



The Pioneer Post

Spirit Week a Success

By Sheri Reid

Managing Editor

The week of October 6 to October 11, 2008, was an enthusiastic one for Poughkeepsie High School students as Spirit Week came, bringing Pioneer Pride to all. With the Homecoming Game climaxing the exciting week, energy radiated throughout the halls as students prepared for an outstanding game.

With Monday came Decade Day as students appeared as if they had stepped out of a time machine. Leggings, flapper-style clothing, hokum cigarettes, afros and bold colors made an appearance at PHS. "I was born in the 90s, but I always felt like an 80s girl at heart," Junior Jasmine Rogers said. "Today felt like the perfect day to express that."

The appropriate attire for Tuesday seemed to consist of throwing on random clothing from one's closet because it was Mix 'n' Match Day. "Do you like what I'm wearing?" Shanice Farrow, Junior asks. "I call it 'bag-lady attire.'" Bikinis over layers of multi-colored shirts, basketball shorts over jeans and even different pairs of shoes were popular choices for the day.

PHS was seeing double on Wednesday; Twin Day was indeed a success as couples, relatives and best friends dressed similarly. Seniors Malik Dennard and Anthony Beaton dressed alike. "It was like looking in a mirror," Malik commented.

The Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur was observed on Thursday, meaning school was not in session, but Pioneers showed great school spirit on Friday, Blue and White Day, by dressing in Poughkeepsie's prided colors. The Pep Rally, which took place during ninth period, was an amazing experience and left many partially deaf. Many of the teachers arrived with ear plugs. DJ Curt Krazy brought down the house with the newest music, and each class represented themselves with banners and extremely loud cheering. The Pep Rally included a dance battle between the classes (which the seniors won) and a tug-of-war game between class representatives and class officers. Unfortunately, things went slightly haywire as classes got overexcited and ignored boundaries set by administration. Fortunately, things were back on track in no time.

The Class of 2009 surprised the school by going against the Blue and White tradition. Instead, they chose to stand out in their chosen color of purple. "I feel like '09 is royalty, and purple reflects that," said senior Aisia Townes, "we wanted to stand out in front of our fellow Pioneers."

Overall, the tradition of Spirit Week is one that is widely appreciated and anticipated every year by the attending students of PHS. With student cooperation and faculty motivation, every year Spirit Week can get better and the faults of previous years can be forgotten.



Above, seniors and juniors at the homecoming game cheering on the Pioneers. Photo by Sheri Reid.

This Season Brings Change to PHS

By Natalia Williams
Editor-in-Chief

As the leaves have fallen and the air becomes crisper, students are getting back into the swing of things at PHS. Homecoming has come and gone and the first marking quarter flew by. As we look forward to the rest of the school year, we can see that many things are going to change.

Already, Pioneers have seen the

America's Choice program in all classrooms, a 25KReading Marathon and an exciting Presidential election. With all of the change around, students should realize that they can change, too. After all, haven't we been told change is good?

Despite whatever might seem predetermined, someone can always change direction. Step back and see what is in store for you. Do you like it? Do you want to change? Then do it.

Welcome Back to Another Year of the Pioneer Post!



Members of the Pioneer Varsity football team gather for a picture at the Pep Rally. Photo by Nathan Jackson

School News

BEATS

School Events:

Parent Teacher Conferences are Thursday, November 20th from 1:00 to 5:00 pm and from 6:00 to 8:00 pm.

School is closed:

November 26th-28th for Thanksgiving Recess

Early dismissals:

Thursday, November 20th at 11:30pm
Tuesday, November 25th at 11:30pm

Sports:

Cheerleading:

The cheerleading clinic is November 19th-21st. The clinic is required for tryouts. Tryouts for cheer and competition squad are November 24th.

Weekly meetings:

Pioneer Post general meetings are on Mondays in room 216. Anyone who is interested in writing for the newspaper should attend.

Brother 2 Brother meets Tuesdays in room 147. All are welcome.

Math homework center is on Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:45-3:45 in room 146.

Breakfree club meets every other Tuesday starting October 7th in room 239.

Environmental club meets every other Tuesday in room 239.

Wednesday is open garden day in the garden behind the family partnership center. Come after school to work and harvest.

Latinos Unidos meets on Wednesdays in room 110 (by the school store).

The Caribbean Club meets Wednesdays in room 204.

Student Government association meets in room 222 on Thursdays. Motivated students are welcome.

Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) meets on Thursdays in room 135 (on the art wing). Upcoming GSA dates include:

Transgender Day of Remembrance November 20th

December 1st is world AIDS Day

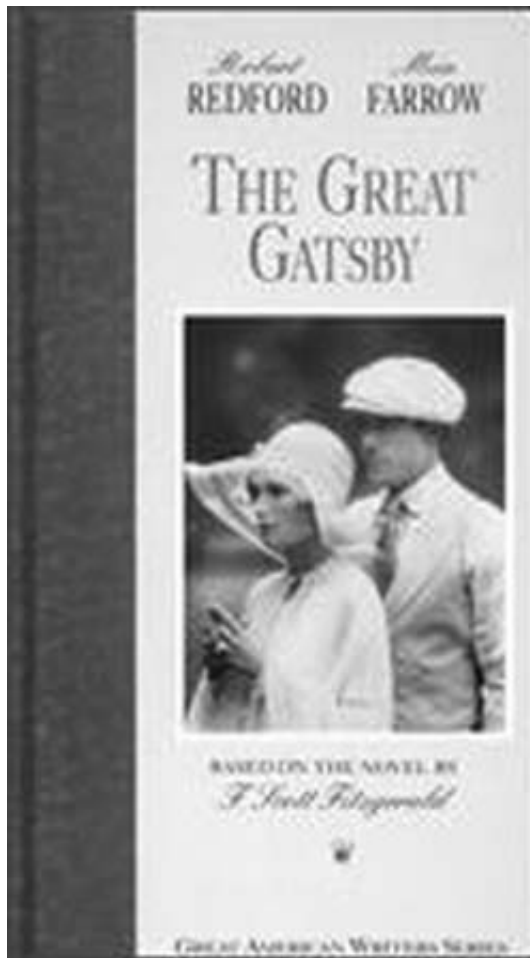
Sister 2 Sister meets Fridays in the small cafeteria. All girls are welcome.

