping his determination in being a vegetarian.

**The Patriot meets Tuesdays in D-8. Check our e-board for the next meeting time.**

## NHS requires achievement, service

Matt Griechen '10

The National Honor Society (NHS) is an organization that represents service, leadership, character, and scholarship. NHS is a national organization that sets the rules for each chapter, such as the chapter at Washington Township High School.

As a national organization, NHS is devoted to, "create enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to develop character in students of secondary schools." The national organization has a constitution and it creates laws and regulations which guide schools across the country in their honor society's activities.

Because NHS is an honor society, and induction is a privilege not a right, there are several requirements necessary to become a member. One must be a junior or senior to apply and must have a 93 grade point average. They must prove participation in two

extra-curricular activities since their time in high school and in addition, those who are eligible must fill out a resume and an essay which is submitted to a faculty council who anonymously reviews the applications and selects the applicants who meet the requirements.

Although the requirements to the club appear to be strenuous, acceptance into NHS is seen as a great honor and it opens a gateway to new activities that will enable students to make a difference in the world.

As a member, students perform two service projects per year, including individual service projects and participation in the charter service project. The WTHS charter service project is the free tutoring service offered through guidance.

As a club, National Honor Society holds many fundraisers; most recently, the Stockings for Soldiers drive which collected items to be put in a stocking that

will be shipped to 4,000 Americans soldiers. With advisors Mr. Anderson and Mrs. Skow, the club is looking forward to a successful year.

NHS is one of the most active organizations in the school and is looking forward to upcoming events. Most importantly, the induction ceremony which will be held on Jan. 14. Other events include a possible cancer fundraiser in which students purchase bandanas to be worn on a specific day. Also, NHS will be looking for members and nonmembers

to participate in the elementary school activity, which involves students volunteering in elementary school classes.

Endorsing the elementary school program, executive board member Sharice Thayer '09 said, "The elementary school program is beneficial for the elementary school students to have a mentor and it's a great and fun way for NHS members to complete community service hours."

As an extremely prestigious organization, NHS is a fundamental part of the activities at WTHS.



Yahoo image



People

Renaissance student enjoys senior year

Maggie Bonanni '09

Erin Dunphy loves to spend time with her family, consisting of her mom, dad, and her 12 year old brother.

“ My family, is my biggest supporter. No matter what I do they are always there cheering me on and telling me what a good job I did.”

Dunphy’s family not only cheers her on at home, but also supports her demanding schedule. Among other roles, Erin is Producer of Monthly Rewind, Editor in Chief of the Musket, and an avid member of the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life.

Dunphy feels that although her schedule can be overwhelming at times, that it is worth the strain. “I don’t regret anything. Everything that I have or have not done has lead me to a different path, I love my life and wouldn’t change a thing because it has worked out for me in the past four years and the end result has been extraordinary.”

Dunphy feels that the busiest part of her schedule is organizing Monthly Rewind. As Producer, Dunphy is in charge of the overall production of the show, which includes keeping a log of the stories being done, writing the anchor lines for each segment, and helping the individual members of with their segments. Rewind is what inspired her to pursue Communications after high school.

“My dream career would be to work on NBC in New York, either behind the scenes or on camera. I love communications, it’s exciting and

something I’m passionate about. I don’t care which one I do because no matter what I know I’ll be happy.”

Dunphy also oversees *The Musket*. As Editor in Chief, she is in charge of the first sixteen pages of the yearbook, and determining which pictures and quotes will be used as well as the theme. This year Dunphy chose the theme “Together With Pride” because she feels that this year’s senior class has astonishing school spirit, and that the yearbook should reflect that.

Dunphy takes an active role in her community through her work on the American Cancer Society’s Relay for life. For the past four years, she has participated in the event as captain of her relay team, and has recently taken the position of Committee Chair of Recruitment. She also hosts yearly fundraisers to raise money for the event, such as last year’s fundraiser at Brusters, and a yearly Chinese auction at Friendly’s. Throughout her life, Dunphy has seen the negative effects of cancer on individuals and their families. She participates in Relay for Life to fight for the inflicted and to honor those who lost their lives, including her grandfather and aunt.

