

THE MIRROR



Issue 3
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November 21, 2006

"Reflections of the Pratt High student body"

PHS Students Steal Stage

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

Dancing, singing, and laughter all intertwined on the 10 and 11 of November to create two magical nights at the LMS auditorium. Students of Pratt High recently performed the comedic musical "A Funny Thing Happened On The Way To The Forum" in which a slave attempts to gain his freedom by getting his young master the love of his life, Philia (Angela Loganbill). Will Shoup played the role of the slave, Psedoulous, and Maverick Bishop played his young master, Hero. However, Hero's love was already bought by a great and masculine captain, Miles Gloriosus (Gregory Jones). These two, along with Hysterium (Audrey Kisner), all worked together to keep the two lovebirds together, while keeping everyone else from finding out. But, people started to arrive and caused a disruption in the masterful plan.

Eventually everyone found out and total chaos erupted. The captain found out that his bought love was actually his sister, husbands actually defend their wives, and finally Psedulous gets his freedom, and Hero got his love. Sure the ending was cliché, but it was a perfect ending to an already great play. Other important roles in the play included Senex, played by Joseph Schmissieur. Senex was a favored character by the audience in the play, with Schmissieur playing the role of an aroused old man quite well. Joe Schmissieur, Audrey Kisner, Will Shoup and Jesus Perez sang one of the most well liked songs, entitled, "Everybody Ought To Have A Maid." They sang the song because



Actors in the Pratt High musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum" mourn over the mock death of Hysteria, played by Audrey Kisner. Background Actors are (L to R): Raymond Williams, Barry Anders, Greg Jones, Shawn McIntosh, Will Shoup, Andrea Clarkson, and Nicole Solomon. Photo By: Neil Goss

Senex (Schmissieur) believed that Bishop's love was his new maid. Sarah Johnson acted as Senex's stuck-up wife, who in many cases left Senex unhappy and wanting the Courtesan girls.

Other roles in the play included the old man Erronius played by Matt Hart. The audience got a kick out Hart's role because he was told to walk around the Seven Hills of Rome (or around the auditorium) because he thought his house was haunted. Instead, the ghost was actually Schmissieur caretaking his house, and singing his maid song in anticipation of her "duties." Throughout the play, Hart appeared out of nowhere and noted how many times he'd been around. This caused an eruption of laughter from the crowd each time. Other

actors and actresses included the seller of the Courtesan Girls Lycus (Jesus Perez). The girls were played by Rebecca Phillips, Hannah Melichar, Jordan Matthews, Nicole Solomon, Andrea Clarkson, and Tia Nickelson.

Wilson Worden and Mike Wells played Lycus's Eunuchs. Other slaves included Brent Bergner, Heather Boshart, Heather Lake, and Malea McEachern. The soldiers featured Raymond Williams, Shawn McIntosh, and Barry Anders. The citizens of the town were played by Tyler Besser, Kelsey Brown, Destry Chalker, Sarah Haste, Karli Jackson, Hannah Page, Catherine Schotte, and Courtney Witten. When the play ended, the actors and actresses let out a sigh of relief, and the audience left with a big smile on their face.

What's Inside

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November 21, 2006

Skype's the limit

Andrew Taylor
Editor-In-Chief

In the past computer users have utilized instant messaging, voice chat, or even video chat. These functions have served the masses faithfully. However, a new and exciting technology has moved on to the World Wide Web.

Skype, a peer-to-peer Voice Over IP Network could be the beginning of a new wave of communication technology. The program allows users to call ordinary house phones or cell phones while surfing the web or doing other activities. Also, most calls made don't cost the user (there is a \$.02/minute charge for the receiver). This could help bring an end to expensive long distance calls or the stress of worrying about cell phone minutes. Skype can make calls not only anywhere in the United States and Canada, but also all over the world (there is a fee for some calls to other countries).

On top of that innovative new technology, Skype also provides many classic functions. The program offers an instant messaging solution that can service 100 different users within the same conversation. The same is true with general voice chatting. Another interesting aspect of Skype is Skypecasting. When users utilize this function they can participate in conversations with up to 100 people. A host

can moderate the conversation, eject and mute users, and pass the talking privileges to other participants. Videoconferencing is another one of Skype's popular functions. Users can utilize this function to serve very educational purposes. For example students writing poetry could present their poems live to poetry experts. This would give them an opportunity to receive constructive feedback among other things. However, users need a web cam connected to their computer to participate in a videoconference.

While Skype does have all of these bonuses, there are a few downsides to the software. For example, Skype utilizes a significant amount of bandwidth even when the program is not running. Many universities have banned the use of Skype on their campuses because of this. Another drawback to the use of Skype is the software's failure to fully protect their users privacy. The software has also had a few legal issues. These mainly stem from various governments striving to maintain control of their telecommunication systems.

