

Chieftain



Yes we can!

Volume LXX - Issue Three - November 2008

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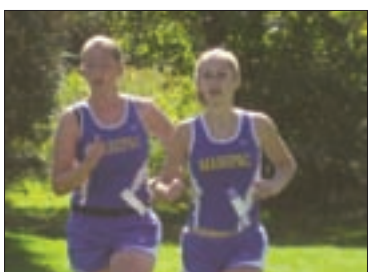
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Renovations at Mahopac High School

New track and bleachers for Fall 2009

Ankita Deosthali

Mahopac High School is excited for the start of construction of a new track and bleachers for the 2009-2010 school year. Renovations are long over due; the existing track and bleachers were originally built over two decades ago. Though the bleachers have had work done in the past, they will be completely torn down starting in early May.

The new metal bleachers will seat 1500 people, compared to the current bleachers' 1200 capacity. To compensate for the extra seats, the bleachers will go down right to the fence in between the track and stands.

The new track will benefit all of Mahopac, not just the schools. Built over twenty years ago, the track has been widely used, and in the opinion of Athletic Director Mr. Miele, it has been used by the community more than in most other school districts. As a result, the track has become worn down and activities, such as track meets, have been stopped.

The construction will begin in May and will most likely be done before the 2009 Fall Season. As a



Jenn Kufa

The new steel bleachers will hold 1500 people, compared to the current 1200 capacity.

result, many annual activities in Mahopac have been either cut or altered. The class of 2009 will not be graduating from Mahopac High School. Relay for Life will be held earlier than usual and instead of its usual two-day, overnight affair it will be one day. The Special Olympics (sponsored by the Student Athletic Council) will not take place this year.

Though these alterations to the usual schedule are unfortunate, there was little choice in the matter. According to Mr. Miele, if construction was to start later it would conflict with the Fall Sports and activities. Under every conceivable scenario something in the schedule needs to be cut, but the

way that the administration has chosen will have the least impact on the school.

The new addition will be enjoyed by the whole community, but especially by the Mahopac Spring and Winter Track team. For the last couple of years, there have been no track team meets held at Mahopac High School because of the ripped and worn down track. The high school will once again be able to host the meets, after the completion of the new track and bleachers.

Maura Maloney, a junior at Mahopac High School and member of both track teams says, "I am really excited that meets will be able to be at home next year. It

will be nice to not have to travel for once, and everyone will come to us and use our facilities." She adds, "Our current track is in a terrible state. I can't wait until [the construction] is finished and we can enjoy it as a team."

Though senior members of the track team will not get to enjoy the benefits of home meets many are not unhappy. Says senior Melissa Reily, "Having home meets would have been nice I guess, but it doesn't really affect me much. I'll go to a college with a nice track."

The only big complaint seems to be that seniors will not take part in graduating from the high school.

Man Eating Plant Comes to MHS

Little Shop of Horrors this November

Damaris Giha

The Mahopac Drama Company joins together once again to put on this year's musical, *Little Shop of Horrors*. This year, the company is to put on two shows, one musical, and one drama. The company typically puts on two shows a year, but the pattern has been very sporadic the past couple of years. During the 2006-2007 school year, the company put on four shows. The following year, two shows were performed, but the actors were so adamant in their pursuit for a third show, that when it was finally approved by the administration, the performance of High School Musical was highly celebrated. This year, however, only two shows seem to be waiting in the wings.

Little Shop of Horrors is a work that has been performed in numerous different ways and has

undergone many adaptations. It was originally a comedy film released in 1960, a comedy directed by Roger Corman. It is a satire about an incapable young florist who cares for an alien plant that thrives on human blood.



Jenn Kufa

Feed me Seymour!

Though it was a low-budget film, it slowly gained popularity. Then, in 1982, the film was adapted into a musical that was

first performed off-Broadway, but has since become the highest grossing and third longest running film in the history of off-Broadway plays and musicals.

Frank Oz then tried to capture the success of the musical in 1986

Broadway revival also added to the popularity of the show.

The show, which takes place in the 1960's, is set in the slums of a city, on a street named Skid Row. The plot takes place primarily in the destitute Mushnik's Skid Row Florists, with some scenes in the back alley or on the front stoop of Skid Row. This musical is about a nerdy, unsociable young florist named Seymour who longs to make a better life for himself, but can't seem to make it out of the city because he is so poor.

Seymour is in love with his co-worker Audrey, but will never admit it to her. One day, after a "total eclipse of the sun", he finds a strange plant that is unknown to this world, but he takes it home. As the plant grows, Seymour finds that he is getting everything he ever wanted, including the love of Audrey.

by adapting it into full-length feature movie, featuring stars such as Rick Moranis, Ellen Greene, Steve Martin, and Bill Murray. The

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Details:

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Featured Opinion/Editorial: Veganism

If you're about to eat your regular lunch then I'd advise you to finish it up before I make you lose your appetite for birds and mammals.

I am a vegan, and have been independent from animal products for over a year and meat-free for over three years. People often tell me that I am missing out on several things. I have often been asked how does a vegan, a person who doesn't eat meat, eggs, or dairy, get nutrients, namely protein and iron?

Replacements are available for almost every food out there. Tofu has become my best friend, because when cooked with certain sauces it tastes delicious. This replaces any kind of meat I used to eat; ham, turkey, beef, chicken, you name it. Milk is replaced by soy/rice milk, butter by margarine or butter made from vegetable oils, cheese by soy/rice cheese, and eggs (for baking purposes) by applesauce, which incidentally leaves no trace of apple taste. Most breads, pastas, and cereals are vegan already.

I have often also been asked why I do

not eat animals or animal by-products. I admit, it's a ridiculous thing to do when you really think about it. Besides simply finding consuming animal products unnatural, I am against way the animals are treated. For example, because female chickens are the ones mostly needed for the production of eggs and meat, every year 280 million baby chicks that are male are squished into plastic bags (while they are alive) and suffocated at hatcheries.

Also, as many people forget, cows, like all mammals, must be pregnant to produce milk. The cows used for dairy are impregnated and then the calf is taken away from its mother so that the cow "has to be milked to survive". Other cruelties include cramping, hitting, and whipping the animals in farms.

Animals are not only treated badly, but certain substances are left behind in their products. Most meats have been proven to contain animal feces. Milk and cheese are left with pus in them that come from not cleaning the cows utters. Also, most non-organic animal products have high amounts of hormones in

them, which is what has been argued to have caused puberty to arrive so early in so many tweens' lives.

Farming animals has also become a bit of an economic and environmental problem. Seven kilograms of grain are needed to produce one kilogram of beef. The world's livestock herds are in fact the biggest source of human-induced emissions of methane. You've probably heard that reducing car use is the most prevailing need to stop global warming, but reducing meat consumption is just as important. And if everyone in the United States just had one less dish of meat every week, there would be enough grain to feed 25 million people; the number of people battling hunger in the United States everyday.

Lastly, veganism and vegetarianism is very healthy. People living this lifestyle are at a healthy weight, have lower cholesterol, and lower blood pressure. Most vegan and vegetarian diets have abundant sources of protein, vitamins, calcium, and healthy (monounsaturated and polyunsaturated) fats. Iron is in fact not as well absorbed by the body from plants than from meat, however with Vitamin C this helps the iron be absorbed just as well. Most cases of iron deficiency do not even come from vegans and vegetarians that are on a stable diet, rather than those who are in an alternate diet.

The change from being a full on carnivore to vegetarianism can be tough, but not by any means impossible. As an Argentinean, it is my family's culture to eat meat almost everyday. As they mocked me for weeks about my decision, they accepted it and a few of them even changed their diets as they saw the changes in me progress.

Personally, I did not find the change difficult to make. I am not the only one. Says Junior Charlie Mimran, "Choosing a vegetarian lifestyle was the best health and moral decision I have ever made. Coming from an animal filled diet, the transition could have not been easier. Today there are plenty of healthy alternatives that make the switch easy and delicious."

Overall, being a vegan or a vegetarian could not be easier these days. Not only is it a morally gratifying decision, but also physically the advantages are numerous.

-Jenn Kufa



This pretty much sums it up.

Man Eating Plant at MHS
from Front Page

When he realizes that the plant won't survive on anything else but human blood, Seymour finally has to ask himself what he wants more: everything he ever wanted and more bloodshed, or poverty and a loveless life.

This show is narrated by a doo-wop girl group of urchins named the Ronnettes, who sing funky songs to set the tone of the show. *Little Shop* is a comedy that has a message pertaining to the abusive and coercive ways of the rich. The finale, "Don't Feed the Plants" finally reveals the message that the wealthy can promise many things, but shouldn't be trusted because their promises are empty, and they will eventually lead to your demise.

In the MDC version of the musical, *Little Shop of Horrors* is directed by Ms. Wund, Mrs. Niekamp, and Ms. Vara. Rehearsals started in early October, with the dates of the performance set for the 20th, 21st, and 22nd of November.

The company was blessed with an abundance of time to rehearse, but there is an obstacle to be overcome, because the auditorium is having an installation of light which will keep the cast out of the auditorium for a few days in early November.

The leads, Seymour and Audrey, are played by Andre Aivazians and Molly Kornfeld, with Mushnik the shop owner being portrayed by Joe Calderella. The Ronnettes are made up of Melissa Bellenchia, Damaris Giha, Rachel Formale, Kylie Derby, and Victoria Dolan. Audrey's

abusive and sadistic boyfriend is played by Ryan Finch, and Michelle Klimm sings the part of the infamous, blood-eating plant.

Rehearsals are going well, and there is even talk of the cast performing a "preview", such as Illusion does every year before the show. Ms. Wund says, "This show has the potential to be one of the best shows we have put on in years."



Jenn Kufa

Little Shop of Horrors this November 20th, 21st, and 22nd.

PEP RALLY



Speak Out!

What do you think of the new school lunch?

"The Chicken Bacon Ranch pizza knocks my socks off."

- Rob McNamara



"We're taking lunch back."

-Kevin Knudsen



"The food is good but the lines are too long."

-Caitlin Baranowski



"The pizza is floppy."

- Ryan Finch



"I bring my lunch."

-Chelsea Alterman



"The pizza has sauce."

-Abner Jimenez



"Mmm...wraps."

- Danielle Scofield

New Cafeteria Food Success

Whitsons new provider at Mahopac

Johnny DiNapoli

There has been a lot of buzz in regards to the new administrative and technology changes this year in Mahopac's schools. Undeniably, one of the more pleasant surprises of the early school year has been the new food in the cafeteria.

When the 2007-2008 school year ended, the contract between Mahopac Schools and food provider Aramark expired. As a result, there was a bid to find a new provider. Whitsons Culinary Group, with the lowest bid, became the new food provider at all Mahopac Schools (excluding Mahopac Falls, which does not serve lunch).

Only a couple months into their tenure, Whitsons has quickly distinguished themselves as handling lunch in a different manner than

Aramark, who was at the school for the previous six years. In particular, there are two new concepts which have made the new lunches very popular: variety and nutrition.

Like Aramark, Whitsons offers a featured daily lunch, such as popcorn chicken or macaroni and cheese. But in addition to that, they provide many more options for students to choose from, by offering different types of lunches at various "stations".

For example, there is a "Grab and Go" section, which essentially offers "express lunches". These usually consist of either a bagel, a soup and sandwich, or a salad. There is also a station at which fresh sandwiches and wraps are made. The highlight of this area is that all the cold cuts are Boar's Head Brand meats. There are many other choices, such as the "Coyote Grill", which offers varieties of Southwestern cuisine.

A standard lunch, which consists of an entrée, and several sides, costs two dollars. But in addition

in the variety and value, Whitsons meals provide very nutritious options.

Probably one of the most debated items on the menu in previous years was French fries. Many parents complained about their children being served this unhealthy, fried food nearly everyday. The Whitsons menu offers a nice balance: baked fries that, unlike before, are not offered everyday.

