MHS

THE BLUE & GRAY

SPORTS















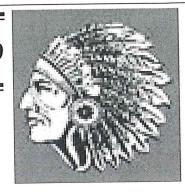






BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

Boys' Track Runs Toward Success



By: Tyler Toole

Halton.

If all you look for in a team is its record, then the Boy's Track team's 1-4 record would be disappointing. For those of you who look deeper into a team for those who represent it, then the squad had an outstanding season.

Of these strong athletes who represent the team, senior Keiran Halton has shone the brightest. Halton has succeeded in both the long jump and high jump, boasting 12 medals. Impressively, he won the Monmouth County high jump, and took second I the long jump. He followed those performances with a sixth place finish in Shore Conference and qualified for the State Tournament of Champions.

"It's exciting and it feels good," said Halton.

Halton also competed in the State meet, which took place over the weekend. Unfortunately the meet didn't go as well for Halton, who just missed out qualifying. The athletes were given three chances to clear the jump, with Halton clearing it on the third try. The other athletes cleared the jump on the first and second tries, but tied Halton on height. Sorry to say, when there is a tie, qualifying goes to who

cleared the jump first. Even though Halton wasn't one of those to qualify, he still remained upbeat.

Halton plans to attend the College o Mount Saint Vincent, where he will play both basketball and track.

Halton isn't the only athlete on the team who is doing well. Senior Matt Marquez set a school record with an amazing

41'.9" triple jump, breaking the previous marl by 8 inches.

Not far behind either of these athletes is sophomore Zack Rogers who himself ha achieved six medals.

The performance of these athletes ha backed up Coach Higgins, who early stated tha the team was very good. Other team member who have contributed this year are Dan Kerrigar Rich Dulski, Nick Ballesteri, who place 3rd i the Monmouth County 100 meter sprint, Bre-Dunbar, and Kevin Callahan.

As far as the team goes, Halton say they came together as a family and even liken his teammates to parts of the body.

"Everyone threw far, ran fast, and jumpe high" stated Halton, "We had some people wh where the arms, people who were the legs, etc.

Throughout the squad's disappointing team season, individual athletes were able to rise to the occasio

and achieve success. According to team members they woul

like to wish good luck to next year's team. "Even though it was a rough day, it was very fun," added Aquilante Leads Girl's Track

By: Tyler Toole

Above: Kieran Halton finishes another

outstanding long jump

Like their boy counterparts, the Manasquan Girl's Varsity Track team had an outstanding season.

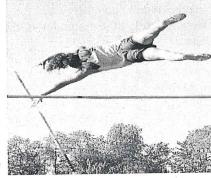
"The season was amazing, not just for me, but for the whole team," stated Ashley Aquilante.

Aquilante was one of four girls who were competitors for Group Championships. The others were Katie Nolan, Rachel Honrath, and Kaitlain McLaughlin.

These girls along with two members of the boy's squad were the most Squan has ever had to compete for Group Championships.

Out of this group of girls, Aquilante was the only one who had the honor to compete in the Meet of Champions. The meet took place on Thursday June 5, and Aguilante placed fourth in the pole vault with a jump of 11'6.

"It was a good way to end the season," added Aguilante.



Above: Monmouth County pole vaulting champion Ashley AAquilante soars over the pole

bond with each other and come together as a team.

One high point of this successful season came whe the team came in 1st for the Monmouth County Rela Championship.

"It was great to watch everyone succeed, everyone d well," Aquilante said.

Unfortunately, Aquilante is a senior, and she will t graduating from the team later this year.

"It's really hitting home now, it will be sad to go," sa Aquilante. "I will miss my team and the coaches," sl later added.

Thankfully the team has a multitude of young talent th will be ready to help the squad next year.

These athletes include Honrath and Nolan along with Sam McWilliams, Holly McGill, Sarah Anne Yersin, and Ju Ford.

Undoubtedly, the team will be able to remember such strong season, and be able to succeed next season.

According to team members, everyone was able to help the team succeed. The team was not only able to do well, but they were all able to



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

Softball Survives Season of Ups and Downs

By: Tyler Toole



Coming into the season, the varsity softball team had high hopes for success. It took awhile, but eventually the Lady Warriors found that success.

"It was a little rough at first, but it all came out better then last year's team," said sophomore first baseman Erin Stewart.

The squad finished out its season with a .500 record of 13-13, but according to team members the record hardly shows how everyone contributed. The Lady Warriors were able to make it to the Championship game of the Monmouth County, where, unfortunately, the game didn't go their way.

"Everyone played well," added Stewart.

Some key players that Stewart was referring to are Sarah Kirk, Chelsea Newman, and Meghan Quinlan.

Kirk was a major contributor for the Warriors this season. She led the Lady Warriors this season in hits with 28, and steals with 19.

"Sarah, who always got on base, is really fast, and her speed really helped us," added Stewart.



Junior Chelsea Newman delivers a pitch

Not to be outdone was the dynamic pitching duo of Newman and Quinlan. Newman, in fact, led the team with an astounding 112 strikeouts.

With all this individual success, the Lady Warriors were able to put it together and achieve some big wins against big time teams.

These high points came when the team beat Saint Rose twice, and division rival Rumson-FH twice.

According to team members, one of the biggest games of the year was a loss to Wall. "We were supposed to get blown out, but we played well and only lost 6-5," said Stewart.

Overall the team was very proud of its season. The girls would also like to acknowledge their coaches, led by coach Certo.

"The coaches were great, they were always there if you needed anything," added Stewart.

Hopefully, with such a young team, the Lady Warriors can pull it together and have a strong season next year.

Baseball Completes Rocky Season

If someone was to see a team's record as 10-12, they would usually think that the team had a dismal season. However, this was not the case with the Manasquan Varsity Baseball team.

"Even though we had a losing season, we really came together as a team," stated senior first baseman Chris VanStolk.

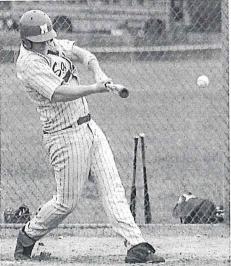
Despite the Warriors' record, they were still able to make both the Shore Conference tournament and state tournament. Unfortunately, the team came out of each tournament with losses, handed to them by Manalapan and Somerville respectively.

According to team members both games could have easily been won, if it weren't due to little mistakes.

Overall the Warriors, who finished third in their division (6-6) behind Rumson-FH and SJV, were able to get contributions from everyone on the team.

Next year's team will look vastly different. The team is graduating eight seniors including shortstop Tom Phillips, second baseman Brian Roddy, first

By: Tyler Toole



Kircher belts an icoming pitch

baseman VanStolk, right fielder Steve Kricher, centerfielder Brendan Leehan, pitcher John

Watters, outfielder Ben Tumas, and infielder Tyler Toole.

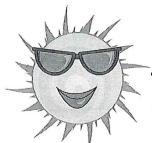
However a bevy of young players will be ready to help them achieve their goals next year. These players include catcher Jay Collazo, third baseman Barry Jost, pitcher Karl Fiske, pitcher John Otchy, left fielder Matt Vadas, catcher Nick Lustrino, infielder Colin Briant, and infielder Guy Iacono.

