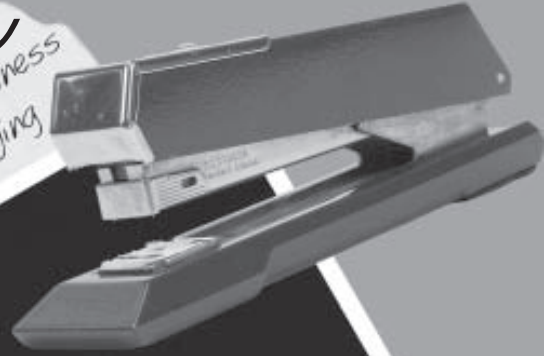


The *Satoma* NEWSMAGAZINE

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*how to succeed in business
without really trying*



FUNNY 'BUSINESS' SPOOFS CORPORATE AMERICA

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Innovative program connects students with peers in India

BY TERRY BENTON

Students are participating in a collaborative project that links teens from two different cultures and continents. Cyberbridges, an international program that promotes unity among students from throughout the world, is connecting students here in Edison, New Jersey, with young people from Thanjavur, India.

Ann Marie Pacciano, school technology curriculum coordinator, said school officials volunteered to participate in the program because of the opportunity for a project-based, faith-filled experience with an emphasis on learning.

"My prayer is that through the use of technology and what we will learn from it, we become enlightened and empowered

to reach beyond our immediate simple vision to see past our horizons," she said.

Adele De Marco, chairperson of the business department, is implementing the project in her third and sixth period computer science classes.

Ashley Toth, freshman, said she is excited about reaching out to her peers in India.

"I look forward to communicating with the students in India because I think it's a great way to learn about each other and our environments through modern technology," she said.

Cyberbridges is a six-part program. In the first stage, students will connect with the students in Thanjavur, India, via e-mail. The second stage consists of students

researching each other's culture, helping them to better understand the person on the other side of the computer.

In the third and final (for this year) stage, students will celebrate the Indian culture by cooking foods, wearing their clothes, and celebrating various holidays.

"I'm very excited because this is what BGA is all about," said Pacciano, noting the project stresses tolerance and an appreciation for different cultures.

Laura Sharlow, freshman, said students are preparing by researching the country's culture and government.

She is especially interested in discussing the impact of the tsunami that devastated the country two years ago.

De Marco said the project will eventually



PAM ADAMES AND KIM BROOKS, FRESHMEN, WORK WITH ADELE DE MARCO ON CYBERBRIDGES. "This is an opportunity for all of us to learn firsthand about another country," she said. "In addition, students are sharpening their technological skills."

Tournament tests students' mental, physical skills

BY STEVE ROSSI AND THERESA D'ADDIO

Students arrived at school in waves of yellow, red, green, and blue to participate in the annual Tournament of Champions competition, which pitted classes against each other in a battle of mental and physical strength.

The seniors, for the second year in a row, placed first in the tournament, earning 50 points, followed by sophomores with 40, freshmen with 35 and the juniors with 25.

Nelson Vargas, senior, said winning the competition at the February event was an unforgettable occasion for his class.

Vargas attributed the class's win to the "chemistry, strength and competitive nature" of his fellow classmates.

"I believe this final victory brought our class even closer," he said.

Freshmen began the day in the cafeteria with *The Price is Right*. Students were challenged to guess the prices of various items from the school book store without exceeding the cost, just like the game show.

The students' spirited participation was an indication of their unity as a class, said Nick Tonzola, freshman class moderator.

"I think the freshman class is showing tremendous spirit by wearing matching yellow '09' T-shirts," Tonzola said, as he surveyed the crowd. "If this spirit keeps up, it'll be a good four years."

In the Little Theatre, sophomores started their day competing in the *Pyramid* game. Students worked in pairs, with one contestant struggling against the clock to select the correct word or phrase based on clues provided by his or her teammate. John Roche, senior, did a great impression of Dick Clark as he hosted the intense mental challenge.

The most heated competition was held in the gym, where seniors and juniors battled fiercely for points. The competition began with the obstacle course, consisting of hula-hoop hopscotch, ping-pong paddle relay, basketball event, team jump rope, leap frog, and a group rowboat.

Other events, including scooter races, buddy walkers, and free throw competitions, led up to the most anticipated event, the tug of war. Senior boys defeated the junior boys, but junior girls fought back and defeated the senior girls. Overall, the seniors won the gym competition.

After the first round of events, each class moved on to participate in the other ones.

One of the day's highlights was the colorful costumes worn by spirited students, including Jeff Outwater, junior (Luigi of the Super Mario Brothers); Dennis Cerami, junior (Peter Pan) and Diane Romano, senior (the Cookie Monster).



COMPETING ENERGETICALLY IN THE LEAPFROG COMPETITION DURING TOURNAMENT OF CHAMPIONS ARE (LEFT TO RIGHT) SENIORS IAN REID, NICOLE DEJESUS, AMANDA DALTON AND ROB STOMS.



(CLOCKWISE, TOP LEFT TO RIGHT): BRENNA DEAN, SOPHOMORE, SCRAMBLES TO THE FINISH DURING THE SCOOTER RACE; MIKE SLATTERY DISPLAYS HIS JUNIOR CLASS FINERY; DON LAPORTA SPORTS HIS YELLOW FRESHMAN COLORS.

Teachers also displayed class colors. Carol Restaino, junior class moderator, supported her junior class by wearing a witch outfit and painting her face green, portraying the green-faced witch from the ever-famous movie *The Wizard of Oz*. T.J. Reilly, senior class moderator, had by far

the most interesting ensemble, with blue face paint and large blue shoes.

Ashleyanne Chosney, junior, said the competition inspired students to aim for even better performances next year. "It was a great experience that will encourage each class to strive harder next time," she said.



BISHOP PAUL BOOTKOSKI, SISTER DONNA MARIE TRUKOWSKI, EDISON MAYOR JUN CHOI AND ROBERT DIEHL CELEBRATE THE DEDICATION.

School dedication celebrates addition

BY STEVE ROSSI

The school's 42,000-square-foot wing ushers in an exciting new educational era for the Bishop Ahr community, said Sr. Donna Marie Trukowski, principal, at the recent dedication of the building.

Sr. Donna said she was overjoyed by completion of the addition, which had been 15 years in planning, and recently opened early this fall. The addition provides additional classrooms, a second gym and state-of-the-art technology, among other enhancements.

"I want wonderful things to happen," Sr. Donna said. "Catholic schools are valuable to our society, and we need your support."

Alumni, current students, parents and teachers attended the January 29 dedication of the St. Thomas Aquinas Wing and blessing of the new gymnasium, named after Michael J. Catanzaro II, the son of Michael Catanzaro, a donor to the facility.

Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, Diocese of Metuchen, sprinkled holy water on the addition's cornerstone before blessing the rest of the wing.

Other speakers at the ceremony included Robert Merski, chairperson of the Bishop Ahr High School Educational Advisory Board, and Edison mayor Jun Choi, who voiced his support for the parochial school's "focus on values and faith."

Linda Hurley, school administrative assistant, whose sons, Jack and Dan, attend the school, said the ceremony was a "momentous occasion that was well done and very touching."

Nadya Pearlman, English teacher, said the ceremony represented the culmination of years of hard work by Sr. Donna and the Bishop Ahr staff.

"Rarely are individuals able to realize goals that have effects on thousands of people," she commented. "Sr. Donna did and still perseveres! It takes one idea and lots of enthusiasm and fortitude to accomplish major change...bravo to all who attempt."

Risky 'Business'

Window washer climbs shaky ladder of success in spirited musical

By LISA PROCACCINI AND MARTINE LAPORTA
 Persistent political ambition has been a part of American business life for decades. Continuing with its second weekend tonight, the drama department takes the seriousness out of the corporate scene in the musical *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*, a sharp-witted look at the business world.

How to Succeed... is a satiric comedy about a determined window washer, J. Pierrepont Finch (David Seamon, junior), who aspires to be a successful executive, by any means necessary. He discovers a book coincidentally entitled *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* in the opening song *How To*. Using this manual, Finch rises in power within the World Wide Wicket Corporation.

"Ironically, the production shows that success is the result of a lot of hard work, dedication, and a helping of good luck," said director Richard Alfonzo. Junior Jessica DeFino, who portrays secretary Rosemary Pilkington, adds that the story conveys the message "that people can rise to the top and achieve their goals as long as they never give up and have a good attitude."

As the curtain rises, the audience sees the outside of the World Wide Wicket Corporation, where Finch stands on a scaffold attentively reading *How To Succeed...* instead of washing windows. According to the book, the first step in becoming successful without actually doing anything is to get a job in a large firm. Finch realizes the very building he is standing in front of may hold the ticket to his success.

With the help of Rosemary and her friend Smitty (Colleen Burns, senior), Finch lands a job working in the mailroom of WWW Corp. along with Bud Frump (Patrick Alfonzo, senior), described by P. Alfonzo as "the guy everyone loves to hate." Frump is the nephew of the stereotypical, yet non-conventional president of WWW Corp., J.B. Biggley (Steve Vitabile, junior).