Whitsons foods and products offer many other healthy options. The bread products are 100% Whole Grain, and contain no Hydrogenated Oils. All the milk and chicken products are hormone and antibiotic free. In addition, yogurts and dressings have no artificial ingredients or high fructose corn syrup.

The one complaint among students is the long lines of hungry kids awaiting their lunch. Whitsons has succeeded in making cafeteria food, usually notorious for being less than satisfactory, an enjoyable and fulfilling experience.



Jenn Kufa

Students take advantage of the various options offered in the cafeteria.

Club Updates

Foreign Language Clubs

On October 23rd, 2008, the foreign language department and language club members gathered in the auditorium to induct new members into the National Honors Societies. Students taking French, German, Italian, and Spanish languages were eligible to be inducted in their respective groups. The prestigious honor was awarded to students who have interest in the language, received a recommendation from a foreign language teacher, and continue to receive an average of 85 or above. Some students were even required to write induction essays. Some notable moments were Julia Giammo's flawless speech in Italian, Mr. Rizzo's knowledge of German vocabulary, and Principal Ljunic's Jaws-themed language commercial. Congratulations to all students inducted!

Recording Club

President Justin Clark informed *The Chieftain* on

their club's upcoming events. They are hosting Mahopac High School's annual Battle of The Bands where Mahopac's premiere music groups get to strut their stuff to compete for the top prize. This popular event took place on November 14th.

S.A.D.D.

Students Against Destructive Decisions is continuing their reputation as the moral older brother of Mahopac High School. The club, according to Freshman Dan Ehrenpreis, plans to travel to Mahopac Middle School in order to discuss the abuse of alcohol and drugs with the younger students. They also are coordinating with the local Boy Scouts to involve the club's message with the company.

Bible Club

Bible Club leaders report a noticeable increase in their attendance this year. On a good week, they claim to have 20-30 members. They have discussed such topics as destiny, purpose, child slav-

ery, and the meaning behind the salt and light metaphor. Recently, their See You At The Flagpole event, where students gathered to pray under the school's flagpole, was a great success. They soon plan to fundraise for selected charities through future club activities. Their goal is to continue to explore deeper and more spiritual topics.

Biology Club

Biology Club hosts about seventy members, mostly consisting of freshmen. The Club meets every Tuesdays and Thursdays and members spend after school hours collecting the Red Recycling buckets (the blue ones are collected by Building With Books). Students are offered community service hours for their volunteered time. This year the club looks forward to their field trip to go eagle watching and plans to fundraise for a charity of their choice.

DEBATE

NO It's a sad day when our government can pass a law that most of the population doesn't agree with. Such was the case with the recent \$700 billion bailout of the banking industry. The overwhelming majority of Americans were against having the Treasury use their tax dollars to pay for the outrageous risks taken by big banks and the poor decisions of new home owners.

Now that the bailout has passed, it has clearly been a failure. The banks have hoarded money to stay afloat, instead of lending money to businesses that need the loans to grow, as well as consumers. It has sent the markets into a financial freefall that was caused in large part by a crisis of confidence, and has led to more calls for government. It is conceivable that the government will become further and further entangled in the private sector to the point where there will be a blurred line between the two.

We are at a critical point in the history of our country. Our elected representatives need to make economic policy rationally, without kowtowing to the demands of lobbyists and industry insiders. The bailout law HR 1424 is a painful example of what can happen when politicians ignore not only their constituents, but common sense. The bailout gives the Treasury Secretary nearly unfettered control to distribute \$750 billion of taxpayers' money in any way he wishes.

And now more private industries are seeking taxpayer support. With the automakers about to go under, there has been a lot of debate about whether or not to bail them out. But even if the big three were given even \$50 billion, they would not be able to keep afloat by the end of the year when they are losing over \$10 billion dollars every quarter.

They need to be allowed to fail. It is not the American taxpayer's responsibility to bail out large multinational corporations that have been poorly managed and in the case of the auto industry, failed to respond to the demands of consumers for more fuel efficient cars. These entities exist solely for profit, which in and of itself is fine, but when they fail they must face the consequences and not expect hard-working, everyday citizens and taxpayers to bear the burden.

It is still the American way to

own a home and car, and it looks as though it will remain that way. But if anything has become clear over the past few years, it is that every American is simply not financially prepared to do so. The reality is that some people must wait and save to purchase a house, which is not necessarily a bad thing. Certainly it is smarter for some to rent rather than buy.

Congress should have instituted a mandatory 20% down payment on all new home purchases. This alone would have given all of the mortgage companies sufficient liquidity to withstand any crisis.

Congress is not doing the average cit-

YES After the country's financial meltdown this past month the government had to come in with some kind of action. The Bailout Bill was exactly what was needed to ensure the market does not slip further into recession. While it does have a hefty price tag for the taxpayers, \$700 billion, big money is needed to restore these big companies.

Although many people understand that large amounts of money are needed to cure Wall Street of its woes, they want to make sure executives won't walk away from their failing companies with golden parachutes worth millions of taxpayer dollars. To

smaller sums of money into companies by buying up bad mortgages from them and increasing their liquid funds so they could stay afloat amid the turmoil. With this approach he was putting out a large forest fire one tree at a time, which clearly will not work. To make sure more companies like Goldman Sachs do not fail, Paulson is using the bill to provide an infusion of money into faltering companies that will buy up the bad mortgages and provide the companies with funds on larger scale. His new approach is analogous to putting a large forest fire out with a myriad of helicopters functioning simultaneously.

While this process seems more likely to work than going one-by-one it is still going to take time, and just as the helicopters will eventually put out the fire, it will still take years for the forest to grow back and to even begin to resemble what it once was. The economy won't recover that slowly, but it will take time. There is no magic bullet that the federal government could have used to end this recession. It took us years to get into this mess and it will take us years to fully recover from it.

"That's all well and good for Wall Street," says the common taxpayer, "but how is this going to help me if I can't afford to pay my ARM (adjustable rate mortgage)?" In all honesty the bill will not provide serious relief for Main Street; it does have some provisions in it which will allow the government to suspend the alternative minimum tax for at least another year. This will help middle class families by allowing them to keep more money in their pockets next year. Undoubtedly, the government under President Obama, a strong advocate for the middle class, will pass a new relief bill for Main Street.

These next years will be hard for many Americans and for many families around the world, but unlike the depression in the 1930s the government is doing all it can to ensure the economy will recover without the need for warfare. It will take time, but America has always recovered in the past, and if past is prelude, we will recover from this recession. The economic bailout bill is just the first of many steps towards that recovery.



Was Congress right in passing a bailout bill? Or will this decision haunt legions of American Taxpayers for generations?

izen or the country any favors by bailing out banks, homeowners, or other industries. Bailouts will lead to more bailout, and will increase the legitimacy of failure in the private sector. New homeowners must learn that they can't treat their house like a piggy bank and not pay for it in the end. Banks need to learn that their private gains are not subsidized by socialized losses. And the auto industry, the credit card industry, and any other private business seeking government assistance, must learn that the taxpayers will not bail them out.

We will be paying for this bailout for decades both directly and indirectly. The federal government deficit will only get worse, and unless we reverse the course we are currently headed on there will be some rocky seas ahead for this country.

-Mike Zaneri

ensure that this won't happen, the bill has provisions in it that restrict the money that can be given to executives. And while it is true that there will be some that walk away with bulging pockets at the taxpayer's expense, isn't it better that we lose some money as opposed to losing far more with an even deeper recession?

It is true that the bill hasn't dramatically improved the market by any means or that it has improved the market at all for that matter. However, the market has stopped its maddening drops and has, more or less found some relatively stable ground. It will still drop 100 to 200 points in a day, but usually recovers the loss within the week resulting in general stability.

In essence this bill gives the secretary of the treasury, Henry Paulson, the power to use the \$700 billion however he sees fit to promote economic recovery. What Paulson did before the bill was passed was impart

-Dave Kellogg

Global Warming A Serious Threat To Everyone

We can all help to stop it

Kate Hesler

Hey reader, can you swim? Have you ever wanted to live your life under water? Well if you answered yes to these questions then you're in luck because of a little thing called global warming.

Global warming is the steady increase in the Earth's temperature due to the emission of greenhouse gasses that trap the sun's energy in the Earth's atmosphere. This results in the melting of polar icecaps which in turn results in rising sea levels. Though it won't get bad enough to engulf the world in water it does mean some coastal cities (New Orleans, New York) will drown.

The craziest part about this entire situation is that it is within our power to control it. This is because

of the huge amounts of carbon dioxide we are emitting into the atmosphere. This carbon dioxide comes from our factories, our homes, and especially our cars (along with your own mouth).

Some people contest to this saying that it is just part of the Earth's natural cycle of climate change. While it might be part of a natural climate change the amounts of carbon dioxide being pumped into the atmosphere are not natural. Neither are the other causes of the global warming.

One of the major causes, in addition to the increasing levels of carbon dioxide, is deforestation. Deforestation is the destruction of forests to provide lumber, or the burning of forests to provide fertile farm land. Now I don't mean to say that we should stop cutting down forests, but in places fortunate enough to have rainforests they are literally clear cutting or burning massive amounts of land to provide

farms for the local inhabitants. This practice must stop. Countries need to work to provide economic alternatives for these people. Also we in America especially need to learn moderation, in our use of energy and lumber from the rain-forest

Now you must be asking, "why do we care what happens to rain-forests?" Well it turns out we need to care a great deal about them. The biggest reason we need to care about them is that they consume massive amounts of carbon dioxide, helping to remove the it from our atmosphere, the same carbon dioxide that is leading to the increased temperatures worldwide. Fossil fuels. They heat our homes, power our power plants, and fuel our cars, and planes; they also are the number one contributor to the increase in levels of carbon dioxide in our atmosphere. Alternative energies must be explored to end our dependence on these fuel

sources that are hurting the Earth so badly.

Well so what? How does it affect me? Why should I care about the causes of this "problem" that will make the Earth a few degrees warmer? I mean a few cities will drown, but people can move. And I like summer much more then winter doesn't this just mean for me that summer will come a little bit sooner?

No!! The effects of global warming will be much more serious then that. Say goodbye to your myspace buddies in Greenland, say goodbye to the cute fat penguins in Antarctica, say goodbye to Santa Claus. As mentioned before the polar ice caps will melt. They have already started to. This will mean the destruction of entire ecosystems based on these icy behemoths not to mention the huge amounts of flooding in coastal areas.

Furthermore natural disasters will increase in frequency and intensity. This has already started. Hurricane Ike anyone? They will continue getting much worse. The number of droughts and floods will increase as well.

Global warming will also lead to a greater strain on resources, most notably water. As the sea levels rise human health will be affected drastically. Global warming can lead to trouble breathing from pollution in the air. That's not good if you have asthma. Mosquitoes will be able to pass on malaria to people quicker and faster as well.

Water resources will be affected by global warming. Rising sea levels will pollute fresh water, such as drinking water you get from the ground, and reservoirs will dry up, due to the increase in heat levels.

Also, Global warming influences the economy. The damages of natural disasters, such as hurricanes, floods, and droughts cause the economy of numerous countries to fail. The government must do damage control in order to earn the money back.

There are however some solutions to combat Global Warming. We should sell SUVs and buy more efficient and ecofriendly hybrid cars. Hey, if celebrities have them, why can't we?

Recycling is a huge help that everyone can participate in. It's pretty simple for those of you, who can't

follow orders well. While at the local grocery store, go to the recycling machines for plastic, glass bottles, and cans, and recycle them for money. Furthermore, when you're at the grocery store, bring reusable bags instead of using the plastic bag

Polluting the environment and littering are examples of what you should not be doing. Think twice next time you throw your nasty McDonald's wrapper on the sidewalk.

Instead of using the regular, energy wasting light bulbs, use energy conservative light bulbs. They help the environment and also cost much less than normal light bulbs. When you are trying out your fancy new light bulbs, turn them off when you leave the room. Don't waste electricity and energy!