Even though it proved to be a disappointing season for the Warriors, the team feels they did their best and they deserve the 10-12 record.

Coach Gordon was right, this was a very talented team, but they weren't able to put it together in the end. Hopefully next year's squad will exceed everyone's expectations, and maybe, just maybe this year's team will get to Rods.

"Maybe now that the season is over, maybe Frankie will finally take us to Rods,"

added VanStolk referring to coach Frankie Kineavey's dad's restaurant.



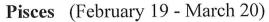
SUMMER HOROSCOPES



By: Claire Beesley

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18)

A hot new romance is budding between you and the good looking vacationer down the street. Remember it's just a fling, so don't forget your true friends when you're preoccupied with young love.



This summer is all about the Benjamin's baby! That summer job will be bringing in the dough, but make sure you don't overwork. Take time off to spend the well earned cash.



Aries (March 21 - April 19)

There will be no down time for you this summer! You'll



be constantly on the go trying to pack in numerous adventures in one day! By the end of the summer, going back to school will be a vacation.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You're ready to move on from the same group of friends. It's time to get out there, meet new people, and create new memories with new faces. Don't worry, you're old friends will still be there come September.



Gemini (May 21 - June 21)



Don't worry; this summer won't be a total bust working all the time. A new employee will start soon, and his/her eyes are on you!

Cancer (June 22 - July 22)

After working so hard this year you deserve some time for yourself. This summer is all about relaxation. Get to the beach and work on that tan!



Leo (July 23 - August 22)



It's time to see the world! And this summer is the perfect time to do it. Make sure you have your passport before boarding the plane!

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Ever want to surf, wakeboard, or rock climb, but never had the get up and go? It's time to get out there and try new things. You now have all the time in the world to do it!



Libra (September 23 - October 22)



Everything is going to work out perfectly, and everything you wanted to accomplish will be accomplished this summer! It will be epic!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21)

Lately you've been drifting away from you're true friends. You'll find yourself reconnecting with those old friends, and by the end of the summer, your bond will be stronger than ever.



Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21) Beach, late nights with friends, and a little working will



be your summer schedule. Your summer is going to have a little bit of everything; relaxation, money, and adventure! Have fun!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

Let's just say, this summer won't be one for the books. It's not going to be the worst summer ever, but you'll find yourself doing the same thing over and over again. But hey, that isn't always a bad thing.



Morgan Lander 5/3

Senior Birthday's May!!

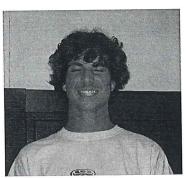
By: Haley Behre and Claire Beesley



Claire Beesley 5/5



Logan Burke 5/5



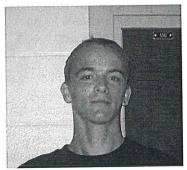
Justin Leddy 5/5



Luis Gorritti 5/7



Ashley Romano 5/9



Kenny Jacobs 5/9



Anthony Silverman 5/11



Molly Raps 5/11



Stephanie Montoya 5/14



Meghan Boland 5/15



Brendan Delany 5/17



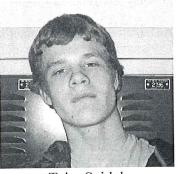
Emily Comerford 5/18



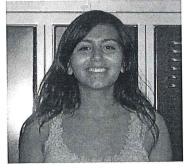
Katherine Kelly 5/24



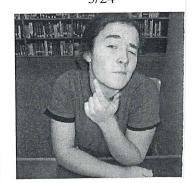
Connor Gandolfo 5/25



Tyler Seidel 5/27



Jordan Owens 5/28



Maggie Pakutka 5/31

Summer Movie Preview

By: Thomas Sullivan

Unless you've been living in a hole for most of your life, you obviously know that the summer months are when Hollywood pushes its biggest and most expensive films to audiences whom are off from school or work and looking to kill sometime. I'm happy to report that it's that time of the year again. Read on to get some possible suggestions for your summer movie viewing pleasure.

You Don't Mess with the Zohan (June 6th): This film opens the season with a bang as audiences who enjoy sophomoric humor will probably flock to the theaters to see this effort that was co-written by Adam Sandler and Judd Apatow. The plot revolves around a Mossad secret agent (played by Sandler) who fakes his own death so he can come to New York City and become a hairstylist. The film also features a cameo by Mariah Carey. I smell greatness here. For those of you who are inclined towards this kind of stuff, go crazy.

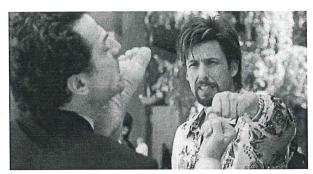
The Happening (June 13th): M. Night Shyamalan is in need of a comeback movie, and this may quite possibly be the one. The plot of this movie has been kind of hush-hush as the trailers have only alluded that it revolves around a mysterious natural disaster which is destroying the world. This film seems to be more of a drama with sci-fi elements as opposed to fantasy or horror. Hopefully this will put Shyamalan back into the spotlight that he was in during the release of *The Sixth Sense*.

Get Smart (June 20th): I doubt anyone who is the target age group for this movie will have ever seen (or remember) the TV show which the movie is based off of, but nevertheless this movie will probably rope in a ton of cash at the box office. The film mirrors the plot of the original TV show by pitting Agent 86 (now played by Steve Carell) with Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway) to combat the evil organization KAOS. Expect lots of slapstick and screwball comedy.

Wanted (June 27th): I recently saw the preview for this, and it looked like a two hour epileptic seizure, albeit a mildly entertaining one. This film, which boasts an interesting cast (Morgan Freeman, Angelina Jolie, and James McAvoy) tells the story of a young man who discovers that his father is a trained assassin and, after his father's death, joins the organization that his father was a part of in his place. Expect large amounts of car crashes, CGI effects, and scary Angelina Jolie faces (see picture at right).

Hancock (July 4th): Will Smith teams up with *Friday Night Lights* director Peter Berg in a new superhero movie that will probably evolve into an Í am Legend-esque box office explosion. Smith plays Hancock, a superhero who has fallen on hard times (and developed a penchant for alcohol) who employs a public relations professional to help him improve his image. However, while this is all going on, Smith's character enters a relationship with the professional's wife. Those of us who are looking for laughs along with action sequences and romance will probably find this to be very satisfying.

Hellboy II: The Golden Army (July 11th): Comic book fans rejoice, Hellboy is back for another round thanks to outstanding DVD sales. This sequel is based on a similar premise to the initial movie, and is also directed by Guillermo Del Toro. The U.S. government once again calls on Hellboy and the rest of his motley crew of superhuman sidekicks to save the world from another otherworldly invasion. The trailer made the film initially seem a lot like the director's previous effort *Pan's Labyrinth*, so possibly expect a similar mix of fantasy and reality with a healthy dose of action to boot.



