



# THE Banner

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North Brunswick Township High School  
North Brunswick, NJ 08902



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## Holiday Concert

CeNedra Delk  
Staff Writer

The holiday season is filled with many exciting events. One of the high school's most anticipated events is the winter concert, performed by the high school choir and the band. The two musical groups come together and perform wonderful music for the audience to enjoy for their holidays.

During the December month, the music students are most busy preparing for their winter concert. With songs such as "Deo Dicomus Gracias," which has more of a sacred Old Latin sound, and "The Bells," which is a fun song that kids loved, the concert included a wide range of material for all audiences to enjoy.

The concert lasted about two hours. Families and friends of music students were able to come and enjoy the music performed by their children as well as enjoy refreshments. It was also a fun and holiday cheer-filled experience for the elderly to come and enjoy as well.

The finale of the show was a full band full choir performance of the "Hallelujah Chorus." Members of the audience were allowed to join the group in singing the piece. It was a fun and exciting selection for the audience to listen to and a beautiful piece for them to enjoy.

The Winter Concert at NBTHS was a wonderful and heartwarming experience for all people.

## The Future of the High School: Referendum

Julia Nutter  
Staff Writer

For the past two and a half years, construction workers have been in the process of building on to and renovating North Brunswick Township High School. Along the way, there have been some obstacles, such as contaminated soil in the area and weather problems. However, the construction project continues to plow on, and many hold hope that the project will finish soon, as two-thirds of it is now completed.

The referendum on December 13, 2005 concerned the cleaning and finishing of the project. After the contamination clean-up which halted construction in 2003 for a period of time, the land is now safe. "The clean-up process was closely monitored," says the North Brunswick Township School's Website, "and the BOE will continue to monitor the site and the school building to ensure that they remain safe in the future."

However the problem seemed to be finding money to finish construction. The Board of Education concluded that in order to finish construction, the final cost will be \$7,391,802. "This money is not available to take from the annual school budget," says the website. If voters agree to the referendum, the construction continues with monetary help from taxpayers and bonds, and the new wing of the school

PHOTO BY KEVIN KIM



**CONSTRUCTION:** Shot off of patio B, construction seems to be lagging.

will be ready for use by September 2006. For the time being, the band and choir rooms have been moved to small rooms or trailers, and a makeshift stage in the Commons is used for Alchemist productions and various ceremonies. If voters voted against the referendum, construction would have come to a halt and many new spaces would not be available, including: 19 new classrooms, 4 science labs, 2 large lecture halls, an instrumental music room, choir room, auditorium, music, photo and computer labs, a greenhouse, and a broadcast studio. "If the referendum is defeated, the Board of Education may be faced with shut-

ting down the job, which will leave an incomplete, unusable building shell", according to the North Brunswick Township Schools website. Needless to say, the referendum was a very important factor in the future of the high school, and rested in the hands of voters.

On the 14th, voters turned out to the polling places to show their affirmation for the future of NBTHS. Although only a small portion of the community took part in the process, the referendum passed. Thanks to the support of North Brunswick residents, future generation will look forward to a great education with equally great facilities.

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## Trouble in Saddam's Cities

Matthew Goldstein  
News Editor

Almost three years since the initial invasion and liberation of Iraq, U.S. troops and their counterparts are facing more adversity than they had ever originally estimated. With daily updates streaming in from Baghdad, it is difficult for anyone to ignore the terror and violence that is being inflicted upon the soldiers overseas. According to President Bush, the insurgencies and acts of sporadic viciousness are an unfortunate but regular part of reconstruction. "It is not realistic to expect a fully functioning democracy, able to defeat its enemies and peacefully reconcile generational grievances, to be in place less than three years after Saddam (Hussein) was finally removed from power." This being said, it is obvious to determine that our armies have in store for them

a long and drawn out struggle with the forces of hatred. The various problems that seem to appear frequently usually deal with the violent acts perpetrated against coalition forces. However, it has become apparent that smaller issues have been emerging throughout Iraq. Problems ranging from abuse of prisoners in jails to discrepancies in the training of upstart native soldiers have plagued the leaders and commanders trying to achieve freedom and safety for all. Said Staff Sgt. Richard Bogle "I don't think they're ready or want to take over", as he mused about the problems that he has dealt with while trying to inspire a group of ill-convinced Iraqi's to defend their region.

With their hands already full having to deal with an uprising, troops are also

beginning to see the full brunt of anti-Americanism take hold in some hotkey areas of the country. In places such as Kirkuk and Baghdad, insurgents and roadside bombs continue to maim and kill those who fall prey to their laying. Since April 28th (the day the Interim Iraqi Government took power), approximately 550 coalition troops have lost their lives. Although the Pentagon has admitted that Iraqi security forces have taken control of many crucial spots and locales, the brunt of the fighting taking place is put into the hands of American units. Often presiding over the most dangerous of missions, raids to collect weapons caches and capture insurgent leaders often result in injury or death.

On December 1, the White House and President Bush announced the Strategy

PHOTO COURTESY OF www.chinadaily.com



**IRAQI INSURGENTS:** Iraqi insurgents sabotage a major gas pipe line in Northern Iraq.

for Victory in Iraq. In this address, the plan for transition of government and solidification of democracy were described in detail. Bush rejected a formal timetable for American withdrawal, and said that leaving Iraq now would throw the country into chaos and pandemonium. In this

document were plans outlining the methods of training and support for Iraqi troops, as well as reasons for staying the course of involvement. After this formal map of stability, only time will tell what direction the U.S. takes Iraq in.



# John Lennon: *a tribute*

Matthew Connolly  
Op-Ed Editor



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

Born in Liverpool, England on October 9, 1940, John Lennon is remembered as one of the most influential songwriters of the century. While at school, Lennon took up guitar and met bassist Paul McCartney. The two became songwriting partners, and their friendship endured until Lennon's untimely death. Lead guitarist George Harrison was recruited in high school, and the three joined forc-

es with drummer Ringo Starr in 1962 to form The Beatles.

Much to the band's surprise, the world embraced the band and Lennon skyrocketed to stardom. The 1960's became the year of The Beatles, with such hits as "I Want to Hold Your Hand" in 1963, "Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" and "Strawberry Fields Forever" in 1967, and "Come Together" in 1969. Due to increasing pressure on the band and, arguably, to Lennon's romance with Japanese artist Yoko Ono, The Beatles broke up in 1970.

In 1971, Lennon and Ono were married. He released his first solo album, *Imagine*, that same year. With the stress of being in a superstar band behind him, Lennon took time to express his personal views through music. The various politically

charged and antiwar songs he released from 1971-1974 were received by the public with mixed emotions. He ended 1974 spectacularly, performing with Elton John in Madison Square Garden. It was to be Lennon's last ever concert appearance.

