

# THE BANNER

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## THE MRC GOES TO SOUTH AFRICA

LISA MATHEWS  
Staff Writer

This summer, NBTHS's very own Library Media Specialist, Mrs. Francis, attended the official American Library Association (ALA) conference in Durban, South Africa.

The ALA, founded in 1876 in Pennsylvania, is a national government-funded organization that decides on the rules and regulations of a majority of the libraries in the United States. The ALA also, in conjunction to the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), seeks to improve the quality of libraries around the world.

The Association's annual conference was held from August 16 to 31 in Durban, South Africa.

Mrs. Francis, as a representative from the Black Caucus unit of the American Library Association, was chosen as one of the thirty-five other delegates to attend. The conference's purpose was to assess the progress of libraries and offer aid to libraries in developing countries.

The majority of educational and public health organizations in South Africa are still struggling, due to the long recovery from the period of Apartheid. The Apartheid was an era of extreme racial segregation by the Europeans against native-born South Africans, occurring from 1948 to 1993.

Despite the fourteen years that have passed, South Africa and its people are still direly in need of a better quality of life.

Mrs. Francis found that the "highlight of this powerful learning experience was the opportunity to visit and provide education resources" to a local school library of Clermaville (a tiny town so small Google is not even able to find it), in Durban.

The Christianenberg Primary School holds grades one through six, where classrooms are overcrowded at forty students to a single teacher.

These few teachers are only paid 5,000 to 6,000 Rand yearly, which is equal to \$750 to \$900; while American teachers are paid an average of \$50,000 yearly. These ill-paid teachers and administrators are often required to work overtime, and are often responsible for janitorial duties, which they are rarely, if ever, compensated for.

It is for this reason that more and more African-educated teachers are choosing to leave the teaching profession in their home country for higher paying jobs in Europe. This abandonment leaves South African students to even worse standards of education.

Furthermore, the regular term of school for children in South Africa is only until sixth grade. That is, the government only supports education until sixth grade.

Students who wish to expand their education must be able to pay for it themselves. In an area in which 25% of the people are unemployed, this possibility is virtually impossible. Therefore, children out of sixth grade are immediately sent to work with their parents in the meager farming jobs available, only perpetrating the unemployment system.

To Mrs. Francis, the most appealing aspect of the conference was the obvious "enthusiasm and eagerness of the students [of Durban], which was very refreshing and inspiring for such disadvantaged children." They truly wanted to learn and advance their knowledge, and were exceptionally thankful for the ALA's intervention.

She was also simultaneously disappointed by the lack of this enthusiasm in American students. Mrs. Francis concluded that "[American] Students are far less grateful for the resources they have so readily available to them." In contrast, these underprivileged students in Durban showed such gratitude and interest for their lessons. "Americans should learn to be more appreciative of their freedom and luxury, and should focus a little more on their education."



Mrs. Francis reminisces about her time spent in South Africa.  
PHOTO COURTESY OF FARNAZ MANSOURI

## Protection or a Problem

LANNA KARUPEN  
Staff Writer

Imagine this scenario, you have just finished your assignment for your class, you open up the Internet and then proceed to search for a website. After locating this website you click on the Internet address that you think will best suit your needs and wait for it to load; then a message that you really don't want to see appears; Web sense has intervened. Those who attend North Brunswick Township Schools have been disappointed one time or another. You can't help but to wonder from time to time, what can be on that website that causes it to be blocked?

Sometimes it's really not the content that causes it to be blocked. As Mr. Steven George, the computer technician at NBTHS explained, abc.news is blocked because of the streaming videos that are placed on the site. He stated that if 1,800 kids were viewing streaming videos there would not be enough bandwidth streams for others. Although it's not the computer

technicians who give the list of sites to block, it is the head office or the board of education that gives the okay. The Board of Education also does not have the option whether to allow web sense to exist in our schools. The state of New Jersey requires that all public computers have some type of filter in place. In North Brunswick's case, that filter unfortunately is web sense. Mr. Logan, who is also a computer technician at NBTHS, stated that web sense is the "best in the market" which may not be such good news for those who use the computers.

The filters installed on the school's computers pick up everything you do, even personal stuff. Most students view this as an invasion of privacy, yet Mr. George feels that he is "not so much spying than he is protecting". Mr. George even mentioned that on one occasion, police contacted the school about an incident that concerned a student's whereabouts online. Because of web sense they were able to lend a helping hand to the police and hopefully help that student. Whether you like it or not, web sense is here to stay.

## New Changes in North Brunswick

FARNAZ MANSOURI  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

We often see change as a positive aspect, but does that apply to all changes? As residence of North Brunswick, we have seen our town undergo change for quite some time now, such as the bridge built on Route 1, and the reconstruction of all township schools. However, a new change going on in North Brunswick surpasses them all. For months now residences watched the mass construction take place on Route 130; a new shopping complex known as The Shoppes at North Brunswick.

The Shoppes contains a variety of high-end stores and restaurants for people of all ages. A few of the stores opening at The Shoppes include Banana Republic, Anthropology, Limited Too, Gymboree, and Talbots. Stanbery Development, the company in charge of building The Shoppes, has opened numerous chains of this mall throughout New Jersey and Pennsylvania. The Stanbery team has had great success for one major reason, teamwork. On their website, www.stanbery.com, the team writes "our 'team spirit' is what gives Stanbery Development a powerful edge in the retail development industry. All members of our company are working together for the common goal of creating successful clients by offering them excellence and one-of-a-kind development opportunities." The Stanbery Development team plans for the shopping complex to open on November 2, 2007.

There is no doubt that the new

shopping center has turned into the talk of the town. "Well I love Jamba Juice, so I was thrilled to hear it was opening at The Shoppes. Also, it's nice to know that the new shopping development has stores that my mom, dad, and little sister will enjoy," says Enid Sun. Others, such as April Hustik, are impatiently awaiting the already-popular clothing stores to open. "I was so excited to hear that New York & Company was opening up at The Shoppes, I shop there all the time! It's so nice that it is opening so close to my house."

However, not everyone is thrilled about the opening of The Shoppes. Many complain that the new shopping center will create unnecessary traffic in a usually open area. "I'm just worried that know it will take me a longer time to get home to my wife and daughter," says faculty member James Cantillon. Others do not appreciate the big businesses moving in. "I don't like that these big businesses are coming in a taking open spaces where smaller businesses could have prospered from," Angela Pagliaro says.

Whether you are for or against the opening of The Shoppes, there is no denying that it is the biggest change North Brunswick has ever undergone. The Shoppes has created endless opportunities; it will create new jobs, new places for teens to hang out, and become a new place for families to spend time together. Now there is only one big question on everybody's mind: Will this shopping complex, that has been hyped up and talked about for months, be a success or a complete flop?

### WHAT'S INSIDE?

- **The "Muzzcot":** An inside look at our school's mascot
- **Raider Rant:** Matthew Connolly's new column
- **An Epidemic Revealed:** Meningococcal Disease
- **Legalizing Marijuana:** What our students think



# A New Lunchroom Bully?



CENEDRA DELK  
Staff Writer

For many students, lunch serves as a period of freedom and relaxation; a time to freely talk with friends, finish up homework, catch a quick nap before the next class, and of course the long awaited bite to eat. Those who have attended North Brunswick schools for a number of years have come to enjoy this time.

However, the students also notice a slight change in price every year on their beloved lunchtime favorites; every item from pizza to cream cheese

is increased in price by as much as twenty-five cents every year.

At first this price increase seems to have little-to-no effect. Yet it is now a growing problem among the student pop-

ulation. Students are unhappy with these yearly price increases, and feel as if they are being taken advantage of.

"I feel that if they are going to raise prices, they should also provide more food choices," says Shobit Machanda, now a senior at NBTHS. Chartwells however,

was unavailable for comments.

While the exact cause of these price increases are unknown for the time being, the fact remains that the student body is indeed suffering.

Whether or not a compromise between students and lunch staff can be reached is still a

questionable topic; however, students are willing to try and reach a medium.

Unfortunately, for the time being, Chartwells' lunch prices will continue to undergo their yearly increase.



PHOTO COURTESY OF CHARTWELLSMENU.COM

# Patio C Restrictions

ASHLEY BRYAN  
Staff Writer

"Back to school" means, new people, new clothes, new books, new teachers, new classes; it also means new rules.

A new rule at NBTHS is the Patio-C restriction. Students are no longer permitted to eat outside or hang out outside during lunch periods.

Interim Principal Mr. Brotschul, stated it's definitely a safety issue. It does in fact concern the lockdowns and safety procedures.

Other reasons include that there are over 1,800 students here at the high school. Back when that patio was built in 1973 there were less people, and less to worry about in "different times". Now that there is an abundant amount of people here, Mr. Brotschul explains not having students on Patio-C is "easier to manage," with the

increase of the student body and that he is more on top of things. He also includes, "it is my job to ensure the safety of students."

There had been an issue with Patio-C, when students were meeting parents and other friends out there that were not students of North Brunswick.

+Despite the 30 plus cameras around our school, there's going to be more added on, some being put on Patio-C.

It has also been questioned why we're permitted to cut across the patio to get from class to class, which was banned last year, but can not eat out there. The Interim principal stated "There are enough aids to be at each point to help kids along during passing time, but not enough to be stationed on Patio-C during lunch time."

The Patio-C restrictions will continue for the rest of the year; and as it stands the limitations with Patio-C, do not seem to be altering.

# Eat to Live or Live to Eat

LANNA KARUPEN  
Staff Writer

Across the country, cafeteria foods in public schools have had the reputation of having an unpleasant taste. But compared to other schools, NBTHS provides decent food for students and staff.

Considering the guidelines that they have to follow, the cafeteria workers who choose and prepare your foods have a challenging job. The state, country and many food and health organizations have different regulations they are required to abide by.

These guidelines are very strict in the allowance of sugars, fats, sodium, and cholesterol allowed in foods provided by the school.

The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act set high standards for cafeteria food by omitting carbonated drinks and other foods that students enjoy.

They expect students to eat vegetables, fruits, and drink plenty of water. These standards are good advice for a student to heed, but most teenagers do not apply the advice given unless forced to. Especially when seeing unhealthy foods in

vending machines students are tempted to indulge in something not healthy for them.

Presently, there are a couple machines in NBTHS that may not meet the guidelines of State and other health organization polices. Despite the machines being off or out of order, what is displayed in the machines have an effect on students.

School Health organizations may try to get rid of foods that are not healthy for students, but in the end, it is the student's choice of what they decide to eat.

The school nurse, Mrs. Blackborow believes that, "What students choose to eat reflects on them."

This statement is very true because students are the ones making the decisions. Consequently by making the wrong decision, students may face larger health problems in their future.

