

The Blue & Gray Sports Section

January Issue

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- Top 10 College Football teams of 2006-2007
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Editors' Opinion

Every single issue, Matt Gebhard and Brendan "Boomer" Ward will be bringing their own personal opinions about a hot topic in the world of sports. There will be a new and completely different topic each and every month. Enjoy.

Who's Better:

J.J. Redick or Adam Morrison?

Boomer's View

Being a Duke fan, my gut instinct right away is to say that J.J. Redick is the most valuable player in the nation. Even if I wasn't a Duke fan then I would most likely think that Redick is still the most valuable player in the nation because he means so much to his team. Morrison has unbelievable talent, but Redick is incredible as well and he means so much to his team.

J.J. Redick as a freshman was a one-dimensional player. All he could do was shoot the ball. But as his four years progressed at Duke, he also progressed as a college basketball player. Today he is the best scorer in college basketball. He can hit a three pointer from five feet behind the line and if you guard him too tight then he will drive right pass you and either pull up for a mid-range shot or go to the hole for a lay-up. He is the all-time leader in NCAA history for free-throw percentage. He has scored over 2,000 points in his

Every single opposing team's defense is designed to try to stop he always seems to 20 points a game. The best defenders hound game long yet he still and his points because how to move without never stops moving. coming off screens holes in the defense.

Redick means Blue Devils team. Redick the Blue Devils only one loss and be the #2 team in the nation. Redick is the emotionally leader of that team as he inspires all of his teammates to perform to their best abilities. He



Duke career. game, the defense is Redick. Yet have at least other team's Redick all gets his shots he knows the ball. He He is always and looking for

a lot to the Without would not have



Matt's View

The Gonzaga Bulldogs Men's Basketball team revolves around one player. That player is Adam Morrison. Morrison is the

starting junior forward for the 'Zags. He averages 28.0 pts/game, along with about 6 boards and 2 assists.

As a kid, Morrison idolized Larry Bird, and in a lot of respects plays like him. At 6'8" he's an excellent face-up scorer and can burn you with the 3 pointer or the jumper off

the dribble. Also ability with the drive to the basket

Morrison points twice this a performance State at the Maui game that if it was would have been (however it still Michigan State seconds to play, a 3-pointer and sent to overtime.



his great maneuver ball allows him to from the perimeter. has scored 40 plus season, including against Michigan Invitational in a played in March deemed a classic should be). With down three with 2 Maurice Ager hit the game was

However one OT period wasn't enough for this classic. It took three OT periods to decide that the Bulldogs would be the victor 109-106. Morrison played 52 of the 55 minutes, scoring 43, grabbing 7 rebounds, and 4 assists. His 43 points were a tournament record. Including two free throws with 19 seconds left giving the 'Zags a 107-106 lead.

After 18 games the Bulldogs are 15-3, including a loss to UConn in the Maui final. In which Morrison scored just 18. But in the teams other two losses, Morrison has scored 43 at Washington, and 34 at Memphis.

Morrison is obviously the key player for Gonzaga. Without Morrison the Bulldogs are probably would not be ranked at #7 right now. In all but two of the 'Zags wins

Pro Sports

NHL Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

Team	W	L	OTL	PTS
Philadelphia	30	11	8	68
NY Rangers	28	14	7	63
New Jersey	25	19	5	55
NY Islanders	20	24	3	43
Pittsburgh	11	29	9	31

Northeast

Ottawa	33	10	4	70
Buffalo	29	15	3	61
Toronto	24	21	3	51
Montreal	21	19	6	48
Boston	19	21	8	46

Southeast

Carolina	33	11	4	70
Tampa Bay	25	20	3	53
Atlanta	23	20	6	52
Florida	18	24	7	43
Washington	17	25	5	39

Western Conference

Central

Detroit	32	13	3	67
Nashville	30	12	6	66
Chicago	16	27	6	38
Columbus	17	30	2	36
St. Louis	11	29	7	29

Northwest

Calgary	29	14	5	63
Vancouver	28	16	5	61
Colorado	27	19	3	57
Edmonton	25	18	6	56
Minnesota	23	21	4	50

Pacific

Dallas	31	15	2	64
LA Kings	30	18	3	63
Anaheim	21	16	10	52
San Jose	22	17	6	50
Phoenix	24	23	2	50

NBA Standings

Eastern Conference

Atlantic

Team	W	L	Conf	DIV
New Jersey	22	17	15-9	5-3
Philadelphia	20	20	8-13	5-3
Boston	17	24	9-14	5-2
Toronto	14	28	11-13	2-6
New York	13	26	5-16	1-4

Northeast

Detroit	33	5	17-2	3-1
Cleveland	21	17	13-6	6-2
Milwaukee	21	19	16-8	3-5
Indiana	21	19	11-11	3-3
Chicago	17	23	11-11	2-6

Southeast

Miami	24	17	12-8	5-1
Washington	18	21	11-11	3-5
Orlando	16	22	10-12	6-1
Atlanta	11	28	7-14	0-5
Charlotte	11	30	9-17	2-4

Western Conference

Central

Denver	24	19	12-11	3-2
Utah	21	21	9-11	3-3
Minnesota	19	19	12-13	5-3
Seattle	16	24	6-14	4-2
Portland	14	25	5-16	1-6

Southwest

San Antonio	31	10	16-4	5-2
Dallas	31	10	18-7	7-2
Memphis	24	15	16-8	4-4
NO/OK City	20	21	13-11	5-5
Houston	14	26	7-15	0-8

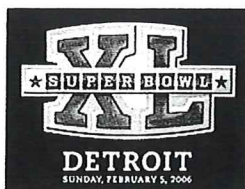
Pacific

Phoenix	26	14	15-11	6-3
LA Clippers	22	16	12-9	5-4
LA Lakers	22	19	9-14	2-4
Golden State	19	21	8-12	1-7
Sacramento	17	23	11-13	5-1

What 2 Watch 4

NFL

Super Bowl XL - Feb. 5, 2006 in
Detroit
Pro Bowl Feb 12, 2006 in Hawaii



Olympics

2006 Winter Olympics in Torino,
Italy
2/10-2/26



College Basketball

#1 Duke @ #23 UNC
Feb. 7



College Football

BCS Games

Continued from pg. 41

Virginia Mountaineers held on against the #8 Georgia Bulldogs for a 38-35 victory. The Mountaineers' freshman running back, Steve Slaton, carried the team as he ran for a Sugar Bowl record, 204 yards rushing. He also had three touchdowns.

West Virginia jumped out to a 28-0 lead only a minute into the second quarter. The Mountaineers first got on the board by a 52 yard touchdown run by Slaton on the opening drive. Their second touchdown was a touchdown pass to Darius Reynaud from Pat White. Reynaud added another score on a 13 yard touchdown run before the end of the first. Then at the beginning of the second, Slaton broke an 18 yard touchdown run to extend the lead to 28-0. However, Georgia did not roll over and give up. Before the end of halftime, they cut the lead to 31-21 after two rushing touchdowns (one by Gregg Lumpkin and one by Thomas Brown) and a pass touchdown from D.J. Shockley to tight end Leonard Pope.

The second half didn't see quite as much offense as the first. The only score of the third quarter was a touchdown pass from D.J. Shockley to

A.J. Bryant from 34 yards out. That cut the lead to only a field goal. West Virginia did eventually respond with another 52 yard touchdown run by Slaton with 8 minutes to play in the game. But Georgia wasn't done yet. With 5 minutes to go, Shockley threw his third touchdown pass of the day. Georgia thought they were going to get the ball back when West Virginia had a 4th and 6 and they were in punt formation. However, punter Phil Brady took the long snap and ran for 10 yards and the first down to seal the victory for the Mountaineers.

The best game of the three was definitely the Orange Bowl between the #3 Nittany Lions and the #22 Florida State Seminoles. The game went into three overtimes. The Nittany Lions finally secured the victory by a final of 26-23. The game was hyped up because of the two great coaches patrolling the sidelines, Bobby Bowden of Florida State and Joe Paterno of Penn State. The coaches rank 1 and 2 in career victories.

Penn State struck first when Austin Scott scampered in the end zone from two yards out with 5 minutes to play in the first quarter. Florida State didn't get on the board until the second quarter when Willie Reid returned a punt

87 yards for the touchdown. Less than two minutes later, Florida State quarterback, Drew Weatherford, threw a 57 yard strike to Lorenzo Booker for a touchdown to give Florida State their first lead of the game. The score was 13-7 because of a missed kick on the extra point by Gary Cismesia. Before the half, Penn State responded back with a touchdown pass from Michael Robinson to Ethan Kilmer. The score at the half was 14-13 in favor of Penn State.

Both teams were held scoreless in the third quarter as they both had trouble moving the ball and getting first downs. The first score of the second half was a safety by the Penn State defense. The safety occurred because FSU's Weatherford was called for intentional grounding when he was in his own end zone.

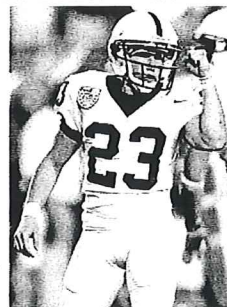
The Nittany Lions had a chance to put the game away when they were on the four yard line with 9 minutes to play, but Florida State recovered a botched snap. Florida State's

was not ready for overtime quite yet. He marched his Nittany Lions down the field and completed two clutch throws to get Penn State in field goal range. However, Penn State's freshman kicker, Kevin Kelly, missed a 29 yard field goal. The miss may have been caused by a shaky hold. That sent the game to overtime.