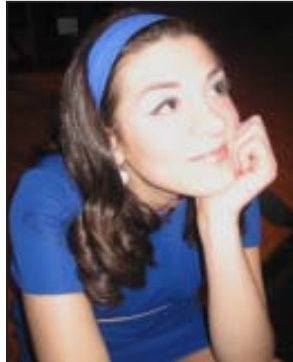
"Biggley is the stereotypical boss who does everything he is not supposed to do in the office, but gets away with it because he is 'the boss,'" Vitabile reflected. "He is strict, like a boss is expected to be, yet subtly goofy and flighty at the same time."

Almost as soon as Finch begins working in the mailroom, he formulates a plan to rise in power within the company. However, the head of the mailroom, Mr. Twimble (Alex Saffer, junior) receives a promotion and unexpectedly names Finch his successor. This sudden promotion gets in the way of Finch's ploy to leave the mailroom. Therefore, he graciously refuses the offer and hands the job over to Frump, a gesture that earns him much recognition and esteem within the company, as portrayed through the *Company Way Reprise* or *Frumpany Way*.

The company executives' respect for Finch's a c t makes it easier for him to climb t h e




J. PIERREPONT FINCH (DAVID SEAMON, JUNIOR) SUCCEUMS TO THE CHARMS OF ROSEMARY PILKINGTON (JESS DEFINO, JUNIOR) IN THE MUSICAL *HOW TO SUCCEED IN BUSINESS WITHOUT REALLY TRYING*. (FAR LEFT): SECRETARIES (ALESSANDRA VAGANEK, KERRY RUSSELL AND LAUREN STOECKEL) INSIST THAT A SECRETARY IS NOT A TOY. COVER: LEFT TO RIGHT: KERRY RUSSELL, COLLEEN BURNS AND LAUREN STOECKEL PERFORM *CINDERELLA DARLING*.



J. PIERREPONT FINCH (SEAMON, ABOVE) STARTS AS A WINDOW WASHER. ROSEMARY (DEFINO, LEFT) ADMIRES THE DASHING YOUNG FINCH.



(ALL PHOTOS BY PATRICK ALFONZO) || J.B. BIGGLEY (STEVE VITABILE, JUNIOR) SHOWS A SOFTER SIDE.

corporate ladder. As his success continues, Rosemary's determination to hook Finch strengthens, despite Finch's belief that a woman is just a distraction who will hinder his rise in the corporate world.

Luckily for Rosemary, her loyal friend Smitty manages to set up a dinner date between the two in the song *Been a Long Day*.

But Rosemary isn't the only one in the office after Finch's affections. The stunning new secretary Hedy LaRue (Nicole Stuart, senior) uses her beauty and charm to distract the male workers, especially Finch.

While Hedy is romantically interested in Finch, however, he methodically uses her in his plan to eliminate Milt Gatch (Jeff Outwater, junior) and many other executives. Finch finally succeeds in getting closer to Biggley's position, but meets a challenge when he is named vice president in charge of advertising.

Finch is expected to create an elaborate commercial campaign, and eventually comes up with a televised treasure hunt, which he names the "World Wide Wicket Treasure Hunt." When Hedy foils the hunt, revealing on live television that the treasure is hidden in the World Wide Wicket buildings, Finch finds himself seemingly at the end of his "climb up the ladder."

Fortunately, Finch befriends Wally Womper, the chairman of the board of directors (Jeffrey Wolfthal, junior), who also began his career as a window washer. Using this influence, Finch persuades Womper to act more compassionately and sympathetically towards his fellow employees in the rousing showstopper, *Brotherhood of Man*.

How to Succeed... is an especially challenging show because of its numerous production numbers, which involve three separate ensembles.

"We have really amped up the difficulty level from last year's production, *Damn Yankees*," Alfonzo said. "It's a risk, but I know the cast will rise to the challenge. It will pay off when the production numbers are huge and exciting for our audiences."

Ultimately, the production will provide an entertaining look at the flaws of the business world, he added.

"*How to Succeed...* is a satire that continually pokes fun at big business and all the clichés of 'corporate culture,'" Alfonzo concluded.

How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying

8 p.m. tonight, March 31
 and Saturday, April 1
 3 p.m. Sunday, April 2
 in the Little Theatre

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Reckless drivers endanger prom

Although prom season is an exciting, festive time for many students, it is also one of the most notorious seasons for traffic fatalities. Statistics show that prom time, which runs from early April to mid-June, is a prime period for vehicular accidents.

For example, in 2002 during April, May, and June, 711 youths under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes. In 2001, the total number of these fatalities during the same months was 1,012.

In addition to the health risks, the consequences for driving under the age of 21 include losing one's driving privileges, fines and community service.

Offensive films thrive on violence

Horror and suspense films are traditionally top moneymakers among young moviegoers who enjoy the thrill of a good scare. In recent years, however, filmmakers seem to be sacrificing creativity and innovation in exchange for a grisly competition of who can make the goriest film. In the previews for *Hostel*, for example, the producers warn that paramedics were called to a screening due to the audience's horrified reaction. Is it really worth \$8.50 to be carried off in a stretcher?

Eli Roth, director of *Hostel*, actually got the idea for this film during a conversation with Quentin Tarantino, another director known for his graphic work. Roth decided to create a film that would display more bloodshed and gore than the notoriously graphic films being produced in Japan, according to a published interview. Roth felt he won the seal of approval when a Japanese horror director said, "This

is too disgusting... I can't look at this," the report said. One reason these types of films are allowed to flourish is the lack of censorship, which encourages filmmakers to compete for the most realistically gory effects. In addition, the lack of strict enforcement of the movie rating system allows younger, more impressionable viewers to be exposed to this disturbing fare.

Sadly, the increasing levels of graphic imagery in horror films discourages the expert filmmaking necessary to create true horror classics. The memorable films of Alfred Hitchcock, for example, relied on minimal special effects.

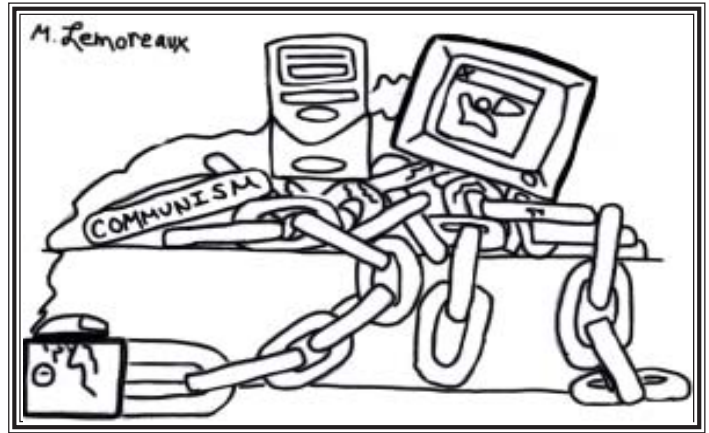
Filmgoers need to demand a higher quality of work by avoiding movies that capitalize on offensive thrills. Although many people enjoy a good scare at the movies, why not demand a decent plot and old-fashioned suspense to go with it?

Therefore, everyone needs to drive with extra caution during this busy time. Even better, teens should consider renting a limousine or party bus for prom night, leaving the responsibility to professionally trained drivers.

As prom season approaches, many parents will sit down with their teens and talk about driving and acting responsibly. Do not let the excitement of this season drown out their words. Listen.

While you are chatting with your friends over AOL Instant Messenger, your peers in Eastern Asia are gradually taking steps towards gaining freedom. The boom of the Internet in Eastern Asia has China specifically worried about its younger generation of teens becoming more exposed to the ideas of democracy rather than communism.

Clearly, this shows there is much more to the Internet than social networking. The more Eastern Asian teens learn about the freedom of democracy, the more they may want it. Can communism fall with the aid of the Internet? Anything is possible. Eastern Asia's younger generation is becoming more involved with local political affairs, while the radical politicians are gradually losing their popularity among the young adult crowd. In addition, the number of student protests has steadily increased over a ten year period. The growing rate of protests is directly related to the growing rate of Chinese Internet users. The number of protests a year is now about 100 million and growing 30 percent every year, while about 35 percent of the Chinese population uses the Internet, according to published reports.



Internet weakens chains of repression

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Since the Internet boom, more options for communication have encouraged more interaction between political activists and students.

Student protestors are using e-mails as a means of communicating with fellow

protesters rather than engaging in potentially dangerous meetings.

E-mailing has made communication faster and more frequent, and that has been the most popular technique of privately communicating since censorship of e-mail is more difficult to execute as opposed to censorship of certain websites. Currently, China has about 50,000 people policing the Internet. Yet, according to recent interviews with Chinese students, the censorship seems to only encourage China's youth to learn the loopholes.

In addition, Internet message boards and instant messaging clients have become an enormously popular form of communication for the Internet users.

Message boards and instant messaging are used to discuss current political events and criticize radical political leaders. Message boards have also encouraged more activist students to voice their opinions because they are less likely to feel isolated by their beliefs.