“When working with Erin, she always put forth the most work and effort to make sure things go right. She works hard, and always gets the job done the right way,” said Chris Neuteboom ’09,



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

**Dunphy is also a member of the National Honor Society Executive Board.**

Erin’s relay team member and friend.

Erin Dunphy’s schedule enables her to not only involved in her school and community, but to also reach out others. It is this personality that makes her involvement so worth while.

“Erin is just a fun person to be around. She’s also very ambitious and I can definitely tell that she is going places,” said William Baker ’09.

Taking pride in two cultures

Brittney Collins '12

Her legal name is Michelle Chen. Her Chinese name is Chen mei qui. Chen was born in America, but relocated to China when she was about one year old. She lived there for about five years, and then returned to the Unites States. When Chen lived in Chang- hi, China, she lived with her family. Her extended family still lives there. She even has friends in Hong-Kong. Michelle doesn’t remember a lot from those five short years as a child, but her Chinese heritage stayed with her.

“I have [memories] of getting ice cream everyday while my grand mom got groceries,” Chen said.

She goes back to China every other year, so her Chinese heritage is always fresh in her mind. When she goes back, her family visits all different cities in China, and they stay for about two weeks. Her favorite vacation was when they went to China and Japan one summer.

“[Japanese] pretty much goes in one ear, and out the other,” she said.



Brittney Collins '12/ The Patriot

**Chen loves homemade Chinese food.**

Michelle might not speak fair Japanese, but she can speak Chinese. At home, her family speaks Chinese and English. She also has to speak Chinese to her grandmother, who lives with them, and only knows basic English. Also, Michelle’s maid speaks almost only Chinese.

Michelle adds, “Ninety percent of the time [my parents] speak Chinese.”

Michelle exercises her heritage not only through language, but at the dinner table. The Chen family eats authentic Chinese food every single night. Michelle’s favorite meal is duck. Her family also celebrates the Chinese holidays, such as Chinese New Year, and the Autumn Moon Festival. Michelle says, “We eat moon cakes and have a fun party [during the Autumn Moon Festival]”.

Michelle also incorporates her American heritage into her life. She excels in school, and her favorite subject is math. Michelle also has been playing piano for eight years, plays the guitar, and plays the violin for the school orchestra. She plays tennis and swims in the summer. Michelle likes all kinds of music, including classical because she has been playing it so long on the piano.

Michelle Chen is a student who transcends cultural boundaries. She incorporates her Chinese and American cultures.

Lifestyles

*Mind Body and Soul* by Maggie Bonanni '09

Giving back to community helps the soul

Maggie Bonanni '09

The three components to a healthy lifestyle are the mind, body, and soul. I feel that because of our busy, sometimes hectic, lifestyles we all too often forget about the last element and consequently lack the well being we deserve. Although it is not tangible, a healthy soul is something that we need in order to keep our lives in balance.

Over the course of my high school career, I have found the perfect path to keeping a healthy soul. While sitting at my kitchen table with my mother, I realized that it is not just a happy demeanor and self esteem, but also the feeling of knowing that you give those same feelings and more to someone else. It means giving back.

Throughout our lives we take certain aspects of it for granted. We take advantage of the love and affection of our parents, an amazing education, and many privileges, such as security and piece of mind in such dismal times. We often do not think of life without such comforts. But throughout the world, the United

States, and even right here in Township there are people who are not as fortunate as most of us are. There are families that can barely afford to put food on the table, and children that are going to miss out on a memorable Christmas or Chanukah because their families can not afford to give them presents. I feel that having a healthy soul means bringing such aspects full circle. Through giving back to our community, and making the lives of less fortunate people better, we can give others the feelings we take for granted everyday.