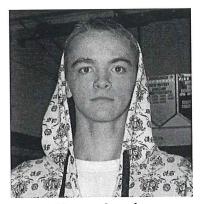








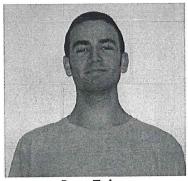
Seniors give advice to Juniors



Kenny Jacobs "Don't get senioritis"

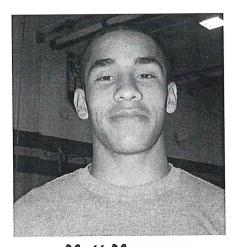


Arianna Pecoraro
"Have many options for college."

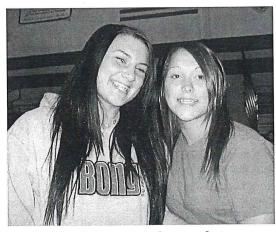


Dan Fahey
"Don't ask Mrs. Yuhas
for ketchup."





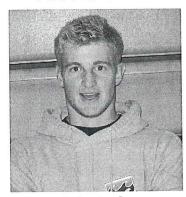
"Have fun, don't regret, and do as much as possible."



Jade Coyle and Michelle Horton "Take it slow, don't rush, and enjoy it while it lasts."



Kaitlin McLaughlin "Pick easy classes"



John Ledva "Plan B is always plan A"



Meghan Horn and Jared Schwartz: "Take advantage of Freshman Friday and senior privileges"

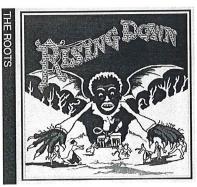
Rising Down by The Roots **A Real Downer**

By Matthew Haviland

Black Thought is a skinny, middle aged African American. Questlove looks like a teddy bear with an afro. In "75 Bars (Black's Reconstruction)", they throw a white businessman into a van, tie him to a chair, and light him on fire.

Offended yet?

You should be. *Rising Down*, The Roots' new album, *wants* to offend the listener. That's the only way people will listen. And, like a talkative drunk in the



seedy corner of a late-night bar, they have a lot to say.

But what's to listen to about a man being lit on fire? Well, that's just the music video. The actual song is 75 bars of straight rapping, no chorus, no singing, no bull***. There are hard hitting drums beating time in the background, and, other than the ongoing onslaught of rapping, really not much else.

And what is he saying? Well, the "N" word. For the first minute or so, Black Thought says "ni***" twenty-nine times. He just keeps saying it, over and over, using the controversial racial slur almost as punctuation - - like a period or a comma: "And I race scared *boom*," he says, "them snake head *boom*/ That take care of *boom* who don't break bread with us." One line has eight words, and *three* of them are "ni***."

Three out of eight: that's almost half of the words in the sentence. This slurring only lasts a third of the song, but it's very effective, and not out of ignorance. Black Thought is an intellectual, and he's obviously making a statement.

Maybe it's about the word's overuse. "Ni***" is used so much in rap music,

we almost stop noticing it. In this song, Black Thought is *making* us notice it. A word that was once shocking, and then commonplace, once again makes the listener scratch their head.

Like a passionate revolutionary giving a speech, The Roots have many statements to make. Drugs are prevalent, but never glorified: "I got so many options, there's so many toxins/ Really ain't no telling what we killin ourselves with," is one of the many anti-drug lines.

In "Lost Desire," Black Thought paints a chilling portrait of the inner city's casualties: "Pretty corpse in casket, bell-shaped orchids/ Said he 19, and left a self-made fortune/ And left three orphans/ Now he in a box with the same chain and watch/ That never came off him."

How better to fight modern issues than with a little help from your friends? Black Thought is practically surrounded with guest stars, each taking a verse to show their own perspective on these problems. The guest spots range from awesome (Saigon's thunderous third verse on "Criminal," Peedi Peedi's skittering raps on "Get Busy") to disturbing (P.O.R.N. and Truck North's verses on "Singing Man," which are about school shooters and suicide terrorists, respectively) to, well, environmentally conscious (Mos Def's concerned first verse on "Rising Down").

The album has great lyrics, dark, atmospheric musical vibes, and as always, great drumming from Questlove, who proves that a live rap band works just as well as a guy rapping in a booth. Especially with "Rising Up," the album's lone feel-good song, it sounds like a relaxing rainfall of drums and a triumphant, musical backing for the "Ernest Hemingway of



The band, notably Black Thought (bottom center) and Questlove (on the right, with the afro)

b-boy poems" (Black Thought), to tear it up with.

Rising Down isn't perfect - some verses are less exciting than others (Black's first, about global warming, is a bit boring) and the unforgiving darkness will need to grow on you. If not lyrically, then musically - every song, barring the last, sounds like a really kicking funeral hymn, or a pitch black battle soundtrack.

But ultimately, The Roots' eight studio album is as addicting as the "toxins" and "chewy blueys" it laments. Who thought ar album about persecution, horrific violence broken dreams, drugs, failing cities, and everything else you'd encounter on a midnigh stroll through through Queensbridge, could be so gosh darn funky?

Well, anyone who's ever listened to The Roots.



Matthoughts



By Matthew Francis Haviland

Microcosm: n. A small version of a larger system. In other words, a little world. It could be army men, animals on a farm... or a fishtank.

(I know my other column was about fish, but that one was really about Camden. Now, then...)

These fish didn't grow up in such a rough neighborhood. They were purchased at a run-down fishstore, brought to a suburban home, and left to survive above the most awful neon pebbles known to man.

They were... "birthday presents," chosen for their speed, endurance, and how much they resembled Colleen Kresge's friends. I think there were eight of us.

Of course that they bought me the fat one. Other than preying on my obvious insecurities, it was a smorgasbord of my personal qualities: it could barely swim, looked like an idiot, and spent its time as far away from the other fish as possible. And vuala!

I died first. Two days later.

Colleen decided to make my fish a grave, complete with a little wooden cross and pentagrams. She was going to name the cemetery, but my suggestions, and those of Kevin Adams, turned out to be nothing but ironic puns about the sea ("Sleeping with the Fishes" was my personal favorite).

Anyway, it wasn't a fluke. Lenny's fish went down a few days later, and his was *vivacious*, far removed from the lumbering failure dubbed "Matthew." Something was amiss.

Well, something was anyway. Whether it was mourning or in-

sanity, the wake of "my" death found the other fish floating motionless. Colleen called me into her room to see it, and I tore away in sheer terror. It was obvious that these were either psychotic aquatic animals or Ms. Kresge was feeding them Xyklon B.

Whatever it was, it kept working. Soon after Lenny's, Colleen's fish dropped off, and then John's and Kyle's. Our fish community had turned into a veritable Camden, each fin concealing a rusty shiv, each gil packed with seaweed, and each trail of bubbles getting weaker, weaker... nothing.

Looking back on it, I don't think Colleen was that great a fish owner. Her fish just kept.. dying. Christian went soon, which secretly delighted me (his fish tried to kill "Matt," just before "Matt" died anyway), and then went Frank.