Following the birth of his first son, Julian, Lennon began to contemplate retirement. He made it official in 1975, after the birth of his second son Sean. In 1980, however, he decided to pick up the guitar again. Reinvigorated by his experiences as a father. He and Yoko began work on a concept album, *Double Fantasy*. On the brisk New York City morning of December 8, deranged fan Mark David Chapman got Lennon's autograph as the songwriter walked to the recording studio with Yoko. That night, at 10:50 pm, Lennon and

Ono's limousine pulled up in front of the Dakota hotel they were staying at. Chapman, who was waiting outside, waited until Lennon walked past then shot him five times in the back. Slipping in and out of consciousness, Lennon reportedly told the emergency workers, "I'm John Lennon of the Beatles." These were his last words.

Lennon will forever be honored as an amazing songwriter and an even better person. 25 years after his death, he continues to touch lives in many ways. Thousands gather outside the Dakota hotel every year on the anniversary of his death. It is both a moving tribute and a sorrowful reminder of the tragic loss of a great artist and a great man.

# Something Corporate Singer and his Battle with Leukemia

Frank Panico  
Features Editor

Many know of the popular southern Californian pop-rock band, Something Corporate. Sadly, Something Corporate singer Andrew McMahon was diagnosed with acute lymphatic leukemia in May. After months of chemotherapy, McMahon received a stem-cell transplant from his sister in August, and his cancer is in remission. He is currently going through the painful recovery process, but things are looking up for the twenty four year old front man.

"I have a doctor's appointment every week and they check my blood counts. Everything has been good, and then in another 50 days or so they'll test my bone marrow," explained McMahon in a recent MTV interview. "I was already in remission from two rounds of chemotherapy once I went in to get the transplant ... and the idea is that you send in the new good cells that will ultimately pick up where the old ones left off, but actually if there is anything cancerous left in there, they are supposed to kill it off as well."

McMahon originally thought he would have to undergo a full bone-marrow transplant, but his doctors were able to extract the needed cells from his sister's blood, a less painful procedure, especially for the donor.

"It's like a regular blood transfusion, which doesn't really hurt, but the way that it all transpired was

frightening", he explained. "The guy rolls a cart into the room with dry ice and these bags of stem cells and all these people are around while they pump the new blood and cells into you.

The recovery process is a long

had to go back. I came home a little sick, but recovered," he said.

While slowly recovering McMahon put the finishing touches on all tracks for his solo project. Two weeks



PHOTO COURTESY OF MTV.COM

one, and McMahon is still rail-thin, hairless and exhausted, far from the energetic blonde-haired lead singer fans might remember. However music has aided him in his recovery process. Once leaving the hospital McMahon immediately began work on his solo venture, entitled *Jack's Mannequin*. However, shortly after beginning this new project McMahon suffered a temporary relapse and was forced back into the hospital.

"I got finished with the transplant and everything was smooth sailing, as has kind of been the staple of both my hospital visits, and then at the end I got really sick again and

after leaving the hospital for the second time, McMahon gathered the strength to return to the studio where he recorded his solo album, *Jack's Mannequin's Everything in Transit*.

"I had this idea when I was in the hospital," McMahon explained. "It seems like every year I always have different people come and ask for a Christmas song and it seemed strangely appropriate for me this year because Christmas is the time that I am supposed to be sort of back and up and running. So I just wrote a song about returning from this very interesting journey and kind of getting back to normal and getting

back to work and my regular life."

This deeply emotional song is called "The Lights and Buzz" and also addresses the irony of spending the winter holiday in sunny California. "The Lights and Buzz," will surface online and/or on a holiday compilation later this year, and will be credited to Jack's Mannequin, even though it will not actually appear on the album.

"Truth be told a lot of people are just going to be discovering the Jack's record when they hear this, so I kind of made it the winter companion to the summer album," McMahon said. "Like the record, is about coming home, but just kind of coming home from a different circumstance." Clearly McMahon is talking about his emotional trip back home from his fight with leukemia.

McMahon's next return to the studio will likely be with the rest of Something Corporate sometime next year, but before then, he wants to give *Everything in Transit* the promotion he thinks it deserves, however his current condition enables him from touring and promoting the album the way he truly desires. McMahon hopes that his fans will pick up the slack for him and that he will recover quickly enough to make a quick fall tour before the harsh winter weather kicks in.



# Annoying Habits: Tips For Guys And Girls

Kinza Akhuzada  
Staff Writer

We all have friends, boyfriends, or girlfriends with annoying habits or personality "flaws". In the most general category, there are habits that guys do which annoy girls, and vice versa. While the nature of these habits can NEVER completely be understood, it is possible to be informed about what it is the opposite sex does to upset the other. A survey of 65 students, males and females, revealed what was hated about the opposite sex from both sides. Below is a list of these "flaws" and tips on how to improve.

The top choice in what annoyed the girls regarding guys is the fact that they change their attitude in front of their friends. The second place habit is that guys are perverts and all about sex. The ever popular flirting with other girls came in at third place, which applies to guys in a relationship. Trying to sweet talk took the number four spot, and acting immature came in at last place.

Now is the time for a word of advice for the guys. Changing personas in front of friends means altering your attitude while with friends. For example, a guy can be telling a girl how much they like them, however, as soon as his friends come up, he would change and possibly ignore that same girl, act as if he does not know her, or make rude comments and act disrespectful. Changing your attitude when with friends just implies that you are embarrassed of your girlfriend or whoever you like. It also suggests that you are not comfortable with your self-

confidence, and need to act differently or pretend to be something you are not. It is better to confront the issues rather than confuse everyone else.

When concerning being a pervert, sadly, it cannot be entirely changed in men. The only advice given can be to not come on very strong when talking to a girl. While one girl may find it upfront and ideal in her perspective, another may find it unpleasant. Just know where to draw the line and make sure not to cross it too often. If you are interested in more than a physical relationship, attempt to control your emotions, otherwise it gives the notion that that is your sole purpose. Its okay guys, it's understandable that it just can't be helped sometimes.

It is also known that guys flirt with other girls, and that is comprehensible because it can be described as human nature for everybody. On the other hand, doing it right in your girlfriend's face is another story. When flirting with other girls, not being too obvious is the key. A better idea would be to not flirt with other girls at all with your girlfriend present.