The School Health Organizations cannot control what students eat outside of school including when in the mall, at the movies or even at home. Training them in school will hopefully lead them to making better choices presently and in their future about a healthy and lifestyle.

# The Art of War

KATY GOVALA  
Staff Writer

For almost five years, the bitter murders, brutal rapes, and ongoing violence that plague Darfur, a region located in western Sudan, seem commonplace to those living there; but to most of us the realities of Darfur seem like horrific situations that

could never exist in real life. However

impossible these situations may appear, the truth still exists that people are living this nightmare. On a daily basis, children watch their parents get tortured and killed, men watch their wives and daughters get beaten and raped, and families stand by while their homes are destroyed. Since 2003, there have been an estimated 200,000 to 400,000 people

having connections with the Janjaweed, they consistently supply them with money and assistance; sometimes they even actively participate in attacks against rebel tribes. Although everyone in Darfur suffers from the violence, the children of Darfur experience the most devastating repercussions.

The children of Darfur are most affected by the violence, and, through their drawings, they are showing the world just how devastating the situation in Darfur has become. In February 2005, Human Rights researchers visited Darfur. As the researchers were speaking with the adults in Darfur, the children were given crayons and paper to draw. Without any instruction, the children began drawing



Artwork done by children in Darfur.

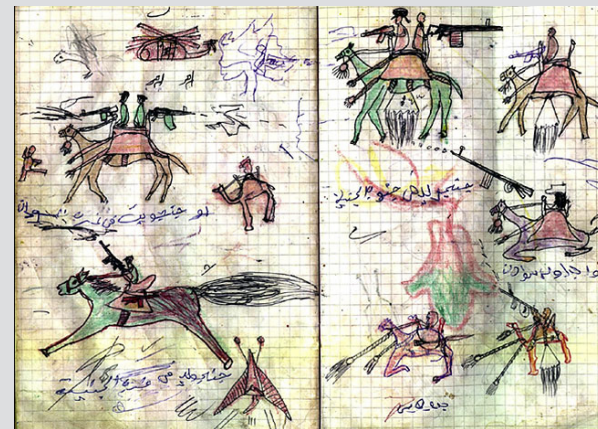


PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

killed. The most depressing part about the situation is that the group causing the violence, the Janjaweed, seems invincible. Although the Sudanese government denies

pictures of the violence occurring around their homes. The pictures were absolutely devastating, and depicted soldiers shooting civilians, planes dropping bombs on villages, and the Janjaweed carrying off women and children. These horrific pictures clearly express the devastating effect the violence is having on the children of Darfur. The children's drawings speak louder than their words, and in many cases, their artwork is their only form of communication. As a stronger voice hopes to rise for the children of Darfur, activist groups that aid in promoting awareness of the situation in Darfur hope to garner more support in ending this terrible conflict that has split a country and its people.

# Shooter Wounds Four, Kills Self in Cleveland

MATTHEW CONNELLY  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

In an incident that recalls several recent tragedies on high school and college campuses, a student at Cleveland's Success Tech Academy opened fire in the high school's hallways, wounding four before killing himself.

The gunman, 14-year-old Asa Coon, was serving a suspension for fighting when the shooting took place. He brought two guns, a .22 caliber revolver and a .38 caliber revolver, and equipped himself with a box of ammunition and three knives.

None of Coon's victims were fatally wounded. Students Michael Peek, 14, and Darnell Rodgers, 17, were wounded in the side and elbow, respectively. Both students, along with 14-year-old Trinetta McGrady, who injured her knee attempting to flee the school, were taken to the Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital, where they were deemed in stable condition the next day.

Social studies teacher Michael Grassie, 42, underwent surgery at Metro-Health Medical Center after being shot in the chest. Math teacher David Kachadourian, 57, was taken to the same facility after Coon shot him in the back. Both are currently in stable condition.

Police investigations have concluded that aspects of the incident, including the victims, were planned by Coon. "We do not believe this was a random shooting," said Cleveland Police Chief Michael McGrath. "It may have been the teachers he went to the school looking for. ... I believe they disciplined him in some manner."

The event harkens back to the now-infamous Virginia Tech massacre, in which a deranged shooter killed 32 people and wounded many more on April 16, 2007.

Coon had been arrested before for domestic violence, and had several other incidents in which weapons were involved. The shooting marks this year's sixteenth school-related attack in the United States



## The Best of the Girls

## Jersey Bands

RYAN WINCHOCK  
Staff Writer

New Jersey has been home to lots of the most famous singers or bands. There are some bands of the punk or hardcore type such as My Chemical Romance or MCR from Jersey City or punk rock veterans The Bouncing Souls from New Brunswick. MCR and The Bouncing Souls are the most famous bands out of Jersey that are still famous and putting out music.

Some bands that are newer to the rock scene are bands like Senses Fail from Bergen County who have put out singles such as "buried a lie" or "calling all cars" and have seen lots of time on the Warped Tour. Armor for sleep from Maplewood and Teaneck who in 2005 put out their first single titled "car underwater". Fountains of Wayne from Wayne who put out the still famous song "Stacy's mom" which almost everyone knows the chorus to.

The state of New Jersey has been kind to bands not only of the rock and punk type, but there is a long list of rap groups and artists. A woman, who started out as a rapper and now has grown and expanded her look, is Queen Latifah from Newark. Starting off as a rapper and now is the face of one of the biggest make-up companies in the world. She's built up one of the biggest careers and most diverse ones ever. From being a famous gangster rapper, to an actress after slimming down for her career. Her most famous role was the taxi driver in the movie Taxi with Jimmy Fallon.

Another famous rapper from the great state of New Jersey is a man named Reginald "Reggie" Noble. Also known as Redman, who has in the past put out albums titled "Whut? Thee album" and "muddy waters". Redman was named rapper of the year by "source" magazine in 1992. Redman has also starred in the movie, which has had the name stoner classic "How High".

## Fashion Forward

STEPHANIE SOLIS  
Staff Writer

At this time of year, the temperature drops and the clothing is expected to become less revealing. Still, students continue to wear low-cut tops and skirts, regardless of whatever climate it is. Those who feel the bitter cold settle in start to wear their jeans and fluffy sweaters. It is just too hot for winter attire and too cold for the risqué miniskirts and tanks. The winter trends lack shape and flow. What would we suggest for those who can't stand the muggy clothes, and for those who rebel against the school and our climate shift?

This year, fall fashion has formed a transition, from revealing to a more sophisticated look and allowing a variety of styles to emerge, centering a classy theme for the cooling fall.

Some styles include the popular combination of mini-dresses and leggings. The dress, fitting loosely over the torso, gives the body an elegant shape. There is a contrast in colors between leggings and mini-dresses, allowing a wider variety of vibrancy and design. The dresses are longer, and more delicate looking than the mini-skirts students wear year-round. Its chic appearance is perfect for warmer days.

Still, the days eventually grow bitter, and that's when you trade in your

miniskirt and halter-top for a baby-doll top and jeans. The baby-doll is more of a winter-based shirt with variety of colors and designs. The high-waistline gives the body a more defined shape, while the bottom flows down the torso, adding volume that accentuates a girl's hips. And for the low-cut tops, a camisole serves well underneath. Better yet, the baby-doll doesn't include a tight-fitting frame, so girls can wear it without feeling discomfort. The graceful appearance emerges, and it looks more fashionable than the tight shirts and thick sweaters usually worn around the fall and winter seasons.

There are a number of accessories that help to highlight the figure of the outfit. For any flowing dresses or shirts, a wide belt can be used to emphasize one's curves, and also keep the garments in place.

Even your hair could use some volume. Headbands give the hair a variety of styles to embellish an outfit, and especially if the headbands match the outfit's color.

Another small, but essential, accessory is jewelry. From long necklaces with charms that hang down the body to vibrant dangling earrings, jewelry is beautified with a sophisticated touch.

Fashion's transition allows girls to balance elegance with warmth, and proves that winter doesn't mean fighting the climate with teen trends.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYSPACE.COM/THERBEST OF THE WORST

JOE SCALA, JOE LEE, LIZ FACKELMAN, JASON SELVAGGIO, AND PATRICK CHUNG ARE ALL MEMBERS OF THE BEST OF THE WORST.

CARA SALERNO  
Staff Writer

The music business is a growing field for the male gender, but what about women? In today's popular music world, we have females in bands such as Paramore, Arch Enemy, The Yeah! Yeah! Yeahs!, and many more. How many girls do you see playing trombone in a band? Well, there is Liz Fackelman in The Best of the Worst and also a senior at NBTHS.

Beginning trombone in the 8th grade, Liz joined marching band in high school, and then The Best of the Worst last year. She is the only girl in the band, but she is perfectly alright with that. When the opportunity to play in TBOTW, Liz had no hesitations. With the music she loves and her best friends in the band, Liz has nothing to worry about. Although naturally, playing a first show with the band was pretty nerve-wracking. "When we first started playing, I would get kind of shy and self-conscious," states Liz. "How many girls do you know that play in a Ska/Punk band?! But I then realized how dumb it was to hold back and not fully enjoy myself."

With a strong foundation, Jason Selvaggio as lead vocals and guitar, Joe Scala on drums and backup, Patrick Chung on bass, and Joe Lee on trumpet, Liz says that her inspiration comes her friends and

their dedication to music. "It has been one of the best things I've been a part of. I'm making music with my friends. What more is there to ask for?"

To those who are familiar with Liz, she isn't really viewed as being different because she is a girl. Liz is extremely talented at playing the trombone, proving that gender does not matter. Unfortunately though, at shows, some guys can be pretty judgmental right off the bat. "You always run into a few each show that think you suck because of your gender. But after the first shows when you prove you're not just a "pretty face," respect builds up and it all goes away." Gender is a battle in quite a few male-dominated, or even female-dominated, fields; but the people who are talented will earn the respect that they deserve. "Maybe one day gender will never matter. But until then, I make sure I don't let it matter. We're all people anyway."

It takes courage and self-confidence to get to where Liz is now. The band is getting more recognition and has a variety of talented artists. Being a girl shouldn't affect how Liz's playing skills are viewed, or anything for that matter. When asked what she has to say to other girls aspiring to take part in a band, Liz says, "It's pretty simple. Have fun and forget about the rest. Play music because you love to play. That's all!"

## An Epidemic Revealed

VIANCA VARGAS  
Staff Writer

As students walk down the halls of NBTHS, it is not unusual to see friends embrace; couples kiss or hold hands, or students sharing drinks during lunch. These students feel comfortable in this environment and see school as a safe haven where meeting new people and forming lasting relationships is a part of their daily lives. What they do not know is how deadly each hug or kiss can be.