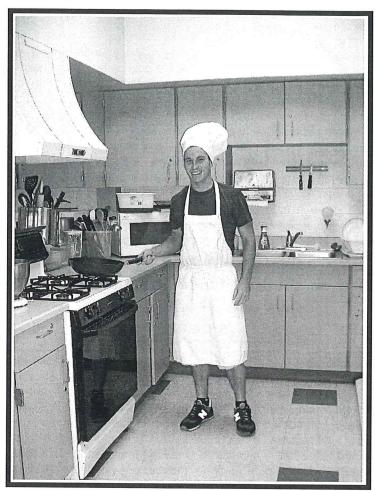
The only remaining fish was Veronica, who bought them all in the first place. I guess it's only right that she should be the last one swimming, if only to marvel at her economic disaster. And then, as they all did, and as we all eventually do, she died too.

So that's the story: everyone passed away, right away. Some say it was the owner's fault, but me? I think we were doomed from the start.

If you take one lesson from this story, it should probably be "don't get fish," because they might all die right away. They just don't seem to be resilient pets, especially if they're named after you and your friends.

And next time you buy an animal of any kind... please consider feeding it.

Phillips Earns the final Chef of the Month



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Random Drug Testing: Is It Right For Us?



America...Home of the Free?

By: Kaitlin McGuinness

The terrible tragedies that have occurred this year highlight the major changes needed at Manasquan High School. It is truly commendable that the administration is taking steps and addressing the problem, rather than just futilely discussing it. However, I don't think that random drug testing is the right choice for our school.

agree with the sentiment, but not with the method. Requiring students to submit to a drug test without any choice in the matter is exceedingly invasive and a violation of their personal rights. The fact that we are students and underage does not justify a violation of our freedoms. We are still human beings and American citizens and are entitled to free will. I am forced to wonder what would be an administrator's reaction if the situation were reversed and he or she was required to submit their bodies and surrender their free will. Would they feel, as the Supreme Court of the state of Washington stated, that all people including students, have "a genuine and fundamental privacy interest in controlling his or her own bodily functions."

Only the students that are involved in extra-curricular activities will be eligible for this program, which makes up 85 percent of the school. This is an impressive number, and whether this policy would affect it remains to be seen. The fact that the policy can only assert authority over those who don't want to have privileges stripped from them reveals

its inherent lack of justifiable basis. Receiving a privilege does not negate a student's constitutional rights.

According to Students for Sensible Drug Policies, only 5 percent of American schools engage in random drug testing of their student athletes, and only 2 percent randomly test students who participate in other extracurricular activities. They stated that "prominent that oppose organizations random suspicionless student drug testing include Education the National Association, the Association for Addiction Professionals, the American Public Health Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the National Association of Social Workers, and the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence."

When asked how he felt about the policy's impingement of students' civil liberties, Principal Coppola referred to court cases in which courts have ruled with the schools on the matter. This response portrays the message that as long as the administration is acting within the letter of the law, students' liberties are superfluous.

This policy not only asserts that students must submit to the administration's will about all matters, including control over their bodies; randomly testing students gives the impression that every single Manasquan student is guilty until proven innocent. In America, people are innocent

Students FOR RDT

By: Nicole Casey

"Every high school has a drug problem." I am sure we have all heard that line in the past couple of months. Many adults are using that as an excuse when asked about the "problems" MHS has faced this school year. However, not every high school suffers the loss of two of its students because of drugs.

Of course we are all aware of the drug and alcohol survey most of us took last year, since the newspaper and administration still bring it up whenever possible. Yes, these results were horrific, but things have changed drastically since then. The drugs some people have been doing, the amount of alcohol some people have consumed, and the amount of time some people have spent "partying" this year out does the previous years. This school year has definitely marked a need for change.

The new administration, following in the footsteps of the old, believes that instituting a random student drug testing program is one of the ways to begin to fix our school's "problems". Although this process sounds extremely intimidating, it is the best choice for our school.

The state mandates that students suspected of being under the influence be suspended, expelled, hospitalized or even prosecuted. Although the school's random drug testing proposal does not replace the state's harsh "under suspicion" policy, it has nothing but a positive impact upon



our lives.

While several failed tests could ultimately result in a few of the above mentioned penalties, a student who fails his or her first test will NOT be suspended from extra-curricular activities. Why? Because that is what students wanted.

When the administration was designing the testing policy, some of the decisions they had to make consisted of what the punishment would be for each negative test result. After talking to groups of students trying to build trust in the process, the administration honored students' request that no penalty for a first offense was most fitting.

Although a non-punitive first offense may seem pointless, it has many hidden benefits. A student who fails his or her first drug test may not suffer harsh consequences, yet they will have no choice but to attend counseling and receive help for their addiction. Plus, that person will be re-tested throughout the school year. By allowing this student to continue to participate in clubs and sports while being treated, it keeps him or her busy, leaving them with less time to waste, and quite possibly, continue abusing substances.

Being a member of a team myself, I also realize how important it is that all members of a team attend every practice and game. By making the first offense non-punitive the school is protecting its clubs and teams from loosing crucial members for their meetings, events, and games. An entire

Bring on the change,

BAW

by Jared H. Schwartz

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Mahatma Ghandi. Nelson Mandela, Barack,

It is once in a blue moon that the world is influenced by such incredible people such as the men above. We have experienced such a rare moment with the introduction of presidential candidate Senator Barack Obama. This year America has broken new ground with Obama as the first African-American to serve as a candidate in a presidential election.

I'm not only a passenger on the "Obama Bandwagon" for the "obvious" reasons. Obama can attribute his extreme popularity not only to the color of his skin, although it is an essential part of his image, but also from his popularity stems from his inspirational effect on all members of society, including passionate African-Americans like yours truly.

Many believe that Senator Obama does not have enough experience to take on presidency and make fun of him for wanting to "bring on a change." Many also believe that Barack Obama is nothing more than a once-off popular phenomenon. Obama has been labeled a liar, a racist, a sexist, and even unpatriotic...go figure. And let's not forget how many African-Americans feel that he isn't "Black enough" for them (that's my favorite). And the cherry on the sundae is that people are giving criticizing him for having the name, Barack Hussein Obama!

In response, all that I have to say is...bring on the change, Obama. It cannot be denied that Obama is truly concerned and passionate about improving the nation. For example, he is making a huge effort to bring about universal healthcare for the whopping 46 million citizens who are uninsured. Also, he is strongly advocating reducing emissions in order to fight global warming.

On the educational front, Obama is also hard at work to improve the nation's education by co-sponsoring a number of bills. One bill was the legislation that created Future Teacher Corps Scholarships which provides money to students studying to become teachers. He has also sponsored bills to increase Pell Grants to help students pay for their college education. With the high prices for college education increasing...bring on the change, Obama!

