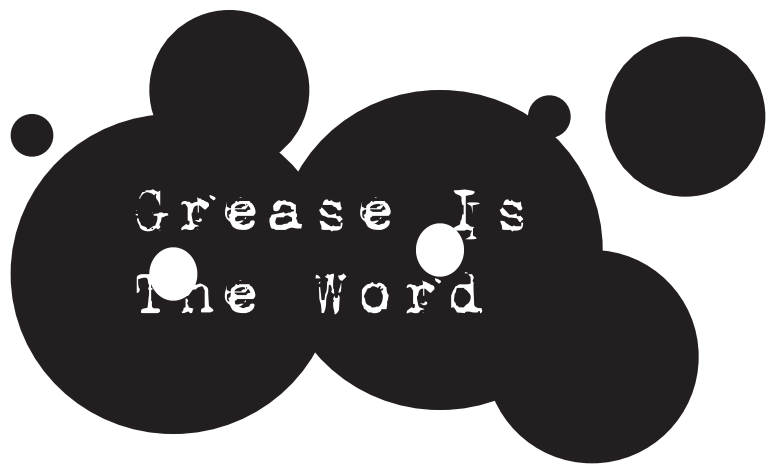


THE BANNER

May 2008

North Brunswick Township High School
North Brunswick, NJ 08902

Volume 25, Issue 04



TIFFANY KILMURRAY & AMANDA MEAGHER
Staff Writers

"Grease is the word," according to the students at NBTHS, by means of all the talk surrounding the recent musical performed by the Alchemists. On April 24th, 25th, and 26th, our fellow students at NBTHS presented their version of the popular 70's musical, 'Grease'.

Clearly many of the students are familiar with this loved musical, seeing that it attracted a generous crowd. Friends and family of the cast were thrilled to witness the students put on a brilliant produc-

tion. The two and a half hour performance kept viewers entertained and was overall exceedingly successful.

tion. The two and a half hour performance kept viewers entertained and was overall exceedingly successful.

The lead roles of Danny Zuko and Sandy Dumbrowski, played by senior Joseph Russo and sophomore Samantha Penick, captured the personalities and emotions of each character with great success. Their performances were convincing as they played two high school students engaged in a summer romance, as it was attempted to be carried out through the

rest of the school year. The characters demonstrated the troubles and perks of being young and in love.

While the main characters put on a radiant performance, the rest of the cast also shined through. Some key female roles consisted of Frenchy, played by senior Farnaz Mansouri, Rizzo, played by senior Amanda Fois, Jan played by junior Amanda Haasz, and Marty, played by senior Liz Fackelman. Various significant male roles include senior Justin Reager as Kenickie,

freshman Anil Matthews playing Doody, and Sean Magnacca as Sonny.

With persuasive costumes, creative set designs, and vivacious choreography, it was effortless for the audience to feel like they were in the 1950's. Making the audience laugh with excellent humor and stunning them with the casts' wonderful voices, all of the Pink Ladies, Greasers, cheerleaders, nerds, and other cast members provided an entertaining experience for the school, friends, and family.



"Traveling Back In Time"

Take a peek at the celebration of Hippie Week

"Spring/Summer Movie Previews"

Learn the scoop for the hottest films of the season

"Greaser Girls"

Sandy's transformation, through a female's perspective
"Facebook Over Myspace: Which do you prefer?"

Graduation Situation

LANNA KARUPEN
Staff Writer

Throughout past years, seniors have walked across the stage, received their diplomas, and then have officially graduated from high school. This scenario occurs in front of proud parents, friends, and elated teachers. But for the graduating class of 2008 this year will be quite different. As they graduate, they will be doing so without the majority of teachers and staff from NBTHS.

Because graduation day is still a full day of school, the majority of teachers will be in classrooms, while the students whom they knew for years take on one of the biggest steps in their lives. This is the first time that this situation has arisen, and it is because the superintendent of North Brunswick schools changed the dates on the school calendar. These changes occurred because of ongoing construction on five of the six district schools.

They have "tweaked," as Mr. Brotschul states, the year causing graduation to fall on the last day of school. With this problem in hand, the principal believes that "he will be able to get the teachers that want to be at graduation to graduation."

But even though this is said in assurance, the plan may be harder to execute than expected. Mr. Brotschul explained that the number of teachers needed to stay behind depends entirely on the amount of students that show up for school. The fewer students in school, the less staff needed to care for them.

The plan is possible, since many

students have family or friends graduating and therefore will most likely not attend school; especially since graduation starts at 1:00 pm and school dismisses at 12:15.

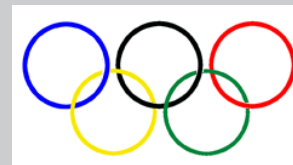
For the students present that day, they will have a full day of classes from the beginning of the school day to about 10:15, and from there they will gather in the auditorium for an assembly. While the students are in this auditorium, very few staff will be needed to watch over them.

Depending on how the day goes, Brotschul states that it will be a "that day decision," on how many teachers will be present at graduation.

Besides those teachers who are desperate to go to graduation, there are a selected few who are guaranteed to attend graduation. This group includes the fifty teachers who have been in the North Brunswick District for the longest. Because of seniority, they will definitely be attending graduation along with members of the administrative staff.

All of this planning leads up to one day in the making that all anxiously await. For sure though, June 19, 2008 will be a memorable day no matter if you are graduating, watching someone you care for graduate, or if you simply will be in school for a day of usual planning. Mr. Brotschul believes that "things will go fine on graduation day," but only time will tell if this statement will be true.

Politics and Olympics



TIFFANY KILMURRAY & AMANDA MEAGHER
Staff Writers

The Olympic Games is the event well-known for uniting the world in celebration of athletic excellence. It's about that moment when every athlete feels excitement and pride rush through their veins, when nationalism surges in every country. China is yearning for a moment of its own as it will host the games this summer, but thousands of people are demonstrating to make sure that doesn't happen.

As the calendar is shifting closer toward the Olympic Games, it is easy to that the global community is greatly divided between politics and sportsmanship. Several activists, celebrities, politicians and some athletes have taken and stand against the Chinese government's involvement in the ongoing conflicts in Tibet and Darfur (Tibet has been occupied by China for years, while China's oil money is contributing to the genocide in Darfur); but political pressure has caused controversy all over the world. While Americans protest against China (most of them focusing on Darfur), athletes are caught in the middle, and many must choose between neglecting the current situations with China and passing up the opportunity to shine in Olympic history.

China is looking forward to hosting the summer games. For them, the event is their chance an opportunity to introduce the world to a positive image of this

growing power. However, the country is under scrutiny for its hostile treatment of Tibetans and its involvement in the current genocide in Darfur. Humanitarian organizations and celebrities have been encouraging politicians to boycott the opening ceremonies, which has placed China under a great deal of pressure. Director Steven Spielberg demonstrated his resentment towards China in February when he declined their offer to film the opening ceremonies for them.

The Save Darfur Coalition believes that the protests are making a difference. Jerry Fowler, the coalition's president, spoke to USA Today about the effects of campaigning. "This is becoming a big problem for the Chinese government," he said.