Meningococcal disease, or meningitis, is an infection caused by a virus or bacteria that results in inflammation of the membranes protecting the brain and spinal cord. Nearly 3,000 people in the United States are infected annually. Of those 3,000 people, approximately ten percent die. Twenty percent of those who survive are permanently affected by hearing loss, brain damage, organ failure, and limb amputations.

There are many different types of meningitis. The most common, though, are viral meningitis, the noncontiguous and less deadly, and bacterial meningitis, the airborne and deadlier.

Because the most common causes of meningitis is direct contact with secretions, such as kissing, coughing, and sneezing, it is most commonly seen amongst high school and college students. In fact, nearly thirty percent of reported cases have been high school or college aged students.

Last year, there was a student at NBTHS who contracted the illness. "I was so scared. I thought I had the flu, but much worse," says Samantha Subramani, now a junior. "It was so bad; I thought I was going to die. I would have rather died than have gone through that excruciating pain."

Subramani was out of school for over a month and a half with viral meningitis. She was so weak, she needed to be carried to the bathroom and had to have her eyes blindfolded because the lightest glare, even in the dark, would hurt her eyes.

Her head was pounding and a "build up" feeling was compressing, making it feel like it would "blow up". Fortunately, after weeks of treatment and having liquid removed from her spinal cord, which left her "immovable for over three days", she recuperated. Subramani now lives a normal teenage life.

Meningitis has many flu-like symptoms. How can you tell, then, if it's serious enough to consult a doctor? Well first off, it begins with flu like symptoms. This may include high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, delusion, confusion, vomiting, exhaustion, and/or rash.

According to the school nurse, Mrs. Blackborrow, if you have fever over 101 degrees for over 24 hours, and/or any of these symptoms for over three days, you should go see a doctor as soon as possible. To be on the safe side, doctors recommend immunization for adolescents of age 11-18 against the infection. To prevent meningitis, speak to your doctor about getting your vaccination.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW CONNOLLY

STUDENTS CAN PASS GERMS BY COUGHING. REMEMBER TO COVER YOUR MOUTH.



# How Your Car Affects Your World

RAFIA BAIG  
Staff Writer

Cars are nearly synonymous to the term "freedom." Most sophomores currently sitting in Drivers Education will agree that they can't wait to get behind the wheel. Juniors and seniors already driving will express just as blissfully that their cars are the best things to ever happen.

What many of them don't know is that their cars are, according to the Natural Resources Defense Council, "the worst environmental health threat in U.S. cities."

The average car is responsible for expelling nearly 25% of annual U.S. CO<sub>2</sub>, the primary gas in causing global warming. Even the EPA, a federal funded environmental agency, agrees that despite the new world-friendly cars currently in sale, automobile pollution has not improved significantly.

CO<sub>2</sub>, combined with other gases, essentially trap heat in the atmosphere and bake the Earth. This has detrimental effects: temperatures skyrocket, icecaps melt, water levels rise, and rain forests are destroyed, just to name a few.

In fact, a computer model in the mid-90's revealed that the Earth was most likely going to become an overheated planet and that cars are to blame.

Moreover, cars also consume a good chunk of the Earth's natural resources by using more than one-third of all U.S. energy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MATTHEW CONNOLLY

Specifically, the most wasteful automobile on the market is the SUV, spewing out 43% more global-warming pollution than the average car. In fact, using a SUV for a full year will waste more energy than if someone left the refrigerator door open for six years or left the TV on for 28 years.

There are things people can do to reduce these statistics. Choosing an

efficient vehicle will considerably affect CO<sub>2</sub> release. For example, a car with 20 miles per gallon will emit almost 50 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>, while a car that runs 40 miles on the gallon will not only emit half as much but will moreover save a driver roughly \$3,000 dollars in fuel costs.

Additionally, tuning the engine and keeping the tires inflated in a car can also help fuel effectiveness. If successfully

done nationwide, calculations show that gasoline use in the country would drop 2%. Tuning a car will also increase the car's miles per gallon anywhere from 4 to 40%.

Of course, one can always drive less. Even though it appears insignificant for a single person to change his or her car habits, one meager step is all that it takes to get the ball rolling in the effort to preserve the Earth.

## GET READY TO "SPRING" FOR A BIG "AWAKENING"

ABIGAIL SCHWARTZBERG  
Staff Writer

The lights dim, the audience grows quiet, and the curtains are pulled aside. In walks the cast of the Tony award winning musical, "Spring Awakening."

The musical will have you toe tapping the entire two hours, and fifteen minutes. The music flows, and the actors spill their hearts, showing raw teenage angst.

This is not your typical Broadway musical packed with an operatic tragedy. It is rather a "rock concert" if you will. The lighting is phenomenal, and it is as if you are seeing your favorite band live!

Watch the tear pour out during the song "The Dark I Know Well". Where you will find a character suffering from sexual abuse.

Another fellow cast member, Lea Michele says, "There aren't many present day musicals teenagers can relate to. This isn't just a realistic plot, these are current prob-

lems happening to the teenagers of today!"

Spring Awakening is based on a controversial Frank Wedekind play written in 1891. It was banned for almost 100 years. It takes place in Germany in the 1800's, and has many detailed side stories.

One deals with a young fourteen-year-old girl named Wendla (Lea Michele), who is not informed by her mother as to how babies are born. Another is Moritz (Jonathan Gallagher Jr.), who unfortunately tries to deal with failure, while going through changes in his body, which he does not understand. And finally the hero, the rebel, an atheist of the show, Melchior (Jonathan Groff), who is all about sticking it to the man. These are just a few of the many other side stories and characters that you'll be introduced too.

It will touch all of your emotions, laughter, tears, and still you will be humming the tunes as you leave the theatre.

## Teen Clubbing



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYSPACE.COM

MARIA SGROI  
Staff Writer

For many reasons, the four years spent in high school tend to hold a very large impact on whom teens will become in the future. They work very hard to obtain the knowledge needed to be successful in the future, and wasting it does not seem like an option. Of course, there are accidental mistakes that may cause rifts along the way.

To some, teen clubbing does not seem like the biggest issue, but what they do not realize are the true affects of teen clubbing.

A true fun event that takes place every weekend just for teens to chill and hang out with different people from different places. But is that always a good idea? According to [teenadvice.about.com](http://teenadvice.about.com) "Clubs are places where strangers come together to have a good time. For some people a good time comes at the expense of others. The more people around you that you do not know, the more you are at risk of being victimized by a stranger. Date rape drugs are a big problem at legal and illegal nightclubs." The website offers many valu-

able information for the average teen who plans on attending a teen event or a club.

Other negative aspect of teen clubbing includes the many club drugs. Teens rely on drugs to make their night exciting and wild. Ecstasy as well as alcohol, is secretly brought into these events. According to [teenadvice.about.com](http://teenadvice.about.com) also states "Club drugs like GHB and Rohypnol are used in "date rape" and other assaults because they are sedatives that can make unconscious and immobilize you." Some of the drugs being obtained at these clubs cause one to be under the influence and do certain things one wouldn't regularly do.

For adults who hold full responsibility for their children, their concern should be very high as their children attend these events. Not only does it mess up their attitudes but also their overall style, even behavior, making them pleased by the attention of the boys who surround them.

As you can see, teen clubbing never holds a good affect in a young teens life. Of course it is believed to be un, but too much fun can cause harm to teenagers.



## A Vegan Lifestyle

AMANDA MEAGHER  
Staff Writer

For most people, a fun night with friends involves socializing with one another, enjoying each other's presence, and just being able to eliminate cares and stresses. Sharing a pleasurable also, in many cases, includes being gathered together at mealtime and mingling with a delicious dish in front of you. Sometimes, though, for vegans, people who do not consume any animal products such as meat, dairy, or eggs, or use items such as wool or leather, the case of having a good time is not quite so simple.

Imagine a Friday night at a friend's house. You and most of your closest friends are gathered as stories and gossip is being exchanged. Many hours are spent deep in conversation while everyone enjoys himself or herself and stresses begin to dissolve. Soon, as time goes by, due to the fact that dinnertime is rolling around, a feeling of hunger overcomes everyone in the room.

To much of your disappointment, your friends suggest that pizzas be ordered to satisfy everyone's cravings. Trying to be polite, you decide not to speak up and remind your friends that you are a vegan, a quality which they somehow always seem to forget. Therefore, when the pizza arrives, being so overwhelmed by hunger, you decide it is best to return home in order for you to prepare a truly vegan meal.

While this scenario may not seem like such a problem if it occurs once in a while, a vegan must face stressful situations like this almost everyday. Whether he or she is going out to eat, having a meal at a friend's house, or just eating lunch in the school cafeterias, it can sometimes become very difficult for a vegan to find suitable food. Because of this, they are not always able to be so care-free. Instead, a vegan must remain uptight and cautious about their actions.

To many people, especially meat-eaters, living life with a vegan diet may appear extremely difficult to say the least. Constantly, people who claim that nothing

is worth giving up delights such as meat, cheese, and deserts, but it is only the people that have tried a vegan diet that know how much the lifestyle offers.



Although it brings about many difficulties, more positive possibilities and outcomes result from being a vegan.

After being asked their reasons for going vegan, many simply respond that it improves the lives of animals, the environment, and their health. These three topics

highlight just how beneficial a vegan diet can be overall.

To start off, a large percentage of people who adopt a vegan lifestyle do it to benefit the lives of many animals. In many situations, people feel a strong guilt for eating a dead animal and for this reason, they become a vegetarian. Still, those few people remain who are not completely satisfied with helping animals by just giving up meat. Therefore, they go beyond and adapt a vegan lifestyle in order to really make an effort to help animals and improve their lives.

Secondly, in a variety of ways, a vegan diet helps the environment. Animal agriculture, which raises animals for meat, is linked with many environmental problems. Since feed for farm animals requires land, fertilizer, and other resources that could have been used directly for food for humans, the food that the animals will provide is being produced inefficiently. Also, the production of farm animals is causing topsoil erosion, which makes the land less productive for crop cultivation.

Last, a vegan diet, when performed correctly, can be very beneficial to one's health. It is proven that the consumption of animal products is linked to heart disease, colon and lung cancer, osteoporosis, diabetes, kidney disease, hypertension, obesity, and a number of other terrible conditions. The American Dietetic Association reports that vegan diets are associated with reduced risks of all these conditions. It is evident that a vegan diet can be very complicated while also being very beneficial. The struggles of a vegan lifestyle can sometimes be frustrating, but it is the positive outcomes that help a vegan stay strong and be proud. IN many ways, vegans are displaying their strength by not giving in and being able to withstand difficulties and a lifestyle that many aren't strong enough to attempt.

