

THE BANNER

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North Brunswick Township High School
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Raider Marching Band: A Force To Be Reckoned With

Cristina Torres, Staff Writer

The award-winning Raider Marching Band put on an incredible performance at their first competition on September 27th, 2014. The Hamilton West Cavalcade of the Bands, held at Hamilton High School West, had some of the top twelve bands in New Jersey competing. There were awards given for music, visuals, and effects. The annual Cavalcade of the Bands is one of the longest-running band shows in the United States.

This year's theme was "Something Latin". The songs played were "The Cumbancero," by Rafael Hernandez, "Diego's Goodbye," by James Horner, and "One More Time," by Chuck Correa. The band worked since their intense, multi-day band camp in August to prepare for the competition season. Additionally, the band has practiced multiple evenings throughout the school week.

At the Hamilton West Cavalcade of the Bands, the Raider Band placed first in their division, Group 5A. One of the two Drum Majors of the 2014 season, Tapeshe Nagarwal, remarks, "After countless hours spent on the field, this band put together an amazing first impression that has everyone wanting to see more".

The band performed a powerful show for the audience, and

scored in the high 70's. The Hamilton West Show started their 2014 Marching Band season on the right foot.

When most people think of the Raider Band, all they visualize are the brass instruments, the conducting Drum Major, and the resonating drums. However, the North

Brunswick Color Guard's excellent execution of their routine had a forceful impact on the band's score. One of the Color Guard captains, and senior, Rebecca Schnier reflects, "Starting off the season having almost 15 new girls seemed like an impossible task, but everyone's hard work over the past 2 months

really showed during our competition. I couldn't be more proud of how far the girls have come!"

Overall, every single person in the band has practiced for months on end to make their show as flawless as possible. Their compelling and dominant performance led the way for a successful season!



Photo Courtesy of Cristina Torres

From left to right: Amanda Girello, Cassandra Schroeder, Tapeshe Nagarwal, David Kim, Nick Ramos, and Rebecca Schnier.

A Server's Take On: Who Done It?

Lam Jah, Contributing Writer

The NBTHS Alchemists produced a dinner theater on Friday, October 15th, 2014. The play was about the death of a wealthy businessman who, in his will, left one person with all of his money. However, somehow, multiple people got copies of the same will and went to the funeral in hopes of getting his wealth. The people who had the same will all had different ways of stealing the money.

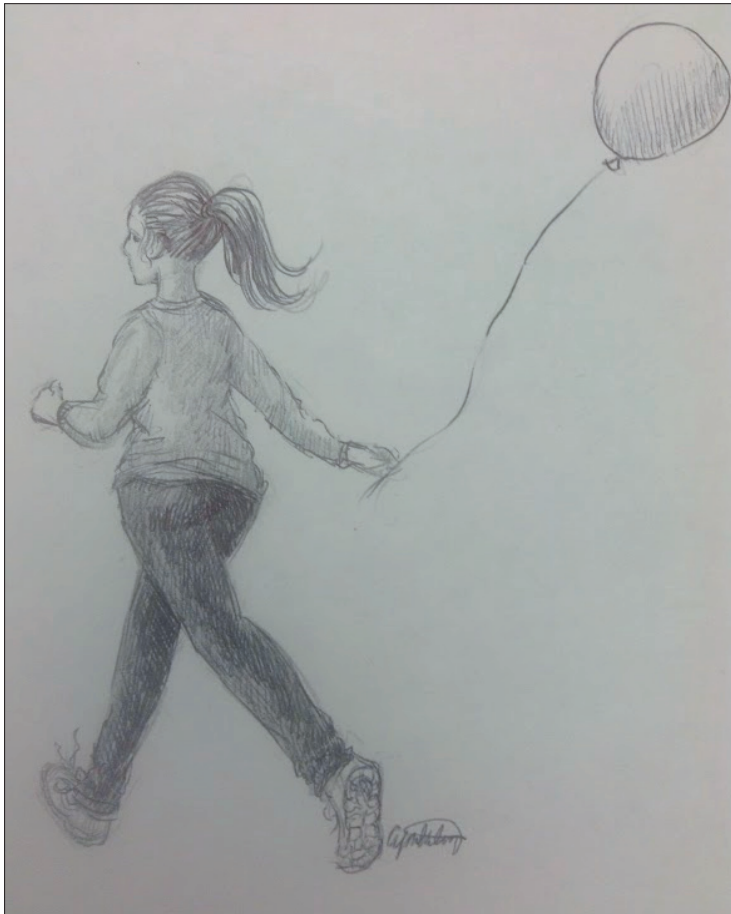
During the intermissions of the play, the DECA members of North Brunswick Township High School worked as servers for the guests who came to watch. Each of the servers enjoyed working for and waiting on the viewers. The servers had to be swift and efficient to make sure that the people they were serving got what they wanted while staying out of the way of the Alchemist members. The DECA mem-

bers wore badges weeks before the event, and each member claimed he or she knew who killed the businessman. During the play itself, many speculated and tried to figure out who was the actual perpetrator. "I found the play really enjoyable to watch and am grateful to have been able to act as a server for the play." Nilay Sharma, sophomore and Deca member, said in response to the event.

Many of the guests were happy with the play and the professionalism of the servers. They appreciated how the servers came back with a smile and happy aura around them as they went about gathering their orders for them. Every server did their best to wait on each guest and bring the guests whatever they needed, when they needed it.

Year Sixteen Of Success For Care-to-Walk!

Chris Salimbene, Contributing Writer



Artwork Courtesy of Cynthia Liang

Hundreds of people showed up to the 16th annual Care-To-Walk. Over \$1,000 were raised for breast cancer.

On October 26th, the Care-To-Walk club held its 16th annual charity walk. Hundreds of people showed up early around 8am to walk a mile to support the fight against breast and ovarian cancer. Regardless of the windy weather, it was something to never forget; an unforgettable way to support a beneficial cause.

There was also a variety of activities at the event including raffles for prizes such as signed footballs along with two signed basketballs. Ms. Rafano won the two signed basketballs, during the raffle.

The club rose over \$1,000 towards breast cancer research during the event, with some even walking more than the initial 5 kilometers. Care-To-Walk club members arrived to the site of the walk as early as 5am to set up.

The walk was successful in aiding a good cause. The money the club rose was put towards cancer patients in the battle against breast cancer. Also, there were doughnuts for the people who showed up to the walk at 5am to 10am, then pizza for those who showed up at 11am to 1pm.

Overall, everyone had a good time with their friends and family and supported an excellent cause. The club educated people about breast and ovarian cancer and its effects on people.