Some athletes, such as Joey Cheek, have joined the cause. Cheek, a gold-medallist in speed skating, is the co-founder of Team Darfur. He openly opposes the situation in Darfur and is using the media to motivate the public to take action. However, most athletes are still debating whether or not to take a stand against China. Rule 51 of the Olympic charter states that athletes are not allowed to participate in "demonstration or political, religious or racial propaganda". Anyone who violates

see Olympics page 2

Traveling Back in Time

SAMPADA NANDYALA
Staff Writer

Out of all the decades in the twentieth century the era of the 60's was probably the most significant. So many things happened then—the hippie movement, the Vietnam War, the Beatles' popularity—and they all stirred up a huge revolution, one that would be known for years to come.

During the week of April 28, 2008, William Ojeda, a History teacher at NBTHS, and his students dedicated a whole week to learning about the 60's, calling it "Hippie Week." For most of those five days, students were spotted sporting tie-dye t-shirts, peace-sign jewelry, and daisies in their hair, celebrating the tumultuous decade of the hippies. Even some teachers

the freedom that the hippies enjoyed, but soon, they began to get comfortable. Some girls brought in embroidery floss to make friendship bracelets, demonstrating the idea of love. Other students made posters with quotes and sayings from the 60's and showcased their artwork in the classroom, spreading the message of peace.

Of course, the 60's were not only remembered for the happiness and the fun, but also for the unfortunate tragedies that occurred then. Mr. Ojeda was careful to make sure that his students did not get carried away with all the excitement by educating them about the issues caused by the tragic Vietnam War. He even showed clips



Mr. Ojeda's history class celebrated the sixties through Hippie Week.

Image courtesy of Mr. Ojeda

joined in, contributing to the celebration by wearing their own 60's attire. Phrases such as "peace" and "love, not war" were exchanged between students and teachers alike.

Mr. Ojeda was very excited about teaching his students about the riots and the victories of the 60's. He believes, "history is more important when you bring it to life, when you experience it." In fact, to make the experience even better, he made sure that the classroom constantly had a psychedelic vibe to it, with a sparkling glitter lamp and a CD of the Beatles playing in the background to set the mood. He even brought in his guitar, and sang a few of his favorite Beatles numbers.

At first students were hesitant to act "groovy" and to take pleasure in

of the film *Forest Gump*, a movie about the life of a soldier in the Vietnam War.

Unfortunately, good things always come to an end, and so did Hippie Week. But, to end the fun week with a bang, Mr. Ojeda threw a party to commemorate the 60's. Students brought in cupcakes with the words "love" and "peace" and colorful homemade cookies with peace signs on them. While they ate, they watched clips from the film *Across the Universe*.

One important thing that Mr. Ojeda wanted his students to learn from this experience is that if the 60's had not occurred the way they had, we would be living in totally different circumstances today, and so, we should never forget the era of the hippies.

Olympics

(continued from front page)

this rule may be disqualified or sent home, and the violator's country would then be subject to an investigation conducted by the Olympic Committee. In America, Joey Cheek has spoken about the atrocities Darfurians have suffered under the current Sudanese government, whose oil industry is connected to China's power at the United Nations. However, like most athletes, he will not speak out at the Olympics.

Even outside of China and the world of Olympic sports, athletes face certain restrictions with sponsors. Nike is among those known to be wary of what their athletes publicize. The company denies this and claims to support the athletes' freedom of speech; nonetheless, athletes are still very cautious. Alison Barnwell, former athlete marketing coordinator for the United States Olympic Committee states that "especially if a company does business in China, it wouldn't surprise me at all to see them start adding in clauses that say athletes can't make negative remarks about the

situation". Whether they are using their sponsorship for political attention, or simply stating their views on a matter, companies want to avoid conflicts at all costs.

Americans have been protesting against China for months and have focused on imploring President Bush to boycott the opening ceremonies, as other politicians have decided to do. However, campaigners have been unsuccessful and Bush is planning to make his trip in support of the athletes.

New Jersey has become involved in anti-Olympics campaigning, particularly with the passing of the "anti-torch". The anti-torch is a symbol of anti-Olympics demonstration, dating back to 1936 when Nazi Germany hosted the Olympics. Montclair Country welcomed the anti-torch on April 13, when Dr. Jerry Ehrlich ran with it for three miles. Dr. Ehrlich is a passionate speaker against the genocide in Darfur, who tells his story as a member of Doctors Without Borders, a program in which doc-

tors assist in devastated countries, like Sudan.

Miss Beth Feinberg, who teaches World History and Dimensions of Prejudice at North Brunswick Township High School, is a supporter of the Save Darfur moment and a fan of the anti-torch. She feels that "when a country agrees to host an event like the Olympics, it agrees to serve as a positive example, and it is hypocritical for china to do so when it is contributing to the atrocities."

As easy as it seems for American politicians to remain impartial in this situation, protesters print out that the nation has boycotted the Olympic Games for far less. Is it really that the nation is in a tight spot or are politicians simply exhibiting the government's tendency to be intrusive and incongruously picky about their intrusions. Of course, the United States can interfere with Iraq, despite the United Nations's forewarning, but the government hesitates to take a stand against China's involvement

Still Bangin'

STEPHANIE SOLIS
Staff Writer

One of the most common misconceptions about instrumental music is the assumption that percussion is a subordinate section of the band, that alone it is incapable of producing harmony. Despite this misapprehension, students meet twice a week to practice their parts, proving that percussionists can make music. The Winter Percussion ensemble proved that again on March 29, when they won first place at their percussion championship, ending the season with a clean record for the fourth year in a running.

Winter Percussion formed in 2003, meant to serve only as a practice session to keep the drum line up on their game between marching band seasons. After having such a large turnout that year, advisor Paul Bongiovi entered the ensemble into a competitive circuit in its second year. The students finished the season in first place, an extraordinary achievement for first year competitors. Little did they know that their winning streak would last for four years and running. Their victory on March 29 marked their fourth year as an undefeated ensemble in the Winter Percussion competition.

What sets the program apart from any other school activity is that anybody can be a part of it, no matter how talented one is at percussion. The drum line, mallet section and Latin percussion sections are comprised of students of all skill levels, from percussion players, to members of the band, orchestra and color guard. Every Monday and Thursday, students meet with Bongiovi to practice technique, exercises and concert music. The music for competitions and performances not only provides each section with important parts, but it is always on a level that the members can work up to and excel with. The music ranges from the Beatles to Latin music, and no matter what they play, they put on a spectacular show.

Apart from competitions and school concerts, Winter Percussion keeps a busy schedule with outside gigs. The ensemble has played at Glen Burtnik's Xmas Extravaganza every year since 2004, each year surprising the crowd with fan-

tastic performances. The students have performed at the State Theatre, the Count Basie Theatre in Red Bank, Lakeview School in Edison, a Ride Aid grand opening, a Devils Game at the Sovereign Bank Arena, a Forrester event and also for the Board of Education.

The ensemble loses a handful of seniors each year and welcome all the freshmen. This year alone, Percussion is losing Captains Dani Nudleman, Joe Scala and Angela Pagliaro, which leaves sophomore Captain Abigail Nutter remaining. However, instead of worsening, the program sees improvement each year. What's their secret? The difference between these students and the rest of the school is that the group focuses on the belief that people of all walks of life can play percussion, and that no matter how skilled they are, if they learn correctly and practice discipline and cohesion, students can continue to excel.