Events:

The Poughkeepsie High School Concert will perform at the First Baptist Church on November 23rd at 4:00pm.

**Are you in a club?
Do you know of an
event that you
think should be
posted here? Drop
off the information
in the Pioneer Post
box in the Main
Office.**

The BIG READ Comes To PHS



By James Bunn

In September and October, schools and libraries in Poughkeepsie joined together to celebrate great books by reading *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald. PHS teachers, students and administrators are participating in the Big Read in an attempt to celebrate reading, get closer to our school-wide goal of everyone reading 25 books by the end of the school year, and develop a community that can share in the experience of a great book.

Poughkeepsie High School was involved in a variety of ways. Many students in English 11 read the novel in class. A variety of class trips also helped expose students to historical information about the novel's setting of 1920s New York. The novel is named after its main character, Jay Gatsby, who is a mysterious millionaire bootlegger living in Long Island during the 1920s. He is on a quest to get back his old girlfriend who is now married to someone else.

Students traveled to Marist College and Vassar College to participate in academic discussions of the novel, thanks to funding provided by the National Endowment for the Arts and the Poughkeepsie Library District.

If you are interested in finding out what happens to Gatsby, go to the PHS library or go see Mrs. Laffin in room 228. Enjoy good memories of the Big Read '08!

GLSEN's Ally Week!!!

By Nick Hoffman

Adhering to their mission statement, the Poughkeepsie High School Gay-Straight Alliance did their part to "break down negative social barriers" by participating in GLSEN's Ally Week. GLSEN (the Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) is a national organization with the purpose of making school safe for everyone, including gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender youth.

Ally Week was first celebrated in October 2005 through the inspiration of GLSEN's Jump-Start National Student Leadership Team. The main purpose for its existence is to discourage anti-LGBT tendencies such as bullying, harassment, and violence which have become commonplace in America's school systems. On Friday, October 24, in order to do their part for the advancement of this cause, the PHS GSA set up an information table outside the school cafeteria in order to share vital knowledge concerning Ally Week, How To Be a Good Ally, and the negative effects homophobia has on our society in general. Also, students had the opportunity to sign the Ally Pledge, in which they promised to be supportive of the LGBT community.

It is the GSA's and their supporters' goal to one day create a positive school atmosphere where all are accepted and can work together to build a better tomorrow.

The Pioneer Post

Editor-in-Chief: Natalia Williams

Managing Editor: Sheri Reid

Copy Editor: Caianne LaSota

Business Editor: Jamar Cummings

School News Editors: Sean Harden and Alyssa DiGilio

Outside the Walls Editor: Jamar Cummings

Features Editors: Sheri Reid and Olivia Williams

Arts and Entertainment Editor: Malik Dennard

Opinion Editor: Tiara Miller

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Layout Editor: Deirdre Marsh

Photography Editor: Jorge Reyes-Bravo

Staff Writers: Collin Milone, Sabrina Sucato, James Bunn

Staff Photographers: Nathan Jackson

Treasurer: Alyssa DiGilio

Faculty Advisor: Robin Ward

The Pioneer Post box is located in the Main Office.

Staff meets on Mondays in Room 216.

E-mail us at pioneerpost@poughkeepsieschools.org.

Outside the Walls

The 2008 Election

Whom Did You Want For Your President?

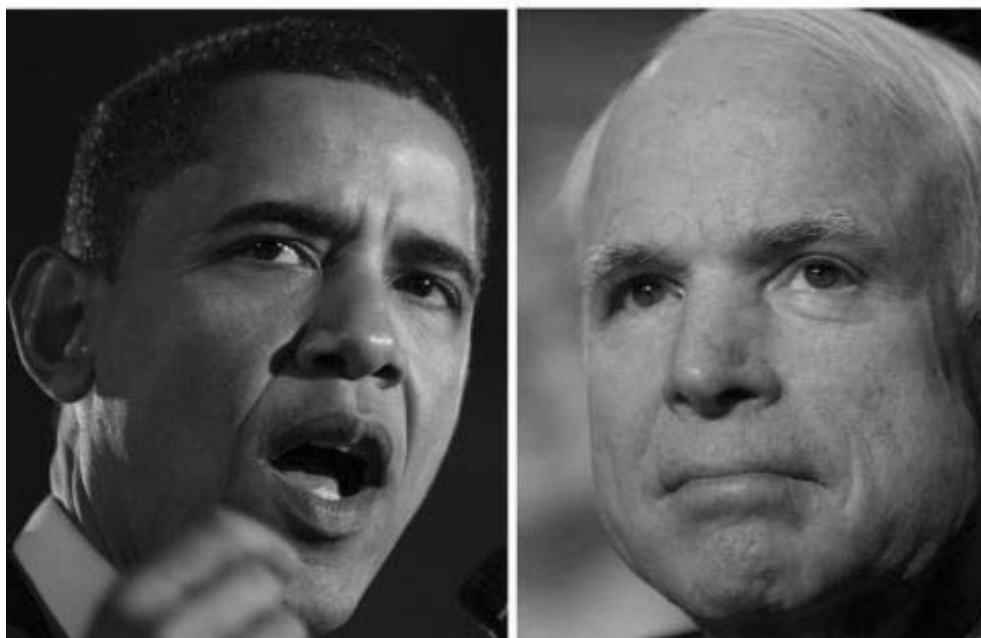


Photo by www.welt.de/multimedia

By Jamar Cummings
Outside the Walls Editor

Prior to November 4, twenty-seven high school students were surveyed on how they felt about certain parts of the 2008 election. They were asked three questions that are thought to be important to this election and future political endeavors.