The Care-To-Walk club thanks everyone who showed up at the walk. Hopefully, the walk in 2015 will be even better for everyone who comes to walk and more helpful in the fight against cancer.

Team 25 Hosts Competition

Haley Adams, Staff Writer

The NBTHS Robotics team, FRC Team 25, hosted its annual Brunswick Eruption off-season competition on November 9th. Forty teams were in attendance and the event was a wonderful dry run for the in-season event which NBTHS will be hosting in the spring. The game being played was Aerial Assist which utilizes a two foot in diameter yoga ball to develop team work between teams in three on three matches.

The day began with opening ceremonies including both the American and Canadian national anthems played by members of the marching band. Mr. Cokeley, coach to the team since its founding, was presented with gift from the team.

The day consisted of 34 matches to see where teams seeded followed by best of 3 elimination rounds. Team 25 ended up seeding 6th after the preliminary matches which allowed the team to select their own alliance which made it to the semifinals.

The winning alliance consisted of teams 222, 1075, 2590, and team 375 who was their substitute alliance member at the ready. The event was an amazing success and teams are already looking forward for next year. Brunswick Eruption was a great opportunity for people to see what it is Raider Robotix actually does.

California Bans Gay/Trans Panic Defense

Contributing Writer

On September 27, 2014, California officially banned the gay/trans panic defense as rationalization for assault or murder.

The gay/trans panic defense is a claim made by a defendant, who has been taken to court for assaulting and/or killing a person who happened to be gay or transgender. The defendant argues that he received unwanted advances (whether romantic or sexual) from the gay or transgender individual and “panicked”, reacting violently. Often in this type of situation, the defendant will be given a lower charge.

California was the first to ban this legal defense, as well as the first to ban gay conversion therapy involving minors in 2012. The movements created in just this one state says much about the future for the United States as a whole.

The basis of this defense is widespread homophobia (in the

broadest sense of the word, not being limited to solely homosexual people) and transphobia, and the belief that they are uncontrollable fears, due to the suffix “-phobia”. However, homophobia and transphobia are more often rooted in misunderstanding and disgust, emphasized by the conviction that all gay/trans people are sexual predators.

This ban is the recognition that this sort of defense, in which members of the LGBTQA+ community are put at strong disadvantage, is now being seen now as unethical and unfair, when it may not have been questioned in the past.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

People raise flags in support of California's ban of the gay/trans panic defense.

To quote Derek Jarman, film director and gay rights activist, “Understand that sexuality is as wide as the sea. Understand that your morality is not law. Understand that we are you.” The United States is changing every day, using individuals as stepping stones, and single states as mountains.

Retractions:

In the October issue of *The Banner* the article, “The Influence of Education” was erroneously credited. The byline belongs to Kelly Minguet.

In the October issue of *The Banner* the article, “Hello, Sport Renovations” included inaccuracies.

Senior Spotlight: Tapeshe Nagarwal Class of 2016 Spotlight: Brian Cha

Ashley Garcia, Staff Writer

The North Brunswick Marching Band can be seen performing during halftime at NBTHS football games on Friday nights. As the band marches to the field, a student in a tuxedo climbs onto a podium and conducts the band. As all eyes focus on the band, the drum major leads the band and keeps it from falling apart. That individual is Tapeshe Nagarwal.

As drum major, Senior Tapeshe Nagarwal holds the fate of the marching band in his gloved hands. He commands the band and works hard at each practice and performance to lead the band to excellence.

Tapeshe is wholeheartedly involved in the music department at NBTHS. In addition to being one of the two drum majors of marching band, Tapeshe is in the Jazz Band,

plays in the pit for school musicals, and is in the Honors Wind Ensemble.

With the advent of the end of his high school career, Tapeshe reflects on his memories at NBTHS.

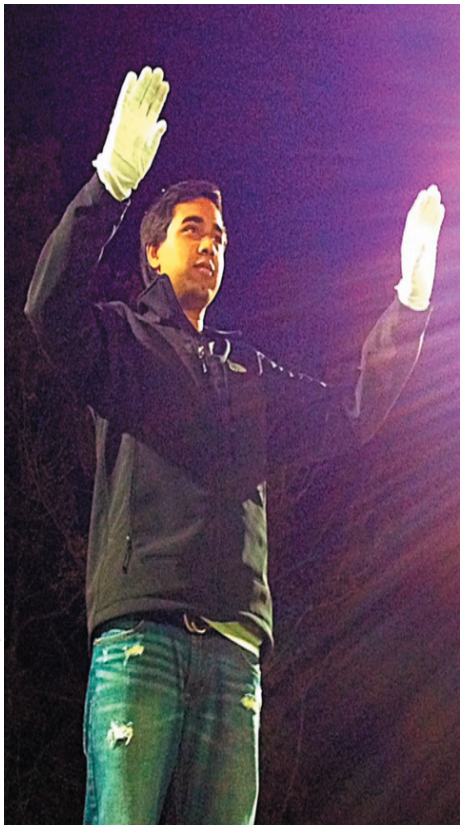


Photo Courtesy of Ashley Garcia

His favorite being the moment he found out he was elected the drum major. "I was extremely elated when I heard I was elected drum major by my peers. It is my proudest and most favorite moment at NBTHS."

As for his plans for the future, Tapeshe hopes to attend one of his two top schools, Drexel and Rutgers. He

plans to study Business. In addition to band, his favorite subject is math.

Tapeshe has a bright future ahead of him and looks forward to seeing where life takes him.

Haley Adams, Staff Writer

"My priority in life is to be happy, whether that means having the dream job or the dream family," -wise words from junior Brian Cha. Inside and outside the classroom, Brian is looked up to by his peers because of his calm and collected attitude and humble demeanor.

In school, Brian is highly involved. He has been playing soccer his entire life and plays varsity for NBTHS; he is also a member of the SGO executive board, which requires for him to spend long hours preparing for all the events on their calendar. On top of this, Brian values his grades and is looking to go into engineering after high school.

Outside class, he enjoys playing guitar and being sociable on top of being a good Samaritan. Brian sees the value in aiding the

community at large and makes sure to fit time into his schedule to help others.

Brian isn't the only Cha running around North Brunswick--his twin sister, Erica, is in the Alchemist Theatre Company, and Brian always makes sure to support her in her performances. His older sister, Corrie, graduated from NBTHS in 2013, and his mother teaches at Linwood. Strong family roots are something which Brian values in his current life and plans on keeping with him in the future.

As a man of few words, Brian is extremely modest despite his vast accomplishments. His advice for freshmen is, "Focus on school, and you'll get where you want to be in life." The path Brian's life will take is still very much under construction, but he's looking forward to see where it will go.