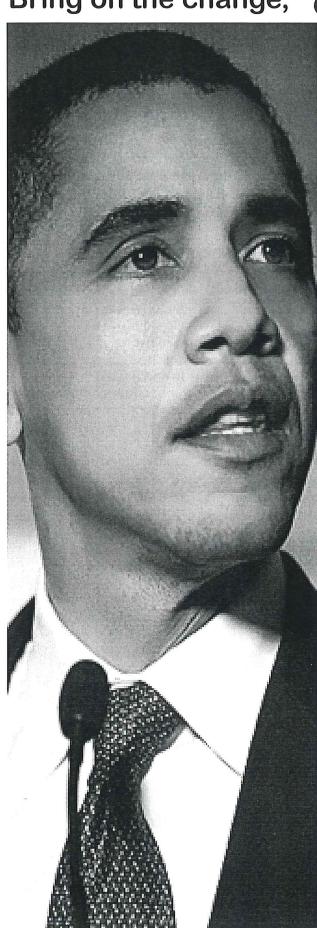
Most importantly, due to his own opposition to the war in Iraq, Obama is working on a steady withdrawal from the war. Though many people are for an immediate withdrawal, withdrawing from the war with a steady pace is the most sensible decision.

Although those who are against Obama present a valid argument that he has little experience in office, years of experience does not equate to a great presidency. The current administration proves this point.

If you can believe it, what Obama has accomplished is bigger than the presidential election. This is the closest that an African-American has come to the presidency and he is bringing a minority to the forefront, differing from their secondary position in politics. Instead of bashing the man and highlighting his trivial flaws, we should all cherish this milestone in history.

If Obama does not win the 2008 presidential election, the chances of getting another minority to step foot into the office is pretty slim. Jesse Jackson has run for president multiple times and has seen little advancement. Obama is truly a rare case so it may be awhile before another African-American like him comes along. Now is the time for Americans to band together in support of such a major change in the country. Although, many will not admit it, the election has literally become black and white, making the decision for presidency more controversial than ever.

Some shun at the idea of an African-American in the White House, joking that it will turn into "The Black House". All jokes aside, this election will be one of the most important elections in history, and Barack Obama is the most befitting person for such a change. I don't know about you, but I want to be apart of that change. He is truly inspiring. Bring on the change, Obama!



Students Take on Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Gay? Want to Donate Blood? Think Again.

By: Thomas Sullivan

As most of us know, blood drive annual the was on June 2nd, and the urging administration was everyone to donate to make our blood drive a successful one. Unfortunately, if you're a gay male, this may not have been an option for you. Being automatically homosexual causes the FDA to label you as a high risk for AIDS, no matter your age or previous history of relationships.

policy This established during the AIDS crisis in the 1980s as an attempt to understandably keep AIDS and HIV out of blood donations. As the years progressed onward, scientists have changed their findings on AIDS and potential cures, but the FDA has refused to budge. While the FDA has claimed to have updated their policy, the last update was in 1992. At this point in time, we cannot label the FDA policy as preventive, but we can definitely say one thing: the policy as a whole is incredibly homophobic.

What bothers me the most about the policy in general is the fact that FDA seems to be completely oblivious to the fact that *everyone* can get AIDS. In a Q&A page that the FDA provides on their policy for MSM (Men Who Have Sex with Other Men), the thing that baffled me the most was that the FDA, in a

statistic, stated simultaneously that heterosexual women also were a high risk for HIV, yet they were still allowed to give blood. Under this policy, a heterosexual female (or heterosexual male) could have sex with as many people as he or she wanted to, possibly get AIDS, and still donate blood after waiting a year after the sexual encounter. However, as

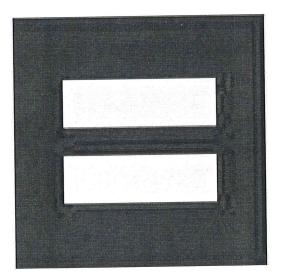
stated before, if a homosexual male is in a monogamous relationship, he is barred for life.

Joel Ginsberg, executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, expressed his confusion about the policy when recently interviewed by ABC. Ginsberg stated and questioned the FDA policy and called it

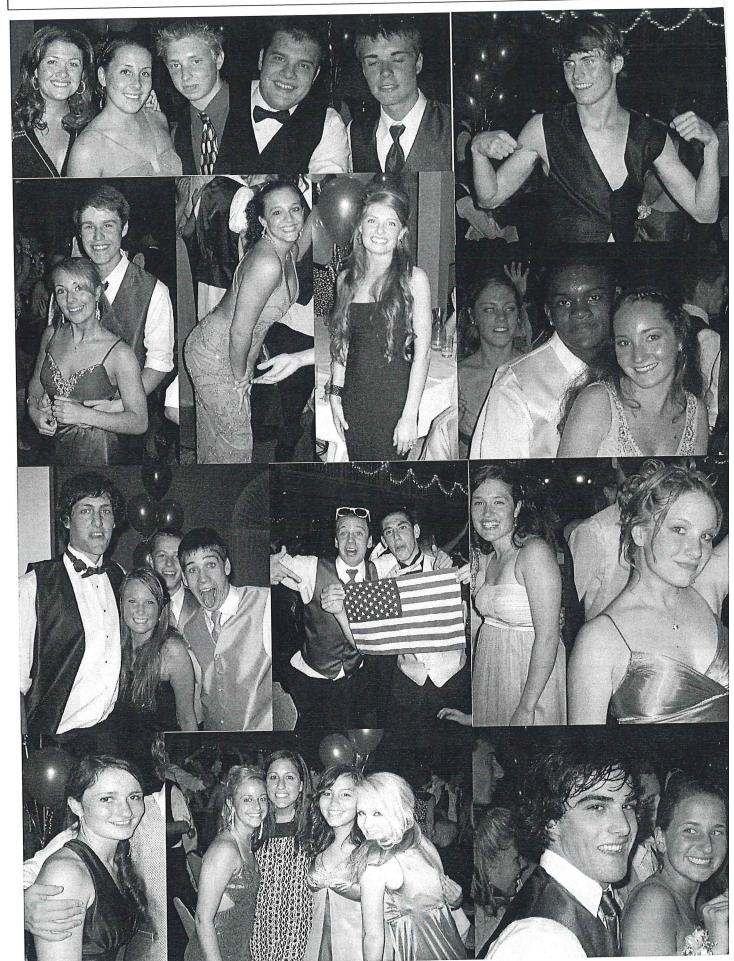
"thoroughly disappointing"; he couldn't have said it better.

However, many people currently and in past years have not let this policy go unnoticed. In 2003, the policy was brought to the forefront during the annual blood-drive at New York University, a college which has a large LGBT population. The student body established a petition that was placed at each blood donation site on campus and, after having thousands of students sign it, was eventually sent to the FDA. Obviously, the petition was rejected and they continued to lose potential healthy blood donors.

Despite it all, gay males are still placed down with those who have sexual relations with prostitutes and those who enjoy injecting all sorts of fun chemicals into their bloodstreams. Unlike these people whom were initially also banned but are now allowed to give blood after a 12 month period, the gay community is still suffering from a complete ban that is both discriminatory and homophobic. All we car do at this point is hope tha the FDA will eventually come to their senses. When you give blood next year, please remember that this option is not given to everyone, and please voice your opinion Every comment counts.



HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN



Peer Leaders of the Future

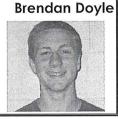
Some of MHS's most dedicated and responsible students join the Pi Leadership Program. So, if you have a problem next year, talk to the Maybe they'll help! Let's take a moment to meet them, now.



KJ Pringle

What Veteran Peer, Christie Deligny, has to say about KJ: "He is very kind and will be a great buddy to someone"

Brendan's teacher, Mr. Wasnesky says, "I think he is cut out to be a Peer Leader. He is even keeled and easy going. I could see Brendan relating well to many kinds of students."





Mrs. Kozic, Laura's teacher says that "Laura is very outgoing, responsible, and all around a great girl!"

His teacher, Mr. Mawn commented that "Jason is a serious and very smart young man. I think he'll be able to tutor other students efficiently and be a reliable Peer Leader to turn to."



Caroline Dettlinger

Science teacher, Mr. Glenn says. "Caroline's definitely an awesome kid – hardworking and very studious."

Michelle Kohl thinks, "Julio is one of the most compassionate and caring people I know. He will be a great addition to the Peer Leadership Program."



Emma Snook

Veteran Peer Lisa Bartholomew comments that "Emma is really sweet, and always looks so cute!"





What his teacher, Dr. Buckley, has to say about Guy: "There's never a dull moment with Guy! He spices up the classroom!"

Her teacher, Mrs. Crowning, feels that, "Romina is just one of those students you can always depend on. I wish all students were like her!"

Romina Garcia



Jocelyn Marrone



Veteran Peer Sarah Gratzel says, "Jocelyn is such a sincere girl and has amazing potential to be a Peer Leader."

Veteran Peer Alex Hendrickson has only wonderful things to say about Rich:"He's a kind person to everyone and is a sincere hardworking person."

Rich Dulski



Sarah Forman



Veteran Peer, Michelle Kohl thinks "She is great with kids because of all her brothers and sisters; I know she will make her buddy's day great!"

Ariana Margetis

Her teacher Mr. Glenn feels that "Ariana has always cared about her work and wanted to learn."



Sam Mathews



Sarah Gratzel, a Veteran Peer Leader, thinks "She is an amazing person in general and will be good with kids."

The Seniors of The Blue & Gray

Would like to give a special goodbye to... MR.MAWN

Mr. Mawn,

Without you there is no way that The Blue & Gray would have even gotten finished, acutally without you it probably would have never gotten started. The Senior staff memebers would like to give you, in our own words, our special goodbyes:

You've made a huge impact on what I want to do with my future. I will always be involved in journalism, and I love it! Thanks to you! Thank you for all of your caring words of encouragement

Jamee

Thank you Mr. Mawn for being a fab teacher and introducing me to Harold and Maude.(the Best movie ever) Imma miss you next year best friend. Haley

Mr. Mawn is the MAN! I joined the crew late but he welcomed me in and through me into the excitement of journalism. Thanks Mr. Mawn for helping me see that the Blue & Gray is one of the cornerstone of MHS student life

I have had three classes with Mr.Mawn and some of my best high school memories were made there. Not only is he a great teacher but an amazing person. He has taught me so much and I'll miss him immensely

Shannon

You are the most fantabulous journalism teacher ever. I'm going to miss you and the B&G next year Claire From the moment I met Mr. Mawn I immediately liked him. He is always so upbeat and enthusiastic. Being in The Blue and Gray with him is one of the most fun classes any student could take. I have learned a great deal from Mr. Mawn These past two years. He has helped me with my writing grow so much and helped me use new techniques to make my articles better. I am really going to miss Mawnster a lot.

Katya

Mr.Mawn is definitely one ot the best teachers I have ever had! I have always enjoyed English but Mr. Mawn teaching has led me to love it. Not only is he an awesome, upbeat teacher, Mr. Mawn is a great person! He has led the B&G to victory, every issue, all year!

Sara

I can't begin to put into words how greatful I am that i have been able to have you as a teacher the past two years. Because of your passion for journalism, and faith in me, I realized what I would like to do in my future. I will take the lessons you have taught with me next year and the rest of my life, Thanks Mawn! Your the best

Kiersten

I'm so glad I transferred into the B&G. There is nowhere else I would of rather spent fifth period. Thanks for a great journalism and English class. I will never forget you

Jackie

Mawn, you are one of the most passionately laid back involved yet totally unrestrictive man to ever wear and sweater vest, hell a true enigma, nay—an enigmamawn.

Matt

You are one of the greatest teachers I have ever had. You have taught me many things over the years, and I feel I am a better person having learned from you

Tyler

Bout of A cin't bed...



A closer look at the Student Council and it's new Executive Board

by Jared H. Schwartz

The votes are in! Four new students were elected by their peers to represent the entire student body as the Student Council Executive Board. Juniors Jimmy Miller, Aedan Nielsen, Mary Sisti and Kerry Fechter will serve as Student Council president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer, respectively.

"Our goal was to get an executive board willed with only red heads," stated both Jimmy Miller and Aedan Nielsen. Luckily, both have achieved their goal more than half way with fellow red-haired Kerry Fechter contributing to their "Red-Headed Ensemble".

In addition to electing a new Executive Board, representatives for new year's senior, junior, and sophomore classes were chosen, as well. The election for Freshman Class representatives is on of the first priorities for the Executive Board next year.

Just like other years, members of the Student Council had a hectic agenda. Jam-packed with activities for both the school and the community, students worked to represent the student body in a positive way.

"You never truly realize how much you do for the school and the community when you're in Student Council, until it comes to an end," states senior Michelle Kohl, who has served as a representative for her class all four years. She expressed that she joined Student Council in hopes of meeting new people, and learned a lot about herself through participation in the organization. "It definitely helped discipline me, because when we worked...we worked."

Members of the Student Council begin working during the summer. The Executive Board meets frequently during the summer to plan events for the upcoming year. First on the agenda is Freshmen Orientation, and all members of the Student Council participate to give tours and speak about the school. Once school starts, the action begins and Student Council members work intensely.

From planning Halloween and pep rally activities in October and November to organizing the HSPAlympics and coordinating the election in the spring, the Student Council has done a lot. In addition, members were also active in gaining students' support in the tragedy at Virginia Tech, Breast Cancer Awareness, Teacher Appreciation and many other causes.

"Although we participate in a lot of activities, being apart of the Executive Board means taking on more responsibilities," says Haley McNeel, who has served as secretary to the entire student body.

One of those responsibilities is working collectively with the school administration to make beneficial changes to the school. "Students notify Student Council with problems and ideas and we discuss them with [advisor] Mrs. Elms. Then we usually take it to Mr. Coppola."

This year, the Executive Board has revised the criteria for eligibility for seniors who go out to lunch, added a senior breakfast, established an Annual College Day, and set the precedent for Student Council president to speak at graduation.



Juniors Mary Sisti, Aiden Nielsen, Jimmy Miller, and Kerry Fechter are hoping for a prosperous year.