So, when considering becoming a vegan, one should be prepared to endure many complications, questions and criticisms concerning their lifestyle. It is not something that everyone will agree with but if one is motivated enough to adopt a vegan lifestyle, it will definitely prove worthwhile for most people in the end.

## A New Kind of Convention

STEPHANIE CHEDID  
Staff Writer

Ever heard of Scranton, P.A.? Ever since the start of the hilarious, mock-umentary style show "The Office" was created, the answer to that question has changed from the common "Huh?" to "Of course! I love The Office."



PHOTO COURTESY OF GOOGLE IMAGES

The Office, starring the notorious actor, Steve Carell, takes place in the formerly under-rated Scranton; a beautiful city in Pennsylvania surrounded by mountains and filled with interesting people. Hoping to give Scranton the attention it deserves, Michele Dempsey, an architect and native of "The Electric City", came up with the idea for "The Office Convention." "If people leave here saying, 'I had a blast in Scranton,' then we have achieved our goal," said Michele when asked about his underlying goal for the convention.

The convention was held for three days, from October 26th to the 28th, in downtown Scranton. Tickets were sold ranging from \$25 to \$250, depending on what "category" they fell under. Four categories of tickets were available: Intern passes (\$25), Assistant to the Regional Manager passes (\$50), Regional Manager passes (\$100), and Corporate passes (\$250). Each ticket package came with varying access to events, the Corporate passes, being the most expensive, gave access to all limited-admission cast events, VIP cocktail parties, and more.

Exciting events were taking place in Scranton for the convention all weekend long. On Friday there was a live NBC Today Show broadcast with Al Roker at the University of Scranton, a convention kick-off reception at the Radisson Lackawanna Station Hotel, a student block party at US, and VIP Casino Night at Mohegan Sun at Pocono Downs. On Saturday was the street festival, the Office Olympics and awards, The Office wardrobe exhibit and cast Q&A at US, a VIP cocktail reception and a character look alike contest. Sunday, the final day of "The Office Convention" was another lively day of street festivals, cocktail receptions, continuous screenings of The Office, The Office Writers' Block, and much more.

For those who were unable to purchase tickets this year, next year you may have another chance. It has been said that this year is only the beginning of "The Office Convention" and that there will be more conventions to come.

## What Colleges Look for in Prospective Students

JUSTIN SERRANO  
Staff Writer

For seniors, this is critical information for their future. At the end of the school year, seniors will be deciding what college they will want to attend. Well you may want to attend it, but that doesn't mean you will be able to. Colleges look for different qualities in students besides if you get an A or and F.

Many people who are athletic may consider joining a high school team. For example, there is opportunity to join the football, soccer, baseball, basketball, cross-country, or lacrosse team.

This may also lead to a possible scholarship opportunity and because college costs so much, students could use the extra help. Mr. Speller, the school's sports executive says, "about five

students yearly get sports scholarships."

Colleges will also be interested in knowing if you have any background in foreign languages. For example, if you can speak one of the languages the high school provides you to take such as, Spanish, Italian, German, and French.

You may also know a language from your own personal culture. For example, if you are Chinese you could know how to speak Chinese.

They are also interested in other useful traits you have. For example, if you know how to work a camera and know how to do interesting changes to what you recorded.

Yes, grades are important, but it's not all about getting an A. for a student to be an all around student, they have to participate in other activities while keeping a steady grade.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WWW.GOOGLE.COM



# STUDENTS AND DRUGS: is there a problem?

## POLL SHOWS NBTHS DIVIDED ON DRUGS

VIVEK DHOTREKAR  
Contributing Writer

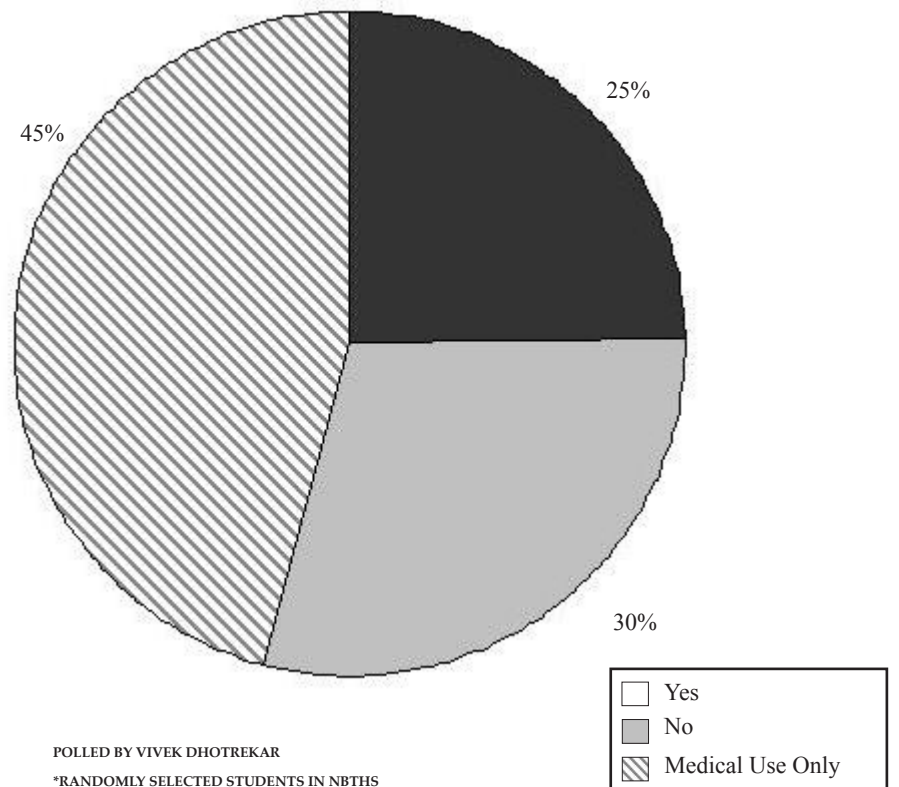
In the polling that our AP Government and Politics class conducted, I selected to analyze the following question: "Do you think marijuana should be legalized in the United States?" The question had the following answer choices: "yes," "no," or "medical use only." In order to fully analyze the question, I decided to match it up with gender. After tallying all the votes, I counted that a total of 166 people voted out of which 80 were males and 86 were females. 28 males and 13 females said yes, 18 males and 31 females said no, and 34 males and 42 females said for medical use only.

The results clearly show that most males were in favor of legalizing marijuana for medical purposes although the "Yes" option had a close number of

voters too. As for females, the option "for medical use only" won by a landslide. The majority of males voted for either "yes" or "for medical use only." The majority of females voted for either "no" or "for medical purposes." However, there were very few males that voted for "No" and even less females who voted for "yes."

As a whole, more males seemed to vote for the legalization of marijuana (whether it be for medical purposes or not). On the other hand, females generally tended to vote against its legalization or voted for legalizing it solely for medical purposes. Most females voted predominantly "For medical use only" (42 votes) and very few voted for "Yes" (13 votes). In the end, males voted more liberally for the legalization of marijuana and women a bit more conservatively.

### SHOULD MARIJUANA BE LEGALIZED?



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## It's "Cool" to Be Down

VIANCA VARGAS  
Staff Writer

Many teens that identify themselves as "emo" listen to depressing music and dress in dark clothes to show their inner feelings, but is it a real expression and identification, or just a group of kids following a silly trend?

It seems as if every teen nowadays is bragging about his/her latest self-inflicted wounds, how miserable life is, or how suicide is their only way out. There was actually a time when teens omitted private information from the general public. Therapy, antidepressants, or diagnosed disorders were not the main conversation at lunch tables. Those days have been taken over by adolescents who seek this negative attention as comfort. Therapy and professional help can be extremely helpful if needed, but why have a "shrink" just to show him off?

"My shrink thinks I'm clinically depressed and I'm taking a happy pill now!" are words said too often in the halls of NBTHS, amongst other high schools across the country. Students speak of bulimia, anorexia, cutting, suicidal thoughts, and other topics meant to be taken seriously, as a joke. It is now considered "cool" to be "emo", or an emotional wreck looking at life as a nightmare instead of at the bright side of life. "I feel as if in order to fit in, in order to be 'cool', I MUST hate life. I MUST want to kill myself, but that's not the case at all,"

says a junior at our school.

Many other students feel the same way she does. With more and more students participating in harmful situations for this negative attention, it has become quite difficult to tell which student is genuinely depressed and which is just a "poser", according to school counselor, Ms. Rao.

Instead of trying to get this attention from possibly harmful situations, attempt becoming involved in a sport, or other hobby. Find an activity worth your while, while also beneficial. Helping out younger children learn to read, or helping kids who are terminally ill is a productive way to see life a bit more positive and to be seen as a great human being.

There is no reason high school students should alter their way of being to please a trend or their peers. Be unique and genuinely be yourself. No one can tell you who you really are is wrong and you shouldn't be influenced to think so. You don't have to be depressed to be popular or cool, look on the bright side of life and be true to yourself.

Keep in mind, though, that if you think you or a fellow student/friend is depressed, speak to a professional immediately. You can never be too sure if the person is actually depressed or faking it. If you or someone you know is contemplating or speaking of suicide, seek professional help. And no matter what problems are going on in life, remember to always see the glass as half full!



# The Great Debate: Should marijuana be legalized?

ADITYA RAINA  
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Marijuana, the so-called gateway drug, has, for the past century or so, been grouped together with the likes of cocaine, heroine, and other heavy narcotics; however, this stimulant has garnered an undeserved bad reputation. Due to the fact that it has been so thoroughly outlawed in almost all the states, it is very difficult to prove that the attacks against cannabis hold any weight.

However, the medical benefits of hashish can be seen; this is especially true in the case of patients suffering from glaucoma. Along with the medical benefits, one should take into account of illegal activity that takes place because of the illegalization of marijuana.

If it were legal the government could regulate its sale, and therefore curb the prominence of the black market in drug trafficking and gain revenue from the sales. One must keep in mind that in order to keep marijuana illegal many try to use propaganda, such as the harmful effects of it, yet the deaths from marijuana are considerably less than those from any other harmful substance.

As many people slowly begin to realize that the negative connotation associated with ganja is a farce and that marijuana's benefits greatly outweigh its downfalls, they will begin to push for few-

er restrictions on the misjudged plant.

With the restrictions on marijuana, as they are now, the black market has become quite dangerous. With numerous accounts of violence regarding the possession and distribution of drugs, especially marijuana, urban areas have become cesspool of crime, and the abuse of harmful substances is running rampant. Various experts have suggested a solution to this problem, yet one proposal has definitely proved to be pragmatic and effective.

