

The Blue & Gray

December

Principal
McCormack
Announces
Retirement

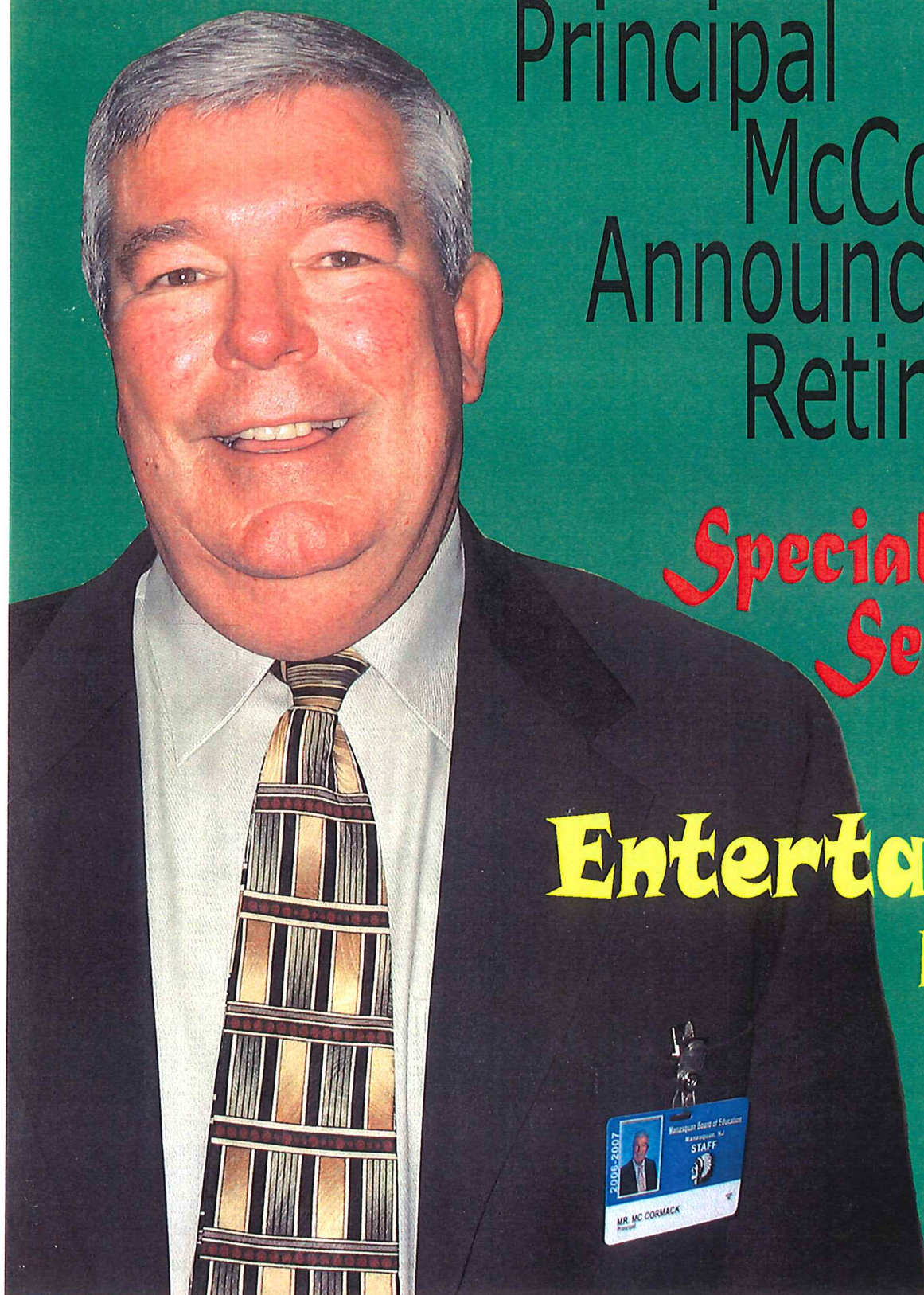
Special Holiday
Section

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Spring Musical Auditions Held For Oklahoma

By: Jamee Shea

"Oh what a beautiful morning!" Yes MHS, the Drama Club has proudly announced its next production, the spring musical, Oklahoma!

On December 4th and 5th Drama Club director Mr. Weisert held auditions for the show.

First day auditions were for acting and singing. It proved to be a very long night for over 50 people who auditioned. On the second day, everyone learned a fast paced routine to test dancing ability.

All of the major and minor roles had been posted by the next day. Weisert announced that Nicole Klindtworth will be playing the lead woman, Laurey.

Matt Truex will be portraying Curley, the cowboy who is madly in love with Laurey.

Amanda Czerminski

is Aunt Eller, a happy, old woman who brings a lot of humor to the stage. Hannah Moore was granted the part of Ado Annie, a girl who can't say no to any feller who wants to kiss her. Her character brings in even more humor.

Pat Gallagher is Will Parker, another cowboy who will stop at nothing to capture Ado Annie's love. Will Fonda is Ali Hakeem, a Persian salesman who Ado Annie almost falls in love with.

And Jerry Brown will be playing Jud Fry, a shady ranch hand who stalks Laurey, and hates Curly.

Along with a large number of other students playing townspeople and dancers, Mr. Weisert is very pleased with the resulting cast, and is looking forward to rehearsals starting in January.

MHS Chorus Holds Annual Holiday Concert

By: Jamee Shea

Each year, the MHS chorus has something very special planned for its annual holiday concert. This year on Wednesday, December 20, the concert expressed a cultural theme, with members wearing the clothing styles of various cultures from around the world.

The selection of songs was very diverse as well. With songs such as *Kling Glockchen* (Ring Little Bell) in German, *Suogan* (Soothing Song) in Welsh, *Celebremos Las Navidades* (Let's Celebrate Christmas) in Spanish, *Dormi*,

Dormi O Bel Bambin (Oh Sleep, Oh Sleep, My Lovely Child) in Italian, and *Il Est Ne* (He is Born) in French.

