

March 2015

Manasquan High School

The Blue & Gray State Champs!

*Boys win Central Jersey
Group II championship;
Girls win Tournament of
Champions!*



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Sweeney Todd a Hit for MHS Drama Club

By: Sarah Spears

Every year, Mr. Weisert and the cast of Manasquan High School put on fantastic productions in both the fall and the spring. The spring always features a musical, and for this year it's none other than *Sweeney Todd, the Demon Barber of Fleet Street*. Loosely based off the story *The String of Pearls*, this adaptation of Stephen Sondheim's *Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* is centered around Benjamin Barker who, after years of being a criminal, comes back to London to seek revenge on Judge Turpin (played by Walter Wall) who convicted him. He claims the alias of Sweeney Todd. Playing this vindictive soul is none other than senior JD Donohue, and his partner in crime, Mrs. Lovett, is played by Marygrace Iorio, a sophomore, who absolutely stole the show.

From a chair with a trap door, to a functioning bridge, a smoking oven, murder, and fantastic musical numbers, this show has it all. However, at first it was not an easy feat to overcome. The cast and crew worked really hard to make sure that the musical numbers, the quick changes, memorizing where to go and what to say, et cetera were all executed flawlessly. JD remarked that "this is one of the hardest shows we've ever done and for their first show, [the freshman] have really stepped up to the plate." Just by watching the play, it's not hard to see how much hard work went into making it as tight-knit and perfect as possible.

The show itself was wonderfully executed. The scenes ran smoothly and each actor really became their characters. JD was as frightening as could be while Marygrace, who, as a sophomore was new to being a lead in the school play, killed it. When asked about her favorite part of playing Mrs. Lovett, she remarked, "Just playing the part in general. She's so original, there's so many different parts to her and I loved playing all of them." There were actually quite a few kisses between some characters as well as little bits of humor, as were seen most prominently in the scenes between Sweeney Todd and Aldolfo Pirelli (Dimitrios Morgan) and Tobias (Brendan Gillespie). Johanna (Jackie Phillips) and Anthony (Jackson Dunson) were convincingly in love, with their meaningful duets and ability to triumph over ever hurdle in the play with ease. What added to the show immensely, was the power of their voices and their hard work. Ally De Forge, who portrayed a crazy beggar woman, carried a tune like no other. Adam Dayton, who played the Beadle and Sean Flarity as Jonas Fogg did a great job adding variety to the show.

However, as Marygrace put it, "everyone was necessary" so the show itself wouldn't have



Senior JD Donohue showcased his stage skills in the starring role of the musical, *Sweeney Todd*. Here he exults in murdering his nemesis, Judge Turpin, played by Walter Wall.

been able to run as flawlessly as it did without the help of all the different behind the scenes crews. The set looked amazing, the makeup was realistic, the lights and music were perfectly placed, and the costumes were spot on. Not only that, but those in the ensemble really worked hard to make the musical numbers sound and look their best.

After the show, the drama club celebrates by going out to get food. Marygrace mentions that, "It's always a good feeling completing [the play] because you worked really hard doing it so it's just a good feeling." Sometimes the kids wouldn't get home until 12 at night, but it was well worth it because they got to relax after seeing all of their hard work come to fruition.

Mr. Weisert picked the perfect year to have *Sweeney Todd* performed in the Jack Nicholson Theatre. The cast and crew were on top of their game, and he did a great job directing them through the difficulties of the show. Elise McLaughlin confessed that "Mr. Weisert is a great director he always does great shows", which couldn't be more true. Congratulations to everyone who helped make the show happen. And remember if JD wants to give you a shave, don't say yes!



Pictured center, top: freshman Sam Accisano and Ella Cardelfe with sophomore Ally DeForge perform the final song of the show; far left: Marygrace and JD, as Mrs. Lovett and Sweeney Todd, joyously plan their customers' demise; at left: juniors Jackie Phillips and Jackson Dunson, as Johanna and Anthony, begin their secret love affair.



Be Someone's Hero: Squan-a-Thon Raises over \$90,000!

and their improv class, and a superhero themed scavenger hunt. Reverberating throughout the school was music from a DJ and live acts, including Manasquan's very own seniors Kevin Maldjin and John Russo in their band, "The Brett Favre Experience."

With the plethora of activities came an abundance of food. Students ravenously attacked the nacho bar supplied by the Eastons at 10 o'clock, the Legget wings at 12 o'clock, and the pork roll and cheese sandwiches at 1 o'clock from Edgar's. Additionally, the dancers were able to quench their thirst with fruit-infused water and iced tea and lemonade from Wawa.

As the night came to a close, the attention slowly turned away from the excitement of the activities to the sentimental aspects of the event. When the clock struck 5 am, Mr. Battaglia



"My favorite part of Squan-A-Thon was...watching all of the committee dance-offs. They were all so funny."

-Senior, Marianne Kenneally

the time out of their busy lives to recognize that teachers do make a difference. The video was beautiful and heartwarming. I agree with the [farewell] song in the video 'It Has Been The Time Of My Life.'"

Transitioning from sentimental to comical, the focus shifted to the Squan-A-Thon committee members as they partook in the annual committee dance-off. Special Events and Food combined and followed a boy-band theme, Marketing portrayed the transformation of Miley Cyrus throughout the years, Communications freelanced a rap-girl trio, Entertainment danced to a variation of songs focusing on general awkwardness, and Dancers and Chaperones took the gold with an underwater theme and an unexpected promposal from senior Eric Dzenis to senior Josie Millard (she said yes).

With a final hour left, the dancers of Squan-A-Thon entered the home stretch. It was time for the crowning of the King and Queen and the revealing of the total donations amassed. Unanimously decided by the committee members in an attempt to thank

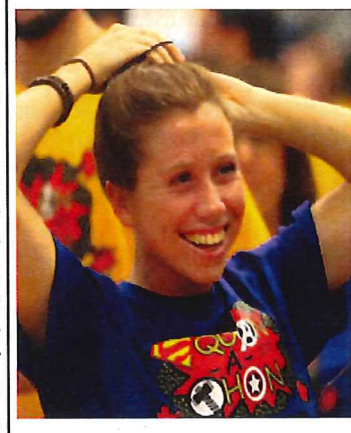
them for their relentless devotion, senior McKenzie Grogan announced the King and Queen to be none other than Mr. Battaglia and Mrs. McKenzie themselves. Nonetheless, in respect to students, seniors Craig Lapham and Patrick Pompilio were hailed the Prince and Princess of Squan-A-Thon—Craig being the princess.