Here is how some of the students answered the questions.

Do you think that this election could be like the 2000 Election where the Electoral College went against the popular votes and chose the President? Why?

- Mary Veltre, Poughkeepsie

High School junior: "No, because I think the Electoral College saw how controversial the 2000 Election was and would try to prevent it from happening again."

- Sheri Reid, PHS junior: "Yes, I think this Election could be like the 2000 Election simply because America is not ready for a black president and even if they were, the majority of white Americans are not ready."

- Of other students polled, 13 students answered yes; 11 students answered no; 3 students answered maybe.

If you could register to vote today, would you register as a Democrat, Republican or Independent? Why?

- Nathaniel Blasse, senior at Franklin D. Roosevelt High School: "I

would register as a Democrat because they complement my views on change."

- Ryan Seagren, senior at FDR High School: "I would register as an Independent because I like to go back and forth."

- 15 students said they would register as a Democrat; 2 students would register as a Republican; 10 students said they would register as an Independent.

If you could vote today, would you vote for Barack Obama, John McCain or neither?

- Jalen Andux, PHS junior: "I would vote for Obama because of his policies, his drive to make a change and because he's black."

- Victoria Mapes, PHS senior: "I

wouldn't vote for either one of them because I don't agree with either of their policies."

- 24 students said they would vote for Barack Obama; 3 students said they would vote for neither; 0 students said they would vote for John McCain.

The majority of students believed that Senator Barack Obama would be the best candidate.

Students taking an active role in politics, even if most of them cannot vote, shows what elections in the future will be like. We need to let our voice be heard.

Gasoline Prices Impact The PHS Community

By Sean Harden

Recently, I asked several teachers and a number of students how the price of gasoline has affected their lifestyle. The responses from all were generally similar; when the price was high, they had to make different buying decisions and travel choices.

Regents and AP biology teacher Bryan Woods says about every ten days he spent seventy dollars to fill up his Nissan Frontier Truck. Mr. Woods also said that he has been buying the same amount of groceries every week and it now costs him 20 to 30 dollars more than it used to.

Rashonda Moore, a senior said, "When I go to the mall I can't get a cute outfit I want because I need to save money for gas."

Some websites post user reports

"It makes it difficult to economically satisfy your needs to the fullest extent...there have been times where I have to take the alternate, less-expensive route to get things I want."

on gasoline prices to help others try and find the cheapest price. Gasbuddy.com stated that on October 8, 2008, the national average price for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.37. The website also gives the local price "snapshot." That day, the station with the cheapest gasoline in Poughkeepsie was the Stewarts Shop on Dutchess Turnpike with a price of \$3.36 a gallon, and the most expensive gasoline in the area was at The Citgo on North Hamilton Street with a price of \$3.59 a gallon.

PHS Junior, Karl Spuhler, said "It's ridiculous, it raises the cost of everything; it just cuts into plans because no one wants to pay for gas to get somewhere."

Senior Curtis McCabe said, "It makes it difficult to economically satisfy your needs to the fullest extent...there have been times where I have to take the alternate, less-expensive route to get things I want."

On the good side, oil prices have continued to fall from their all time high in mid-July of over \$147 a barrel. That decrease results in lower prices at the gas pump. As you remember in mid-July, local gasoline prices were over \$4.30 a gallon. They are now in the \$2.30 area. The question is: how long will they stay there?

Wall Street Crisis

By Sabrina Sucato

For the past few months, Wall Street has been in a bear market. Many financial markets are experiencing huge declines, and they don't seem to be recovering anytime soon. For example, on Monday September 22, the Dow Jones Industrial Average, a major financial index, dropped 372.75 points. It's the first time in history that the Dow has moved more than 350 points four days in a row. To make matters worse, the value of the dollar is decreasing.

Most of the blame for recent stock market troubles rests with banks, since they arranged loans that most homeowners couldn't afford. Owners who fell behind in their payments discovered that their houses were worth less than the original price. They were stuck paying too much for homes that were worth much less.

Eventually, banks foreclosed on these homes and left those homeowners in financial ruin. Banks were then stuck with worthless investments that held them back from creating new loans. Many industries beyond banking were also badly impacted.

The federal government has proposed a bailout plan for banks. It has

agreed to buy the bad mortgages, giving the banks a clean slate. Congress believes \$700 billion will be needed to pay for the bailout. Some political leaders, including Republican candidate John McCain, fear that the bailout might not be effective. Many Americans think the cost will add to the country's debt, and will eventually be a burden for taxpayers.

We Want YOU
to Write for the
Pioneer Post!

The Pioneer Post staff meets on Monday and Tuesday in Room 216. Have no time to come? E-mail your submissions to
pioneerpost@poughkeepsieschools.org.
Let Your Voice Be Heard!

Features

Election Special '08

“Joe the Plumber”?

By Chelyn Cousar

“Joe the Plumber.” The name that John McCain used over twenty times during his final debate with Barack Obama. It is a developing household name. This name is supposed to stand for every hard-working American citizen that is determined to have taxes reduced.

But who is Joe the Plumber?

It turns out that this media figure is really Samuel “Joe” Warzelbacher, an uncertified and out-of-work plumber from Ohio who gained massive media attention from the presidential debates.