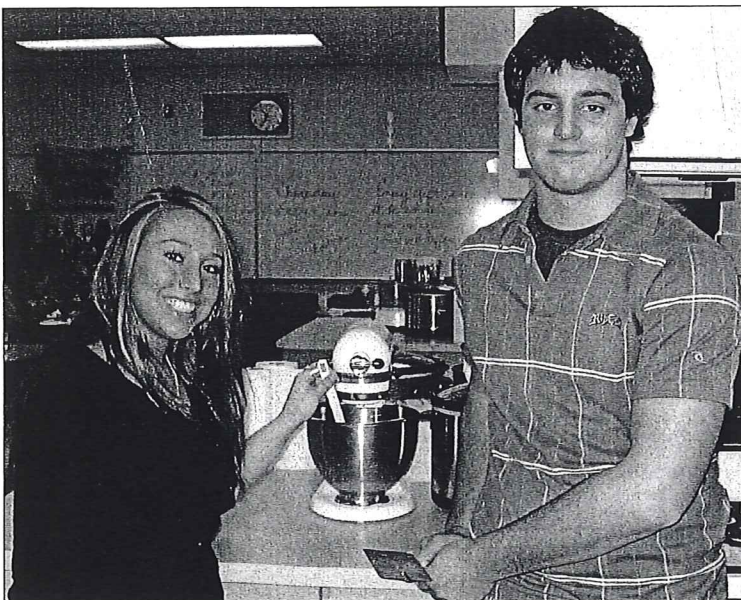
A very special part of the evening was Mr. Weisert's plan to honor his long-time photographer, John Caverly. Sadly, Mr. Caverly passed away earlier this year. Samples of his photos from past concerts were displayed during the reception.

The evening was a fitting celebration of the Christmas season.

Oklahoma!

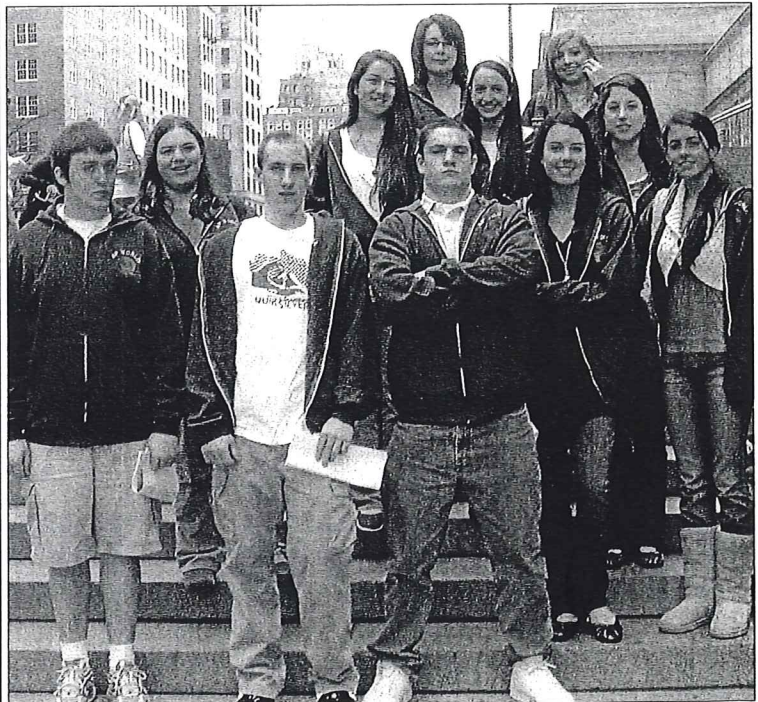


Mike Pizzolato and Allie Monello Named Co-Chefs of the Month!



According to Mrs. Yuhas, junior Mike Pizzolato has been a standout chef throughout September, October, and November. Finally, he has earned recognition as Chef of the Month for December. Mike shares this month's honor with fellow junior Allie Monello, whose aunt, Nancy Bricker (owner of Monello Catering), instructed the class in a special gourmet lesson on cooking Swedish meatballs.

AP Art and World History Travel to the Met



Students from Mr. Bryant's AP World History class, above, traveled to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on November 30th. They were joined by Mrs. Monaghan's AP Art class, as well. Students followed Marco Polo's journeys.

Continued from previous page

spirits up. By the second half of the school year in 2004, Mrs. Oldham's goal was achieved. She returned to MHS.

The physical demands that Mrs. Oldham was faced when she returned to teaching were extremely challenging. She was

Mrs. Oldham will continue to enrich the lives of those around her, including her husband Mike, her daughter Alex and her son Eric. The future is a new opportunity awaiting her.

blinded in her peripherals, which enabled her to see only straight ahead. In the classroom, this caused great difficulty seeing her students, and made it very difficult to grade papers, too.

Gradually, her vision declined further, and prevented her from driving. Reading became difficult. Walking through the hallways in school became difficult. Mrs. Oldham was forced to make a hard decision.

She would have to give up what had driven her in recovery – her students, her classroom, her career.

Mrs. Patel Joins MHS

By: Alissa Dering



Mrs. Patel is Manasquan's newest addition to the English department. After Mrs. Oldham retired, Mrs. Patel was hired to teach the English IV and Creative Writing.

Mrs. Patel is from Medina, Ohio and moved to New Jersey seven years ago after getting married. Before Manasquan, Mrs. Patel worked at a middle school in Jersey City where she taught

English and contributed to the Gifted and Talented program.

Mrs. Patel said that she always wanted to be a teacher, but in response to her parents' encouragement she majored in Pre-Med and Communication Disorders in college. Eventually she switched majors and followed her dream of teaching.

After hearing good remarks about Manasquan High School she decided to pursue the open English position. She said she had always wanted to work at the high school level and this was a great first opportunity. "I like the fact that Manasquan is very community oriented," Mrs. Patel stated.

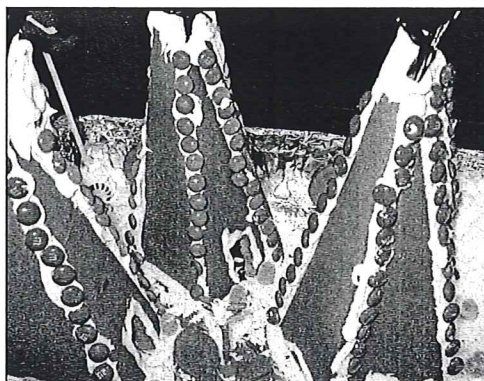
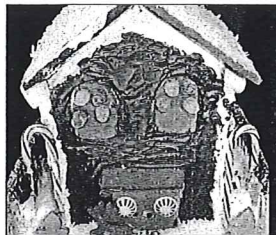
The Blue & Gray staff wishes Mrs. Patel good luck in her first, and future years at Manasquan High School!

Catering Class Makes Gingerbread Houses



Left: Diane Mantlick concentrates on building her gingerbread house.

Right and below: Completed gingerbread houses are on display in the media center.



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Student Opinion

Is Political Correctness Detracting from the Holidays?



By: Alissa Dering

The holidays are a time for generosity and appreciation. We spend time with friends and family in order to commemorate our love for one another. Unfortunately, the essence of the holidays is becoming lost in translation. Each year we find ourselves battling a linguistic war due to the political incorrectness of holiday greetings.

The usual greetings; "Merry Christmas," "Happy Hanukkah" and "Happy Kwanzaa" have taken a back

seat to the generic "Happy Holidays." Although the latter has been used as a solution to end dispute over politically incorrect greetings, debate has become even more heated due to holiday fanatics. Some people proudly display their holiday frustration with bumper stickers like, "Keep the Christ in Christmas."