When going to the school plays, for fun or to make fun of the cast, go with your friends and try NOT to go by yourself. You can ride your bike to school, or take the smelly bus. It saves money. You can also walk to school for exercise and to build some character. Some people could use some. Don't get hit by a car though, some people in Mahopac don't know how to drive...!

Please take showers instead of baths. It conserves water and it is much better than bathing in your own filth. Fill washing machines and dish washers to the max to preserve water. Also, turn off the water faucet when brushing your teeth (that is, if you brush your teeth at all). This is an environmental and a hygienic tip; brush your teeth for two minutes!

Reader, we hope you learned how to be environmentally aware and a little more hygienic. Please take all of our nifty ideas and suggestions into account for present and future reference. If you don't follow any of our rules, we won't know, but you will. We don't think that having this little problem gnawing on your leg for the rest of your life will be comforting, so give in and save the earth. If you don't take these little hints into account, we will be very sad. So go out to Wal-Mart and buy some energy conservative light bulbs (you know they will have some).



flickr.com

The world is growing increasingly polluted by power plants such as this one.

Soldier Suicide Rates Rising At Alarming Rates

What the government is (not) doing about it and why we should help

Cristian Bezama

Throughout the course of the war on terror, the suicide rate among US soldiers was crawled upwards and is finally now reaching intolerable levels. According to CNN, every day five soldiers try to kill themselves.

This is a significant increase to the rate of suicide, before the war it was less than one soldier a day. New army figures claim there were over 2,100 attempted suicides in 2007 alone. Army Psychiatrist Colonel Elspeth Cameron-Ritchie stated that, "Suicide rates have been rising and have risen over the last five years."

Only recently have programs

been established to help prevent and reduce the sickening suicide rates among our own soldiers. Senator Jim Webb of Virginia has spearheaded legislation that is introducing suicide prevention courses to soldiers fighting abroad. Another factor adding to the problem, according to Colonel Cameron-Ritchie, is the soldier's mentality. Most soldiers want to seem tough, so naturally they don't want to ask for assistance and appear weak.

It is about time that the government has begun to step in! For far too long the government has ignored the silent screams of America's proudest and bravest.

They talk about citizens not supporting our troops by voicing opposition to the war in Iraq while they have know about these staggering suicide rates for years and are just now starting to do something about it. Which is the more grievous threat to our troops?

It has been apparent for years that suicide rates have been on the rise in our armed forces. There were only three hundred and fifty army suicide attempts in 2002, and in 2007 there were over 2,100 attempts. Its not as though this were a sudden jump either, throughout the course of the war in Iraq suicide rates have been steadily on the rise.

It should have been clear to the Federal Government that the suicide rate was on the rise for some time now, yet they took no action against it. The Programs being instituted now should have been put in place years ago when they first saw the rates increasing. Action taken then would have undoubtedly saved the lives of thousands of our soldiers.

On thanksgiving 2005, Army Specialist Tim Bowman shot himself. He had been involved in the Iraqi conflict for two years and was 23 at the time. I can not help but think that if the suicide prevention courses they are implementing now had been in place then he might

still be alive. One hundred-seventeen suicides were reported in 2007 along with ninety-three so far this year.

Though it is true that the government can not control many of the aspects leading its best and bravest to take their own lives it still has a responsibility to uphold and those soldiers have a right to expect the country they fight for to protect them as best it can. We must never forget the sacrifices they give to our country. We must never let our government forget them either.

Thoughts On The College Application Process

Thoughts from a senior who has made it through

David Kellogg

High stress, anxiety, bouts of depression, insomnia, and an overall feeling of inadequacy; if you're in your senior year here at MHS and are completing college applications, this is probably a decent description of your mental state. For many this is just the culmination of over a year worth of extra effort to hopefully gain entry into one of the thousands of colleges in our nation.

Starting early junior year I began to be exposed to the world of college applications. My parents thought that if I saw a lot of colleges I would have a better idea of where I wanted to go. So throughout junior year, and this past summer, my family and I traveled to over thirty colleges and went to nearly as many tours and information sessions, not the most exciting way to spend a weekend. While some tours can be interesting and information sessions can be informative some are just awful.

In SUNY Binghamton the information session was interesting enough, however the tour that followed took it too far. A short woman greeted us and took us out of the glorious air-conditioning

into the 100 degree weather. After over an hour-and-a-half of standing in the hot sun the tour was over and we had learned a thorough history of the school and had gone over every fact you ever wanted to know about Binghamton, twice.

Months after that college visit I began to think of the colleges I had seen. After seeing so many colleges the majority had simply become a large blur of secondary education. I began to sort through the plethora of extraneous information I had gathered from the colleges on the visits and from their websites and tried to sort out the real information from the garbage. Several weeks later I had my tentative list of colleges and the time had come for the truly fun part, completing applications!

Due to the internet colleges have made applying even easier and a majority of colleges accept the common application. So now instead of completing an application for each college now you only have to fill out the common application, simple.

However it turns out its not as simple as it looks, like just about everything in the college application process. For one thing, often times when you try to save things such as your list of activities the page will refresh and erase all the data you entered, which could turn the simple act of entering data one of the most frustrating parts of the entire process. Additionally, if you leave your

computer for longer than a few minutes common app will log you off and when you return you may not be able to log back in for another half-hour to an hour, an additional pain to deal with.

Once you get all the basic information on the site now it's time to write your college essay, in other words time to show your college of choice who you are, preferably in 500 words or less. This is probably the hardest part of the entire process. Personally it took me a two week period to write, edit, give to Mrs. Lingardo, edit, give to Mrs. Lingardo and download onto the Common Application, and I knew exactly what I was going to write about. Others are not so lucky and spend weeks just coming up with an idea to show their true colors to their college of choice. Not an easy task.

Finally after weeks of work and months of touring schools, you're done with the Common Application. Congratulations! Now, assuming you don't have a supplement to complete, you are done with the application process.

Now press the submit button and relax as you get the confirmation that your application you have been slaving over for the last few weeks is sent to a college admissions counselor among thousands of other high school seniors just like you. Congratulations.

Pandora: The Music Genome Project

Dave Kellogg

Last week I was in the Chieftain Office editing papers when I'd find some music to listen to so I tried to. I tried to go to www.purevolume.com, a source of free music, but to my chagrin, it was blocked by the draconian school filtering system. Disappointed I searched

And if you get tired of the new station you can either make another station or go back to the station you already created because Pandora saves all your stations in a play list. Also, when you need to leave your computer you can create a free account with Pandora, and upon signing back in you will find all your stations there just as you



Mike Zaneri

Pandora helps the user explore new possibilities in music.

www.google.com for another online radio and Pandora was the first one to come up. In the description it said, "Pandora radio is the personalized internet radio service that helps you find new music based on your old and current favorites." Interested, I clicked on the link, thinking it too would be blocked, however, to my surprise it was not. As the page opened I quickly forgot about the article I was editing and began to explore the site.

Doing a little digging, I found that Pandora is an automated music recommendation and Internet radio service created by the Music Genome Project. Basically, you enter the name of a favorite band of yours and Pandora will search its vast archives for bands that have similar qualities to the band you selected. It will then generate a "radio" that includes your band as well as others like it. The site works because the people behind the Music Genome Project have determined over 400 different musical attributes that the site will use to determine the next song it will play. These 400 attributes are combined into 2,000 focus traits such as rhythm, syncopation, key tonality, vocal harmonies, and timing which are used to categorize the millions of songs and determine which ones are similar. They're pretty much breaking music down to its most basic parts and finding songs with similar attributes to form a station for you.

You aren't restricted to making just one station either. You can make as many as you like by simply clicking "Create a New Station". This allows you to enter another artist and make another station.

left them.

Some downsides to this site are that you can not just tell it to play one artist as you can with some other stations or on iTunes. Also to pay for the music on the site there are ads. However, these can easily be blocked with a pop up blocker, or if you were so inclined you could make a paid account which excludes the ads. The positives of Pandora are that it will expose you to a plethora of new bands in genres you know you like because you've determined what genres it plays! It's kind of like the shuffle function on iTunes in one genre, but the library of songs it selects tracks from is much larger than any iTunes library could ever be (3.7 million songs). Additionally, it is a great tool for people like me who love to download music. Within the past week I have discovered tons of bands that I never would have heard of without Pandora.

Unfortunately some people do not share my enthusiasm for this site. In Europe its IP address has been banned, due to new copyright infringement laws. Here in the United States it is still up and running, however, music companies are looking to collect greater royalties from the site which will either lead to greater ads or to the bankruptcy of the site.

Hopefully the site will stay online and will allow millions to expand their musical tastes further. If anyone is tired of their iTunes library and looking for a new source of music, then I highly recommend Pandora as your source.



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PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA



Portrait by Sarah Dean

WHAT OUR READERS SAY

"AWESOME." - DINESH CERUPELLA

"MCCAIN WOULD HAVE DONE BETTER WITH THE ECONOMY AND IRAQ." - JENNA BRABAN

"IT MAKES ME WANT TO BE AN AMERICAN." - SARAH DEAN

"I LOVE THOSE EARS!" - LAUREN FISCHETTI

"IT'S A GREAT MILESTONE IN AMERICAN HISTORY." - BEN SPARKS

"I HOPE OBAMA WILL SUPPORT WOMEN'S FIELD HOCKEY MORE THAN GEORGE BUSH DID." - ABBEY ARMSTRONG AND LIANA VIAGGIO

"IT'S A SAD THING TO SEE THAT WE DON'T HONOR THOSE WHO SERVED OUR COUNTRY. MCCAIN '08, PALIN '12!" - MIKE ZEBOMBER

"I THINK IT'S A WONDERFUL MOMENT IN HISTORY." - CHRISTOPHER PURR

MEET THE MAN

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE MAN WHO'S GOING TO BE LEADING OUR COUNTRY FOR THE NEXT 4-8 YEARS! HE WAS BORN ON AUGUST 4TH, 1961 IN HONOLULU, HAWAII. HIS FATHER BARACK HUSSEIN OBAMA SR. AND HIS WIFE ANN DUNHAM DIVORCED WHEN A YOUNG OBAMA WAS ONLY 2 YEARS OLD. HE ONLY GOT TO SEE HIS FATHER ONCE AFTER THAT, BECAUSE HIS FATHER MOVED BACK TO HIS HOME IN KENYA AND LATER TRAGICALLY DYING IN AN AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT. WHEN HE WAS 10, BARACK WAS SENT TO LIVE WITH HIS MATERNAL GRANDPARENTS IN HONOLULU, HAWAII WHERE HE ATTENDED SCHOOL FROM 5TH GRADE, ALL THE WAY TO HIS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION. HE STUDIED AT OCCIDENTAL COLLEGE FOR TWO YEARS AND THEN TRANSFERRED TO COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, MAJORING IN POLITICAL SCIENCE, SPECIALIZING IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS. HE MOVED TO NEW YORK, WORKED AT THE BUSINESS INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS AND THEN PROCEEDED TO MAKE CHICAGO HIS NEW HOME. THERE HE HEADED A DEVELOPING COMMUNITIES PROJECT, WHICH FLOURISHED UNDER HIS LEADERSHIP, PROGRESSING FROM A 70,000 DOLLAR ANNUAL BUDGET, ALL THE WAY TO A 400,000 DOLLAR BUDGET. THEN OBAMA DECIDED TO GO TO HARVARD AND GET A LAW DEGREE. WITHIN HIS FIRST YEAR THERE HE BECAME AN EDITOR OF THE HARVARD LAW REVIEW AND THEN SOON AFTER PRESIDENT OF THE HARVARD LAW REVIEW. FROM THERE HE HELPED TO LEAD PROJECT VOTE, WHICH HELPED TO REGISTER 150,000 OF 400,000 AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN ILLINOIS. AFTER THAT HE BECAME A STATE LEGISLATOR. HE SPENT 1997-2004 IN THE ILLINOIS SENATE, HOPING FOR GREENER PASTURES. THEN FINALLY HE WAS ELECTED TO BE IN THE UNITED STATES SENATE IN 2004 WHICH HE SERVED UP UNTIL FEBRUARY 10TH, 2007, WHEN OBAMA FINALLY STEPPED UP AND ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY TO BECOME THE 44TH PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