"Although, it may seem to some that changes in the school didn't happen fast enough," said Mrs. Elms, "Thing did. Many people don't realize that there is a chain of command, so sometimes it takes awhile."

As for next year's Executive Board, they hope to ma even more changes that cater to the entire student body a not only the senior class. "We would really like to reconsidenew location for the senior prom and have more interscholatic community service being done," state Jimmy Miller. Niels expressed that he would like to see the school provide sidents with buses to support athletes during away games.

"I feel that the four of us will work great together as team," says Mary Sisti, "We are friends and we will work ve hard to create a memorable year."

According to Mrs. Elms, this past year has beer wonderful one for the Student Council, stating, "The Cour members set goals for themselves and successfully reach them and the students' voices were definitely heard."

"I feel that our Executive Board is smart, friendly a we will really work together," says Aedan Nielsen. ""We hav lot of work to do, but we are prepared to put forth all of the till and energy necessary for things to be accomplished," Mi added.

This year's executive board (Amanda Lombardi, I ley McNeel, Meghan Horn, and Jared Schwartz) plan to m with next year's board to offer advice and aid on how to he a successful school year. "Our lines are always open," so Lombardi, "Communication is always key."

So, as another year closes, and another board si goodbye, the new Executive Board is confident that next y will be a great one.

PROJECT SOAR



Outdoor Education Program

Mr. Wasnesky & Mrs. Monaghan join ten students as they venture outside the classroom

By: Jackie Truesdale

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Recently, about ten students accompanied by Mr. Wasnesky and Mrs. Monaghan took place in a project soar outdoor education program. The project's aim was to introduce a structured outdoor experience through outdoor education. This three day program consisted of three parts:

1) Team-building activities, 2) a day-hike at Hartshorne Woods Park and 3) indoor rock climbing at NJ Rocks climbing gym.

The first day consisted of teambuilding activities. This was held after school on Wednesday, May 28th at the MHS football field. They started off by doing activities that allowed them all to get to know each other better. They also did leadership activities that involved working as a group to get an

end result. They found these activities to be very beneficial and helped everyone feel more comfort-





able with each other.

The second part of the program took place on Friday, May 30th. The group took a bus to Hartshorne Woods Park, where they spent the beautiful day hiking 4 miles. "It was amazing how Mr. Wasnesky knew every trail, it was as if we were at his second home," said Alex DeMuro. When they reached the top they had lunch and played frisbee. Lisa Bartholomew said "The view was incredible."

The last part of the project took place at New Jersey Rocks climbing gym, where the students went indoor rock climbing. After School on Monday, June 2nd, the students traveled to the gym and enjoyed their afternoon rock climbing. "It was so much fun and if I could I would go everyday," said Alex DeMuro. Rock climbing forced many





of the students to face their fears and challenge themselves. It also involved trusting others.

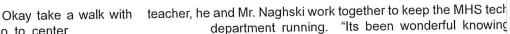
The students not only learned leadership skills and character devel opment, but had fun while doing it. Mrs Monaghan expressed much gratitude to the students involved. "They were a great group of kids," she said, "And it was amazing how fearless they a were." Mr. Wasnesky and Mrs. Moraghan both look forward to doing thi outdoor education program next year because of what a great experience it was for everyone.





Bittersweet Goodbye

To a Techfabulous Teacher



said Mr. Scott.

me. Go to center hall. Start walking towards the gym. Keep walking past the science rooms. You will see a set of doors, go through them. Walk down

Dr.O.

the stairs. Instead of going to the health room, go through another doorway. Make your first left. That is the tech room.

Most students, throughout all four years of attending Manasquan High School, never step

foot in the tech room. Luckily for me I got to spend my senior year of study hall in down there helping out (well, trying) a very special teacher. Mr. Mike Naghski.

After 18 years of teaching at MHS, Mr. Naghski is retiring. Ironically the same year I graduate. Okay, so maybe he isn't retiring because I am graduating, but for someone who has

taught for about 41 years, I'm pretty sure he deserves it.

Before teaching Mr. Naghski worked on the school board. After his job there he taught at Howell for 12 years and then got a job working at Sperry-Univac in computer repair for the World Wide Education Center Department, where he worked for 11 years.

After Sperry-Univac he began work at Manasquan. The first eight years at MHS were spent teaching computer science before he moved on to tech.

Tech first started as a volunteer project for students during their study hall but turned into an independent study five years ago.

Mr. Naghski also coached Lacrosse from 1990 to 1996. Not only did he coach the team but also his three sons, Michael, Brian, and Chris (now 34, 32, and 29).

Although he loved coaching Lacrosse, Mr. Naghski became too busy with all the new technology flooding the high

school and decided to turn the job over to someone else.

Not only does Mr. Naghski fix computer problems in the high school but in the grammar school too. When I asked him what are everyday problems he solves he laughed and said "anything that's plugged in," (of course with a hint of sarcasm).

Besides Mr. Naghski there is someone else down there, Mr. Naghski's close friend and (as I call him) partner in crime, Mr. Scott. Although fewer students know Mr. Scott, because he is not a



Above: Mr. Naghski ad his granddaughter Addie

sense of humor, and his witty sarcasm. A quote written on last years teacher appreciation applications by one of Mr. Naghski's previous students, Nic Standt, captures the fondness his students have for him. "Onc upon a time in a galaxy far, far away Joseph Michael Naghsł was created to save MHS from various tech related evils to thi

Mr. Naghski for the past four years. Im in awe of his

wisdom and I have learned so much from him. I am

really going to miss him. He is a major asset to the

MHS program, and we can all learn from him, not jus

in the computer lab but in every aspect of our lives,

Only a few students have Mr. Naghski, Kevir

Woolley, Jamie McGuire, Jeff Kirk, Dan Liskoff

Kyle Carty, Elliot Erstein, and myself. I think

speak for us all and anyone that has had Mı

Naghski, that he has made a tremendous impac

on our senior year, with his great personality

day he has been keeping the world safe fror the evil forces of Mr. Scott and Dan Hamilto gone wrong daily. He is known only a Manasquan High School Tech Department.

You're probably thinking, oh my gos what is this? But to the people that know M Naghski best, we know where Nick is comin from.

So what he is going to do in his spar time, fix his truck of course! Along with fixin his truck he plans on working on his house an garden, playing with his grandkids, spendin time with his wife, traveling, exercising, ar riding his motercycle. But staying away from tech? Probably not. He is planning on spending

few days a week working with what he knows best.

Finally, Thank you Mr. Naghski for all your hard wor sacrifices, and dedication to Manasquan High School. Undyour leadership our schools use of technology has grown, ar your tech program has helped students learn.

Every teacher that has had called on yo for a tech problem, every student that has ev had you, Mr. Scott, and future tech students a going to miss you and the warmth, knowledge, ar advice you give to anyone who steps into the ter

'Abandon Hope All Ye Who Enters' may be tl sign above the tech room door, but after being MHS for four years I can honestly say this cla has made my experience here at MHS complet So, a lot of thanks to Mr. Naghski.