The growth in communication has led to a corresponding increase in protests against repression of the media. Internet giants such as Google and Yahoo, which have growing interests in China, are fighting aggressively against censorship.

Whether or not the increasing number of student protests are successful, they send out a message of heroism that may inspire others to speak their minds.

With every article and e-mail that is written, the Internet is spreading the message of the fight for freedom to people across the globe.

Opinion

Your Views

Captain praises swim team

For the past four years, the swim team has always been a very important part of my life.

However, I never expected my senior year to end with an undefeated season of 8-0 and the GMC title for the third time in four years.

Caitlin Cassidy, Rachael Abadie, Missy Lang, Brenna Dean, Jess Starosielec, Lauren Sammons and myself were top performers at the meet, but we never would have done as well as we did without the rest of the team.

At every meet, including GMCs, Caitlin and I always reminded the girls that the whole team is needed to win each meet. It's the team work and dedication that helps each girl to excel in her event.

That's why I truly feel we did so well this year. The team came together as a unit and once again we won against rivals such as North Brunswick, Metuchen, Plainfield, Madison and other competitors.

The hours of practice that we all went through, as well as our ability to work

together, paid off in the end. This year was "Ahr Time" and I couldn't be happier to end my senior year this way.

Jess Patalano
Senior

Savor Peer Leadership experience

Future peer leaders, take the time next year to enjoy the experience. The program allows you to become closer with your classmates and gives you a chance to get to know some people with whom you might not normally associate. The experience also builds valuable leadership skills and contributes to an unforgettable senior year.

One of our favorite aspects of the Peer Leadership program was the opportunity to form tight friendships with people we only knew casually in the past.

The program also builds self-confidence and self-awareness.

Good luck to next year's team of peer leaders. It was an experience we would not change, and one we will never forget.

Colleen Burns and
Kayleigh Johannemann
Seniors

Gripping novel portrays Holocaust

BY KATIE SALERNO

Night, a familiar book to many students who have read the haunting novel as part of their English class's required reading, is gaining new appreciation since its designation as a selection in Oprah's Book Club.



The unforgettable book is an autobiographical memoir by Elie Wiesel about his boyhood experience in Nazi concentration camps, which forever changed his perspective of the world around him.

Wiesel's devastating encounters as he moved from camp to camp are at the heart of this candid autobiography.

The author was first sent to a Jewish ghetto in Hungary, and then he was rounded up for relocation and sent to the first of several horrific camps, where he and his father were separated from his mother and sisters. Wiesel never saw them again.

One of the work's most powerful themes is the author's struggle with his belief in God. As the book progresses and his personal pain increases, the author's religious faith and conviction begin to diminish.

As his horrid journey continues, Wiesel is faced with many challenges to stay alive. Will he give his new shoes up for a ration of bread? Will he save his gold filling for the future? Most importantly, will he abandon his weak father?

As he endures these challenges, a true survivor emerges. The reader is left with a classic, universal story about the devastation of a community and the determination of a young man.

Wiesel's simplistic style of writing is what makes this memoir so powerful. In one scene, during which he witnesses the hanging of a young "angelic" boy, the sparse writing powerfully expresses the boy's fear, horror, and uncertainty about his belief in God.

In another vivid sequence, the author describes the grueling "death march" of prisoners as Nazi guards raced to escape the approaching Allies during the final days of World War II.

Night serves as a tragic reminder of the Holocaust, dramatically re-creating the cruelty and intolerance of that fateful era.

For students who have already read the book, it's worth a second look. For people who have never explored this tale of heartbreak and heroism, it will provide an unforgettable, illuminating reading experience.

Failure to Launch lacks comedic punch

BY NELSON VARGAS

Despite a few funny moments, *Failure to Launch* is a predictable romance film that is bogged down by predictable scenes and uninspired lead actors.

The movie, about a 35-year-old bachelor who lives at home with his frustrated parents, fails to move beyond a standard TV sitcom plot and holds little appeal for teen viewers.

The bachelor, Trip (Matthew McConaughey), is happy being pampered by his long-suffering mother (Kathy Bates) and father (football legend Terry Bradshaw, in an accomplished screen debut), who are determined to get their son out of the house so they can enjoy some much-needed privacy. They decide to hire Paula (Sarah Jessica Parker), an expert at getting men to move out of their parents' home.

Paula wins men over, convinces them to move in with her, and then dumps them after they've left their parents' house. However, she meets her match in Trip, who is quick to end a relationship when it begins to get serious.

Although Paula makes every effort to capture Trip's heart by catering to his every interest, including playing paintball with his friends, he plans to leave her because of the affair's growing intensity.

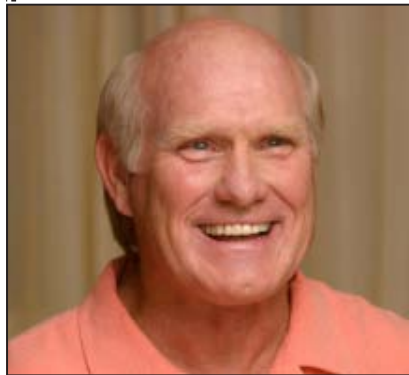
Alarmed by the unexpected change in plans, Paula realizes her growing feelings for Trip, and works harder than ever to keep his interest. Predictably, the two fall in love, but their romance is threatened when Trip discovers the truth about his "hired" date.

Failure to Launch sputters along for several reasons, including its dull plot. The ups-and-downs of Trip and Paula's relationship are standard sitcom fare, lacking any creative developments.

Besides its tired plot, *Failure to Launch* lacks romantic chemistry between its two stars to provide a much-needed energy boost. Instead, McConaughey and Parker are overshadowed by their supporting players. Zoey Deschanel, as Paula's sarcastic roommate, and Bradshaw as Trip's exasperated father are among the actors



BACHELOR TRIP (MATTHEW MCCONAUGHEY) HAS AN ENFORCED HEART-TO-HEART CONVERSATION WITH PAULA (SARAH JESSICA PARKER) IN THE ROMANTIC COMEDY *FAILURE TO LAUNCH*.



ZOOEY DESCHANEL (ABOVE) ADDS SPARKLE AS THE SARCASTIC KIT. TERRY BRADSHAW (LEFT) IS ENTERTAINING AS TRIP'S FATHER, WHILE BRADLEY COOPER (BELOW, LEFT), ALSO AMUSES AS TRIP'S FRIEND DEMO (PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMDB.COM)

who provide some welcome comic relief.

As the wacky Kit, Deschanel adds a refreshingly sarcastic perspective. An ongoing subplot about her determination to get rid of the bird that sits outside her window and won't let her sleep is particularly funny. Ironically, the bird she wants to kill leads her to her true love.

Besides its tired plot, *Failure to Launch* lacks romantic chemistry between its two stars

Unfortunately, the strong supporting cast can't rescue some of the movie's stupider situations. Three scenes that are supposed to be funny come across rather odd instead. Trip is bitten by a chipmunk, dolphin, and iguana, in three segments that are supposed to be

amusing, but the audience at a recent screening seemed more puzzled than entertained. No one laughed during the over-the-top episodes.

In addition, the movie fails to capture a teen audience, at least during the recent viewing.

Few of the younger audience members seemed amused by the goings-on, although viewers in their 30s and 40s seemed to find the picture moderately entertaining, chuckling at a few of the scenes. Perhaps if the lead actors were younger (Parker is 42, McConaughey is 37), younger viewers would find the film more appealing. Unfortunately, the characters seem old for their roles.

Given its shortcomings, don't spend your money at the movies for this forgettable film. Instead, wait until it's available on DVD and watch it as part of your nightly TV sitcom viewing.

Yellowcard's newest release displays musical maturity

BY KAREN CHOURALLAH

After a two-year hiatus, the boys of Yellowcard are back, singing about the lure of Hollywood and other weighty themes instead of that "place off Ocean Avenue."

The group's new album, *Lights and Sounds*, kicks off to a slow start with its superficial single of the same name. The mediocre tune is too similar to songs from the group's first effort and offers little in innovation and uniqueness.

The remainder of *Lights and Sounds*, however, is not a disappointment.

While *Ocean Avenue* focused on break-ups and hook-ups, *Lights and Sounds* moves beyond such mundane themes and instead centers on heavier issues such as war, self-doubt, and the seductive pull of Hollywood.

Words, Hands, Hearts; Martin Sheen Or JFK, and Waiting Game—among others—highlight such subjects amid stimulating lyrics and vibrant instrumentals.

While *Ocean Avenue* focused on break-ups and hook-ups, *Lights and Sounds* moves beyond such mundane themes and instead centers on heavier issues such as war, self-doubt, and the seductive pull of Hollywood.

Two Weeks from Twenty, a mellow, casual song with dark undertones about a boy who dies in a war, is a prime example of the band's artistic growth.

Another strong selection, *Holly Wood Died*, uses the character of Holly Wood as

a metaphor for the show business jungle of Hollywood. One of the significant features of this song is the expert use of violin, played by Sean Mackin.