LIKE VIRTUALLY EVERY POLITICIAN, BARACK OBAMA BLAMES THE CURRENT CRISIS ON WALL STREET'S IRRESPONSIBILITY, AND THE CURRENT ADMINISTRATION (THOUGH THE LATTER, IT IS, ADMITTEDLY, A TRAIT MORE COMMON ON THE LEFT-LEANING SIDE OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM). THE PRESIDENT-TO-BE SUPPORTED THE \$700 BILLION "BAIL-OUT BILL", THOUGH THAT FRANKLY DIDN'T...WELL, WORK, AS IS EVIDENT. HIS FISCAL POLICIES ALSO INCLUDE THE DESIRE TO INJECT BANKS WITH FUNDS COURTESY OF THE TREASURE DEPARTMENT, BUT "IMPLEMENTED IN A WAY THAT HELPS HOMEOWNERS AND DOES NOT ENRICH WALL STREET CEOs AT THE TAXPAYERS' EXPENSE". HE ALSO CREATED A SIX-POINT PLAN TO AID IN GOVERNMENT REGULATION OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. A GOOD IDEA, PERHAPS, FOR THOSE BUSINESSES THAT GET A LITTLE TOO BIG FOR THEIR BRITCHES, BUT SEEMS TO INCREASE GOVERNMENT INFLUENCE, WHICH MIGHT NOT BE GREETED TOO HAPPILY BY THOSE WHO PREFER SPONTANEOUS-ORDER TO GOVERNMENT REGULATION, BUT PERHAPS SUCH INFLUENCE IS NEEDED TO REIGN IN THE MORE UNRULY CORPORATIONS THAT SPEND THEIR TIME AND YOUR MONEY DOING THINGS LIKE, SAY, HAVING SPA PARTIES.

THOUGH HIS FINANCIAL POLICIES RUN MUCH DEEPER THAN JUST THE PRIOR LISTED, I HAVE A WORD LIMIT, AND IT'S VITAL THAT WE MOVE ONTO DISCUSSING A MAJOR ELEPHANT IN THE ROOM: FOREIGN POLICY. BARACK OBAMA'S FATHER WAS A KENYAN IMMIGRANT, AND THIS DISTINCTLY SHOWS IN ASPECTS OF HIS FOREIGN POLICY, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA. OBAMA IS A LONG-TIME CRUSADER AGAINST THE GENOCIDE OCCURRING IN DARFUR, AND CALLS FOR TIGHTENED SANCTIONS ON THE "ILLEGITIMATE" GOVERNMENT OF ZIMBABWE LEADER, ROBERT MUGABE. IN AFGHANISTAN, HE BELIEVES THAT SOLDIERS DEPLOYED FROM THE TROOP SURGE IN IRAQ, TO BE RELOCATED TO AFGHANISTAN. DISAGREEING WITH MOST OF BUSH'S POLICIES IN TERMS OF THE WAR, HE BELIEVES THAT FOCUSING ON IRAQ WAS A BAD MOVE, WHICH ALLOWED THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN TO GET EVEN WORSE. HE WISHES TO SEND AT LEAST TWO ADDITIONAL COMBAT BRIGADES TO AFGHANISTAN, AND OBTAIN GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS FROM NATO ALLIES. FOR IRAQ, THE PRESIDENT ELECT BELIEVES THAT NO ORDER WILL BE BROUGHT WITH MILITARY PRESENCE. INSTEAD, HE WANTS TO ARRANGE WITH THE UN SOLUTIONS TO THE CURRENT CRISES OF THE IRAQI REFUGEES, AND PERHAPS A RESIDUAL TROOP PRESENCE FOR SECURITY AND TRAINING PURPOSES. AS FOR THE NATION'S BIGGEST WORRY, IRAN, OBAMA WISHES TO USE "TOUGH, DIRECT, DIPLOMACY" WITH THE POWERFUL MIDDLE EASTERN NATION, AND ITS PRESIDENT MAHMOUD AHMADINEJAD, BELIEVING THAT ANY US DISPOSITION TOWARDS WAR TO BE NOT ONLY RIDICULOUS, BUT AN ESCALATED THREAT TOWARDS ISRAEL; THE US'S GOOD BUDDY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, WHICH OBAMA STRONGLY SUPPORTS. TO, AT THE VERY LEAST, MINIMIZE THIS THREAT, OBAMA WANTS TO OFFER IRAN MEMBERSHIP TO THE WORLD TRADE ORGANIZATION, IN RETURN FOR THEIR ABANDONMENT OF THEIR NUCLEAR PROGRAM.

MY WORD-LIMIT FAST APPROACHING, PERHAPS NOW, I SHOULD MOVE ONTO THE ENERGY CRISIS, AS TIRED AS IT MAY BE. AS EVERYONE KNOWS, PRESIDENT ELECT OBAMA IS AGAINST OFF-SHORE DRILLING, BELIEVING THAT IT WILL ONLY FURTHER AMERICA'S ADDICTION TO OIL. HE, INSTEAD, HAS COME UP WITH A "NEW ENERGY FOR AMERICA" PLAN. THIS PLAN ENTAILS A WINDFALL PROFITS TAX ON OIL COMPANIES. THE PROCEEDS FROM THIS TAX WOULD BECOME A \$1,000 REBATE FOR MARRIED COUPLES AND \$500 FOR INDIVIDUALS. ACCORDING TO MR. OBAMA, THESE REBATES "OFFSET THE ENTIRE INCREASE IN GAS PRICES FOR A WORKING FAMILY OVER THE NEXT FOUR MONTHS; OR PAY FOR THE ENTIRE INCREASE IN WINTER HEATING BILLS FOR A TYPICAL FAMILY IN A COLD-WEATHER STATE". THE PLAN ALSO AIMS TO INVEST \$150 BILLION OVER THE NEXT TEN YEARS IN RESEARCHING ALTERNATIVE FUEL SOURCES, TO HELP CURB THE OIL ADDICTION.

MY TIME HAS BEEN CUT SHORT; THERE IS HONESTLY NO WAY ONE CAN WRITE ABOUT EVERYTHING IN REGARDS TO BARACK OBAMA WITHIN A WORD-LIMIT. WHAT HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN THIS BRIEF ARTICLE, ARE A FEW KEY POINTS OF ASPECTS OF OBAMA'S POLICIES, WHICH CAN SERVE AS A FOUNDATION FOR EITHER LIKING OR DISLIKING HIS FUTURE PRESIDENCY, WE'LL HAVE HIM FOR AT LEAST 4 YEARS, SO TRY TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND,

-CALEB TEICHER

Death Cab Rocks the Big Apple

DCFC performs at Radio City Music Hall

Caleb Teicher

Through all of my years as a fan of many rock bands, I had never really understood the term “face-melting”. I understood that the guitarist played his solo very nicely, but I had never witnessed a rock concert that I could walk out feeling as if my face had completely fallen apart. Then, on October 6th, 2008, I experienced that face-melting I had always heard about. And it was all thanks to Death Cab for Cutie.

For those unaware, DCFC is one of the most popular unpopular bands out there, known for the passionate voice and lyrics of lead singer, Ben Gibbard. Their second album on a major record label, *Narrow Stairs*, was a step in a fairly different direction for the band, but it was nonetheless received well by its loyal fans.

The concert was held at Radio City Music Hall, a beautifully designed theatre that held approximately 5,000 crazed fans. It served its purpose well. The show was completely sold out, and it attracted a wide audience of teenagers, cultured senior citizens, and undeniably, hipsters. St. Vincent, the

opening act, began a little after eight o'clock and I missed the first song while buying over-priced band apparel. St. Vincent's set was solid, with an even more solid backup band (the drummer was extremely skilled). The undernourished lead singer rocked out the most on her track “Landmines.” The crowd was as nice as it could be to an opening act, though we all yawned a bit as we waited for Death Cab for Cutie to walk on the stage.

And they did, a little after nine, to a screaming crowd of fans who couldn't wait to find out what was ahead. The lead singer, Ben Gibbard, had grown out his hair and was ready to rock out even more with his new hairstyle. They began the concert with “President of What?” a well-known song from their earlier days. The audience only lasted two songs in their seats, and by the third song, “The New Year,” the entire audience was up on their feet and singing along with the lyrics.

The band made a perfect performance, with a perfect balance of playful banter and musical content. They also balanced all hopes from the concert perfectly. Those who had never seen Death Cab live before (myself included) were thrilled to hear some of their old favorites such as “We Looked Like Giants” and “Crooked Teeth”. Some of the more avid concert-

goers were excited to hear tracks from the new album, *Narrow Stairs*. Death Cab made a seamless playlist of their favorites, our favorites, and things we never expected to sound so amazing in

be topped by the final song, “Bixby Canyon Bridge”. Ben Gibbard's extreme angst in his attempt to understand Jack Kerouac's life was evident in the song's lyrics and the struggling look he portrayed. It

Cab's epic song that has powerful lyrics about conquering the problems of distance and relationships by means of the Atlantic Ocean.

They played this as their final song, and I feel as though few



virginmedia.com

Ben Gibbard and the rest of DCFC perform in front of thousands of fans.

person.

Some of those notable moments were the mellow points of the evening. “Grapevine Fires,” the slowed portrayal of the California wildfires, and “I Will Follow You Into the Dark,” Ben's acoustic track where he expresses devotion to a loved one even in death.

“We Looked Like Giants,” a personal favorite of mine, was a rush of adrenaline for all fatigued audience members, and it would only

was a perfect way to end the show...kind of.

And I only say “kind of” because the encores quickly followed. To my delight they played five songs for the encore. This time, they concentrated more on old favorites such as “Marching Bands of Manhattan” and “Title and Registration”. I had very few expectations coming to the concert, but the one thing I had hoped for was “Transatlanticism”, Death

moments in my life will ever be as memorable as being surrounded by thousands of fans who seemed to understand what this band had to say. The concert was by far the greatest of those I have attended, and I highly encourage Death Cab for Cutie fans to buy tickets months in advance and prepare to have your face melted.

W is Big Disappointment

Oliver Stone's latest film does little to capture the life and presidency of George W. Bush

Veronica Burnham

When I first saw the previews for *W*, I'll admit, I was excited. A two-hour skit, exposing and poking fun at the mistakes of the Bush administration? It sounded good to me, and as I entered the theater, it was what I expected to see.

I was sorely disappointed. Instead, I left feeling unsure of what type of

played by Josh Brolin, whose performance during the film is a well-done caricature at some times, while lack-luster at others.

As he makes an imaginary catch, Dubya listens to the roaring approval from the fans, an approval which throughout the movie, he never receives from the American people or his father.

The first half of *W* is a montage

his father, George Bush Sr., played by James Cromwell.

With the help of his father, Dubya gets into Harvard Business School, and from there begins to turn his life around. George W. gives up drinking, becomes a born again Christian, and marries Laura Bush (Elizabeth Banks). Dubya begins to help George Sr. in his campaign for president, and becomes interested



americanprogress.org

Josh Brolin does an adequate job portraying the less than adequate president.

movie I had just seen, and confused as to just what exactly director Oliver Stone was trying to say. The movie begins with George W. Bush, standing in a stadium and playing an imaginary game of baseball, a passion of his. “Dubya”, as he is referred to throughout the film by family and close friends, is

of scenes portraying Little George growing up, interlaced with the actions of the Bush administration leading up to the Iraq war. As a young man, we see Dubya drink heavily at a Yale frat party, rendezvous with country girls in Texas bars, quit a job at an oil drilling site and struggled for the approval of

in politics himself. The film very briefly portrays Dubya's struggle to Texas governor and then to the White House, where the montage of George W. Bush's earlier life and first administration meet up.