Florida State got the ball first in the first overtime. The first overtime saw missed field goals once again. Florida State's Cismesia missed wide right from 44 yards out. Then Penn State's Kelly missed wide left from 38 yards. In the second overtime, Penn State got the ball first and scored a touchdown on Austin Scott one yard touchdown run. Florida State responded right back when they had their own one yard

touchdown run by B.J. Dean. The third overtime was once again decided by field goal kicking. Cismesia missed another field goal, this one from 38 yards out. Then

Penn State got the ball with a chance to win the game. On a second down from the 12, Paterno sent his field goal unit out. Then Kevin Kelly connected on a 29 yard field goal to give the Nittany Lions the victory.



Kevin Kelly after the game-winning field goal

National Championship

Long Time Coming

Continued from pg. 39

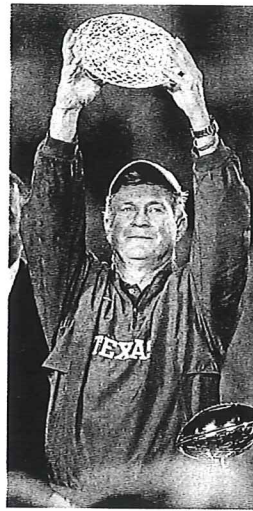
championship. The Trojans got a few first downs and got to midfield. On a third down play, LenDale White got stuffed and that brought up a 4th and 2. USC and Pete Carroll chose to go for it rather than punt the ball to the Longhorns. The decision was reminiscent of USC's decision to go for the touchdown on the goal line against Notre Dame on October 15. USC got the touchdown with only a few seconds left on the clock. However, this time was different.

The Longhorns defense stuffed LenDale White on 4th and 2 and Vince Young and his offense got the ball back on their own 44 yard line with about 2 minutes to go. Young looked calm and poised as he led the Longhorns down the field with 4 completions. Texas got down to the 13 yard line. After an incompletion on third down, the Longhorns faced a 4th and 5 from the 8 with about 26 seconds left. Vince Young took the ball in a shotgun formation. He looked for an open receiver, but couldn't find one so he took off and ran into the endzone with only 19 seconds left to give the Longhorns a 41-38 victory following a two-point conversion.

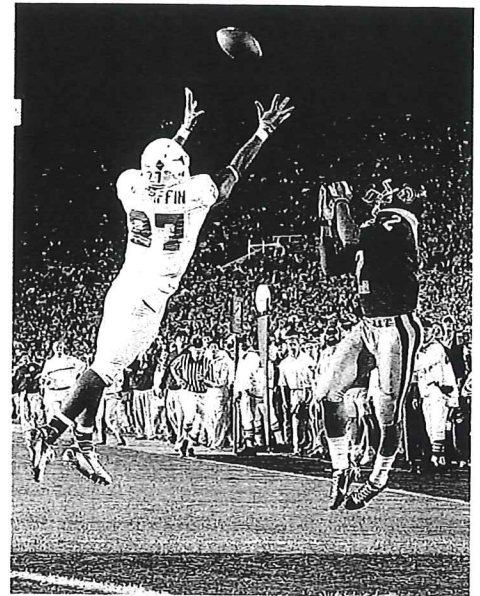
Vince Young was the MVP of the game. Young threw for 267 yards and rushed for 200 including 3 rushing touchdowns. He had arguably the best individual performance in a national championship. Young who was disappointed in his Heisman finish, showed the entire nation that he could very well have been this year's Heisman winner. Young decided to forgo his senior year at Texas and enter the NFL Draft. He is going to be a top pick.

The Trojans run as the top team in the nation ended along with their 34 game winning streak. Heisman winner, Reggie Bush, was not his usually self as he only had 82 yards rushing and 95 yards receiving with only 1 TD. Former Heisman winner, Matt Leinart had a strong game for USC finishing with 365 yards passing, but the Texas Longhorns were too much for Leinart, Bush, and the Trojans.

Texas had many doubters coming into the game against USC. They were underdogs and no one really gave them a chance against the 34 game winning streak of USC. Yet Texas overcame adversity and a 12 point deficit in the final six minutes, to win the national championship and become the best team in the nation.



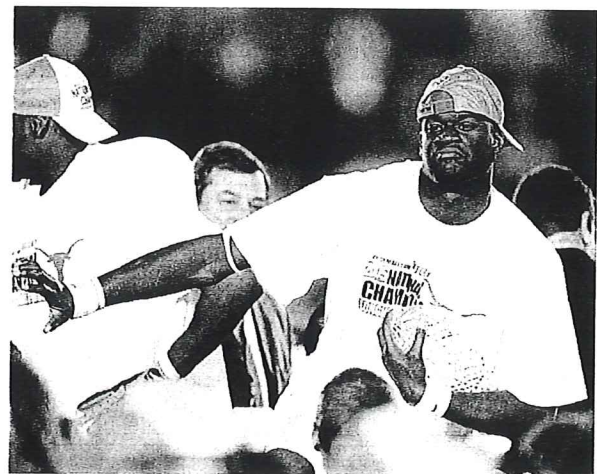
Texas head coach, Mack Brown, lifts up the National Championship trophy.



Longhorns safety, Michael Griffin, makes a pivotal interception against Matt Leinart and the Trojans to prevent them from getting a touchdown.



Left, this year's Heisman winner Reggie Bush does his trademark head dive on his 26 yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter. Below, game MVP, Vince Young, shows everyone who he thought should have won the Heisman as he does the Heisman pose with the national championship in his arm.



NFL Football

NFL Wild Card Teams Prove They're Worthy

By: Matt Gebhard

The playoffs, or what is called the real season of the NFL, started on January 7th. 12 teams out of 32 were eligible to claim the right to be called world champion. Each and every team works hard out of training camp to get to the post season but only the ones who want it the most survive the treacherous regular season. It's the teams that make it through injuries and other devastating losses that prevail.

The Redskins and the Bucs, started the festivities. Ironically the last time the 'Skins were in the playoffs (1999) they faced the Bucs in the divisional round. This time the two teams were squaring in the wild card round for the right to play the Seahawks in the divisional round. Washington surprisingly put on a defensive clinic against one of the best defenses in the league. They scored both of their touchdowns off turnovers including a Lavar Arrington pick that set up a Portis rushing score and Redskins safety Sean Taylor returned a fumble, of his own teammate who had initially recovered a Simms fumble, for a touchdown. Later in



Portis runs by the Bucs "D"

the game Sean Taylor was accused of spitting in face of Bucs HB Michael Pittman who then proceeded to hit Taylor in the face. However it was Taylor who was ejected and later fined \$17,000 by the league.

The New England Patriots proved that despite a sub par year, they are still the defending champs as they beat up on the hopeful Jaguars 28-10. The Patriots defense tamed a Jaguar offense that showed no signs of life until an injured Byron Leftwich was taken out and replaced by a capable back-up David Garrard who got a touchdown which was too little too late for Jacksonville.

On the second day of the Wild Card Round, The Giants had their first home playoff game since 2000, the year they clinched home field advantage throughout the playoffs, only to lose to Baltimore in the Super Bowl. The Giants fans were loud in the

beginning, but had nothing to cheer about during the game, as Carolina scored all the points in a 23-0 blow out. Tiki Barber was held to a season low 41 yards rushing. But it was Eli Manning who couldn't handle the pressure. He threw three picks that set up two Panther scores. The Giants were the first team to get shut out in the playoffs since the Colts were shut out by the Jets in the Meadowlands ironically.

Later that day, the Cincinnati Bengals played their first playoff game since 1989. They hosted the wild card Pittsburgh Steelers. On Carson Palmer's first pass of the game he was injured tearing his ACL and MCL, ending his season. The Steelers took advantage effectively ending the rival Bengals season with the 31-17 win.

In the end all of this means, that three of the four wild card teams advanced to the divisional round. The Panthers, Redskins, and Steelers, all earned the right

to move on and play the one and two seeds of their respective conferences.

On January 14th the Seahawks started things off

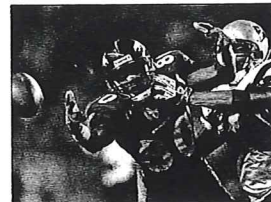
hosting the Redskins. The game was a defensive battle for most of it. In the fourth quarter after Santana Moss caught a deflected pass in the end zone to bring the 'Skins within a TD down 17-10, the Redskins' kicker John Hall forced a fumble on the ensuing kick off giving the Redskins a good chance of getting back into the game. However once again defense prevailed for Seattle, and set up a John Hall field goal attempt, which he put wide left, allowing the Seahawks to run out the clock.

The Seahawks lost their star Sean Alexander in the first half to a concussion, but he played the following Sunday for the Championship Game.

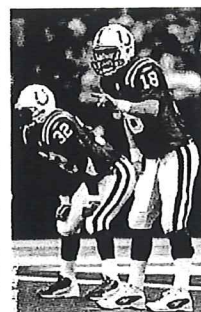
The Patriots went into Denver to defend their title that same night against the Broncos. The Broncos had won the battle during the season with a steady

running attack at a bruised and battered Patriots defense. This time it wasn't a strong running game but mistakes by the Pats at crucial times that ended their chances

at a 3-peat, and their fourth Super Bowl win in five years. Veteran receiver/corner Troy Brown muffed a punt



Smith & Harrison
fight for the ball



Manning calling signals

Continued on page 33

NFL Football

5 Teams Clinch Playoff Spots

Weeks 16 & 17

By: Matt Gebhard

Before Week 16 of the NFL got started, four teams, the Colts, Broncos, Seahawks, and Bears, had all clinched the first and second seeds of their respected conferences. This meant four playoff spots remained in both the AFC and NFC, the last two division winners and the two wildcard spots.