Personally, I do not understand why people complain about *how* to wish someone a happy holiday season. The holiday season is one of the few times of the year that complete strangers take the time to be friendly and courteous. Shouldn't we appreciate chivalry even if the happiness people wish us does not apply?

For many people, the problem lies in religious connotations. Recently, a Jewish man who was dining

at the restaurant where I work made a scene because the musician was playing Christmas songs. Just

because someone chooses to sing a Christmas song doesn't mean that they are forcing Christian beliefs upon all who listen. Although many

religions differ in various aspects, don't they all encourage loving and

respecting our fellow men? By creating relentless drama over the semantics of

holiday greetings we are losing sight of the most important part of the holidays: compassion. With all the tragedy in the world



Seattle Tacoma International Airport was forced to remove Christmas trees, like the one above, after much controversy over its "religious affiliation".

we seem selfish for quarreling over petty cultural differences. We can keep changing the way we wish people a happy holiday season, but nothing will change the fact that not everyone celebrates the same occasion. Accepting diversity will help keep the essence of the holidays alive.

Mr. Price's Vietnam Class Pays Tribute to POWs

By: Kaitlyn Turi



Mr. Price's fourth block Vietnam class raised a POW/MIA flag in front of MHS on Friday, December 8th. Because of the flag rising's postponement from two previous dates, the VFW who had been invited could not attend.

Mr. Burke and his cousin Dr. Mike Helliwell,

a professor at Kean University, assisted in the ceremony. Dr. Helliwell although not a member of any specific group has previously donated flags to other schools to raise awareness of the contributions of veterans to our country. The Elementary School will receive their flags as well, as soon as they can get the equipment on their flagpole to accommodate them.

Students helped to raise the Prisoner of War flag.

I don't want a lot for Christmas - There's just one thing I need - I don't care about the presents - Underneath the

The Blue & Gray Guide to Present Buying

By: Jamee Shea



Once again it is that special time of year! Don't know what to give Mom and Dad? No clue of what your boyfriend or girlfriend wants? Well check out my gift guide, and it should provide some good ideas. Hopefully your gifts will not rot in a closet, but will be treasured for years to come.

One of the toughest situations for a girl is buying for a boyfriend. Sometimes guys don't say what they want, which can leave a girl feeling very lost. Well one of the best ideas is to consider his favorite hobbies. Buy something to fit what he likes to do the most.

Many girls like to buy their boyfriends clothes. What about a hooded sweatshirt from a local surf shop? It's sure to comfort him through the winter. If you want to get him something a little more special, a nice watch would compliment his wrist.

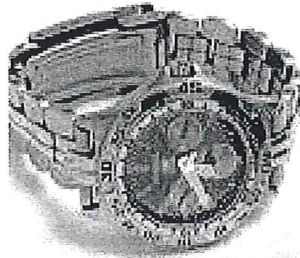
Then if you are a guy, you must be thinking really hard about what your girlfriend would die for. Take the time to see what kind of jewelry she wears the most. It will be guaranteed that she would want to wear it from special occasions to everyday, for all of her friends to admire and compliment.

If she's a PINK fan, get her something comfortable from Victoria's Secret (they have other things other than underwear there, boys).

Have younger siblings? Get

VICTORIA'S SECRET
PINK
GIFTS

PINK presents, please!



them an mp3 player or a DVD of his or her favorite television show. If they are toddlers, why not that awesome Tickle Me Elmo re-release? It might remind your parents of the old days, running around and bashing other parents to get them for you!

Speaking of parents, you could go to the extreme, and buy them a puppy, which is what Boomer and Maggie Ward are doing. But that could be just a little too over the top. Otherwise, go simple and think about your folks' interests.

Does your mom like to work in the kitchen? Get her a new appliance, such as a spatula or some pots and sets of shiny silverware.

Does your dad like sports? If he's the golfing type, get him a brand new golf club and a set of golf balls. Or if he's more of the baseball/football type of man, get him a jersey from his favorite team.

If your parents run many errands during the day, they could come home feeling really tired, and in need of some relief from bad backs to hurting feet.

A great idea is to get them a gift certificate for a day at a nice spa for a massage. Maybe if you want them to feel relief all the time, get them a therapeutic item from Brookstone, such as a hand-held back massager, or an electric foot massager.

Now that your mind is brimming with ideas...stop reading and hit the stores!!!

Christmas tree - I just want you for my own - More than you could ever know - Make my wish come true - All I want for Christmas is - You - I don't need a lot for Christmas - There's just one thing I need - I don't care about the presents - Underneath the

Christmas tree - I just want you for my own - More than you could ever know - Make my wish come true - All I want for Christmas is - You - I don't need a lot for Christmas - There's just one thing I need - I don't care about the presents - Underneath the

I don't want a lot for Christmas - There's just one thing I need - I don't care about the presents - Underneath the

Jolly old Saint Nicholas, lean your ear this way! Don't you tell a single soul what I'm going to say: Christmas

A (Very Strange) Christmas Story

By: John Zimmerman

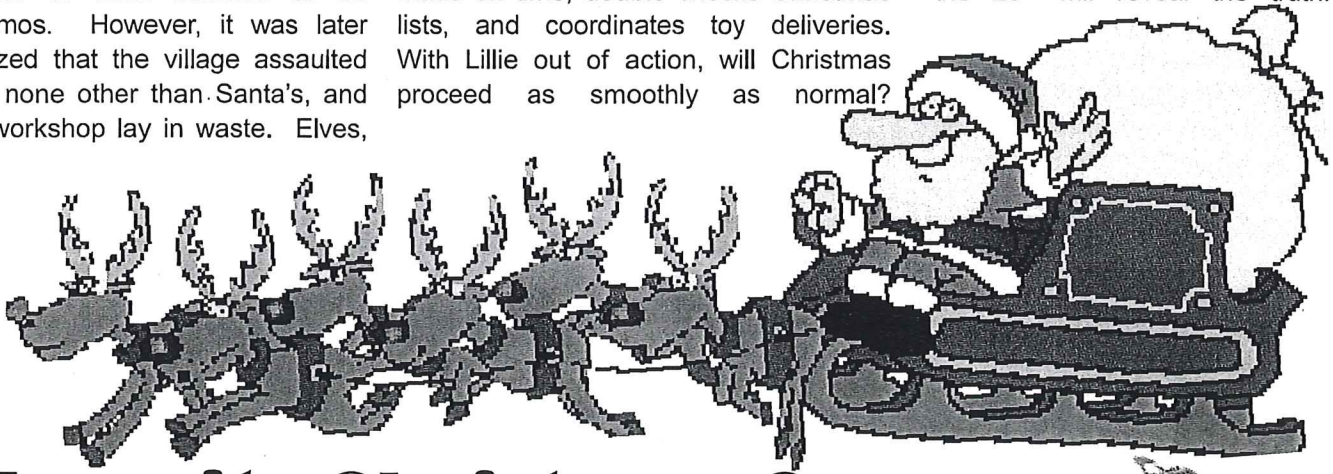
On December 21st, 2006, Beerenberg Volcano erupted, melting icebergs and sending scorching lava through a local village. Hundreds were injured and three left dead underneath soot and cinder.

