

# THE MIRROR



"Reflections on the Pratt High student body"

Issue 2  
Volume 94

## Pep rallies put school spirit on the rise

Audrey Kisner  
Staff Writer

We are at a turning point this year in Pratt High. We have a new school in the works, new technologies, and a new vice principal. Naturally, some things are changing, and some of these changes are causing dissention among students. The addition of pep rallies into the weekly schedule is causing many arguments. Many students think that the pep rallies should be voluntary, and some think that they simply shouldn't happen at all. A recent poll of 50 students revealed that a mere 26% supported them. Some teachers, however, think that the pep rallies are long overdue and are a wonderful way of boosting the morale of the team players.

One of the major reasons students are discarding the idea of the rallies is that they are having trouble relating to them on a personal level. Many students thought that the games being played were childish and degrading. However, that may not be a problem much longer considering the evident success of the most recent display.



Tyler Besser, jr., Emily McIntosh, sr., Matt Westerhaus, so., and Mr. Nightingale performing "Crazy Train" at a recent pep assembly.

Even the most apathetic of students participate in school functions more. Even the most apathetic of students participate in school functions more. Even the most apathetic of students participate in school functions more.

Mr. Nightingale, Tyler Besser, jr., Matt Westerhaus, so., and Emily McIntosh, sr. If the administration is as creative in the future, students may decide to attend games and

looming gap between students and teachers.

With all the changes happening this year, maybe those unenthusiastic students will find a reason to be excited about their school.

## Administration takes steps to stop laptop abuse

Ian Howard  
Copy Editor

Since the issuing of laptops, students have enjoyed the features of the computers. However, as of late, many of these features have been taken away. Just recently, email has been eliminated, and now the crack down on computer games has begun. Before the non-smoking presentation, Athletic Director Curtis Nightingale told students that playing games on the Internet would be prohibited during class. If caught, their laptops would be suspended for a certain period of time. Some teachers have made complaints about the use of computers. Some have even decided to take affirmative action and prevent students from using their computers in their class for a certain period of time. Mrs. Phillippi, math teacher at Pratt High, has proof that grades have been falling since laptops were issued. "For the first time in my seven years of teaching...I have had anywhere from five to eight students failing an upper level math class. I do believe it is the student's shift of focus from the academics to the social aspect of the computers that has caused this. I now am more aware of the activity and hopefully this quarter I will do a better job of monitoring this."

November 3, 2006

# Scientists remove Pluto as a planet

Meghan Connelly  
Head Staff Writer

The month of August brought much shock to scientists across the globe; "Pluto," it was announced, "no longer belongs in the solar system we have come to accept." Instantaneously, uproars flared in protest to the shocking news. Buttons, T-shirts, lunch boxes, and bumper stickers, sporting the logo, "I love Pluto," could be seen worldwide, only days after the scientific panel booted the 9<sup>th</sup> planet. Such an unexpected cause of action called for many questions to be answered, the most recurring being; what does Pluto lack that justifies its removal from the solar system? After 76 years holding the title as the 9<sup>th</sup> and least known about planet, (yet undeniably everyone's favorite, owing to it's name) scientists scrutinized its characteristics, dismissing it from former classification.

Only two weeks later, in an exclusive announcement to CBNBC, August 16<sup>th</sup>, executive council members of the International Astronomy Union agreed upon voting on the definition of a planet, August 24<sup>th</sup>, which in turn, consigned Pluto to its ninth planetary position, this time, with three additions to the system. Recognizing 12 planets, however, proved to be just as shocking as eight. These

new additions are fondly referred to as Ceres, Charon, and Xena, with the latter being over twice the size of Pluto.

proposal. Textbooks, solar system models, maps, charts, museums, and websites will soon be updated including all the newest planets and deep space information. "The change, scientists say, will be a mark of the great age of discovery that astronomy has entered over the last three decades with the advent of space probes, powerful telescopes, and new observational techniques." "But the group's proposal also makes clear that many more objects in the solar system - perhaps dozens of them -- could qualify as planets after further study," notes, Gareth Cook of [The Boston Globe](#). Expect to see many more changes in the solar system as new qualifications fit into the new



Congratulations to Jill Aramowicz for winning the t-shirt design contest!

## NET WARS

▪ The battle over the Internet

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

For nearly forty years the Internet has been a place where everyone is equal. On the Internet anyone can find the latest news and voice their opinions without fear. However those days may be coming to an end. There is currently a bill sitting in Congress that would remove what is known as Network Neutrality, allowing large companies to push small websites out of business.

Currently all websites have the same playing field, each and every site loads at the same rate and internet providers cannot limit one website and help another. However, if net neutrality was to go away then the large corporations would be able to run small businesses to the ground and make personal websites and blogs a thing of the past. A world without net neutrality would be a world where telephone companies would basically rule the Internet. They would allow larger corporations that pay them more money run faster and therefore slow down smaller personal and small business websites. Basically they would remove all of the variety on the Internet.

This may not sound like a bad idea to some. I mean who doesn't want places like Amazon and eBay to run faster. But how many out there also have a favorite small gaming website, or enjoy writing in a blog once and a while. Without

network neutrality those would be gone.

You may also think that there is no way that the Senate would pass such a law, but right now there are only 29 of the one hundred Senators in favor of net neutrality and 14 have already decided against it, including Kansas Senator Sam Brownback. Currently net neutrality is a tangle of different bills in Congress. The original bill that passed through the House of Representatives was basically to rework the Telecommunications act. However this new plan provides no protection of net neutrality and the proposal to amend it to include net neutrality was shot down. The bill then passed on to the Senate, where Senators Olympia Snowe, Republican from Maine, and Byron Dorgan, Democrat from North Dakota, proposed a new bill that would insure the protection of the Internet.

The Internet is in serious danger and it will depend on the remaining half of the Senate that is undecided to choose whether or not the Internet will stay the same. But you can do something to help. If you go to [savetheinternet.com](#) you can sign a petition telling your senators that you want the Internet to remain free or become another way for big corporations to push their agendas.