Photo Courtesy of Haley Adams

Mr. Feliz: Spanish Teacher Today, Future Singer Tomorrow

Ami Patel, Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy of Geoffrey Mcfall

A teacher for nearly ten years, Mr. Feliz has been known for his affable personality and happy nature. The Spanish teacher said he started teaching because he liked people and "is able to get different perspectives on things." In school, he is recognized as someone who could get along with many people. Anyone who sees him in the hallway will definitely remember his smile and his cheerful, "¡Hola!".

Teaching Spanish is not the only thing Mr. Feliz does. Recently, he released a new album, "Favor of God". Mr. Feliz loved music as a teenager, and

he was even a fan of Stevie Wonder and Donnie McClurkin.

"I just love music," he said. Even before his album, Mr. Feliz was making music. "I do Coffee Houses, outdoor venues, churches, and showcases. I do quite a few [performances] per year," he said with a smile. Mr. Feliz's accomplishments are not going to stop at his new album. He is also planning to do a live concert by "inviting friends that are also musicians and singers, and we're all going to have fun."

Making an album, Mr. Feliz said, isn't always an easy task. His album took two years to create, and required bringing different musi-

cians and singers, arranging listening parties, and listening to different types of feedback, both negative and positive. And in this new age of technology, promoting the album using social media is also a much-needed step. However, Mr. Feliz said that such challenges should not discourage a singer from fulfilling their dreams.

In addition to warning future singers about the difficulties of recording music, Mr. Feliz also offered a wonderful piece of advice. "Be open to feedback from peers," said the cheerful Spanish teacher. "Make sure you work with people you connect well with."

Pope Creates a New Future for Roman Catholicism

Cynthia Liang, Staff Writer

Whether good or bad, there seems to be an unanimous opinion that Pope Francis is acting much differently than his predecessors from both the theist and atheist circles. The leader of the Roman Catholic Church has taken small steps to transform its image, including wearing muted garb instead of the traditional ermine-lined capes of other popes, refusing to ride in bulletproof limousines, and referring to himself as “Bishop of Rome” instead of “Supreme Pontiff”.

These actions, however, build up to bigger ones. Francis has taken fairly progressive views as of late in topics such as homosexuality, science, the poor, and the reform of the Church itself. Thousands have applauded his actions in helping the homeless and his more welcoming stance on the LBGQT community, citing him as a genuinely kind man and the change needed to reshape the Roman Catholic community. Indeed, the Catholic Church has been in dire need of a change. For more than several years, it has been

facing many challenges that have weakened it. The most prominent were a flood of allegations accusing church officials of child sexual abuse and the aftermath of the Vatican trying to cover it up. Catholic priests were looked at in a negative light and branded as child molesters, perverts; the public view of the system as a whole dropped.

Pope Francis has shed a much better light upon the Catholic faith. According to a study done by Pew Research, 71% of U.S. Catholics believe that the Pope is bringing about major change, and 85% of them viewed him favorably. The general public seems to concur as well: 86% of the general public that chose to rate him gave him a favorable view in February 2014.

Although the Pope has been lauded for his hu-

mility and kindness, he still has obstacles to face. Conservative Catholics have criticized his progressivity, calling out his lenient stance against homosexuality and contraception,

among other topics. He will need to face these challenges, possibly changing the future for the Catholic Church by setting a precedent, in the coming months.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The pope is changing the future one opinion at a time from his kind personality to accepting opinions.

Black Friday or Black Thursday

Niha Manubolu, Contributing Writer

With November comes Black Friday shopping. All the deals and discounts really get people out of the thanksgiving spirit. Instead of being with their family, they are camping outside stores – cuddling with the cold pavement. Thanksgiving is the time of year where everyone should be spending time with family; instead we have people either working behind registers or rushing through aisles trying to get the last flat screen TV. Store owners should acknowledge the fact that

Black Friday should be on Friday—not on Thursday.

Thanksgiving dinner is being traded for Dunkin’ Donuts while people wait in long lines, instead of spending time with their families. We should also shed some light on the fact that employees have to abandon their families and work in overcrowded stores; it’s just not fair. So this Thanksgiving, let’s not wait in long lines and be greedy for less prices. Let’s spend time with our families!



Photo Courtesy of Google images

Black Friday and how it deprives families quality time during the Thanksgiving holiday.

Royal Baby #2 on the Way

Elizabeth Ruffe, Contributing Writer

Announced on September 8, 2014, the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge are expecting a second child! The gender of the anticipated child has not yet been released, but the due date is sometime in April 2015.

The couple announced the pregnancy after having canceled several public appearances due to Kate suffering from what was believed to be severe morning sickness. This has been diagnosed as hyperemesis gravidarum, an illness characterized by chronic vomiting during pregnancy that can lead to dehydration, among other things.

With all the hype generated from the announcement of the previous royal pregnan-

cy and the birth — Prince George — one wonders whether it will all happen again. So far, there has not been a media crazy over the announcement, but we are still a long way from the due date.

Will Americans once again take up the obsession with the British Royal Family, or will Kate’s pregnancy and the birth of her second child pass in relative quietness?



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The announcement of the new royal baby and the obsession of many to come.

The Truth about Animal Shelters

Renee Benkovics, Contributing Writer

Animal shelters have always had a bad reputation, especially with the news and commercials about them. There are two different types of animal shelters, each having their own benefits and downsides.

The first type of animal shelter is one that has a “no kill” label. This type of animal shelter does not put any animal to sleep and will keep the animals for as long as they live. The problem with this type of animal shelter is that it will either have to turn away potential animals it could save, or it will take in too many animals, making the shelter crowded and unsanitary.

As PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) stated, “When ‘no-kill’ animal shelters and rescue groups are filled to capacity, which is almost always, they are left with two options: turn away more animals than they take



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The truth about the bad reputations that animal shelters uphold and the facts behind it.

in or warehouse animals, often in substandard, filthy, and severely crowded conditions, for weeks, months, or even years on end.”

The second type of shelter is one that euthanizes animals. This just means that it tries to help animals for as long as it can, but if it cannot find a home for them, or if

the animals condition is incurable, the shelter will put that animal to sleep in order to make room for others. This keeps the shelter cleaner and more organized.

The debate on which shelter is better seems unending. Personal opinions will always dictate which type of shelter is better.

DECA Does it

*Emily Conroy,
Contributing Writer*

This year, New Jersey DECA has committed to raising funds for The Seeing Eye, a service dog association, which provides by training and producing guide dogs to assist blind people in need of them. NBTHS DECA decided to partake in this project by beginning our own form of this.

Our DECA members demonstrated compassion by reaching out and educating our community about the work and services offered by “The Seeing Eye”. Members created and sold “dog tags” for \$1 each to the student body, staff members, and the community.