Sure Thing Falling, a contagious melody about distinguishing between fantasy and cold reality, is another thought-provoking song.

Perhaps the release's most powerful number is *How I Go*, performed by guest singer Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks. Maines and Yellowcard's lead singer, Ryan Key, work well in melodious harmony, making this a stirring ballad.

Don't be misled by Yellowcard's standard first single; the remainder of *Lights and Sounds* is a worthwhile buy characterized by memorable themes and captivating melodies.



YELLOWCARD EXPLORES COMPLEX ISSUES SUCH AS THE HORRORS OF WAR IN *LIGHTS AND SOUNDS*. (PHOTO COURTESY OF YELLOWCARDROCK.COM)

Dangers of drinking, driving publicized by awareness group



JUNIORS STEVE VITABILE, ALEX SAFFER AND JEFFREY WOLFTHAL DISCUSS THEIR PLAN OF ACTION FOR AHR CHOICE.

(PHOTO BY PATRICK ALFONZO)

BY DANIELLE DIGLIO AND HEATHER DOEHLER

Behind the glitter and glamour of prom season are some sobering facts. Between the months of April and June, drunken driving accidents increase alarmingly, partly because of the additional late-night traffic generated by prom and graduation season. In 2003, 705 teenagers under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related accidents nationwide during this time.

Because of these alarming numbers, the school community is trying to raise awareness about the perils of drinking and driving. For the past several years, members of Ahr Choice, led by moderator Terry Aiken, have worked on projects that dramatically illustrate the issue.

"The members are not afraid to stand out and make a statement," Aiken said. "They bombard the students with statistics in a creative way instead of just reading them to the students. I think the group is making an impact because it makes teens more aware of the consequences of drug and alcohol abuse."

To join the group, students must be nominated by current members who believe the individuals would benefit the organization. Each February, the group attends a three-day Elks Peer Leadership Conference in New Brunswick that offers speakers, workshops and discussions on alcohol prevention.

Armed with this information, group members formulate an attention-grabbing campaign to encourage teens to avoid drugs and alcohol. Last year, students wore black outfits and stood silently in various parts of school, holding up signs with statistics about drinking and driving.

In 2004, a car that was crushed in an alcohol-related accident was displayed on school property as a grim reminder of the dangers of drinking and driving.

This year, Aiken said, the group is planning another event that will grab students' attention. She declined to release details because students want to impact their peers with the presentation.

Caitlin Fitzpatrick, junior, said serving on the group is worthwhile because it sends an important message to teens.

"I think our efforts make the Bishop Ahr students more aware of their responsibilities and the consequences that drunk driving may have," Fitzpatrick said.

"It feels good to be a part of something that impacts so many people's lives," she added.

The group's message comes at a time of year when teens are influenced to act recklessly, experts said.

A recent survey finds many teens report pressure to engage in unsafe activities on prom and graduation nights, like drinking and driving carelessly, increasing a teen's crash risk.

The report, prepared by Chrysler Group and Mothers Against Drunk Driving, noted that 45 percent of those questioned felt pressure to drink and drive or ride with someone who has been drinking.

Students said they appreciated the value of Ahr Choice's message.

"It helps spread information to teenagers on the issues of drinking and driving that they normally wouldn't look up on their own," said Janelle DeGuzman, junior.



It's the social event of the year. For many students, the highlight of the school year. The right date, outfit and mode of transportation make the magical night as enjoyable,

Gala event dominates school year

BY MEGAN GARDNER AND LAUREN MCMAHON

The prom has been considered a rite of passage for American teens for more than a century, and each year, students prepare for the event with the same mixture of anticipation and anxiety.

The annual dance, which was first called a "prom" (short for promenade) in the 1890s, has always been considered one of the stepping stones from adolescence to adulthood. What began as a simple dance, however, has evolved into an elaborate social event.

Today, teens spend months anticipating the upcoming dance, running around with endless to-do lists, from booking limos to finding the perfect outfit.

"There is so much to do before the prom," said Eric Douglas, senior. "The expenses are killing me. I just decided to start saving money early so I'm not overwhelmed."

Elyse Lemberakis, senior, said it's important to avoid feeling overly anxious about the numerous chores involved in preparation. "Since it's my senior year I'm going to sit back, relax and enjoy the ride," she said.

Promgoers, however, are not the only ones caught in the frenzy of preparation – parents and teachers are also affected.

The parent trap

Diane Lemberakis, mother of Elyse, said she is overwhelmed by the thought of prom season.

"There is so much work to do," she said. "I feel like I'm the one going to the prom."



DAN HURLEY AND AMANDA HUGGINS, JUNIORS, DEMONSTRATE THE ELEGANT LOOK THAT HELPS MAKE PROM NIGHT MEMORABLE.

JILL DEAN, SENIOR, MODELS A GOWN THAT REFLECTS THE SOPHISTICATED MOOD OF PROM.

Like many other mothers, Lemberakis helps her daughter select the right dress, arrange nail, hair and makeup appointments and plan where to take pre-prom pictures.

"I'm my daughter's own personal photographer when it comes to prom pictures," she added with a laugh. Daughter Elyse described her mom as a "lifesaver" when it comes to prom preparations.

Many male students also depend on parents, usually their mothers, to help with the myriad of pre-prom details.

Marie Huber, mother of Jeff Huber, senior, said she helps her son select the right tuxedo and – most importantly – makes sure it complements his date's outfit. "Prom definitely takes up a lot of my time," she said. "For example, it's my responsibility to own and color-coordinate the flowers with my son's date's dress."

Teachers also play a big role in the event, mostly as chaperones supervising the big dance fun or frustrating?

Rosemarie Rudolph, English teacher, who chaperones the junior prom each year, said she enjoys it. "I really like looking at all the new fashions and seeing everyone dressed up," she said.

As the prom approaches, it becomes the main topic of conversation, Rudolph said: "It's a time when all you hear students saying is, 'I'm wearing peach...I'm wearing black...'"

Dating dilemma

One of the biggest social pressures connected to prom is finding a date. The issues are endless: Should girls wait to be asked should they seize the initiative and ask a prospective partner? It better to go with a friend as opposed to a romantic interest?

Several male students agreed they are still expected to take the lead in asking for a date. Nichole Toto, senior, said that most girls still expect the boys to ask them out. "I just think it's more prom and traditional," she said.

Corey Francisco, junior, said he is philosophical about the possibility of rejection.

"I don't get that nervous if a girl says no," he said. "I just move on and ask someone else."

Huber recommends asking a female friend to the prom, so the night remains fun and carefree without the tension of a first date. "By bringing a friend to the prom, you know you're in for a good time without jealousy or fights," he added.

Toto agreed. "You don't have to worry about being with one person all night," she said. "You can socialize with all your friends."

Dressed to impress

For most female students, one of the evening's biggest challenges is finding a suitably glamorous ensemble. If you have selected your dress by now, you need to move quickly, said Megan Romano, senior.

"You need to allow time for alterations and finding the right accessories," Romano said.

Girls plan ahead for perfect prom look

BY ALEXA MERKLER AND GINA NUZZO

For many female students, preparing for prom is a hectic, demanding process that takes months of planning. To guarantee a relaxing, unforgettable experience, the Satoma recently interviewed three seniors – Megan Romano, Brooke Sofield and Laura Zeno – for tips on getting ready for the big event.

Pictures

Plan your pre-prom schedule carefully, since you may be stopping at several friends' houses to take pictures. Parents will want to know what time you're arriving, and if you and your date have different sets of friends, the timetable can become hectic, Sofield said.

Before your professional pictures are taken at prom, ask a friend to look you over to make sure your makeup and hair are camera-ready. "Lip gloss fades and hair gets messy," Sofield said.

Finally, bring a disposable camera for plenty of informal, "fun" pictures during the dance, the girls agreed.

Dress Shopping

By the time you are reading this, you should have bought your dress, Zeno said. "This is particularly

important if you're a small size and need alterations, which you should get done at least three weeks before the prom," Romano said.

Once your dress is purchased, it's imperative to let your date know the color so he can coordinate the tuxedo.

"Since it can be difficult to match the specific color of the dress, you can use complementary colors," Romano said. "For example, a pink dress can be complemented by a silver tuxedo vest."

Makeup

Many girls prefer getting their makeup professionally done to capitalize on the extensive variety of palettes available.

Makeup counters at department stores such as Macys and Nordstrom's are excellent choices. "It's less stressful to get it professionally done," Romano said. "They know what they're doing."

Expect to spend an hour at the makeup counter, and bring a dress sample to coordinate your look.



NELSON VARGAS, SENIOR, IS HERE TO TREAT YOUR DATE.

the year that conjures up feelings of delight and dread: Prom night, especially seniors, this annual rite of passage is a year, preceded by weeks of agonizing over picking the mode of transportation. Here are some tips for making this night as stress-free and safe as possible.

cool social scene

Sales personnel from Group USA, a local retail store, said one of the key trends this year is bright, exotic colors such as turquoise and coral.