There are endless ways that students can give back to their community. WTHS often has drives throughout the year that we can participate in, such as 24 in the Core, Mother’s Cupboard Food Drive, and good will clothing drives. We can also volunteer at local hospitals and nursing homes, where the help is always needed. Even if you are not comfortable around the ill and elderly, there are still ways of making a difference. Student organizations like Interact and COW (Change Our World) are always working on



Gina Parker '09/ The Patriot

**Junior and Senior Class Council gave back to their community by participating in 24 at the Core, a toy drive that provides toys for area children.**

activities that promote “giving back” and are always looking for efforts from the student population.

Throughout our lives we take the simple things in life like shelter, food, and comfort for granted. Often these are the very things that can make someone else’s life better and worth living. Giving the less

fortunate such basic things not only improves their conditions, but it also brings our own lives full circle and promotes a healthy soul. I urge that you take a few seconds and really think of how you can make a difference in someone else’s life, and give them the feelings that make our lives complete.

Caution called for when buying first car

Maria Petruzzi '10

Class of 2010 it’s finally your turn to get behind the wheel!

Now that juniors are starting to turn seventeen, car shopping has just begun. I began to do research for purchasing a car, and rumor has it, that red cars were voted most dangerous color for a vehicle no matter the model or maker.

Researchers have tested over 4,000 different varieties of red models from all over and recorded several flaws. The color red was originally only made for sports cars. Even if the car was going at the same seed as another car, this particular color appears to look faster than it really is.

Police has verified that red cars are pulled over more then other colors. Red cars were also reported

to be more likely to get in a car accident than any other color. Red is a not visible to see in the dark, which could cause someone with bad vision a better probability of an accident.

Not only is a red car more dangerous, but red cars are more expensive than your average blue or black color. Many insurance companies have a higher monthly expense rate just to own a red vehicle. Red cars are also the number one car to be stolen and pulled over. This hits home for younger drivers because research also shows that we are more likely to own a brighter colored car, such as red, yellow, or white.

Ironically, I find myself begging my parents for a red Mazda6, but after researching I’m not so sure it’s all worth it. I know a couple people that own red cars, and they haven’t



Google.com

**Research shows that oners of red car incur higher insurance rates. Reasearch also shows that red cars have a higher rate of accidents.**

had any problems with the car itself or police. However, the risk associated with owning a red car is making me rethink my choice of car.

Overall, just because you own a red vehicle does not mean you are

a bad driver. It just means you should be more cautious. I wish good luck to everyone on there search for their unforgettable first car. Don’t forget to be safe and do your research before making your purchase.



## Teacher Spotlight

# Drozd sews confidence in classroom

Dianna Lombardo '10

Every day in A-2, you can find Mrs. Betty Sue Drozd walking around, fixing sewing machines, helping students construct their garments, and teaching the art of making clothes.

During her youth, her family had a tight budget, so she started sewing when she was very young in order to make her own clothes. This passion has stayed with her into her adulthood. It is this fervor for clothes that has made her such a wonderful teacher at Washington Township High School.

Drozd was born in Washington Township and still lives on the same street on which she was raised. She attended Washington Township high school, and after graduating 1968, she continued her education at Rowan



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

**Mrs. Drozd enjoys sewing and cooking. As a Home Economics major, she has taught both subjects at WTHS.**

University.

Originally, she wanted to be an elementary or history teacher, but then decided to be a Home

Economics teacher because it is her favorite subject. This gives her free range to teach anything under the family consumer title, such as

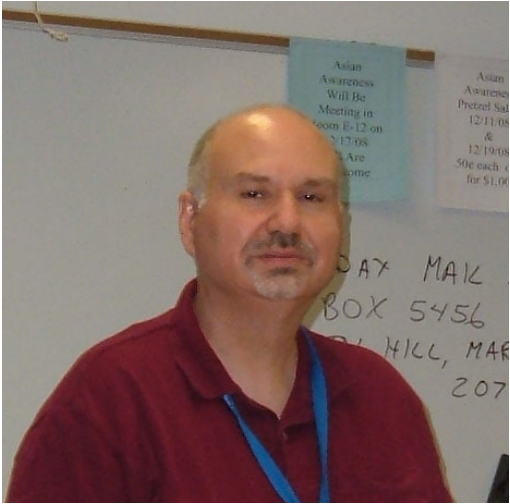
Childcare and Development, Sewing, Foods, Apparel, and Survival Skills. Her favorite styles of fashion are whatever she feels comfortable in and thinks looks best on her. She doesn't have a set style and prefers to not keep up to date on big name fashion designers. However, she does enjoy Michael Kors' collections very much. Her favorite piece of clothing, is a beautifully made, comfortable sweater designed by him.