Many people in our community were delighted with our efforts and enlightened about the services that “The Seeing Eye” offers to blind people in need. Through the generosity of our school and community population, NBTHS DECA will be donating \$887.00 to “The Seeing Eye”. All of the money that was raised will be combined with that of other New Jersey DECA chapters and a final check will be given to the director of the charity.

DECA is grateful for everyone who donated to this cause, and thanks them for their contribution.

“What?”-Headphones Can Be Hazardous to Your Health

Deep Patel, Contributing Writer

At one point or another we have all come across that kid; the one kid with music blasting so loudly through his or her headphones that the entire study hall can hear it. But even with the volume set to what one may consider appropriate, teens are still at high risk for permanently damaging their hearing.

According to a study done by <http://www.osteopathic.org>, one in five teens suffer from some degree of hearing loss today. That rate is thirty percent higher than it was in the 1980’s. This high hearing loss rate in teens can be partly explained by the evolution of headphone design. Today’s headphones fit snugly into one’s ear, playing music right next to one’s ear drum. Before this simplistic design was created and became popular, headphones used to be bulky and cup around the entire ear. Those speakers were much farther from the sensitive bones in the ear responsible

for interpreting sound vibrations, thus causing less damage.

Although Beats by Dre have made the old design trendy again, teens still need to be more responsible for how loud they set the volume and how long they listen to music. Scientists at www.phys.org, recommend a volume of 70 to 85dB (just loud enough to still hear if someone is calling you when you are listening to music) for no more than a few hours a day.

Although you may not realize it, you probably have already permanently damaged your ears. Take care when listening to music to prevent further hearing loss.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The advancements in headphones is a tremendous risk to the modern day youth.

Un-meatable Vegans!

Lindsey Mykiety, Staff Writer

Veganism. It is a type of vegetarian lifestyle excluding products containing eggs, dairy, gelatin, and even honey. Many people are oblivious to the concept of veganism and how it works. I will inform you now so you don't have to an-

noy any of your vegan friends later.

Vegetables are a main factor of this diet but are not all of it. A variety of decent vegan products can be found in Trader Joes, Whole Foods, or even Shop Rite. Although limited, there are also vegan options at restaurants such as Chipotle, Subway, Salad Works, Moe's, and even Starbucks. Veganism is growing; Dunkin' Donuts just added almond milk.

Sometimes I am embarrassed of my vegan status because of the way it is depicted. The PETA organization is too forceful with their approach. Some, but not all vegans, are snobby or high maintenance, while many don't care is everyone is a

vegan or not. Stop the stereotypes, especially the ones penetrated by PETA.

As a vegan, I don't want to be seen as a drone for PETA, but as something more interesting. Usually in modern media in veganism is seen in many different ways. In "John Tucker Must Die" the specified vegan girl was viewed as excessively extreme in her lifestyle. In most other movies vegan food is seen as extremely healthy, which is misleading because you can easily be a vegan and eat only junk food.

With all of these different portrayals of vegans people don't know what to think and just go with the mainstream views I mentioned before. However, the view I most enjoy was in "Scott Pilgrim vs the World" where veganism was equipped with superpowers. Who's to say that's not true?

In our school today, I received many opinions on the

thoughts of veganism and how it is portrayed at NBTHS. An intimidated junior asks, "Vegans are scary, what do they even eat?" However, surprise surprise -- products like, some brands of Oreos, cereal, fruit snacks, and pop tarts without frosting don't contain any milk or egg ingredients.

Another negative opinion by a Freshman was, "Vegans always try to force their beliefs on everyone. While I'm eating I don't want to be harassed about what I'm eating." What needs to be understood is that all vegans are not like this.

Lastly, a more positive thought by a sophomore about this topic is, "Veganism is cool, saving the world and chiz." This is a more uplifting opinion that our society has concerning veganism, and should be more widespread.

To me, veganism is just a normal lifestyle. It shouldn't be exploited, judged, or seen as an impossible way to live.



No Meat? No Problem!

Kena Chavva, Staff Writer

The stereotypical American loves meat. According to other countries, Americans live, breathe, and dream meat--from juicy McDonald's lunch burgers to sizzling bacon in the morning, it is all they think about. In all honesty, though, very few people act this way. Of course meat is a part of the American diet, but so are other items--reducing a cuisine to a single food is ridiculous. Similarly, reducing vegetarianism, a lifestyle that has thrived for thousands of years and has deep international roots, to a

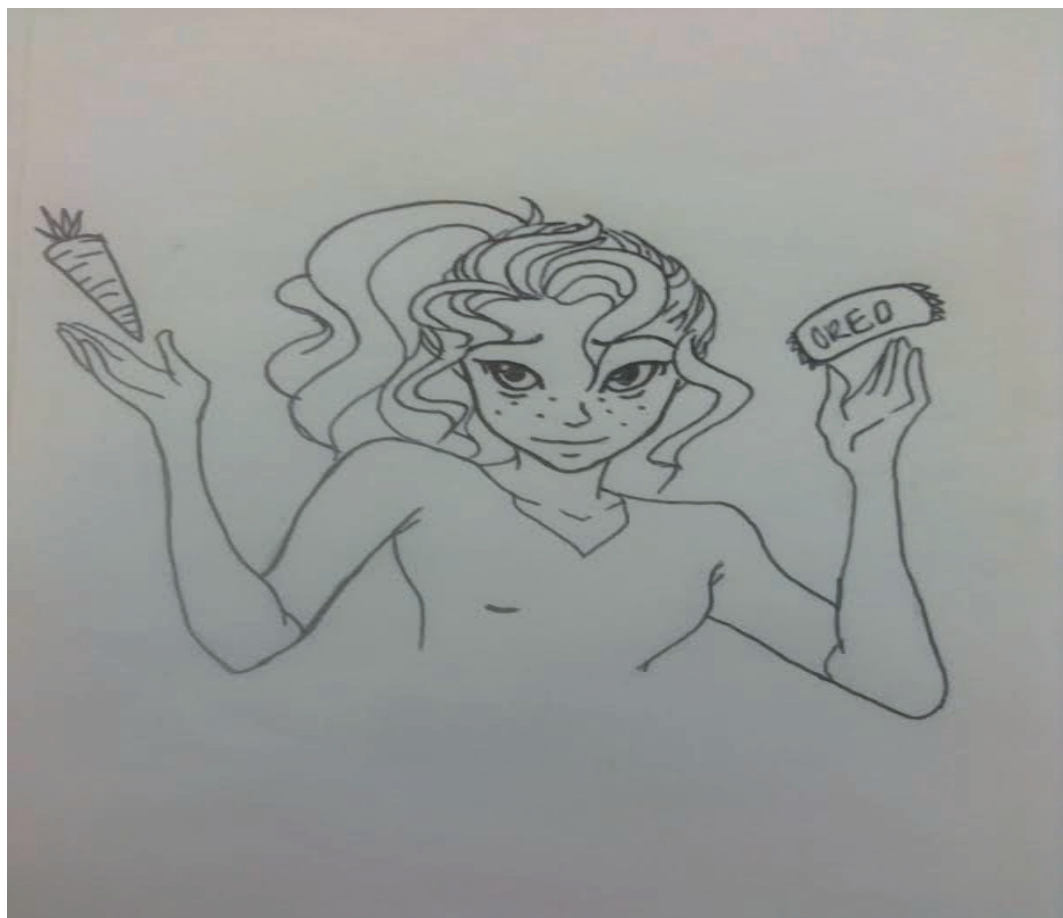
few annoying, picky eaters is equally stereotypical.