In terms of styles, backless dresses and halters are popular. In addition, length is flexible; although most girls prefer full-length dresses, shorter outfits are acceptable, sales representatives said.

Numerous magazines, Web sites and other sources offer advice for picking the right dress. These tips are from Promgirl.net:

- Do your research before shopping. Determine what type of look you want, whether it's Bohemian, Princess or another look;

- The more dresses you try on, the more you'll know what color works for you. Pick a color that complements your eyes, skin and hair;

- Bring a trusted friend with you for a second opinion;

- "Test drive" your shoes to make sure they're comfortable and the heels aren't too high. Even if you don't plan to dance in them, you want to avoid a twisted or sprained ankle while walking to and from the dance.

In addition, the Web site offers these practical tips for both males and females:

- Get plenty of sleep the night before so you're not dozing off on your date;

- Don't skip meals to lose weight before prom.

You'll feel better and be in a better mood if you eat right.

DEANNA RODRIGUEZ, SENIOR, MODELS ONE OF THE STRAPLESS GOWNS THAT ARE POPULAR WITH THIS YEAR'S PROMGOERS.

(PHOTOS COURTESY OF STEVE ROSSI AND JOSH MAMAOLAY)



You are cordially invited to:

**The Senior Prom for
The class of 2006 on
Friday, May 19th at
Garden Manor, in Aberdeen,
New Jersey
7:00 p.m. until 11:30 p.m.**

**The Junior Prom for
The Class of 2007 on
Friday, May 5th at
The Forge in Woodbridge,
New Jersey
7:00 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.**

Look good, act responsibly, boys urge

By ALEXA MERKLER AND GINA NUZZO

While girls struggle to find the perfect attire and suitable date, boys worry about making the right impression. A group of male panelists - juniors Mike Ciccarelli, Corey Francisco and Jerry Venturelli, and seniors Jeff Huber, Nelson Vargas and Karl Wojciechowski - offered advice on how to win the admiration of your date - and her parents.

Getting ready

Although Huber did not think the boy should pay if he is going with a friend, the rest said the male should always buy the tickets.

"I'm more old school," Wojciechowski said. "I think the guy should pay for both tickets."

Looking well-groomed for the event is critical, the boys said. Where do you start?

"The important thing is matching your suit to your date's dress as closely as you can," said Huber. Vargas also recommended getting a "shape-up" - a box-shaped haircut along the hairline that creates a "clean, fresh" look.

Picking up your date

Make sure you arrive at your date's home in the right frame of mind, Vargas said. "You should approach her with the attitude that you two are going to have the time of your lives," he said.

Be prepared to pin your date's corsage before leaving the house, and don't leave the job to her mother, Ciccarelli said.

"You have to put the girl's corsage on for her - it's the right thing to do," he said.

At the prom

While at the prom, is it right to leave your date to go talk to someone else? Do so only if she's comfortable with it, Francisco said.

"You never leave the 'nest'; only go out for food and come back," Wojciechowski added.

The boys added it's important to remember simple rules of courtesy, such as asking your date periodically if she wants a soda.



D&G LIMOUSINE SERVICE OFFERS THIS HUMMER H2 STRETCH LIMO THAT SEATS 16 PEOPLE. (PHOTO COURTESY STEVE ROSSI)

Students ride to prom in style

By TERRENCE BENTON, LAUREN FOGLIA, DREW NOVY AND STEVE ROSSI

One of the many challenging decisions during prom season is deciding whether or not to travel to the prom by limousine. For promgoers who want to forget about the hassle of driving, limos come in a variety of sizes, appearances, and perhaps most importantly, costs.

Andrew Peczinka, senior, said limos offer an enjoyable, safe way to socialize with friends before and after the prom.

"You just get some people together and have a great time," he said. "Everyone uses them."

Alison Blaha, senior, said she plans to take a limo because it adds to the glamour and excitement of the occasion. "A limo makes senior prom more special," she said.

"A limo makes prom more special."

~Alison Blaha
senior

One of the most traditional styles of limousine is the stretch Lincoln Town Car, which costs \$80 per hour at Action Limo, Colonia. The car, which seats up to 14 people, includes fiber optic lights and a stereo system.

For those willing to spend the extra cash, the stretch Lincoln Navigator limousines offer style, increased head and legroom, and can seat 12 to 14 people.

For the standard wheelbase stretch Navigator, Action charges \$150 per hour plus tip with a 7-hour minimum, said John Garrabrandt, owner of Action Limo.

For long-time couples, there are two special luxury cars, a Bentley and a Rolls Royce. The Bentley is \$725 per hour, while the Rolls Royce goes for \$425 per hour.

The most extravagant choice of all is the party bus. It is available in a 10-hour package deal for \$2,500. It has a microwave, comfortable leather seating appointments for 20 people and two TVs with surround sound.

Chris McKenna, junior, said the party bus is the best mode of transportation because of its size and luxury. "You usually only go to prom twice in your life, so you might as well go all out both times," he said.

Garrabrandt said Action Limo does not own one of the more popular limos, the stretch Hummer H2, because it lacks head and legroom, and has only one air conditioning unit, leaving passengers sweaty and uncomfortable.

Numerous limousine Web sites strongly recommend researching the limo companies you are considering and checking references.



D&G LIMOUSINE SERVICE'S LINCOLN SPECIAL EDITION SEATS UP TO 12 PASSENGERS. (PHOTO COURTESY STEVE ROSSI)



VARGAS, SENIOR, SAID IT'S IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER SIMPLE RULES OF COURTESY, SUCH AS ASKING YOUR DATE PERIODICALLY IF SHE WANTS A SODA.



TERRY AIKEN DISCUSSES TRUST WITH CYNTHIA RETAMOZO, SENIOR. (PHOTO BY STEVE ROSSI)

TRUST builds safe haven

By DREW NOVY AND CYNTHIA RETAMOZO

A new counseling program run by seniors is available for students who want to discuss issues with their peers.

Known as TRUST (Talking Respectfully, Understanding Students Together), the service allows students to vent about everyday problems, such as low grades or fights with friends.

"Some students need people their own age they can talk to and this is a sort of haven for them," said Cynthia Retamozo, president.

Retamozo, who started the group, said its focus is to help students by discussing options to their problems.

She and fellow senior Rudy Palma recruited other seniors whom they felt had strong listening skills.

The students underwent a four-hour training session to learn how to appropriately listen to and deal with classmates.

"It's a good program because sometimes people need someone else to talk to who will just listen."

~Katie Riccobono
Senior

"The program provides trained students in a safe, confidential environment," said Terry Aiken, club moderator. Currently, 12 seniors serve on the panel.

Every Tuesday, students can visit Room 216 from 7:30 a.m. to the bell as well as during their lunch periods if they have something they want to discuss. Baked goods are available as pick-me-ups.

So far, TRUST has been a success, with a steady stream of visitors, and several juniors have expressed interest in running the program next year, Retamozo said.

"It's a good program because sometimes people need someone else to talk to who will just listen," said member Katie Riccobono.

Trading places: Students substitute for teachers in class

By KAREN CHOUCRALLAH AND RHEA FERNANDES

The sophomores in T.J. Reilly's fourth period religion class were not expecting seniors Nelson Vargas and Thurston Gill to walk to the front of the room and begin leading the class discussion.

Normally, one would see homework or notes on the blackboard. Today, however, the new "Mr. Reillys" started class by introducing a new set of rules, including "No Talking."

"It's a good way to give the seniors a feel for what it's like in our shoes," said Reilly, who was one of the instructors participating in the February 2 Teacher for a Day program, which allowed seniors to take over the roles of teachers and administrators.

While Reilly's class enjoyed their lesson, Lea Eckert's drama class was being directed by Justine Del Gaudio and Rebekah Maroun.

The "Miss Eckerts" had no difficulty starting the class strongly and maintaining a productive atmosphere.

In Rosemary Naughton's seventh period geometry class, Patrick "Naughton" Alfonzo won rave reviews. "You make me smarter by the second," said Adam Walton, sophomore.

In Patricia Bilby's English classes, the freshmen took part in activities such as vocabulary-building crossword puzzles with Rudy Palma.

Not only did Palma take charge in the classroom, but he even displayed his proctoring talents in the cafeteria.

"It was a lot of fun watching him develop his technique," Bilby said.

Overseeing school operations was Hank Bignell, Student Council president, who served as Sr. Donna Marie Trukowski, principal.

In addition, John Roche handled the numerous responsibilities of Sr. Cynthia Marie Babyak, campus minister.

Adding to the day's enjoyment, Marianne Cole, religion teacher, entertained her classes by wearing a student uniform, complete with regulation blouse and skirt.

The program, which was sponsored by the Student Council, was a success, Bignell said.

"It gave students the perspective of being a teacher, showing them how difficult it can be to run a classroom," he added. "For anyone considering a career in education, it's especially helpful."

When asked if she enjoyed the swap, Mrs. Bilby replied with a laugh, "Oh my goodness, yes! I will be doing this again next year!"