The Giants were trying to become the third team in the NFC to clinch a playoff spot on Christmas Eve day. In fact for the first time in five years they were trying to become NFC East Champs. The only people standing in their way were the division rival Washington Redskins. Things looked ominous from the start for the Giants after Eli Manning tried to connect with Plaxico Burress, on a deep pass that was dropped by Burress that would have scored a touchdown. The Giants would blow their chance at the NFC East crown and went on to lose the game 35-20.

Atlanta went into Tampa Bay not being able to afford a loss or their playoff hopes would diminish. The Falcons and Bucs decided that regulation was not enough to decide the victor and took the game to overtime. In O.T. Atlanta's place kicker Todd Peterson had a



Mike Vick had trouble escaping the rush all season

Jay Feely and missed a game field goal up Tampa Matt Bryant ended up winning the game and sealing the Falcons playoff fate.

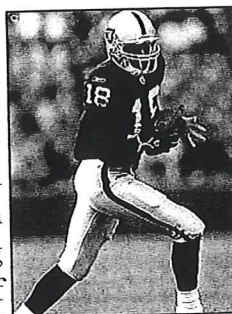


On Christmas day football was celebrated by some as the Chargers traveled to Kansas City to take on the Chiefs. The Chargers were coming off a win over the, then undefeated Colts, and the Chiefs were trying to keep their playoff hopes alive. Both teams need a win to stay in the playoff hunt, and in doing so would knock the loser off the bubble. In an unexpected twist the Chiefs were able to pull off the upset 20-7.

Despite the loss the Giants however were fortunate enough to receive a Christmas gift from their old super bowl nemesis the Baltimore as their win over the Vikings guaranteed a Giants playoff birth.

At the start of Week 17 the playoff picture was much clearer. In the AFC only one spot remained but two teams (the Steelers and Chiefs) were still eligible for the final playoff birth. For the Steelers it was simple win and they're in, but the Chiefs needed a win and some help too, including a loss by the Steelers. The Chiefs traveled to Cincinnati to take on the Bengals who were already playoff bound. The Bengals rested their starters for playoffs, leaving the door wide open for a Chiefs victory, winning a blow out 37-3. However the Chiefs would not be able to enjoy the spoils of the victory because the Steelers took care of business against the Lions 35-21 putting them in the final wild card spot.

episode potential winning setting Bay's who



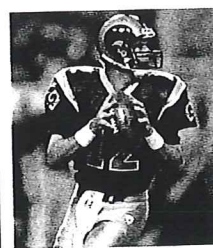
Randy Moss of the Oakland Raiders makes the reception

Things in the NFC were not so clear however. With only one more game remaining three spots were still open for four teams. On New Years Eve the Giants were trying to clinch the NFC East Crown and could do so with a win over the Raiders in Oakland. Tiki Barber made another strong case for MVP rushing for 203 yards including a 95 yard run that got the Giants on the board, en route to a 30-21 victory and an NFC East crown, the first in five years. Despite falling down early, to the rival Eagles 17-7, the Redskins were not denied their playoff birth, as it was great, late defensive play helped them get into the post-season for the first time since 1999 winning 31-20. The Redskins win in turn ended Dallas' playoff chances, because the Panthers ended their seven game losing streak in Atlanta, 44-3. Finally it was Tampa Bay clinching the third seed, getting a tough win against the Saints.

Some teams will be looking

Continued on page 37

Players of the Week



Week 16: In a losing effort, Rams back-up quarterback, **Jamie Martin** threw 354 yards on 33-41 throwing with a TD.



Week 17: Giants' running back **Tiki Barber** rushed for 203 yards on 28 carriers, including a 95 yard run for the first score of the game.

Squan H.S. Sports

Player of the Month

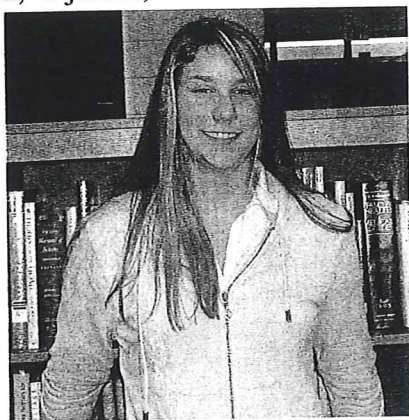


Ryan McGrath

Basketball

Ryan McGrath emerged as a leader for the team this season. She said, "As a point guard I have a lot of responsibility." However, she feels the seniors are still the real leaders. She believes the team's expectations are being met not only because of her effort, but also because of the whole team's output. Her personal goal is to win a championship this season. She also hopes the team's winning trend continues throughout the rest of the season.

Ryan, a junior, has



Jason Westrol

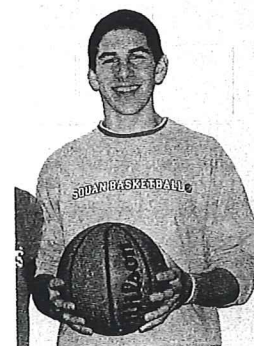
Basketball

Senior point-guard, Jason Westrol, is having an outstanding season for the boy's basketball team. His dazzling skills and hard-work have allowed him to play an important role in every game. So far, he is averaging 22.6 points, 6 assists, and 4 steals per game.

Jason has emerged as one of the team's leaders this season because of his terrific performances. He feels good about the team's success at the time. Westrol said, "We are coming along very well as

a team. Our expectations are being met when we play together as a team." It is this kind of attitude that makes Jason such a valuable asset to the team.

This season, Jason has many goals. As a team, he wants to win the Shore Conference Championship, along with the State Championship. One of his personal goals is to score one thousand career points. Judging by how the season is going so far, Westrol is on pace to accomplish both of these goals.



Squan Sports Records At a Glance

Boys' Basketball
Record: 11-3
Next Game: 1/31 vs.
Holmdel

Ice Hockey
Record: 9-5-1
Next Game: 2/1 @
Arthur L. Johnson

Girls' Swimming
Record: 3-5
Next Meet: 1/30 vs.
St. Rose

Boys' Bowling
Record: 0-10
Season Completed

Girls' Basketball
Record: 9-5
Next Game: 1/31 @
Holmdel

Wrestling
Record: 6-1
Next Game: 1/31 @
Lakewood

Boys' Swimming
Record: 2-6
Next Meet: 1/30 vs.
St. Rose

Girls' Bowling
Record: 5-5
Season Completed

Squan High School Sports

Winter Track Performs Well

By: Travis Gassner

The winter track team has had a great season so far this year. According to Coach Read, "So far the season has been very successful. The consistent terrific weather has allowed us to have many good practices and many of our athletes have made great improvements."

The boys hurdle relay team, consisting of Kevin Kircher, Brendan Quigley, Tom Salaway, and R.J. Read, has been an outstanding group. The team also has many promising freshman, including Pat Gallagher and Aden Nielsen, who make up the distance medley team.

At the County

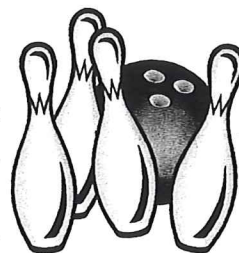
Relays, their first meet of the season, they did very well. The boys hurdle relay team finished seventh overall and missed medaling by a tenth of a second. At their next meet, the County Championships, the team had similar successes. The boys 4x400 team, consisting of Kevin Kircher, Brendan Quigley, R.J. Read, and Mike Scureman finished seventh overall. Kircher and Quigley also qualified for the finals in the 55 hurdles race. The team's next matches will be the State Relays, followed by the State Individual Championships.



Boys' Bowling Still Looking for 1st Win

By: Jess Sinkhorn

Manasquan bowling teams have been trying their best in all the games they bowl all season. The girl's team has improved to a match play record of 5-5 and unfortunately, the boy's have yet to win a match and are 0-10.



On January 17th, Point Boro was able to beat both of the Manasquan bowling teams. The boy's lost every match where the girl's only beat one match out of three. The boy's teams' best bowler that day was Cook with a 173-493 series. Danielle Cocks led the girl's team with 211-562 series.

Danielle Cocks is the leader of the girl's team, winning a great percentage of her games, bowling over 500 in most of them.

Mr. Glenn is very pleased with the way the girls are playing this year. The girl's team believes that they can develop an even

better record as they head to the end of the season.

Though the boy's have never won a match this season, they have won a game inside a match earlier in the season. The boy's are hopeful to get wins from upcoming matches.

Swimming

By: Jess Sinkhorn

The Manasquan Swim team went into the Monmouth County Tournament on January seventh with a 2-4 record for both the girl's and boy's teams. The tournament was held at Ocean City College, where the boy's placed tenth and the girl's placed eleventh. Emmett Walling won both of his heats in the 200 individual medley and 100 breast stroke and Tyler Martz had an amazing day, beating all of his previous heat records. Jaqi Tumas, Liz Walling, and

Val Pecorero also swam very well.

Their next meet was at the Jewish Community Center against Holmdel on January eleventh, where both of Squan's swim teams lost, making their record 2-5.

The team looks forward to the Shore Conference Championships where they will go against some of the best swim teams in the shore. Another game that will be attended by many fans is the last game of the regular season against Wall High School.

Ice Hockey

Continued from pg. 31

first hat trick of the season scoring two goals early and scoring the final goal of the evening. The Warriors beat the opponent 5-1 with other goals by Drew Scharff and Higgins.

Other games this season that Squan have yet to play and are not conference match ups are West Windsor Plainsboro South and Governor Livingston high schools. The Warriors look with confidence to win these games to improve their record as they look forward to the post-season.

Squan High School Sports

Boys' Basketball Hits Minor Set-back



Girls' Basketball Is On a Roll

By: Matt Gebhard

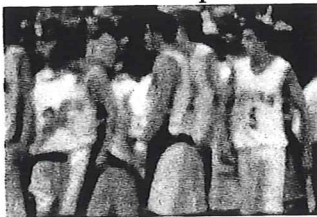
After an impressive start, Squan had its first loss to Freehold Township on December 29th. The loss took place during the Jack Kuhnert Christmas Tourney. The entire game was a close one as the final score proved 62-61. The win boosted Freehold from 3rd to 2nd in the shore.