Rescue teams arrived the next day searching for any survivors. They arrived at the village and gazed at the charred bodies of what seemed to be Eskimos. However, it was later realized that the village assaulted was none other than Santa's, and his workshop lay in waste. Elves,

not Eskimos, were the victims. The catastrophe occurred at a time when this normally quaint, quiet town was bustling with work for the upcoming holiday.

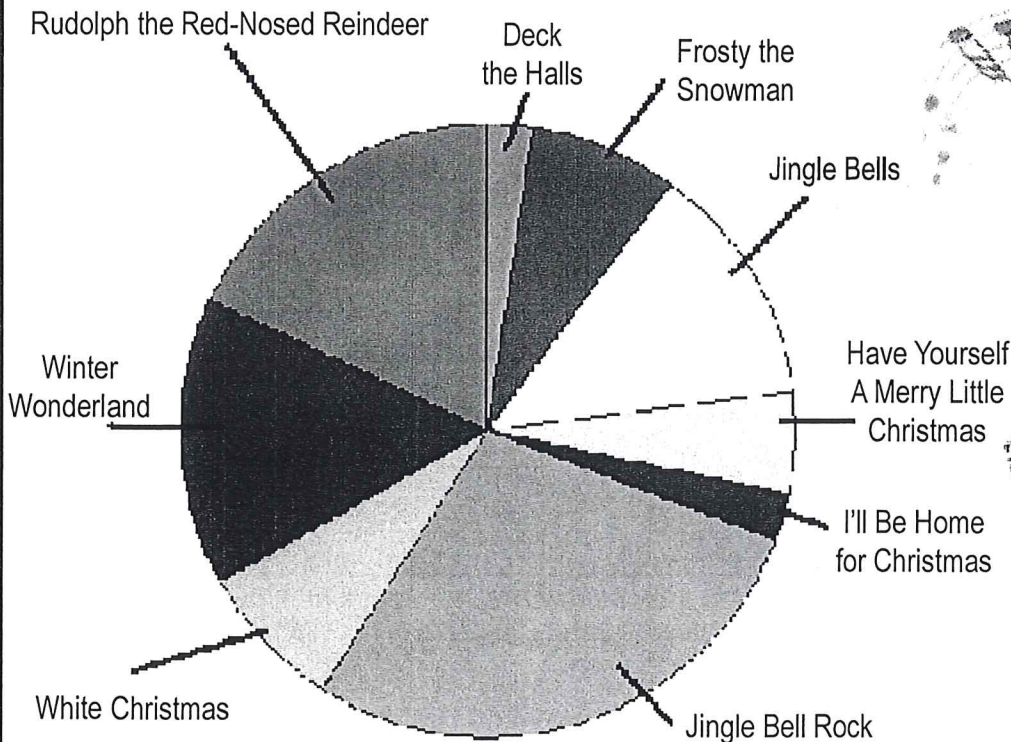
Among those wounded was chief engineer Lillie Lightfoot. Head of the toy shop for the past 234 years, Lillie is Santa's right hand elf and has ensured that each Christmas goes smoothly for Santa. He checks that all toys are made on time, double checks Christmas lists, and coordinates toy deliveries. With Lillie out of action, will Christmas proceed as smoothly as normal?

Santa Clause, unwounded, stated that this would not effect Christmas. He will import South Pole elves to replace the injured. Santa assured us that all should go according to plan. Will it though? You have to wonder if this is just Santa talking out of desperation and worry that he might not have another perfect year. Only the 25th will reveal the truth.



Favorite Christmas Songs

Of MHS Students Surveyed on Wednesday, December 13th



Eve is coming soon; now, you dear old man. Whisper what you'll bring to me; tell me if you can. When the clock is striking twelve, when I'm

fast asleep. Down the chimney, broad and black, with your pack you'll creep. All the stockings you will find

hanging in a row. mine will be the shortest one, you'll be sure to know. Bobby wants a pair of skates, Suzy wants a sled. Nellie wants a picture

Rocking around the Christmas tree at the Christmas party hop - Mistle toe hung where you can see every couple

Must See Christmas TV Specials

One of the best things to do during the Holidays is to warmly sit by the fire, and read up on the TV guide to find out when to watch your favorite classic TV specials. Here are some favorites that we enjoyed as children.

By: Jamee Shea

There is, of course, the old story A Muppets' Christmas Carol. This sentimental version featuring the Muppets gang was one of my favorite Christmas Carol adaptations growing up. Narrated by Gonzo the Great, he tells the tale of greedy and old Ebenezer Scrooge, played by Michael Kane. Scrooge is known to be cruel and wants to work instead of celebrating the holiday season, being so ignorant, almost keeping his employee, Bob Cricket or the beloved character Kermit the Frog from coming home to his wife (Piggy), and children including Tiny Tim (Robin the Frog). Later during Christmas Eve, Scrooge comes home to many creepy visitors. Taking one glance at his past, present, and future, Scrooge may have the chance to change his attitude and be liked. I thought that the music was great, and the muppets were extra cute! With comedy, drama, and a little romance, this proves to be one of the most adorable adaptations of Charles Dickson's work!



A Charlie Brown Christmas.

The story, featuring the whole Peanuts gang, shows Charlie Brown, the solemn hero, blinded by the commercialism of Christmastime, painfully searching for the true meaning of Christmas. Wondering why he is so depressed during the Holidays, he takes friend Lucy's advice to direct his school's play on the Nativity. The classic scenes of the wimpy tree, the big dancing sequence, and the heartfelt ending make this special an instant classic for all generations to appreciate from the 60s to eternity, all to help children everywhere know the true meaning of this special season.



Who doesn't love those clay animation specials? In my opinion, I love all of them. But my all-time favorite would be Santa Clause is Coming to Town. First broadcasted in 1970, this special narrated by Fred Astaire, tells the story of how young man Chris Kringle with the immense desire to do good things, and grew to become the man with the belly like a bowl full of jelly. This story also expresses the many obstacles he went through to dominate the villain Burgermeister Meisterburger, and his rule to ban all toys from the village of Sombertown. Meanwhile he courts Miss Jenny a.k.a the future Mrs. Clause, and goes on exciting adventures with his pal the Winter Warlock. What I love most about this special is its musical score, including the famous song that inspired the title.