Drum Captain Dani Nudleman looks upon the ensemble with pride. She says that "It's really great how people from all different sections of the band join Winter Percussion and help add to the growing program. It's really an amazing thing to be a part of."

Every milestone the ensemble has reached, they have done so as a team, and it is everyone's effort and skill combined that has made winning possible for the students. With help from Bongiovi, the students have learned the techniques that are essential skills for musicians; some have even composed music for the ensemble to perform. Unlike most activities at NBTHS, Winter Percussion is a family. Students study together, go out to eat together, and they win together. Some veterans have played with the ensemble since the eighth grade. Alumni have gone on to perform in college drum lines, and in shows outside of the program.

Winter Percussion has fulfilled its original purpose, and with the combined talent and resilience of the students, the program gone on to unforeseen levels of success. It has given student a home away from home, an opportunity to make music and a sense of pride at NBTHS.

in a genocide, even after the nation cried "Never again!" at World War II's end.

At the same time, the problem lies with the athletes. They have trained sedulously to come out on top at the games, and for some this is their first time competing in the Olympics. Miss Feinberg recognizes the impact the conflict has on Olympiads and voices her concern for the dilemma. "Boycotting would make a huge political statement, but then again one must consider the athletes that have been training their whole lives for this one moment."

So America is at a standstill, torn between playing nice and taking action, and many athletes haven't found a common ground with sponsors or even themselves. Who would think that urging a country to stop abetting a genocide would be so difficult? But then again, it's either that or killing the dream of American athletes, or worse, aggravating the evermore proud China. Until the calendar hits August, the world will hold its breath.

Vanishing Act

TIFFANY HSUEH
Staff Editor

The issue of rail-thin models has reigned the media circuit for years. Concern over the weight of models started with the death of Brazilian model, Ana Carolina Reston, from complications of anorexia nervosa, followed by the death of Uruguayan model Luisel Ramos from heart failure. Both incidents prompted the fashion industry in Madrid to ban models, with a body mass index (BMI) less than eighteen, from Madrid Fashion Week who did not meet the standards of a "healthy" BMI as dictated by the World Health Organization.

The BMI scale measures the relationship between a person's weight and height that is associated with body fat and health risks. From that measurement, a person's BMI places her into one of four categories: underweight, normal weight, overweight, or obese. As defined by the National Heart Lung and Blood Institute, a person with a BMI less than 18.5 is underweight; normal weight falls from a BMI of 18.5 to 24.9; overweight from a BMI of 25.29.9; and obesity with a BMI of 30 or greater.

Overwhelmingly, models fall in the underweight category and with an ever-present media, fashion houses are feeling the sting. Kate Moss, an international fashion icon, boasts a BMI of 16.4; most models at five feet and nine inches weighing 110 pounds, boast a BMI of 16. Madrid's ban of underweight models created a small ripple in the fashion industry, but generated a media frenzy with the public and prompted many to question the new fad of "skinny" models.

The decision has also divided the industry between those who agreed with the regulations and those who did not see the need for regulations. Some designers, such as Stefano Gabbana told Women's Wear Daily that "backstage we have food and I always see models eating—sometimes more than me."

However, with more media coverage, the Italian government and its fashion trade group, the Camera Nazionale, announced that they would initiate a national campaign against anorexia nervosa, an eating disorder that lives and thrives in the recesses of the fashion industry. In conjunction, the Council

of Fashion Designers of America, a non-profit trade group for American designers, announced that it also plans to address the issue at hand, but at a later date.

Steven Kolb, executive director of the Council of Fashion Designers of America, says, "From what I can tell, there is a growing insight among designers, or people are beginning to see the negative effects of what dangerously thin young women are going through. It is something that they were aware of and were processing. Now the issue is coming out to a point where the industry is more collectively focused on it." Stemming from the attention over the "vanishing" models, Mario Boselli, president of Camera Nazionale, announced his decision to create regulations for the industry.

"There will be very balanced rules which, starting from objective facts related also to the guidelines [of the World Health Organization]." Boselli said that the final decision about the suitability of the model will be left to the discretion of a physician.

He also cites the effectiveness of the guidelines based on "how receptive designers are to enforcing them. Following the initial complaints about too-thin models in New York and London, there was a perceptible shift away from them at subsequent shows in Milan and Paris in September and October, suggesting that designers had become aware of the negative publicity associated with the image they project."

And in an effort to garner some positive feedback, Mr. Boseilli adds, "Italian fashion means elegance, style and, most of all, lifestyle. This means to show, promote, and communicate the image of a Mediterranean, healthy woman, that is to say an image of joy and wellness."

Similarly, Mr. Kolb agrees with the need to project a positive image adding, "Obviously, we recognize fashion certainly impacts people's perceptions and can emphasize good health and empower women in the industry."



Image courtesy of Google Images

Say What You Want, Robotix IS a Sport

CARA SALERNO
Staff Writer

Here at North Brunswick Township High School, our school has one fantastic robotix team, known as Team 25. Being New Jersey Regional winners this year has really left their mark. Also, in 2000 Team 25 won the national championship, as well as finishing as world championship finalists in 2003 and 2006. They have won numerous state regional competitions and much recognition for their hard efforts. The robotix team has increasingly been becoming more advanced in their constructing and competing. Having major sponsors like NASA, Bristol Meyer Squibb and many other companies, really financially aide the Raider Robotix team to supply their needs. Now with staff, friends, parents, and the science department giving support and cheering the robotix team on, don't you think it's time North Brunswick Township High School backed up this awesome team? And yes that's right robotix is a team, but not just any team, a sports team.

Speaking with sophomore Lauren Fackleman, a 2nd year pit crewmember, really gave an idea of how robotix is a sport. "You have only six weeks to build and program the robot before getting shipped. It's like practicing for a sport. It's hours after school and weekends being spent working on it. You only have a certain amount of time before you start games." Lauren Fackleman also being on the softball team in and outside of school, is one to know what hard work and practice is. The robotix team contributes the dedication and time as any other sports team, if not more here at North Brunswick High.

In a competitive setting, the robotix team has to prepare for a standard course against other teams. It's 3 on 3 and the participants must go around the field counterclockwise. In a portion of time, the robot must complete given tasks, for example throwing a ball over an overpass. After demonstrating their robot's skills and hard effort, the team is scored based upon presentation, tasks completed, and overall robot. It's a tough job and takes a lot of drive and patience to get done all the way to the finish line.

North Brunswick Township High School students should truly appreciate our Raider Robotix sports team. They are all one very skilled group of kids who are dedicated in the work they submit. Backing this wonderful team up is an audience they deserve. More students should take interest and also maybe even attempt to join robotix. You never know what opportunities might be waiting.

Spring/Summer MOVIE PREVIEW

TIFFANY HSUEH
Staff Editor

The Love Guru- June 20

Starring Mike Meyers as Pitka, an American child left in India at a spiritual retreat and raised by gurus. In search of fame and fortune, he returns to the United States and immerses himself in a world of self-help and spirituality. In the U.S. he encounters his first assignment, to settle a rift between Toronto Maple Leafs star hockey player Darren Roanoke and his estranged wife. To the chagrin of the Toronto



Image courtesy of Google Images

Maple Leafs owner and coach, Roanoke's career comes to a screeching halt. Pitka, left up to his devices, faces the challenge of renewing the relationship between Roanoke and his wife to put him back on track so the team can win the Stanley Cup.