Vegetarians only eat lettuce. Vegetarians want to ruin meals with pictures of slaughterhouses. Vegetarians force their beliefs on others. Vegetarians think they're better than meat-eaters. All of these are untrue--while there are some vegetarians who will hand out photos of meat factories during lunch, and some who will pester others about "joining the cause", these people are a minority. Most vegetarians are peacefully, eating their food at the

next table over.

When some people meet vegetarians, they are curious as to how this lifestyle is sustained. As long as questions are respectful, any vegetarian should be fine with answering them. However, waving a piece of meat in front of a vegetarian is rude and invasive, though a shocking number of people find it amusing. Nobody likes to be taunted about their personal choices, especially when these choices rarely impact anyone but the person making them.

Everyone knows at least one vegetarian (especially in North Brunswick), and probably ten more that aren't constantly parading around their abstinence from meat. The best bet when meeting a vegetarian is to be considerate and open-minded. Vegetarians answer many insensitive questions and remarks about their dietary decision every day--make life a little easier for them by realizing that their personal choices are theirs alone, and not yours to comment on.



Artwork Courtesy of Alyssa Young

Maze Runner

Aldo Battle, Contributing
Writer

On September 19th, 2014, *The Maze Runner* was released. Originally written by James Dashner, this book became a cliché “best-selling novel” which will become “America’s #1 film”.

Well first of all, spoilers ahead, and second of all, it is nowhere near #1. This movie is just another novel to movie adaptation with an interesting concept but terrible execution, aimed at the adolescents of America by throwing in shaky camera work, and poorly directed action scenes.

Of all the problems this movie displays, the ending has to be the worst. The ending started off on a good point but it quickly shot itself down by forcing down a ridiculous amount of side plot to the audience. The ending varied from the novel. It forced a death of a minor character even though they portrayed it as a tragic loss.

The worst part was that



Photo courtesy of Google Images

Critics have much to say about the Maze Runner film’s lacking areas.

events leading up to the death in the end were completely forced. Gally, who did not escape the maze, shows up with a gun. First of all, when the group escaped the maze, all exits that they opened closed shut with no key being left behind. How can someone with no possible clue on how to even navigate through the maze catch up to the group in a matter of minutes with all exits shut down tight and with the Grievors running around the exit as well?

In conclusion, *The Maze Runner* is a sloppily made movie with an interesting concept. Some action scenes would be great if it were directed better and not shown with an extremely shaky camera angle. The acting was amateur at best but not enough to carry the movie that seems to drag at times.

Falling in Love or Falling into an Illusion?

Sarojini Rao, Contributing Writer

Living in a world where social media and superficial luxuries control most of our thought process can be tricky, especially when it comes to love, teenage love in particular. If you’re in a relationship and you’re between the ages of 13-18 ask yourself if you are actually in love or just in love with the idea of love.

These days twitter and instagram are filled with endless posts linked to the hashtag #relationshipgoals. These pictures are normally things like a handholding in a car, or milkshake sharing or cuddling. These images stir up the question as to is that all love is? Is love only enough if you can fit it into an iphone screen sized snapshot?

I personally believe teenagers are ignorant to the reality of certain situations and at a time where every ones opinion but your own seems valid, these pictures could be dangerous. It is baffling to think that a young girl is basing the quality of future relationships she may have on such mind numbing nonsense.

It is normal to want to get to know someone who is interested in the same things as you and helps you toil through the hardships of high school. Not wanting that

however, is fine as well. I really think we are being brainwashed into believing that at this age one must be focused on having a relationship, when being single is perfectly normal.

This new love crazy era is that it is too demanding and unrealistic. Im not sure how a picture of stacks of money and skateboarding with a “bae” is a real relationship goal. Also I think it makes it

seem like being committed to a person is what is normal, while handling your own business, solo, is very much okay.

At the end of the day I am not trying to attack anyone who is in a serious relationship at this age I am simply saying that if you use a computer screen to teach you what love is then maybe you are not ready to handle what it means to be serious.



Artwork Courtesy of Taylor Hilliard

The “bae” craze is the bae-ne of many people’s existence.

New Brunswick, are Rutgers students really safe?

Jennifer Carbajal, Contributing Writer



Photo courtesy of Google Images

The scenic Rutgers campus’s seedy underbelly endangers the well-being of its students.

The average student who is a New Jersey resident attending Rutgers University it would cost about 25,564 dollars per year. For a non-New Jersey resident the cost is almost doubled equaling 40,340 dollars per year for college.

People are spending thousands of dollars for education at Rutgers University yet they are not receiving the benefits that they deserve. Lately there have been many assaults, muggings and robberies happening near and on the New

Brunswick Rutgers Campus Area.

Victims claim that there were neither police nor cameras around when the occurrences took place. Some victims have found themselves in hospital beds for the injuries caused by the attackers or abusers.

The lack of protection and surveillance has become a serious matter that not only concerns the students but also the community as a whole. People have claimed that the police are nowhere to be found

before 9am and after 5pm on week days yet the police are always hovering the streets late at night on weekends. These statements should be taken seriously.

The students and the residents are both at risk for future assaults and muggings if protection isn’t offered. Some may argue that an easy fix for these students is to not go out late at night. However, these muggings have an early range starting at 6:20pm. Some Rutgers students are still in night class at that time.

Students shouldn’t be afraid to go to class or have to constantly watch their back when leaving the dorms. Protection should be included in the bundle of money that these students are paying yearly. Getting a good education should not come with risks. The lack of surveillance in New Brunswick is an issue the town must address. This issue will escalate more than it has in the last couple of months. Student and resident safety should always be put first in a busy town like New Brunswick. Begin with protection and put an end to violence.