By: Kaitlin McGuinness

Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer is one of the longest-running Christmas specials of all time. It is a beloved movie following the story of everybody's favorite red-nosed reindeer from the Christmas carol. It features some new friends, such as Hermey, the elf who wants to be a dentist, and Yukon Cornelius, a prospector. They all set off on adventures, meeting new friends on the Island of Misfit Toys and avoiding the Abominable Snowman. The story is set to music by Johnny Marks, who write the original 'Rudolf' song, based the legend of Rudolf and a story by Robert L. May. This holiday movie appeals to all ages as a tale of finding your own place.

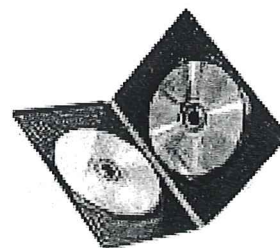
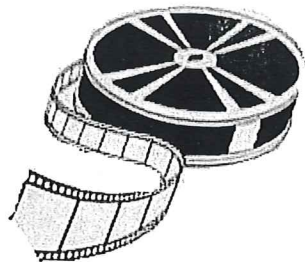
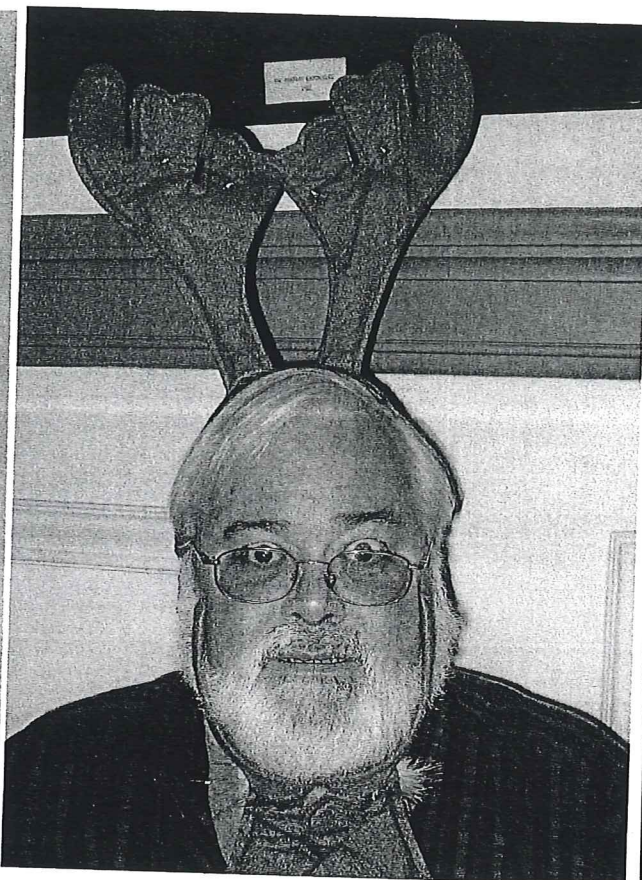
It's a Wonderful Life is possibly one of the most uplifting stories of all time, this Christmas tale is about a man named George Bailey, who has sacrificed many things in his life out of obligations to others. Throughout his life he suffered many hardships and cruel disappointments. The final blow for him is when his business partner loses all his money, and he is completely broke. It occurs to him that his life insurance policy would cover his debts, and that he comes to feel he would be 'worth more dead than alive.' He considers suicide, but an angel is sent to him, and makes him realize how valuable he really is and how much his life is worth. He decides to live, and returns home to his family. The entire town shows up to help him, and realizes that despite his hardships, the friendships he has make him 'the richest man in town.'

tries to stop - Rocking around the Christmas tree, let the Christmas spirit ring - Later we'll have some pumpkin pie and we'll do some caroling.

Rocking around the Christmas tree, have a happy holiday - Everyone dancing merrily in the new old-fashioned way. Rocking around the Christmas

You will get a sentimental feeling when you hear - 'Voices singing let's be jolly, deck the halls with boughs of holly'

Entertainment



Senior Guess Who?

1. KEYAC LUNTRIOS

This blue eyed blonde hair senior likes to snowboard and lives at the beach in the summer. She was captain of the soccer team and drives a black four runner. Guess who!

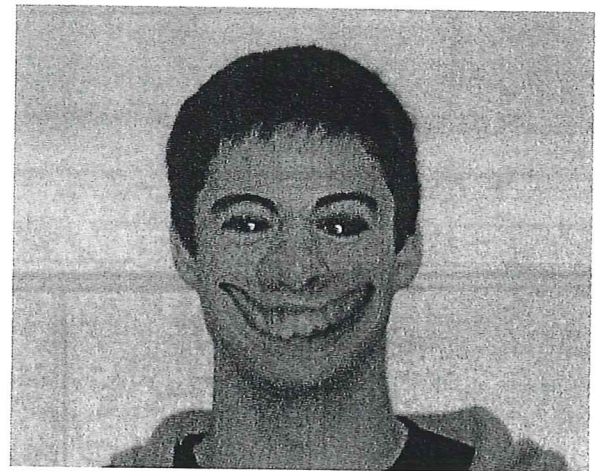
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3. EAXL COTHY

This football and baseball player has a Brady Bunch family: 3 boys and 3 girls. He is a chick magnet and can be seen with his boys: E.K, Moe, Steve, Brad. He is a regular at Mt. Creek and drives "white light," a Toyota corola. Do you know who this senior is?

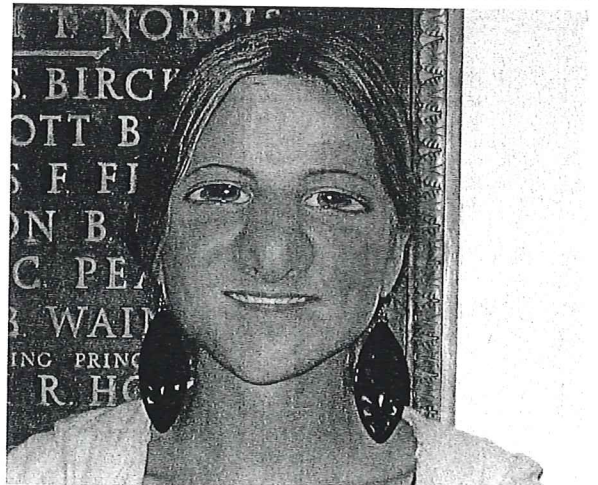
4.



5. RMEEYJ VNNCIET

This sea girt boy plays lacrosse and drives around in a green explorer. He likes to listen to techno and go to the beach. He has blue eyes and used to wear big glasses and have a bowl cut. Can any one guess who I'm talking about?

6.



7. NEIAD NKCTLAIM

This senior plays lacrosse and field hockey. She is from Brielle and loves to go for a run and workout. She has brown hair and works at Brielle Bait and Tackle. She can be spotted in her silver alero or at the mall. Any guesses!?