With months of rigorous soliciting and 12-hours of pent-up anticipation, the night (or should I say morning) concluded with the big reveal of money. The top five fundraisers (in order) were: sophomore Julia Clayton, senior Shannon Schatzman, senior Nick Bossone, senior Shannon Walsh, and freshmen Hoa Huynh, each raising more than \$1,000. At last, when the suspense and anxiousness could no longer be contained, the amount was uncovered: \$91,782.53—\$20,000 more than last year's.

With one final line dance, the dancers were released, eagerly awaiting their comfortable beds to rest their woe some feet and tired minds.

"My favorite part of Squan-A-Thon was...building up the excitement and energy the first few hours with the Hip Hop dance crew."

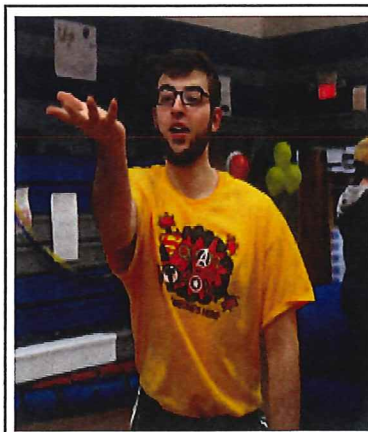
-Senior, Kerry Weiland



"My favorite part of Squan-A-Thon was...the constant work it took to plan, because when everything was over, it was so worth it. I could not imagine a better way to end my four years"

-Senior, Johanna Keosseian

Mr. Battaglia had compiled short videos of Mrs. McKenzie's previous students and Squan-A-Thon committee members who reflected on the huge impact she had in not only educating them, but influencing them to make a difference in the world through Squan-A-Thon. As the committee members



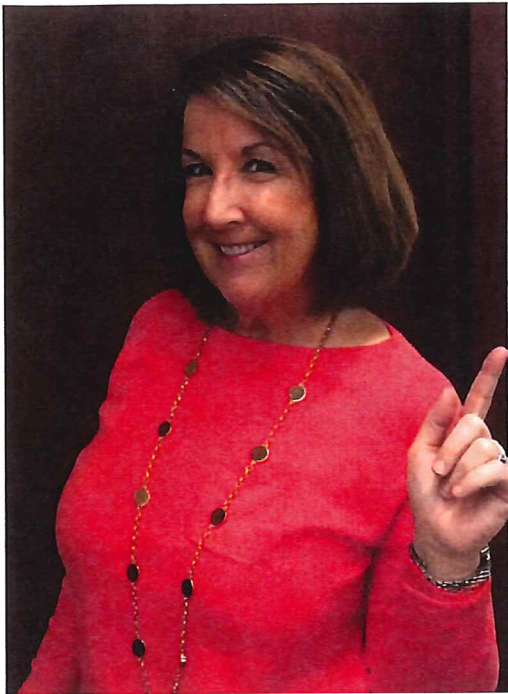
"My favorite part of Squan-A-Thon was... listening to Kevin Maldjin and John Russo play. They were beyond amazing."

-Senior, Austin Castellanos

FTK

Mrs. McKenzie Named Teacher of the Year

By: Reed Melchionda



Fresh off the success of Squan-A-Thon and after receiving her memorable commemoration of her relentless dedication to the charity over the past six years, Mrs. McKenzie received another notable and honorable recognition: Manasquan High School Teacher of the Year. The announcement came from Mr. Coppola after the faculty voted and the principal's council convened. As a teacher of computer technology and adviser to a couple of extracurricular activities, many students have been impacted by their experiences with Mrs. McKenzie: "She is always very inspiring and always pushed me to do my best. I'm so happy she was given this award," said senior Lauren Warnke, a previous student in her Multimedia Tech class. Senior Zack Abbott, who works with her with year-book finances, remarks "She is such

an awesome teacher and deserves the best." Senior Mackenzie Grogan, who became close with her through Key Club and Squan-A-Thon, excitedly claims, "She's such a compassionate woman whether it has to do with her class or extracurricular events." From the staff of the Blue & Gray, the students, and your fellow coworkers, congratulations Mrs. McKenzie!!



By:
George
Taboada
&
Ariane
Zhang

Model UN

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an agreement and come together in the creation of a treaty. This year Manasquan students represented either Ukraine or North Korea; two countries that allowed for interesting arguments.

Though all students advocated eloquently, sophomore tag team Dylan Lembo and Kyle Benjamin won best position paper for their issue. Writing on behalf of North Korea, the two tackled the topic of Isis and its removal from Syria. Though their position paper proved progressive, the two refused to come to a resolution. "We really had a lot of fun at this conference, mainly because of our assigned country," said Dylan. "It allowed us to be stubborn.

In the end we abstained and then just for fun we declared the Islamic State a sovereign nation. We messed with people in the most diplomatic way possible."

Considering that most schools offer Model UN as an elective, Mr. Fagen was thrilled by Manasquan's performance. In regard to his winning students, Mr. Fagen said, "Dylan and Kyle brought much honor to the people of North Korea. They did not bow to the imperialistic powers of the West and they stood their grounds."

Mr. Fagen also complements other participants on their efforts, saying, "The two days are rather demanding, but ev-

everyone did great."

The club hopes to add more conferences for the 2015 to 2016 school year. Whether you are considering a career in international relations or simply want to try something new, Mr. Fagen welcomes any student interested in participating to join the fUN.

Other participants included (from left to right): senior Cary Hilla, junior Paul Krueger, seniors Jack Hobbie and Mike Fahey, junior Matt Del Guercio and senior Cody Carrithers



Students Tackle

Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Touch Screens Causing Us to Lose Touch

By: Maggie Leddy

Picture this: a fun group of friends go out to eat at Surf Taco on a day off from school. But when you look around you see that each person is in their own little world with their eyes glued to their iPhones. One is watching snap chat stories, another is texting, and another is scrolling through Instagram. Unfortunately, you don't have to dig deep to imagine this scene, it seems like every time we are out with friends this becomes the situation. When did technology take over the



pleasure of spending quality time with friends and family?