With the legalization of marijuana, many illegal transactions can be avoided altogether. If this proposal is put into effect, no longer will this so-called illicit substance be bought, sold, and fought over in the black market. After the legalization of marijuana, the government can take control of the retail of the substance and therefore

make revenue on the taxes levied on the transactions. Seeing the evident problems that arise with the illegal distribution of said substances, the government should take action and legalize this potentially profitable plant.

What angers advocates of marijuana is the terrible reputation that precedes

the substance. Very early on in one's education, one is taught to steer clear of so-called drugs; however, we have no evidence that these substances

are drugs, we just take the words of "experts" as fact. It has been proven that one can not die from an overdose of marijuana; in fact, according to World Almanacs, Life Insurance Actuarial (death) Rates, and the last 20 years of U.S. Surgeon Generals' reports there has not been a death associated to marijuana, whereas for legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco are responsible

for 150,000 and 450,000 deaths respectively. It has been claimed that there has never been a documented cannabis-induced fatality.

California has been most commonly associated with medical marijuana, but the use of cannabis for medical purposes has been legalized in 9 other states, Colorado, Alaska, Arizona, Hawaii, Maine, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, and Maryland. The laws in these states vary but essentially they state that the use of marijuana is applicable for problems such as arthritis, cachexia, cancer, chronic nervous system disorders, chronic pain, Crohn's disease, epilepsy and other seizure disorders, glaucoma, HIV or AIDS, multiple sclerosis and other muscle spasticity disorders, and help patients cope with severe migraines, severe nausea, and the side effects of chemotherapy.

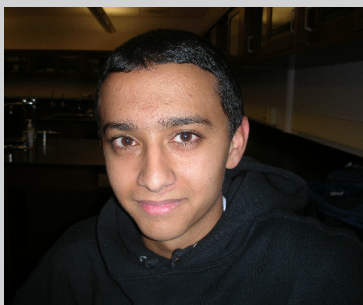
Due to this and the slow acceptance of the substance, marijuana is now used daily by people throughout the world. It is estimated that anywhere from twenty million to fifty million Americans routinely smoke marijuana illegally, without the benefit of direct medical supervision.

Cannabis, for several decades, has been unnecessarily been given a bad name by those who know very little about it. If our nation is built on values that tell its people to never judge a book by its cover, how can these same citizens reject marijuana use without any valid reason?

*"According to World Almanacs, Life Insurance Actuarial (death) Rates, and the last 20 years of U.S. Surgeon Generals' reports there has not been a death associated to marijuana, whereas for legal substances such as alcohol and tobacco are responsible for 150,000 and 450,000 deaths respectively."*

## what we think!

### Are you for or against legalizing marijuana?



*I'm for [legalization].  
People should be able to  
do what they want*  
-Johann Pavri



*Only if it's necessary for  
a serious situation, such  
as hospitalized marijuana*  
-Yoona Hong



*No, [drugs] are bad for  
you*  
-Amit Singh



*I'm for [legalization], but  
only for health purposes*  
-Pamelita Romero



*I'm definitely against  
all drugs. They're very  
dangerous*  
-Ti-Yonia Mincey



*Yes, but it has to be  
controlled.*  
-Michael Zankel



*Not at all!*  
-Justin DiPoto



# Muzzcot: Our Best Mascot Yet

STEPHANIE CHEDID  
Staff Writer

The mascot is back with a new uniform, and better than ever. The latest attraction at the football games hasn't even been the football players running down the



PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY CHEN

field or even the cheerleaders doing their halftime routine, but our new mascot, Muzzamil Syed. Muzz has made his mark as one of the liveliest NBTHS mascots ever. He started off the season while doing the worm across an impressive length of the field while the cheerleaders did their routine, and taking a little attention away from them with his talent. The new mascot explained that he feels he is more than just a mascot; he is the physical manifestation of school spirit: "I think that everyone should be informed that if you go to school, whether you like

sports or not, you should make an effort to attend the football games because the team represents you, and without a fan base the team is nothing," Muzz added in a recent interview.

The NBTHS mascot is an unusual one, though, since it is actually two mascots combined: a raider and an eagle. After being asked what it felt like to be a mythical creature for a mascot, since there is no such thing as a "Raider Bird," he gave the perfect response:

"Well, I look at it this way...A raider is someone who disrupts things, steals things, and is a beast. By being a "Raider Bird" I am the disruptor of the air. I am stronger than a vulture, faster than an eagle, better looking than a penguin, and sexier than a dove. I own the skies." Not only does Muzz own the skies, but he also owns the field.



PHOTO COURTESY OF WENDY CHEN

## How About International Sports for a Change?

SAMPADA NANDAYLA  
Staff Writer

North Brunswick Township High School boasts of being a mixture of people who belong to a great variety of cultures and ethnicities. Students with origins from almost every corner of the globe attend this school. When there is such diversity in the school's student body itself, why are the other aspects of NBTHS not as varied?

The school does celebrate its cultural and ethnic diversity, through clubs and other similar activities, but it can do much more by adding an array of different sports choices, such as badminton, cricket, and rugby.

NBTHS would not be the first in New Jersey to put this idea into action. In fact, the Garden State has a few organizations that introduced these foreign games to the public. One such organization is the family oriented Central Jersey Badminton Club. This club's goal is to be open to all players of different levels of skills so that every badminton lover can enjoy playing this activity.

The North Jersey Rugby Football Club is another association that offers an international game to the public. One can guess from the name that the activity enthused here is rugby, a worldwide sport originating in Britain. This association already has team members from all over New Jersey; people from over seven different counties come to play a part in the game of rugby. They compete in the Metropolitan New York Rugby Union, Division III Men's League.

The Cricket League of New Jersey allows the public to learn about and play the British game of cricket. This non-profit organization has over thirty-five teams and more than a thousand players. With their seasons starting in April, the teams play fifteen season games, and the playoffs at the end.

When students at NBTHS were asked whether or not these global sports should be offered here at the school, 88.9% voted yes. When asked which sport would be the most appreciated if it were added to the school's sports program, the majority voted for badminton, followed by rugby, then cricket. A few students voted for the category of other games, and some suggested the sport of sumo wrestling as their opinion of a possible choice for an option.

If the school were to offer these international sports as options, not only would it be giving opportunities to those who are not so interested in the regular activities, it would also be celebrating its cultural diversity. According to the results of the survey, it seems that the majority of the students want to see these sports on the future lists of tryout sessions, which makes it even more important that they be introduced. If this suggestion was accepted and these global games were made part of the North Brunswick Township High School's athletics program, there would be a smile on every student's face. Then, the school would wholeheartedly be celebrating its diversity.

## Fame, Fortune, Dog Fighting?

MICHELLE BARTHOLE  
Staff Writer

Fortune, fame, and glamorous lifestyle should be more than enough to keep the average person content. For Atlanta Falcons quarterback Michael Vick, however, this lifestyle was evidently not satisfying enough. What reasonable motive could a man making millions of dollars have to risk his comfortable life, financial security, and reputation?

Whether it was for the thrill of gambling or the suspense of the fight, the fact remains that Michael Vick has invested thousands of dollars into the multi billion-dollar dog fighting industry. Michael Vick has created a reputation for himself in the dog fighting world, as the man who comes with a lot of money and is ready to gamble it away.

According to a interview by ESPN, an anonymous dog fighter, who has been involved in dog fights for over thirty years, and has trained and fought around 2,000 pit bulls stated, "...His dog has squared off against a dog owned by someone referred to as one of the 'heavy weights' of the dog fighting world: Michael Vick."

In addition to several witnesses claiming to have seen Vick at several dogfights, at a house owned by Vick in Surry County, VA. Authorities found 66 dogs, a dog-fighting pit, blood stained carpets, and dog fighting equipment. Vick was not at the scene and denied knowing about any dog fighting taking place

Oddly enough, Michael Vick is not the only professional athlete who has been linked to dog fighting. Although it is a felony in almost every state, two well-known athletes caught in the business include former NBA player Qyntel Woods and former NFL running back LeShon Johnson. Both of these men faced criminal charges.

The human society estimates that between 20,000 and 40,000 people in the USA take part in dog fighting.

Authorities are questioning how someone as famous as Michael Vick, who has gone to fights attended by hundreds of people, was able to keep this part of his life a secret for so long. There answer lies in a code of silence among the supporters of the dog fighting industry.

Although Vick's punishment is still unknown, the NFL released this statement: "Dog fighting is cruel, degrading and illegal. We support a thorough investigation into any allegations of this type of activity. Any NFL employee proved to be involved in this type of activity would be subject to prompt and significant discipline under our personal conduct policy."

Its unbelievable that someone as fortunate as Vick got wrapped up in the cruel, brutal, and merciless world of dog fighting. Michael Vick's dog fighting is causing a stir in both football and the dog-fighting world. Dog fighters are scared that he will release their names in exchange for less jail time, and the NFL will have to punish him in some way if the charges against him are not dropped.

## The 2007 MLB Playoffs: Win or Go Home

RJ BARKELEW  
Staff Writer

Yes it's that time again sports fans, it's October and you know what that means: it's time for the MLB playoffs. This past season was certainly a great one, with huge rivalries resurfacing and more down to the wire games. If you thought regular season baseball was exciting; then you haven't seen anything yet.

Throughout the year many teams were jostling with each other to win their respective divisions and show why they deserved to be in the playoffs.

This year has certainly been an electrifying year for baseball fans. With so many teams knowing what's at stake year in and year out, you know that this will definitely be a year to remember. The eight teams that did make it to the postseason this year are the best of the best, and they should be congratulated for their hard work and effort. Those teams to make it to the postseason are the Chicago Cubs, the Philadelphia Phillies, the Arizona Diamondbacks,

and the Colorado Rockies all of which are representing the National League. The teams representing the American League this season are New York Yankees, the Boston Red Sox, Cleveland Indians and the Anaheim Angels.

All these teams have the capability of playing great baseball and one of them will be lucky enough to emerge as the World Series champs of 2007.

There were some key matchups in the first round of the playoffs. In the NLDS the Cubs took on the Diamondbacks and the Phillies took on the Rockies.

In the ALDS the Yankees took on the Indians while the Angels took on the Red Sox. But as we have seen so far the teams that get hot at the right time will be the ones that advance. It was rather unfortunate to learn that the first teams that were eliminated from the first round of play were the Cubs, Angels, Phillies, and Yankees. We wish the best of luck to eliminated teams in their future games and remind them that there is always next year. As for the ones that did survive the first round, there is still more baseball to be played. Now that the first round of playoff action is



over we can now look ahead to the ALCS and the NLCS.

In the ALCS it will be the red hot Boston Red Sox vs. The Cleveland Indians in what should be a great series. In the NLCS it will be the rolling Rockies vs. The Arizona Diamondbacks in what should be a very interesting series.