Rationality, Racism, and Ebola

Kena Chavva, Staff Writer

Ebola is the first thing that most people can name when asked about major current issues--it is mentioned everywhere, from news headlines to passing hallway jokes ("Don't touch me, you have ebola!"). Despite the low, almost non-existent possibility of contracting ebola as a United States citizen, the disease remains a fearful topic for Americans. Unsurprisingly, Ebola is tangled up in race and economics as much as everything else in this country.

There are plenty of other fatal diseases that Americans are afflicted by--for example, enterovirus D68, a respiratory virus, has affected 825 people nationally and killed 7 children. Effects (if one survives) include paralysis and ventilatory support.

Statistically, Americans should fear enterovirus D68 more than ebola. But of course--notable enterovirus D68 outbreaks have occurred mainly in the United States and Europe, while the current ebola outbreak predominantly affects African nations. America, a 62% white

would not be so afraid of ebola if it broke out in white European nations.

Aside from the obvious racial prejudices tied in with American fear of ebola, economics have also played a major part in the search for an ebola cure. Because west African countries are not extremely wealthy nations, pharmaceutical companies will not make a huge profit from developing and selling a drug. If ebola affected first-world countries like the United States or Great Britain, companies would make a huge profit because citizens are more likely to pay a high price for the drug. Of course, scientists and researchers are working on a potential drug to cure or prevent ebola, but there little personal profit or initiative for them, and therefore, it is unlikely that a helpful drug will appear on the market anytime soon.

Almost every time a public official makes remarks on ebola, they are sure to state that the odds of an outbreak in America are slim. To quote President Obama himself, "I want the American people to

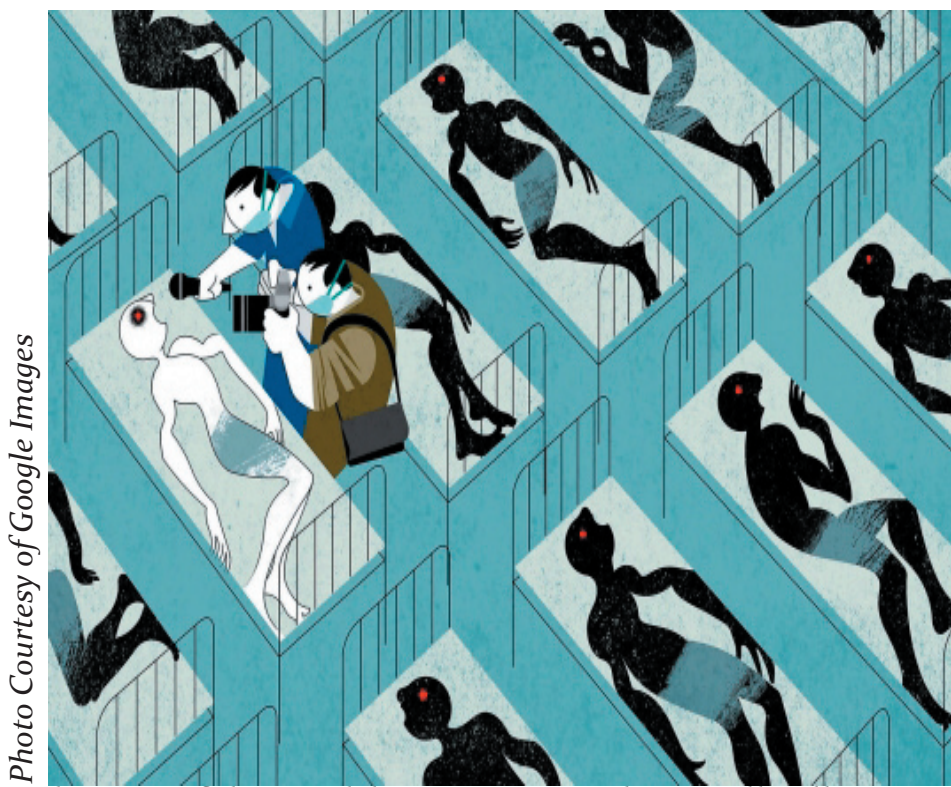


Photo Courtesy of Google Images

This powerful artwork by cartoonist André Carrilho illustrates the devastating way in which the world sees Ebola.

nation, is deathly afraid of a disease from nations like Sierra Leone and Liberia more than it is afraid of a virus that has killed 7 of its own citizens already. In fact, Ebola is becoming less of a crisis even in Africa than Americans believe. World Health Organisation Assistant Director General Bruce Aylward says, "Yes, we are seeing slowing rate of new cases, very definitely... We're seeing a reversal of that rapid rate of increase to the point that there seems to be a decline right now." Race and xenophobia play a huge part in the ebola panic--Americans

know that our experts, here at the CDC and across our government, agree that the chances of an Ebola outbreak here in the United States are extremely low." Yet, the panic persists, and a cure, unfortunately, is not on the horizon. If Americans decided to investigate the real causes of these problems, the world would be much closer to safety and health--but with the current sensationalist media coverage and self-serving pharmaceutical companies, we are moving further away by day by day.

Point & Counter-Point Music of Today's Day and Age

Kelly Minguet,
Contributing Writer

Kena Chavva,
Staff Writer

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



Old legends, like Freddie Mercury, of Queen, will never be forgotten.

In this generation, good music is a rare find. Radios have seized the art of the music industry and slaughtered it with the worthless garbage they play today.

An unfortunate aspect of music is that radio stations will never play the same kind of music that they did in the 70s, 80s, and 90s. Back then, legendary musicians were played across the world--artists like Nirvana, The Beatles, and Queen. Now what do we have? Katy Perry? Lady Gaga? The most popular "musicians" of our day are the most horrible humanity has ever heard.

It is truly tragic that children will grow up knowing artists like Justin Bieber and Taylor Swift and not have a clue what music really is. Good music is music that not only sounds great, but has a deeper meaning in it--that's where the beauty of music originates.

Good music still exists--though not on radios, it is still here. Finding good music depends on what genres you are into, of course. Whether you're into rap, indie, rock, or electric, there is quality music out there. To find great music you can use Internet sources and websites such as Pandora, Tumblr, and Spotify.

To give you an idea of today's more unpopular but amazing musicians, I will list some of my favorites: Of Monsters and Men, Vance Joy, Childish Gambino, The Arctic Monkeys, and Foster the People. These titles are a mix of many different genres for different tastes.