Try to avoid sweet talking too much as it will result in sounding trite, and in some cases childish. Most guys who think they are "slick" typically end up making themselves sound ignoramus, or in other words, stupid, a jerk, or imbecile. However, if you are adroit in the complex world of sweet talking, continue, because women love romantics. Again, refrain from sounding cliché.

A tip for acting immature can be

summed up in two very simple words, grow up. No girl wants to be with a 7 year old who makes weird noses and cannot hold a conversation.

Personality "flaws" are not only one-sided. The guys also listed their top five of annoying habits for girls. The first place winner, with an overwhelming majority, is that girls let themselves go, or in other words, get ugly. Second place is taken by picking at little fights. The always annoying talking too much comes in third. Being too emotional is ranked fourth, and always having to be right is in final place.

Ladies, ladies, ladies. It is reasonable to know that no woman, all the time, can live up to the over-the-top standards of men. But it is not absolutely immoral to try on a tube of lipstick. Make-up is not made to cover your face, but to enhance it, and can make one feel beautiful from the inside out.

A cause for talking too much might be, for some, nervousness. Girls may feel nervous when talking to that special someone, and the result would be word vomit. Word vomit is when one reveals too much information from nervous talking. A recommendation for evading word vomit is to try to remember to feel comfortable and "Woosa" (Bad Boys II).

As for being emotional or picking at little fights, these are factors that exist in some women and are exhibited for personal reasons.

And women like to always be right, because we are in fact right ninety percent of the time.

## TOP FIVE HABITS FOR GUYS

1. Change in front of friends
2. Perverts, all about sex
3. Flirt with other girls
4. Try to sweet talk
5. Act immature

## TOP FIVE HABITS FOR GIRLS

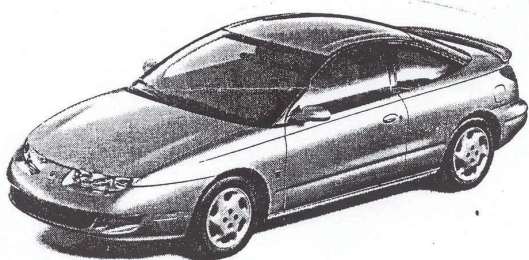
1. Let themselves go (dress and become ugly)
2. Pick at little fights
3. Talk too much
4. Emotional
5. Always have to be right

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## No Day But Today

Wendy Chen  
Staff Writer

The Pulitzer Prize winning Broadway musical, *Rent*, was released in 1996. Jonathan Larson, the creator of *Rent*, died before the play's release on Broadway. Stephen Chbosky, the writer of the screenplay, is alive and directing, acting, producing, and writing productions. *Rent* is the 8th longest running musical on Broadway and has been performed over 3850 times since the opening performance.

With a thriving musical Broadway show, Chris Columbus, director of *Rent*, debuted his movie on November 23, 2005, worldwide. Columbus, a strong believer of gay marriage, added a new scene to the theatrical film that was not originally in the play. He recruited most of the original cast from Broadway's *Rent*, to film his Columbia Pictures Production. "We are thrilled beyond belief that Chris Columbus is directing," said Julie Larson, sister of Jonathan Larson. *Rent* earned

sixth place on the opening weekend and an estimate about \$4.6 million. The group of friends who live in the Bohemian city, struggle against AIDS, homosexuality, poverty, and death. The exertion of young adults growing up in the East Village of New York City is truly loving and inspirational. The 1990's HIV's play an important role that bring couples together and bring depression.

*Rent*, has been on Broadway for many years, is now in theaters everywhere. Audiences such as fans of Broadway musicals, and young adults are the main viewers. The experiences that the characters in *Rent* undergo are more common for these audiences to relate to. Feeling outside of your society or lack of tolerance for unique people is a movie for those who are interested. *Rent* is rated PG-13 for drugs, sexuality, and strong language.



PHOTO COURTESY OF yahoo.com



## Nintendo Fusion Tour

Kristi Berry  
Staff Writer

It was the night before Thanksgiving, and instead of being home preparing for tomorrow's holiday, almost 4000 anxious teenagers and young adults were lined up around the Toms River High School auditorium, also known as Ritacco Center. These kids were not waiting for gym class to start, they were eagerly awaiting the last tour date of the Nintendo Fusion Tour, featuring Fall Out Boy.

Newcomers Panic! At Disco already know how to put on a high energy performance starting at 5:45. After opening with "the Only Difference Between Martyrdom and Suicide is Press Coverage," singer Brendon Urie segwayed into what seemed to be almost a medley of the bands songs, including "Better if You Do", "London Beckoned Songs about Monkey by Machines", and their most well-known song "Lying is the Most Fun a Girl have Without Taking Her Clothes Off". Before playing the final song in their incredibly brief set, notorious prankster Pete Wentz organized a little fun. Fall Out Boy drummer Andrew Hurley came out and stole Urie's shirt, while Wentz ran around in the boxers and a parka to cause trouble. Even the crew had fun taking apart drummer Spencer Smith's drums, while he was playing. Guitarist Ryan Ross and the bassist Brent Wilson also had a hard time controlling their laughter long enough to keep playing their last song, "Time to Dance". Despite being the newest band on the tour, Panic! Had many fans in the audience. Who knows in they'll be headlining the tour next year.

The next set was played by Boys Night Out. Although one of the opening bands for the tour, Boys Night Out is hardly new to the music scene. This year they released their second full length album, Trainwreck. Singer Conor Lovat-Fraser roared into the crowd, singing hits not only from Trainwreck, but also from their first album, Make Yourself Sick. Pianist Kara Dupuy, the only girl on the entire tour, really got the crowd moving, ordering them to clap, cheer, and dance. Of course, Wentz could not let this band go unthanked for their time on tour. Coming out, this time fully dressed, he gave a short speech and thanked the band for coming out of tour to support them. Despite the fact that Boys Night Out's sound is very different from the pop-punk melodies of the other supporters, they still managed to become one of the gang.

Before 8:00, Motion City Soundtrack took the stage. Lead singer Justin Pierre was filled with great energy, even waving to the crowd-surfing kids in the audience. Fall Out Boy guitarist and singer Patrick Stumph even came out and sang back-up for the band's summer hit, "Everything is Alright". Although Pierre did not talk as much as some of the other band's, the level at which the songs were played made up for it. They even added in some extra songs that were originally no on the set list just for the show. Bassist Matthew Taylor definitely gave 100% singing back-up and playing. Along with their hidden songs, the band played through all their hits including "The Future Freaks Me Out" and "My Favorite Accident". However, most of their set was from their latest CD, "Commit this to Memory", which was produced by Mark Hoppus of Blink-182 fame.