I can't help but be envious of my parent's generation. Everything then was much more personable.

They had to go to someone's house if they wanted to talk to them. They spent time outside playing games all day because that was where the excitement was. People were taught to be creative and resourceful. I often wish we could go back to those days before technology created so many distractions.

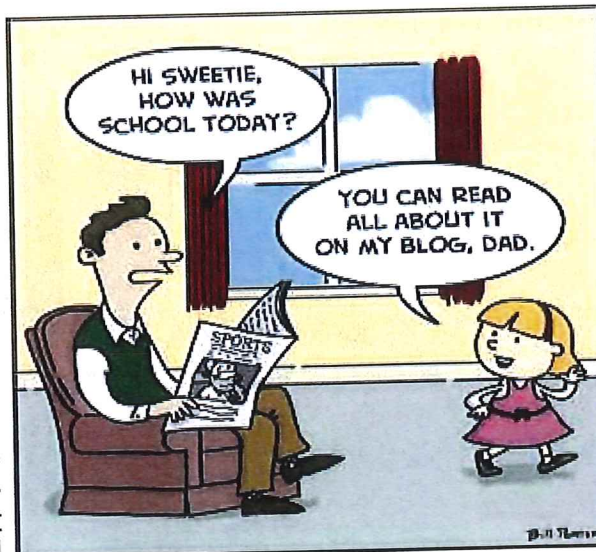
However, technology's purpose is to help us to be more efficient, to do things faster, and make us smarter. While this may be all well and good, they take over the basic values and necessities for building relationships with others.

Technology affects people of all ages, especially young children. Parents now give their kids iPads and tablets to play games on to keep them entertained. Doing this takes away quality time spent engaging with their children. Instead, the kids sit there playing some interactive game while the parents get peace and quiet. One of the jobs as a parent is to talk with their children and

learn about them as an individual while also teaching them valuable lessons. This is a vital part of raising a child, but is commonly being dismissed due to the availability of devices.

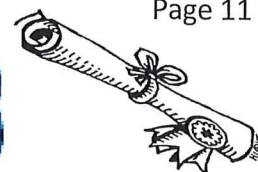
There is also a noticeable difference with the newer generation compared to the ones before. More often than not, you see children lacking social skills. If you try to say hi to them or ask friendly questions they have no clue how to respond and end up being very stand-offish. Many are also unapproachable due to the fact their iPhone or tablet seems to be the only thing they are interested in. How are these kids going to walk into a job interview? How are they going to make relationships? How are they going to communicate their ideas and perspectives to change the world? Via text? That doesn't seem very personable.

It's 2015 and technology is nowhere near a stopping point. There will be more and more iPhones, televisions, computers, and tablets coming out. It is impossible to change this process from continuing. However, maybe we can change the way the newer generations perceive it. They need to see that while all of these new inventions are helpful, they are not the be-all end-all. As a generation who has had a taste of the new and the old, it is our job to continue teaching and communicating with the incoming generations in ways our parents did with us. The importance of time and attention spent with your family and friends, playing outside, hand writing thank you cards, describing your day over dinner, these things are what we need to keep generating. We cannot let these slip away. We cannot lose touch.





COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



Kayla McKeown:
Montclair State University
Philadelphia University

Mary McKiever:
James Madison University
Rutgers University
University of South Carolina

Shane McNamara:
University of Vermont
Rider University
Penn State
Rutgers University
University of Delaware

Reed Melchionda:
Princeton University
University of South Carolina
Rutgers University

John Morris:
Gettysburg College

Kelly Nolan:
University of Delaware
University of Maryland
Penn State University
College of Charleston

Tess Nuccio:
Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Richard Orozco:
Dowling College
Rowan University
University of North Carolina -
Pembroke

Luke O'Shaughnessy:
Marquette University

Joshua Ostberg:
Massachusetts Maritime Academy
Texas A&M University
Rutgers University
NJ Science & Technology University

Michael Palella:
Stony Brook University
Rutgers University
Penn State University
Fordham University
Drexel University
UMass - Amherst
Sacred Heart University
University of New Hampshire
Manhattan College
University of Colorado Boulder

Matt Paturzo:
University of South Carolina
Penn State
University of Maryland
Rutgers University

Zoe Pelly:
Juniata College
Virginia Tech
Michigan State University
University of Vermont

Patrick Pompilio:
West Virginia University
East Carolina University
Coastal Carolina University
University of Pittsburgh

Renee Putelo:
The College of New Jersey

Mackenzie Queen:
Rollins College

Christian Rispoli:
Rochester Institute of Technology
Richard Stockton College
Montclair State University
NJ Institute of Technology
Champlain College

Jason Roberts:
University of Colorado Boulder

Logan Sabins:
Monmouth University

Quinn Saito:
Monmouth University

Joseph Sangine:
Husson University

Shannon Schatzman:
Boston University
Penn State University
Providence College
Loyola University
University of Delaware

Anna Steenland:
University of North Carolina
Wilmington
James Madison University
University of South Carolina

William Stewart:
Rowan University
University of Maryland
University of Delaware

Liam Tobin:
University of Delaware
Villanova University

Spencer Todd:
American Musical and Dramatic
Academy
George Mason University

Matthew Tome:
Millersville University
Widener University
West Virginia University

Colin Twyman:
University of Colorado Boulder
Elon University
College of Charleston

Alexandria Valdez:
Georgian Court University
Seton Hall University
Ramapo College
William Patterson University

Alyssa Walker:
College of Charleston
East Carolina University
University of North Carolina -
Greensboro

Berit Walters:
Savannah College of Art and
Design

Joseph Warner:
Towson University

Kerry Weiland:
University of Hawaii
San Diego State University

Douglas Wells:
Quinnipiac University
Florida Gulf Coast University

Emily Woodfield:
Drexel University
Philadelphia University
Monmouth University

Ariane Zhang:
Montclair State University
Fashion Institute of Technology

***Editor's note: List compiled solely from college acceptance letters submitted to MHS guidance department. To be included in next month's update, turn in your letters to guidance now! ***



Pictured from left
to right: Princeton
University, Cornell
University, Lafayette
College



Let's Celebrate our Senior Citizens

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that is terrifying and hard to fathom regardless of our age. However Mrs. D'Amico describes dealing with fear, says that praying has kept her strong. "I pray a lot," she told me, "and I always keep the belief that someday things will change."