Also starring: Jessica Alba, Justin Timberlake

The Happening- June 13 R

Director M. Night Shyamalan follows the precedent of his other movies and tells the tale of a family fleeing a natural disaster that threatens humanity. Starring Mark Wahlberg and Zooey Deschanel as an estranged couple who must escape the apocalyptic pandemic.

Also starring: Spencer Breslin



Image courtesy of Google Images

Get Smart- June 20 PG-13

Based on a comedy series created by Mel Brooks, Control analyst Maxwell Smart (Steve Carell) teams up with Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) to fight the evil forces of KAOS. Agent Smart, eager, but inexperienced in fieldwork gets help from Agent 99 and a handful of new gadgets to combat KAOS' plan to dominate all human beings. Also starring: Dwayne Johnson, David Koechner, Terry Crews

Diminished Capacity- June 27

Afflicted with amnesia after suffering a blow to the head, Cooper Zerbs (Matthew Broderick) embarks on a road trip with his Alzheimer's-afflicted uncle and high school sweetheart in search of an adventure.

Also starring: Alan Alda, Virginia Madsen

Day of Silence

STEPHANIE SOLIS
Staff Writer

7:35. The bell rings and I walk into class wearing my jeans and a bright red shirt, with bold print on the front. Some stare and some pay no attention as I make my way to my seat, but thoughts are swimming in my head as I am unable to speak. I ask myself, can I make it? And if I cannot?

I walk through the halls from class to class. I receive a few comments of approval and always one person immature enough to take this as an opportunity to mess me up, trying to make me speak. At first, I ignored the person, shrugged him off, because he was ignorant enough to make a mockery of something so serious. But the periods began to drag on and I realized how many thoughts ran through my head each and every moment. There were so many of them, some that seemed so insignificant but that I could not help but wish I could say today. Every thought lingered.

How could it bother me? I thought. All I had to do was keep quiet. And believe me, at times I spoke. Having forgotten my deliberate silence a couple of times, I blurted a word or two and sank back in my chair, returning to silence. I did not realize what a toll it took upon

me. Wanting to talk to my friends, even wanting to participate in class-I just wanted to feel involved. But instead of breaking my promise, I fell into deep thought about how this day could possibly drag on for months and years for some people.

Could they feel worse than this? The many who keep their sexuality a secret, did they feel the heavy weight build in their chests? One should not feel endangered, or afraid to speak or be oneself because he or she is gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender. In our school alone, there are thousands of students making their way down the halls. How many a keeping this secret? Many are hiding from life, spending every moment watching what they say, how they act; every moment is a danger.

Every year, the Day of Silence is held in memory of a victim of sexual discrimination. Today, I am silent for Lawrence King, a boy who was killed because of his sexual orientation and gender expression. That is a voice that has been silenced forever. There are thousands, millions of silent people, but they still have time to speak out. What are you going to do to end the silence?

Youtube

RAFIA BAIG
Staff Writer

One of this century's greatest phenomenon, Youtube, for those who live under a rock, is a large flash-based website that allows users to view and upload videos of various kinds.

Youtube allows non-users to watch most of its videos on the web, but it is only upon signing up that a person can upload, comment, or even watch certain videos tagged as "mature," and thus require the viewer to be eighteen or older.

The site was first created in February 2005 by three former PayPal employees. Youtube garnered popularity fast, and by October 2006, Google Inc. announced buying it for \$1.65 billion in stocks.

By July 2006, more than 100 million videos were being watched everyday. This number escalated to 2.5 billion in the following month. Nearly 65,000 videos were being added daily. Recently, the Youtube company revealed that, as of January 2008, nearly 79 million users were watching over 3 billion videos.

Surprisingly, Youtube is not profitable. Its bandwidth costs, however, are estimated at approximately \$1 million a day. In 2000, Youtube consumed as much bandwidth as the entire Internet.

Youtube's popularity has led to many social effects, including a number of Internet celebrities, popular individuals who have attracted a great deal of publicity due to their videos. The most subscribed Youtube member as of late is Smosh, a duo of college students renowned for their music videos and various skits. They began in November 2005 and currently hold the record of more than 394,000 subscribers.

Because of their web fame, some Internet celebrities have easily crossed into traditional entertainment avenues. For example, Lisa Donovan (LisaNova on Youtube) was offered a position as a cast member in the 12th season of MADtv after her popular videos.

Similarly, Youtube has also become a means of promoting bands and music. One such example is OK Go, which got a huge radio hit out of the treadmill video for "Here it Goes Again," as did the Sick Puppies, whose song was played in the Free Hugs Campaign video.

Because of the success rate of such popular users, Youtube has offered many of them to become a part of "Youtube Partners," an exclusive status (previously only offered to commercial content providers) that allows users to earn revenue from advertisements placed next to their videos.

Other effects also include some businesses mimicking Youtube's success. The new video trend has caused many major channels like Fox to offer viewers the ability to watch entire seasons of their most popular shows right on their websites.

Suffice to say, life hasn't been quite the same since Youtube.

Smile, You're On the Internet

SAMPADA NANDYALA
Staff Writer

The twenty-first century has become the era of development and advancement, especially in the field of technology. One invention that has been improved significantly is the Internet. A fantasy world on its own, the Internet now provides a lot of freedom to its users, too much freedom actually. This freedom can be easily abused, particularly by the today's youth.

Most teens feel the need to express their thoughts and feelings somehow, and many do this via the Internet. They chat with friends, email each other, post messages in blogs, and upload photos of themselves. Out of all these activities that teenagers engage in on the web, uploading photos is one of the most dangerous things that they can do.

"Pictures speak a thousand words" is a common saying amongst people, and whoever came up with it was absolutely right. Different individuals have different opinions on what a picture may mean, or on what it is trying to express, and the opinions are usually very varied. However, in this generation, photos can be misunderstood and misused very easily, especially in the case of teenagers.

With the crime rate increasing on the web, teenagers today are in a very vulnerable state. Stalkers are being caught everywhere, and they often take a disguise of a child in order to be able to communicate with the teenagers they want to pursue. With pictures being an open book of teenager's personalities, it is even more convenient for stalkers to track kids down.

Adolescents today often misuse their privilege of being able to upload photos. With many negative influences from celebrities—Vanessa Hudgens, and more recently, Miley Cyrus—kids today are being caught sending inappropriate pictures via the Internet.

Photos on the web were originally meant to be a way for people to share special moments with one another, but these days, not many are sticking to that policy, including the youth of today. They need to learn to be careful when putting pictures up on the Internet, especially of themselves, because they can always be used for the wrong reasons.

Brain Cancer due to Cell Phones?

JUSTIN SERRANO
Staff Writer

Over years people have thought and suggested of the causes of brain cancer would be cell phones. Scientists nine years and over 15 million cell phones later to realize that cell phones can lead to tumors. Recent science we can prove it is not just a "myth".