RYAN MCCARTHY, JUNIOR, ALICIA JOYCE, SENIOR, AND MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ, JUNIOR, REVIEW JOYCE'S VOCABULARY LESSON FOR THE DAY. JOYCE SUBSTITUTED FOR ENGLISH TEACHER ROSEMARIE RUDOLPH



ALISON BLAHA, SENIOR (ABOVE), DISCUSSES HER DUTIES AS VICE PRINCIPAL, REPLACING DEACON JOSEPH SISCO. LINDA CZAJKOWSKI (LEFT), PLAYS THE ROLE OF STUDENT



(LEFT TO RIGHT): NELSON VARGAS, T.J. REILLY, RELIGION TEACHER, AND THURSTON GILL TAKE A BREAK FROM THE DAY'S HEAVY TEACHING COURSELOAD. (ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF BGAHS.ORG)

Innovative music program marches into promising future

By DREW NOVY AND CYNTHIA RETAMOZO

The school's music program started out with a few interested students, growing over the years into the current diverse, highly involved group of performers.

Five years ago, the band performed at football half-times wearing polo shirts. Today, the marching band wears complete uniforms and performs a full show during games. The program's concert band, choir and jazz band contribute to numerous musical programs at the school.

"I like the music department because it gives me an opportunity to showcase my abilities as well as work with and meet other musicians within the Bishop Ahr community," said Vincent Kucinski, senior.

Laura Bankowski, senior, who joined the music program freshman year, learned to

play three instruments and is currently enrolled in the challenging AP Music Theory class. She especially likes the friendly, collaborative atmosphere of the music program.

"I like the music department because it gives me an opportunity to showcase my abilities as well as work with and meet other musicians..."

~Vincent Kucinski
Senior

"We're a very tight knit community," she said. "They're like my family."

Under the guidance of Christopher Test, the music department has sponsored numerous events this year, including a

recent percussion clinic hosted by Greg Giannascoli, a mamba and percussion artist.

"The purpose of the event was to introduce our percussionists to a professional who can give them tips to help them play better," Test said.

The music program has benefited substantially from the new wing, which provides the department with a bigger, brighter work and storage area.

Next year's goals include dividing the Music Theory class into two sections, one for all interested students and an advanced class. In addition, the summer band camp will be expanded from one to two weeks said.

"This will help students to focus on the music even more," he said.



MELANIE LAMOREAUX, JUNIOR, RECEIVES ADVICE FROM FELLOW PERCUSSIONIST VINCENT KUCINSKI, SENIOR, ON HOW TO PLAY THE TIMPANY.

(PHOTO COURTESY OF BGAHS.ORG)

Graduates battle boardroom foes in *Apprentice*

By CHelsea DOUGHERTY AND KATIE SALERNO

In the past several years, two of the school's alumni have been selected to compete in NBC's hit show *The Apprentice*, the competitive program hosted by Donald Trump (9 p.m. Mondays) that pits contestants against each other in a corporate environment.

Tara Dowdell, class of 1994, participated in the program's third season, while Tammy Trenta, class of 1990, is currently battling it out against 17 other contestants.

Trenta, who was president of the Spanish Club, captain of the softball team and a member of Student Council during high school, is not allowed to grant interviews until the season ends, said her sister, Suzanne Rispoli.

Rispoli, who is also Trenta's business partner, said although Trenta is not being paid for her participation and was forced to take time off work, she decided the experience was a "sacrifice and a risk" worth taking.

Trenta, vice president at a Beverly Hills investment firm, is a financial planner.

Dowdell competed during the third season. She was voted off in Episode 6, when she led a team effort to use wall graffiti to promote a video game.

Trump told Dowdell she fell short when she didn't spend enough time familiarizing herself with the product.

"Nevertheless, I enjoyed working with Trump, even though he was all about self-promotion," she said.



TARA DOWDELL, '94 (ABOVE) AND TAMMY TRENTA, '90

Legacy of Courage

WORLD WAR II LETTERS LINK FATHER, SON

By STEPHANIE JABLONSKY

As a young boy, history teacher Brian Kent was fascinated by the past, largely because of his father's wartime experiences. His father, John, and uncle, Harry, had both served during World War II and, although they did not brag about their experiences, Kent knew of their contributions.

Those stories came dramatically alive for Kent when he received a box of World War II artifacts passed down by his father after his recent death.

The collection of mementos includes letters, photographs and even a German military helmet.

"He told me that the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor he was in Yankee Stadium watching the New York Giants playing football. He recalled that all the service men at the game were asked to report to the nearest military base."

~Brian Kent
History Teacher



BRIAN KENT, HISTORY TEACHER, PERUSES SOME OF THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS AND MEMENTOS LEFT BY HIS FATHER, JOHN PHILIP, WHO SERVED IN WORLD WAR II. (PHOTO COURTESY STEPHANIE JABLONSKY)

The Kent family's wartime saga began in 1943, when Kent's father, John Phillip Kent, was drafted. As a corporal, he traveled all over the world to countries like France, Germany, Japan, England, and the Philippines. His brother, Harry, was drafted and stationed in Casablanca.

When J. Kent was fighting abroad, the only contact he had with his friends and family were through letters. "Those letters were very important, because they were his connection to the world he left when he was drafted," Kent explained.

The elder Kent saved letters, photographs, and magazines from his time of service, and even brought home a Nazi helmet and flag and a German map of Berlin, creating a wealth of invaluable information about the war.

When Kent was young, he seldom heard his father talk about the war. "He was proud of his accomplishments in World War II, but like so many of the 'Greatest Generation,' he didn't talk much about it," Kent said. "He didn't have to."

Even before J. Kent was drafted into the army, he had already experienced the feeling of being a witness to one of the biggest events in United States history.

"He told me that the day the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor he was in Yankee Stadium, watching the New York Giants playing football," Kent said. "He recalled that all the servicemen at the game were asked to report to the nearest military base."



KENT'S COLLECTION (ABOVE) INCLUDES RARE PHOTOS, NEWSPAPERS AND LETTERS HOME. (LEFT): KENT'S FATHER JOHN (LEFT) AND ARMY COLLEAGUE. (PHOTOS COURTESY STEVE ROSSI)



Kent was intrigued by history at an early age, and his father's experiences only helped to reinforce this curiosity. Thus, the collection of artifacts left by his father serve as a valuable link to another era.

"At some level I guess I can say that those objects do connect me to my father," he said. "However, they are also symbols of a time gone by that I hope never returns. They also remind me of an old saying: 'In order to have peace, you must prepare for war.'"

Kent is especially proud of his father's achievements in World War II, but above all, he is proud of his father's humility as an accomplished veteran.

He recalled a recent meeting with another war veteran that summed up his father's

unassuming attitude.

"Last year I was in Hawaii and an older gentleman was wearing a WWII hat," Kent said. "I asked him if he was in World War II and he said yes."

"After I thanked him for his service I asked him if he would like to tell me a little bit about his experiences, and he said, 'No because I don't feel the need to boast about doing my duty as an American soldier.'"

That noble attitude reflected his father's selfless mentality, Kent said.

"Today's young people have a great opportunity to take advantage of the freedoms my dad's generation fought for," Kent said. "But always remember, with freedom comes responsibility."

Involved senior wins service scholarship

By HANK BIGNELL

Brooke Sofield, senior, has received a \$1,000 Target scholarship for her distinguished school service record.

The scholarship, based on volunteerism and service, was awarded to 600 students out of more than 11,000 applicants. Criteria used to select the winners included number of service hours and volunteer leadership awards and honors.

"I was thrilled when I found out that I received the Target Scholarship," Sofield said. "I give to the community because it's something that I enjoy doing. The scholarship is greatly appreciated and I will continue my volunteering efforts in the future."

As president of the Christian Social Action Club, Sofield has attained more than 900 service hours. She has also served as a Student Council member.

She plans to continue her volunteer contributions when she attends Montclair State University, where she will pursue Child Studies with a concentration in Early and Middle Childhood.



Blood drive needs donors

By HEATHER DOEHLER AND LAUREN FOGGIA

Organizers of this year's blood drive are hoping for 200 donors to contribute to the state's low supply.

The theme of this year's National Honor Society event, which will be held April 6 in the gym, is "Pump Out Ahr Love."

Susan Paluskiewicz, honor society moderator, said donors must be at least 17 years old, weigh 110 pounds and be in good health. The blood is urgently needed, she added. Every state should have a seven-day reserve supply, but New Jersey only has one day's worth.

Sadly, less than 2 percent of those eligible to donate do so, Paluskiewicz added.

"Every time someone donates blood, they save three lives," she said.

To make an appointment, call (732) 549-1108, Ext. 607.

The American Red Cross offers the following tips to make donation a positive experience:

- Get a good night's sleep before donating;
- Drink extra fluids to replace the volume you will donate (avoid beverages with caffeine);
- Wear clothing with sleeves that can be raised above the elbow;
- Take the time to enjoy a snack and drink in the refreshment area immediately following the donation.