The concluding wisdom she imparts is how it is "easier to be nice than to be nasty" and the advice she would lend to her younger self would be "if somebody hurt me, I found it very hard to forgive. As I grow older, I find it a little bit easier to take things as they come." These are certainly words to live by.

I am pleased to now introduce, Elinor Warner Homan, whose



Mrs. Elinor Warner Homan, with two of her painted seashells.



kind heart and compassionate nature has left its mark on the Arbors for five years. She was born in 1928 and offers us 86 years' worth of wisdom and insight.

Mrs. Homan has a smile that stretches across and brightens every corner of her face. Her room is a burst of color, full of her meticulously decorated seashells and an assortment of beautiful artwork. She grew up in Roselle where one's social life revolved around the church. "All activities were local," she recalls. The sense of community was strong as

well: "If you walked around town there were people who always knew each other," she says. "It's changed now with people and their hand held devices."

Certainly, the world has changed tremendously in her lifetime. "I remember when there was no television, I remember the war's restriction on gas. Gas was rationed along with sugar and butter." And as far as families go, she adds, "I also grew up during a time where nobody lived in independent living, everyone had an aunt, uncle, grandparent who lived with them."

Mrs. Homan recalls a childhood that involved getting together and playing in yards: "the whole neighborhood would play. I think everybody's very structured now it seems so competitive. I see my

"Enjoy every minute. Instead of always planning for the future, enjoy the moment because it goes awfully fast. Don't have any regrets," Mrs. Homan advises.

grandchildren on travel teams, school teams, there's no more backyard having-fun-teams."

She graduated from a high school that went from 7th to 12th grade, with a class of 160 people. "In high school I remember all the school dances in the school gym. In my high school we had no ice hockey or no field hockey. And everyone walked to school."

She was able to continue her education at "Cranford" her local county college for two years before she transferred to Douglass College in Rutgers. "At the time Douglass was small, only about 150 graduates and the classes were only women," she tells me. She recalls the fads, like when skirts went from knee length to maxi skirts: "everyone would sew panels to their skirts to make them longer." They also had saddle shoes, and bobby socks, since there were no stockings during the war.

She met her husband during her freshman year of high school at a friend's

house, but didn't start dating him until they met again at the county college. "He was in the navy for two years, but the war ended that September, so he never had to leave the U.S.," she explains. "Our timing aligned perfectly." They dated for four years, until "I was 24 and we were married."

Out of college, there was a shortage of teachers so she was sought after for her career as a teacher. She became a director of a preschool for 26 years, observing: "I loved that job, we taught them how to play with singing, artwork and games. I don't think anyone could come out of that school without being creative." She reflects on the difficulties of today's women: "It's harder now for women because now they have to work as much as men. You people have a more structured life."

She raised her three sons in Bridgewater. Despite having been raised in a family of all girls she raised her sons with the attitude that "They're your children and you take care of them." Having boys seemed intimidating to her, but gradually she figured it out: "At first I didn't know how to raise boys but it's all the same, you talk to them the same."

When asked about a moment in history that shaped her, she reflects, "Pearl Harbor changed our whole way of thinking about the world." She recalls the whole town's participation in air raid drills: "we had to cover the windows with blankets." It changed everyone's mindset, Mrs. Homan explains. "I used to think we were so lucky to be born in America. I was so naïve to believe that everyone had a fair share. After Pearl Harbor we started to believe that maybe we're not as safe as we thought we were. It shook us up a little."

Regarding more recent events she recalls how "I was so happy when Obama was elected, even if he wasn't as earth shattering as we hoped." She notes the shift in society: "I believe politics have changed a lot, or maybe now we just know more, and they can't hide things anymore. Today it's all open to the public now, there's no privacy."

Her concluding word to today's youth is to maintain hope. "What you think is the end of your life, or what you think you can't handle, remember that everyone has those feelings. It'll all get better." And her advice for her younger self would be to "Enjoy every minute instead of always planning for the future, enjoy the moment because it goes awfully fast. Don't have any regrets."

Students Tackle Issues in the World

The Blue & Gray Editorials

Democracy

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democratic states in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. The Cold War was a time where very authoritarian states formed the majority of governments.

However, when we jump ahead to the late 1980s, there is already a noticeable change to the authoritarian status quo. South Korea, Taiwan, the Philippines and various other Asian nations saw a transition to rule of law and republican tradition. Even the People's Republic of China was rocked by protests that called for a government with free elections. Latin America has become much freer. What was once a region of puppet governments that violently stifled dissent flourished into a bastion of democratic principles.

Then finally, the Third Wave hit full force when the communist world-order collapsed in the 90s. The Solidarity movement in Poland, the Velvet Revolution in Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European nations saw their authoritarian governments removed by the people. The former Warsaw bloc would see a rapid development and democratization throughout the 90s and 2000s due to collaborative efforts with the European Union. The Soviet Union also collapsed, ending its role as the major supporter of undemocratic governments. In Asia, democratic protests shook both China and Indonesia. In 1990, the National League for Democracy won 75% of seats in Myanmar's government and its leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, was elected Prime Minister. Although this free election would be put down by the ruling military junta, it has marked the country's shift towards democracy that recently culminated in the reestablishment of a civilian government. In Latin America the brutal Chilean and Surinamese dictators fell, leaving just a couple of autocrats left in the western hemisphere. Even in Africa, a continent which had been for its 50 years of independence dealt with some of the worst regimes to exist during the Cold War made headway. Both Mali and Ghana solidified a strong democratic tradition in both its media and government and led other West African nations to follow suit. Of course, the shining example of democratization in Africa has to be the end of South African apartheid that was marked by the peaceful election of Nelson Mandela. The only region to remain unaffected by this period's democratic movements was

the Middle East and North Africa.

That is until recently. The Arab Spring only started in December 2010. This democratic movement fits neatly in the Third Wave, especially in the country where it began: Tunisia. Tunisia's protests successfully brought down President Ben Ali and the two parties that filled the void (one a moderate-Islamic party and the other a tight coalition of secularists) established a healthy republic within the first two years. This was done despite various setbacks including a political assassination and a growing extremist presence in the failed Libyan state to the east.