Nevertheless, Skype is an exciting new technology that has taken communication to the next level.

If he did it...

■ O.J. Simpson stirs up controversy with shocking new book

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Hypothetically, if you killed your ex-wife and one of her friends, would you, hypothetically of course, after being acquitted of the crime, write a book about how you would have killed her? Well, that is what the once-famed football star OJ Simpson is doing. On November 27 and 29 FOX will be showing a special, "If I Did It, Here's How It Happened." The special, which airs only days before the release of Simpson's book *If I Did It*, will tell the story of how he would have killed his wife, hypothetically.

The case goes back to 1994, when Simpson's ex-wife, Nicole Simpson, and her friend, Ron Goldman, were stabbed to death. In 1995 a court acquitted Simpson of the murders. Then in 1997, a civil court found Simpson liable for the deaths and demanded that he pay \$33.5 million to the families of the victims, which he has failed to do.

Ever since the murders, Simpson has claimed complete innocence, but is now changing his tune, telling the world how he would have killed her if he had. The publisher of Simpson's book, Judith Regan, said that the book is "his confession."

Other publishers have called the move disgusting, stating that it is only a ploy to milk the murder for as much money as possible. Regan claims that the book helps explain a confusing and important part of history.

The question is this: what is this new claim from Simpson? Why write a book about how you would kill your ex-wife? Is this all just a new plot to make more money? Or is it really OJ Simpson's confession? Most likely both the book and the FOX special will only cause more confusion because only one person really knows the truth, and that is OJ himself.

DREAM ON?

■ Teens around the nation struggle with insomnia

Jenna Gatz
Ad Manager

Sleep is a wonderful thing. Many teens enjoy the time they spend sleeping and sometimes waste many Saturday afternoons by sleeping in late. But, as hard as it is to believe, several adolescents suffer from insomnia. Insomnia is the inability to fall asleep or to remain asleep long enough to feel rested. Studies are being carried out to determine the age groups of teens that experience insomnia and how it affects their daily lives.

A recent study performed by researcher Eric Johnson, PhD, shows that chronic insomnia begins at an average age of 11. After interviewing over 1000 teenagers between the ages of 13 and 16, Johnson concluded that one third reported that at some point in their lives they had had trouble sleeping. Roughly 17% of these teens met the criteria for the clinical definition of insomnia.

Insomnia can also occur in small children. Researcher Maria Wong, MD,

says that children who endure insomnia between the ages three and five, are twice as likely to use drugs and alcohol in their early teen years. Wong studied the insomniac habits of young boys and construed that the boys with early childhood sleep problems were twice as likely to start using alcohol by age 12 to 14, to be regular smokers, to use illegal drugs, and three times as likely to use marijuana. "Not all kids with early childhood sleep problems began drinking and abusing drugs at an early age," states Wong. Wong plans to research girls' sleeping habits next.

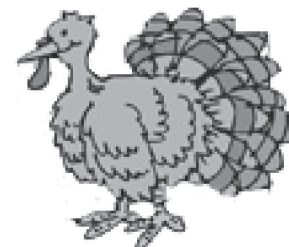
These sleeping habits are affecting the daily lives of numerous teenagers and young children. Ways to sleep better and more efficiently are to set a regular bed time and stick to it, exercise during the day, keep the bedroom dark, cool, and quiet, and remove distractions such as a T.V. or radio.

*Information gathered from WebMD



Sophomore Gary Tapia lies his head down for a quick break. (Photo by: Jenna Gatz)