## LET THE NEXT GEN BATTLE BEGIN

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

The Xbox 360 has been out for nearly one year, and in the coming month, the other two big name companies will be releasing their bid for the next generation gamer, the PlayStation 3 and the Wii.

The PS 3 will hit stores on November 17 here in the U.S. According to about.com it will release with over thirty games including *The Elder Scrolls IV: Oblivion*, *Metal Gear Solid 4*, and a new *Final Fantasy*. It will also be backwards compatible with all PlayStation and PlayStation 2 games. The biggest change about the PS 3 is the blue ray discs that can store 25 gigs of memory per disc. Overall the PS 3 will be the most expensive of the Next Gen, costing \$500 for a core system, \$600 for a premium system, and up to \$100 for a game.

Nintendo's Wii will release on November 19 and will have 21 games when it releases, the foremost of which is the highly anticipated *The Legend of Zelda: Twilight Princess*. The big seller for the Wii is the unique motion sensitive controller. The Wii will also include the

Wii channels. Wii channels are unique tools that allow a gamer to interact with the Wii on many different levels. There is a picture channel where one can edit pictures downloaded onto the Wii from its SD port. There is both weather and a news channel where one can view the weather all around the world or see when and where the news is happening. There will also be the Mii channel, which allows the gamer to make their own character to populate a large in game world that can be used in other games. The Wii is also backwards combatable with all Gamecube games, and has an extensive list of games from previous generations, such as *Super Mario Bros.* and *The Legend of Zelda: The Ocarina of Time*. Also included in the Wii box is *Wii Sports*, a simple game that includes many different sports games in one package.

With all of the build up for the upcoming holiday season, it looks like November will be a good month for video game fans everywhere.

November 3, 2006

## Global Warming



Katie Walters  
Staff Writer

Fact: During the past century, the atmospheric temperature has risen 1.1° F. Sea level has also risen several inches due to extra energy gained. Global warming has become a significant problem in the world today.

It is believed by scientists that the increased atmospheric temperature had an impact on Hurricane Katrina. Since the increased temperature, there have been more powerful super storms, mega droughts, massive fires and melting polar ice.

The average temperatures in the Arctic region are rising twice as much as they are elsewhere in the world. The Arctic ice is getting thinner and thinner. The largest single block of ice in the Arctic is 3,000 years old and didn't start cracking until the year 2000. Since, it has split all the way through and is breaking into pieces.

The break-up has affected the Arctic animals and native people, too. The animals are changing their feeding and migration patterns, making it harder for the native people to hunt.

Africa is also being affected. There has been a change in the rainfall pattern and poor farmers may be forced into migrating.

If something isn't done soon, we'll have more to worry about than the damage from last year's Hurricane Katrina. Sizable areas of coastline may be flooded in Texas, Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina to name a few. Before the end of the century, islands in the Pacific and Indian Ocean may be completely under water. The summers in the Arctic could also become ice-free, and more hurricanes and extinctions of species could occur.

Smart energy choices by individuals can dramatically reduce CO2 emissions and slow global warming. Here are a few ways to help the earth: tree planting, recycling, less driving, conserving materials, unplug appliances not being used, and use of efficient light bulbs. For more ideas go to [www.think.mtv.com](http://www.think.mtv.com).

### A Funny Thing Happened on the way to the Forum

**PHS Play**  
**November 10-11**  
**7:30 p.m.**

*Junior, Bronson Blasi listens to his iPod in the hallways of PHS. Listening to music is a way many students use to pass the time. (Photo by: Andrew Taylor)*

## Famed television host calls it quits

Andrew Taylor  
Editor-In-Chief

On October 31, Bob Barker, one of the greatest and most recognized faces of daytime television announced his intention to retire. At 82, soon to be 83, Barker has accomplished many things in his television career. He started on the show "Truth or Consequences" in 1956, and hasn't looked back since. Barker hosted the

show "The Price is Right" for 35 years, a great majority of his 50 years in television. The show brought millions together with its original games and phrases such as, "come on down." Upon his retirement in June he intends to work on animal-rights causes, and may accept a role in a movie if the right one presents itself. He had been

considering the possibility of retiring for the past decade. However, the mental and physical rigor of doing a show is starting to wear on Barker's body and he decided that it would be better to retire a year too early than a year too late. A prime time special appearing on CBS will observe the shows longevity and Bob Barker's career.



Emily McIntosh  
Editor-In-Chief

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY IPOD



In anticipation of the Christmas shopping season this year, Apple recently released their new line of iPod MP3 players. The new line fits most budgets, with prices ranging from about 80 to 350 dollars.

The least expensive of these is the user-friendly iPod Shuffle, costing only \$79. The new shuffle is even smaller at about 1 by 1.5 inches in diameter. The Shuffle lacks the display included with the more expensive models, but still holds 1 GB of music, which equates to about 240 songs.

Next up is the iPod Nano, part of an extensive ad campaign this year. The Nano comes in 3 sizes: 2 GB, 4 GB, and 8 GB. The 2 GB model holds about 500 songs and costs \$149. The 4 GB version costs \$199, and holds approximately 1,000 songs. 2,000 songs can be held on the 8 GB Nano, and it can be purchased for about \$249. The

nano comes in a wide range of colors, including silver, green, blue, pink and black. All Nanos also have a photo option that enables the user to view pictures on the 1.5" display screen.

The regular iPod lies at the pricier end of the spectrum, with a 30 GB (7,500 songs) model for \$249, and an 80 GB (about 20,000 songs) version for \$349. Both sizes of the revamped iPod play videos, readily available for download in the iTunes music store. Apple also offers song downloads for 99 cents each, and free podcasts every day.

Although Apple continues to dominate the digital music industry, many other MP3 manufacturers are gaining popularity. Other prevalent MP3 players this year include the Creative ZEN series, and players made by Sony, SanDisk, Phillips, and RCA.



# A student's guide to college



Courtney Witten  
Staff Writer

For many seniors, the constant 'college talk' we've heard time and time again from parents, teachers, strangers, and school counselors evokes weird feelings of anticipation, fear, and excitement. I know if my dad brings up 'my future' one more time, I'm going to snap.

After talking to our school counselor for a good long while, I'm only now starting to figure out the whole college thing myself. It's a long, complicated process filled with terrifying questions such as, "What's your average high school GPA?"