Blue Beat

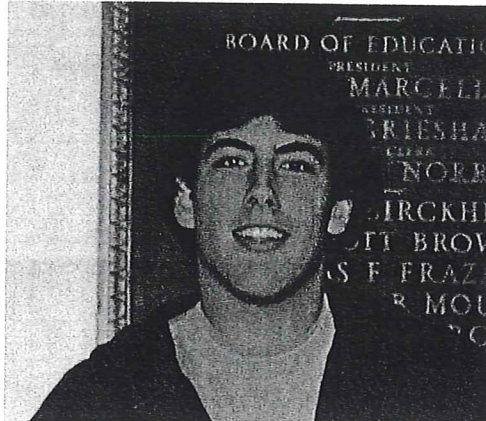
What is your favorite part of the Holiday Season, besides receiving gifts?

By: Tina Carbone



Nicole Tilton:

"Going shopping at the mall during x-mas"



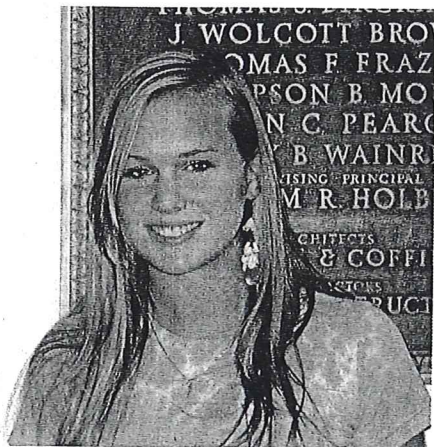
Bryson McTighe:

"Beating my cousin, Corey Lee, in our annual x-mas day ping pong match"



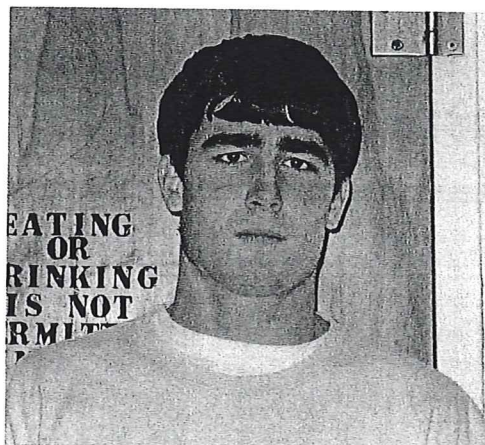
Art Forst:

"Reflecting that God, creator of the universe, came to dwell among us for the soul purpose of dying to give eternal life to mankind."



Carrie Venables:

"Seeing my family I don't see a lot"



Jack Masterson:

"Time off from school"

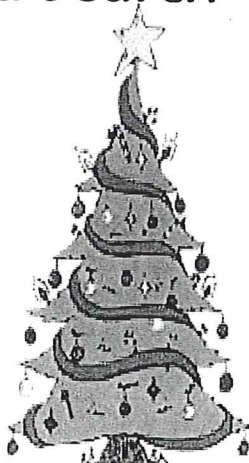


Kira Mabil:

"Spending time with my family"

Answers To Word Search

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 + + O + + C H R I S T M A S +
 + + + N + + + + + + + + + + + + +
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 + + + + W M + R W + + + + + + + + +
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Jumbles Answers

1. The Confession
2. Cars
3. Microsoft
4. Steelers
5. Elmo

Senior Guess Who Answers

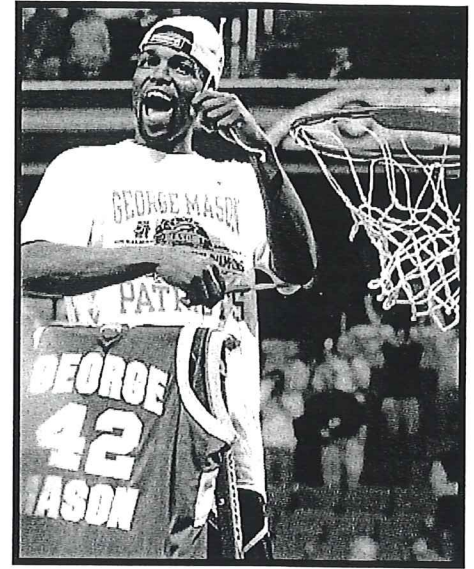
1. Kayce Lustrino
2. Teddy Weiland
3. Alex Otchy
4. Ian Craine
5. Jeremy Vincent
6. Michelle Mathews
7. Diane Mantlick

TOP SPORTS STORIES OF 2006

George Mason's Final Four Run

The Patriots of George Mason turned the college basketball world upside down with their highly improbable run to last year's Final Four. The 11th-seeded Patriots took down two perennial powerhouses, UNC and Michigan State, to advance to the Sweet 16. Everyone thought their magical run would be over, but Cinderella lived onto advance to the Elite Eight to face the top seeded UConn Huskies. George Mason looked

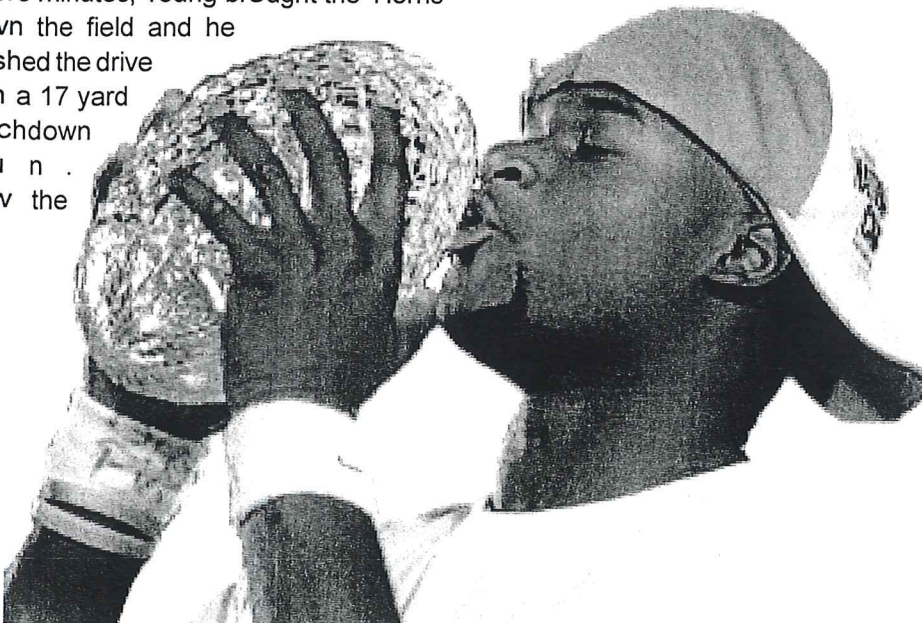
to have the game sealed until UConn hit a tough 3-pointer to send the game to overtime. Luckily for George Mason and the rest of the nation who was now GMU fanatics, the Patriots were able to outlast the powerful Huskies in OT. During March Madness, everyone become a Patriot fan. Their story and their run to the Final Four is one thing that will not be forgotten anytime soon.