Kors, along with Heidi Klum, Nina Garcia and a guest judge every week, is a judge on the hit Bravo TV show *Project Runway*. Drozd considers that one of her favorite shows. She also enjoys watching *Good Eats* on the Food Network. She also enjoys watching movies. Her favorite movies are *The Yearling* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Since Drozd loves cooking, in her spare time she makes her own jams and jelly. She also enjoys the fine art of photography. She loves to travel with her husband and can't get in enough traveling time to satisfy her. She has some favorite destinations. Drozd loves traveling out west and she'd like to go back to England again.

She has three sons,. Jim who is 31, Mike who is 29, and Dave who is 27.

Drozd is a well rounded teacher. Her students agree that she's knowledgeable about her subject area, extremely nice to everyone she meets and always willing to help a student.



Maggie Bonanni '09/ The Patriot

**Mr. Valerio has a good sense of humor, and feels that everything in life is easier if you can laugh at yourself.**

Valerio said.

Valerio's love for English has had an influence the lives of others. One former student even nominated him for the "Behind Every Graduate" award from Drexel University.

# Sharing passion for literature

Diana Lezenby '10

Ever since Mr. Rich Valerio was in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade at Edgewood High School, (now Winslow High School), he knew he wanted to be an English teacher. His biggest role model was his eleventh and twelfth grade teacher, Mr. Doug Stuart because of his good and humorous nature.

Now Mr. Valerio teaches AP English as well as Junior and Senior Honors English at Washington Township High School. He has been a teacher for twenty four years and earned an English degree from Drew University.

Mr. Valerio has a busy life.

He is married to Mrs. Lillian Valerio, who teaches history in the 9-10 building. They have two children who are three and five. Valerio said the births of his children were the proudest moments of his life, and he spends a lot of his free time with them.

Valerio doesn't have many hobbies but he does like to read.

He has an extensive collection

of literature at his house, and always enjoys a classic read from time to time.

He enjoys working at a job where he has the opportunity to share that interest with others.

His favorite book is *Don Quixote* by Miguel de Cervantes, because, "It just has everything anybody could ever want in it," he explained.

Valerio also has a strong interest in politics. Valerio often talks politics with his colleagues, and said that during the recent presidential election, voted for Barack Obama.

"I'm an independent who this time agreed with the Democrats,"

# Athlete takes game to Ivy League

## Colavita masters football, academics

Dan Lacca '09

Some people waste their talent. There are few who harness and perfect it. Brandon Colavita '09 is one of those few.

Born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, he grew up in Washington Township where he has played football since he was five. He was introduced to the game in the youth football league, playing for the Minutemen. In his youth, Colavita played two years on the 65Lb squad, 80lb, 100lb squads and one year on both the 120lb, and unlimited Minutemen. However, his skills skyrocketed on the 100lb team, where he was given the nickname Rocky, because of how hard he hit, and his determination to never give up. It's this determination that makes him one truly special and dependable athlete.

Around WTHS, Colavita is known simply as B Col. He was the starting fullback for the Minutemen football team.

Apart from his active football career, Colavita also excels in the classroom. He has a near-perfect grade point average as well as a seat in the top 30 of his class of 700. His favorite class is Economics, because it's an interesting subject that has

important application in the real world.

"I like economics because it is a very interesting class to be in right now. With the economy in such bad shape, it is the best time to learn about it and see what we are learning actually happening," said Colavita.

Colavita also displays his athletic talent on the varsity baseball team and is a veteran from the state championship win in 2007. Despite his aptitude as a third baseman and designated hitter, his true talent is undeniably football. His skills as a running back

always present a challenge for the opposing teams. His powerful legs are like a massive V-8 engine that gives him the capability to run the



Gina Parker '09/The Patriot

**Colavita takes an industrious approach to his studies. He plans to attend The University of Pennsylvania in the fall.**

ball no matter what the circumstances are on the field. Fans that have seen him play notice the defense struggling to slow Colavita down, let alone stop him.