After what seemed like a long wait for all kids up front, Pennsylvania's own the Starting Line took stage. Singer Kenny Vasoli, now with curly brown hair, a big change the nearly platinum locks he had when their first full length CD, Say It Like You Mean It in the summer of 2002. However, not much else has changed since then, the band still playing their hearts out to crowds across America. After opening with "Surprise, Surprise" of their new CD, Based on a True Story, Vasoli quietly went into "Best of Me", the bands first hit from 2002. Starting of with a mellow voice guitarist Matt Wattsand Mike Golla seemed upbeat anyway. After the first chorus, the band picked up and launched into the verses with vigor. Vasoli seemed thrilled, leaping into the air and shaking his hair like a true rockstar. Later, after playing their newest hit, "Bedroom Talk", he even leapt off the stage and into the audience, holding hands and singing to the entire crowd of kids who seemed to swallow him. Security had to hold on tight to him, for the crowds pull was fierce. Of course, sometime during this set, Fall Out Boy bassist Pete Wentz made his way on-stage to thank the Starting Line for their support. Vasoli seemed thrilled at the attention and began to use even more energy to finish the set. They ironically left off with "Leaving" mixing in their tour-mate, Fall Out Bou's "Sugar, We're Goin' Down". The crowd went wild as the lights went out.

The Step Kings, or the old band of the Fall Out Boy's manager had reunited just for the tired and Fall Out Boy wanting New Jersey crowd. Although they played only one song, the crowd was angry and eagerly awaiting Fall Out Boy.

Suddenly, their merch guy, appropriately nicknamed Dirty, walked across stage with a gigantic sign that said "Act One." In a few moments, 4 piece band from Wilmette, Illinois was on stage. Patrick Stumph was playing and singing away to "Our Lawyers Made Us Change the Name of this Song so we Wouldn't get Sued," while guitarist Joe Trohman performed such intricate menouvers knowns to fans as the "Trohmania". Bassist Pete Wentz had all the girls cheering, yelling and talking to the crown, even telling one lucky audience member to have a happy birthday. Their first set consisted of 8 of the bands newest songs, including summer radio hit "Sugar, We're Goin' Down". They ended their first set with "I Slept With Someone in Fall Out Boy and All I Got Was the Stupid Song Written About Me" from their sophomore (although technically third) full length CD, "From Under the Cork Tree." After a brief recess when Dirty came out and talked to the crowd, the band, in new outfits, came out to perform another 8 songs. They began with a speech from Wentz, who ordered everyone in the audience to stick up their ring fingers because tonight was about love, and the fact that someone is out there for you. After, they went right into a roaring performance of "XO". However, around 10:00, the band began to play "Saturday", the closing song. However, before that, Pete Wentz ordered anyone who could get on stage to come up and dance with them. As the song ended, security quickly whisked all the kids off stage, but they really did not mind that much. After all, their night was pretty incredible.

## Dipset's Dime

Jael Davis  
Staff Writer

LeRon James a.k.a Juelz Santana, of the rap group The Diplomats, has been seen everywhere lately. He has visited BET's 106th and Park and other shows including TRL, and recently dropped his sophomore album titled "What the Game's Been Missing". The CD offers twenty-two electrifying tracks, including the hit songs There It Go (The Whistle Song), and Mic Check.

Of course this Harlem Native didn't just start out on the top. Over the past few years, Juelz Santana has grown up in the game with rap mogul Cam'Ron as his mentor, and become a part of the famous rap group "Dipset," featuring rappers Jim Jones, Cam' Ron, Freaky Zeeky and Juelz Santana. From Cam' Ron, he has learned the attitude and will to suc-

ceed. With his uptown attitude, and confidence in his flowing abilities, Juelz proclaims that he has become "Human Crack in the Flesh".

Now, with his new album out, Juelz and "the Dips" plan to put Harlem back on the map as a spot famous for its music, and the heart of hip-hop. And Juelz has set the bar high with "What the Game's Been Missing".

When asked what the game has truly been missing Juelz replied, "Leadership. Everybody is following everyone else; nobody is willing to be their own man, to be creative. It goes against what hip-hop is all about. The Dipset Movement is about forging our own path, people can go ahead and follow us."

## Mindless Self Indulgence

Juli Woodbury  
Staff Writer

Mindless Self Indulgence, an electronic punk band, consisting of Little Jimmy Urine (James Euringer) on vocals, Steve Righ on guitar, LynZ on bass, and Kitty on Drums. Formed in 1997, this New York band began like most others, as a local band, having fun and experimenting. Their music is influenced by Techno, Industrial, Electro, and Hip Hop. MSI (mindless self indulgence) is also extremely influenced by the 1980's style consisting of Atari sounds, and Hip Hop beats.

Little Jimmy Urine has wardrobe consisting of neon fishnets, shorts, pants with the inside cut out like a skirt, and neon stockings, but may change it up from

show to show, wearing trench coats with writing in duct tape on the back, etc. During many of the shows, Urine is likely to incorporate his audience into his show, inviting people on stage.

MSI is very appreciative of their fans. After every show, the band can be seen in the audience or signing autographs, until no one wanting an autograph is left without one. The band is known to have sold out shows, and traveling fans.

With the release of their CD "Frankenstein Girls Will Seem Strangely Sexy," Steve Righ said, "I don't care, just as long as you make other people buy it." Other CD's from the band are sold at music stores all over. Mindless is known for their millions of copies sold every year.

## My Chemical Romance; All Dolled Up

Frank Panico  
Features Writer

My Chemical Romance has emerged at the fore-front of the new alternative rock scene. Their success is largely to do with the overwhelming support and notoriety the band has received through MTV. Over the past year the band has released three motion picture style videos, I'm Not Okay (I Promise), Helena, and The Ghost of You. Each one of these videos features a different, interesting concept or plot and has brought a breathe of fresh air to MTV and the usually mundane music video. Besides breaking new ground with their over the top theatrical videos and energetic televised live performances, My Chemical Romance has unleashed plans to reach audiences in a totally unorthodox way; action figures.

We hate when people call us "dolls", said lead singer Gerard Way. "We're definitely action figures". Way is referring to the brand-new set of My Chemical Romance action figures made by SEG Toys, who in the past created the ever popular Metallica and Kiss action figures. The toys are due in stores next month, and are coincidentally just in time for the holidays.

The action figures are realistic miniature renditions of the five members of the band. These action figures are

dressed in My Chemical Romance's signature black suits (as seen in the Helena video) and are meticulously detailed from the size and style of each member's shoes to the style and color of their hair.