Cell phones are as commonly used in this world as cars, which are both useful and dangerous to us. People have used cell phones since the age of six. In a person who has been using a cell phone since birth, a teen you are even more at risk for contracting a tumor. In addition, using a cell phone for 10 years is 50% more at chance for getting a brain tumor. This is because the developing skull and brain tissue is more vulnerable.

Although people know this information they continually use cell phones due to cell phones being necessary whether it be for an emergency, pleasure, or family. The way you would contract a brain tumor is from the radiation the cell phone gives off. In addition to cell phones things such as, TV's, radios, tanning beds, microwave ovens and x-ray machines give off radiation.

There is a common ground between cell phones and brain cancer, because it is hard to say if brain cancer is a cause for brain cancer. For example, the 2006 study showed 853 people 172 either have benign or malignant tumor while 681 people stayed healthy. So statistically shown that brain cancer is not caused by brain cancer.

Whether cell phones are or are not one of the causes of brain cancer is yet to be decided.



Image Courtesy of Rafia Baig

With the rise of an interconnected world, it comes as no surprise that the internet has pervaded into almost every household in the United States. However, with its prominence comes an unforeseeable consequence. And as it stakes its place in the world of teen relationships, its affect manifests itself as age-old tactics of bullying go virtual. The advent of newer, faster, and more cutting edge technology provides the perfect environment for cyberbullying. With a combination of ingredients, cyberbullying has spread through into an entire generation of tech-savvy teenagers.

Additionally, the proliferation of the internet created more opportunities for bullies to wield their power, and has creat-

ed ne- teens- classr- groun- territo- years- of tee- Teena- ated b- ogy w- chang- defies- the in- social- bullie- and- the cl- bullie- physi- they r-

to

that one
s. It took
e owners
s. Due to

as much
se. Some
f you are
becoming
t a brain
you are
e reason
aves you

they con-
g such a
r, workor
r would
addition,
g booths,
same ra-

d phones
n't cause
er really
Swedish
malignant
ic's have
ncer.
e of the

w categories of issues facing
today.

Initially confined to
rooms, cafeterias, and play-
nds, bullying has gained new
ory within the past couple of
and has affected thousands
nage lives across the nation.

ngers feel the backlash gener-
y the invention of a technol-
with altruistic beginnings.

Also experiencing
ge, the image of bullies today
s stereotypes with help from
internet. The internet and
d networking sites allow for
s to insult, name call, taunt,
erode self-confidence with
ck of a buttons. Often times,
s were categorized based on
cal appearances, but now
range from a myriad of char-

Blu-Ray Revolution

RJ BARKELEW
Staff Writer

Move over HD-DVDs, there's a new disc in town, and it's called the Blu-Ray. Blu-Ray discs are now the hottest selling DVDs known to man.

"In 1997, a new technology emerged that brought digital sound and video into homes all over the world." "It was called the DVD, and it revolutionized the movie industry" said writers at Electronics.com.

The industry is set for yet another revolution with the introduction of the Blu-Ray disc in 2006. With their amazingly high storage capacity, Blu-ray discs can hold and play back large quantities of high-definition video and audio, as well as photos, data and other digital content.

While current optical disc technologies such as DVD, DVD + R, DVD +RW, and DVD-RAM rely on a red laser to read and write data, the new format uses a blue-violet laser instead, hence the name Blu-ray. Despite the different types of lasers used, Blu-ray products can easily be made backwards compatible with CDs and DVDs through the use of a BD/DVD/CD (DVD writing components) compatible optical pickup unit.

Blu-ray is the next-generation digital video disc. It can record, store, and play back high-definition video and digital audio, as well as computer data.

Will Blu-ray replace previous DVDs? Its manufacturers hope so. In the meantime, JVC

has developed a Blu-ray DVD combo disc with an approximate 33.5-GB capacity, allowing for the release of video in both formats on a single disc.

Blu-ray and HD-DVD are the two major competitors in the market, but there are other contenders, as well. Warner Bros. Pictures has developed its own system, called HD-DVD-9. This system uses a higher compression rate to put more information on a standard DVD.

The future of the world's film industry lies in the hands of the Blu-Ray, but whether it will win over the hearts of millions.

Information provided by Electronics.com and blu-ray.com.

Facebook or Myspace: Which do you prefer?

CHANDNI PATEL
Staff Writer

Facebook and MySpace are commonly used throughout most parts of the country, and they are both free online blogs accessible to anyone. Even though Facebook and MySpace may seem the same, they are quite different.

Facebook is much more private and safer than MySpace, but the biggest concern is regarding online profiles. On MySpace anyone can view another person's profile, but on Facebook, you must be a member to see other people's profiles. Another concern is privacy. Since any user can view any other user's profile, MySpace does not have much privacy.

There are other reasons why people prefer Facebook to MySpace. Facebook is a lot easier to use than MySpace and unlike MySpace no html codes are required. Many people also think of Facebook as a way to connect with friends and family, because of its privacy and they did not want to deal with all of the drama that comes from MySpace. In my opinion, Facebook is more fun because of the different applications that can be added to one's page. Some people get

Facebook mainly because all of their other friends have it. More importantly, Facebook is great for teens and not many adults would be found on it either. Whereas, on MySpace, there are very old men, women, and little girls as young as ten!

MySpace is there just for amusement. Many people prefer MySpace to Facebook because it is a lot easier to use and also because a member could add music to his or her own page. Even though MySpace came out as the hottest thing, people eventually just started making an account because they felt obligated to have one, since everyone else had one. A downfall on MySpace would be that someone could add random people and celebrities. The question is, what if the celebrity pages are not actually controlled by celebrities?

Even though MySpace and Facebook both have their pros and cons, people may prefer to have one rather than the other. At times it is better to have one or the other, but also at the same time nobody can decide which one to have.

WEBSENSE

RYAN WINCHOCK
Staff Writer

For all of you out there who have ever been on the school computers and tried to research a topic, and you click on the link to the web site and you get this screen that says "Web SENSE" across the top of the page. How are we expected to get information on the topic if the site is blocked?

It was a pain in the you know what to get info on it due to the fact that all, the sites are blocked by websense! I think that the school wants us to just rely on the websites that the school provides and pays for instead of just getting the information that you actually need from sources like Google and Yahoo.

This is why when teens go to the school library and have to get information for a research paper or homework, they have trouble with getting the information and doing the work because they don't have the sources to find the information because it is blocked by websense.

"I think its ridiculous, because when you need something for school its websensed, but when it comes to things you do not need they are not." Remarks senior RJ Barkelew. Freshman Branden Panico states, "I hate it! It cuts off our abilities to research our topics."

Websense is used throughout the country and many schools, pay for them but I think that they think that they should use that money to buy things for the school and get rid of websense for the student's sake!

Reading Between the Lies

TIFFANY HSUEH
Staff Editor

acteristics; however, the common thread running through all bullies is the need for superiority due to a lack of self-confidence. Many bullies debase others to feel superior or erode the self-esteem of others to bolster their own self-confidence.