With 25 seconds left Freehold hit a go ahead jumper and on the ensuing possession Squan's Chris

White dribbled baseline and tried to draw a foul that he didn't get. Most fans thought there was contact and the call was questionable. Squan did catch a break in Freehold's next possession. They threw the ball out of bounds giving the ball back to Squan. With 1.5 seconds to go the ball was put into the hands of, star point guard, Jason Westrol who threw up a heavily contested, potentially game winning three that hit the front of the rim and rimmed out.

Squan's next meeting was against Matawan. Squan started sluggish against an unequal

Matawan squad and went into the half tied at 22-22. However they picked it up in the third and began an 18-0 run to make the score 40-22, and they would end up winning 53-43. Westrol, the team's leading scorer, dropped 17 in the win. While the Warriors received a spark off the bench from



Squan tries to regroup after two straight losses to Mon Don and Asbury Park

Anthony Richardson, who threw down 8 and preformed well defensively.

After three more impressive victories, Squan played in the Battle on the Boardwalk, against Monsignor Donovan, who was ranked 4th in the

shore while Squan was at number 3. Squan went up 7 at the half 29-22, and looked on their way to win number five in a row. However Mon Don outscored Squan by 12 in the second

Continued on pg. 33

The Lady Warriors have become red hot lately. After starting their season off with two losses, they have now won seven straight games, improving their record to 8-4. Their other two losses came in the Freehold Christmas Tournament, in which they won their first game, but went on to lose their next two.

However, the girls put this all behind them as they came out on January 3rd and beat Matawan 49-40. They

By: Travis Gassner

School. Junior Ryan McGrath led the team with 17 points and senior Nichole Hawkins chipped in with 13. On January 10th, the Lady Warriors had a 45-36 upset against Rumson Fair-Haven, who were ranked number three in the Shore and unbeaten at the time. Again McGrath and Hawkins were leading scorers, with a combined thirty-four points. Two days later, they



Nichole Hawkins gets ready to attempt her foul shot. Since getting Hawkins back from her injury, the Warriors have been the hottest team in the Shore.

won their game against the Raritan Rockets, 52-34, with Hawkins scoring 17 and McGrath scoring 12. At the Battle on the Boardwalk, the number five Warriors made another statement by becoming the first team to defeat the Monmouth Regional Falcons. After coming back from a nine-point deficit in the third quarter, the girls went on to win 49-38. Hawkins had an outstanding game, scoring 22 points, while McGrath added 17 of her own.

Continued on pg. 33



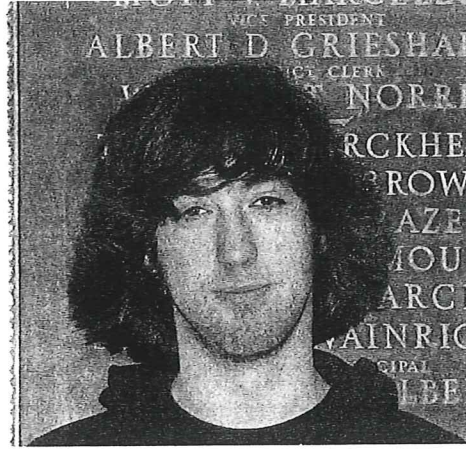
Blue Beat

By: Sam Buddle and Tina Carbone

"What is your New Year's Resolution?"



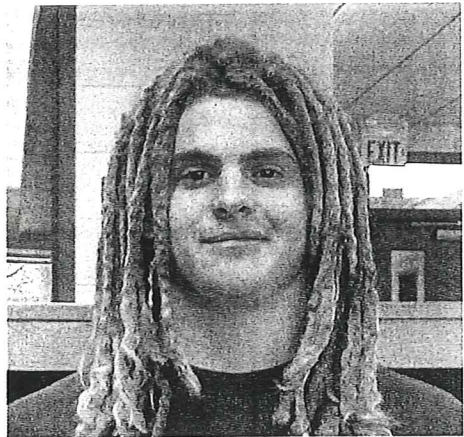
Anne Burrus:
"Go to the gym everyday"



Frankie Bernardo:
"To lose some weight"



Brian Rohrmann:
"To get better grades in school"



Martin Marshall:
"To get my weight up"



Alycia Narvaez:
"To be more openminded"



Landon Reto:
"To do better in school"

Answers to Senior Guess Who

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Kevin Fitzgerald | 2. Lindsay Walker |
| 3. George Vahamonde | 4. Joe Florentine |
| 5. Katie Corbo | 6. Danny Sullivan |

January Word Search Solution

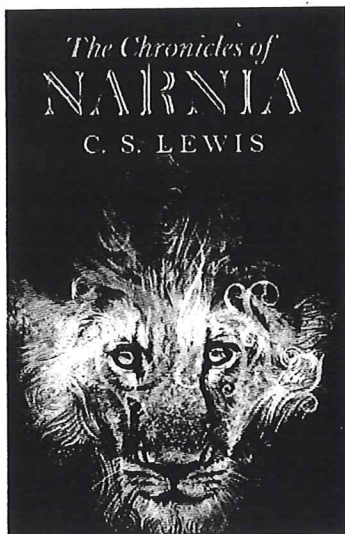
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++++F+++++S
++C+++++N
+++RN+++++O
NOITARBELECI
DLOCLMF++++T
W+++SRM++++U
+O++O++I+++L
++NS++++N++O
++TS+++++G+S
BEGINNING++E
++++++++++R
++++++++++
  
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Movie Review

Chronicles of Narnia

By: *Almy Egan*



I never read the Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe, but after seeing the movie, I immediately wanted to read it. Lucy, Edmund, Susan, and Peter Pevensie travel through a magical portal inside of a wardrobe from World War II England into the mystical land of Narnia.

Narnia is inhabited by many magical beasts and people. It is ruled by an evil White Witch who

rules Narnia with an unbreakable spell. All fear her. Because of her, Narnia is consistently in a state of winter. The children represent the prophets who will save Narnia from the White Witch. They battle the White Witch with the help of a Christ-like lion named Aslan.

The story is a parable of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, but it is not overbearingly so. It is an enjoyable story even if you are an Atheist. The special effects are really exciting and all of the characters are well portrayed. I would definitely recommend for anyone to see this movie.

Movie Review

The Family Stone

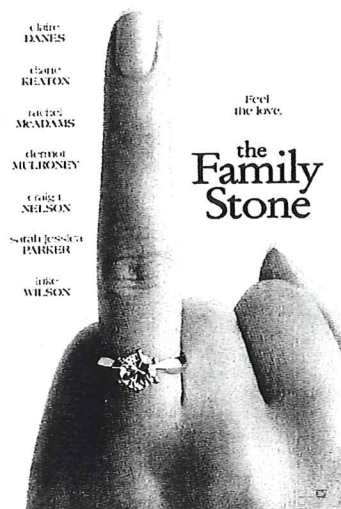
By: *Callie Peters*

The Family Stone has a mix of comedy, drama, and romance. It has audiences laughing and crying at the same time. Even though the movie was somewhat predictable, it was definitely worth seeing. The commercials definitely didn't do it justice.

Every year the Stones have their family Christmas gathering. The oldest son, Everett, brings his girlfriend Meredith home to meet his parents, brothers, and sisters. He plans on proposing to her, but when the Stones greet her with hostility, things get complicated.

Overwhelmed by the family's unfriendliness, Meredith calls her sister to join her for the holiday for emotional support. When her sister Julie arrives, more problems arise. The Stone family greets Julie with kindness, and continues to treat Meredith with unfairness. As the drama escalates, relationships change and secrets are revealed.

If you enjoy movies with a mixture of happiness and sadness, romance and drama, and secrets and truth, this movie is for you. However, if you are more into movies with horror and action, I wouldn't recommend seeing it.



New Movie Releases

-*Triston & Isolde*
 -*Glory Road*
 -*Last Holiday*
 -*Grandma's Boy*



Broadway Review

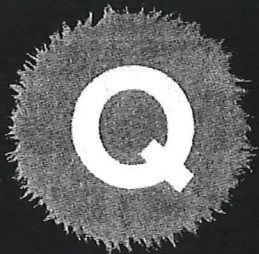
Avenue Q...Too Damn Funny

By: John Girard

On December 30, 2005 I ventured to New York City along with my counterpart Christian Ries. Earlier over Christmas vacation, I had received two tickets to the Broadway show Avenue Q. I am now going review the show for you. Right now.

Okay, so two seventeen year old males who are severely entwined in a jam band binge. Do you think we are going to enjoy Broadway? This show yes, other musicals, no. Let me give you a brief rundown of the contents

Avenue



The Musical

of this show. It was tasteless (in a good way), disgusting, and in some ways offensive. And nearly all of the characters were puppets. I loved it.

The story opens up with Princeton, a recent graduate with a bachelors degree in English. He is a confused adult looking for his purpose in life. He is also searching for a home

and it just so happens to be on Avenue Q, a neighborhood that some would consider to be poor. He finds an apartment owned by washed up child T.V. star, Gary Coleman. That's right. Gary Coleman. Avenue Q is what Willis is talkin' 'bout. Some of Princeton's neighbors are Kate Monster, a monster. Duh. A crazy Asian named Christmas Eve and her husband Brian. Two guys named Rod and Brian. Rod is a homosexual in denial while Brian is straight; trying to prove to Rod that Rod is homosexual. Also, quite possibly my favorite character in the entire production was Trekkie Monster. He somewhat reminded me of Oscar the Grouch from Sesame Street. Except Oscar wasn't addicted to watching pornography. Trekkie Monster, you sick, sick puppet.