According to SEG, the My Chemical Romance action figures stand nearly five inches tall and have 16 points of articulation. Each member of the band is sold separately and comes with a red handgun and a coffin as accessories. Versions of the figures sold at Goth-punk haven, Hot Topic,

will also be packaged with an exclusive "prayer card" that Way himself designed, while those sold at Spencer Gifts come with limited-edition Jim Dunlop guitar picks.

Of course, the news of MCR action figures should come as no surprise to fans of the band, after all they seem to take pride in their self-described ultra geekiness. "It just kind of makes sense for us, because we collect so many toys anyway, and the ultimate collection is to have your own figure," said guitarist Frank Iero.

My Chemical Romance is known for having an almost cult following and after releasing hit single after hit single, it is predicted the toys will do very well this Holiday season.



PHOTO COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM



## THE BANNER

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

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## South Africa Supports Same-Sex Marriage

Tiana Day  
Staff Writer



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We are now in the year 2005 and a lot has changed since earlier in the years. One thing that seems to be developing more each day is same sex relationships. Now more than just relationships, people want sane sex marriages to be accepted. There aren't many states or countries that approve of this act, but a place that has, is South Africa. South Africa's

highest court ruled on Thursday, December 5, 2005 that it is unconstitutional to prevent the marrying of gay people. This rule is the start of South Africa becoming the first country to legalize same sex unions. The only problem is that this process will take time.

The Constitutional Court gave the Parliament a whole year to make all the changes needed to make this legal agreement hap-

pen, but activists aren't too happy about that. There are people who have been already waiting for years to marry and now they have to wait another year. Fikile Vilakazi, of the Forum for the Empowerment of Women, who proposed to her partner six months ago said, "We were thinking we would be calling our friends today and inviting them to our wedding." "Now they are asking us to wait another year." The frustration of fighting for same sex marriage to be legalized was a pain itself, now dealing with the waiting process for this situation just aggravates the people more.

Although this act is being legalized in this country, this type of marriage does not have the same privileges as

opposite sex marriages. They are still denied the ability to make decisions on the behalf of the other in some type of medical emergency and there is question as to whether inheritance rights are given to a partner if the other dies without a will. Judge Albie Sachs who gave this rule talks about the fact that homosexual marriages won't enjoy the same status as heterosexual couples.

It is an improvement for gay couples in this country that same sex marriage is legal, but they still can't possibly enjoy everything a normal marriage can. They will still have to deal with judgment from others. What has been accomplished is a start though, so it should be thought of as being better than nothing at all.

## Teenage Insecurity

Ashley Beer  
Staff Writer

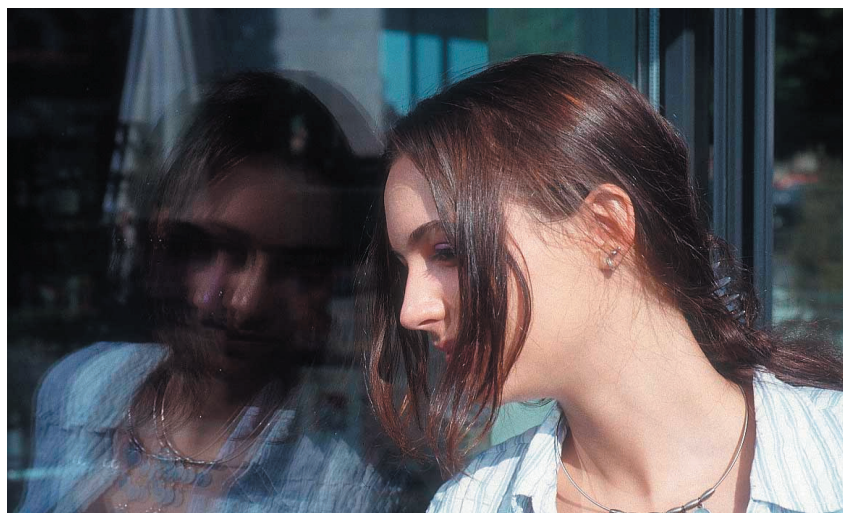


PHOTO COURTESY OF BIGFOTO.COM

Spending countless hours in front of a mirror picking out every flaw and every demerit is no way to gain self-confidence. Pretending to be something you're not is no way to "fit in." Putting down others in order to feel better about yourself is no solution to the problem. Teens seem to be on the "up and up" with insecurity, and unfortunately taking a turn for the worse.

It wasn't until middle school until you start to notice that it's all the little things that matter, such as having the "right" clothes, body, and personality. It wasn't until high school when it really started to matter who you hung out with, who your friends were, and what kind of music you listened to. It wasn't until now that you realized that these things were occurring right before your eyes.

Teenage insecurity can commence, due to many different situations. Broken homes, depression, peer pressure, and substance abuse are a few of the many causes of insecurity among teens. Feelings of insecurity are normal, but when they reach the point of obsession, it can affect feelings of self worth.

Most teen students only look "skin deep" in order to find friendship, love, and even hatred. They

base an entire person, solely on physical beauty and prior acceptance. If someone is not as physically fit as they should be, or aren't wearing those expensive jeans, they are most likely denied a right to friendship, and ultimately acceptance from their peers.

Teenagers are often very influential, which may lead to numerous problems, such as eating disorders or depression. At this age, most teens have trouble realizing that it is one

thing to please your peers, however, pleasing yourself should be the first on your list. Negative attention, in substitution for those who feel as if they cannot acquire positive attention, can affect their lives greatly. By taking away the tendencies for teens to conform amongst the common crowd, would make growing up an experience to remember.



# Gaebel's

## Restaurant Review

Frank Panico  
Features Writer

Gaebel's Steak House is conveniently located across from the Church Street parking deck, in historic downtown New Brunswick. Just around the corner from the State Theater and the Stress Factory, Gaebel's is the perfect restaurant for customers looking for a beautiful night out. Using only the finest American beef, Gaebel's hand-selects and trims every steak and chop ensuring an unparalleled dining experience. They offer the finest steaks and seafood in New Brunswick with a unique trendy décor to match.

Fashioned in the mold of a classic ala Carte steakhouse, Gaebel's also offers an exciting and innovative entrée selection. With an extensive raw bar, appetizer and lounge menu, Gaebel's steakhouse promises to please diners with all kinds of taste buds.

Whether you're sitting down for dinner or just looking for something to pick on, Gaebel's is sure to have something for you on their appetizer or lounge menu. Diners have the option of being seated in Gaebel's lounge, in which they can relax on candlelit couches located by the bar and enjoy an array of appetizers from chips and salsa to hand-rolled sushi. I recommend the snow crab and avocado roll for those who choose to order off the lounge menu. It is freshly prepared, and for those who usually shy away from raw fish sushi, rest assured the crab meat is fully cooked and served chilled with the avocado inside a rice sushi roll.