This article is aimed at everyone who thinks that they'll deal with college when it looms just around the next corner (me).

## Florida or bust

■ PHS color guard uses car wash to raise funds

Jenna Gatz  
Ad Manager

When students join band the first thing they think about is the Florida trip. Every four years the Pratt High School band sends in both a paper and a tape application to attend the pre-parade to the Spectro Magic Parade in Florida. "The Pride of South Central Kansas" has been accepted to march in this parade twice before. Once again the band has been selected to march this year.

After receiving the invitation, each band student is expected to raise around 500 dollars to pay for the trip. Continuous fundraisers such as the selling of Soup Supper tickets and Greenback Gold cards raise most of the money. But the money that these fundraisers don't produce has to be raised in some other way by the student's own responsibility.

On Saturday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, seven members of the Pratt High Color Guard held a free-will donation car wash to help raise money. The car wash began at 11:00 in the morning and ended at 2:00 in the afternoon.

Had I actually seen the big picture earlier in my high school career maybe I would have picked up the math book instead of heading out the door to see how many times I could cruise Main with my buddies.

I cannot stress enough, my young underclassmen, how important it is to keep your head in the game. Zeros add up (trust me, I know) and it can result in you breaking a cold sweat in Mrs. Lee's office during an infamous 'college talk.'

And to all my fellow seniors, seriously, seriously, seriously, if you don't know what college you're going to attend already, go talk to Mrs. Lee or a parent or someone! I wish I had started checking

things out freshman year and my college-crazed confusion resulted in me signing up for 36 college mailing lists at PCC Senior Day. Start signing up for scholarships in the counselor's office (Scholarships are available for Juniors as well). If you really want to put the icing on the cake, try scrapbooking. It sounds crazy I know and I'm sure your saying, "Courtney, you silly girl, what does scrapbooking have to do with college??" Well, I'll tell you, darlings. Everytime the Tribune or some other publication runs an article or picture with you in it, simply snip it out and save it in a folder. You can also add awards of all sorts, hard assignments you got an A

on or art projects or whatever. If you send that in with your applications it saves the college the trouble of going through some rigorous FBI background search and it'll be much appreciated. If your still freaking about as to which college to look into try going to [www.usnews.com](http://www.usnews.com). They give you a great college search and find thing which really helps out when your looking for a good medical, law, musical school or anything else specific. Remember, it's never too early to start preparing so keep your head in the game Greenbacks!

For the three hours the girls were there, they washed over 30 cars. Taking turns, two of the members would stand on the sidewalk at the corner of First St. and Main St. holding signs indicating there was a car wash, while the other members would wash the cars. Many of the girls' friends and family helped contribute by attending and donating money to the free-will fundraiser. Even people who really didn't need their cars washed came by to help the girls out. At the end of the car wash the Color Guard members had raised around \$270, a nice profit for a free-will fundraiser. "We had a good turn out. We only had seven girls washing, but it was a nice day! We got a lot of horn honks too! There was a lot of football players and teachers that stopped by, and we really appreciated that." Many of the girls plan on raising more money before the trip with different fundraisers throughout the year, as the car wash didn't raise enough for all of the seven members.



Jillian Aramowicz, jr., washes a car in the Methodist church parking to raise funds for the upcoming trip to Florida. (Photo by: Jenna Gatz)

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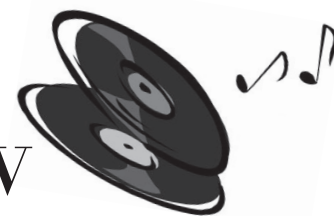
## You Had Mail!



Ian Howard  
Copy Editor

If you haven't heard, the Pratt High administration has taken away student-to-student email use, and since I am a student at Pratt High, obviously I've heard many comments and complaints about the termination of student emails. As for myself, I've waited until this editorial to sound off, and here it goes. Personally, I'm 50/50 on the subject. I believe that the administration of Pratt High was a little ignorant to believe that students of this school would not abuse the email system, I mean honestly, we are all teenagers, we are living in a technological age where sending an email is as easy as brushing teeth. Did they think the majority of our emails were going to be about schoolwork? Of course not! It's naive to think that way, and to be shocked at the fact that students were talking about absurd things is idiotic. Still, I said I was 50/50, and the students are just as much to blame as administration is. As for the students, we dug our own graves. Bob Lee talked about it at the beginning of school what the purpose of email or I-Chat (which was not given to us because of emails) was for, and he did warn us in a previous email on what email was supposed to be used for. But students of Pratt ignored it and kept on digging and digging, and now we are six feet under in terms of email use. And so currently students are left angry and shocked by it, when in all honesty, we deserved it. But, hypothetically speaking, if email were to be brought back, the administration would have to crack down on email use, by which I mean no more pointless emails asking "what are you doing this weekend?", or the other type that would make a student's parent's jaw drop. And maybe, limit students to a certain number of emails per week. Hopefully, after that, students would realize not to send sex-related emails, or forwards, or emails simply saying "hey". But if email doesn't return, then we shouldn't be surprised, or angered by it, because students (including myself) did this to themselves. However, administration should have seen this coming long ago.

## Music Review



Neil Goss  
Photography Editor

### Gnarls Barkley – *St. Elsewhere*

As some of you may know, I despise 99% of all rap music, we just don't agree with each other. However, a recent change in this view of music has occurred with the adaptation of the new group, Gnarls Barkley. In general, this music blew me away. Yes, it is still rap/hip hop based, but it is brilliantly mixed with a catchy pop formula that can enthrall many different groups of music lovers. Gnarls consisted of Brian Burton A.K.A. Danger Mouse and Thomas Calloway A.K.A. Cee-Lo Green. Many people have probably heard the single of the album "Crazy". The radio has done its best to run it in the ground like all other singles, but the song truly is lucidly elegant with lyrics speaking of artistic expression and being driven by success of others preceding you.