The second half of the movie consists of the continuation of the Bush administration, leading up to

and during the beginning of the Iraq war, combined with video clips of the war in Iraq, news coverage of the war, and clips of Congressional meetings, mixing footage of real Senators and Representatives with presidential addresses made by the Josh Brolin George W. Bush. The film ends with Bush standing once again in his stadium, receiving imaginary applause from the audience. Coming out of this movie, I, as were others with me, was confused as to how to feel. I had come into *W* expecting to be amused and laugh frequently, which I had not. If *W* was intended as a satire, Stone had not succeeded in his attempt. One of my companions suggested that Oliver Stone was trying to show the American people what a mistake they had made by electing Bush, and in that way, warn them not to make the same mistake in the coming 2008 presidential election. If this had been Stone's intent, he hadn't done a very good job portraying it; the Bush shown was not the villain needed for *W* to serve as a precautionary tale.

The most plausible explanation was that Stone was trying to make the audience feel bad for poor old Dubya. During the film's coverage of the Bush administration, Oliver Stone portrays George W. Bush as a sincere goon, who is simply manipulated and fed false information by his cabinet. This, combined with the film's pervasive struggle of George Jr. versus George Sr., presents the audience with a pitiable Bush, who seems almost un-blamable for his actions.

Even if the “tragedy” of George Bush's life and presidential administration was Oliver Stone's aim, it still missed the mark, as I felt Stone

didn't make Little Bush as pitiable as he could have been. The subject, too, is hard to make completely tragic, because although George W. Bush struggled somewhat in his life he still led a very privileged life, often taking advantage of his family's wealth and influence to live.

Another large problem with this film is that it was made too soon. It has no real ending, as the Bush administration is still reigning and when the film was released no predecessor had been chosen. It is still unclear how the Iraq war will end, and what the long term affects of the Bush administration will be on the American people.

In making this film while George W. Bush is still in office, Stone lacks the insight that comes with time, to look back on a historical event or person and determine what impact they have had on history, and as a result, how they should be portrayed. The creation of this film before its time left *W* with seemingly no plot or direction.

If there is one saving grace to *W*, it is Richard Dreyfus, whose portrayal of Dick Cheney as a heartless war-monger is dead on. His quiet, underhanded manipulation of George W. Bush and assertion that for Iraq, “There is no exit [strategy]. We stay,” chills the audience to the bone.

Overall I was extremely disappointed in *W*, and felt that the neither, the writing, the direction, or the majority of the acting was particularly good. *W* lacked direction, plot, and often just re-enacted many decisions the Bush administration made.

CALEB'S CORNER

He's cool, he's quick, and his name sounds suspiciously like a vegetable. And now he's got his own column.

R U SeriOus??

Sometimes I wonder if anything we do is real anymore. I know that sounds like I'm one of those crazed believers in the matrix and 1984, but when I THiNK about our Generation and how we socialize, it scares me. With the growing world of technology enabling socialization and communication without actual interaction, we clearly take advantage of it. Instant messaging, Facebook, txting, video games, and other PrOgrams have takeN the place of get-togethers of the caveman tYpe. Instead we choose the alternatives that never require us to move away from the box of light that we call a computer. There is a famous line that says "Everything in moderation," and this is no truer than in the case of

thing one needs to know is on their Facebook? Why go to Senior Prom if you can see everyone's pictures of it online half an hour after it happens? Why stalk someone in real life when you can stalk them more easily (and more efficiently, I might add) on Facebook? This is not the way to be thinking: this isn't socialization. This is a way to be as lazy as possible and yet still feel as though you've done something. I have a Facebook, and I hate myself for it. I know that the amount of time I spend on the site will not do anything to enhance my life. It will not help me get my homework done in time, it won't help me become more social, and to be truthful, I don't really enjoy it. It is a habit that has increased to the point



Pflickr.com

You do NOT want to become this guy.

technology. Take instant messaging for example. IM is a wonderfully easy tool for quickly communicating with friends without the hassles of calling. Type your message and two seconds later they have it. Genius! If only it hadn't completely replaced oral communication. It's now two in the morning and you're still IMing with your BFL. Either call them and finish your conversation in half the time or wait until study hall because I'm sure whatever you're talking about is not really that important.

Texting was the second evolution in technology consuming our lives and killing our social skills. Text messaging became the world's biggest phenomenon within about fifty text messages. Once you start, you don't stop. I doubt anyone with a texting plan has anything less than unlimited. It's addicting and terribly convenient, but it's also a terrible habit. Girl gets a txt from her friend "hey wuts up?" Girl replies, "nm u?" Similar conversation continues for an hour. Is either one of them doing anything important that they couldn't just pick up the phone and have the same conversation without all the useless staring at a small screen?

If our social skills were a person, Facebook would be its straight-jacket. The popular networking site is possibly the end of our ability to interact like normal people. Why does one need to speak to an old friend if every-

where I wonder how people would hear about anything if not for the existence of Facebook. It is the utmost repulsing part of our technology-filled socializing if not for one last thing... Rock Band.

I know exactly why I hate it so much. Rock Band takes away the one thing that I thought could never possibly die. Real music. Yes, it's just a video game, but is it anything remotely like a video game? Rock Band allows you to pick up a 5-button guitar, a 5-piece drum kit, or a microphone and let's you feel like you are rocking out. How pathetic is that? Musicians spend years of study and hours a day practicing their craft to fully understand the music they create and perform. Now this game has taken that product and that result is conjured by the press of a button. I feel this is an outright insult to all musicians in the world trying their hardest to learn an instrument that doesn't include star-power. You may say it's just a game, but when it takes the place of a real activity of extreme skill, I wonder what we could possibly do that is real anymore.

Many of you may think I'm crazy. Many of you will tell me you see nothing wrong with this new order. I don't respect your opinion. Get outside. Join a club. Learn an instrument. And get some friends that aren't on Facebook....

And yes, you just got burned reading the Chieftain.

Burn After Reading

Coen Brothers Latest Hit Provides Plenty of Laughs

Phil Zeiss

Ethan and Joel Coen have always been known to do movies that are "out there". They caught the attention of everyone in the world of film with their breakout movie *Fargo*. Although it is known best probably for being the movie that was "based on a true story" but not really, the film is brilliantly different. The story is a bizarre, deliciously twisted mess with very blunt violence, that somehow finds

hands of two dim-witted franchise gym employees Chad and Linda, played by Brad Pitt and Frances McDormand (*Something's Gotta Give*, *Fargo*), who attempt extort \$50,000 from Osborne in exchange for the memoirs, the content of which is assumed to pose a threat to national security should it fall into the wrong hands. The plot becomes much more involved, however, when a complex network of extra-marital affairs becomes introduced to the

of the conflict, the private sector and the C.I.A. One can see how the gym trainers are there to represent the Coen brothers' thoughts on and messages to the simple-minded, but always loveable, unsuspecting American people; while the C.I.A. is represented by an obtuse cast of characters whose repeated blunders and gaffes throughout the film seem to suggest a commentary of the writing/directing team on the incompetence of the current pow-



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Brad Pitt plays Chad, the bumbling yet lovable gym employee.

a way to make its audience chuckle.

Since then, the Coen Brothers have followed and made other unique films, such as *The Big Lebowski*. Recently, their movie *No Country For Old Men* snagged the Oscar for "Best Picture". Following such success, some might believe it to be quite impossible to produce another hit.

Well, this new comedy written and directed by the Coen brothers is one of the funniest, and absolutely the most clever movies to be released this year. The story revolves around the mayhem that ensues when the memoirs of CIA agent Osborne Cox, portrayed by the brilliant John Malkovich (*Being John Malkovich*, *The Man in the Iron Mask*), ends up in the

story, in fact, it becomes difficult after a time to keep track of why a certain central character is sleeping with who, and for what reasons. The result of the infidelity and subtle commentary on the current typical American mindset is a terrific blend of dark humor playing itself out through deceit, depression, sex, and drunkenness.

For example, Harry (played by George Clooney), an employee of the treasury department, is sleeping with Osborne's wife while dating Linda after meeting online, all while his wife, a children's book author, is away on a book promotion tour. The Coen brothers stick to the tagline of the film throughout; that being "intelligent is relative". This slogan is manifested throughout the film for both sides

ers-that-be. Further evidence that the film is directed to comment on the status of the latest chapter of the average American's human struggle is the psychological carnage wrought by Katie Cox; (played by Tilda Swinton, a British actress who did not lose her accent for the film), onto her husband Osborne, which eventually drives him to heavy drinking with dangerous consequences.

The bottom line is, "Burn After Reading" is a must-see laugh-out-loud comedy that will have the entire audience rolling in the aisles with the classic touch of the Coen brothers' black humor; and all movie goers will appreciate the smart writing and shocking twists that lurk around every corner.

A Look Ahead...

New releases due in the month of November

Movies

- *Madagascar 2: Escape to Africa* (Nov. 7)
- *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* (Nov. 7)
- *Killshot* (Nov. 7)
- *Soul Men* (Nov. 7)
- *Role Models* (Nov. 7)
- *A Christmas Tale* (Nov. 14)
- *Quantum of Solace* (Nov. 14)
- *Faded Memories* (Nov. 14)
- *We Are Wizards* (Nov. 14)
- *Bolt* (Nov. 21)
- *Twilight* (Nov. 21)
- *I Can't Think Straight* (Nov. 21)
- *Transporter 3* (Nov. 26)
- *Four Christmases* (Nov. 26)
- *Milk* (Nov. 26)
- *Australia* (Nov. 26)



Madagascar 2 (Above)
Billy Ray Cyrus (Below)



Albums

- *David Archuleta* David Archuleta (Nov. 11)
- *Soul Seal* (Nov. 11)
- *Thr33 Ringz* T-Pain (Nov. 11)
- *When the World Comes Down* The All-American Rejects (Nov. 18)
- *I Am...* Beyonce (Nov. 18)
- *Cosmic Universal Fashion* Sammy Hagar (Nov. 18)
- *Back to Tennessee* Billy Ray Cyrus (Nov. 18)
- *24 Hours* Tom Jones (Nov. 25)
- *Day & Age* The Killers (Nov. 25)
- *808's and Heartbreak* Kanye West (Nov. 25)

The Funny Page

WARNING: ALL ARTICLES AND HEADLINES ON THIS PAGE ARE FALSE. DO NOT BELIEVE ANY OF IT! OK?

Mortgage Crisis Hits Hard

Johnny DiNapoli

With the recent passing of the government bailout, one would hope that the country's financial crisis has reached a low, and will soon begin to improve. However, this plan, (which is not certain to solve everything or anything), is supposed to take many years, if not decades, to fix. And that is one of the last things that many people want to hear, especially the ones who have lost their land and homes in the past few months.

Such is the case in Gooseville, located 100 miles north of Mahopac. This area has been as hard hit by the recent crisis as much as any in the country. It is a small rural town, known most for its livestock farms, as well as the production of crops such as carrots, potatoes, and its trademark, Mexican jumping beans. But almost all agricultural production has ceased, as farms have been shut down with the farmers unable to pay back their loans.

This was what happened to Mr. O. MacDonald, a farm owner in Gooseville.

"I was just working my land like I do every morning, and suddenly a man in a suit comes up to me, and says 'We're here to shut you down'. I was stunned."

MacDonald's neighbor, Jake Grimm, commented on the recent repossession of MacDonald's property.

"It's a darn shame. A real darn shame. For the last thirty years he's had that farm."

A neighbour adds: "For decades, I've

woken up to the sound of O. MacDonald's cows. There was a 'moo moo' here and a 'moo moo' there. Heck, there was practically a 'moo moo' everywhere."

Just across the street from MacDonald is the house of Ms. Ferry, although she and her nine children have been forced out. A widow for four years, she and her children now look for a place to live, as the bank took away their home.

"I don't know what to do", Ferry, 66, said. "This was the house that [my husband] Jack built. And now we are told we must leave. I have no idea where to take [my family]. It's horrible. I mean, I have so many children, [and] I don't know what to do."