Within this past year, a case of cyberbullying gone-too-far gained attention when Megan Mier, 13, committed suicide due to online taunts from the popular social networking site, Myspace. In reaction to a friendship gone awry, Lori Drew, mother of Mier's "best friend," created a Myspace page under an alias of "Josh Evans" and proceeded to establish a "relationship" with Mier. Weeks later, girls posing as Evans sent Mier messages taunting and in-

sulting her, finally pushing her to her limit. Although other factors eventually led to her suicide, online bullying, started by a former best friend's mother and exacerbated by girls at her school, acted as the stimulus to her emotional breakdown.

As a result of the internet's rising prominence many teenagers say that they feel "safer" online; there is a sense of anonymity that comforts teens. "It's an age-old struggle—who's in, who's out" says Mark Levey, executive director of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Community Counseling Center. By using the internet as a tool for cyberbullying, many teens feel that the computer screen acts as a barrier between two fighting parties. Ad-

ditionally, social networking sites allow for interaction between peers at lightning speed, contributing to the rise of cyberbullying; it appeals to shy and timid teens wishing to assert their self-worth through a different medium. In an age where parents condemn the faults of the internet, cyberbullies rejoice over the safety net it creates for their exploits, plans, and schemes.

As Levey states, the question of "who's in and who's out?" still stands to this day as a mark of how important social standing affects an entire generation of teenagers and reminds teens that a social hierarchy still stands—even in a virtual world.

National Poetry Month

National Poetry Month was celebrated full force at NBTHS during the month of April! The month's special events included "Poetry Day" on the 23rd (Shakespeare's birthday) when students were given the opportunity to share a favorite poem (or write on) in their English classes. Additionally, a poetry writing contest for students and one for staff – sponsored by the Creative Writing II class, Painted Words literary magazine, and the English Department – took place during the entire month of April.

Winners of the Staff Poetry Contest:

1st place
"All Mythology Remembered" and
"On the Tip of my Muse"
Mr. Tom Cantillon, English Department

2nd place
"A Flock of Poems"
Mr. Drew Schuh, English Department

Winners of the Student Contest:

1st place
"This is Not a Love Poem"
Yoona Hong, grade 11

2nd place
"13 Ways to Look Out your Window"
Andy Rose, grade 11

3rd place
"A Refugee Within your Distance"
Nicole Sheridan, grade 10

Runner-ups/Editor Picks:

"13 Ways of Looking at the Night"
Liz Lomassaro, grade 10

"The Place I Go"
Angela Kasion, grade 12

"Atonement"
Josh Martin, grade 11

"His Magnifying Glass"
Juli Woodbury, grade 12

"13 Ways of Looking at Words"
"Sweet Sea Lullabye"
Vianca Vargas, grade 11

"Sex Ed"
Ike Odimegwu, grade 12

"A Life's Picasso"
Joe Ramirez, grade 12

"At the Edge of Nowhere..."
Shajeah Janjua, grade 9

RAIDER RANT



MATTHEW CONNOLLY
Co-Editor in Chief

I am both excited and distraught to announce that this is my final column for The Banner.

I'm excited because I'm off to more purple pastures to learn journalism in the hallowed halls of Northwestern University. I can hear your questions already, dear readers: have I not already perfected the art? The answer is yes, but I've decided to give this college thing a try anyway. At the very least I'll come back a bit smarter (and tens of thousands of dollars farther in debt).

I'm distraught because I love writing for this newspaper, crafting columns that were hopefully slightly more entertaining than your average math textbook. It seems like senior year was gone faster than Jamie Lynn Spears's virginity, and I'd like to take this time to address each class so they may make the most of their fleeting high school years.

Freshmen: You'll be sophomores next year, looking down on the incoming Class of 2012, but don't forget that you were freshmen once too. By that I mean, imagine how much grief you got this year, and apply it twofold to next year's freshmen. We can't have them getting too cocky in their first year here. Don't forget about academics, though; you're one year away from the big leagues, so fall behind and you'll be eaten up like Samuel L. Jackson in *Jurassic Park*.

Sophomores: Next year you'll be juniors, and grades will really matter. College preparation will start, and you'll have more letters on your hands than an entire season of Sesame Street: the SAT, the ACT, the APs, and the dreaded HSPA. So, before the scholastic maelstrom, enjoy your summer. Go to the beach, play some Frisbee, and try not to think about the upcoming school year. Come September, though, slack off and you'll get bitten worse than Samuel L. Jackson in *Deep Blue Sea*.

Juniors: You'll be seniors next year, but catching senioritis too quickly may present a few problems. First of all, you'll be inundated with college applications, and there's no quick and easy "fast track" to college. Well, there's one; as a white male with no discernible affirmative action priority, I claimed Martian ancestry on my Northwestern application. It's a minority most schools severely lack, but I digress. In addition to college, you'll want to keep your grades up to try and be exempt from a few final exams. If you're forced to come in while your friends are already enjoying summer, you'll end up worse than Samuel L. Jackson in *Star Wars Episode III*.

Seniors: Congratulations to all those graduating (for all those not graduating, please see tip above)! You're now ready to go to college, get a job, or mooch off of your parents for a few years. I haven't experienced it yet, of course, but I'm told there are numerous opportunities ahead to spread your wings and prove your worth among the world's best and brightest. Unless I was lied to. Either way, give it your all and you'll fly higher than, say, Samuel L. Jackson in *Snakes on a Plane*.

So there you have it: actual, helpful advice right here in The Banner. For those who said my column was nothing more than pointless asides and tiresome pop culture references, you were more wrong than Ben Affleck was when he signed on to star in *Gigli*. Consider this your first end-of-the-year motivational speech. For underclassmen, in fact, it may be your only motivational speech; I heard motivation had to be cut from the curriculum when the budget didn't pass.

So, dear readers, allow me to leave you with one last piece of advice: If you're ever attacked by a cougar, stand upright and still, raise your arms, and try to appear threatening. That said, thank you for your dedication and readership, and enjoy the rest of the school year. I'll see you in another column.

THIS IS NOT A LOVE POEM
Yoona Hong

This is not a love poem,
not-love, a not-love poem.

Falling waist deep into February
stomping the signatures of lost years
in footprints on the pristine present-
this, not-night has become electric
with memories smashing through
the thin ice of teenage alchemy,
charged, with the possibility of
heartache, frostbite,
or even a complete skeleton
of our separate childhoods
frozen underneath.
we, are the miners of nostalgia, now.

But in this not-night,
flushed
with the subtle city lights,
out here,
where our separate homes used to stand,
before the shame of
trailer trash, or
sunken lives
or broken glass,
we used to play

(this is not a love poem, not-love, this is *not how love works in the movies*)
somehow, when I was grading you
back, across the white field
of, NOW, the snowy sleeping hills of
our newborn responsibility,
birthed backwards, breeching into
wide streets and big houses,

I fell.

Not, with a boom, or a crash,
or a crunch, or a scream,
but a splash-
into the rich dark mud of our
trailer park pasts,
and your laugh is shaming the
careful silence of this not-night,
and the muck that has sucked me back
into childhood engulfs
the not-black in the smell
of old bones
and sleeping roots.

We two,
splattered elbow deep and sopping thick,
are learning love
in spite of
the February cold,
in spite
of your years
and my mistakes,
in spite of
the not-night
and the mud-soaked now.

I drove us here,
but you let me wear your coat.