Gnarls covered the song "Gone Daddy Gone", written by the Violent Femmes, and added their pop hop sound to it. The track biting at the heels of "Gone Daddy Gone" is titled "Smiley Faces". This is a wondrous chantey with a thumping beat and many cultivated tunes fabricated from a synthesizer. My preferred aria from the album is "Just A Thought", song number eight. This is an ardent number with a thumping beat that doesn't go unappreciated, and yes I'm sure those of you with systems would love this song. The text of this track talks about the complexity of life and trying to find a way to pure peace.

If you ate a meal today,  
thank a farmer.



113 Farms



- • • • •
- Don't Forget...
- Science Club
- LAN Party
- November 18
- • • • •

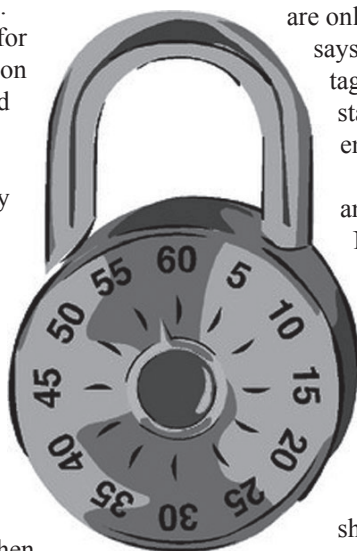
## Something About SECURITY

Meghan Connelly  
Head Staff Writer

Drug dogs, and cameras, and nametags, oh my! Gradually, over the course of two school terms, Pratt High has undergone some serious changes. Beginning only last year, the Board of Education passed the request for admitting drug dogs onto school premises in addition to the installation of multiple cameras on campus. These actions, the school felt, would help alleviate the amount of illegal substances entering the building, and prevent unnecessary hall wandering and unauthorized dismissal from school. However, these adjustments did not prove to be entirely effective. This year, in an attempt to keep the school more secure, use of the agenda is back by popular demand. Faculty members have been given strict instruction not to admit any students to the restroom or on errands without their agendas.

Agendas are now a golden ticket to get out of class. Using the restroom and temporarily leaving school grounds are now dependent on one thing, and one thing alone, whether or not students are responsible enough to carry their agendas with them. By enforcing this rule, fewer students will be roaming the halls giving PHS optimal security in case of an emergency.

But how much is too much, and is really worth all the trouble when



next year the new school will be in use? Students have an opinion all to their own. Senior, Kim Albright expresses her feelings on the controversial subject.

"OK, drug dogs, cameras, and now we're getting name tags? Things are getting out of control; they're taking away our privacy."

Vice Principal and Athletic Director, Curtis Nightingale clarified that the ID tags are only to be issued to faculty members. The reasoning behind this, Nightingale says, is due, in part, to students already owning ID cards. With the identification tags, it is hoped that visitors, and students who don't know all members of staff, will rest assured in being surrounded by adults who are noticeably employed by USD 382.

With the increasing amount of construction workers on campus, and surge in school shootings, Pratt High administrators, Tim Kuhn and Nightingale feel confident in the precautions being made.

"It is important for us as school faculty to provide as safe of a learning environment as we possibly can", Nightingale concluded.

Though some students still feel as though the new contingencies are a bit over the top.

"I think it's funny they [administrators] think we are a bigger school than we are... it's almost like they are asking for trouble to happen." said jr. Hillary Dixon.

As for my take on things... as long as I'm not sporting one of the mug shots on my clothes, I think I can deal.

November 3, 2006

## MIRROR “MIRROR on the wall...”

If you could have a song play every time you walk into a room, what would it be and why?

Jenna Gatz  
Ad Manager



“Rawkfist’ by Thousand Foot Krutch, because I encourage people to throw up their ‘Rawkfist!’”

-Angela Loganbill sr.



“Pour Some Sugar on Me’ by Def Leppard, because I’m hot, sticky, sweet.”

-Matt Gould, jr.



“The theme from *North & South*, because after watching it five times a day off & on for a month, I can’t get it out of my head. Everyone else may as well be driven crazy by it, too.”

-Mr. Depew, faculty



“‘Crazy Train’ by Ozzy Osbourne, because when I heard Mr. Nightingale and them at the pep assembly it made me think of all the times as a little kid, when my dad and me would drive around listening to that song in the truck, and just hang out together.”

-Jack Boyd, fr.



“I would play ‘Far Away’ by Nickelback, because it’s a great song and has meaning.”

-Taryn Sanko, so.

## FEATURED WEBSITE

Emily McIntosh  
Editor-In-Chief

[www.mangofalls.com](http://www.mangofalls.com)

You’ve probably heard the saying, “One man’s trash is another man’s treasure”. The founder of this particular website was searching through a seaside junkshop in Oregon and happened to find a battered and broken Nikon Rangefinder camera from a much earlier point in history. This shopper opened the camera and found a still-intact roll of Kodachrome film. He purchased the camera (for 25 cents) and proceeded to have the slides developed and shipped to him. What he found was a collection of forgotten photos, of amazing quality and style. This chance find led to a full-fledged hobby, and now the staff of [www.mangofalls.com](http://www.mangofalls.com) searches all across the country to find old abandoned rolls of film and put them on the website. The result is an interesting look into history, and at some of the strange things people deem photographable.

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Neil Goss  
Photography Editor

Should the Yearbook Staff continue the tradition of “Senior Mosts”?  
**Did you seriously just ask me that?**

Sorry, what about the messaging, do you think we will get that back for the rest of the year, or do you think we are done with it?  
**Hopefully they get it back, grades might suffer, but the thing that matters most is that their social necessities will be fulfilled.**

Are we in for a blissful fall filled with rapture?  
**You may depend on it.**

November 3, 2006

# Top 10!

Jenna Gatz and Eric Kocher  
Ad Manager, Staff Photographer

## WICKEDLY TERRIBLE HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

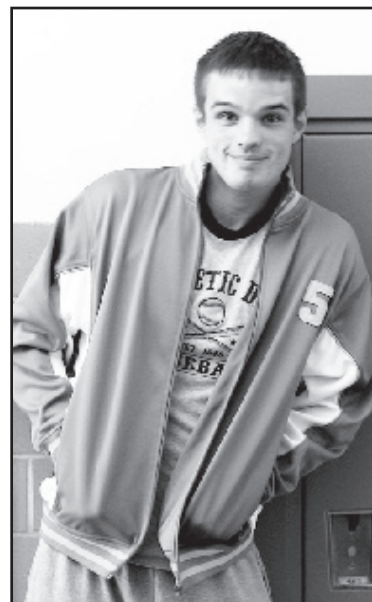
10. Steve Irwin
9. Osama Bin Laden
8. George W. Bush and/or Dick Cheney
7. Tom Cruise
6. A Piñata
5. The wrong half of a horse
4. A gigantic Kit-Kat bar
3. Richard Simmons
2. Michael Moore
1. SpongeBob NoPants