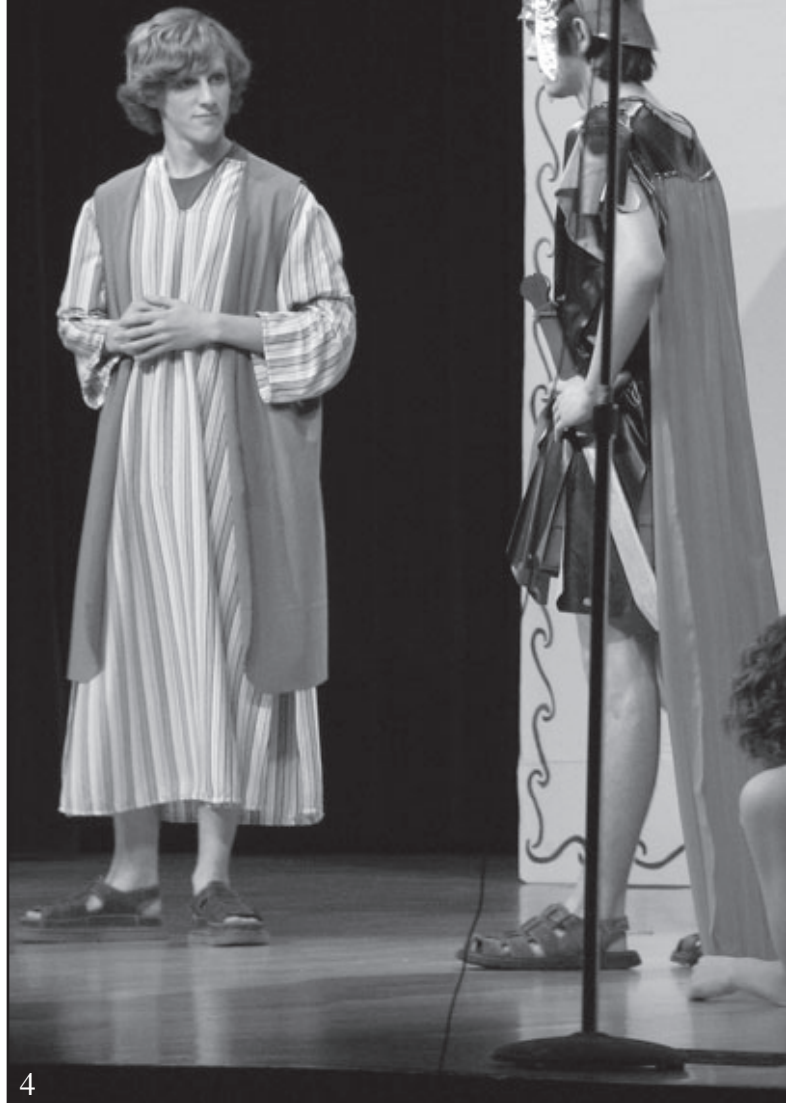
Happy
Thanksgiving



Oh, Wasn't It Delightful...

PHS Musical 2006

The Pratt High choir department performed the musical "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." The comedic musical kept the audience laughing constantly. The cast received a standing ovation on Friday night.



1. (left to right) Joe Schmissey, Will Shoup, Audrey Kisner, and Jesus Perez sing and dance to one of the musical's numerous songs. 2. Greg Jones and Sarah Johnson, so., speak their lines. 3. Ray Williams, jr., and Schmissey prepare to strike at each other while other members of the cast look on. 4. Jones confronts Shoup, as Shoup tries to cun his way out of trouble. 5. Angela Loganbill, sr., sings a song to Maverick Bishop in front of the "House of Lycus." 6. Everyone on stage pauses to stare in shock as Matt Hart, so., limps his way across the stage. (Photos by: Neil Goss) (Layout by: Andrew Taylor)

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Size 00 arrives on the market

Katie Walters
Staff Writer

The new skinny size is double zero. What is going on?! The fashion industry has recently come out with a size double zero in jeans. The anorexic model look has been a controversial issue for some time now. Several fashion shows have been debating whether to ban skinny models.

Paris fashion week chose not to ban them; however, Spain's Madrid fashion week did. The fashion designers banned models who had a body mass index of less than 18.

Research from the University of Connecticut has shown that girls who have a negative body image are twice as likely to compare their appearance to overly-thin models from advertisements. As recently as November 14, 2006 Brazilian model Ana Reston died from complications from anorexia. She weighed 88 pounds and a body mass index of 13.4 at the time of her death.

Studies from Harvard shown that girls who read fashion magazines are two to three times more likely to induce them to try to lose weight. In a survey 69% of girls said models in magazines impacted their idea of perfect body shape, 47% said they wanted to loose weight because of it.



Democrats Retake Congress



Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

As of Thursday, November 9, it was announced that Democrats have gained control of the Senate giving them majority over the Republicans in both houses of Congress for the first time since 1994. What with rapid support loss on the Republican side due to such incidents as the Foley scandal, GOP mishandlings, and extreme distaste for the war, the outcome of the election truly was no surprise at all. In fact, many patrons, formerly partisan to the Republican Party were reported to have voted Democratic merely in spite of President Bush. Overall morale of the country, ultimately called for a very "left" election. However, with liberals in control once more, a question much more menacing has proposed itself, "Do the Democrats even *have* a plan?"

In the months leading up to the election, both parties belittled one another so often that only very vague proposals could be identified through the defamation. It is for this very reason Nancy Pelosi, future speaker of the house, clarified the party's main objective.

"Democratic priorities are clear; we will fight to get the economy back on track, we will create jobs, and we will help unemployed workers."

This, too, follows hand-in-hand with Congress' equitable platform to "support Congressional oversight of the Federal Government's progress toward being more results-oriented,

accountable, and relevant to society's needs."