Colavita plans to continue using his athletic skills to play football for The University of Pennsylvania. He is currently tossing around ideas for a major, but is leaning more towards a Business Degree, so he can take over his father's business in a Contractor Partnership. Despite his talent, Colavita has no future NFL ambitions. He simply stated, "I wish, but that is a one in a million chance. I don't think I'm big enough."

Brandon gets support from his role model, his World War II veteran grandfather. At age 85, he has never, missed one of his grandson's games throughout his football career. He continues to support his grandson today, making every game rain or shine and advising Colavita in his life decisions.

"He always talked about football and pushed me to be the best I can be," said Colavita, "on and off the field."

Brandon Colavita is one of the few who took his gifts and molded them into greatness. As the Class of 2009 continues their final year at Twp, you can be sure they made a lot of memories. You can also be certain that when they look back years from now and recall high school football games, they will remember the one particular player with the number 36, storming through the line of scrimmage, dropping defender after defender followed by the sound of a cannon, signaling a touchdown.

## Do you have a creative side?

## Express it.

Submit your writing, graphics or artwork to *Pieces Literary Magazine* by e-mailing them to [pieces.magazine@gmail.com](mailto:pieces.magazine@gmail.com). Check our e-Board for information on meetings and deadlines.

Also, stay posted for more information on our **online edition!**





# No Small Change



President-elect Obama will face many challenges as the next president of the USA.

Illustration by Kelly Hughes '10

President-Elect Barack Obama was elected to office on a platform that promised change. *The Patriot* inquired of students as to what they felt would be the greatest issues facing his administration. These are some of their responses.

The most important crisis facing Presidential Elect Barack Obama and Congress is the economic crisis. The economy has gotten so bad that many have lost thousands of dollars in the stock market. Some experts say we are in the worst recession since the Great Depression.

One way the government can help the economy is by stopping the war in Iraq. Therefore, all the money being sent over there could now be used to help us here at home. The money recieved from the ending of the war could help “bailout” many of the companies that have failed.

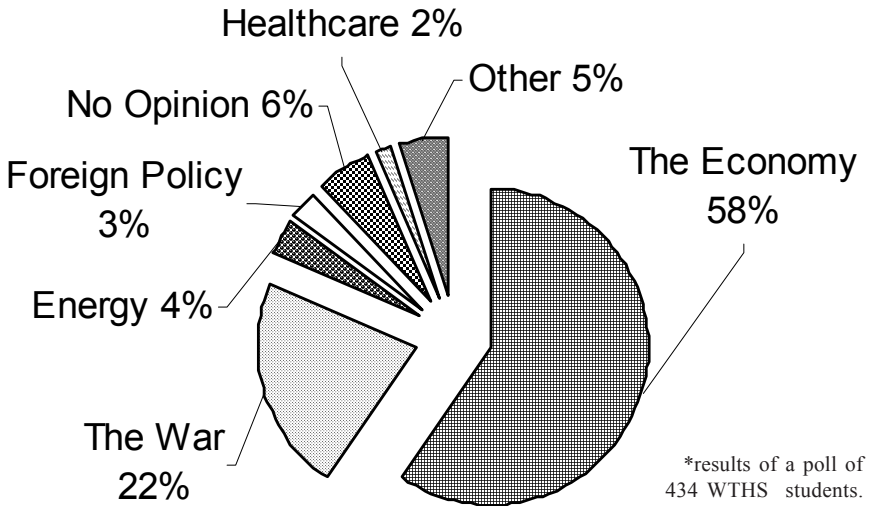
If President-elect Obama were to end the war, then he would certainly help the chances of the country recovering from this economic crisis. As the saying goes, he would be “killing two birds with one stone.”