## Ana's Passion for Fashion

Ana Whitson  
Staff Writer

Fall Fashion is in full swing! Now that the seasons are changing, the warmer attire comes along with it. We've moved from cute skirts, shorts, and sandals, to a more covered approach. Although the occasional flip-flop is still seen, most kids are breaking out their "real" shoes, in hopes to save their toes in the mercilessly cold classrooms, and long walks to the Pedigo. The time has now come to open up those winter boxes of clothes and bundle up as an Eskimo in your long sleeves, hoodies, and coats. However, even in your attempts to stay warm, you can still look good doing so! Be adventurous! Go for the colorful, stylish prints, and pea coats, there's no need to look drab when you can look fab!



**Name:** Jude Williams  
**Grade:** Senior  
**What colors do you prefer to wear?** Green and blue  
**How do you categorize your fashion?** Casual, or dress attire  
**How do you like your clothes to fit?** He likes them to fit, not tight  
**What does your wardrobe mainly consist of?** T-shirts and jeans  
**What is your favorite article of clothing to wear?** Hoodies

## Recommended

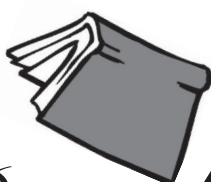
Ana Whitson  
Staff Writer

**Breathing Underwater: Alexandra Flinn**

This book is definitely one of my favorites. It's told in flashbacks, which makes the book even that much more compelling to read. Personally, I fell in love with it because it tells a story of a teen-age guy, dealing with an abusive dad. I don't think that most guys would like this one, just for the fact that it explores a very psychological level of an abusive relationship. However, it's a definite tearjerker.



## Reading



through a lot together, and the book tells an amazing story of emotions. I would recommend this one to anyone I know!

**Twice Told: A collection of authors**

This is a collection of stories in which the authors are presented with a picture, and they write a story that pertains to that picture. In this case, several authors tell about the same drawing, but the stories all take different directions. The two stories that really stuck in my mind were "Saying No to Nick", and "Angels Food". Once again, these stories are about controversial ideas. If you're into reading short, yet significant, stories, then you should read this book.

**Looking for Alaska: John Green**

This is another one of my prized books. It's a bit controversial, because it deals with teen drinking, smoking, and sex. In my eyes, it portrays life as a teenager very well. It begins with a boy who is considered a "nerd" by his schoolmates. So he and his parents decided to have him attend a boarding school, the same school that they attended at his age. There he meets "Alaska". These two go

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**Name:** Karli Jackson  
**Grade:** Junior  
**What are your favorite colors to wear?** Yellow and blue  
**How would you categorize your fashion?** Casual  
**How do you like your clothes to fit?** Shirts, tight; jeans looser  
**What does your wardrobe mainly consist of?** T-shirts and jeans  
**What is your favorite thing to wear?** Polka dot belt



# Tea, the original ENERGY drink

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

It seems as if the health market of today is dominated with slimming shakes, vitamin enhanced juices, and various types of protein drink. However, the idea of a drink being able to do wonderful things for the body is not new, in fact, these drinks have been around for nearly 5,000 years, and have been known as tea.

Tea was first discovered by the second Emperor of China, Shen Nung, while his slaves were boiling water on the road. A few leaves accidentally fell into the cup and the Emperor saw that the water became a brown color. Intrigued he took a few sips and felt the relaxing qualities of tea wash over him. From then on, tea's place in history was set.

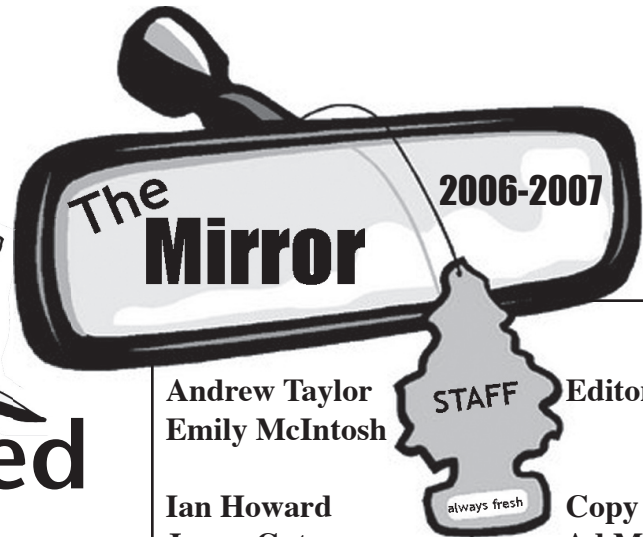
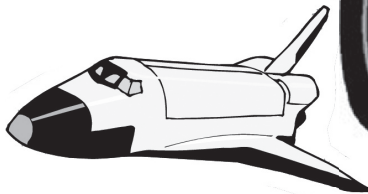
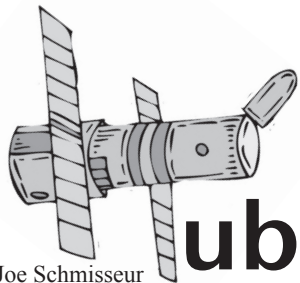
The drink was taken to Japan in 593 A.D. by Buddhist monks, where it underwent many dramatic changes. The tea itself was still dried leaf juice, but the presentation changed completely. Japan

started to open schools to teach people the proper arts of brewing and serving a cup of tea and it would take years to graduate. Tea competitions also became common, where rich noblemen would basically give rewards to the person that made the best cup of tea, and presented it in the most humble, grateful, most polite, and most perfect way possible.