While the Arab Spring then was considered a liberation of the Arabs from the decades long tyranny similar to the previously mentioned revolutions, the outcome of the movement has left a bad taste in the mouth when democratic uprisings are being discussed. That is because that outside of Tunisia, the Arab Spring was at best a failure and at worst a catastrophe. Egypt and Kuwait are back in the hands of autocrats; Yemen is teetering on the brink of civil war; and of course both Libya and Syria are in such chaotic states that international organizations have labeled both nations as "failed states." This is only exacerbated by the renewed frequency in the Israeli-Palestinian feuds and the rise of the Islamic State that is currently committing genocide in Northern Iraq and Eastern Syria. Tunisia, unfortunately, is a miraculous exception to the norm.

Due to the extreme flop the Arab Spring has produced (excluding Tunisia, of course, Tunisia is amazing), many commentators have called it the end to the Third Wave of democratization. To an extent there point is very valid. Not just because of the failure of the Arab Spring, but also the slowing growth of democracy. This phenomenon is caused by one major issue: autocrats are adapting to the currently hostile democratic world order. After decades of being pushed to the brink by institutions such as the United Nations and NGOs at home, dictators and totalitarian parties are beginning to succeed at legitimizing themselves politically.

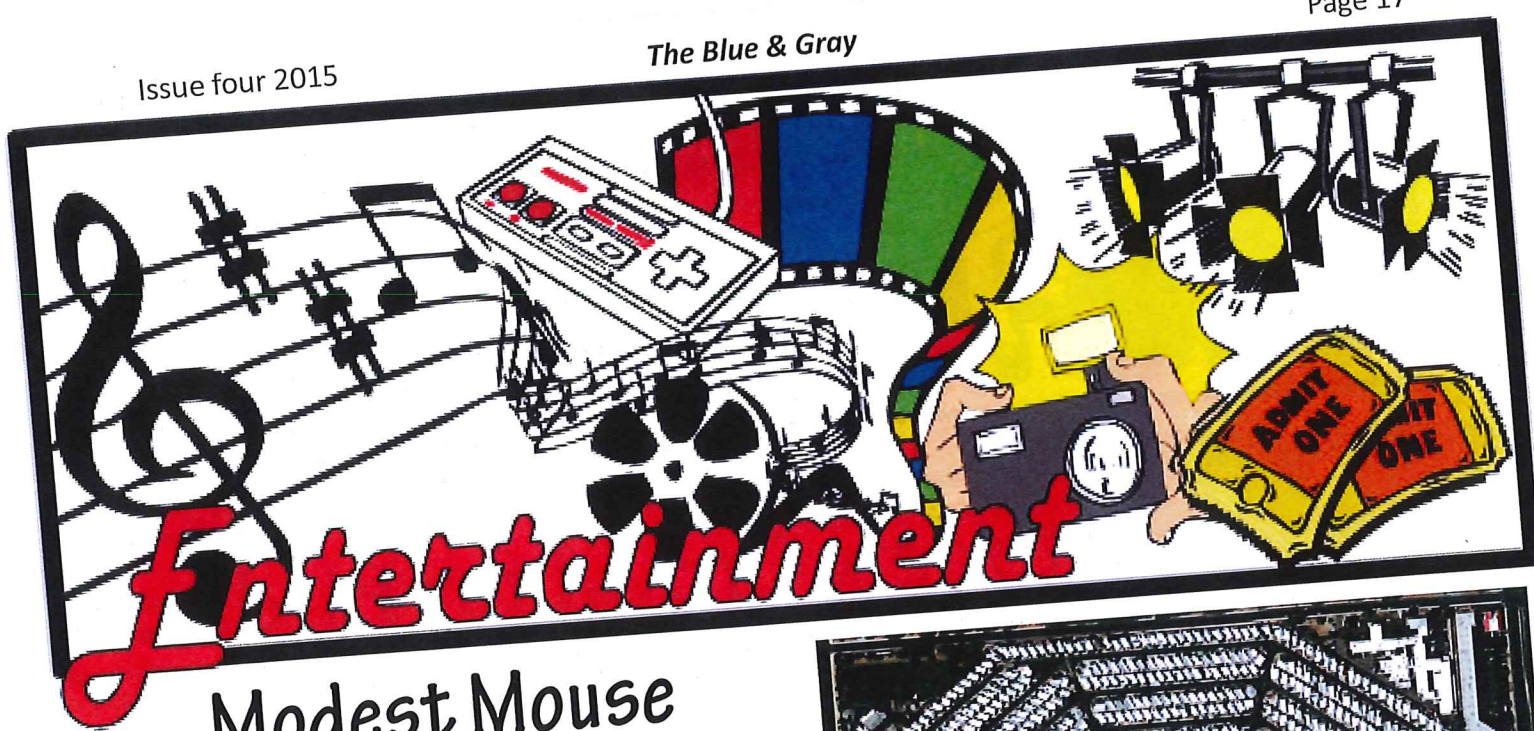
The most successful of these countries is the People's Republic of China. Through economic expansion (now the largest economy by purchasing power in the world) the Chinese Communist

Party has essentially bought legitimacy. Due to its practical monopoly on manufactured goods (especially those sold to the West), diplomats tend to ignore human rights violations that form the core of Chinese governance; even the staunchly pro-democratic USA is no exception to this pattern. Domestically, Xi Jinping, the current leader of China, has used prosperity to improve its public relations while cracking down on opposition. Also, the rise of China in the global economy challenges the echoed fact that free-market democracy is the only development model a nation can follow. This has spawned the "Asian Values" movement, an anti-democratic movement that seeks to enfranchise and legitimize authoritarianism in Asia by account of a cultural difference from the West. It is used particularly in Malaysia, Singapore, and more recently Thailand to white wash the ruling party's records on human rights. China's vibrantly oppressive authoritarianism is so strong that it is essentially exporting it.