ON THE TIP OF MY MUSE
Tom Cantillon

After midnight's painted finish
After the last song has been buried
After the last kiss has been deposited
After the last line has been written
After the lovers have become disentangled
What then of inspiration?

When horizons crash in a fiery wreck
And mainstreet is a bloody mess
Broken dreams like skeleton frames
Silhouetted against a saddened sunset
Reminds of the dust
That all the fallen have now become

Poets take pens
But the paper is charred
Unspoken words
Like stones they do sink
Dragging with them
A moment never to be regained

Gabriel's fall sent pens a blazing
But what of the kiss behind the bedroom door,
Does it claim its own personal paradise?
Is a painting or poem thus born?
Or does that secret kiss
Secretly exist alone in its own ghostland?

ALL MYTHOLOGY REMEMBERED
Tom Cantillon

Across uneven floorboards
Dark leather boots clap thunder
All heads turn, but no eyes stare
At the one from Olympus
Who now scorches our earth

Some blind, piano-playing bluesman
Tattoos us with his songs
About life's unfair chains
But no Siren's song
Distracts him from the horizon

Between rhythmic heartbeats
His Shakespearean sonnet eyes
Measure life and luck
Calculating his own Odyssey
The one has left to make

A grey-smoke wall
Drifts ghostlike in circles
A distant moon howls
For the memory of Zeus's son
Which no map will ever reveal

Hidden in the shadows
Aphrodite and Apollo watch
For no Love or War
Will ever erase the night
Marlon Brandon Kissed me

Greaser Girls

LISA MATHEWS
Staff Writer

Recently, after watching NBTHS' incredible rendition of *Grease*, I was reading up on the play when I found an interesting critique on the movie. A reviewer on the journal site *Blogger* wryly asked, "Why does Olivia Newton-John have to turn into a leather-clad skank? Why doesn't John Travolta become a plaid-wearing square?"

Having watched the movie myself, I wondered the same. Newton-John, as Sandy, makes the transformation from the dull, conservative girl with overly-short bangs to a curly-haired firecracker in a tight black bustier with an aplomb that can only be carried off on the screen. Her shy personality appears to change, accommodatingly so, instantly.

The entire play (and movie) revolves around the differences between Sandy and the fast, smooth-talking object of her summer romance, Danny, played by Travolta. Ultimately, Sandy makes the decision to go from goody-goody to greaser girl herself, citing "love" as the main force. Fiction is peppered with stories of girls who go glam-

orous for boys who may be just a little too fast for them, starting with Cinderella.

England was first introduced to the makeover with *Pygmalion*, a play by George Bernard Shaw. Though based on the Greek myth of the sculptor who fell in love with his statue, the "statue" in *Pygmalion*, which eventually spawned a musical, *My Fair Lady*, is the coarse, lower class Eliza Doolittle, and the "sculptor" is Professor Henry Higgins. However, rather than fall in love with her, he merely educates Eliza in the manners of a well-bred girl, eventually producing a sophisticated, learned young woman as the condition of a bet with a friend.

More recent is the 1990 film *Pretty Woman*, which starred Julia Roberts and Richard Gere, along the same lines with Roberts playing a guileless call girl and Gere a wealthy businessman. It was wildly popular, winning Roberts a Golden Globe and the film two BMI Film awards, and nominations for four British Academy of Film and Television Arts (BAFTA) awards, as well as awards and nominations for many other honors. In a teenage remake, the 1999 movie *She's All That* includes the bet with Freddie Prinze, Jr.'s highly popular character to turn an anti-social but artistically-gifted character, played by Rachael Leigh Cook, into a prom queen. The film garnered six awards and many more nominations.

This just continues a line of a favorite plot of makeovers and transformations, but why the fixation on women? The story of *The Irish Cinderlad*, retold by Shirley Climo, was lauded as nothing but a comedy, and in the play *Galatea*, or *Pygmalion Reversed*, the male "Galatea" is a laughable, weak character. The best example of such a

male metamorphosis would be the story of *The Beauty and the Beast*, which revolves around the character of the female lead, Belle. Another fairytale, *The Frog Prince*, is about a frog who, after being kissed by a princess, becomes a human man. However, it really dwells on the female character's aversion to ugliness because of her own beauty.

This portrayal of shallowness is as old as the obsession with beauty, which unfairly focuses on women in particular. This creates pressure not only on the entertainment industry, but on the everyday girl as well.



Photo courtesy of Google Images

The short-lived ABC show *Extreme Makeover*, which ran in 2002, was touted as a "total change" for all participants, but viewers may have noticed that these lucky chosen were predominately women. The emphasis on beauty in women, especially in America, has hit new heights, from the incredibly advanced techniques of plastic surgery to a giant make-up industry, on which America spends more than \$18 billion on yearly.

The most dangerous aspect of beauty in America comes from weight loss. U.S. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) estimated that "0.5% to 3.7% of women" suffer from anorexia at some point in their lives. Anorexia, a psychological disease that causes 95% of women to have "perspectives of appropriate body shape and size," often starving themselves or painfully dieting, is as big a concern for America as obesity.

Though *Grease* itself was written as a parody of the overt sexuality of the 50's, its promotion of female superficiality for love is a just one of the many social issues that have followed that era to today.

Impersonal Socializing

JASON HABERMAN
Staff Writer

In today's world of technology, it seems the only way us teenagers communicate is by texting. No longer do teens call each other on the phone to talk to one another and actually hear each other's voices like our parents had done when they were our age. Now, one just has to type in a message on a phone to communicate—usually using shortcuts for words making the messages even more effortless. Unfortunately, teenagers gravitate towards this method because it uses no effort at all. When you look at it, though, texting is not always a good thing because sometimes it shows that you do not care about the person enough to call them up and talk to them. Calling people on the phone seems to be outdated now because new phones keep coming out that have keyboards since phone companies continue to support this impersonal method of conversation and many teens prefer texting over everything else.

Texting takes out the emotion in conversations. When you hear someone's voice, you can tell how they are feeling or what they are thinking whereas text messages are just words on a screen. A smiley face does not make up for the happy tone of voice you hear when you call someone. Also, typing in "LOL" does not compensate for the laugh you would hear if you were actually talking to the person because in my opinion, hearing a laugh makes someone feeling better than if they were just reading "LOL" on a screen.

I, myself, am a slave to texting and I dislike calling people on the phone because texting is so much easier. When someone explained to me this point of view, I realized that I should learn to call my friends more often than I do, instead of texting every time I want to talk to them. So far, I have not been very successful in accomplishing this goal. Last month, I had sent and received over 1,500 text messages and I spent less than thirty minutes on the phone, most of which were used in calling my parents. From now on, I am going to try my hardest in accomplishing this goal to call my friends when I want or need to talk to them and begin to socialize with them more personally. If everyone started doing this too, I think our society would grow closer together. So the next time you feel like having a conversation, do not use the ever popular, yet extremely impersonal, text message and actually pick up the phone and call them personally.

Negative News Dominates the Media

CHELSEA GLINCMAN
Staff Writer

It has become commonplace to open a newspaper on any given day and read about a husband who murdered his wife, or a recent suicide bombing in the Iraq battle zone.

I personally am no longer surprised by even the most disturbing and vile news stories. What I find more perturbing than these reports is the profusion of negativity that dominates the modern media.