While the comprehensive intent may sound wonderful, Republicans are concerned these goals may only be attained in removing the Bush Administration Tax Cuts, subsequently crippling middle-class citizens nation-wide. For years taxpayers across the country have relied on the \$1,500 December tax return, and if Democrats do away with the cuts, many may find themselves in a world of hurt.

Analyzing both ends of the spectrum, however, it can also be observed that Democrats' promise to ensure security reaches its pinnacle during their reign. Pelosi's spokesperson remarked, "Democrats in the U.S. Congress said they plan to enhance domestic security by putting millions of dollars into port and airport security technology."

This will, create optimal security both domestically and on the home front.

Information concerning foreign affairs remains unclear at this time, though there is no doubt that Democrats have something up their sleeves.

For now, it is impossible to determine whether or not anything will be accomplished combining political extremes, yet one thing is certain: As of January 1 2007, U.S. citizens will be in for a very interesting change in politics as they have come to be accepted. Let the chips fall where they may.

The adventures of... Krackerman!

Audrey Kisser
Staff Writer

When we last left Steve... Steve: "This Cracker looks good." (Eating a glowing cracker) Steve: "Mmm. It is good!" Steve: "Well, I don't feel so good. I'll never again eat glowing crackers that my friend found on the ground. I'd better go home."

Later, at Steve's... Steve: "I hope I don't need a doctor. Oh, well... I'll sleep now. Zzzzz....." (Sleeping) Steve: "Later, a strange thing happens..." Steve: "I feel much better. Time to brush the teeth." (Brushing teeth) Steve: "Where's the toothpaste?" (Toothpaste tube labeled 'TOOTHPASTE' is shown)

A few minutes later... Steve: "What in the... Oh, well. It was probably just the neighbors. I kinda want some nachos!" (A microwave is shown with flames coming out of it) Steve: "Oh, jeez!" Steve: "ICECUBES?!" (A hand is shown holding several ice cubes)

Is Steve dreaming? Has the glowing cracker he ate caused hallucinations? Or is it something else?

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Construction of the new school continues to progress as ground level work begins. (Photo by Neil Goss)



FEATURES

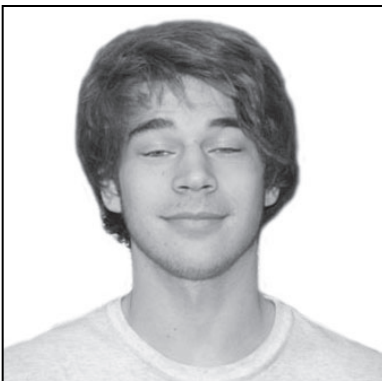
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MIRROR MIRROR on the wall... ”

“ If you could choose a symbol (other than a turkey) to represent Thanksgiving, what would you choose and why?

Jenna Gatz
Ad Manager



“4 baby pandas because that’s what my family eats every Thanksgiving.”

-Andrew Dinkle, sr.



“An Indian- because they taught us how to farm on the land and live here.”

-Sarah Haste, jr.



“A feather, ‘cause Cherokees wear feathers and Cherokees are Indians and Indians invented Thanksgiv- ing.”

-T.J. Gould, soph.



“The common housecat- pref- erably a “tom” cat. I figure the same cat could feed my family for nine Thanksgiv- ings.”

-Miss Kahmeyer, faculty



“Well I could choose from a cornucopia of things, Hey! That’s it!! A cornucopia!”

-Hannah Melichar, fr.

FEATURED WEBSITE



Emily McIntosh
Co-Editor-In-Chief

www.mirrorimage.com/air

It takes great skill to play a musical instrument. This month’s featured website details the complex and often overlooked art of playing the air guitar. It takes you through the steps of beginner air guitar playing, and offers testimonials from satisfied customers. They show the proper power stances for various styles of music, and show you how to play wicked chords. Also included is a list of famous guitar stances, and a history of the air guitar in America. There are even a few songs displayed toward the end of the lessons, meant to show off your newly acquired mad air guitar skills. If you’re new to the air guitar, or even a seasoned shredder, www.mirrorimage.com/air offers a great look at the classic invisible instrument.



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If you ate a meal today,
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113 Farms



Neil Goss

Photography Editor

Will the staff easily get the next issue out before Christmas break?

My Sources Say No

Winter sports are right around the corner 8 Ball, do the seasons look promising?