Russia and Venezuela are trying to do something similar in their own neighborhoods. Russia's regime led by President Vladimir Putin has been trying to export its special blend of nationalist fervor, anti-Americanism, and (above the previous two) cronyism to surrounding Eastern European neighborhoods. Putin's strategy relies mainly on military action to keep weaker neighbors in its sphere and then to use propaganda to divide the European Union's reaction (if this reminds you of war in Ukraine, you are on the right track). In Latin America, the late Hugo Chavez and his successor Nicolas Maduro have tried to spread their "Bolivarian Revolution" to its neighbors. This "Revolution" is act-



an "autogolpe" or self-coup d'état the ruling party marginalizes or



Modest Mouse Releases New Album

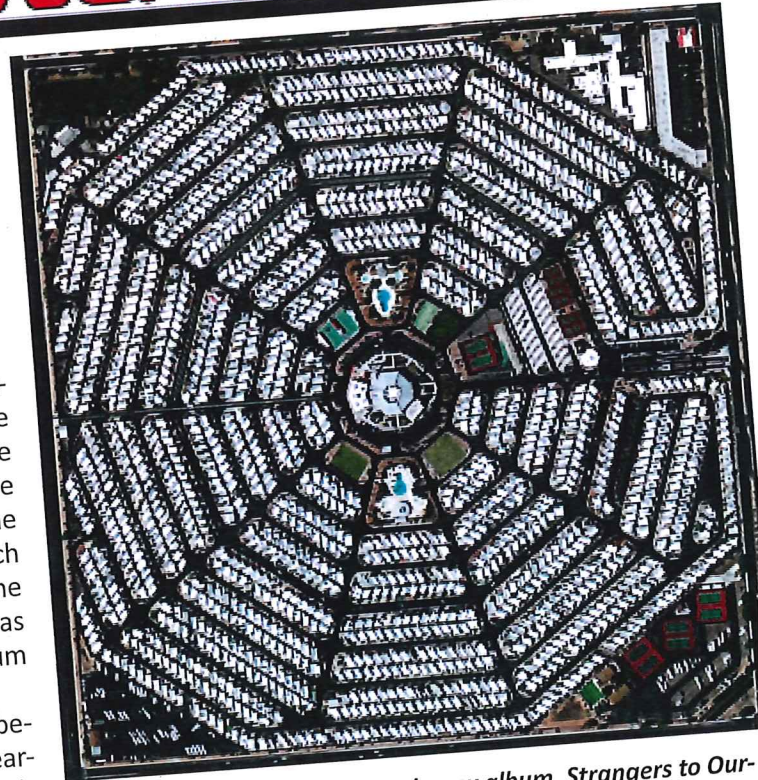
By: Sarah Spears

December 15th, 2014: a vinyl test pressing and a letter were sent out to a few lucky fans. The letter reading "We want you to have this limited test pressing of our new single 'Lampshades On Fire.' The song will be available for purchase tomorrow, Tuesday, December 16. 'Lampshades on Fire' is the first single from our new album *Strangers to Ourselves*, which will be released on Tuesday, March 3, 2015." Since then the band has revealed five singles from their new record as well as the cover art, and pushed back the release date of the album to be March 17th, 2015.

The record itself starts off slow and ends slow. In between that there is a lot of color and life. And upon first hearing it, the difference in sound when compared to older records is kind of surprising. It definitely sounds more well-produced, and less 'wild' than the earlier albums that were written back in the 90's.

For some, especially for those who claim the band has declined since the creation of *Good News For People Who Love Bad News*, this record could be a little hard to chew when they first sink their teeth into it. Yet I myself found that I loved it upon first hearing it, and the more I listen to it, the more I love it. The more you listen to the record and get to know the songs, the more the singer's (Isaac Brock) character shines through and it begins to not sound as different as any of the other albums (in a good way of course). It's diverse in its music and the lyrics are very well developed and powerful.

As one fan, known as 'modestmouser', likes to put it, "That's the thing about MM: their music is so saturated with colorful layers of ambiguous symbolism that it appeals to people from all walks of life... MM manages to be universal and yet speaks so intimately in such an approachable way that you'd swear you could've written many of their lyrics your-



The cover of Modest Mouse's new album, *Strangers to Ourselves*, features a mind-twisting aerial view of a town

self'; which I feel applies as much to this album as to *Tha Long Drive for Someone With Nothing to Think About*, *Lonesome Crowded West*, or any other album of theirs.

It's easy to see how much time and effort was put into this entire album. In an interview, Isaac explains why he has made a new album for 8 years. He said, "I just don't feel like putting out stuff that doesn't matter... I couldn't do that. I literally spent my entire life savings -- everything I had -- on even thinking about it, just because I wanted to make a record right."

Personally, I feel like he did a fantastic job and the album is hardly finished. The band plans on making a second album to accompany this one. And I know that myself and a lot of other Modest Mouse fans will be looking forward to it.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

TOC Champions

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Warriors had to give it all they had. For the last time in her high school career, Marina gathered the girls for a pep talk: the final buzzer was approaching, the game was tied, there was less than a minute-and-a-half on the clock, and more than enough at risk.

The pep talk did the trick. The girls left the huddle with a revived vigor and sense of purpose: they're going home champions even if it means leaving the game blue in the face. Almost on cue, Marina made a ferocious block on St. Rose senior Kat Phipps to gain possession. She sprinted down the court headed straight for the basket and was immediately fouled. She sank both free

throws with just 19 seconds on the clock, securing those State Championship rings. The game was over with a final score of 59-55.

The pride and dedication of what Warriors can really accomplish permeated the room.

Despite Marina almost jinxing the outcome of the game by stating with confidence in an article that her team was destined to win the State Championship, the girls strutted off the court as victors. As she said in the beginning of the season and after each victory, "the girls were in it to win it: all of it." A huge congratulations to all the girls on an outstanding season, and good luck to Marina who will be playing Division I at the University of Notre Dame alongside her older sister Michaela, now a junior, one final time.



Left: Marina, Courtney and teammates get excited as the championship moment nears.

SHORE CONFERENCE CHAMPS!

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let this defeat motivate them to reach an even greater success: back to back Shore Conference Championships.

On the night of February 27th at Monmouth University, the girls came out on top with a 69-60 victory.

"It's such an amazing accomplishment to be back to back champions. It was exciting and nerve racking with all the people there but we got the job done," said senior Courtney Hagaman.

The student section glowed with their neon colors as they cheered on the girls. They evidently out did St. Rose's white-out across the court.

Marina Mabrey led the team with a game-high of 29 points. There were also serious contributions from teammates Gill Black with 11, Courtney Hagaman with 10, Victoria Galvan with 9 and Stella Clark with 7.

Marina's sister, freshman Dara Mabrey, played intense defense which kept the state's leading three-point shooter, Kat Phipps, to only a ten-point contribution as well. Other St.