Now, not only is tea a sensational drink that swept the world thousands of years ago and is still popular today, it is also very healthy. It can keep the heart healthy, lower blood pressure, and help prevent strokes. It also builds up the immunity system and helps prevent against several diseases such as leukemia, Alzheimer's, and cancer. A cup of tea a day can also help protect against AIDS. So basically, would you care for a spot of tea?



Above: (left to right) Stephanie Voss, fr., Ana Whitson, jr., Hayley Henry, so., and Katie Walters, jr., serve Dexter Dietz, sr., a nacho lunch. Various Kay club members served throughout both lunch periods. (Photo by: Neil Goss)



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THE MIRROR is published by the journalism class at Pratt High School, 401 S. Hamilton, Pratt, KS 67124. Opinions expressed in this newspaper are not necessarily those of THE MIRROR staff, student body, faculty, administration, or school board. Signed columns and letters to the editor represent the views and opinions of the writer. THE MIRROR is a public forum for all persons at Pratt High School. Letters to the editors are encouraged. Please send letters to Pratt High School, Room 212.

## Hubble to be repaired

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

On Tuesday NASA said that it will fix the Hubble Space telescope. Hubble has been orbiting the Earth since 1990, taking pictures of the universe with the most powerful telescope the world, or space, has ever seen.

Sometime between May and October of 2008 a shuttle crew will go up to the amazing telescope and install two new scientific instruments and fix a currently damaged one. Without these repairs Hubble would be forced to shut down sometime in 2009.

The only problem is that NASA needs \$900 million for the project, and that is money

that is not currently in the system. NASA chief Michael Griffin said that they will most likely have to cut other science projects for the mission.

The mission was originally planned for 2004, but was scrapped because of the Columbia disaster.

The mission's commander, Scott Altman, flew to Hubble in 2002, as did one of the crew's spacewalkers Michael Massimino. John Grunsfeld, another member of the crew, has been to Hubble twice, once in 1999 and once in 2002. The other four members of the seven-person crew have not been to space.

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Way to go NHS!

They  
collected over  
400 pounds  
of food for the  
food bank!

November 3, 2006

## CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Construction workers begin to lay down the foundation for the new gymnasium floor. Most of the work done thus far has been on the ground level. However, recently, small wood skeletons have been erected. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

## MOVIE

### REVIEWS



Courtney Witten  
Staff Writer

### AMITYVILLE HORROR

Wow...this one scared the dickens out of me! If you want to get into your Halloween mode then watch this...make sure you have a cuddle buddy if you're a wuss like me.

### RAISE YOUR VOICE

So I broke down and actually watched the Hilary Duff movie. It wasn't my cup of tea. It had some good music in there but it was very well constructed. It was either hardcore crying or super happiness... I was pretty disappointed but that's just me.

## WORDS OF WISDOM

From Mr. Kahmeyer's  
Refrigerator Door  
Poetry Magnets

picture it the  
sordid garden  
dream you  
frantically recall

chant the music of delirious  
summers gone

tell me do you sing  
spring rose

## Don't You Just HATE That?

Meghan Connelly  
Head Staff Writer

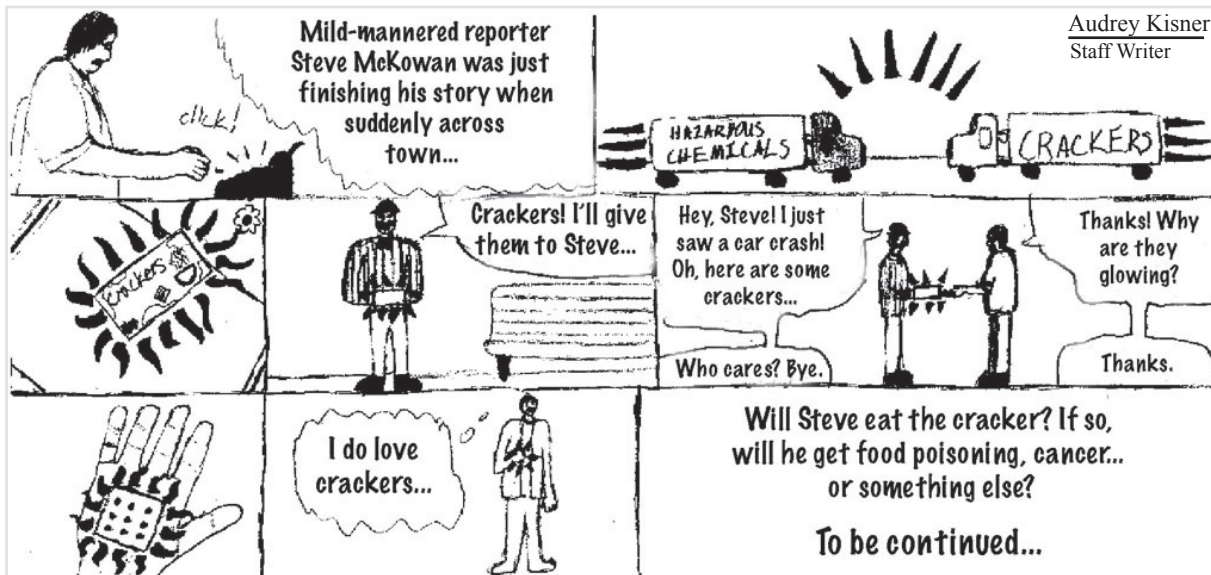
-When you're seriously jamming out while stalled at a stoplight only to realize that people in vehicles as far as three lengths behind are craning around seats to make sure you're not having a seizure.

- Being seated in a room for a few minutes, only to realize you're not in that class until the following hour.

- Looking in a restroom mirror halfway through the day, noticing that for five hours you've been sporting a nice deodorant mark on the side of your shirt.

- Arriving late to class because you circled the school in search of a parking space for ten minutes.

- Being called upon to read in class when you have no clue where the previous person left off.



November 3, 2006

Eric and  
Joe's

## HORRORSCOPES

Joe Schmisser and Eric Kocher  
Head Staff Writer and Staff Photographer

**Aquarius:** Have fun driving away in your NEW CAR!!!!!!! (A 50-year-old Ford truck without an engine that gets 5 gallons to the mile).