I found this show to be absolutely hilarious. If you are looking for a day in the City and a few laughs, I highly recommend you go and see Avenue Q. Just brace yourself for excellent vulgar language and a puppet sex scene.



Playing Videogames...For Money?

By: Greg Harvilla

With electronic games grossing over a billion dollars more than the film industry last year, the popular modern hobby has moved out of dens and basements and into the corporate spotlight.



A recent videogame competition held in Times Square by the Cyberathlete Professional League, or C.P.L., found sponsors ranging from soft drink companies to computer makers, and awarded a \$150,000 cash prize to its champion. Broadcast live on MTV and watched online by thousands of viewers, the competition is part of an ongoing attempt by the C.P.L. to turn the digital pastime into a spectator sport.

Johnathan "Fatal1ty" Wendel, currently the most well-known gamer in the world, earned about \$231,000 in tournament winnings and \$600,000 in licensing fees last year alone. Wendel, whom Fox News labeled as one of the most-feared athletes in the world (second only to Mike Tyson), left his own investment banking firm before deciding to dedicate his life to videogames. He currently has several endorsement deals, and hopes to promote a complete line of computer parts in the near future.

Because of the easy accessibility and learning curve associated with videogames, some enthusiasts believe cyber tournaments may eventually become just as popular as their physical sport counterparts. "We think [videogame competitions] will be larger than a lot of traditional sports," said Angel Munoz, founder of the C.P.L., "but it will take some time."

Solutions To January Jumbles

1. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Oatmeal
3. Cramming
4. Tolkien

You've Gotta' be Kidding me!?

*The more there is, the less you see.
What is it?*

By: Tina Carbone and Sam Buddle



Shane Gandolfo:
"Rain"



Liz Spinosa:
"Darkness"



Jackie Varygiannes:
"Light"



Nikki Dietrich:
"Fog"



Chris Marx:
"Clothes"



Troy Gramlich:
"Heat"

Answer: Darkness

January Jumble

By: Greg Harvilla

1. This influential American leader was given the first name Michael at birth, but later changed it
- namtir therul gink, rj.
2. January is the official month of this hot breakfast cereal
- tamolae
3. Many MHS students may be doing this as finals draw near
- marcgnim
4. This much-acclaimed "lord" of literature was born January 3, 1892
- niketlo



Answers to Nicknames

- | | |
|------|-------|
| 1. E | 6. B |
| 2. A | 7. D |
| 3. G | 8. F |
| 4. C | 9. J |
| 5. I | 10. H |



Aquarius
(Jan20-Feb17)

Feel the burn.

Start something you enjoy, like a new class at the gym or a new sport, to stay in shape all year. Energetic Mars fires your determination to succeed around the 16th. Ask a teacher for advice on how to get ahead in a class that you're not doing well in.

Lucky days: 3rd, 11th, 29th



Pisces
(Feb 18-Mar 20)

Wow 'em.

Friendly Jupiter puts you in a social mode this month, but be sure to find time to unwind. Don't procrastinate on a deadline around the 13th, or you might not get it done in time.

Lucky days: 5th, 23rd, 31st



Aries
(Mar 21-Apr 19)

Plot something great.

You thrive when you're in charge, and luckily Jupiter sees to it that all the pieces fall into place. You're restless around the 7th, so get your friends together and do something fun.

Lucky days: 6th, 16th, 25th

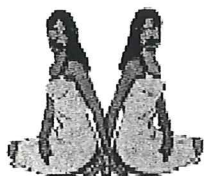


Taurus
(Apr 20-May 19)

Get the scoop.

You learn juicy news about a friend under Mercury's chatty influence. Be careful not to spread the gossip though, or you might be blamed for your friend's humiliation.

Lucky days: 7th, 12th, 28th



Gemini
(May 20-June 20)

Be honest.

When a family member acts bratty mid-month, use your talent for telling it like it is to keep them in line. Hopefully, they'll come to their senses and get over it.

Lucky days: 10th, 17th, 24th



Cancer
(June 21-July22)

Just chill.

You've been working so hard that you deserve a break midmonth. Take a day off to sleep late and relax. Mellow Mars boosts your calm vibes and helps you resolve an argument between friends around the 10th.

Lucky days: 4th, 13th, 23rd

Horoscopes

Happy Birthday Lindsay!



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6



Leo
(July 23-Aug 22)

Don't leap.

Around the 6th, impulsive Mercury tempts you to make a snap judgment about a new friend, but listen to their side first. You might be surprised about what they have to say.

Lucky days: 7th, 15th, 26th



Virgo
(Aug23-Sept23)

Shut them down.

You're not a pushover, so stand up to a bossy classmate near the 12th. Around the 27th, think twice about paying too much attention to a friend of the opposite sex, they'll assume that you're flirting.

Lucky days: 9th, 17th, 28th



Libra
(Sept24- Oct23)

Turn on the charm

Your natural charisma is at an all-time high, so you'll score freebies and insider info wherever you turn. Though it's tough for a luxury lover like you to do, stick to your budget under thrifty Jupiter's gaze.

Lucky days: 4th, 20th, 21st



Scorpio
(Oct24-Nov22)

Step up.

Swallow your pride and apologize to a friend you had a falling out with. Indulge around the 19th. Buy whatever you've been eyeing for months at your favorite store.

Lucky days: 5th, 14th, 22nd



Sagittarius
(Nov23-Dec21)

Go wild.

Social butterfly that you are, you'll be party-hopping every weekend this month and still have energy to throw your own blowout near the 25th. Don't give up trying to contact an old friend around the 15th.

Lucky days: 3rd, 16th, 25th

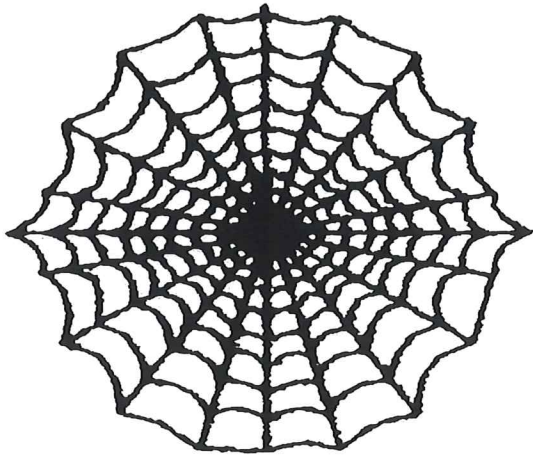


Capricorn
(Dec21-Jan19)

Call a pro.

It's in your nature to feel like there's nothing you can't do, but when something breaks near the 14th, don't try to fix it yourself. Around the 3rd, opt for a movie night with friends instead of going out.

Lucky days: 1st, 14th, 27th



ADVENTURES OF RON

By: Ron Kubik

The Marlboro Mental Institute

The trip was short. Only a few exits up on the parkway. Then we saw the gate that ran for miles and we knew we had arrived at our destination.

Finding parking on that long dark road was far from easy. We finally found a farm and parked my car. Now it was time to begin this adventure, accompanying me were my boys Dizzle and Max.

We knew there was no way over the fence so we searched around for an opening and finally we found one and crawled under it. We were highly aware there were security guards swarming, but we figured we would be fine.

As we walked along the road the ice was cracking under our feet. If we were 100 yards within the hearing of a guard we were going to wind up in cuffs. The cold started to bother us and knowing we were about a half a mile away from my car made us positive if we were about to get caught it would be one hell of a chase.

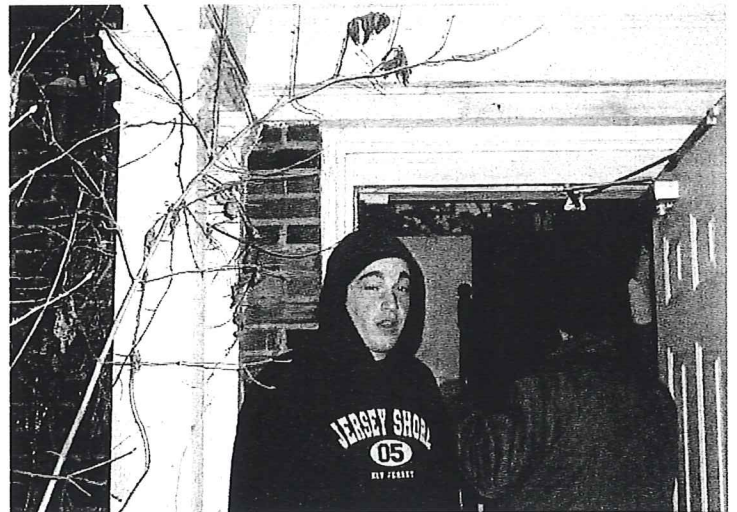
We began to look around and found some abandoned houses. When I asked to get a picture of my friends walking in the house my friend Max did not look back at the camera and later said, "I was honestly too scared of the contents of that building to turn and face the camera." With that being said we looked around the house and we began getting crazy feelings because little has been done to

these abandoned houses. We decided to leave and continue the search for the mental institute.

We finally were closing in on it when flashing lights were right behind us. The good old red and blue lights they were. This was it, get the hell out or get arrested. The chase was long and hard through snow and ice. Dave slipped and we had no time to pick him up Max and I continued on. As we got back under the fence Dave had caught back up to us.

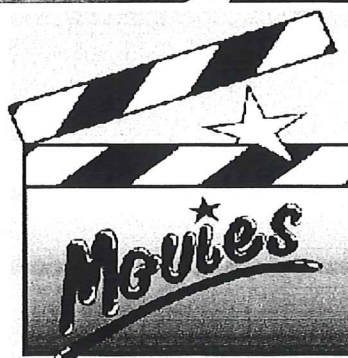
We began sprinting back to my car when we saw it. Two random cars were sitting right beside of mine. They were two unmarked cop cars. We were not going to run right back into their trap so we jumped into the bushes. Our hearts were beating so hard you could almost hear it.