For those looking for a more formal sit down dinner Gaebel's dinner menu has something to offer everyone. Customers can choose from

a large selection of appetizers, soups, and salads to start. For dinner I recommend trying one of Gaebel's steaks; after all it is a steakhouse. Their New York Strip and Filet Mignon are both great steaks that are reasonably priced.

Customers will come for a great dinner and stay for the exciting nightlife. On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 11 O'clock the restaurant transforms into a club/lounge featuring a DJ and half price drinks. This is limited to those 21 and over, but smart teens can easily get around this. By making ten or ten thirty reservations you will be just finishing dinner as the restaurant transforms into a club, and being that you are already inside you can't be denied access.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF YAHOO.COM

## Review: RENT

Stephanie Palm  
Staff Writer

The holiday movie season has already begun, with many new movies of all kinds coming into theaters. When deciding on which ones to see, *Rent* should definitely be at the top of the list.

Adapted from Puccini's original *La Boheme*, and brought to the big screen from the Broadway musical, *Rent* is a story that demonstrates how adversity can be overcome by love and hope, if we can only realize that there is "no day but today".

The rock-opera based music will make you want to sing and dance along with the characters. This and the spoken lines of the movie pull the audience into the message that Jonathan Larson originally created. *Rent* holds back



PHOTO COURTESY OF STLTODAY.COM

nothing in the exposure that the characters have to such conflicts from the spread of AIDS, to paying the rent on time.

Along the lines of *Chicago*, which was made into a movie musical in 2002, the only thing *Rent* is missing is a live audience. The main set, in the one-room apartment of characters Mark and Roger, has the look and feel of an actual stage. Thus, the opening song accompanies this stage-feel.

Aside from the scenes in the apartment, the audience actually feels like they are watching a movie. This constant switch between movie and play give *Rent* a unique vision for the audience to enjoy.

## The Way I See It

Byron Goundrey  
Editor-in-Chief



### Winning Big, Losing Bigger

With the holiday season in full swing, we frequently see ads on TV for lottery tickets, often called "the perfect stocking-stuffer." Indeed, surely none of us would mind getting a winning lottery ticket from Santa.

Mack Metcalf and Virginia Merida, a Kentucky couple, had similar feelings in 2000. And when they won, they were convinced that the \$65 million Powerball Jackpot would put an end to their financial and social problems. Behind on thousands of dollars of child support, and unable to pay it back because of lousy jobs and alcoholism, Metcalf was sure that his big break would help to rebuild his relationship with his daughter and get him out of his financial rut. Ms. Merida, his estranged wife #2, and herself the daughter of a drug trafficker, had similar hopes. However, just five years later, they both turned up dead, Metcalf from alcoholism, and Merida from a suspected drug overdose.

How could people with such good fortune end up having such misfortune? This is a question asked whenever someone with an opportunity for greatness blows it. Metcalf and Merida had their hearts in the right place when they set up trust funds for their children and gave money to homeless people, but were stripped of their potential for even greater philanthropy by their obsession for lavish lifestyles. It is the complexity of this kind of lifestyle, with big homes, fast cars, and exotic animals that drove them to greater addictions. It seems their desire led to their downfall.

In the movie "Spiderman", Peter Parker's grandmother says to him, "With great power comes great responsibility." Winning the lottery is certainly such a power. For every rags-to-riches story, there

are thousands of stories of people who have squandered opportunities to establish their place in the world.

Many high school and college athletes find themselves in similar predicaments. Their athletic talents can overshadow their academic responsibilities.

Derrick Character, a high school senior from Scotch Plains, is a case in point. At 6'9", Derrick was considered a basketball star in 8th grade. His high school career, however, proved a mixed bag of exceptional talent on the court and immaturity and academic suspensions in the classroom. He hopped from high school to high school every year due to poor grades and ineligibility to play. This year his mother sent him to Notre Dame Prep in Fitchburg, MA, a small private school that promised to improve his grades and provide him the playing time he needs to strut his stuff for college coaches and scouts. Early one morning, he ignored the coach's wake up call and stayed in bed for "just a few more minutes," for which he was benched and missed an opportunity to be scouted. A full scholarship to the University of Louisville in Kentucky awaits him, but he needs to pull his grade point average up to a 2.5 and improve his SAT scores. All eyes are on Derrick...will he pull it together to qualify academically for a Louisville scholarship or will he succumb to his weaknesses?

Although the chances of any of us holding that lucky lottery ticket are slim, we do each have talents and gifts that if "played" right can lead to big winnings. The question of do you win big or lose bigger lies within. The choice is ours to decide. Megaball drawings are on Tuesdays and Fridays...life's winning numbers are drawn every day! Did you win?



## The NBA's Top-Five Teams in 2005-2006

Glenn Davis  
Staff Writer

### San Antonio Spurs



Tim Duncan is back another year, as he looks to guide the Spurs to yet another NBA championship. Duncan will once again be a favorite to garner MVP honors. After defeating the Pistons in the Finals last year, the Spurs are poised to win again. With the additions of Michael Finley and Nick Van Exel the Spurs added depth, talent, and better outside shooting. What may be more important though, is the fact that Van Exel and Finley have a combined 25 years of experience in the NBA. San Antonio returns their entire starting lineup, along with a key reserve in Robert Horry. Coach Gregg Popovich has always glorified his cast of players for their efforts. When talking about Tim Duncan, Popovich said, "If Tim suddenly retired today, I'd retire along with him.

### Miami Heat



That's how important he is." At this point, the Heat is considered to be the hands-down favorite to win the Eastern Conference. They still have one of the most dominant forces in NBA history in Shaquille O'Neal. Along with Shaq, they have Dwayne Wade. "Flash" is quickly becoming one of the most electrifying players in the NBA. Like the Spurs, the Heat added depth with the additions of Antoine Walker, Gary Payton, Jason Williams, James Posey, and rookie Wayne Simien. If the pieces fall into place for this team, they are likely to end up in the finals.