Sports Spotlight

Maura Crehan

 Nickname: Mo, Maur
 Hometown: Plainfield
 Sport: Basketball
 Years involved: 10
 Position: Shooting Guard
 Title/Honors: Captain, JV County Champs
 Favorite TV show: *The OC*
 Favorite Movie: *Wedding Crashers*
 People most admired: My parents
 Training Regimen: 2 hours a day, 6 days a week
 College you would like to attend: Fordham University

Amanda Ctkor

 Nickname: Cik
 Hometown: Woodbridge
 Sport: Cheerleading
 Years involved: 10
 Position: Main base
 Title/Honors: 3 years on Varsity
 Favorite TV show: *House*
 Favorite Movie: *Monty Python: The Meaning of Life*
 Favorite Song: *House of Pain: Jump*
 Goals for your sport: Win Nationals this year and possibly continue in college
 People most admired: Teressa D'Aloia
 College you would like to attend: West Virginia University or St. Vincent College
 Hobbies outside of school: Going to the beach, surfing, eating

Kristine Cahatol

 Nickname: Kris
 Hometown: Piscataway/Franklin
 Sport: Tennis
 Years involved: 12-13 years
 Position: 1st singles (senior, junior) 2nd singles (sophomore, freshman)
 Favorite TV show: *Gilmore Girls, Grey's Anatomy*
 Favorite Movie: *Bridget Jones' Diary*
 Goals for your sport: To improve my game and my skills
 Person most admired: My parents
 College you would like to attend: Ramapo or Rutgers
 Personal quote: "It doesn't matter what happens in the end. What matters is how you made every moment count."

Jillian Wade

 Nickname: Jelly
 Hometown: Edison
 Sport: Cheerleading
 Years involved: 7
 Position: Flyer
 Title/Honors: Captain
 Favorite TV show: *Laguna Beach/The OC*
 Favorite Movie: *Legally Blonde/ Mean Girls*
 Training Regimen: Tumbling Mondays - 2:30-3:45. Practice Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. 2:30-4
 College you would like to attend: LIM in NYC for fashion merchandising
 Hobbies outside of school: Tumbling, cheerleading coach, shopping

Wessley Buffalo

 Nickname: Wess Buff
 Hometown: Franklin
 Sport: Basketball
 Years involved: 9
 Position: Forward
 Favorite TV show: *Jamie Foxx Show*
 Favorite Movie: *Friday After Next*
 Favorite Song: *Peaches 'n' Cream*
 Goals for your sport: Reaching my full potential
 Person most admired: My father
 What makes your sport so appealing?: The diversity of challenges

Eric Douglas

 Hometown: Sayreville
 Sport: Baseball
 Years involved: 14 years
 Position: 1st Base
 Title/Honors: All-Division, 3rd team All-County
 Favorite TV show: *Are You Afraid of the Dark?*
 Favorite Movie: *Joe Dirt*
 Person most admired: Dan Potts, for his playing ability, team spirit and determination on the field.
 College you would like to attend: Fairleigh Dickenson
 Personal Quote: "Trojans, I'd rather play beside you than any team of thousands.
 You know what's there on that field: immortality. Take it, it's yours."

Debarlus Alford


 Nickname: D.B
 Hometown: Plainfield
 Sport: Track & Field
 Years involved: 4
 Position: Sprinter
 Favorite TV show: *House*
 Favorite Movie: *The Lion King*
 Person most admired: My mother
 Training Regimen: I run to stay in shape
 College you would like to attend: Rutgers University
 Your Own Quote: "Don't say, but do!"

Jenise Marte

 Hometown: Perth Amboy
 Sport: Tennis
 Years involved: 3
 Position: 2nd Doubles
 Titles/Honors: Varsity
 Favorite Movie: *Pulp Fiction*
 Favorite TV show: *Family Guy*
 Favorite Song: *Bonita Applebum, A Tribe Called Quest*
 Goals for your sport: Playing in college
 Training Regimen: Every Saturday morning; an hour at the gym during the week
 Person most admired: My mom
 College you would like to attend: Columbia or Stevens Insitute


Brittany Kearns

 Nickname: Kearns
 Hometown: Edison
 Sport: Cheerleading and Softball
 Years involved: My whole life
 Position: Cheering: flying, tumbler; Softball: centerfield
 Favorite TV show: *One Tree Hill*
 Favorite Movie: *Face/Off*
 Favorite Song: *Sophomore Slump and Comeback of the Year*
 Goals for your sport: To keep my game up. There is no such thing as perfect. There's always room for improvement so I practice until it hurts to practice any more.
 Person most admired: Mr. Dennis O'Keefe
 College you would like to attend: Rowan University
 Your own quote: "Just when you're just about ready to give up, try harder than you've ever tried before."

Stephen Montabano

 Nickname: Monty
 Hometown: North Brunswick
 Sport: Baseball
 Years involved: 12 years
 Position: Pitcher
 Favorite TV show: *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*
 Goals for your sport: To play in college and play in the MLB
 Person most admired: Mr. Scott Runkel
 College you would like to attend: California State, Texas, Rutgers University
 Your own quote: "Well, uh, you know life is like baseball."

Alyssa Glenn

 Hometown: Woodbridge
 Sport: Softball
 Years involved: 10 years
 Position: 2nd Base/Short Stop
 Favorite TV show: *Real World and American Idol*
 Favorite Song: *Be Without You, Mary J. Blige*
 Goals for your sport: To win GMCs and get to third round of states
 What is the best skill that you bring to your sport: Confidence
 College you would like to attend: Rowan University
 What makes your sport so appealing?: The pressure of parts of the game, like when you need a clutch hit or you need to make sure a hit doesn't get by you.

Sunil Khanolkar

 Nickname: Sunny
 Hometown: North Edison
 Sport: Tennis
 Years involved: 7
 Favorite TV show: *Aqua Teen Hunger Force*
 Favorite Movie: *Van Wilder*
 Goals for your sport: Definitely to win the Division for my position and my team
 College you would like to attend: Rutgers University
 Hobbies outside of school: Playing video games, eating various types of cuisine.

Trojans score impressive 17-7 season

By JOE HAUMACHER

In the beginning of the season the Trojans knew that they had the opportunity to prove in the GMCs that they had what it took to be a powerhouse. With an overall record of 17-7, they did just that.

Under leadership from senior captain Ernst Ambroise and veteran head coach Dennis O'Keefe, the Trojans not only compiled an impressive record but a strong post-season performance as well.

"Leadership, heart during games and practices, and fan support all contributed to the great season, along with all of the veterans taking the younger guys under their wings," Ambroise said.

In their season opener against a surprisingly strong Highland Park team, the Trojans managed to pull out a 58-53 victory to get the season started on the right foot. Ambroise and Wesley Buffalo, senior, contributed 29 points. Senior Matt Newcomb also contributed with six assists.

Preceding the Roselle Catholic Holiday tournament, the Trojans took on another GMC powerhouse, Metuchen. In a well-fought battle, the Trojans fell short in the second half, losing to the Bulldogs 75-54.

In the first round of the Roselle Catholic Tournament, the Trojans pulled out a tight 46-44 victory in overtime. Buffalo led the way with 28 points, while Newcomb had 5 assists.

The boy's next game in the Tournament championship game would prove to be a tough one. The team put forth a great effort

against St. Joseph High School in Metuchen, but came up short at the end, falling 52-48.

Continuing with the regular season success, the boys pulled off four consecutive wins including three over division opponents Middlesex (66-51), JFK (70-56), and Cardinal McCarrick (77-56). "Beating McCarrick showed how all of our preparation and hard work paid off and proved that we were truly a strong team"

MATT NEWCOMB, SENIOR, MOVES DOWN COURT AS HE CALLS A PLAY.



WESLEY BUFFALO, SENIOR, EXECUTES A REVERSAL LAYUP AGAINST A MONROE GUARD. (BAJ PHOTO)

said Newcomb. In a battle with one of the GMC's most elite teams, Monroe, the Trojans put up a valiant fight but fell short 49-40. This game solidified the fact, however, that they could hold their own against any team in the GMC.

The Trojans once again went on a six-game winning streak in which they beat Cardinal McCarrick, J.P. Stevens, JFK, Middlesex, Spotswood, and South River.

After earning a very respectable six seed in the GMC Tournament, the Trojans faced off against the St. Peter's Cardinals and earned a first round victory 72-35. Clutch

performances were turned in by the whole starting squad but led by Corey Francisco, junior, and Buffalo.

On February 16, BGA had its second straight home game in the GMC Tournament against Old Bridge. The Trojans had trouble scoring in the second half, and although they put in a heartfelt effort, they were nipped 46-44 in the fourth quarter.

In the first round of the state tournament, BGA earned another home game but unfortunately ran into a surging St. Augustine's team and was eliminated 75-64.



SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS DEMONSTRATE ONE OF THE ROUTINES THAT DISTINGUISHED THEIR SEASON. (BAJ PHOTO)

Cheerleaders achieve numerous victories

By JOE HAUMACHER

This year, the cheerleading team was able to build on last year's season of strong performances and accomplishments, culminating in a first-place win at the Americheer competition in Florida. Led by senior captains Brittany Kearns and Jill Wade, the girls enjoyed numerous achievements.