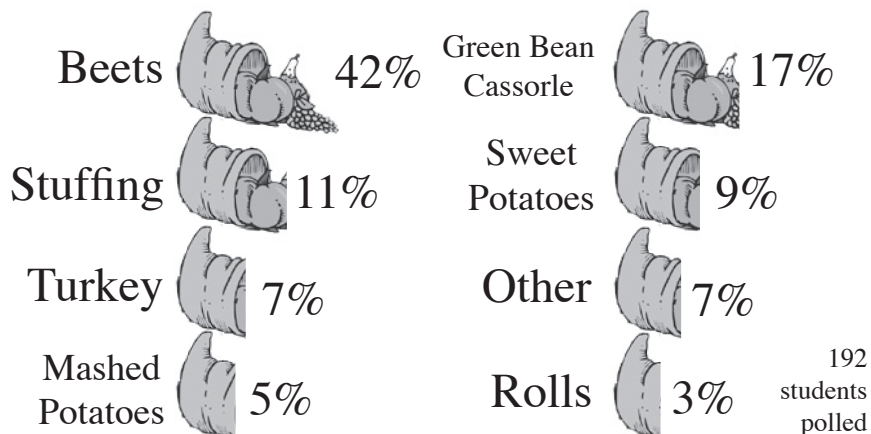
Yes, Definitely

Thanksgiving will bring mass quantities of a wide variety of foods; will America become even more obese in this one gluttonous day?

Neil, come on, it’s one day, not one single person can physically become obese in one single day.

November 21, 2006

What is your *least* favorite Thanksgiving food?



Editorial:

ANALYZING FAILING ANALYSTS

Jan Howard
Copy Editor

Professionals: The best at what they do, they've conquered their profession and people will pay anything and everything to have their advice, to listen to their comments, or to watch them play. However, I believe some professionals really don't know what they are talking about. For example, Sports Analysts. I watch ESPN nearly every single day, and don't get me wrong, I love ESPN, I don't know what I'd do without it. But whenever listening to the so-called "analysts" I've come to the conclusion that they really don't know what they are talking about, and I have proof to back it up. Take a look at this year's baseball playoffs. Every analyst I heard on ESPN, or any other network predicted the St. Louis Cardinals and Detroit Tigers would be out in the first round. The Cardinals had a cataclysmic meltdown at the end of the season, people were calling it the greatest regular season

collapse in history! Same thing for Tigers, and the Twins would win it all! Didn't quite work at that way, did it? Too bad the Cards and Tigers each went to the World Series. Also, the NFL this year has been a bad year for analysts. They predicted the Arizona Cardinals to at least go to the playoffs this year, I think they have a chance with a 1-8 record. So, I might be a little hypocritical here saying that I love ESPN but am dissing the people who work at it, but I still respect their opinions, even though most times they are wrong. The point of the analyst is to bring hype to each and every game. And after the game, they breakdown what went wrong and why there prediction was completely wrong. Now don't get me wrong, sometimes they are right, but in actuality no one has a clue what is going to happen until both teams are on the court or the field.

MUSIC REVIEWS



Neil Goss
Photography Editor

Sean Lennon *Friendly Fire*:

First of all, I have a new current favorite musician/artist, Sean Lennon. Yes, he is John Lennon's, (of the Beatles), son. He recently released his album/film *Friendly Fire*.

There is a story behind the production of Sean's film and album. For a while he was happily dating Bijou Phillips. All was well until Bijou cheated on Sean with his best friend, Max Leroy. Before things could be made right, Max died in a motorcycle accident in 2005. Obviously, this put Sean into a state of horrible melancholia. In turn, Sean dedicated the whole album and film to Max.

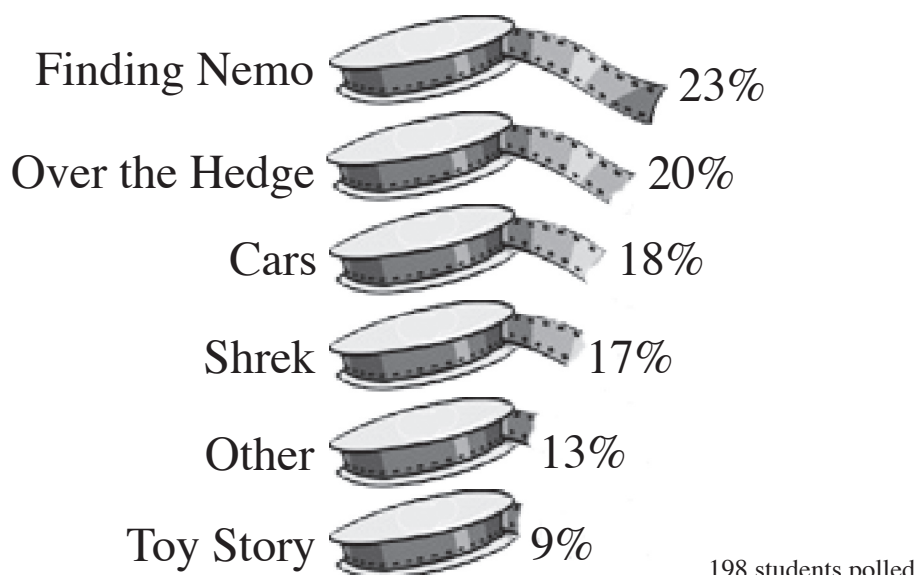
Okay, the story is told, now for the album. *Friendly Fire* is simply phenomenal from track one to track ten. Track three "Parachute" is a slower song filled with a sense of depression. This can impact your life if you truly listen to it. One line of lyrics are, "If I have to die tonight, I'd rather be with you." This is truly an emotional song. "Spectacle", track five, is another amazing aria. This song is very entrancing again speaking of love. Basically the whole album talks about love due to what happened to Sean. My favorite song off of the album is "Headlights." This is a very simple song using only a guitar, clapping, drums, some production tricks and of course Sean's