Rose leaders, Jess Louro with 26 points and Ellyn Stoll with points, were covered by Manasquan's fantastic defense that held the roses to only 19 points in the first half.

The girls kept the lead to a 9 point range with Marina leading the scoring along with Courtney's three steals, Dara's aggressiveness, and Gill's impact off the bench.

Marina says, "It's a great feeling to win again. It's such a great environment and it's fun to play against good competition."

Both girls along with the rest of the Warriors are looking forward to the state tournament. The team is now ranked 1st in the state with a 24-2 record, and hopes to continue their streak and gain another state title at the Tournament.



The crowd gets excited, cheers for the champion Warriors.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS

High Hopes for Boys Lacrosse

By: Shannon Schatzman



Above: The boys team gathers after a preseason workout.

Before the snow melted on the army camp fields and the temperature rose above 30 degrees, the boys' lacrosse team was more than well-prepared to start their journey. As the 2015 season opens up, boys' lacrosse hopes to make big things happen.

Since the beginning of the fall, the team has been playing and practicing together. Dedicated players participated in both the Harvest league and Winter league at GoodSports to keep continuously training while getting to know their teammates. The leagues ended with great success for both JV and Varsity. They went undefeated with a 10-0 record and won the championship.

Led by seniors Conor Gleason, Joe Warner, Craig Miller and Chris Klodowski, the boys have strong captains to guide the young team through a hard schedule. An offensive midfielder, Chris Klodowski assures that all of the developing players are going to make an impact on the field: "We're a young team but we'll be good. We have a lot of talent and we know what we're doing. Everyone really pays attention and wants to do well."

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Golfers Ready To Tee It Up

By: Lauren Johnson

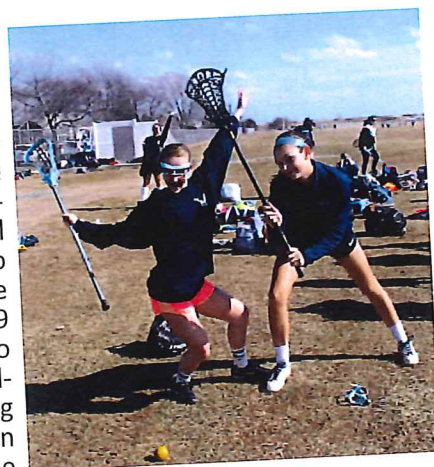
The MHS golf team has high hopes for this season. The team is composed of a group of 18 young men coached by former Manasquan River Golf Club pro, Vince Guinco.

Seniors, Logan Sabins, Jack Burke, and Mike Reilly lead the team along with key underclassmen, Austin Devoroux and Brian Lembo. Star player, Logan Sabins, admits, along with other fellow seniors, for his last year he wants it to be the most successful. He says, "Since

Girls Lax Prepares for Exciting Season

By: Julia Valgenti

The girls' lacrosse season is off to a quick start this year. March 7th marked the start of practices, followed by a scrimmage on the 13th against Howell. The girls' first official game took place also against Howell on the 25th. The girls won 11-9 taking home a victory to start of the season. Although they are giving up a week of preseason to the early game, the team looks forward to training hard.



Above: Kat wallace and Kirsten Barnes at a preseason practice

With the loss of many strong seniors from last year's team, the girls coach, Mrs. Eldridge, believes "the team has a lot of rebuilding to do" in order to succeed this year. Nevertheless she expects the young team "to step it up" and is excited to start the season with her girls.

The key players this season include juniors Kirsten Barnes, Megan Gianforte and Emily Petillo. The three girls have bright futures in lacrosse even after their time at Manasquan, having already committed to play in college. Barnes plans on going to Duquesne University, Gianforte to the University of Richmond and Petillo to the University of Louisville. With the leadership of the seniors and these experienced juniors, the team is off to a great start and will hopefully make it to the Shore Conference finals.

freshman year we've underachieved and we hope this year will better once we put in the hard work."

The team's toughest competitors this season are going to be CBA and Rumson. The boys believe they can beat them with the talent they have this season and the potential this particular group of boys have. Brian Lembo also adds, "We've had the same starting line-up since last season and are hyped to do big things this year. I want to send my good pal, Logan Sabins, out on a high note." The team hopes to gain individual and team tournament of champions (TOC) titles. The road to a state title starts next Wednesday, April 1st in the Wall Invitational Tournament.



BLUE & GRAY SPORTS



On "Track" for a Successful Season

By: Julie Hohenstein

March 7th marked the beginning of the 2015 Boys and Girls Track season. The Warriors took to the bike path immediately, refusing to let the snow slow their pace. With over eighty students trying out, an indication of the popularity of the program, boys coach Mr. Roach and girls coach Mrs. Zdanowicz challenged the participants from day one as they looked to create promising teams and push each individual to reach their full potential.

Both teams possess strong senior leadership that will prove beneficial as the season progresses. The girls team is led by transfer student Sydney Osso, a year-round runner for Manasquan who excels in the 800 and 400 hurdles, and Gabby lentile, a cross country star and a key member of the distance team.

"She is a great person," Coach Z says of Osso. "She leads the team, she is so friendly and all the kids love her. She is a really good role model and is someone I can always count on." Coach Z hopes that the experience of upperclassmen like Osso and lentile will help to motivate the remainder of the team, many of whom are newcomers.

The boys team has no shortage of senior talent either. Liam Tobin and Kyle McDermott are expected to be leading distance runners while Shane McNamara looks to be the top 400 and 800 runner for Manasquan. McNamara strives to become the first runner in Warrior history to run the 800 in under two minutes. As if that isn't enough of a challenge, McNamara has made it his goal to complete the 400 in under 50

MHS Tennis is Ready for a Sensational Season

By: Reed Melchionda



"If you want to play tennis, you can't just pick up a racquet and expect to be great. It takes commitment. You have to train in the offseason, and learn the mental aspect of the game. It's not as easy as everyone thinks."

-Senior, Craig Lapham

In the past few years, the boy's tennis team has been a source of pride for Manasquan High School. Last season, the team not only had a successful regular season, but also placed 3rd in the Monmouth County Tournament. As the spring season comes around, the team plans to follow suit and endeavors to surpass its previous accomplishments.