Due to McCain mentioning this name, the Republican Party gained more attention from average citizens who look up to Joe as an inspiration, according to CNN. That soon changed once news broke out that Warzelbacher had been wanted for tax evasion as well as being let off the hook for a speeding ticket. Many people have become skeptical about whether Joe is helping Republicans, but it doesn't seem to be bothering him or any who support him.

According to “Business and Company” magazine, Warzelbacher has plans to launch a website as well as to write a book. Many people have t-shirts with his face on them and see him as a cult-figure, even after the debate. Whether you love him or hate him, Joe the Plumber won't go away anytime soon.

The President-elect, Barack Obama



Photo by musicologynyc.blogspot.com

Change For America

By Tiffany Clarke and Matt Guarnaccia

“I'm not asking you to believe... in my ability to bring about real change in Washington... I'm asking you to believe in yours.” These words were said by, at the time, presidential candidate Barack Obama during a speech to supporters during his campaign. The main focus of the Obama campaign has been change, and their motto has been “The Change We Need.” This slogan is about all issues that President-elect Obama has presented.

The Iraq war is something that Obama wants to change, because over 4,000 combat troops have died in Iraq so far. Even before Obama was a big name in Washington, he was against the war. In 2002 he wanted to change the thinking of Congress and spoke out against the war. Now that Obama is to become the next President of the United States, this dream can become a reality. According to barackobama.com, “Barack Obama and Joe Biden believe we must be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in.” The two leaders also believe that the United States can be safely redeployed and can fully remove all soldiers from Iraq in 16 months.

Change is also going to come through economic policies, which will give people tax relief and a better life. Obama has guaranteed that anyone who makes less than \$250,000 per year will not receive a tax increase. This will give people more money to pay for necessities and to stimulate the economy, but most of all to change the wellbeing of many Americans.

There are many interpretations of change. Poughkeepsie High School junior Brittney Ellis said, “Change is making a difference and making it count against what it already was.”

Change can come in many forms, but change for the better is definitely the best. Without change the world will stand still and no one will be unique. This is the change that Barack Obama is hoping to bring to America.

of those decisions mean that change is bad?

Not for me. I believe that this presidency of Obama's will be a good one. In the words of the greatest godfather of soul, the late James Brown, I say unto you, “Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud.”

Another MLK?

By Vaughn Harge, Assata Coston and Natalia Williams

On Tuesday November 4, 2008, a young African-American senator from Illinois stood before millions of people around the world. He delivered a victory speech after learning that he had been elected President of the United States. As he spoke, many were reminded of the words delivered by another African-American who changed the nation.

Barack Obama's speech has started a buzz about the similarities to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s oratory skills. In an article featured in the New York Sun, Seth Gitell identified some ways that Obama's style is similar to King's. He wrote, “His speeches are likened to those of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr...he began by establishing a memorable rhythm and laying down words with repetition.”

However, Gitell pointed out more

ways the two are different, citing the difference in development of speech-making skills. “King grew up watching his father hold the pulpit...Mr. Obama's speech skills came later...from his time as a community organizer on Chicago's South Side.”

Stefan Anderson, a senior at Poughkeepsie High School, said that the styles “are similar, but not the same.”

Jamar Cummings, another PHS senior, said, “I think [Obama] speaks like Martin Luther King, very eloquent, but should not be compared to anyone else...because he is a very unique person.”

As far as policy and results go, many feel as though time will tell. “Until we see what [Obama] does,” says senior Chevon Hunter, “we cannot compare the two.”

To Me...

By Nathan Jackson

To me, the Obama presidency means change. I believe that changes means doing something different. Maybe it means to jump out of an old routine. Who knows? When people talked for weeks and weeks about the elections, I knew that something was going to happen.

I wonder what would've happened if McCain had won. Would the world still be standing still? Would there be city hall riots? Would there be threats to the government? I wouldn't know.

There's some meaning behind the world's change. Rather than having the troops home in three to four years from now, why not have them home in thirteen months from now?

Change can also be bad. Some people wouldn't get used to certain things. People may oppose new ideas. People may become angry at some decisions. Could all

Opinion

Are Teens Really Addicted To The Internet???

By Alyssa DeGilio

The internet is not just a convenience but a necessity for all teenagers. In this day and age more people spend their free time on the computer than doing anything else. It is estimated that kids spend nearly 20 hours a month surfing the web.

"Close to sixty percent of teens have received an instant message from someone they have not met before."

For some people, being on the computer is something that they spend most of their day on, often forgetting or putting off other activities or priorities. About 11 million teens go online on a daily basis.

In an informal study conducted in a health class, in one group, 4 out of 5 people in the group had computers. Many of the students spent several hours a day on the computer, totaling over 10 hours a week, while many of the adults living in their household do not use the internet as much as the students.

Students claim that their parents are not up to date on how to use the latest technology. In fact, 28% of teens said they use code words on a daily basis to hide their online conversations from their parents who don't know what those words mean.

Sites like MySpace, YouTube, and FaceBook contribute to keeping people of all ages and places with access to a computer busy for hours. Being able to share videos, pictures, graphics and being able to chat with friends is enough to keep hundreds of thousands of people busy daily.

With the increase of computer use and the advances in computer technology over the past couple of years, everything has become computerized. The internet is used for almost everything now, which makes living without it harder for the average teenager.

Although the internet is glorified by our culture, it is not always as good as it seems to be.

Internet scams, harassment, and threats are just some of the things that people face on the internet today. Links to pornographic websites have become more common in the past few years. According to the Symantec Market research report on June 9th, 2003, about 47% of children have received e-mails with links to pornographic websites.

Also over the past couple of years there has been an increase in predators because so many people spend time online. In some cases these predators ask their prey to meet them, and 27% of teens said they have known a friend to actually meet in person somebody they initially met online.