**Pisces:** Try not to fall while tightrope walking over a shark tank today.

**Aries:** If you have a vowel in your name, you will be trapped in a gigantic vat of ice cream. If you don't, you will push someone into a gigantic vat of ice cream.

**Taurus:** You will fall into a Port-o-Potty on Wednesday and remain locked in there for three weeks.

**Gemini:** Your morning Mountain Dew will be filled with gamma radiation, giving you the ability to write papers without "being" verbs.

**Cancer:** You might be hit by a bus while

riding a unicycle down 1<sup>st</sup> street. Maybe.

**Leo:** You will soon realize that wearing a Halloween costume that looks like a Kit-Kat is a bad idea when a horde of infants and toddlers begin eating your legs.

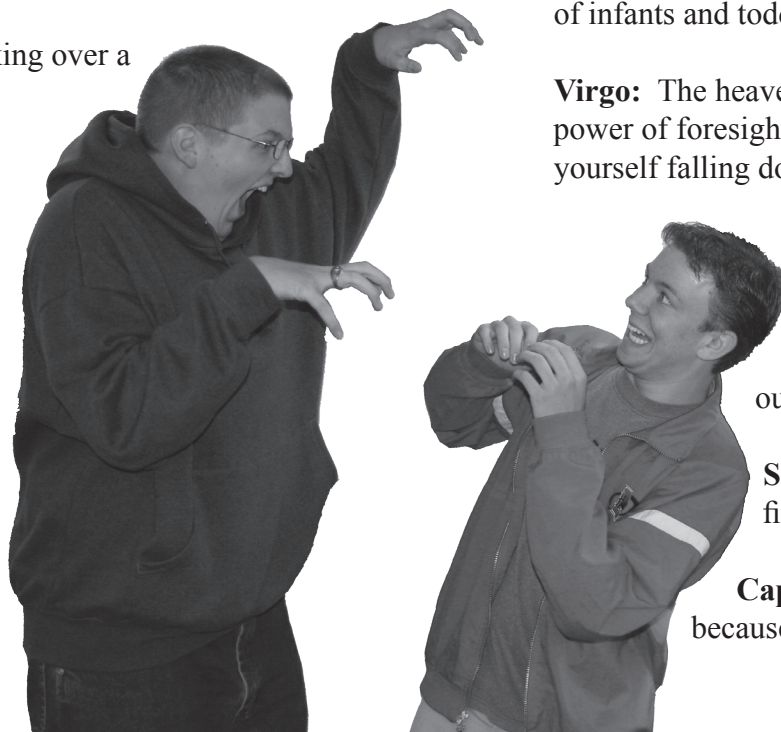
**Virgo:** The heavens have decided to bless you with the power of foresight. Unfortunately, all that you can see is yourself falling down the stairs again and again.

**Libra:** The planets say that you should be wary of spatulas today.

**Scorpio:** Today, avoid using the electrical outlet in your bathtub to power your blender.

**Sagittarius:** Congratulations, today you will find a partially eaten human size Kit-Kat bar.

**Capricorn:** The game Halo 3 will be cancelled because you looked at a map of Florida.



## HAUNTED HISTORY

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

Every year thousands of children dress up as ghosts and ghouls, knights and princesses, Power Rangers and Kit-Kat bars on the day known as Halloween. But why do we have this strange tradition? And since when are two year olds dressed as pumpkins scary!?!?

Well to answer the first question, the tradition of dressing up for Halloween began back several hundreds years B.C. It was a Celtic tradition to extinguish all the fires in a village and then dress up as fearsome creatures to scare away the spirits of their long dead ancestors.

The tradition became a Christian holiday as All-Hallows Eve, as in the day before All Hallows Day. Trick or treating was also began by the Christians. The young Christians would go around asking for soul cakes, small square pieces of bread, in return for prayers offered for the givers deceased relatives.

Jack-o-lanterns come from Irish folklore. In the story a man named Jack tricked the devil into climbing a tree and then inscribed a cross upon the tree, trapping the devil up there. Jack agreed to let the devil down only if he promised to never tempt Jack again. When Jack died he was not allowed into heaven or hell, so he was forced to live as a pumpkin with only an ember to light his way for all eternity.

So there you have it, the history of one of the most beloved holidays of the year, Halloween. Now why do we have two year olds masquerading as pumpkins, the world may never know.

## Meghan-isms

“Un-educating students one Meghan-ism at a time.”

Meghan Connely  
Head Staff Writer

Once more they are back...Meghan-ism's for a second season! To continue your un-education, I begin in presenting the first Meghan-ism's of the year.

- 1) **Transcolidor-** (Trans – coal – i – door) v. Pandemonium and chaos that breaks out among students on drug-dog inspection days.

In context: In a wild furry of **transcolidor**, students rushed to their vehicles and drove three blocks down.

- 2) **Squatundun-** (Squa – ton – done) n. One who is easily distracted.

In context: It is safe to say that each newspaper staff member is classified as a **squatundun**.

- 3) **Gratanufy-** (Grey – tan – you – fie) v. To annoy people by speaking using jibberish words.

In context: Every *Mirror* reader has the opportunity to **gratanufy** someone by using a Meghan-ism.

November 3, 2006

## PHS cross country sends one runner to state

Courtney Witten  
Staff Writer

Cross Country came to an end two weeks ago and after participating at regionals, Justin Navarrette qualified for state. "Despite being really cold and being a really tough regional, we did good as a team, getting fourth but came short of making it as a team to state." Justin placed 14<sup>th</sup> overall at regionals and had high hopes for state in Wamego. When asked how

thought he would do, Justin replied, "Well it's a tough course and the competition will be fierce, hopefully at least in the top 30". Navarrette plans on participating in track during the spring and is staying focused about prospective colleges. Justin and the entire team went to state last year, placing 12<sup>th</sup> as a team. State will be the last high school cross country run

participate in. "Going to state is a great way to end my cross country season my senior year. I'm gonna miss it but I know the sophomore guys will keep it fun when I leave." The 3.1 mile course at Wamego is quite hilly. Justin's average time for a course of that size is 18:15 but he hoped to shatter his personal record by running a 17:30. However he was unable to accomplish that

feat as he ran hard but finished in 75th place. The rest of the team seems satisfied with the way the season ended, although bummed out after boys placed fourth in regionals (they needed to place third to proceed to state). The girls put up a tough fight and Ema Hitt watched from the side due to a calf injury.