This year, the team will be coached by Anthony DiFeo and led by Senior Captains Craig Lapham and Patrick Pompilio. The prospective varsity lineup is comprised of the two captains, senior J.D. Donohue, senior John Moriarty, and junior Brendan Kelly. With two available varsity spots remaining, the returning players are excited to see the talent that will fill them.

Craig Lapham will drive the team as the leading singles player. He has been a starter on varsity tennis since freshmen year and has been playing since sixth grade. In the past season, he made Second Team All Shore for singles and defeated the #1 player in the state in one game at the county tournament.

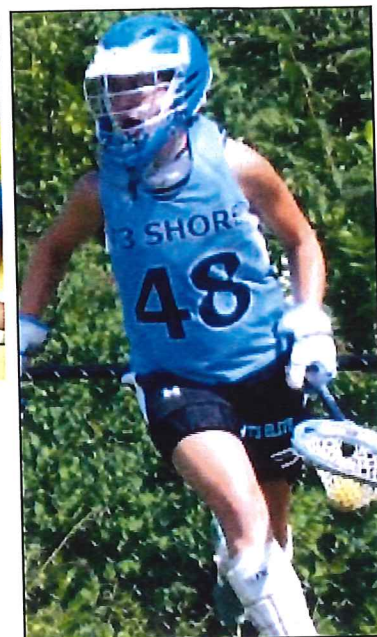
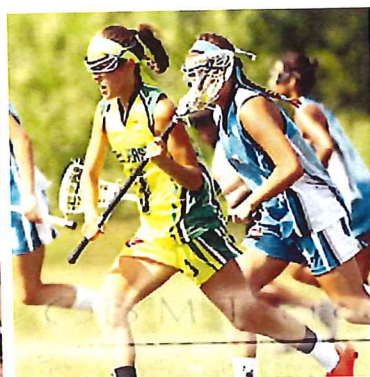
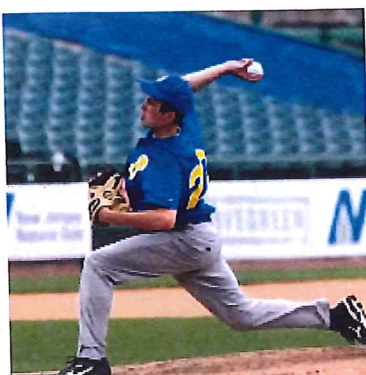
Brendan Kelly and John Moriarty will be the teams' leading doubles. Brendan and John have been partnered on varsity for the past three years and have high expectations for

what their last year as a duo will bring them. Their primary goal is to beat Wall, the team's biggest rival.

In addition to the thrill of walking onto the court once again, the team is looking forward to its team victory ritual: a dinner at Popeyes for some good ole' spicy fried chicken, biscuits and sides. As senior JD Donohue remarks, "Popeyes is our bonding place. We're a very close team and I know that bond can allow us to have a great season."

Both teams have the advantage of entering the season with toned legs, as spring track immediately follows the completion of the winter track season. "It is a smooth transition from winter to spring," says McDermott. "It is good to have the stamina and endurance from winter. We are excited about the upcoming season."

Hopefully the teams excitement is amplified throughout the season as titles are won, records are shattered, and memories are made. The warriors will face off



D1 Domination

Proud to be a Junior

By: Julie Hohenstein

The class of 2016 first proved its athleticism during freshmen year homecoming activities. After shocking the gymnasium with a first year victory in Nerf Football, the class swept the remainder of the events and remained on top both their sophomore year and this past November. Success was not limited to pep rally competitions. Even as mere freshmen, current juniors made substantial contributions to varsity athletics. The class of 2016 continues to excel as members of varsity teams such as lacrosse, baseball, tennis and basketball, making it safe to say that the junior class has no shortage of talent.

Fortunately, the hard work of those dedicated to their sport has begun to pay off. The junior class is proud to claim four Division I verbal commits as their own: Kirsten Barnes, Emily Petillo, Megan Gianforte, and Jack Sheehan.

Kirsten Barnes announced her intention to play lacrosse at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on June 25, 2014. "I wanted a school where I could play all the time, not just during my senior year," said Kirsten. "At the same time I wanted a school academically compatible. Duquesne gave me an offer that I couldn't refuse." The midfielder looks forward to joining MHS alumni Shea Cowley as a "Duke".

Emily Petillo's verbal commitment followed shortly after Kirsten's. Emily fell in love with the atmosphere of the University of Louisville and declared her decision on June 30, 2014.

"It was definitely a relief. I knew that I wanted to play lacrosse in college, but as to where I wasn't sure." Emily was attracted to the size of Louisville and the competitive lacrosse program. "Their season recently started, and watching games makes me eager to join them as a member of the class of 2020."

The excitement simmered down a little as summer passed without additional news. Then, on November 3, 2014, Megan Gianforte joined the D1 club with her commitment to play lacrosse for the University of Richmond. "My goal since the beginning of the process was to find an elite academic school with a competitive lacrosse program," said Megan. "Richmond meets this. Richmond has the facilities, the team and the coaching and support staff to enable me to reach my maximum potential in college."

With three Division I athletes, girls lacrosse coach Maria Eldridge has high hopes for the approaching season. "There is no denying that they are great assets to our team. But also, they are great role models for the younger girls because they always train hard and work hard at practice. Even though they're really good, they're always trying to get better."

Lacrosse was not the only program to see the success of its athletes. Transfer student Jack Sheehan, leaving CBA to join the Manasquan family after his freshman year, verbally committed to the

University of Notre Dame one day after Megan. The right-handed hurler was first introduced to Notre Dame when he attended the official visit of his younger brother, Tommy. It took just one weekend for both Sheehan boys to fall in love with the grandeur of the university, and their back to back commitments are tributes to the baseball program led by Dennis Van Pelt. "Jack is a guy who pounds the zone from 84 to 86 miles per hour, and is going to add size and velocity as he gets older," says Mr. Van Pelt. "If it wasn't Notre dame now it was going to be a bunch of other schools later. But you have to credit Notre Dame for going on their instincts and seeing the projectability Jack has as a pitcher. It's a good fit."

With many accomplished individuals and ample amount of time before college decisions must be made, there is no doubt that more student athletes will earn their D1 title. These early achievements reflect the strength and potential of the class as a whole. As we approach our last year of high school and look with eager and anxious eyes towards the future, we must be not only be proud of ourselves, but proud of our classmates.

*It's good to
be a junior.*