remarkable voice. The number following "Headlights" is "Would I Be the One." This song is more layered with a wider range of instrumental usage. This song draws in the listener and will hold on until the very last second.

This film was written and produced by Sean Lennon but directed by Michele Civetta. Sean acts in every scene. Some other actors in the film include Asia Argento, Lindsay Lohan, Devon Aoki, Jordana Brewster, and Bijou Phillips who acts the part of her self actually cheating on Sean. This is a very versatile film including videos with sword fighting, a carnival, bright psychedelic lights, a roller-skating arena, an underwater mermaid layer, etc. One of my favorite videos is from the song "Would I Be the One" that consists of over 500 paintings Sean Lennon painted in about two weeks. He meshed them all together to appear as a cartoon-like video. Sean plays many different parts in the video including himself, a nerdy dork, a sword fighter, his best friend Max Leroy, and many others.

I don't recommend this album/film to everyone because I honestly don't believe it is everyone's cup of tea; however, I think there is a large group that would and will greatly appreciate this elegant piece of art.

What is your favorite *Animated* movie?



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November 21, 2006

VIDEO GAME REVIEWS

GEARS OF WAR

&

CALL OF DUTY 3



Eric Kocher
Copy Editor

Gears of War-

Developer Epic Games has officially set the bar for shooting games on the Xbox 360 console with their latest release, *Gears Of War*. A word of warning, this game is NOT for the feint of heart! *Gears Of War* (GoW) takes all of the most gruesome aspects of war and combines them into one of the most realistic and horrifying games available for purchase. When asked to comment on how GoW will be different from the many other shooters available, Epic Games lead designer, Cliff “Cliffy B” Bleszinski said, “We’re going to make it ‘real’. I played a game of paintball a while back. While crouched in the woods with high-powered spheres splattering above my head, I had a hint of what it might be to be in an actual firefight. I found the experience rather . . . painful.” Bleszinski does a superb job of transplanting that feeling into his latest masterpiece.

In GoW, you play as Marcus Fenix, a private in the military that is serving time in jail for some rather selfish actions. When the prison compound you are serving your time in is overrun, you must then fight for your very life. You and your fellow soldiers will battle untold legions of undead-like enemies, known as “Locusts”, through 7 objective-laden missions that take around 12-15 hours of gameplay to complete.

Graphics: Wow. GoW is one of the first games to utilize the newly created “Unreal 3” physics engine, and, let me tell you, it is something to behold. With ambient lighting, super-complex bump-map shading, and physics that rival real life, GoW is by far the prettiest shooter to

date. This beauty also carries over into the “uglier” side of the game. The shape of the blood splatter on the walls that shows up after you finish mauling a Locust is actually determined by what weapon you are wielding, how close to or far away from your target you are, and what kind of armor your target is wearing!

Gameplay: Believe me, GoW isn’t a “nice” game by any means. With futuristic weaponry such as the “Hammer of Dawn” (a laser that is fired from satellites orbiting the planet) and the chainsaw bayonet, expect to see a lot of blood and gore. Perhaps the most entertaining part of this game is watching a shotgun-wielding Locust leap from around a nearby corner only to be greeted by your chainsaw blade in its face. If you are anything like me, you will constantly find yourself taunting the horde of dead Locusts that were unfortunate enough to meet up with you and your trusty machine gun.

Immersion: With features such as Dolby 5.1 surround sound and HDTV 1080i supported, this game is about as close to the real thing as is physically possible. But the thing that really “brings you into the game” is the camera. That’s right, the one thing that has plagued game designers for years is one of GoW’s strong points. For example, when you take cover behind a broken-down car, the camera follows you. When you are sprinting, full-speed, from cover spot to cover spot, the camera shakes with each and every step. I actually ducked my head when I heard a Locust sniper’s bullet fly by my head and land about 2 inches to the right of my right ear.

Overall: After playing this game’s

single player campaign and online multiplayer mode, I’ve become addicted to it. The graphics are amazing, the gameplay is compelling, and you can almost feel the bullets whizzing past your head when you play this phenomenal game. Buy it now.