The cars sat next to mine observing for about 10 minutes then they pulled away and drove right by us. We got up and ran as fast as possible back to my car. We pulled out of the farm with no lights on. Then we drove away and do not plan on returning. Sometimes cops are scarier than ghosts.



**In the next issue Ron will be
venturing to Devil's Tree.
Be sure to check it out!**

Entertainment



Opinion / Editorial

Racism Hits Home

Swastikas Spotted in
Manasquan High School

By: Ron Kubik

Recently some heinous graffiti such as swastikas and racial slurs have been drawn in classrooms and bathrooms around Manasquan High School. When I heard of this I was furious. I have friends who represent the races and religions of the world, ranging from black to white, Jewish to Christian, and Puerto Rican to Asian.

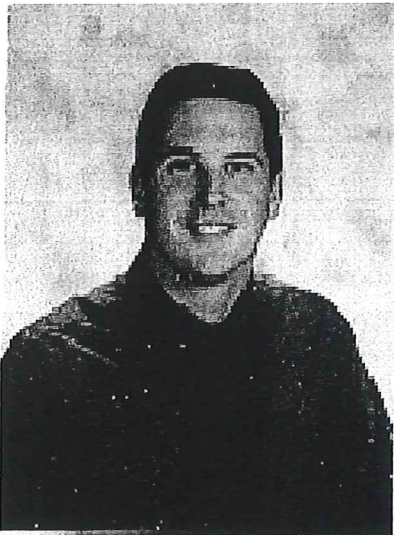
Being racist does not make you tough or a rebel. It makes you a moron. Something I have learned during my life is every religion, race, and type of people has a few who are complete trash and a few who are golden. There is white trash, black trash, Jewish trash, and Christian trash, yet also some genuinely good people of each race and religion. To hate one type of person is just

a dumb idea. It's ignorant.

As for the recent events here in school, most of the wannabe Nazi's running around don't know anything about what they preach. Ever heard of the Aryan race? Well good chance is you're not likely to fit the description. Do you have blonde hair? Blue eyes? Are you Protestant? Take a good look in the mirror. If you don't follow that description, Hitler would have had you executed too.

It is time to reevaluate the whole racism issue. No race is perfect, no religion is perfect, and for the most part nothing is perfect. So, get over yourselves and reevaluate. It does not matter what color you are or what god you worship. Look into your heart, that's where you will find out what kind of person you truly are.

McGowan Leaves After Seven and a Half Years



Friday, January 20th was a sad day at Manasquan High School as English teacher,

Owen McGowan wrapped up his MHS teaching career.

In his seven and a half years at Manasquan, McGowan earned a reputation as an outstanding English teacher.

The Blue & Gray wishes Mr. McGowan all the best of luck in his future endeavors.

Manasquan High School Beats the Budget

New Computers Improve Classrooms

By: John Zimmerman

Do you remember those slow, out-of-date, smelly computers? For some lucky rooms, the old computers are out and new up-to-date laptops are in. Rooms 112 and 466 are the first two rooms to have the honor of using these new computers.

These new laptops, however, aren't used like normal mobile computers. Instead, they are hooked into a docking station and attached to the old monitors. This new technology is a welcomed upgrade in our school.

Anyone can realize that these new computers are faster. Their speed is amazing compared to the old computers. The docking station is a nice add-on so we can have a normal monitor and use a mouse and keyboard. Another nice addition is the case that these new laptops are stored away in. This is for their protection and to make sure they aren't destroyed. The quickness and sufficient programs now available to the students are a wonderful change.

Some students have questioned why laptops were purchased over new towers.

The process of using the new laptops seemed overly complicated at first, especially the inconvenience of docking and undocking them. But in a short amount of time students have adjusted and have been raving ever since.



New technology in rooms 112 and 466

feature laptops "docked" into a "station" which connects to a traditional monitor, mouse and keyboard

Why did MHS bother purchasing laptops? Well, in order to purchase new computers, the school needed to use their budget. The budget, however, couldn't support the purchase of thirty stand alone computer towers. The budget could only purchase new computers if they were a single unit.

"Because the laptops can be put into a case and stored away, they count as one unit," says Principal McCormack. According to the head of the computer department, Mr. Graziano, hopefully the whole school will have new computers in two years.

No matter how you look at it, these laptops are a wonderful change compared to our old, out of date towers. Students can now run programs quickly and happily without needing to wait five minutes to log on. This is a step in the right direction for MHS.

Country Mourns Tragic Loss of Miners

Twelve Dead In West Virginia Cave In

By: Maggie Ward

At around 6:30 a.m. on Monday, the morning of January 2nd, an explosion occurred at Sago Mine in Tallmansville, West Virginia. Experts in the mining industry are still questioning what generated the explosion that occurred just after the first two teams of miners had entered the coal mine. A mined-out chamber, which lay perpendicular to the main shaft, had been sealed off four weeks prior with twin seals nearly two or more feet thick. Such force had blown the seals out into the main shaft causing debris to strike a second team of more than a dozen men who were riding into the mine on a rail hundreds of feet away. Members of the second crew turned around and groped their way blindly back to the entrance on foot. The other team had been on the far side of the explosion, nearly 260 feet below ground.

One theory that might have caused the explosion

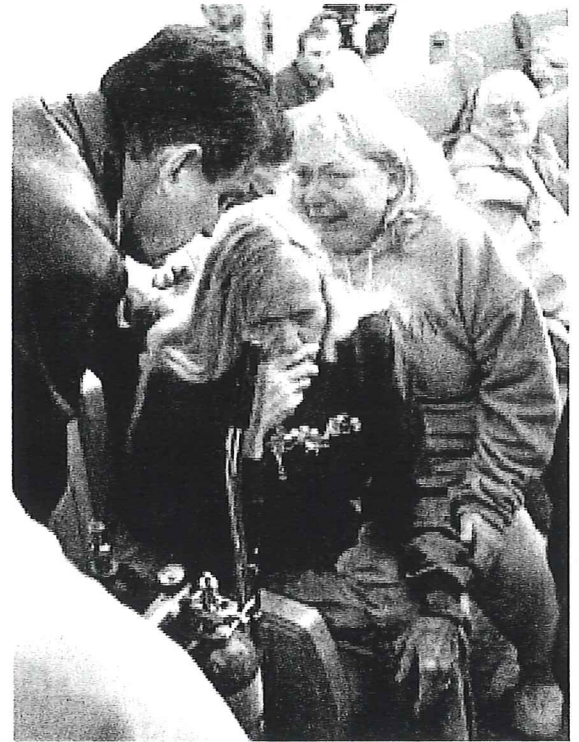
was lighting from an early-morning storm. This could have been conducted into the sealed chamber and had ignited the methane gas inside. Two lightning strikes within a mile and a half of the mine were measured in less than a second (6:26:35.5 and 6:26:35.7). The second of the two was four or five times more powerful than typically occurs. The International Coal Group, the mine's owner, said that the accident investigation phase had begun. Mine managers have met with state and federal officials. The mine is temporarily closed off with fencing where 12 black ribbons hang. The company is unsure as to how long this closure will last for and is working to find temporary jobs elsewhere for the 145 employees there.

Twelve miners perished after being trapped for more than 40 hours after the underground explosion. This was the worst coal-mining disaster in West Virginia since

1968, when 78 miners were killed in a mine explosion in Farmington. Governor Joe Mannchin III lost an uncle in the 1968 tragedy. This allows him to relate on a personal level with the families and friends of the victims.

Commenting on the confusion of rescue efforts he said, "I can only say there was no one who did anything intentionally but risk their lives to save their loved ones." A miscommunication occurred nearly two days after families first learned of the explosion. The mistaken information came through a series of miscommunications among rescue workers and others who were exhausted from more than 30 hours of searching for the trapped miners. They were operating several hundred feet below ground level and were communicating by radio and cell phones through oxygen masks that complicated clear understanding, according to *The New York Times*. Company officials have been facing criticism ever since the report of 12 survivors had been released.

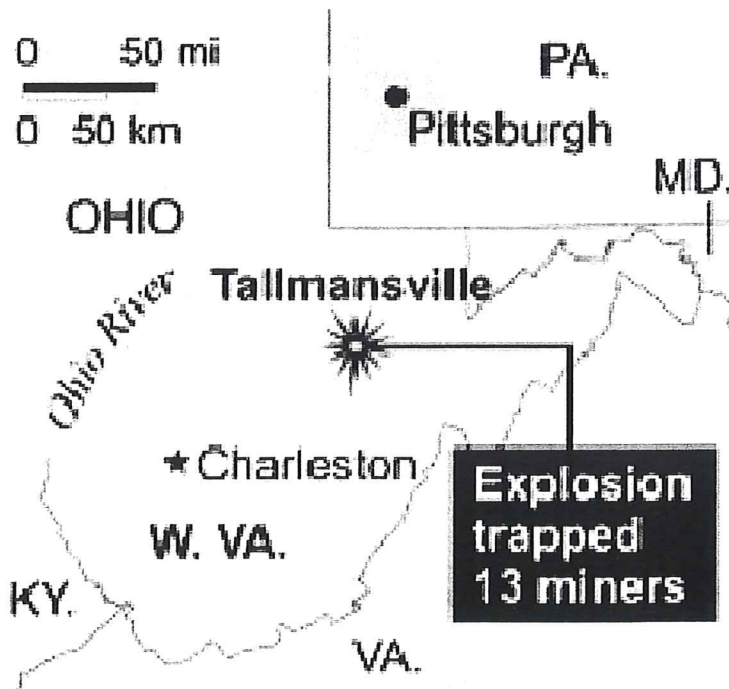
According to Bennett K. Hatfield, the chief executive



Family members of the twelve mining victims mourn the death of their loved ones.

of International Coal Group, several phone calls from a number of rescue workers and jubilant employees were made to family members and others upon the receipt of the false information. At 11:45 p.m., on January 3rd, the mine rescue center received the report of 12 miners being alive. At 12:18 a.m., the mine rescue center was told that workers and the "survivors" were leaving the area where they had been found. At 12:30 a.m., a report of only one survivor and others showing no vital signs had been received. At 1:38 a.m., four additional rescue teams had been dispatched along with emergency medical technicians to attend to the other miners. At 2:00 a.m., state police officers were notified and asked to notify clergy that initial reports may have been too optimistic.