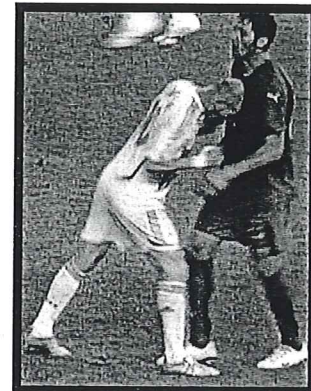
Long Time Coming For Vince and the 'Horns

Coming into the 2006 National Championship, the USC Trojans, led by Heisman winners Matt Leinart and Reggie Bush, had won 34 straight games, including two straight national titles. This is the reason why the Trojans were favored against the long-shot Longhorns and Vince Young of Texas. With 6 minutes remaining in the game, it looked as though USC would extend their streak to 35 games with the score 38-26 in their favor. But Vince Young thought differently. In two minutes, Young brought the 'Horns down the field and he finished the drive with a 17 yard touchdown run. Now the

pressure was on Leinart and the Trojans to run out the clock. On a key 4th and 2, the Trojans came up short and the ball went back to Texas. Young drove his team down to the 8 yard line and faced a key 4th and 5 with only 26 seconds remaining. Young took the snap in shotgun formation and looked for an open receiver. However, he couldn't find one so he took off up the sideline and scampered into the endzone to give Texas a 41-38 and an improbable national title.



Zidane's Headbutt



With the World Cup on the line, Zinedine Zidane was supposed to lead his France national team

against the Italians, but it ended differently. The match between France and Italy was close throughout and both teams were tied at 1-1 after regulation. In extra time, Zidane did something that he will forever be remembered for. During the 110th minute, while running down the field, Zidane turned around and head butted Marco Materazzi. At first it seemed as though the officials didn't see it, but eventually after a congregation, the head referee gave Zidane a red card and sent him off the field. France went onto lose 5-3 in penalty kicks, which leaves the question of if France had Zidane for the shoot-out, would they have been world champs?



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ohio State's Troy Smith Easily Takes Heisman

By: Travis Gassner

The 2006 Heisman Trophy voting ended in another expected landslide, as Ohio State star quarterback, Troy Smith, took home the honor. Smith's margin of victory this year, 1,662 points, was second only to O.J. Simpson's in 1968. He received 801 first-place votes and 2,540 total points over the runner up and sophomore

in the season. Smith completed 17 of 26 passes for 269 yards and two touchdowns in a 24-7 victory over the Longhorns. Last month, Smith threw for four

Arkansas running back Darren McFadden, who finished with 878 points. Surprisingly, pre-season Heisman favorite, Brady Quinn, took third with 782.

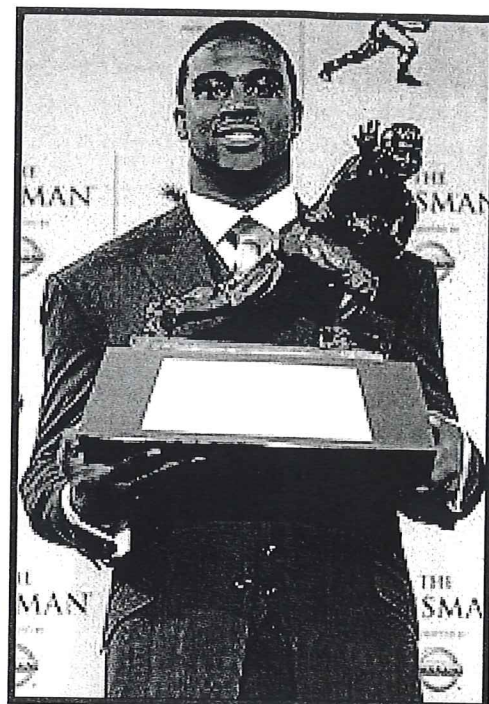
Smith credited Ohio State coach Jim Tressel and his teammates for helping him win college football's most prestigious award. "He put the ball in my hand and let me know he had trust in me to lead this team," Smith said of Tressel.

After signing with Ohio State in 2002, Smith began playing for the Buckeyes as a backup running back and return specialist. However, as a sophomore, he became the starting quarterback in the seventh game, after Justin Zwick was injured a week earlier. Smith went on to lead the Buckeyes to four victories in five games that year.

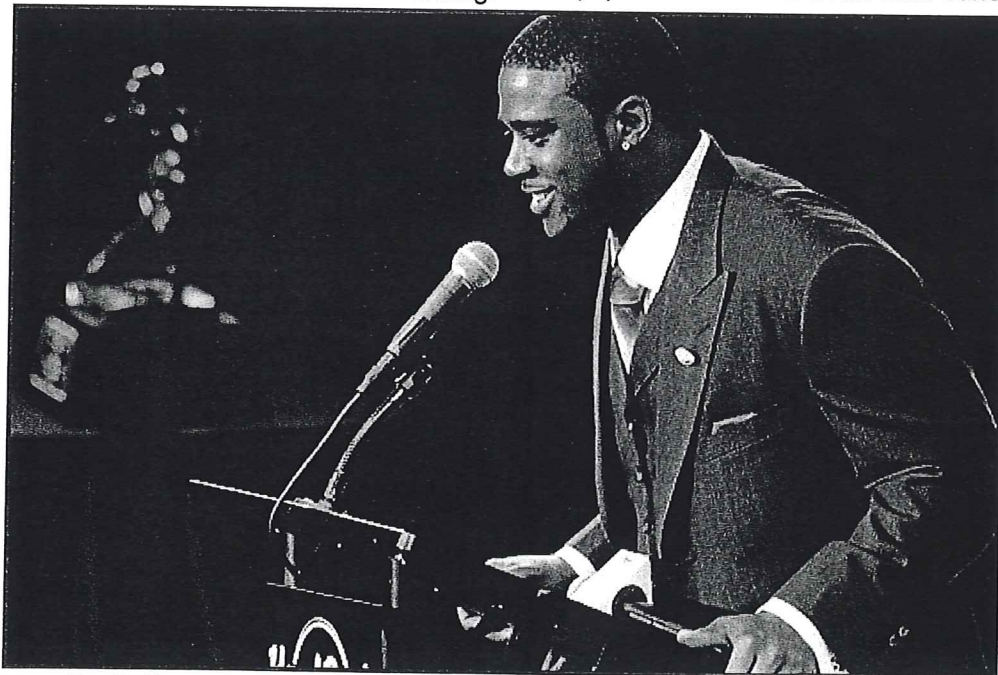
Since then, he has gone 25-2 as a starter. This season he has thrown for 2,507 yards and a university-record 30 touchdowns. He was intercepted only five times and was the nation's fourth-rated passer with a rating of 167.9.