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Call of Duty 3-

Untold dozens of games have tried to recreate the experience of a World War II soldier. *Call of Duty 3*, the latest in the popular series by Activision, throws the player in to the war torn landscape of World War II Europe unlike any game has before. Every moment of the game, from the sights to the sounds, to the action, adds the experience of a World War II soldier.

Graphics/Sound: The graphics and sound are downright incredible. The explosions appear to destroy the already war torn landscape and sound like hell raining down upon you. You can actually see the grain of the wood on wooden guns and the sound of guns like the MG-42 and the Thompson are euphoric. The landscape blurs when you turn quickly, and the camera focuses on what you look at. The developers took every step to try and recreate the desolate landscape of World War II Europe.

Campaign: The main plot of *Call of Duty 3* is to recapture France after D-day. You get to play as Americans, British, Canadian, and Polish soldiers throughout all of France. The missions range from taking a city to holding a factory to driving a tank. One of the newest features of *Call of Duty 3* is the grappling melee. Basically, at several points throughout the game,

a German sneaks up on you and tries to capture you or does not have any ammo, and you end up in a hand-to-hand struggle. This actually led to one of the most intense parts of the game when a German almost kills you after planting a satchel charge on a high walkway. Other fun features include controlling a mortar and rowing a boat. Yes, rowing a boat. In the Xbox 360 version of the game, all of these things are done by pressing buttons. However the Wii version is supposed to do these things with actual hand actions.

Multiplayer: The multiplayer on this game is a major selling point. There are more than ten maps, and seven different classes, including rifleman, both heavy and light assaults, and scout. Each class has a different starting weapon, a pistol, and a different special skill, like the scout’s ability to call down artillery strikes and the medics healing skills. The maps are generally pretty big and can be set from a large city to an open field. There are many game types, such as CTF, territories, and simple battle, where you try and get more kills than the other team. Most games are team-based, with Allies against Axis, and can have up to 24 players. There are also vehicles such as jeeps, motorcycles, and tanks that can be driven in multiplayer.

Overall, *Call of Duty 3* is an amazing World War II shooter, with very few flaws. The game looks, feels, and sounds amazing (and this is without high definition). The campaign is unique and enjoyable and the multiplayer can waste away the hours like WWII specials on the History Channel. If you like first person shooters, or like World War II, go out and rent or buy *Call of Duty 3*.

Top 10!

Jenna Gatz and Eric Kocher
Ad Manager, Staff Photographer

Jenna: THINGS I AM THANKFUL FOR

5. **Eric** – Because he helps so much on the Top 10
4. **Food** – Who isn't thankful for food?
3. **Kleenex** – These babies kept me from failing half of my classes.
2. **The cool laptops**– The reason I was failing my classes in the first place.
1. **Facebook** – What else would I do on those nights I'm supposed to be doing homework?



Eric:

5. **My Friends**– Without them, I would spend 24 hours per day in my room.
4. **My Cell Phone**– Do I really need to explain this one?
3. **Xbox Live**– It gives me something to do from 8 p.m. to midnight.
2. **Facebook**– I don't think I could live without it.
1. **Jenna** – because you make me actually have to work on the Top Ten.



Ana's Passion for Fashion

Ana Whitson
Staff Writer

Fashion is international, and you can get many inspirations from different countries. Chyna Bryant, so., gets her ideas from India; this has become a growing trend among designers. The look towards the “new and hot” is pulling towards international designs. Here are a couple of ideas to look good without spending that precious moo-la. Layer with different fabrics, colors, and inexpensive accessories (the stuff from Wal-Mart works!). Another trend that's coming back is the 80's style. Your parents' stuff from the '70s and '80s is pretty dang awesome! Costume jewelry, skinny jeans, and big hair are making a comeback. Consider that the next time you go shopping!!



Name: Chyna Bryant
Grade: 10th
Who do you 'idolize'? Kelis
Colors? Pink and blue
What season do you prefer? Summer
What culture do you look to for fashion? Indian (from India)

Name: Parker Huitt
Grade: 11th
What is your favorite store? The WHOLE east side mall in Wichita
Favs: Khaki shorts
What piece of clothing do you think should be banned?
Crocs



Something About... WORLD OF WARCRAFT

Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

OK, so World of WarCraft truly is taking over the world. It seems as though no matter where I go anymore I see advertisements for the ridiculously addicting computer game, or worse, hear (mainly guys) chattering excitedly about level 61 warlocks, the newest guild they have joined, and weaponry. Having been released initially in 1994 by Blizzard Entertainment, WoW didn't rake in quite what producers expected due to faulty server connections, though now, 12 years of improvements later, the fourth edition game, *Lord of the Clans*, has people all across the globe in a frenzy. (And I cannot for the life of me understand why.) As the world's leading MMORPG or Massively Multiplayer Online Role-Playing Game, it seems as though it's going to be around for quite some time. Players control a character avatar within the game-world, fighting monsters and performing quests on behalf of computer-controlled characters. They are then rewarded by successes through items and experience, which allow characters to improve performance. Ooooh inventive, I've never heard of a game that uses monsters and killing.... So perhaps I'm not the most gaming-savvy person out there, but I can safely say that WoW is *not*, in fact, the extent of your life.