Teens Desire the Internet

By Malik Dennard, Jedda Stevens, Nitzie Santos, and Martin Olredo

The internet is not just a convenience but a necessity for most teenagers. Five out of five students in our survey group state that their households include of at least one computer. Each student said that they use the internet from anywhere up to five hours. When trying to use the internet the students realize that there are sometimes road blocks they experience such as viruses or even lack of a computer access.

Just like teens, adults use the internet. Even though older people didn't grow up with access to the internet they also use it as a source of entertainment.

There are many signs of internet addiction. One of the signs might be when one begins to make the internet a top priority.

The internet is also a good source to find information for school work and recreational purposes. Many students in the survey group use Spark Notes as a useful site to find information. Although the internet is a good source of information, it has been proven that about eighty-seven percent of the teenagers in the United States, ages twelve to seventeen, currently use the Internet. This group represents about twenty-one million youth.

Eleven million teens go online on a daily basis. The size of the wired teen population surges at the seventh grade mark. The number between sixth graders

and seventh graders doubles between the two groups.

The internet is not just a convenience, but a source of information that has to be monitored because of the dangers.

"Eleven million teens go online on a daily basis."

About fifty-seven percent of parents worry that strangers will contact their children online.

These worries are well grounded. Close to sixty percent of teens have received an instant message from someone they have not met before.

Despite this, teens themselves are not particularly worried about strangers online; fifty-two percent of online teens say they do not worry at all about being contacted online and only twenty-three percent express any notable level of concern.

Can The Internet be a Danger?

By Sean Harden, Roderick, Laquan, Kassandra

Due to a recent small group survey, we were able to find out that 80 percent of people in our group had a computer at home and used it everyday. When asked what they use it for the most, the answer was social networking sites like Myspace and FaceBook. The next most popular use for the internet was personal e-mail and gaming, and then was sites like Google.com and Wikipedia.org to aid with assignments.

A question posed, was "How many hours per week do you spend on the internet?" The average was between 15 and 30 hours per week, just sitting there on the computer. This shows a real need, or maybe and addiction, to using the computer. Also, when asked if their parents knew what they were doing or if they used the internet as much as they did, they answered no. According to Pew Internet and American Life of June 20, 2001, it was said 57% of parents worried that strangers will contact their children over the internet. According to Pew Internet and American Life on March 17, 2005, 81% percent of parents also said that teenagers are not careful enough when giving out information about themselves over the internet.

With this vast use of the internet, even with an accidental click, children are likely to be exposed to pornographic material while spending a long amount of time on the internet. According to The Symantec Market research report of June 9, 2003, around 47% of children have received an e-mail with links to pornographic websites.

As shown in the paragraphs above, teens need the internet, though if used for an extended period of time, they can both use the internet inappropriately and possibly become addicted to it.



Orchestra as a Class

By Jessica Susser

For as long as I have been at Poughkeepsie High School (three years), orchestra class has taken place in the auditorium. There is nothing wrong with using the auditorium as a classroom. However, it is unacceptable to simultaneously use the auditorium for other purposes.

Whenever gym classes cannot take place in the gymnasium, they take place in the auditorium. When there are presentations in the auditorium, the orchestra class is disrupted either by the presentation itself or by the preparation for the presentation. Sometimes, there is an unauthorized group of loud, disruptive students in the auditorium. According to freshman Sophie Sagan, "It is hard to concentrate on the music when there is so much noise."

This year, during the first period orchestra, students who attend BOCES sit in the auditorium while they are waiting for the bus to arrive. I understand the students who attend BOCES need to wait for the bus somewhere, but does it have to be



Photo by Nate Jackson

in a room where a class is taking place? Students in the orchestra class find the noise and chaos distracting.

Senior Maryssa Medley feels "It is wrong to have people in here [in the auditorium] disrupting us, because we already have an underappreciated music program and we have people hindering our learning on top of it....It is definitely unfair."

Freshman Laykin Killore agrees, stating, "I would rather they didn't talk while we are trying to play."

Perhaps there is another location, such as an empty classroom or office, where the BOCES students can go. If it is possible, I hope the school addresses the situation. However, it is possible that there may not be any option other than the auditorium. If this is the case, I ask you to please be respectful of the school orchestra if you are in the auditorium first period.

Think of it this way: if orchestra were any other class, would it be acceptable for those who do not belong in that class to be in the classroom?

These articles were written by Poughkeepsie High School students. Do YOU have something to say? Contribute to the Pioneer Post!

Opinion

Dear Editor...

Dear Editor,

My name is Shawn Zehnacker. I am a senior at Poughkeepsie high school. I have recently attended a meeting for the Zoning Board of Appeals. I felt that this meeting was very interesting and I would definitely return to another one no doubt. I enjoyed the meeting for a few different reasons, like there was this one big case at the meeting where a man wanted to add on his gas station on 128 Washington Street. This man wants to add on to his convenience store and also wants to build a laundromat with two apartment buildings on top of it. At first, it sounded like a good idea to me, but when the board starting asking questions about his plan he didn't give too many clear and descriptive answers, so I wasn't too sure about his plan. Next, it was the public's turn to speak and when I heard their opinions, I didn't think it was a good plan at all. The people from the public were mostly from the neighborhood and they said that there is a lot of garbage that gets around the neighborhood because of this convenience store, so if they add on to this store the business would increase, which means more garbage. After hearing the board's and the public's views and opinions on this case, I don't feel that this will get approved. This type of meeting is interesting to me and I found myself surprised when I was getting into the matter that was at hand. I also like the way this meeting is conducted and everything runs very smoothly and I don't think that should ever change.