The winners of both of these series will earn the right to play each other in the illustrious World Series of 2007. Who will win, we don't really know, but you can certainly guarantee that all the teams still playing will put everything on the line to win it all.



## RAIDER FOOTBALL

ELIJAH YARBOROUGH  
Staff Writer

The North Brunswick Raiders football team, fighting for a spot this year for a chance at the state championship, has produced some high-quality athletes on the field. Players such as Mike Cole and Pushaun Brown have helped lead the Raiders to victory several times this year and also have made a name for themselves outside of this town. With colleges such as Rutgers coming to games to scout them out, North Brunswick has shown they too have some players with talent that can take them past high-school football.

Pushaun Brown has played running back for North Brunswick's varsity team since his sophomore year and had high expectations for his senior year. He displayed his talent rushing for 300 yards on 27 carries in a single game this season and has been the workhorse of the offense.

Mike Cole controls the line on both offense and defense this season



and still has his senior year to look forward to. With obvious talent as a freshman and a starting spot last year, Cole has the experience and talent to play as a big factor on this team. "I just want to do all I can to help our team win," says Cole when asked how he feels about his role on the team.

New varsity players such as linebackers Doug Garback, and Nick Genovese have helped the defense, along with the help of Adeniyi Adenugba making some noise on special teams returning kicks and on the offense as a wide receiver. The defense shows that they can play tough when need be and the offense has shown that they can overpower a defense at times which means that when put together, the Raiders have the potential to be a team feared throughout the division. All levels have shown promise for the future and have created talented players out of themselves working very hard in the off-season through lifting in the weight room and conditioning themselves with running during the summer. Even the freshman team has had much success this year showing that they too will be a part of Raider victories in the future.

## NFL SEASON REVIEW

VINNY ABBRUSCATO  
Staff Writer

This NFL season has been full of surprises. From the Green Bay Packers starting 4-1 all the way to the San Diego Chargers being 2-3. It just goes to show you that the NFL is completely unpredictable.

The top teams in the league are the same as always. Those teams being New England and Indianapolis. Right now nobody at all looks to be close to the skill level of those two. Both of them being 5-0 already makes them the super bowl favorites. Patriots especially look like a team that can be the next '72 Miami Dolphins, the only team in the history of the NFL to go undefeated. But that is something that could change at any moment of the season.

In the NFC it looks to be another wide-open year. There really is no clear-cut favorite to go to the super bowl. The only team that looks somewhat of a favorite is the Dallas Cowboys who are undefeated. Even with that though they really are not that much of a powerhouse after watching the struggle they had against Buffalo last Monday night.

So all in all it just goes to show you that anything is possible in the NFL. People wanted parody and it apparently seems like the league is heading in that direction, with the exception of a couple teams. Those teams being the Patriots and Colts who seem to be in a completely different league.

## North Brunswick Raiders: Do We have the Spirit??

ANGIE O'DOWD  
Staff Writer

Late on a Friday night, the Steve Libro Stadium roars with anticipation as the clock winds down... eleven seconds left, and we are still down by two...five seconds, and in an instant Matt Primavera has surpassed the defense, scoring a touchdown, and leading the North Brunswick Raiders to victory!

A navy blue and gold wave erupts through the crowd, and in an instant the school bell for the end of the day rings, and you are prod from your deep slumber and off towards the team room to, yet another, football game where the only fans waiting for you afterwards will be your parents and your little brother.

You think to yourself, why even bother joining a team? Why even take time out of my social life to hear

my parents yell at me from the bleachers? Do we all not get enough of that at home?

Well, the only advice that comes to mind is that you should just keep on doing what you're doing because by being involved in a North Brunswick high school sport, are a team player. You, unlike most of your schoolmates, have school spirit. Whilst you wish that your friends had some faith in their school, it is very likely that they just do not want to take time to go to games.

This is why, one day, my fellow students, we will gain some school spirit. Why even bother wearing blue and gold if you are not willing to show up to games?

We Need to believe in our Raiders because they, I accept as true, above all, have the spirit and the drive to call themselves North Brunswick Raiders. North Brunswick is our town, and representing it comes with the territory.



## BOYS SOCCER STARTS STRONG

SURAE MAGRUF  
Staff Writer

Truth is the sports sections of countless school newspapers tend to be alike. I mean that they're usually adorning their sports teams whether deserving or not! Although there's no point of denying that this year's Varsity Boys Soccer deserves every word of praise they get. Can we describe beating New Brunswick 6 to 0 as more than a suitable job? Come on people, they're 1st in their group while ranked 4th in the entire state.

The guys have played a sum of around seventeen matches so far this season and let me carelessly add; they're currently undefeated. I could write down that fellow players were timid when asked about their successful streak. Then I'd be lying for they were a bit less than bashful but who would blame them? Bottom line is they're proud of their accomplishments. May it be simply luck? No instead it's pure determination and teamwork. The athletes together agreed that they feel as if everything is finally coming together. One concurs, "We're all clicking well."

All right you know you cannot walk around saying the '07 soccer team is okay especially with such exceptional players. For example, Ibrahim Kamara, who was awarded a full scholarship for soccer, has been sweeping fields clean with his moves. Of course, he's not the only one proving to be less talk and more action. Have you ever been to a soccer game and heard the crowd swoon at the skillfully clever passes between players seen? Now some of these winning games wouldn't be possible if it wasn't for the incredible saves from this year's goalies such as Matt Perella, Angelo Iovino, and Teddy Haws.

"At this point of the season, we're proud of the players' accomplishments. Any time your team runs the table and finishes undefeated in divisional plays, your players earn respect and admiration than all the rest," re-

marked Stan Williston, coach of Varsity Boys Soccer. "We're looking forward to upcoming tournaments and hoping to continue our successful run as we compete against some of the best teams in the state." Do I even need to give further credit to the notable coach and his awe-inspiring managing?

Now let's get started on the more ardent wins made by the team. Three words: Raiders vs. Sayreville. If you know about Raiders soccer then you would know that this rivalry is too intense to take jokingly. Last year, Raiders suffered two losses against Sayreville scoring 1 to 2 with the first game and the second was 1-3. Despite this they didn't lose their confidence and bounced back this season. Uncannily Sayreville had loss to Raiders twice this season.

"It felt good to get revenge," stated Jeff Peragallo. A few weeks later, Raiders would have their second Sayreville game with Peragallo giving the rivals their comeuppance scoring the winning goal.

"We're an underrated team by most of the other teams in the state," contributed Brian Lewis. Indeed they once were but that was then. These days, the boys are coming from behind storming the scoreboard and shocking the competition.

However being underestimated wouldn't prove to be a problem during Greater Middlesex Conference Championships, which commenced for the Raiders on the 20th of October. "We're excited about the GMC's. We all are feeling confident," commented Eric Otterbein.

They most definitely are. Within three days Raiders conquered Old Bridge and Perth Amboy during the first and second rounds of GMC.

You've read all about the achievements made by the soccer team. However the guys couldn't help but credit a very important group of people, the crowd. Their support has become something essential for the players. Whether they look towards the crowd to fire them up or to give them that one last boost of confidence.

A popular game with the plays was the one that took place on the 3rd of October against Woodbridge. You might think this is because the boys won 4 to 0 instead it was the crowd. The bleachers were flooded with family, friends, and many students.

That night the crowd took participation becoming one with the game. One of the most comical sights that night was the constant yelling from students berating the referee. Also, there was the stooping the bleachers and screaming encouraging comments to players. Oh, allow us not to dismiss the crowd's singing at the end of the game. Yet none of these can match up to the name chant of goalie, Teddy Haws. Numerous students called out his name prompting him to begin practicing throws and stretching on the sideline with Matt Perella and cuing Haws to be placed in the game. During the game when opposing players would try to make a goal and miss the students would chant, "You can't score on Teddy!"

Haws thoroughly relished the moment. "I really enjoy being on the team," he expressed simply.

You can certainly bet the boys agreed games with a crowd like the one that night is the sort wanted often. What for? Sure, what the team truly needs to do is keep winning their games since it's the main objective. Though the support of other Raiders is one of those small things that count for a lot. Matt Perella adds some of his input, "Now that we're winning more games, we're hoping to see more school spirit."

So the next time you have time to spare while a soccer game is planned that day, try your best to attend it. After all, it's the least we can do for the guys bringing back all those titles for us to bask in.

\* These were the statistics of October 25, 2007. As of October 26, the Boys Varsity Soccer team had their first loss to East Brunswick. The score was 3-1. Their ranks have not changed.



# The Stress of SATs

ADITYA RAINA  
Co-Editor in Chief

As getting admission into prestigious universities gets ever more difficult, the SAT's are playing a continuously larger role in applications. However, many argue that the role that this infamous standardized test plays is getting too large, and is starting to eclipse other significant parts of a student's application. The diminishing acceptance rates at reputable universities is either an indication of the apparent decline in America's world renowned education, or it may be a sign of greater competition in schools making getting into world renowned colleges that much harder; however, there is no argument over the fact that the SAT's are getting more consequential and pivotal as years go by.

With Harvard University having an acceptance rate of 9%, it is no surprise that the college application process has become so cutthroat. To even catch the attention of such prestigious schools, such as Ivy League schools, one must accomplish something spectacular that stands out from the rest, and it is clear that to do something of that caliber is very difficult, to say the least. Being an underclassman, I can see many seniors and juniors struggling to get the attention of colleges, and one way is by achieving a high SAT score, and at times it can seem impossible. The let down of not getting into one's dream school is terrible; as one walks through the hallway one can hear who got in where, and about the disappointment and sorrow of those who were unable to get into the college of their dreams. Seeing the students who do not get in where they had hoped is always discouraging, and makes putting in extra effort for that slim chance of getting into a distinguished university seem pointless.

Seeing the disappointment during college admission time is a big dampener on a student's will to put in that extra effort. Why try so hard if one has less than a 15% chance in getting into an acclaimed university, especially if thousands of other applicants are also contending for your spot? Why study so much and stress out over every grade if one sees the kid who studied

non-stop for his entire high school career, taking part in very few fun activities, and ended getting waitlisted and rejected from his top choices, and settling for his safety school? The amount of work, time, and effort that it takes for a prestigious college to recognize someone is utterly ridiculous; with extra-curricular activities, grades, sports, the SAT's and other major tests, and of course all the little things that make an application perfect it has become impossible to fit in everything into the 4 years of high school.

With cutthroat competition comes pressure, and pressure is the cause of many problems. For many there is always the pressure to always do well, whether it is school or anything else, he or she must be the best; for many B+'s are not good enough. Parental pressure is always a culprit, and for the most part many students are only motivated by their parent's continuous pressure until the point where they are just used to the extreme amounts of stress and pressure put on them by others and themselves. Parental pressure can get one the good grades, but at what cost? Can those grades really get you into a college with an acceptance rate of 10%, probably not.