On December 10 at Saint Peter's College, the team dominated all other competition and took first place as Grand Champions, providing a perfect start to the season.

"The first place finish gave us confidence and more motivation to continue working hard throughout the season," said Allison Howarth, junior.

A month later, the team was ready to face the competition at Old Bridge, pulling out a fourth place finish. In their next two competitions at Jackson High School and David Breauly High School, the girls took first place.

Before the trip to regional competitions in Maryland, the Trojans were dominant in New Jersey, taking second place against St. John Vianney and at the Jersey Shore Competition.

At the regional competition in Ocean City, Maryland, the girls made a solid effort but were only able to achieve a fifth place finish. However, the girls came back stronger at the state competition, placing fourth.

Heading into the Americheer event, the girls performed well and placed fourth in the Cheer/Dance competition and first in the Music competition.

"This was truly a perfect way to end the season," said Alicia Joyce, senior. "All our hard work finally paid off."

Kristen Dudas, sophomore, agreed. "It was such a rewarding feeling to win after working so hard for the past eight months," she said.

Powerful performances boost Lady Trojans to 17-9 record

By MARTINE LAPOSTOLLA AND LISA PROCACCINI

The girls basketball team finished a strong season with an overall record of 17-9, including All Conference and non-Conference games, and a record of 14-2 within the division.

Led by seniors Sara Burrows and Maura Crehan, the team opened the 2005-2006 season against Highland Park, winning 61-25.

The girls then defeated Metuchen before losing to Immaculata 50-45.

After the team beat John F. Kennedy, they continued on an impressive seven game winning streak, triumphing over Middlesex, Spotswood, South River, Highland Park, Metuchen and Mother Seton.

At the January 4 win against Mother Seton, Kevin Harper, varsity head coach, attained his 400th win, joining an elite group of Middlesex County coaches.

When asked how he felt about reaching this career milestone, Harper replied: "Outside of having my kids and being married, this was a big part of my life.

"It is a labor of love," he added, stressing the rewards of coaching high school basketball.

The girls suffered losses to GMC rivals East Brunswick and Cardinal McCarrick, but rebounded with a 44-38 win over Monsignor Donovan.

Crehan said team members worked hard throughout the season.

"I am especially proud of the underclassmen and their ability to rise up to the challenge of playing varsity basketball," she noted.

When asked about the team's prospect for the next season Coach Harper said, "The team is only graduating two seniors and this year's freshman class was very strong. I think we're in good shape."



CAITLIN MANCUSO, JUNIOR, PASSES THE BALL TO THE SHOOTING GUARD. (BAJ PHOTO)



JESS WEGRZYNSKI, JUNIOR, REBOUNDS THE BALL IN A GAME AGAINST HIGHLAND PARK. (BAJ PHOTO)

SWIMMERS TRIUMPH WITH SECOND CONSECUTIVE GMC WIN

By MIKE NEGRON

Led by captains Jess Patalano and Gabrielle Buono, seniors, and junior Caitlin Cassidy, the swim team enjoyed an outstanding 8-0 season that culminated in a GMC championship. This year's GMC win was the girls' third in four years.

"This season will be one to remember," said Coach Dan Cone, who had predicted a memorable year at the beginning of the season.

Outstanding performances leading up to the GMCs included victories over

Plainfield, North Brunswick, Madison, Sayreville, Metuchen, South Brunswick, East Brunswick, Piscataway, and Old Bridge.

During the season, the Lady Trojans were invited to the Pirate Invitational, a competition for top-notch swim teams in the state. The girls finished in the top five.

Juniors Jessica Starosielec and Cassidy led the way early in the season, and freshman Missy Lang proved to be a major contributor as well.

The Lady Trojans went into the GMCs

as tournament favorites and easily showed why they were considered the competition's best team, setting records in six events.

Cassidy set meet records in the 50 freestyle and the 100 butterfly. In the 200 Individual Medley Lang set a meet record with the time 2:13.41.

The 200 Medley Relay was won by Cassidy, Starosielec, Lang and Rachael Abadie, sophomore. In the 200 Freestyle Relay, Starosielec, Abadie, Lang and Cassidy also put out strong performances.



CAITLIN CASSIDY, JUNIOR, DEMONSTRATES THE SKILL THAT LED SWIMMERS TO A GMC WIN.

Strong turnout empowers team

By CYNTHIA RETAMOZO

In 2002, the winter track team consisted of only nine competing athletes, and the coaches even considered scrapping the program. In the years that followed, however, the program grew rapidly, and recently completed its 2005-2006 season with over 20 athletes.

The girls team, led by senior captains Alyssa Glenn, Jessica Heimall, and junior captain Janice Potenski, has proven to be dedicated and competitive through its exceptional performances.

At the Blue Division Relay and Team Champions event in Jersey City, the girls claimed first place overall. Junior Monique Riddick dominated the Shot Put event, taking 1st place by throwing an outstanding length of 39ft and 4in.

Also in Jersey City, the girls won first place in the Blue Division at the Catholic Track Conference. Noteworthy performances were turned in by Glenn, Potenski, Riddick, junior Justine Daly and sophomore Alyssa Bannon, all of whom received the title of either All Conference or All State in their respective events.

The boys' team, led by junior captains Kenny Bucu and Michael Ciccarelli, and sophomore captain Ted Brinkofski also had an extraordinary season.

In the Blue Division Section of the GMC tournament, medal-winning efforts were turned in by Bucu in the 400m dash, Greg Byrne, junior, in the 400m hurdles and by Brinkofski in the 1600m run.

Brinkofski and Byrne were named All Division athletes for outstanding performances in their respective events.

Veteran coach Stan Domin said Brinkofski's efforts this year were especially noteworthy.

The talented distance runner won individual medals at the GMC and Catholic Track meets, a first for Ahr boys in over four years.

Bucu said he expects an even stronger performance next year.



MATT HUNTER, SOPHOMORE, IS ONE OF THE RUNNERS WHO ENJOYED AN EXCEPTIONAL YEAR.

WRESTLERS GRAPPLE WITH CHALLENGING SEASON



MIKE METROKOTSAS, SENIOR, DOMINATES AN OPPONENT AT RECENT WRESTLING MATCH.

(All photos courtesy of BAJ)

By T.J. JURKIEWICZ

At the beginning of the wrestling season, head coach Nick Tonzola said his team goals were to "remain competitive for the division title and make the state tournament in Atlantic City." With strong leadership from all of the senior captains, the Trojans were able to accomplish their early season goals.

The Trojans finished the season with an overall record of 10-9 and a division record of 4-1. The team's only Blue Division loss was by a small margin to the eventual division champs, the JFK Mustangs. Coach Tonzola said the season was a success: "This season, the seniors really stepped up and paved the way for the

younger guys, and showed them how hard work equals a successful season."

In the GMC Tournament, the Trojans enjoyed a strong showing, including a second place finish from Hector Gonzalez, senior. Gonzalez's 20-0 undefeated record going into the county tournament was broken in the final round, bringing his record to 20-1.

Gonzalez recently wrestled in the State Tournament where he was defeated by one of the top wrestlers in the state.

In addition to Gonzalez, another key contributor to the successful season was junior John Meyers. Meyers went 15-6 this season and laid the foundation for a very promising 2006 season.

"This season we really came together and put together a special season," commented Meyers. "The senior leaders showed us how to be winners and set the standard for next season."

Another reason for Trojan fans to be excited for next year is freshman Joe McAuley, who went 17-4. Joe had one of the top pins in the GMC, pinning someone in 9 seconds, a noteworthy feat.

The seniors were all named captains at the beginning of the season. Jon Brun, Mike Clore, Hector Gonzalez, Jack King, Lou Kolomatis, Jim McAdoo, Mike Metrokotsas, Anthony Nacco, Matt Nowak and Drew Novy all led the team to a strong, successful season.

Bowling teams score with strong effort

By JESSICA HEIMALL

Under the guidance of Coach Craig Eben, the boys and girls bowling team enjoyed a successful season.

The girls team was led by top senior performers, including captains Tiffany Newbury and Nichole Toto.

After a slow start, the bowlers strengthened their game and ended with an 8-6 season, which included wins over South Brunswick, Carteret and Piscataway.

Building on the season's momentum, the team finished fourth in the state sectionals. Newbury, Toto and senior Amanda Dalton,



NICHOLE TOTO

with averages of 186, 174 and 151 respectively, delivered top performances.

"We started out slowly this year, but then we put our minds to it and did tremendously better," Newbury said.

Toto and Newbury were named All-Blue Division, and were also chosen to be members of the All-Area Second Team. Additionally, Newbury was recognized as an All-GMC bowler.

The boys team welcomed new faces this season. Veteran captains Andrew Peczinka and Joe Cruz, seniors, led the team to a 14-3 season.

Outstanding performances were contributed by Jerry Toto, freshman; Theo James, sophomore; Steve Godowski, junior, and Dan Bosworth, senior.



TIFFANY NEWBURY, SENIOR, SAYS THE BOWLERS IMPROVED DRAMATICALLY DURING THE SEASON.