Sincerely yours,
Shawn Zehnacker

Dear Editor,

I recently attended a Common Council meeting and found things that I liked and disliked. I came into the Chambers having absolutely no idea of what to expect and left with a sense of why we need a Common Council. The issues discussed were somewhat entertaining and I was pleased to see that they dealt with things concerning an average resident of Dutchess County. Another thing I was impressed by was the communication and bravery of one of the council members willing to get the group to rethink and val-

idate previous actions. This is important in any club, group, or community and serves as a natural "checks and balances" system. The noise at night was also an interesting topic brought up by a non board member. This showed not only an individual trying to make change for himself, but trying to make a change for his neighbors and his community. Any time the public is given the chance to speak, it shows that the board cares and wants feedback from the public. The five ton weight limit on trucks is also an important local issue that needs to be enforced not only for the safety of pedestrians, but for the safety of other drivers. More cops may be a solution to many problems such as: graffiti, drugs, crime, and speeding. However, it is an unfortunate misconception that by adding a couple of police officers our problems will soon evaporate. Instead, an alternative to this specific situation might be adding a camera on Wilbur Blvd to catch license plate numbers of speeders, and in more specificity truckers speeding.

Getting the Sanitation department involved in sighting graffiti was a great resolution, and it would be an effective way at ridding the city of "art." The Fallkill Creek wall would also be a great way to set an example, and might show everyone that we need to be concerned not only with erosion, but with our impact on the environment. That was my favorite item discussed, and I hope that the council seriously takes into consideration that this is needed more than anything else. During recent stream cleanups which I have participated in, not only has trash become somewhat of a problem, but rocks from parts of the wall have fallen in and decreased visibility. The creek is an integral part of life in the city of Poughkeepsie, and it thrills me that it was an issue discussed as someone who makes an attempt to better the environment. On that note, the discussion about the farmers market was also very progressive. Lowering prices per season and harvest would benefit local farmers, and keep them on their farms in Dutchess County. Buying locally helps our economy and has somewhat of a snowball effect.

Sincerely,
Steven Turrissi

Homecoming: Horribly Boring

By Caianne LaSota

"The Homecoming dance is an important tradition. It invokes school spirit, school loyalty, and it's crucial to supporting our school," says Curtis McCabe, a senior and quarterback for the Poughkeepsie High School Varsity football team. "It's also a give-back from the team's players to the fans for support."

Some may agree, but is this truly how the majority feels? It is true that Homecoming may have been an innocent school-spirit-filled dance a decade ago, but it may have morphed into something a bit more displeasing to the student body over time.

Now, to say that everyone would have this opinion would be rude to even begin to consider, but a few others were not so hasty to disagree.

"Why would I go to it if they wouldn't even play any music me or my friends like?" asks Amanda Panzer, a sophomore. "Just because the majority likes a certain thing doesn't mean that everyone does. I'd rather dance to something fun."

But Homecoming is not being bad-mouthed just for its choice in music. Many students dislike the fact that the formality of Homecoming has been diminished into a casual get-together.

"It's too casual," explains Jennifer Tomasko, a junior, when asked how she feels about Homecoming. "If you can go wearing whatever you wear to

school, what's the point of a dance?"

Many have agreed with this statement. How can a dance that was once so anticipated amongst students become the subject of negative jokes and displeased conversation? With ease, it seems. Many students have reported poor response to Homecoming dance.

"Last year was terrible," Sherona Gardner, a senior, responds, "because I couldn't bring anyone out of the school system. Even if it's for safety, I don't like it. I don't plan on going this year."

That's not the only problem with the organization of last year's Homecoming according to the perturbed gossip amongst veteran Homecoming attendees.

"If any adult suspected something wrong," says Tiana West, "you'd get a flashlight shone in your face to check and see if you were acting appropriately. It was insane."

So has attending Homecoming become just another excuse to obtain a parent's permission to stay out late? Perhaps this year's dance can change this school-wide negative mentality, and change this for the better.

Drop us a line!



Mother Nature Says....

By Tiara Miller

With a new school year beginning and the 2008 presidential campaign election near, this is a time for great opportunities, a new spirit, and change. So why not start by recycling?

I know you're probably thinking that recycling is a waste of energy and time. Truth is, your wrong. Recycling actually spares both. Look at it this way; the more time that you take to put cans into the right container, the more energy you will save from not having to pick them up. Let's not forget that recycling also renews essential resources so that supplies are plentiful to us at all times. Think about what this can do for our environment and the air we breathe. What about our school?

What do the students here at Poughkeepsie High School have to say about recycling? Jenna Tomasko, grade

11, believes that recycling will make a difference, but that students are too busy to worry about it. "People are lazy," she says. She also believes that "students will be cautious about recycling if it were easy."

How difficult can recycling be; just look for the blue bins. Where are these bins located in our school? One of the reasons people throw bottles in the trash is because recycling bins are too difficult to hunt down. "I don't notice the recycling bins in the school," Joyce Wood in 11th grade mentioned. However, Aisia Townes recalls passing by one on the way to class. "I have seen one in the small café. If I see one I recycle," she claims. Aisia Townes is a senior and out of her 4 years attending PHS, she has only seen one recycling bin. Obviously, one recycling can for approximately 1300 Pioneers will not motivate students to recycle.

Any suggestions? In some places recycling is a duty, or a law that must be followed. Why not make it a rule in our school? Shatya Tolliver, grade 10, believes that requiring students to recycle will not make much of a difference. "People do not care where things go because they are only concerned about buying them."