Above: The whole Family at his son Brian's wedding



Above: Mr. Naghski and his grandson, Sam

Goodbye, Mrs. Tully!

Long-time Media Center Specialist Looks Ahead to Retirement

By: Sarah Kleinfeld

Yes, it's true. For those of you who have heard the rumors, it can now be confirmed that Mrs. Tully, Manasquan High School's resident library media specialist, will be retiring. After nineteen wonderful years as an employee of MHS, Mrs. Tully will be departing from her position at the conclusion of this school year.

Tully wasn't Mrs. always our "keeper of the library", though. At the age of ten, she got her first job washing dishes in her grandma's restaurant, and soon gained quite the reputation. She recalls the cook saying that she was the best dish washer at the restaurant because she washed both the front and back of plates. Later, Mrs. Tully attended the College of Saint Elizabeth, where she majored in history with a minor in English. She then moved on to complete her masters in library science from Rutgers University.

After working at the Newark Public Library for four years, Mrs. Tully was employed at Ocean Township High School. She reentered the workforce after having her children, but Mrs. Tully didn't go back to Ocean Township; oh noit was time for her to step into her role as Manasquan High School's library media specialist.

After nineteen years at MHS, Mrs. Tully has had

many great experiences here. She considers the best part about her job was, "definitely the people- both and student's, teachers they have made it fun." But guys, sorry to let everyone down, Mrs. Tully does not favor anyone in particulardoesn't have any she favorite students. Instead, "There have she savs. been consistently so many students who are full of personality and that hasn't changed in nineteen years."

Not only has she enjoyed her interactions with people, but also attending various events at the high school. Mrs. Tully says, "I've always loved the activities like going to prom to see the fashions, going to plays and concerts, and as the senior class advisor, doing powder puff!"

Mrs. Although, Tully will miss being with fellow teachers and the many MHS students, she has some awesome plans for her retirement. She will definitely be keeping busy! She will be traveling to Hawaii in December with her husband and relaxing with a friend who has a house in Maui! In addition, Mrs. Tully is taking a cross country trip to a family reunion in Oregon, and camping along the way. She is also looking forward to not having to set her morning alarm, but instead, just sleeping in.



As Senior Class Adviser, one of Mrs. Tully's favorite days of the school year is the annual Senior Ball. Above, Mrs. Tully takes the dance floor by storm, celebrating her last prom with the class of 2008. Below, Mrs. Tully with Mr. Harvey, displaying a children's book made by English students in her honor.



continued on next page

DOBNATYOUR

Students Hit Bodies...the Exhibition in the Big Apple

by Jared H. Schwartz

Students from the Health Careers Club, Mr. Hyland's Sports Injury Management class, and Mr.

Lempa's Anatomy classes attended the Bodies exhibition in New York.

The trip was meant for students to explore and and gain further knowledge about the human body.

"The Health Careers Club attended the exhibit for the first time last year, and opened the trip up to more students," stated senior Chelsey Bogan, who is a member of the Health Careers Club.

The exhibit was decorated with preserved skeletons that were the frames of real bodies. The trip was very informative and provided studetns with visuals to support what they were learning in the classroom.

"Each room shows a different section of the human body," Bogan explained, "There is a part for female bodies, male bodies, muscles, and even fetuses. That was my favorite part."

Senior Angel Rojas also attended the trip, since he is apart of Mr. Lempa's 3rd Block Anatomy class. "My favorite part was seeing the veins, because it was cool how they hung in the water. It was weird, because that's how our veins look in our body," Rojas stated. He explained

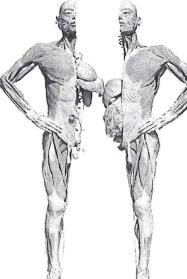
that the trip provided him with vital information that will help him in his future, because he will study to become a surgeon following graduation.

Chelsea Dunning, who is also a senior and a member of the Health Careers Club, had a lot to say about the trip. "I was so fascinated with the exhibit," Dunning exclaimed, "It was interesting, because it showed the many internal organs and what it looks like if you break a bone or tear a muscle. The exhibit also highlighted types of sicknesses such as, lung cancer. It was so much information but it was easy to take in by lookin

Besides the exhibit itself, all of the students who attended agreed that the festivities that followed the viewing was their favorite part. "We got to eat across the street on the pier afterwards," Dunning stated, "It was delicious!"

"When we had free time, I definitley made time to chill in the mini mall," Rojas confessed.

As a whole, all of the students who attended stated that the day was a success. Specifically, students in the Health Careers Club left with a better appreciation for health careers. Many expressed that the only negative part about the day was...returning back to school.





Crepes, Anyone?

Mr. Januario's French class found a fun way to combine learning with celebrating... making crepes!
Following Mrs. Yuhas's tasty recipe, the class concocted one of France's best loved foods for its favorite French teacher!
Mr. Januario's birthday will not be soon forgotten.







Drama Club Wraps up Fabulous Year

By: Jamee Shea

After a long year of tremendous work and remarkable shows, the MHS Drama Club celebrated with a special end of the year event on Saturday, May 17.

The traditional banquet started out with an induction for the drama new comers into the International Thespian Society. This privilege proves how dedicated they were to all the shows on or behind the stage.

After the thespians signed and recited their pledge, Mr. Weisert announced a gave out awards for the proud seniors. **First** president Anna Klindtworth was awarded with the Jack Nicholson Award. Next the two Best Thespians Awards were given to Shea Flood and Matt Truex for their outstanding, yet unusual performances in Jekyll and Hyde. Hannah Tichansky was then given the Lyle Dorm Drama Achievement Award for her hard work behind the scenes.

As the ceremony came to a close, one last award was given. Jamee

Shea was awarded with Ray Scholarship. the first annual Broadway \$1,000 scholarship presented by "Broadway Ray" Soehngen himself.

The

was

The night continued on in the cafeteria, looking its best covered with blue and yellow decorations and old posters of past MHS Drama Club shows. The posters mounted the walls representing 50 shows in celebration and

Delicious food and entertainment followed. Members laughed and shared some fun or even traumatizing memories from the past few shows.

accomplishment.

Later on. former Thespian, Amanda Czerminski attended guest speaker who talked about her firsthand experience as highly dedicated student with a theater major at Northeastern University.

The night and this years drama club term came to an end with a hilarious drama banquet movie and elections for officers took place. Chorus president Kaylyn Gray was elected as drama club president for next year.

Talk of the Town!



Congratulations to Mr. Weisert and the entire MHS Drama Club, who were honored by Mayor George Dempsey for their outstanding work on this spring's musical hit, Jekyl & Hyde. The mayor cited Drama director Lee Weisert's in particular, praising his achievement of an impressive career milestone. Jekyl & Hyde marked Weisert's 50th school play, a testament to many years of commitment to student actors and the art he loves. Excellent work, thespians!



The Blue & Gray Manasquan High School 167 Broad Street Manasquan, NJ 08736

Principal:

Mr. Rick Coppola

Issue 5

June 10, 2008

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