Many students hate the monotony of school and the pressures involved, others just do not motivate themselves, and it results in apathy towards academics. Why waste away one's life studying? Students are more concerned with making their high school times memorable, which is completely understandable, and consider the stress of school as a deterrent one it comes to having fun. If one has no chance of get-

ting into the university of his or her dreams what's the point worrying about school? This predetermined pessimism is the cause for lack of effort along with pressure, the difficulty in getting into a college, and unfair evaluations.

Slowly SAT's are becoming the sole gauge of one's intelligence, but as of now colleges still take other aspects of a

but so many others may have the same or similar number, so which one of you gets in? Along with this predicament, there is also the problem of uneven judging. One person can not read all the applications, so the solution is to have many, many readers. However with this comes the fact that each reader will have their own evaluation process and expectations. The decision process that takes place at universities' admissions offices is very flawed, and they lead to pressure, stress, disappointment, and sorrow.

SAT's are the epitome of the stress and pressure for a student because of the immense role it seems to play these days in college admissions. No one test should hold so much weight when one's future is in the balance. Anything could happen that one day to affect the results of the test. Although SAT's supposedly gauge one's abilities in basic math and English, they cannot properly determine one's true capabilities; some people just are not good test takers, and this characteristic can totally throw off a test score, which will determine what college one will get into.

As admission into college gets more competitive students get more discouraged, yet this does not stop the colleges with such low acceptance rates. With pressure coming from every which way it is no surprise that many students eventually give up in trying to get into their dream school. Many will say that each student can only work up to his or her ability, but I feel everyone is capable of the getting into the so called prestigious schools. After hearing of heartbreaks from seniors many can see that getting into college is not getting any easier, and this should not be the case. Colleges have begun to set impossible bars, and expect applications that, in all truthfulness, are impossible to attain. Along with flawless applications, SAT's continue to gain precedence, and due to this many are panicking because it literally means that one test will determine a person's future. There is no need for so much competition, pressure, and stress because frankly they only waste time, and time is for enjoyment not unnecessary toil.

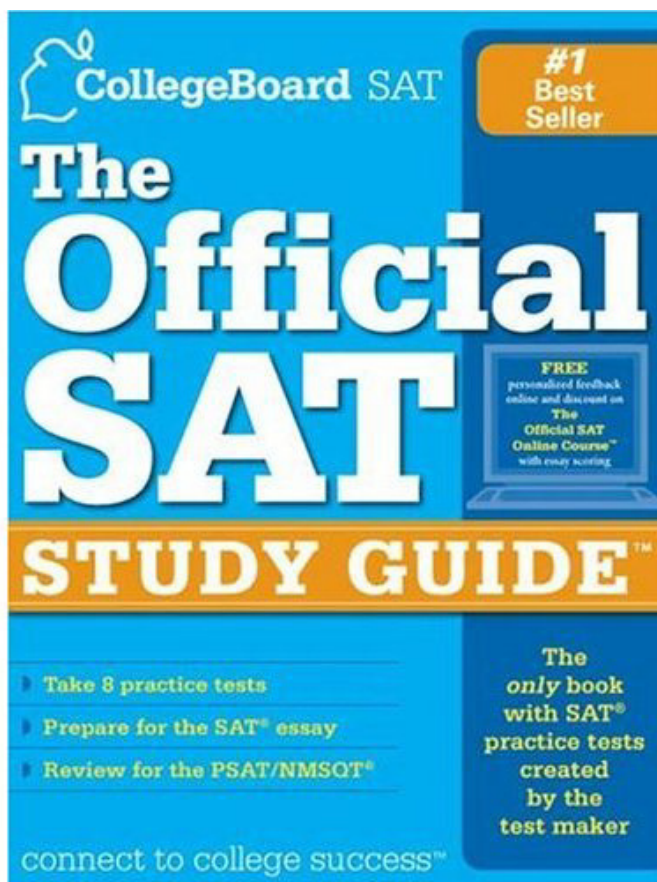


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student into consideration. However, even with this taken into consideration, college admissions and applications are skewed. Out of the thousands of applicants universities are likely to pick a handful of students to attend their school, and this judgment process is very trivial. With so many applicants, there is no doubt that many are very similar, so how does a college application reader judge who gets in and who does not? Your GPA may be 4.4

# Dancing Dilemmas

SILVIA LA VENUTA  
Staff Writer

In the past, dances were events where students could go and have an exciting time. Well, that's all changing now. When kids get out of control at dances, they don't realize that their consequences affect everyone; an enjoyable experience soon turns into a catastrophic time.

Many believe that these events should not be canceled for the entire student body. Besides the students that "spoil" the dances, there are many other individuals that go simply to hang out with friends and dance. Crazy as it seems, there are still kids in this school that go to have fun! Yet since the chaperones see some kids drinking and dancing in a provocative way, they assume other students will copy these actions.

The students that behave in the correct manner should be allowed to attend dances. For instance, the freshmen have never done anything to deserve their right to attend a dance taken away; they

have just arrived at the high school and should not be reprimanded for the upperclassmen's actions.

Freshmen come to NBTHS hoping for a full high school experience. Without dances, freshmen will not get the chance to have the time of their lives, as many students have in the past. One of the reasons freshmen feel so comfortable in this school are the dances; dances help the students feel welcome and get the opportunity to associate with different people. Therefore, events that benefit students, such as dances, should not be taken away. Of course there are going to be many parents, teachers, and even some students that do not agree with this statement; however, I feel that canceling dances is not the best way to stop kids from drinking or dancing in an inappropriate manner.

Dances are a tradition that NBTHS has had for many years. Taking away dances from the students is not allowing current and future high school students from experiencing the exciting thrill. the exciting thrill.





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## LACK OF ROLE MODELS?

FARNAZ MANSOURI  
*Co-Editor in Chief*

I'm sure we can all recall, as children, the one person we looked up to the most, some sort of role model. This person was someone we respected, someone whose actions we copied to a certain extent on the road to developing our own character. For some, this person is a family member, a neighbor, a teacher, a public figure, or a celebrity. However, at this day and age, we see how idiotic people in the limelight tend to act, and we have to ask ourselves, why are we so consumed with their actions? There are young girls and boys all over our nation who look up to these "stars" as their idols, copying their brainless actions, and slowly turning into their clones. When you really think about it, these are the same kids that will be running our nation in the next twenty years or so; without proper guidance, will the next generation be prepared for what is ahead?

It is truly sad to see the decline in morals and val-

ues from when we were younger. We remember names just as Britney Spears or N'SYNC, who we used to look up to and regard with such reverence. Nowadays, all we hear about are stories of the chaos Britney Spears has caused, or new sex tapes released by some phony celebrity dying to get their name out in the public. With examples such as these constantly in news, kids are exposed to mature matters much younger than they should be, leading them to go out and experience things at a stage in their life where they are too immature to process the consequences of their actions.

It's been said that wisdom comes with age. If this is so, why have our stars and starlets abandoned their moral high ground and poisoned the minds of our nation's youth? Without proper guidance, the newest generation will grow up unfit to lead this country in the years to come. I'm not asking Britney Spears to take the fate of the nation on her shoulders, but as a nation we need to recognize that children and preteens need a respectable figure to look up to, on the long journey to becoming their own person.

## Darfur—gotten

ADITYA RAINA  
*Co-Editor in Chief*

Bush's war in Iraq, an unpopular conflict that has been getting worse for approximately four and a half years, has slowly overshadowed all other turmoil around the world, especially the tragedy that has been perpetrated, unchecked by the rest of the national audience, in Darfur. However, there are some people who are not completely ignorant to the horrific event occurring in Sudan, yet one must keep in mind that talk is cheap. With the appearance of 'Save Darfur' shirts and 'Save Darfur' Facebook groups one would believe that the youth of our nation was extremely aware of the events going on around the globe, yet this inference is far from the truth. Our 'Age of Ignorance' seems to only act like they worry because it helps them to conform to the norm; in reality they know very little, and do even less. Without knowing what they are protesting against, what is the point of protesting at all? In order for our government to shift its foreign policy from Iraq to the tragedies of Darfur, the masses must make it clear that they are aware of and concerned with the world outside of their town, and essentially talk less about Darfur, and act more.

Action is only possible through awareness; the population must first realize and study the events occurring in Darfur, as well as in numerous other locations across the globe. Ignorant protest is worthless; just wearing a t-shirt or joining a group does not help those in need. The people of this nation must burn these faddish t-shirts,

and take action. We must take our well-thought out ideas about this genocide and take it to the streets to show our wayward and reckless government that the people will not stand on the sidelines while our brothers and sisters are being mutilated in Darfur.

Many will claim that donating money to a cause, such as the Darfur Genocide, is an effective way to solve the problem. Yet since when has throwing money at a problem ever been a pragmatic solution? It is no new revelation that the governments of many African nations are extremely corrupt, so how can citizens of our country actually believe that their money is reaching the people it's for. Wishful thinking and optimism is not a virtue in this case; people cannot lie to themselves in order to drive away their guilt. Donations do have their benefits, but blindly tossing money at a situation, without knowing where exactly it's going and for what is essentially useless.

The youth of the nation has slowly become more ignorant, and this must be stopped because the fate of many lives depends upon it. To save the innocent people of Darfur, Americans have to disregard what the 'cool' thing to do is, and begin to realize the bigger picture. Words can no longer solve the predicament; action must be taken, and in order to make this action effective the people of our nation must become aware of the problem and let our government know that idleness and ignorance is not an option.

## RAIDER RANT A MATTER OF PRINCIPAL



MATTHEW CONNOLLY  
*Co-Editor in Chief*

If the members of the school board really wanted to make some money, they could lay down odds and let people bet on how long each new NBTHS principal will last. Now that seasoned veteran Mr. Mistretta, who served two entire years, has departed for Edison, it's up to Interim Principal Brotschul to lead this school through the coming months.

The latest candidate in North Brunswick's game of administrative roulette, Mr. Brotschul is the school's sixth principal in the last seven years. "Despite the changes, the teachers and students have responded admirably," he told me. "It's refreshing to see."

More changes may very well be on the horizon, however; Mr. Brotschul is, after all, only the interim principal. A private firm called "Leadership Advantage" has been hired by new superintendent Dr. Zychowski to begin the search for a permanent leader. The last time the township hired Leadership Advantage, it resulted in the hiring of Zychowski himself.