As for now, Ferry and her many children are temporarily living in an old, abandoned shoe. Their meals consist of mere broth, without any bread.

Another unfortunate circumstance is in the tale of Mitch Hammond, and his two younger brothers, Greg and Dan. Two years ago, Greg and Dan lost their homes in consecutive freakishly "high winds". Fortunately, Mitch had recently moved into a new, two-story, brick house. However, just this past August, he could no longer make the payments, and the house was taken from him.

"Well I am quite up in arms about the whole situation," said a very angry Mitch Hammond, in between short periods of huffing and puffing.

So who's to blame in this incident? The Hammonds seem to know who's at fault.

"[It's] obviously the bankers who are at fault, and their predatory lending practices," said Dan. "I remember when Mitch signed the papers for the house, the banker was practically salivating in front of us, and had this big, wolfish grin."

Greg also commented on the toll this recession is having on Gooseville businesses.

"All sorts of roadside stands have disappeared. They're all gone. Even the Muffin Man. You know, the Muffin Man? Who lives on Drury Lane? His whole business has gone under. No one is looking to buy baked goods in times like these. Consumer confidence is totally shot."

There are plenty of stories similar to

these in Gooseville. Three Norwegian men whose home was taken are now forced to live together in a small bathtub. A small bear family has seen their home been taken over by a young, blond heiress, who was able to purchase the house for practically nothing.

"[The price] wasn't too low or too high," defends the heiress. "It was just right."

Sadly, these are only a few of the stories in one town. But there are a hundreds of "Goosevilles" throughout the nation, each with similar problems. In a time so bad, all one could possibly do is wish this were some perverted fairy tale, and pray for an ending, in which everyone will live happily ever after.



Pfarmimages.net

The recently abandoned MacDonald Farm.

Merengue at MHS?

Students required to fill dancing credit

Johnny DiNapoli

Due to a new law passed up in Albany, all students attending public schools in New York must fulfill a dance credits. According to the Article 1.23 of the new legislation, "all students must complete two (2) credits worth of a dance class in order to graduate."

The law was the idea of Hilda Komarova, New York State Assembly member and former amateur ballet champion. "Where I come from, dance is the only way to build character," she said, speaking of her homeland of Montana.

The bill, met with overwhelming support from the New York legislature, was passed and signed into law in a record forty-four hours. It will go into effect August 1, 2009.

"I think this addition to the curriculum will be great for today's youth," said Governor David Paterson. It will help students not only become more fit, but more cultured as well. I can't see any flaws in it."

The enthusiasm is matched here at Mahopac High School.



The future of MHS.

"I can't wait to start dancing," said eager physical education teacher Mr. Bridenbach. "I was born to boogie."

The dance classes at MHS are to all be taught by Bridenbach. Which specific dances still remains up in the air. "Well the cha-cha and the jig are no-brainers," Bridenbach says. "But I am also considering the merengue, the hand jive, the Viennese Waltz, and the Texas Tommy."

Also new in the world of fake...

Some additional fictitious headlines

- CNN: Palin/Sharpton 2012 Made of Green Cheese
- Service for deceased paper boy to be delivered in the morning
- Chicago Cubs to Rename Team to "Chicago Sons of Silly Persons"
- Dish Who "Ran Away" with Spoon Found Guilty of Kidnapping, Armed Robbery
- Man Finds Rock Lobster Under a Dock
- Report from China: Traces of milk found in melamine
- Man suspected of robbing wool factory now on the lam
- "Lost" Writers to Make Plots "even more realistic"
- Seattle Sheriff: Seashells Sold by the Seashore a "Sham"
- Jack Sprat Spotted at Local White Castle
- Empire to Build Third Death Star, Several Reports Say
- Collegeboard to Increase SAT Test to Six Hours, Adding Two Essays and Physical Fitness Test
- Runaway racehorse: "Not in stable mind"
- Old Faithful Shoots Out Stream of Mountain Dew
- Youngest Jonas Brother Found to be a Female, as well as a Squirrel
- NASA: Moon Not Actually
- Alex Trebek to Leave Jeopardy to Host Survivor: Myanmar

Spore Review

Site to provide more analytical data for advertisers

Robert Fregosi

On September 7th, Maxis released in North America one of the most anticipated games of the year. If you haven't heard the buzz already, Spore is a game produced by Maxis, a gaming company known mostly for The Sims franchise. In a nutshell, the game is a story of a species that you create that evolves from single-celled organism to a space-traveling, civilized race. And the best part is that you can control everything they do!

For example, if you decide you want to go over to the other creature's nests and eat everyone there, you have the ability to do so! Isn't that awesome?!

But Spore isn't all about killing and eating your rivals. Through all of its different stages, the game lets you make all of the decisions. The first stage of Spore has you floating around in a gene-pool as a cell. There, you will meet other cells that are after the

same goal you are after, evolution. Here, you can choose to become a herbivore, carnivore, or both. After collecting enough minerals to evolve, you sprout legs and walk onto the surface of your new planet! From this comes the creature stage. The creatures from there begin the tribal stage. This stage is an important turning point changes a point-and-click system to a RTS (Real Time Strategy) game. You can choose to befriend other tribes, or just plow their precious village into rubble. From here continues the Civilization stage. It basically shows a more civilized tribal stage, but with urban areas and the evolution of wars. You can create land, sea, or sky vehicles to help the rival cities see the world in your eyes, and finally create some peace on your planet!

Once everything settles down on your planet, you get to venture into the Space stage. What else is out there to explore? That is for you to find out in the Space stage!

Spore is a great game with some very interesting gameplay. Even though it can get boring during the Space stage, you still have other planets to create! The customization in this game is extraordinary. Everything that involves your creatures is cus-

tomizable. Their clothes, the places they live in, the cars they drive, pretty much anything. It also has some pretty interesting online capabilities. The introduction of the Sporepedia lets users show everyone online their wacky Spore creations! Not only can you see what people made, but you might even see them on a different planet while playing Spore! Is there anything bad about Spore? To me, the bad things are over-shadowed by the awesome things, which makes it just one awesome game.



gamespot.com

Spore is an evolution revolution

Life Soup... Mm Mm Good!

Organics found on one of Saturn's moons

Jenny Arboch

An international spacecraft that traveled through geysers erupting from the surface of a Saturn moon has sampled an organic soup from the lunar interior, scientists claim. The presence of the organic brew excited mission team members, who say it's a marker for further research into whether the icy satellite, Enceladus, possesses an environment that could be hospitable to extraterrestrial life.

The chemical analysis by the unmanned Cassini spacecraft revealed that Enceladus' interior was similar to that of a comet. While the jet plumes were mostly water vapor, the probe found traces of methane and simple organic compounds, said Hunter Waite of the Southwest Research Institute,

who is the principal investigator of one of the spacecraft's instruments. "We clearly have the organics and are closing in on the question of liquid water in the interior," Waite said.

In 2005, Cassini found gigantic geysers spewing from fractures known as tiger stripes on the moon's south pole. Scientists theorized that reservoirs of liquid water below the surface were likely supplying the ice and vapor seen in the plumes.

The flyby two weeks ago took Cassini within thirty miles of the surface of Enceladus, the shiniest object in the solar system. During the encounter, the spacecraft barreled through the icy geyser plumes at 32,000 mph and at an altitude of 120 miles.

Detailed heat maps of the lunar surface revealed the South Pole is warmer than previously believed. Temperature measurements show the region is at least negative 135 degrees Fahrenheit - sixty-three degrees hotter than initially specu-

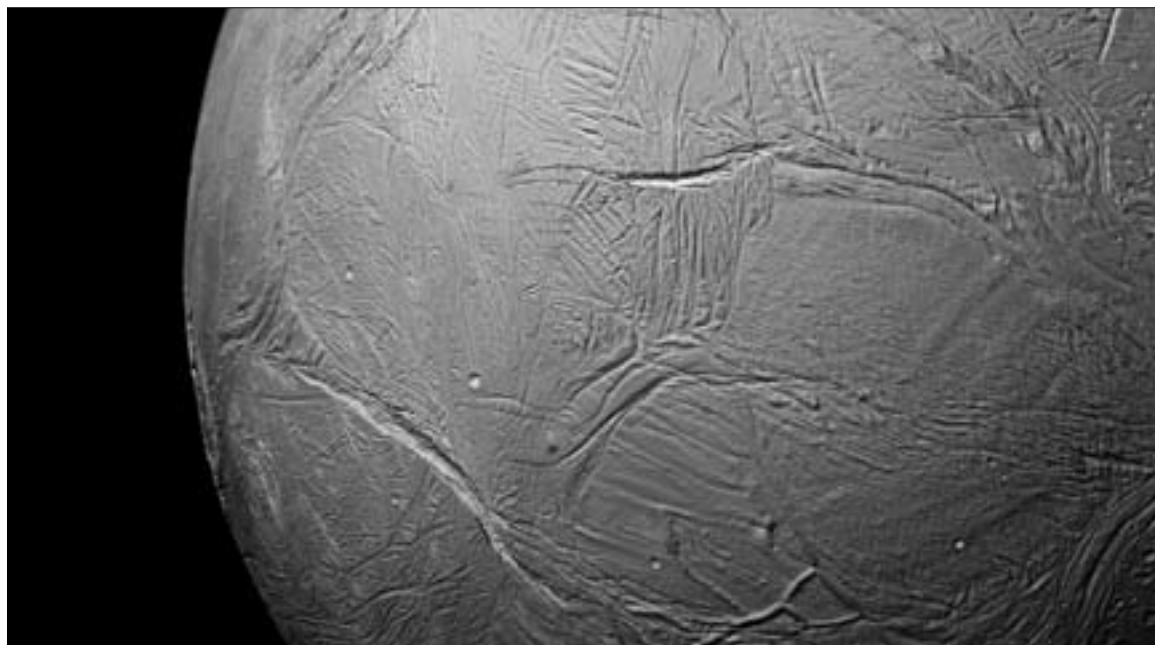
lated.

Cassini scientist John Spencer of the Southwest Research Institute said the high temperatures likely indicate that liquid water may lurk beneath the surface. Scientists generally agree the presence of water, organic compounds, and a stable heat source are needed to support primitive life.

Scientists not involved with the mission said while the discovery of organics is important in the search for extraterrestrial life, the fact that they resemble comet material casts doubt on whether liquid water is present.

"Suppose they had seen complex organics ... That would be interpreted to mean that liquid water was present and that chemical reactions had gone forward toward forming life," said Bruce Jakosky, an astrobiologist at the University of Colorado.

"That we don't see those things suggests that liquid water is not abundant or that energy sources are not present," he said.



syndicate.se

One of Saturn's moons, Enceladus, could be hospitable to life.

Lights Out

Earth Hour spreads the word about climate change

Joe Arboch

The world went a little darker and a little cleaner on October 29, when people across the world turned off their lights and electronic appliances for one hour as a part of Earth Hour, an international effort that served to raise awareness about climate change and global warming, and light and noise pollution. The first Earth Hour, which was held only within the confines of the city of Sydney, Australia, was successful in enlisting the support of over 2 million Australian citizens, and served to cut electricity consumption by between 2.1% and 10.2% for that hour.

This year, the idea caught fire, and with the help of some major corporate participators, such as Google, and major cities, including Chicago, San Francisco, Dublin, Paris and Rome, just to

name a few, the effort grew in 2008 to span the entire globe, with the contribution of many millions of individual. And so, between the hours of 8 and 9, from living rooms to the Golden Gate Bridge, from bars to the Colosseum, the lights went out, and people across the world got a little taste of the change in lifestyle that would be necessary to cut carbon dioxide emissions by a significant margin.

In the grand scope of things Earth Hour did little to fight climate change on a biological level. On a psychological level, however, it did quite a bit. Indeed, for one hour, due to Earth Hour, humans envisioned a world in which the television is not always on, in which night doesn't seem just as bright as day, in which the city does sleep. The struggle to fight climate change and global warming is, undoubtedly, monumental, but the solution, arguably, will not be quite as sweeping. Despite criticism, it is in these small steps, these tiny reminders in the brains of people worldwide, that will ultimately lead to a solution. Every light out means another light on in the mind.