I do wish good music would be easier to find today, but it does make great conversation when you meet someone with similar music taste as you. If music of quality played on the radio I think it would be massively beneficial to humanity, as people seem to be only getting dumber--this could be a contribut-

"What's the deal with music nowadays?" Instead of introducing a witty monologue, that question is the preface to a dry speech about how "music today sucks". Those who criticize modern music clearly lack the ability to interpret lyrics and music, and yet maintain a superiority complex.

Today's pop artists are attacked for making music that supposedly lacks depth. People seem to conveniently forget that the focus of Beyonce's 2013 album was self-empowerment and Taylor Swift's 1989 is a clever satire of Swift's media persona. Those who complain that pop music has no "deeper meaning", are clearly unequipped to recognize it when it's right in front of them.

Equally laughable is the notion that liking iconic bands like Queen proves that one has "good" music taste, and is therefore smarter than someone who likes, say, Nicki Minaj. Pop artists of today sing about drugs, sex, and partying, yes, but they also sing about important social issues like LGBTQ acceptance, racism, coping with loss, and substance abuse. Artists of the past have written about thought-provoking subjects as well--and drugs, sex, and partying, too. Critics need to face it: people have always, and will always, sing about getting wasted.

The truth is that old legends have already received their seal of approval. It is safe and easy to listen to acclaimed musicians; little contemplation goes into the judgement of a legendary band.. Listening to the music of a new, potentially divisive musician actually relies on one's thoughts.

Narrow-minded critics' claim that "today's music is terrible" is a grossly broad statement, especially when when it is impossible to keep up with all the newest releases. One is bound to find something new (whether it's Bob Dylan or Ariana Grande--or both!) that they enjoy listening to.

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



Old and new artists come together to create new music.

That Show you Like is Going to Come Back in Style

Kena Chavva, Staff Writer

Canceled TV shows are one of the great tragedies of the media world. For die-hard fans, a tiny glimmer of hope remains that network executives will revive an old favorite. Nevertheless, twenty-five years after a cancellation seems an awfully long time to wait. Luckily for *Twin Peaks* fans, a wish has finally been fulfilled.

The show followed the lives of residents of the kitschy town *Twin Peaks* after the local homecoming queen, Laura Palmer, was brutally murdered. Special Agent Dale Cooper of the FBI was brought in to investigate, but along the way, he became tangled up in love affairs, extraterrestrial interference, and of course, more murders. In the gripping, bizarre series finale, Laura Palmer told Agent Dale Cooper, "I'll see you in twenty-five years." True to their words, writers and creators David Lynch and Mark Frost are bringing back the genre-defying cult classic on Showtime in 2016.

David Lynch declared the

revival via Twitter on October 6, 2014. He preceded the official announcement by tweeting quotes from *Twin Peaks* and asking his followers where *Twin Peaks* actor Everett McGill was. The nine-episode return will conclude storylines that were left unfinished in the 1991 finale. Questions remain, however--what about *Twin Peaks* actors that are now dead (such as Frank Silva, actor of Killer BOB)? Will the show pick up where it left off or will it continue in the modern day? The original show followed a nonlinear timeline; there were scenes that went into the future and scenes from the past as well, so it is difficult to predict what Lynch and Frost are planning to do.

Deep in the heart of the Internet, fans that debate meanings and symbolism of *Twin Peaks* are well and alive, and Lynch and Frost know this. They have created spin-

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



The opening cinematic of the TV show, *Twin Peaks*.

offs before, such as the movie prequel *Twin Peaks: Fire Walk With Me* and several trivia books. Are the creators still trying to cash in on a universe that has captivated viewers for decades, or are they genuinely interested in continuing the lives of their characters?

It is impossible to guess, as nothing more than the 2016 return has been officially revealed. The Man from Another Place said in the finale, "When you see me again, it won't be me." Perhaps this is the case with *Twin Peaks*, too.

Gerard Way's Experiment

AJ Savage, Contributing Writer

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



Gerard Way posing

You may have heard of Gerard Way before, as the darkly theatrical lead singer of the now defunct My Chemical Romance. After the group's breakup, it was made clear that the end of the band did not mean the end of Gerard Way's music career.

He has put out a few singles, but this new album will be the real

test. Called *Hesitant Alien*, its songs are just as eccentric as its title. The album opens up with "Bureau", a song that has a disgruntled garage rock sound. The song is alive and engaging. A few of these songs, like "Action Cat" and "No Shows" managed to fuse surfer rock with a Broadway-like rock musical tune. There's even Spanish in the song "Juarez" which is full of young angst and rebellion.

The only song that is reminiscent of the post-hardcore past of MCR is the last song, "Maya the Psychic". In this song he sings hauntingly with intense electric guitar and drums.

Overall, most songs sound perfect for dramatic montages of young, ruthless adventures. This album is exactly what the music world needs to shake things up. If you're tired of listening to the "Top 40 Hits", explore Gerard Way's adventurous and exciting world in *Hesitant Alien*.

The Theory of Everything

Samantha Persaud, Contributing Writer

A cunningly beautiful film with the power to entice everyone, the new movie *The Theory Of Everything*, may be the most inspirational movie ever. Director James Marsh portrays the true story of Stephen Hawking to perfection.

The film is about the now-famous astrophysicist, Stephen Hawking, falling deeply in love with a woman; Jane Wilde. Stephen has a mind that is extraordinary, he is an astrophysicist, that conquers all questions.

However the healthy young man takes a turn for the worse as he is diagnosed with a disease at 21. This diagnosis however does not stop him or Jane from loving each other. With the love and support of Jane, he ventures into a deep scientific territory to retrieve the answer to one aspect-time.

Photo Courtesy of Google Images



Eddie Redmayne portraying Hawking.

Together they hurdle many obstacles, the young couple break new science grounds while discovering the true meaning of love. Eddie Redmayne played Hawking, and through his performance he brings the astrophysicist to life. As the film unravels a stunningly gorgeous heart-felt movie ties up. This true story will not only warm heart, but make you realize that there are no boundaries, and that anything is possible.

Galaxy Note 4

Caitlyn Barbato, Contributing Writer

There has always been the constant battle between Android and iPhone. But will the Galaxy Note 4 be good enough to get iPhone users to make the switch?

If you thought that other Samsung smartphones were big, you will not believe the size of the Galaxy Note 4, 5.7 inches. Its only real competition would be the iPhone 6 plus.

On the other hand, the Galaxy Note 4 has many new features that may need some getting used to. The apps are very useful, but they require patience for those who aren't used their way of working. However, once



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Samsung Galaxy Note 4's new display.

one can understand how to use these apps, they will find that their Galaxy experience is full of useful features. For example, one of the features allows you to put apps in pop-up type windows to easily help you multi-task.

Despite the challenges of understanding the mechanics of the new features, if you have the patience and the time, you won't regret making the switch from an iPhone to an Android.