How can we motivate others to show concern? "How about a motivation day," says Aisia. "We can dress up in plastic or paper, and put up posters. She also suggests that there be prizes for people who recycle the most bottles. With the success of the reading pep-rally, maybe it is a good idea to have one for recycling. Even if there were blue bins in every corner of the school, students are just too busy to recycle. It is just one more thing students have to worry about. However, by putting recycling bins next to trash cans, I

am sure students will think twice before dumping all of their cans in one bin.

"I think every little bit helps," says Curtis McCabe, grade 12. Although, Curtis has many responsibilities, he still has time to recycle. He says, "the sooner we realize every little bit helps, the sooner we will be living healthier clean lives." Watching him play with a plastic bottle, I was curious to see whether he was going to recycle it. "Yeah, it is either go green, or go home, he said."

Students, with the instability in the economy, it is important that we are cautious not to abuse our favorite things that we use everyday. Remember, what we buy and use today may not be there tomorrow.

Mother Nature says remember to recycle.

Arts and Entertainment

A Poughkeepsie Tragedy

By Malik Dennard

Arts and Entertainment Section Editor

A famous and great Greek tragedy is coming to Poughkeepsie. David Laffin, a ninth grade English teacher and head of the Poughkeepsie Drama Club, is producing and directing the play. Mr. Laffin says that Poughkeepsie hasn't had a dramatic play in a long time and wants to get back to the basics. What better play to do than the Greek tragedy Antigone.

Antigone is a Greek tragedy written by Sophocles before or in 442 B.C. It's the third of three Theban plays chronologically, but evidently was written first and expands on the Theban legend that predates it. Antigone, the second part of a three play series, is about a young girl's struggle against an unfaltering king. In the play, the Greek city of Thebes is recovering from a massive civil war between two brothers, Polynices and Eteocles, that share the throne. But when Eteocles refuses to give power back to his brother as was agreed, Polynices creates an army to fight his brother. Consequently the two brothers die, and the crown of Thebes goes to Creon. As the new ruler, he declares that Eteocles will be honored and Polynices disgraced. This means that Polynices's body will not be given a sacred burial. The fallen man's sister, Antigone, struggles with the king to get her brother's equitable last rights.

Mr. Laffin has high hopes to begin production in the first week of October with hopes that the final product will be shown in late April/early May. If possible there would be about two rehearsals a week and they would increase as the play nears opening. The play will be using a newly translated version of the script by Ian Johnston, a student at Malaspina, University-College in Nanaimo, British Columbia. When asked what the heart and soul of the play would be, Mr. Laffin simply replied "The actors." The way the actors perceive and interpret

the play will truly give it life or leave it lifeless on the cold autopsy table. The play will be set up with close to no sets, so the play will have more emphasis on the story and how the story is told.

When Mr. Laffin was asked why Antigone was picked as the big play, he asked "Why should a high school have to do Grease?" Since Poughkeepsie High School has been fully focused on musicals, Mr. Laffin saw Antigone as a way to get back to the basics. Antigone is in the curriculum, and even though it's not Shakespeare, it's a breathtaking tragedy. The play is just as intense as Shakespeare but it is easier to understand.

Although musicals are excellent in every way, they don't give much time for the actors and actresses without singing ability to shine. Mr. Laffin believes that Poughkeepsie High is filled with great students who can perform brilliantly, but there is no real way for them to show off their true talent. High school is the ground level for athletes where colleges and professionals really start to look at the talented students. In the same way high school is the ground level for students who would like to look into or pursue an acting career. By taking the potential filled young adults of Poughkeepsie High School and the award winning talent of David Laffin, there is no reason why the play wouldn't be an astonishing production that would be talked about for years to come.

Mr. Laffin hopes that if done correctly, the play will make people walk out of the theater thinking. He really wants people to know why the decisions in the play are made and why the choices and consequences are so hard. In many shapes and forms the play will help us do just what Mr. Laffin says it will teach us to do, "Learn how to dribble again."

PIONEER SPIRIT ON DISPLAY

Images from Spirit Week



Pioneers always explore creative ways to express their pride, and never worry about pushing the envelope too far. Go, PHS!

Want to show off your creative side? Want to tell people why they shouldn't go see a terrible movie? Want to write an exciting short story that students marvel over? Want to portray current events in a political cartoon or publish original photography? Then you should submit to the Arts and Entertainment section of the Pioneer Post! There is no better way to show the world everything you've got.

Please e-mail any submissions to pioneerpost@poughkeepsieschools.org.

Include your name and grade level.

THANK YOU!

A Few Moments for Relection...

"Act as if the whole election depended on your single vote."

John Wesley (1703-1797)

Shirl Davis-Susser, Psy.D.
387 Hooker Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

Sports

Pioneers Back in Action

Football season faced high expectations

By Matt Guarnaccia

The Poughkeepsie High School Football team wrapped up their season, and enjoyed a season complete with a new look, and some new opponents. The Pioneers this year had some new coaches and a new division in which to play.

Coach Barger and the Pioneers began their season with a loss to Nyack, a game which was out of league, but rebounded nicely with an in-league victory against Horace Greely. The following week resulted in a heartbreaking four point loss to Beacon, but then came back to beat Brewster 27-13. The Pioneers also defeated John Jay Cross River with a red zone stop to shut down their opponents.

In the homecoming game against rival Our Lady of Lourdes, the Pioneers came up just short in a hard-fought contest by a score of 27-26. The Pioneers were

down by seven in the final five minutes, but a long pass by Josh Graham ultimately led to a 4-yard touchdown run by Jaquan Caesar. The Pioneers decided to go for the 2-point conversion, but the pass was incomplete, and a following onside kick was thwarted.

Despite the loss, the Pioneers were able to go to the playoffs, but were knocked out in the first round against Somers, an undefeated team who had won by more than thirty points in every game they played. The Pioneers finished their season with a 4-5 record, but this is misleading. Three of the losses came from teams in higher leagues, and the two in-league games were lost by four points or less. In league, the Pioneers had a record of 3-2.