Mammal of the Month

Vampire Bats

Richard Johnson



nationalgeographic.com

I can has bludz?

Wait, don't run! I promise this article is not too freaky. Vampire bats are extremely unique animals. They are hematophagous, which means they feed on the blood of other animals. Other blood suckers include such species as mosquitoes and leeches, but the vampire is a rare specimen in that it is a mammal. They are divided into three separate species: the common vampire bat, the hairy-legged vampire bat, and the white-winged vampire bat.

The bats have several interesting anatomical structures to help them drink that blood. First off, their nose contains a specialized infrared sensor to help them determine where on their victim's body the blood flows closest to the skin. Once it reaches that point, they use their canine and cheek teeth to clip away the fur in that area (like a barber!). They then use their incisor teeth to bite a nice hole right in the flesh. Their saliva contains an anticoagulant known as draculin (get it?) which helps to prevent the victim's blood from clotting up as the bat laps it up with its tongue (rather than sucking it up as is commonly imagined).

As far as finding these victims, the bat is well equipped. It only hunts in the complete darkness of night, and

uses smell and hearing mostly to get around. The inferior colliculus, part of the bat's brain that processes sound, is specialized for detecting the regular breathing sounds of sleeping animals such as cows and monkeys. Once they are near prey they land and can walk very well; they can even run (do not picture this if you have plans on sleeping tonight) up to about five miles an hour.

Vampire bats are surprisingly social animals. While some are lone wolves, colonies can be up to a thousand strong. Vampire bats will often roost and sometimes breed with other species of bat, and the ratio of reproducing females to males is around twenty to one. What seems most interesting about social vampire behavior is that if a vampire bat hasn't fed in a while and has no access to blood, it can approach another bat it is roosting with and ask for a "transfusion". The second bat will give some of its consumed blood to the first in a mouth-to-mouth process that looks very much like kissing. So in reality these nightmare manifestations are very kind and generous. Go figure.

CHIEFTAIN ARCADE

Rock Band 2 vs. Guitar Hero 4



**Which game is better?
What is the meaning of life?
The answer to one of these
questions is in this article.**



By Jordan Adelman

Two of the biggest music and party games were released this fall. Harmonix followed up the hit game, Rock Band, with Rock Band 2. Activision followed up the hit game, Guitar Hero Aerosmith, with Guitar Hero 4 (commonly referred to as Guitar Hero World Tour). The Guitar Hero Band Kit contains a drum set, a microphone, and one guitar. If you are a guitar fan only, then fear not, there is a Guitar pack that features the guitar only. The Rock Band Special Edition Bundle will feature a drum kit, a microphone, and a wireless guitar. If you own the previous Rock Band and bought all the instruments already, then you can use them on Rock Band 2. Rock Band 2's drums will be more durable than last year's model and it will be much quieter. The drums will also feature expansion ports

to support cymbals. For those who are interested in learning how to play drums outside of the virtual world, there is a tool you can buy that teaches you how to play drums. The wireless guitars provided will also be greatly improved. Guitar Hero features master recordings from



some of the greatest rock bands of all time including Van Halen, Linkin Park, The Eagles, Disturbed, and Sublime. Guitar Hero is

fully customizable featuring character appearances, instruments, the bands' logos, and the album covers. Rock Band 2 features 84 on-disc tracks including hits from System of a Down, Foo Fighters, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Cheap Trick, Journey, The Who, and many more. You

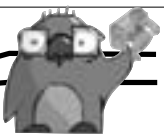
can also import music from Rock Band and download music they made available on the internet. Rock Band will feature many new

challenges including all the old ones from Rock Band.

The Band Kit, individual game, and Guitar Hero World Tour released on the XBOX 360, PlayStation 3, Nintendo Wii, and the PlayStation 2, all on October twenty-sixth. Rock Band 2 released first for the XBOX 360 in mid-September but the XBOX 360 and PlayStation 3 Band Kits for Rock Band 2 released October nineteenth, along with the game for PS3. The Nintendo Wii Band Kit will be released on November 18, 2008. Unfortunately, some gamers will suffer because Rock Band 2 will not be available for the PlayStation 2. In this writer's opinion, Guitar Hero 4 is the game to buy. The complete customization (album covers, characters, etc) makes the game more personal.

Also, the new drums with cymbal add-ons and sensitivity for velocity are much stronger than Rock Band's drum kit. Guitar Hero 4 has additional online capabilities and is also making an appearance on the PS2, which Rock Band is not.

The choice is yours. Will you buy Guitar Hero 4? Or Rock Band 2? Or both?! Either way, be prepared for a virtual rocking experience you haven't experienced since the previous versions of these games.



ask the tech P.1.M.P. 6.0

Greetings and good morrow! Thanks to new programming, I, the all knowing Tech p.1.m.p. have returned, almightier and more vociferous than ever before. I look forward to answering any and all of your technology related questions. So without further ado, let's take a look at those emails you have been sending me.

Dear Tech p.1.m.p. ,

I am no good at buying Christmas gifts. As a father of five, I am looking to buy my family a new computer for the holidays. I am undecided whether I should buy a PC or a Mac. Tech p.1.m.p. , could you please tell me about the two different computers, and which one would better suit me and my family?

Yours truly,

Donny Brooks

Dear Mr. Brooks,

Thank you for admitting purchasing gifts for others is not your bailiwick. For I too also suffer from this affliction. Just last year I purchased Mrs. Tech p.1.m.p. a sole pair of wool socks, which did not even fit her little feet. Alas, I feel your pain.

But your question is a very good one; computers make fine gifts. They can be used to send emails, type up book reports, and watch videos of monkeys dressed up like babies playing miniature golf. Yet your very legitimate question remains: which computer is the best?

Some would say PCs, because of their history, or superior hardware. Others would say Macs, for their creative appeal, and tendency towards innovation. But all of these people would be horribly wrong, and deserve a (blackberry) pie in the face. That is because the best computer out there is the one I currently own, Omegatron 3000.1.

The Omegatron Z 3000.1 (or OMZ3) is made by the German company Haflabergschtock Enterprises, founded by none other than legendary computer whiz Johannes Haflabergschtock himself.

So what makes this computer so superior? Well for starters, it has twice the storage capacity as any Mac or PC. That is because the OMZ3 is nearly six meters wide, and eleven meters high. Yet, it only weighs a reasonable 628 pounds, making it ideal for carrying it virtually anywhere.

As for its features, it contains every thing you would want in a computer. It is VHS compatible as well as being nearly 30% water proof. As a bonus, every OMZ3 comes with Putt Putt Goes to the Moon installed. And you will never have

to worry about the battery dying, because there is no battery. Instead, the computer is powered by a hamster on an exercise wheel (hamster not included).

Unfortunately, there has been only one OMZ3 ever made, and I own it. And I will never give it away. Never. It shall belong to me, Mrs. Tech p.1.m.p. , and my hamster Jerry for ever.

Happy Holidays!



“Unfortunately, there has been only one OMZ3 ever made, and I own it. And I will never give it away. Never. It shall belong to me, Mrs. Tech p.1.m.p., and my hamster Jerry for ever.”

-Almighty Tech P.1.M.P.

Have a question for The Tech p.1.m.p.? Please E-mail him at: techp1mp@yahoo.com He might use your question in the next issue.

Or check him out on MySpace at:

www.myspace.com/techp1mp

Girls Tennis Has Strong Season

The team makes progress under the guidance of a new coach

Maddy Belloff

The Mahopac Girls Varsity Tennis team was off to a rocky start this season, but with a new coach and a new line-up, the girls hope to improve. Coach Michael Trinchitella has been playing the game for thirty eight years, and became a pro eighteen years ago. He decided to coach Mahopac because of his love for the game, and Mahopac is his Alma madder. He wanted to improve the team's skills and was ready to take the challenge.

Coach Michael Trinchitella exercised a new strategy for the tennis team this year. With a large turnout of freshmen, he utilized the newer, inexperienced players, by rotating them into the lineup. The returning girls will hold their spots on a regular basis. By doing this, Trinchitella is guaranteed to build a strong team with a large understanding of the game. With this plan, Trinchitella hoped to make Mahopac a competitive team in the league. If he sticks with it, Mahopac will be a hard team to beat in the upcoming years.

"I believe if this team, in the off season, takes some winter lessons, whether in groups or private, it will make them a tough team for next year.", Coach Trinchitella said in the beginning of the season. He followed up on his word and gave private lessons to some of the girls and the effort really paid off.

Shaylyn Maloney agrees, "Our coach this year has really made a difference. We all understand the game better and I can't wait to play again next year!"

Despite having lost six seniors-

Kylie Shields, Julia Varona, Alex Eisig, Ashley Carey, Amy Titcomb, and Audrey Belloff, the freshmen have more than compensated and gave the team a bright future to look forward to. Many of the freshmen had taken lessons before trying out, which enabled the team to start off on such a good note.

Also, with the guidance and experience of seniors McKenzie Ryan and Victoria Fugierelli playing first and second doubles and first singles, the team has had much success this season.

The captains this year, Maddy Belloff, Melanie Fabiano and Melissa Pecoraro, also gave the newcomers the direction and assistance they needed to fulfill such a great year.

The coach's philosophy was to put Mahopac's strongest team against powerful teams in the league so that the girls could have an opportunity for some wins, but also learn the game better through experience.

Now that the season is done, Coach Trinchitella's strategic planning was obviously well worth all the hard practices and lessons because the Girl's Tennis team had double their wins since last year with a final score of six wins out of the eleven games.

At the end of the season when assistant Coach Adam Dusenbury was asked about the girls' performance, he said "They are an excellent group, hard working girls, with lots of potential for the future." Congratulations to the Girl's Tennis team for a successful season and good luck next year.

Featured Coach: Mrs. Uszak

"Running is about competition, self-improvement and having fun"

katrina Keegan

Kathleen Uszak is the coach of the Women's Varsity Cross Country team.

Chieftain: How did you get your start in coaching?

Uszak: I coached modified at the middle school after Mr. Stringer, the head modified coach, asked me if I could be involved. I coached

to coach the Varsity girls. The timing was perfect for me and he and I had a good personality match.

C: What sports have you played?

U: In high school, I danced, did ballet, and was co-captain of the basketball cheerleading team. But I always ran to keep in shape and I ran track through high school.

C: Do you have any coaching mentors from the past or here in Mahopac?

U: Mrs. Forman. She helped me when I first started and always had great ideas to stir up team spirit. And of course Mr. Yost, the head coach of the Varsity team. He knows everything there is to know

fun and promoting exercise.

C: What is your favorite aspect of coaching?

U: The kids, definitely. My favorite thing is seeing them grow as runners, see their improvement, see them active and be positive about running.

C: Can you give me a quick outlook for this year's team?

U: We are off to a great start. I think we have a good chance at placing high at County and Leagues. If we can keep running together and move up, I hope we will surprise other teams. We also have many strong individuals with the potential to go to States.

C: How is coaching cross country different then coaching other team sports?

U: I think the biggest difference is that it is as much an individual sport as it is a team sport. The strategy is different than other sports, it's not running this play or that play, you need individuals to be driven at each race and to push the rest of the team.

C: Cross country is a co-ed team. Do you see any difference between coaching boys and girls?

U: There really aren't any recognizable differences. Running is more person specific, and it really depends on the individual, regardless of gender.

C: Any advice to prospective and/or current MHS runners?

U: Run during the summer and run with a friend, it's more fun that way. Running is about competition, self-improvement and having fun. Also, be part of the team and push yourself.



Tess Hamburg

Mrs. Uszak with members of the Girls Varsity Cross Country Team.

beside him for four years. After he retired, I continued to coach the team alone for another two years, but stopped when my second daughter was born. I picked it up again when Coach Yost asked me

about cross country and taught me how to coach Varsity, which is much more competitive than modified. Modified was more about teaching kids that running can be

-Chieftain would like to thank Coach Uszak for taking the time to participate in this interview. We would like to wish her and the cross country team the best of luck next season.