Leadership Advantage works by screening all applicants before coming up with a short list of candidates to give the township. They are hoping to have a permanent principal in place by January or February of 2008. This does not necessarily mean that the current principal will be forfeiting his position, however. When I asked Mr. Brotschul if he was being considered for the job, he responded, "I just love being here. It's an open process, and I'm confident they will pick the best person for the job."

With a coy answer like that, perhaps Mr. Brotschul should consider a career in politics if he's not hired come January. His description of an "open process," though, is an apt one. It's clear that Leadership Advantage is interested in consulting everyone involved before making a decision. A few weeks ago, the firm conducted a meeting with about 35 students in one of the high school's lecture halls. I sat in and listened as former superintendent and current Leadership Advantage staffer Richard Marasco asked the assembled group different questions intended to give the firm a sense of what we as students are looking for in a principal.

When asked what traits a good administrator should have, replies ranged from experienced and smart to confident and easy-going. The answers to this question in particular seemed to be endless; no quality was left unsaid, and no leadership cliché was left untouched. Marasco received another flood of responses when he asked how students would change the school if they could. Again, their answers ran the gamut; some wanted more class choices and more open lunch periods. Others wanted a rehaul of the physical education program and even church services in school. While some of the suggestions were certainly outlandish (not to mention unconstitutional), there was enough relevant information given to aid Leadership Advantage in their search. There's no way of knowing how much impact this session will have on the hiring, of course, but at least the effort was made to gather students' opinions on the matter.

Marasco ran similar meetings with groups of parents and teachers. When I talked to him after the students' session, he came across as down-to-earth and sincerely interested in finding the best principal for NBTHS. Because he is a former superintendent, I have confidence in his ability to pick out the best candidates for the job. Had Leadership Advantage sent someone without a background in education, I would have been extremely wary of whatever choices were made.

I recently sat down again with Principal Brotschul, who wanted to clarify his comments, and his response was much more clear-cut than before. "I would like nothing more than to be principal of this building," he told me. "I'm hoping to be a part of this school for a long, long time." Such staying power is certainly what the township is looking for in its search, though Brotschul's chances at getting the nod remain to be seen.

All that we can do now is sit back and hope we get a principal who can be a steady presence in the high school for years to come. Otherwise, I need to call my bookie. The school board should be releasing the odds on the new principal's future soon, and I could use the extra cash.



## Calendar Changes

LISA MATHEWS  
Staff Writer

As students slowly began settling into the routine of school mid-September, they were hit with another change: the entire North Brunswick Township was given three more days off in November—making Election Week an entire week off for students. But some students are not sure whether it is a good change or not. This is due to the fact that these days were taken from the week off in March, therefore shortening the Spring Break from the 21st to the 28th to just the 21st to the 26th.

This calendar change was suggested and put into effect by Superintendent Dr. Brian Zychowski. In his online news archive, the "Superintendent's Corner," Zychowski describes the construction currently being done at all of the elementary schools and Linwood Middle School. He cites this as a reason for the improvised break, admitting, "construction and education do not mix. There are many problems that we have and will have encountered before the projects are completed."

He has suggested that the week be given off to allow for unhindered construction, to hopefully speed up the process. The Board of Education has agreed with Zychowski on the November break—however, students are less compliant.

Many, along with their parents, complain that plans they have already have for made Spring Break will be disrupted. These include visiting out-of-state relatives, and getting together with friends, as well as celebrating Easter for the religious and the festive. Similarly, parents and students alike protest the sudden notice of the change, believing that if they had been forewarned, they could have made and re-scheduled vacation plans. Many of these planned vacations extend over the entire week of March 21st to March 31st, and so

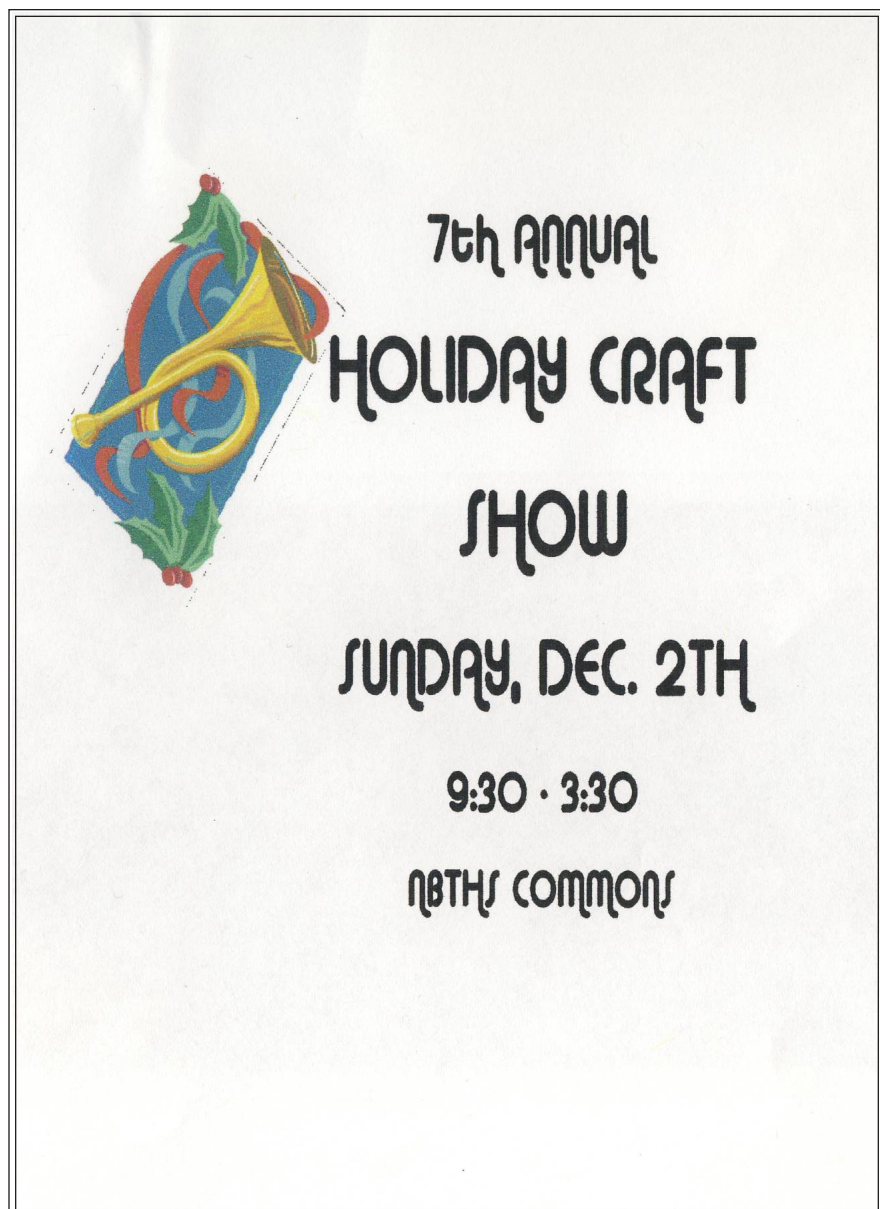
now students will be forced to either miss school or forgo their traveling plans, neither of which is a pleasant option.

Spring Break is an essential time for students to take a vacation nearing the end of the school year. A month after the semester ends, and two months before school ends is what many students consider this the perfect time to relax and refresh themselves for the remainder of the year.

Studies show that allowing students to take breaks from one-to-three weeks in the middle of the school year is more beneficial and stress relieving than even summer vacation. Giving students time to briefly recuperate provides them with a more comfortable state of mind to learn with. Also, breaks give parents the chance to schedule vacations with their children. This is made easier when parents are informed in advance of time off. Though November does give students a break, it is scheduled shortly before Winter Break—while Spring Break is in the middle of four months of continuous school days.

In addition, some students object to the rationality of placing such a break. Senior Rafia Baig notes for the new length of the March vacation, "It's kind of a pain to just come back on a Thursday, and two days later have the weekend off." Of the fifty NBTHS students polled the first week of October, an overwhelming 68% said that if given the choice, they would prefer to have a week-long Spring Break rather than a November Break. Of those asked, only 14% selected the option a November Break instead, and 16% did not care either way.

However, it does not seem that any other changes will be made to the calendar, especially since it is so close to November. In any case, the best that students can hope for at this point is that they will not be using any snow days this winter, effectively adding two more days to Spring Vacation, bringing it to a full week once again.



## Where in the World is the NBTHS Senior Study Hall?

RJ BARKELEW  
Staff Writer

As North Brunswick High School resumed classes this past week, lots of high school seniors were wondering what had happened to their "coveted" senior study hall. With being a senior, comes the legendary senior privileges. These perks include the possibility of a later arrival time and/or an earlier dismissal time.

The technical definition of a study hall is a period of time in a school day, set aside for study and doing homework, usually under the supervision of a teacher and in a room designated for this purpose. But little did the seniors know that the biggest

privilege they looked forward to the most was gone. Yes, the all-popular senior study hall - the one place where seniors could kick-back and relax- had vanished. Many high school seniors were infuriated by this act, but managed to find ways so far to cope with the loss.

An explanation is in order here to all the seniors about why the senior study hall doesn't exist anymore. Senior Matthew Bassel said: "I think it's dumb, we have been here for three years and all the other senior classes had it and now we don't. It's annoying that we have a ping pong table along with a TV and other stuff and we can't even use it." Another anonymous senior also commented on the present situation. "We

have been working hard for three years straight and yet we can't even seem to catch a break." It seems that the seniors of 2008 are being held responsible for things that may have occurred last year in the same senior study hall. Many seniors believe that it was because of what happened last year that the senior study hall has not yet been reinstated for the 2007-2008 school year.

Darshan Shah, one of the many seniors in the graduating class of 2008, commented on the situation by saying "it's unfair because we should get to relax at some point in school and be able to have some enjoyment instead of just straight work all day." The truth is that the senior study hall was temporarily cancelled because of

beginning of the year scheduling conflicts. The last known date for finalizing schedules is September 21st, 2007. Once all the schedules are in order and all the problems have been ironed out, the senior study hall will be reinstated. While searching for the right answers amidst all the rumors I turned to my number one source, our new Interim Principal Mr. Brian Brotschul. He stated that "I think the seniors definitely deserve it because of all the hard work they've put in the past few years." The plan to restore the senior study hall will be enacted in the coming weeks according to Principal Brian Brotschul. Along with that, there is also a possibility that new equipment will be donated so that the senior study can flourish as it did in years previous.

THE  
BANNER

The Banner of North Brunswick Township High School is obligated to report all newsworthy events to the student body. The paper issues stories based on the interests of the school. Our newspaper will always be sure to report on time with the best coverage. It is our pledge to avoid statements that may offend others. We will strive to produce the best product we can.

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