- Mike Murawski '11

I believe President- elect Barack Obama will really have to work at the nation’s economy while president. During the past couple months our economy has been going through some very rough times. I think it will be very interesting to see the new President, Barack Obama, fix these issues and rebuild our country’s economic system.

- David Kramer '09

## Primary issues of concern



The war in Iraq is the most pressing issue. Thousands of soldiers are sent over for months, even years at a time, leaving their family and friends behind. It’s heart crushing to a family when someone they love and care about so much is killed in a fight over lies. I think that the new president-elect should start pulling troops out and returning our family back to us.

- Kelsey Wainwright '12

The most important issue facing America in the present is the economy. Due to the last four years of the Bush administration, the economy has taken a turn for the worst. People everywhere have been laid off and jobs are becoming harder and harder to find. By the time my friends get out of college there will hardly be any jobs left.

The next administration should definitely limit spending and attempt to get more money to circulate in our economy again. Our next president should also be able to create more jobs so that more money can begin to circulate again.

- Julia Hahn '10

President elect Barrack Obama has many difficult problems he must deal with as soon as he enters the office in January. It is crucial that he and his administrative staff address the economy in the United States and many foreign countries. With stocks taking record dives (some of the largest in history), and substantial gains (also some of the largest in history), Americans are clueless with what will happen next. Although the stock market has been like a bouncy ball, up and down, the gains still financially do not equal to the loses.

The high priority economy in particular should receive much needed devoted attention because it changes the way people live; not only is the U.S. facing these difficulties, other countries are as well. The financial market is like a chain reaction, when something is removed or damaged on the food chain, the rest of it suffers. Understanding that the whole world is being affected and that it is a time when money is needed the most, Obama should take action on this issue before any other for the sake of Americans, foreigners, and future generations.

- Michael Rettano '11

One of the most crucial issues facing our nation currently is the economy. Americans are unaccustomed to the recession that is taking place.

However, the question at hand is not how long the recession will last but how long the recovery period from the drop in the market will be.

A plan of action that could be proposed is that the Federal Reserve cuts interest rates. While the cutting of interest rates decreases the value of the dollar, the American market is in desperate need of a rebound in the world economy.

America is no longer the dynamic leading force in the world economy. In today’s global economy the stabilization of the American market and the American dollar is very significant.

- Lauren Schwartz '11

The most important issues in the United States of America today are the economy, our foreign policies (especially the war in Iraq), energy policies, domestic policies ( f.e. Health Care).

However, the most significant issue facing our nation during these harsh times is obviously the economy. I realized based off examples of the Revolutionary War, that fighting a war during terrible economic times is a horrible situation to be in.

In order to prepare ourselves to continue to fight two wars, we must fix the economy. Other wise it will continue to worsen before it gets better. What Congress should be executing is less spending on programs that do not work (f.e. welfare).

It is a natural human habit to blame, and the public and the government has been blaming everyone. Instead Congress should clean up its act and stop spending recklessly because that is where the problem began. Congress should also fix the other issues stated above. However I feel the economy is the most important, because money affects everything. There is a saying, “Money makes the world go around.”

-Prasun Sharma '11

I believe that one of the biggest issues that Barack Obama will be face as the new President will be finding a new source of energy.

Although there are plenty alternatives to oil and other fossil fuels, many of these are not very efficient and can’t produce as much energy

However, if a plan is not created in time, both the economy and environment will be greatly harmed. Once a solution – whether it be solar power, wind, a combination, or something completely different – is made and put in place, Mr. Obama should refrain from altering it, as any adjustments would add to the extreme costs.

If he plans to make the jump from oil to another fuel, then he will have to be quick and efficient.

-Dylan Black '11

## Obama sweeps WTHS student poll

On November 3 *The Patriot* polled 434 students from all grade levels. These students were asked to select the candidate that they felt would be better equipped in filling one of the most demanding offices in the world, the presidency. The results closely resembled those of the actual election.



### Who do you want to become the next President?



Barack Obama -238

John McCain- 138

No Preference/Neither- 58



### Who do you think will win the election?



Barack Obama- 376

John McCain- 57

No Preference/Neither-1



Illustration by Brandon Heath '09