Scholar Athlete: James Hartwell

James excels in class as well in sports

Melissa Reilly

Scholar Athlete: James Hartwell This issue's scholar athlete is James Hartwell, Captain of the Boy's Varsity Cross Country team and an AP Scholar with distinction.

Chieftain: How long have you been running?

James: I've been running since elementary school. I remember running the 5k at Lakeview.

C: What else do you do besides run?

J: I play baseball in the spring. I'm also part of the Spanish club, NHS, the Student Athletic Council, and the Math team.

C: What's your schedule like for this year?

J: First period I have AP Government, then AP BC Calc, College Writing, AP Stats, and AP Bio.

C: That's a pretty demanding schedule, do you have any breaks?

J: Yeah, I make time for lunch and I have a study hall.

C: How are you able to have such a demanding schedule along with sports and clubs?

J: Good time management. I get the things that I need to get done, done.

C: What do you think makes you a good runner?

J: Being tough mentally, and working hard in every practice.

C: Got any goals for this year?

J: Last year I was All County and I had missed All League by one spot. This year, I hope to do better, and I would like our team to be its best in Sections.

C: Do you want to run in college?

J: Probably not, as of now, but we'll see.

C: Which colleges are you looking at, and what do you think you want to major in?

J: I'm going to apply early to Cornell and looking into being an environmental engineer.

C: What do you think about Coach Yost?

J: He loves running, and he shares his passion with us. He's a good coach and motivator.

C: Did you work over the summer;

both running and in general?

J: I worked at Camp Combe with Tim Cohen (who also runs on Varsity Cross Country). We had the same schedule so we tried to run as often as we could in the morning before we had to go.

C: Do you have any words of wisdom for the team next year?

J: Yeah, do your best every chance you get.

C: Which do you like better, Cross Country or Baseball?

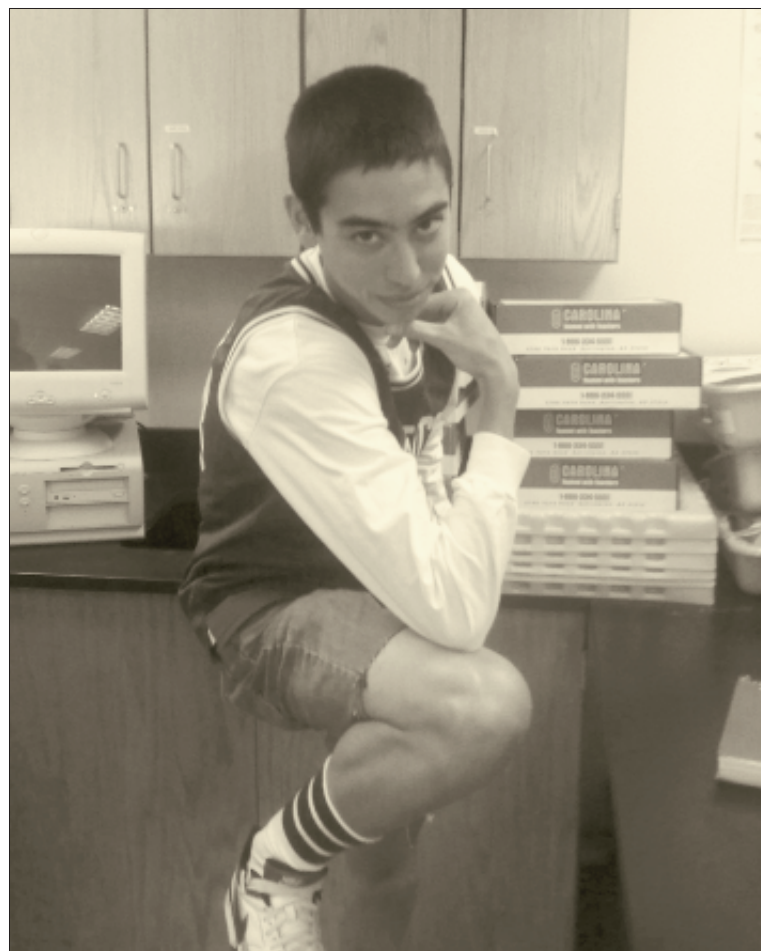
J: I don't think I can say. I like cross country better when it's cross country season and I like baseball better when it's baseball season.

C: How about after Cross country, what are you going to do when the Cross country season is over?

J: I'm looking forward to hitting the gym. Getting big to gain back the weight I lost in cross country and get ready for baseball season.

C: Finally, what's it like to be James Hartwell?

J: Well, being tall makes you stick out a little and being half Asian gets you made fun of, the playful remarks from your friends.



Dave Kellogg

James, hard at work in one of his many AP courses, takes a moment to strike a pose for Chieftain.

Cross Country Has Strong Showing at Sectionals

Melissa Reilly

They've worked exceptionally hard all summer, and they have continued to endure Coach Yost's boot camp of training and it's finally paying off. The Cross Country team is off to a great start, with only two invitationals and two dual meets down, both the Men's and Women's squad are already steadily proving themselves as a dangerous team.

The week away at a remote running camp in Pennsylvania has helped to improve the chemistry between the Women's team as well as the Men's, which is a key factor to any successful team. Sophomore Tess Hamberg had this to say, "We're definitely more unified this year. During a race we all have a role to push and pull our team-

mates and it's made us that much stronger." Ms. Hamberg is undeniably correct, with lots of team spirit and high morale, there's no wonder the Cross Country team has such high expectations for the remainder of the season.

The first dual meet was at Bear Mountain, where Mahopac did very well. For the Men's Varsity team, Seniors Joe Abed El Latif and David Barile came in first and second for Mahopac, with times of 16:42 and 17:06, respectively. Sophomore James McDonough followed close behind, with Seniors James Hartwell and Tim Cohen, in an intense chase to the finish. Also making up the Varsity team is Junior Chris Winchell and Sophomore Josh Chavis. As for the Women's Varsity squad, Seniors Katie Dibello and Katrina Keegan

ran a 20:00 and 20:52, followed by Freshman Rebecca Levy, then Molly Gardineer, Melissa Reilly, Tess Hamberg, and Kristen Nicolias.

The first of many more to come, the Big Red Invitational, hosted by Somers High School on September 13th, was a sensational day to run a 5k. Despite the muddy and hilly course, Men's Varsity placed second after Arlington. Once again, Joe Abed El Latif led the team with a 17:15, followed by James McDonough, 17:23. Even in the face of endless mucky trails, David Barile, James Hartwell, Tim Cohen, Josh Chavis, and Chris Winchell tailed behind to a very successful finish.

The outcome for the Women's race was fourth after Arlington, Monroe, and Brewster. Due to the ACT's taking place that same morning, the Women's team was missing one Katie Dibello. Fortunately, this gave the remainder of the girls an opportunity to step up, and that they did. Molly Gardineer did phenomenally, coming in first for Mahopac with a time of 20:55. Despite some ailments from an otherwise terrible day, Katrina Keegan finished strong with 21:45, with Melissa Reilly at 21:47 and Rebecca Levy with 22:01. Once more, the Varsity team was finished up with the outstanding performances of Tess Hamberg, Alex Desdarden, and Kristen Nicolias.

In a turn of events, the meet previously scheduled at WCC took place at Purchase College. Despite a confusing course with no sure sign of direction, both Cross Country teams did their best and prevailed. Here, onlookers were given the privilege of viewing Mahopac Cross Country pride. The boys pre-race ritual gets them pumped up as well as intimidating the other teams. They start out in two straight lines; jog into the middle of the field clapping, run into a mass huddle and jump around,

raising the spirit stick up high. Although their chanting is purposely incoherent, there is no

the JV team to victory.

Unfortunately, the Women were missing Ms. Dibello again as a



Tess Hamberg

XC Boys have had a strong season, with one member going to states

doubt of the effect that their warrior cries have. Even though the girls may not have a full out dance before their races, they each have their own habits or routines; such as wearing a certain color hair band, or a pair of lucky socks. Whatever the ceremony is, keep it up because it's working!

In their most recent race, the stakes were high. The Suffern Invitational fueled the hearts of every last teammate; go big or go home. The Men were led by the infamous Joe Abed El Latif for the fourth race in a row with an impressive time of 16:24, with James McDonough only 4 short seconds behind. David Barile took third for Mahopac with 16:37, and Captain James Hartwell in fourth with 17:04. Tim Cohen in close pursuit with a time of 17:27, and Josh Chavis came in strong as well in 17:50 with Chris Winchell finishing off the Varsity in 17:53. Although Andrew Korovich ran in the JV race, he stepped up in a stunning personal performance, coming in with a 17:38. Kevin Carey also helped lead the rest of

result of allergies, but once more the independent and strong Mahopac girls weren't about to let a missing teammate hurt their chances. Determined to still do well, each girl knew her own duties to run her best race. With the help of Kristen Nicolias, who stepped up to run in the Varsity race, the Women were able to prove their heart. Continuing the Gardineer legacy of breaking a sub-20 5k, Molly Gardineer came in first for Mahopac with a remarkable time of 19:53. The second girl to finish for Mahopac was Katrina Keegan with a time of 20:05. Melissa Reilly, Rebecca Levy, and Tess Hamberg all finished within seconds of each other with times of 20:34, 20:35, and 20:36, respectively. Kristen Nicolias completed the race in 20:58 with Alex Desdarden closing in with a 21:05. The Women's JV team was led in another dazzling feat by Julia Zullo, 23:03.



Tess Hamberg

The Girls XC team competes in a meet at Bowdoin Park.

Women's Varsity Field Hockey Improves Record

Katrina Keegan

The Women's Varsity field hockey season has finally come to an end. Coach Dimaggio and assistant Coach Michelle Armstrong headed the team this year with high hopes and goals. The field hockey team began the season with high aspirations. When asked about her goals for the team early this year Junior Caitlin Baranowski replied, "To have fun and play well," while senior Jamie Lorenzut aims to "Go to sectionals and get back our reputation". The team has played very well all season and those who will be returning next year look forward to an even more successful season. Junior Clarissa Zamora adds "It's amazing how much you can accomplish when you don't care who gets the credit". The team also had a unified goal to improve upon last year's record. They succeeded, earning a respectful final record of seven wins, seven losses, and five ties.

The team began the season on a very positive note, winning their first two games. To recap, they beat

Clarkstown South 1-0 with the help of Junior Courtney Stein and assistance by Senior Stephanie Coffman. Keeping goal was Kelly McCormack and defense was played by Jamie Lorenzut and Crystal Terhune, all this year. During their second game against Yorktown, the girls' 2-1 win placed them second in the Somers tournament. The team had a very hard game, playing to the last minute. Goals were scored by Sophomores Annie Carroll and Liana Viaggio.

Though Mahopac suffered losses in the following two games against Somers and Mamaroneck, the team remained optimistic and continued their season playing well. The team's last regular game of the season was against RCK. Despite many injuries, the women held RCK, ending the game with a tied score of 1-1. This allowed Mahopac to move on to sectionals for the first time since 2006. Unfortunately, at the sectional game against Ossining, Mahopac lost in a close game with a score of 2-4.

Key players of the season includ-

ed forwards Stephanie Coffman and Lauren Rutledge defensive players Melanie Rigalia and Gina

recorded saves, Senior Jamie Lorenzut, Juniors Caitlin Baranowski, Jen Kufa and Clarissa

year with a positive outlook. Senior forward Stephanie Coffman remarks "we finished the season



Ankita Deosthali

The team improved upon last year's ranking.

Molfetta; and mid-fielder Vanessa Verde, all senior captains. Other key players included senior goalie Kelly McCormack, with over 100

Zamora, and Sophomores Lianna Viaggio and Abby Armstrong. As the season came to a close, many of the players reflect on this

much better than last year, which was one of our major goals as seniors".