Senior Justin Navarrete practices in preparation for state competition in Wamego. He ran hard at state and placed 75th. (Photo by: Courtney Witten)



## TENNIS GOES DOWN SWINGING

Joe Schmisser  
Head Staff Writer

The Greenback girl's tennis season came to an end on October 5 at the home regional meet. The meet was not a good day for the girls. They all lost their first match of the single elimination tournament, keeping them from making it to state.

They did, however; have a good meet at Sterling on the second of October. They took second and all of the teams, both doubles and singles, placed.

Jessica Voss, soph., said that "We started off really good and we improved throughout the entire season."

Overall the tennis team had a great year and great potential, but no amount of skill can compensate for a little bad luck.



Christine Schottee lines up a shot during regional competition. (Courtesy Photo)

## Successful season for PHS golf

Ian Howard  
Copy Editor

It seems that young was a common theme in fall sports this year. Football, Tennis and Golf were dominated with young but talented players. For golf, the season went extremely well despite the inexperience. The veterans stepped it up when they needed too, and the youngsters rose to the occasion. Pratt placed in many of the events they went too, even getting first at two of the events. Pratt even won their home meet. But when the team traveled for regionals, bad weather plagued the team, making them fall short of the all-important state championship. However, it was still and good and season, and sr. Judy Parsons felt that they had a great season. "Despite us being young, we performed extremely well at almost every tournament, I'm proud of our team."

Pratt golfers showcase their medals after a strong tournament performance. (Photo by: Eric Kocher)



November 3, 2006

## Football struggles against ranked teams

Ian Howard  
Copy Editor

Despite being fairly young, the Football team showed a lot of pride and character throughout the season. Their 4-4 record doesn't show how much they improved throughout the season, with the boys facing tough opponent after tough opponent. Facing teams like Scott City, Chapman, Ulysses, and number one ranked Andale added losses to their record, however they played tough in all of them. Still, when the Greenbacks were expected to win, they rose to the occasion. The Greenbacks obliterated such teams as Nickerson, TMP, Larned, and defeating hated rival Kingman late in the season. Rushing led the way throughout their season, with Asher Riner leading the state in rushing. Bryce Krehbiel, Caleb Gillig, Jon Rowland, and Jake Eisenhauer also contributed in rushing. At the end of the regular season, Pratt escaped with a close victory at Clearwater. However, they lost a key role in both defense and offense. Jake Eisenhauer broke his ankle during the game, making him done for the season. So Jeff Lynch took control of the helm in Pratt's final game of the season at Bi-District versus Ulysses. In a game where the team was devastated by injuries, the new quarterback and others had a rough time going. Ulysses took control early, scoring drive after drive, with Pratt being left with little to work with. In their last game of the season, Pratt fell to the Ulysses Tigers 50-14. Pratt's final record ended up 5-5 for the season. Senior Jude Williams commented on the season, "We went a whole lot further than alot of people thought we would. Overall, it was a good season, i'm going to miss it." However, the team is young, and has lots of talent to develop into a great team.

"We went a whole lot further than alot of people thought we would. Overall, it was a good season, i'm going to miss it."

-Jude Williams, sr.

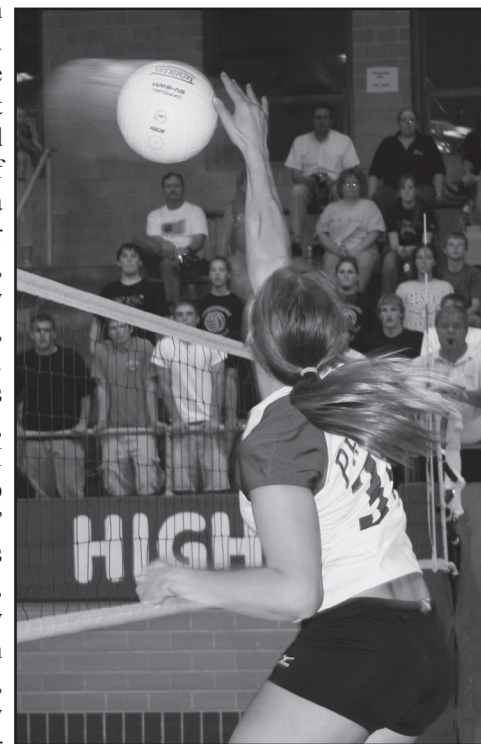
## Volleyball falls at sub-state

Katie Walters  
Staff Writer

Regardless of the season's record, the Pratt High Volleyball team fought the fight. Their three games per match usually ended up eye compelling. Saturday, October 21 the volleyball team went to Gooldland for Sub-State. "It stinks that we lost, but the team we were up against thought they could walk all over us and we only lost by two. I'm proud of my girls," said Jordan Mathews, a senior volleyball teammate. Their first game ended up with an exciting, but disappointing 23-25 loss. They fought hard for their second game, but came up short with a 16-25 score.

When asked how the season was going so far, Coach Kim Rolf said, "We have struggled at times, but I feel the girls have kept their heads up and continue to work to get better."

Now that the season has come to the end, Kelby Freeman, another senior, was asked how she thinks next year will be with the juniors being the new seniors, she said, "I think they'll carry the team strong, especially after our leadership of course, lol."



Senior Tayn Dean spikes the ball during the October 3 home meet. (Photo by: Neil Goss)



Junior Weston Goyen leaps to make an interception against the TMP Monarchs. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

**UPCOMING  
ATHLETICS**

**Nov. 6**  
Buff and Tuff VB  
&  
Powderpuff FB

**Nov. 13**  
Winter sports  
practice begins

**Nov. 30**  
1st wrestling  
meet, here

**Dec. 1**  
1st girls and boys  
basketball game @  
Collegiate



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