### Indiana Pacers



The Pacers 2004-2005 campaign can be described as courageous. The Pacers lost Ron Artest for the season, and several other players of time due to the altercation in Detroit. Besides dealing with multiple suspensions, the Pacers were forced to deal with the injury bug. Jermaine O'Neal, Jeff Foster, Jamaal Tinsley, Stephen Jackson, and Anthony Johnson all went down with injuries at some point during the season. Although the Pacers have lost a sure hall-of-famer in Reggie Miller, they are still a championship caliber team. If the Pacers can stay healthy, expect big things

### Detroit Pistons



from them this season. The Pistons have been doubted time and time again, but they somehow always find a way to prove their doubters wrong. After winning a championship in 2004, the Pistons fell in seven games to the Spurs in last year's Finals. The Pistons off-season was a very rocky one. Coach Larry Brown was fired and replaced with former Minnesota Timberwolves coach Flip Saunders. Flip is a more offensive-oriented coach, who will have to implement his up-tempo system in Detroit. If Flip properly utilizes his players, the Pistons could find themselves in the Finals for a

### Houston Rockets



third-straight year. Don't look, but the Rockets are slowly assembling a championship caliber team. With their key pieces in Tracy McGrady, and Yao Ming, the rockets went out and got complimentary players. In the off-season, they signed Stomile Swift, who is an explosive power forward most known for his amazing dunks. The Rockets also added guards Rafer Alston and Derek Anderson. Look for the Rockets to greatly improve their outside shooting, which was an issue for them last season. If Tracy McGrady continues to be the explosive superstar that he can be, then this Rockets team will be solid. If Yao and T-Mac can co-exist in their second season together, expect big things from the Rockets squad.

## Trattler Talk: Colts Looking to Go Undefeated



Jen Trattler  
Staff Writer

The Indianapolis Colts have been cruising during the 2005 season. Week 14 has just finished up and the Colts are 13-0. There are only three weeks left in the season and three games left to win as they go for an undefeated season. It is entirely possible that the Colts complete the season being undefeated and it would be an incredible event for fans of football everywhere to witness. Each week this team has gained more attention and each week they are proving that there is little reason to doubt them. Dwight Freeney anchors a defense that is physically dominating along with the trio of Manning, Harrison and James the Colts seem to be unstoppable. They are beating teams in convincing fashion, granted many of them do not possess winning records.

However, when each team gets ready to face the Colts they go out there and try

extra hard because they want to be remembered as the team that stopped the perfect season. The Colts not only have to play against their opponent but also the media. Each week they are bombarded with questions about keeping up their perfection. After awhile it gets overwhelming. However, that is one of the many obstacles that they will encounter.

The Colts are going to be tested throughout December, as they will be looking to prove to everyone that they really can carry out an undefeated season. Now, whether or not the Colts are ones team to root for, anyone can appreciate what they are trying to do. It would be amazing for anyone to be able to say they followed the Colts during their historical season. No matter what team one supports, this is the Colts year to do something great. An undefeated season is not something to be taken lightly. Any athlete or fan should appreciate what the Colts have done so far this season and what they might do when the season comes to a close.

After each week the Colts have walked away with a victory and are going to try to do the same for the rest of the season. This upcoming week the Colts play the San Diego Chargers who cannot afford to lose another game. Last year, the Colts fought back from a large deficit to win the game. Next week the Colts play Seattle where we all

can count on the Seahawk fans to get loud and try and psyche out the Colts. However, I doubt that the Colts will fold under pressure. Their last game is against the Cardinals who are now 4-9. If the Colts remain undefeated until then, this game should not be a problem. As long as they go into that day knowing they still

However, the Colts right now are chasing history too. A Super bowl win would be great and well deserved. A perfect season is something to be pleased about too.

All teams should strive for perfection, it is not as if, any team goes into the season thinking they can lose a certain number of games and still make the



PHOTO COURTESY OF colts.com

have to bring their game, nothing should stand in the Colts way.

When asked how he feels after each win, Peyton Manning replied, I just want to do it again. He has three more chances to do this in the regular season. However, going undefeated is not what is most important to them. Manning and his teammates just want to win the Super bowl. The Super bowl is the ultimate goal for a team and every team does their best to get there.

playoffs. Everyone wants to be the best. All teams go into the season with the hope that they get a chance to make it into the playoffs and win that final game. The Colts have already clinched their division and home field advantage throughout the playoffs. It is in fact harder to be perfect during sixteen games than to win a Super bowl, one team does that every year. So, maybe more emphasis should be put onto this goal that the Colts are working

towards. It is a big deal and everyone should treat it as a big deal. The coaches and players are trying to downplay it. We all know they are doing that, so they do not get their hopes up and end up not completing the season in perfection.

Hopefully the Colts and their leadership do not endanger their chance at immortality. It is said that coach Tony Dungy might rest some of his players in order to be healthy at the start of the playoffs. This notion is absurd. They have the opportunity to go 16-0 and they will lessen their chances at that so they can be healthy. Team president Bill Polian has said, Priority No. 1 is be healthy going into the playoffs. Yes it is, but resting the players is unfair. They want to play and they should. Resting players can also result the players being cold when the playoffs start. They have gone out there and played hard during the first thirteen games and they should do that for the last three and then as far as they go in the playoffs.

Everyone remembers that the 1972 Miami Dolphins is the only team to go 16-0. I would bet, no one can name every super bowl winner. The Indianapolis Colts should look at what they have done this year and play the remainder games as if they have everything to lose. A chance like this might not come around for another 32 years.



# NCAA Football In Dire Need Of A Playoff

Glenn Davis  
Staff Writer

Well, another college football season has ended, and it's time to get set for another exciting, yet controversial bowl season. Each year, the BCS (Bowl Championship Series) creates controversy, with all the different polls and rankings that become a factor. Luckily, this year features two clear-cut universities to play in the Rose Bowl-Texas and USC. Both teams went undefeated, and were the only two teams in Division I. The Indianapolis Colts have been cruising during the 2005 season. Week 14 has just finished up and the Colts are 13-0. That is thirteen wins and zero losses or in other words undefeated. There are only three weeks left in the season and three games left to win. It is entirely possible that the Colts complete the season being undefeated and it would be an incredible event to witness.

Each week this team has gained more attention and each week they are proving that there is little reason to doubt them. The defense is physically dominating and the trio of Manning, Harrison and James seems to be unstoppable. They are beating teams in convincing fashion, granted many of them do not possess winning records.

However, when each team gets ready to face the Colts they go out there and try extra hard because they want to be remembered as the team that stopped the perfect season. The Colts have to play against their opponent and the media. Each week they are bombarded with questions about keeping up their perfection. After awhile it must get overwhelming. However, that is one of the many obstacles that they will encounter.

The Colts are going to be tested throughout December, as they will be looking to prove to everyone that they really can carry out an undefeated season. Now, whether or not the Colts are ones team to root for, anyone can appreciate what they are trying to do. It would be amazing for anyone to be able to say they followed the Colts during their historical season. No matter what team one supports, this is the Colts year to do something great. An undefeated season is not something to be taken lightly. It equals the sensation of a perfect game in baseball that no one can downplay. Any athlete or fan should appreciate what the Colts have done so far this season and what they might do when the season comes to a close.