Continued on next page



Cap'n Crunch: Crunchatize Me Cap'n

The Mystery Behind the Cereal

By: John Zimmerman

Cap'n Crunch (full name Horatio Magellan Crunch) first appeared in 1963. He was shown mainly during children viewing hours of Saturday morning and weekday afternoon cartoons. He has had various rivals from the Soggies who could make his cereal soggy to Jean LaFoote, the bare foot pirate. Now he is depicted giving bored children his cereal and luring him aboard his ship.

So, does Cap'n Crunch cut the top of your mouth? Well, it is believed that Cap'n Crunch cereal does cut the roof of peoples mouth. Many account this to its sharp edges and hardness. This can come as a problem for children eating the cereal. Often they would complain

that the roof of their mouth was cut and parents were outraged. Now, many parents won't buy Cap'n Crunch for their children, but others don't bother and allow their children to eat it because it doesn't always cut their mouth.

Whether or not Cap'n Crunch cuts your mouth, it is still a great cereal. Every kid should be able to have it at least once in their life.



Cap'n Crunch and his arch enemy Jean LaFoote, the bare foot pirate, have their own action figures.

Canada: America's Hat

By: John Zimmerman

When you think of Canada, what comes to mind? People that say "Eh" or some of the best hockey players in the world? Well Canada has a little more to it than you might think. It is one of the oldest nations and its ownership has been tossed around more than Paris Hilton. It was first inhabited by the Inuit people (also called Eskimos). Vikings are seen as the first travelers to reach Canada. The French and English followed afterward. The French were the first to have ownership of Canada and then the English seized control of it during the war on the Abraham Plains, now part of Quebec.

The Canadian government recognizes both French and English as official languages. Over a quarter of the residents in Canada speak French. The majority of French citizens live in

Quebec. French continues to be spoken throughout Canada and is a lasting part of their tradition showing that the English weren't the only ones to live there.

Canada is also one of the most multi-ethnic and culturally diverse countries. Canada accepts immigrants from anywhere in the world and some of their political leaders are immigrants or children of immigrants themselves. This lends to the growing popularity of Canada. Canada is growing, and for all we know could be a super power with the likes of America one day.



Fans Mourn the Death of Richard Pryor, Comic Legend

By: Christian Ries

Saturday, December 10th, legendary comedian Richard Pryor died of a massive heart attack. Pryor's death is being mourned nation wide by fans and fellow comedians alike. Pryor was 65 when he passed.



Pryor was a landmark in comedy. He opened the doors and paved the way for comedians like Chris Rock, Bernie Mac, and Dennis Leary. Pryor was especially known for his blatant humor that included the racy topics of sex and drugs. When he emerged he was an unknown but he stayed on the circuit and proved to be the freshest comedian out there. Pryor opened the floodgates and let vulgarities flow and changed the basic

footing of comedy from clean cut to in your face. "Without Rich, there would be no me," Bernie Mac said blatantly.

Also, Pryor was one of the first mainstream African-American comedians. Previous to Pryor's entry on the scene there were few or no African-American performers. Chris Rock was quoted as saying "Richard was the Rosa Parks of comedy. He took risks and chances that made it possible for a whole generation of comics to exist. No one ever rocked the mike like Richard Pryor."

He was not only a leader in the racial movement in comedy, his delivery was ingenious. Pryor would spend hours writing jokes, but still would make it seem like it was improvised right on the spot. This same delivery is used by comedians such as Ron White and Dennis Leary, whose raunchy humor is quite similar to that of Pryor.

Richard Pryor will truly be mourned by his fans and fellow comedians. He will be remembered as a standpoint in American modern comedy. Arguably the world's best stand up comedian, Richard Pryor will be remembered as history not just as a name on the page.

The Genuine Food Lover

Food Connoisseur
Jess Sinkhorn
on Macaroni and Cheese

Welcome to the new and delicious Blue & Gray Food Column. As a man with an intense passion for food, I'd like to share my thoughts and views with you.

Starting as a main course meal by most American families, Macaroni and Cheese gradually has become underrated. Many families do not bake this meal as much. When they do, they disregard the time and amazing talent it takes to construct it.

The main ingredient to making the perfect Macaroni and Cheese dish is the way the cheese is added. The making of the cheese is important, but the way it is added makes all the difference. If you boil the noodles and add the cheese afterwards it will be totally different as to adding the cheese toward the end of boiling the noodles. The cheese can be crusted on or it can be shredded into a million pieces by hand. The bland mind may not taste a difference but if you are putting your taste buds to the test, discovering the passion in which the chef placed in all of the ingredients, you might just find an eye brow or two raise in excitement.

Macaroni and cheese goes with every single meal you can create. It may even spice up your dinner plate. For example, a mother serves broccoli and sweet potatoes at least three times a week. Just place the perfect custom made noodles and cheese of your choosing on the side of those broccoli stalks. Not only adding color, but the much needed side dish joins a forgotten memory of taste.

It may be easy to get sick of, but when you go a while without it, you begin to crave the melted cheese and the perfect combination of macaroni.

As said by Julia Moskin, a fellow macaroni and cheese lover, "When in doubt, add more cheese."

MHS Jazz Band Lights up the Holiday Season

By: Greg Harvilla

In celebration of the Christmas season, the Manasquan High School Warrior Jazz Band recently performed several shows geared to both elementary and high school-aged students. Showcasing an extensive repertoire of Christmas tunes ranging from classics like "Jingle Bells" and "Let it Snow" to more modern fare such as "Funky Ol' Saint Nick" and an original Christmas rap, the band's unique combination of funk, jazz, and progressive rock was well-enjoyed by both the young and old alike.

The first performance took place December 9th in central Manasquan at the town's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. Though playing underneath an awning, the night's fierce winds and freezing temperature made performing difficult. The band pulled through despite the hardships, and their warm and genuine playing added a sense of comfort to the closely-huddled crowd gathered for the ceremony.

The next gig the band played was a Children's Christmas Party at the Elks' Lodge in Manasquan on December 17th. Featuring an appearance by Kris Kringle himself (accompanied by the band playing "Here Comes Santa

Clause") the kids attending the event had a blast and cheerfully clapped along with their parents to nearly every song.

After being invited by Manasquan High School to play during 4th block study hall in the Jack Nicholson Theatre on December 22nd, the band talked it over and gladly accepted. Though some band members were nervous at first to play in front of their peers, stage fright was quickly overcome and the band delivered an especially spirited performance, led in part by the enthusiastic reactions of the crowd.

The culmination of the jazz band's Christmas performances took place December 23rd as the group played at both the Belmar and Manasquan elementary schools. Featuring an inspiring drum solo by band director Alan Abraham, the performances marked the final Christmas shows for many senior band members, while at the same time giving new members a sense of what it's like to be a professional musician doing several gigs a day.

The jazz band will continue to practice hard, and their next performance will be February 15th in conjunction with the Manasquan Concert Band at Manasquan's annually held Winter Concert.

SAT Tip of the Month

By: Kaitlyn Turi

Many seniors will say that they are glad to have them over with. Many juniors will say that they are sick of hearing about them and many sophomores will say that they are scared to even think about them. That's right, the SAT test. To make your SAT experience a little easier I have some bits and pieces of advice to offer. Good Luck!

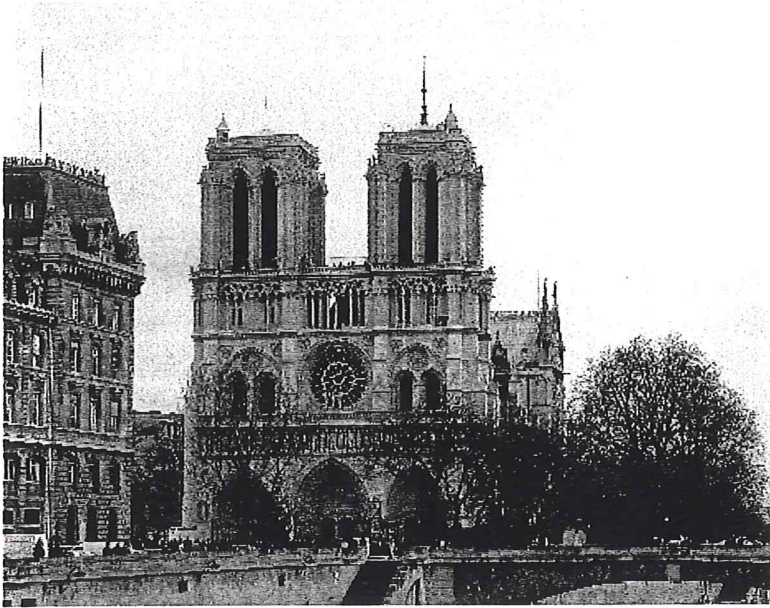
•A wrong answer takes points off while a skipped question doesn't affect your score at all. So, if you have NO idea and cannot narrow down your choices, skip it. Someone once told me, get it right or don't do it, those are you only choices.