He has come up big in key games such as the Buckeyes win over Texas, the defending national champion, early

touchdown passes in a 43-39 victory over Buckeyes' archrival, Michigan. This final game guaranteed Ohio State's birth in the national championship game against the University of Florida with a perfect record of 12-0 and a number one ranking.



Smith joined Eddie George ('95), Archie Griffin ('74-'75), Howard Cassady ('55), Vic Janowicz ('50), and Les Horvath ('44) as a Heisman winner from Ohio State. With Smith's win, Ohio State University is now tied with the University of Notre Dame and the University of Southern California with seven total Heisman victories each. It is also likely that Smith will be a top pick in the NFL Draft next June.



Troy Smith accepts the award and gives his speech after becoming the 7th Ohio State player to win the most coveted prize in all of college sports.

SERIES PREVIEW/PICKS



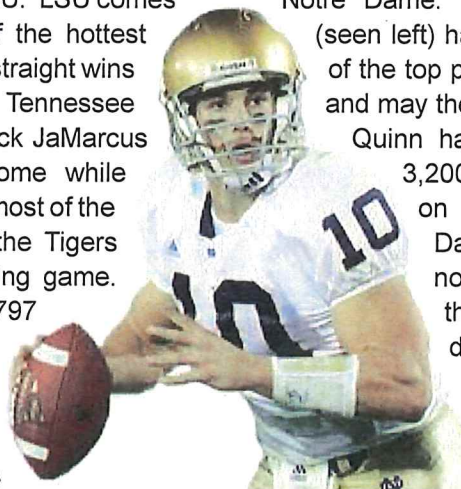
SUGAR BOWL

New Orleans, LA - 1/3/07 8PM FOX



Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. LSU Tigers

The Sugar Bowl features two at-large bids: the Fighting Irish of Notre Dame and the Tigers of LSU. LSU comes into this game as one of the hottest teams in the nation with 6 straight wins including victories over Tennessee and Arkansas. Quarterback JaMarcus Russell has been awesome while being relied on to provide most of the offense considering that the Tigers don't have a strong running game. Russell has thrown for 2,797 yards and 26 touchdowns. The Tigers may have the best defense in the nation while allowing only 12 points per game. That



defense of LSU will go up against one of the most talented offenses in the nation, Notre Dame. QB Brady Quinn (seen left) has emerged as one of the top players in the nation and may be the next #1 draft pick. Quinn has thrown for over 3,200 yards and 35 TD's on the year. Notre Dame's problem is not its offense, it is the defense. ND's defense has been suspect all year and in order to win they must contain Russell.

Boomer's - Notre Dame 34 LSU 24
Travis's - LSU 31 Notre Dame 28

OTHER KEY BOWL GAMES

Capital One Bowl

Boomer's - Wisconsin 20 Arkansas 16
 Travis's - Wisconsin 24 Arkansas 14

Toyota Gator Bowl

Boomer's - West VA 38 Georgia Tech 17
 Travis's - West VA 31 Georgia Tech 17

Meineke Car Care Bowl

Boomer's - Navy 24 Boston College 14
 Travis's - Boston College 28 Navy 10

AT&T Cotton Bowl

Boomer's - Nebraska 20 Auburn 7
 Travis's - Auburn 24 Nebraska 10

Texas Bowl

Boomer's - Rutgers 27 Kansas State 6
 Travis's - Rutgers 21 Kansas State 7



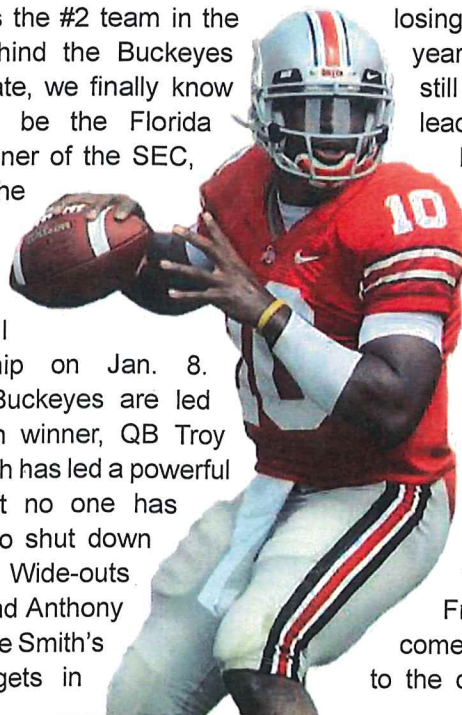
BCS CHAMPIONSHIP

Glendale, AZ - 1/8/07 8PM FOX

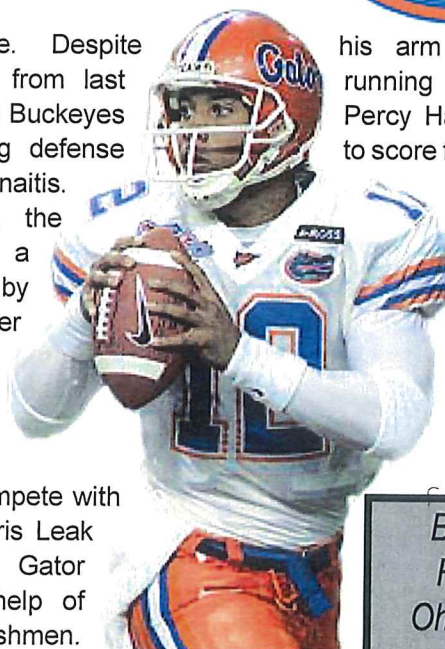
Ohio State Buckeyes vs. Florida Gators



After weeks of debate as to who was the #2 team in the country behind the Buckeyes of Ohio State, we finally know that it will be the Florida Gators, winner of the SEC, taking on the Ohio State University for the national championship on Jan. 8. The 12-0 Buckeyes are led by Heisman winner, QB Troy Smith. Smith has led a powerful offense that no one has been able to shut down thus far. Wide-outs Ted Ginn and Anthony Gonzalez are Smith's favorite targets in



their vaunted passing game. Despite losing numerous starters from last year's great defense, the Buckeyes still have a very strong defense lead by LB James Laurinaitis. Like the Buckeyes, the Gators also have a strong offense led by a veteran QB. After an impressive season with a 12-1 record, the Gators are a strong enough team to compete with the Buckeyes. Chris Leak orchestrates the Gator offense with the help of two talented freshmen. Freshman QB Tim Tebow comes off the bench to add a spark to the offense using both his feet and



his arm and freshman running back/wide-out Percy Harvin is a threat to score from any area on the field. The Gators, like every year, also have a very talented defense with blazing speed at every position.

Boomer's - Florida 38 Ohio State 31

Travis's - Ohio State 35 Florida 24