Settling it in Smash

Malcolm Wooten, Contributing Writer



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

The cast of Super Smash Bros in full glory.

Super Smash Bros 4 was a knockout hit on the 3DS, selling over 2 million copies so far, and will be released for the Wii U on November 21. Super Smash Bros for Wii U has some new features worthy of purchase after buying the 3DS version.

8-Player Smash! Super Smash Bros for Wii U will allow up to eight players to fight together, all at once. There will be more chaos than there ever was in Smash. 8-Player fights will not be available on online brawls, only locally.

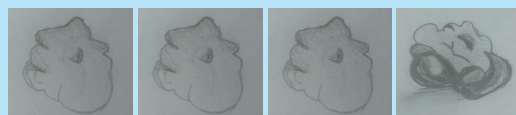
People with GameCube controllers taking up space and going to waste can finally start using them again. Alongside the release of Super Smash Bros for Wii U is the release of a Gamecube controller adapter for the Wii U. Up to four GameCube can be plugged into an

adapter simultaneously. Unfortunately, GameCube controllers will only work for Super Smash Bros as of now.

The luxury of owning both a 3DS and Wii U copy of Super Smash Bros is that you can use your 3DS as a controller when playing on the Wii U. Don't have enough controllers for your friends at your Super Smash Bros party, now you can take out a 3DS as a substitute. Super Smash Bros for Wii U may not be as successful as its counterpart on the 3DS. Super Smash Bros was the catalyst that Nintendo needed to recover from its slow start at the beginning of the year. The hype for Super Smash Bros will continue to rise till its release date. Until then you can decide if you want to purchase a entirely new console for Super Smash Bros.

Chomping Popcorn with Chavva: *Fury*

Isha Chavva, Staff Writer



"Best job I've ever had," says Norman Ellison, and though the war makes him vomit into the mud on his hands and knees and makes his hands shake when his fingers clench around the trigger, it is the truth.

David Ayer's *Fury* does something that few war movies of the present day accomplish: it begins to capture the duality of war. As Vietnam veteran Tim O'Brien once wrote about his experiences talking about war, "It wasn't a war story. It was a love story." While *Fury* thrives on machismo—men smoking and screaming and spitting, wrestling each other into the mud over a few misspoken words—what sets it apart is the way it doesn't flinch from love.

Where is love in war? The

love in *Fury* is deep and dark and sometimes hateful and lives in the grime, the dried blood, and the dirty fingernails. The remaining men of Third Platoon: Wardaddy (Brad Pitt), newbie Norman (Logan Lerman), religious Swan (Shia LaBeouf), often-drunk Gordo (Mi-

chael Peña), and belligerent Travis (Jon Bernthal) are family, and *Fury* is their home. And while this family may tussle each other to the dirt, it is still a family, and the movie does not balk from showing that tenderness onscreen.

While credit must be given for what the movie accomplishes, note must also be taken of what it fails to do. Ayer depicts soldiers as hardened killing machines. Even Norman, who is trained only to "type sixty words a minute" and has

never stepped foot on a battlefield before, goes from a shaking pacifist who refuses to pull the trigger to a cold-blooded Nazi killer in a matter of hours. The crew is scared, yes, and human — but it is hard for the viewer to imagine them as anything but grimy soldiers, and so their fate holds less weight than it ought to.

It is the journey that makes *Fury* powerful. War is ugliness and fear, yes, but it is also family and love. *Fury* does not attempt to be a feel-good experience—there is hope, but it glimmers through the cracks and never brings attention to itself—but it succeeds in raising questions in the viewers' minds that will remain there long after the lights come back on.



Photo Courtesy of Google Images

Brad Pitt stands contemplatively in *Fury*.

Perlz Pointz 'Tis the Season

Sara Perlowitz, Contributing Writer

It's that time of year again when three of the most popular sports in the United States are all playing at the same time. The National Football League (NFL), the National Basketball Association (NBA), and the National Hockey League (NHL) have all started the season and are all in full swing. It's the most wonderful time of the year...for the fans anyway.

The NFL season is already halfway through, whereas hockey and basketball have just started. Fans always want to see their teams do well, but they can't always get what they want. Although a lot can change in just a matter of time, all that seems to matter is a win.

As for the NFL, right now their top teams are the New England Patriots, Cincinnati Bengals, Indianapolis Colts, Denver Broncos, Kansas City Chiefs, Philadelphia Eagles, Dallas Cowboys, Detroit Lions, Green Bay Packers, and Arizona Cardinals.

NHL teams that have proven their strength so far are the Montreal Canadiens, Tampa Bay Lightning, Boston Bruins, Pittsburgh Penguins, and New York Islanders. There is a lot of time left in the season, and the teams all have the same goal in mind.

Lastly, the NBA season has arrived as well as all of the fans. Basketball is a popular sport with a highly anticipated regular season start. Top teams include are Toronto Raptors, Chicago Bulls, Washington Wizards, Memphis Grizzlies, Golden State Warriors, Dallas Mavericks, Portland Trail Blazers, and Houston Rockets. With multiple games per week, there is no way to tell who could be crowned the next champion.

Sports are all around us with fans who can't wait until their season starts. and dread the day when the season is over. It's just what we do.

The Unstoppable NBTHS... Freshman Soccer Team?

Kevin Robayo, Staff Writer

If you have been paying attention to the NBTHS soccer department, you know that one of the NBTHS soccer teams had a great season, holding a record of 15-1, wins and losses ratio.

That team is our NBTHS freshman soccer team, under the

up to the varsity team. Still, the roster was large. Coach Waddell gave a small explanation as to why he picked so many players.

"I picked 26 players for my roster this season; that's because they were the right 26 players for this team."



tough leadership of Coach Waddell. After months of training in the summer with early practices consisting of long running and soccer drills, the freshman team was built to have an amazing season.

The team consisted of a roster of 26 freshman for the first half of the season, then 25, as one of the players, Chris Spataro, was brought

With the impressive record that these 26 players hold, it seems that the future of the NBTHS soccer department is extremely promising.

If all the players continue to build up their skills as time passes until the next season comes and avoid slacking off, we can expect a great future for the NBTHS department.

About The Banner

As a news publication of North Brunswick Township High School, *The Banner* serves to provide students with interesting, timely and important information about the school and community. Its staff covers events and stories that are pertinent to the student body at NBTHS.

While honoring the provisions the school has established to maintain a safe environment for its students, the staff upholds freedom of speech as ruled in *Tinker vs. Des Moines*.

The Banner runs in black and white. Throughout the year, the staff maintains a circulation of both a print and electronic publication among NBTHS, the Board of Education and other areas in the community.

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