Not only does the media capitalize on graphic, violent images and stories, but also depressing, dismal ones. It is these stories that bring the overall morale and spirit of a person to its lowest.

Children are surrounded by this terrible information, most of which is a mischaracterization of the world today. These children, who represent the future of our country, will be psychologically changed for the worse by the negative news which they are encircled with throughout their childhood.

There is an easy fix to this rising problem. News companies and media working simply need to emphasize positive stories instead of unsettling ones. Writers need to shift the focus of their stories from a way to make more money to a way to boost the spirit of their readers. A media company's mission should not be overshadowed

or motivated by avarice.

Of course, bad news will still be reported, but it does not need to be capitalized on and advertised as it has been in recent years. For instance, an article about a miracle recovery should be more pronounced than a recent death.

The media needs to change their methods for reporting news. Negativity can be easily avoided if positive stories are capitalized on.

All Eyes On Lady Lax Team

BRANDEN PANICO
Staff Writer

The Lady Raiders Lacrosse team seems to be on their way to another outstanding season. Led by captains Megan Olmstead, Erin Dunne, and Kaitlyn Curran, the Varsity squad has started a perfect 12-0 this season. The Lady Raiders are first in their conference and are showing signs that they will put up a strong fight in hopes to defend their GMC title.

The team has been very successful this year in every aspect of the game. When asking Lady Raiders starting attack Nikki Karas what factors have led to the teams success she said, "Team work, definitely. Although our captains play a big role in setting the table, every girl on the team has their own individual job in which they succeed in". She also added, "If the team wants to continue winning they must trust each other and play hard".

Once again, starting center Erin Dunne is having a phenomenal season, except this year was a little bit different. In an epic game, which pinned our North Brunswick Raiders verse J.P Stevens, Erin Dunne made NBTHS history by scoring her 200th career goal. The team went on to win the game in grand fashion. Erin has been scoring goals on the Varsity team since her freshman year at NBTHS. Her success has a lot to do with her passion to play and love of the sport.

The Lady Raiders are having one of their



better seasons in recent years. The goals and the wins just keep coming. The team has had a knack for annihilating their opponents so far this year. On April 3rd of this season, the Lady Raiders scored an extraordinary 18 points in a game verse their rival South Brunswick.

Overshadowed by their incredible offense the Lady Raiders Defense had been able to do a good job all year keep their team in each game. Led by their goalie Frankie Russo, the Lady Raider defense has held their opponents to low scores in almost every game. Defense will be a key factor for the team if they want to repeat in the GMCs. If they continue playing like this, that dream could soon be a reality.

Boys' Lacrosse

VINNY ABBRUSCATO
Staff Writer

This year the boys' lacrosse team has had a tough first year with there new head coach Brett Severino. The team may be having a tough time adjusting to the new coach and his style. At times the team has shown signs of coming together. The biggest problem seems to be consistency. They have to try to put a string of wins together.

The team did lose some key player from last year but at the same time they still have a decent amount of good players. All-area goaltender Kyle McVay is one of three captains for the varsity squad. Brad Nussbaum is also one of the captains and he plays defense for the team. They both are quality players.

The problem though does not seem to be from the lack of talent, as it seems to be the lack of chemistry. If everyone can play as a whole then their record could easily be a winning one. This year's team only has a total of three seniors and it is prodimently made of juniors. Next years lacrosse team will have a total of 11 varsity seniors. That leads you to believe that next year the lacrosse team could have a good season.

So this season may not be what the team expected it to be but at the same time there is an upside. All that has to be done is coming together as one.

Boys Volleyball

LISA MATHEWS
Staff Writer



The NBTHS Boys' Volleyball Varsity and Junior Varsity teams ended their seasons by tripling both their Greater Middlesex Conference (GMC) and total wins since last year. Coached by Mr. James Bilsoli, both teams' seasons, which ran from April 2 to May 12, vastly improved in only their second year here at NBTHS.

The varsity team, co-captained by seniors Tejash Shah and Matthew Keller, finished with a 6-12 record. Other graduating seniors also include Brian Bokserman and Boris Wong-Lin. The JV team, captained by Elliot Cohen ended with a 6-11 record. Both teams performed powerfully at all their games, pulling their collective rank up to sixth seed this season.

After developing incredibly since their inception only two years ago, both teams plan to continue training over the summer to return next spring for an even better season.

Tragedy Mars Kentucky Derby

MATTHEW CONNOLLY
Co-Editor-in-Chief

Horse racing has always been a sport of a different nature than the other most popular American athletic pastimes. The purely animal drive that comes from watching horses race, sans human reasoning, is what sets the sport apart. At the recent Kentucky Derby, this drive led to both an uplifting victory and a tragic end.

The winner, favorite Big Brown, claimed victory by 4 3/4 lengths. The real story, however, was second-place finisher Eight Belles.

The filly hung strong with Big Brown, but collapsed after finishing the race. Medical personnel recognized two broken ankles, a freak injury that has never before occurred on race day.

While a football player can be put on the disabled list while he rehabs, injuries to horses are different. Eight Belles had to be euthanized right there on the track where she fell.

"There was no way to save her. She couldn't stand," trainer Larry Jones said. "She ran an incredible race. She ran the race of her life."

All of this occurred in front of 157,700 horse racing fans, the second-most ever present at the Ken-

tucky Derby. "That's one of the saddest things I've ever seen," said Kathleen Brower of Louisville, who was in attendance. "We went from the high for the winner and something like this happens. It just takes the wind out of the sails."

There has been a bit of a backlash against the incident. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals has asked that Eight Belles jockey Gabriel Saez be suspended. A letter faxed by PETA to the state of Kentucky's racing authority states that the horse was "doubtlessly injured before the finish."

"What we really want to know, did he feel anything along the way?" PETA spokeswoman Kathy Guillermo said. "If he didn't then we can probably blame the fact that they're allowed to whip the horses mercilessly."

Despite the group's outspokenness, most are simply calling the event a tragedy and moving on.

"It wasn't that, it wasn't the distance, it wasn't a big bumping match for her, she never got touched," said Jones. "She passed all those questions ... with flying colors. The race was over, all we had to do was pull up, come back and be happy. It just didn't happen."

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.

Editors
Farnaz Mansouri
Matthew Connolly

Editorial Staff
Wendy Chen
Tiffany Hsueh
Aditya Raina

Staff Members
Vinny Abbruscato
Rafia Baig
RJ Barkelew
Michelle Barthole
Krisi Berry

Ashley Bryan
CeNendra Delk
Chelsea Glinzman
Katy Golvala
Jason Haberman
Rachel Hunter
Lanna Karupen
Tiffany Kilmurray
Bobby Kolesar
Silvia Lavenuta
Surae Magruf
Lisa Mathews
Richard Mattei
Amanda Meagher
Sampada Nandyala
Angie O'Dowd

Branden Panico
Chandni Patel
Jessica Rowe
Cara Salerno
Abigail Schwartzberg
Justin Serrano
Maria Sgroi
Stephanie Solis
Vianca Vargas
Sade Williams
Ryan Winchock
Elijah Yarborough

Advisor
Ms. Rebecca Schantzenbach