After each week the Colts have walked away with a victory and are going to try to do that for the rest of the season. This upcoming week the Colts play the San Diego Chargers who can-

not afford to lose another game. Last year, the Colts fought back from a large deficit to win the game. Next week the Colts play Seattle where we all can count on the Seahawk fans to get loud and try and psyche out the Colts. However, I doubt that the Colts will fold under pressure. There last game is against Arizona who is now 4-9. If the Colts remain undefeated until then, this game



PHOTO COURTESY OF  
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should not be a problem. As long as they go into that day knowing they still have to bring their game, nothing should stand in the Colts way.

When asked how he feels after each win, Peyton Manning replied, I just want to do it again. He has three more chances to do this in the regular season. However, going undefeated is not what is most important to them. Manning and his teammates just want to win the Super bowl. The Super bowl is the ultimate goal for a team and everyone chases that during the season. However, the Colts right now are chasing history too. A Super bowl win would be great and well deserved. A perfect season is something to be pleased about too.

All teams should strive for perfection, it is not as if, any team goes into the season thinking they can lose a certain number of games and still make the playoffs. Everyone wants to be the best. All teams go into the season with the hope that they get a chance to make it into the playoffs and win that final game. The Colts have already clinched their division and home field advantage. It is in fact harder to be perfect during sixteen games than to win a Super bowl, one team does that every year. So, maybe more emphasis should be put onto this goal that the Colts are working towards. It is a big deal and everyone should treat it is a big deal. The coaches and players are trying to downplay it.

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Hopefully the Colts and their leadership do not endanger their chance at immortality. It is said that coach Tony Dungy might rest some of his players in order to be healthy at the start of the playoffs. This notion is absurd. They have the opportunity to go 16-0 and they will lessen their chances at that so they can be healthy. Team president Bill Polian has said, Priority No. 1 is be healthy going into the playoffs. Yes it is, but resting the players is unfair. They want to play and they should. They have gone out there and played hard during the first thirteen games and they should do that for the last three and then as far as they go in the playoffs.

Everyone remembers that the 1972 Miami Dolphins is the only team to go 16-0. I would bet, no one can name every super bowl winner. The Indianapolis Colts should look at what they have done this year and play the remainder games as if they have everything to lose. A chance like this might not come around for another 32 years. football to accomplish that feat. Although that was an easy choice, several others weren't. Very solid teams like LSU, Auburn, and Miami were all kept out of the BCS, by the different polls. This all could be settled if there was some type of playoff between all of the BCS eligible teams. Rather than creating controversy with multiple selections, rankings should be based on records, instead of the way some organization feels about a certain team. The NCAA should try their best to adapt a playoff system that includes at least 4 teams. It will allow the NCAA to truly figure out a clear-cut National Champion at the ends of the season.

Last year was a prime example of controversy within the BCS. Number 1 USC and number 2 Oklahoma squared off in the Orange Bowl for the National Championship. USC was undefeated, but Oklahoma was not. Oklahoma ended up being blown out by the USC Trojans in the one of the most one-sided National Championships in recent memory. Auburn was ranked the number 3 team in the country, but they had an undefeated record. They defeated Virginia Tech to win their bowl and end their season with perfection. Auburn felt that they greatly deserved a shot at USC, and they did. It wouldn't have taken much to get Auburn and USC on the field to determine who was the better team. If given a chance, I'm sure they would have played anywhere just to settle the score. It's time for the BCS to stop being stubborn, and adapt a playoff system. It will make matters a whole lot easier.

## Bitter Sweet Ending

Samantha Schimmel  
Staff Writer

It was definitely a heartbreaking end to a successful season for the North Brunswick High School boys soccer team.

The boys won the Greater Middlesex Conference Tournament for the second consecutive year this season against Monroe on Sunday, November 13th, at North Brunswick Township High School.

The victorious Raiders took the lead during the second half, as Ibrahim Kamara scored, making it 1-0. Senior goalie, Danny Peragallo, played a tough game in the net, while the powerful defensive players kept Monroe from scoring. Together, the strong defensive unit played a flawless game, and were vital in helping to rack up the 13th shutout of the season. This game ended the season for Monroe, who had a record of 20-4.

However, the Raiders had little time to bask in their glory, as the much anticipated game against Shawnee was rapidly approaching. The boys continued their season the following Tuesday, playing for a shot at the Group IV title.

At the start of the game, it seemed as though victory was in the near future for the Raiders. They began the match gaining a quick 2-0 lead against Shawnee, thanks to a goal in the first half scored by Kamara, followed by a goal from Adam Rudin in the beginning of the second.

However, the Renegades were not ready to accept defeat so easily, and rapidly reacted, scoring their first goal only a few minutes later. The Raiders were still up 2-1 for most of the game, until Shawnee scored their second goal with less than 15 minutes remaining. Tying it up at 2 all, the teams were forced into overtime.

The Raiders, who dominated for the majority of the game, came out strong during overtime ready to claim victory. However, the referees made an extremely controversial call, resulting in two penalty cards and well as a penalty kick for Shawnee. Danny Peragallo, who was critical helping the Raiders get this far, dove for the save, but was unable to reach the well placed shot by Sean King.

The game ended with a score of 3-2 Shawnee, who went on to compete in the championship game. The Raiders ended their season with a stellar record of 20-2-1.

## Soccer Star, Best, Dies

Angela Lombardo  
Staff Writer

At age 59, legendary soccer player George Best died November 25, due to decades of alcohol abuse. Three years ago, he underwent a liver transplant and was hospitalized since October 1 because of a reaction to medication to control his alcoholism.

The last few years of his life he had to deal with a prison sentence for drunk-driving, assaulting a police officer, as well as failing to answer bail. In one of his two autobiographies, Best himself stated "Unfortunately there is no solution to alcohol, you can't make it go away," as well as "drink is the only opponent I've been unable to beat."

Best spent most of his soccer career at Manchester United where he made 361 league appearances and scored 137 goals

during his games. His career year came in 1968 when he was instrumental in Manchester United be-

coming the first English team to win European Cup and was also named Footballer of the Year. He won only two English league titles as well as the European cup, and didn't get the chance to play in a



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World Cup.

Many tributes go out to Best- from his family and friends to his loyal fans. Tony Blair, British Prime Minister, considered Best as "probably the most naturally gifted footballer of his generation and one of the best footballers our country has produced."