"We finished out strong...we grew a lot as a team. It goes to show that when you work hard things will swing in your direction," said senior quarterback

Curtis McCabe.

McCabe, who was originally going to play wide receiver this season, was moved to quarterback after an unfortunate incident involving Shawn Doxey, the starting quarterback at the time. Doxey was struck by a drunk driver, which forced him to miss the remainder of the season with various injuries.

A few other changes to the team include coaches Mike DiFillipo, former principal at Poughkeepsie Middle School, David Tully and Mike Easter. These changes were accompanied by a new division this year, which included Beacon, Lourdes, and John Jay Cross River.

"We're a great team, but we're young," said junior wide receiver and cornerback Rashawn Romney

The Pioneers have received a large amount of help from a number of players who have stepped up this year to fill the gaps left behind by last year's sen-

ior players. Juniors Ruben Frank and Troy Wright, as well as sophomore Tyree Coleman and many others took on the large responsibility of being starters for varsity.

The Junior Varsity football team led by quarterback Fabian Stone has also done well, with a 6-2-1 record, and are optimistic about their future.

The Pioneer's season was not as successful as they would have hoped it to be, but there was still success and improvement within the season.

The Pioneers are going to work hard in the offseason and will come back next year ready to win and take on new challenges. Junior Malcolm Daniels, a wide receiver, said of next season, "I have a lot of faith in my teammates; we're returning a lot of starters and hopefully we can go far in the playoffs."

DIVE IN!!!

By Chevon Hunter

The mini Giants began a new season again this year. After their close loss to Yonkers High School, our very own PHS Girls Varsity Swim Team had a tremendous meet against Mt. Vernon High School.

The girls swim team this year has been faced with many adversities, which have challenged the small and young team. The swim meet against Mt. Vernon started off shakily after sophomore Natia Gorgen was disqualified in the 200 freestyle. Gorgen was still able to aid her team in the 200 medley relay, and the 200 freestyle relay along with her teammates. Many of the swimmers look at the upcoming season with determination and optimism.

"The season has been great and we're improving a lot," says sophomore Amanda Panzer.

Another sophomore, Catherine McCabe indicates how well they are doing despite the number of girls they have swimming.

"Most of the other teams have two times as many swimmers, yet we keep up with them," she states.

Unfortunately senior captain Laney Newton was not present during this meet, but she still maintains a leadership role among her teammates by good experiences and encouragement.

Last year, the team's lone senior, Olivia Garrity, graduated, and two other girls moved away, leaving the team with only eight girls swimming on the team at the beginning of the season.

The team then received a big boost from an unexpected source: a middle school student named Betsy Quezada, a seventh grader who has become a huge presence on the team. The team also picked up another couple swimmers, who were a tremendous boost to the team both speed wise and numbers wise. Another blow to the team came when Natia Gorgen broke her toe, and was forced to miss part of the season



Pioneers win a close game against John Jay Cross River.

Photo by Natalia Williams

Practice, Practice, Practice

By Collin Milone

On Friday, September 20th, the sun was just beginning to sink below the horizon, the birds were singing and families were sprawled out on the lawn. A couple of squirrels were chasing each other up a tree adjacent to the tennis courts, and someone was playing Stained's "So Far Away" on a cell phone a little too loudly.

In the middle of all this peacefulness were sweating, hustling tennis players trying their hardest to finally put a win in the bag.

The opponent was Our Lady of Lourdes High School. Second singles player senior Jessica Barreto's match against a tough opponent was the highlight of the evening. Back and forth, the two athletes teetered for an astounding hour and forty minutes. Barreto battled back to win an extremely tough third set to finally silence her opponent 6-5, 4-6, 6-5. When asked about the thriller Barreto said, "It was definitely one of the longest matches I've ever been a part of... You have to stay consistent and step up your game when necessary."

Although the team did not win as a whole (Our Lady of Lourdes won 4-3), individual winners included fellow senior Natalia Williams as well as Freshman phenom Olivia Williams.

Getting an interview with the coach, Melissa Martinetti, after the match was pretty tough. She was preaching to her team the importance of practice for a while, but eventually had time to answer some questions.

When asked why she became involved in coaching, it turns out she used to be quite a tennis player herself. After playing for so many years, she wanted to get out there and teach. "It's very different from playing. It's very hard, but it's worth it when you see your team succeed."

And succeed they will. Mrs. Martinetti has high goals for this season, those being bettering their scores from last year. When asked how this will happen, she responded, "Practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice, practice."

Well, good luck, girls tennis team, and keep up the excellent work!

Potential is Evident on the PHS JV Soccer Team

By Collin Milone

"Junior Varsity is a stepping stone to what I know all of you want: a varsity jersey," said Coach Kevin Hornbuckle to his team the first day of soccer practice this August. He is leading the JV Soccer team full charge into the season hoping to improve on last season's success.

Although they have not been successful in the win column, the team has improved greatly with every game.

Behind Captains Ryan Sullivan and Collin Milone the team has worked well together to incorporate the individual skills of Daniel Adu and Thomas Barreto, as well as the passing abilities of Ezequiel Castellanos.

Newcomers Andrew Creedon, Kyle Tam, Anthony (Peru!) Morre and keeper Greg Anderson have also stepped up and played exceptionally well. Leading goal scorer Andre Garcia-Lutre has shined at his new offensive position, and Stephen Minor has been lockdown on the right side.

"We have a lot of potential; we just need to turn that into wins," said Coach Hornbuckle.

Coach Hornbuckle is in his first season as coach of the JV soccer team and is looking ahead to continue teaching and improving his squad.