• Eat a good breakfast. It's cliché, but important and gets your mind working. Also the test is a long one and your stomach growling is an unwanted distraction.

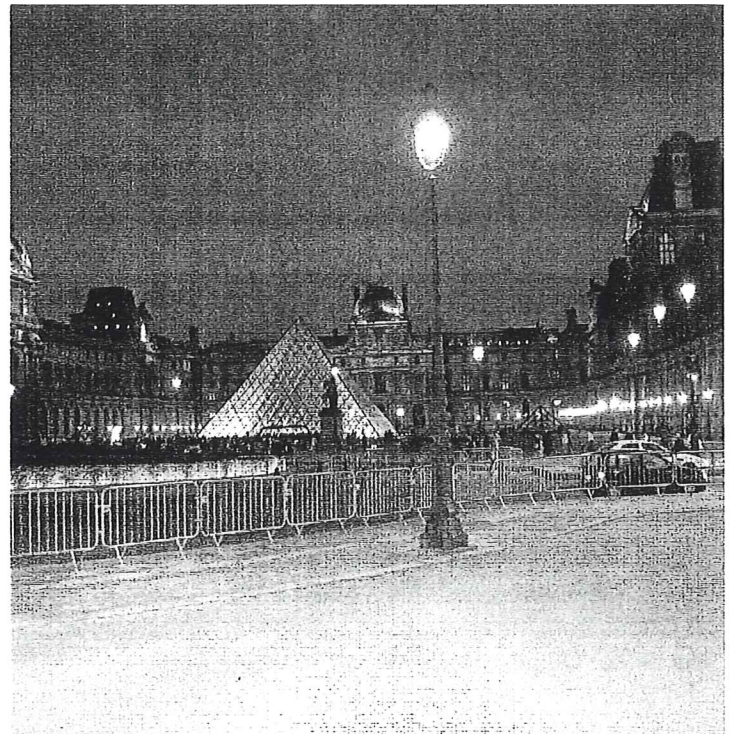
•Don't stay out too late the night before the test. A good night's sleep is as important as a good breakfast.

Recap of a Student's Excursion to France

This Christmas break, my family and I went on vacation to France and we had a great time. We went to all of the major tourist sights. The buildings and architecture was amazing. I would recommend the city of Paris to anyone who wants to travel across the Atlantic and take in some European culture.



The first picture is one that I took of the Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris. The Notre Dame Cathedral is one of the most famous cathedrals in the world. It is located directly off the Seine River. Another way to take a great image of the cathedral is from the street on the other side of the river. If you go to Paris, the Notre Dame Cathedral is a must see.



The second picture is of the Louvre Art Museum in Paris. It is probably the most famous art museum in the world, with over 100,000 pieces of art. It is so big that there is no way to get the entire museum into frame and not stand in a busy street, using a tripod. For those who are up to the challenge, the most famous walk way in Paris runs from practically inside the horseshoe in the Louvre. It is a very, very long walk to the end, though. You walk through a nice park to the "Rue de Paris." You can continue on your two to three mile walk down a long straight road. Once you finish, you will know that your efforts were worth it because you are at the "Arch de Triumph." It is also one of the main tourist sights.



The third and final picture that I took is of the famous Eiffel Tower. If you are only spending a short time in Paris or you are trying to do every thing you can do in a short amount of time, you must see the Eiffel Tower at night. As you can see in the picture, the tower is sparkling with what looks to be a million tiny lights. The lights only shine like that once, for ten minutes, every hour. It is an amazing sight and it is one that you will always remember. The tower is something that everyone notices as the symbol of Paris. If you don't see the Eiffel Tower when you go to Paris, you have not had a proper trip to Paris.

I hope that you enjoyed hearing about my trip to Paris. If you have the great opportunity to visit Paris, you should because you will have a great time during your stay.

Model UN and Mock Trial Making Progress

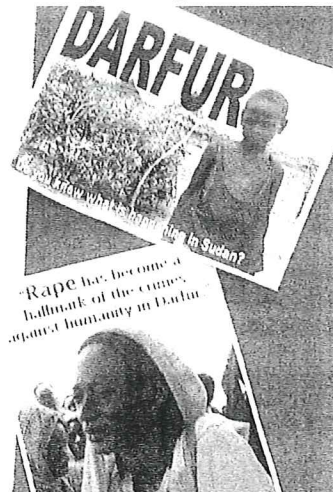
By: Lauren Speirs

For the past couple of months, Manasquan's Model UN has been working hard to make the school aware of genocide in Sudan. Walking down the halls of the school, posters can be seen informing students of current problems in Sudan.

The club is now concentrating on their upcoming assembly in March at St. Peters College.

Students from different school will represent different countries in a mock assembly.

The Mock Trial also has important events to prepare for. During the weekend of January 29th, the club will participate in a mock murder trial. It is a county competition, and if Manasquan advances they will go to the regional contests. Good luck to both clubs in their upcoming activities.



Academy of Finance

Continued from front page

suffering from Katrina. They knew that a lot of homes and land as well as memories had been destroyed and lost.

Subsequently, Mr. McCormack heard about a woman from West Jefferson High School in Louisiana who was the director of her school's Academy of Finance. He got in touch with her and set up a "pen pal" exchange between her students and Manasquan's Academy members.

The Academy of Finance's goal is to find out the needs of the victims, especially the high school students. They want to find out some of the material things that by having them replaced, they would be able to begin

their process of healing.

This help isn't only for now, though. The Academy wants to be there for these kids when all other support has fallen away. Too often, we, as a nation get caught up in crisis and run to help for the first week, even month, donating clothes and food. Then the story leaves the front page and also our "to do" lists. Victims are left, many still without help and only a growing lack of recognition.

On a date yet to be determined the Manasquan High School Academy is going to take a field trip to NYC and meet up with these students bringing them more of what they need.

College Anxiety

Where to Go and Will You Get In?

By: Michelle Kurc and Nicole Hawkins

It's the one opportunity in life that we can't wait for, and yet, the closer we are to it, the less exciting it seems to be. The long awaited day of graduation is slowly, but surely, creeping up on seniors. What's to come? Where to go? Who to be? All these questions are haunting the minds of the undecided, and even the decided. It's scary taking that first big step outside of this little bubble we've become so used to, but before we do, a few things should be considered.

When asked the question "What is the first thing that comes to mind when I say, 'college'?" senior Daria Cali responded with, "Sucks". She then further explained, "The whole process of filling out applications, meeting deadlines, and taking SAT's is annoying." Many other seniors would agree to

that, but another issue is the difficult detachment of the familiar that will weigh heavy on some minds. Caren Garcia commented, "I'm really excited to go, but it's going to be really hard to leave my friends and family."

The anxiety of going to college has struck many, but there are a few who are just plain anxious to go. "I can't wait to get out of here!" exclaimed Sam Dilea. For some, college is seen as an escape, whether it be from their parents, the drama of high school, or bad influences. What several people don't realize is that it isn't all that easy to just get up and go. That fact always hits some sooner than others, but it is inevitably faced by all. The hard part is learning to accept that we must first let go of who we were, to discover who we can be.

Local Snow Report

By: Christian Ries

SKI WINDHAM

Windham Mountain in New York is located about three hours away. Its small size allows for family-fun that still packs enough terrain and difficult runs for the more advanced riders.

Snow Base: 35-45 inches

Runs Open: 30

Lifts Operational: 6

Half pipe: Open

Surface Conditions: Machine groomed granular and packed powder

MOUNTAIN CREEK

Mountain Creek is a small New Jersey mountain located in Vernon valley. It has four different peaks offering a variety of riding conditions. It is known widely for its plethora of terrain which includes a super-pipe and tons of rails.

Snow Base: 12- 24 inches

Runs Open: 32

Lifts Operational: 7

Super-pipe: Under Construction

Surface Conditions: Machine groomed granular



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Student Spotlight

Jane Wenthe Named Student of the Month

By: Courtney Magee and Larissa Reto



Jane Wenthe, a senior from Spring Lake was named Student of the Month for January. Jane was very excited about receiving this award. She never expected it at all. Jane is involved with the Spanish Club, Key Club, National Honors Society, Spanish Honors Society, and Model UN. Outside of school she teaches CCD to fourth graders. She is also very involved with dancing at the Spring Lake School of Dance. Jane is a waitress at the Bath and Tennis Club in Spring Lake. Jane commented on the award by saying, "I was honored that my work paid off." Congratulations Jane!

Congratulations Mr. Bryant!

Lillian Bryant was born May 22, 2005. She weighed seven pounds and five ounces, and was nine teen and a half inches long.



Teacher Feature

An Indepth Look at Mr. Freda

By: Ron Kubik

This month's teacher feature is on the one and only (at least in our school) Mr. Freda. There is a lot more to Mr. Freda than the fact that he can bench 325 pounds and has caught more fish than 98% of people in the world.

Mr. Freda has been a teacher at Manasquan High for 26 years. He is certified to teach any of the sciences, but his favorite is physics.

In addition, he has his master's degree and his supervisor certificate. He attended Rutgers University in New Brunswick. Before he went to grad school he worked for Johnson and Johnson for a year.

When he was asked how it feels to be one of the most feared teacher in the school

he told us he preferred being called respected not feared. He said, "I like to challenge students to respond to what we expect from them as teachers." He also told us the reason he decided to become a teacher, "I enjoy working with kids and get to continually relive my memories of when I was younger."

When Mr. Freda is not teaching he likes to go to Bible study and take part in activities with the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes). He enjoys religion a great deal so I will end this teacher feature with one more quote from the living legend, the master fisherman, and the really strong Mr. Freda: "I try to live my life in a way that is pleasing and honoring to God and I believe that the Bible is his inerrant word."