However, there are many who believe otherwise. My boyfriend, most unfortunately falls into that category. “WoW isn't becoming an obsession,” he explained, nonchalantly pounding computer keys, mid-kill, “I just really enjoy it...”. Well, worldwide, plenty others are just “really enjoying it”. With a web-base nearing 8 million players (ranging from ages 8-mid 40's) combined with software installation and pre-paid card costs, Blizzard Entertainment will finally achieve their main goal. No doubt this Christmas the company will be in better shape than most gaming franchises. Whatever happened to our society? Have we merely created a generation of technologically astute adults who are completely bereft of imagination? Honestly, if there is nothing more pragmatic to young adults today than playing a mindless game, we are in serious trouble. C'mon guys, go outside or something, play frisbee, read a book or cruise Main Street for Pete's sake. Raise your hands above your head and back away from the computer.

NeNe and CoCo's NEVERENDING ADVENTURES



Entering the newspaper room, Courtney and Neil casually and traditionally plop down on the red love seat.



After listening to music (Sean Lennon, to be exact) and drifting in and out of conversation, their eyes slowly droop and conversation comes to a halt; a mid-class dozing is in order. They begin to dream.



Upon arriving in the US, NeNe and CoCo begin the search for the beloved chocolate. Foreign currency is needed to purchase larger quantities of chocolate from their home country, Iceland. They hope to keep their systems clean until they return home but if opportunities arise they will not be able to say no to the chocolate.

Starring Neil Goss and Courtney Witten, documented by Eric Kocher with help photography by Meghan Connelly



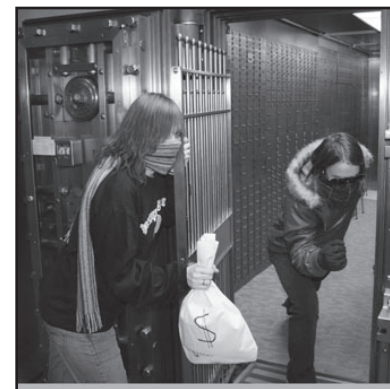
A mere 15 minutes in the US and some kind citizen decides to give NeNe and CoCo a bottle of 100% pure American chocolate. Obviously a great time has been had.



After cleaning up and NeNe getting a fresh manicure, they head to the bank to get the cash they need to fuel their ever growing addiction to cocoa. Midway the car breaks down and due to NeNe's fresh mani, Coco begins to fluster with the engine. Unluckily they had to bury the car an hour later. Another mode of transportation must be found.



NeNe and CoCo split up in order to find a vehicle quicker. CoCo happens to find a cart and they sprint to meet up. A collision occurs when they reconnect.



They arrive at the bank and cleverly ask to open a new deposit drawer. The bank employees allow NeNe and CoCo into the safe where they quickly clean out every drawer in sight while the employees look on, dumbfounded. They acquired enough to purchase a couple thousand pounds of chocolate. This should last at least a week. They sprint from the vault where the cops await outside.



Tune in next issue to see how NeNe and CoCo evade the trouble they have landed themselves in....

GAME

OVER

UPCOMING PHS EVENTS

- November 22: Teacher Professional Day, No School for Students
- November 23-24: Thanksgiving Vacation
- December 9: ACT Test at Cunningham, 8 AM
- December 12: Late Start Day
- December 18: PHS Christmas Concert, 7:30 PM
- December 20-22: First Semester Finals
- December 22: End of Second 9 Weeks, 1:30 PM Early Dismissal



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Eric and Joe's HORRORSCOPES

Joe Schmisser and Eric Kocher
Head Staff Writer and Staff Photographer

Aquarius: Try not to read things inside parenthesis today (why don't you ever listen)

Pisces: After eating four and a half pounds of spicy, diarrhea causing shrimp you learn that Wal-Mart is out of toilet paper and will not be getting any in until the end of the month.

Aries: Try to resist the urge to strangle your 2-year-old nephew after he bumps into you, causing you to spill cranberry sauce on your newly bought \$300 tuxedo.

Taurus: DO NOT EAT THE BREADSTICKS!!!!!!!!!!!!

Gemini: Today you will buy the last roll of toilet paper at Wal-Mart

Cancer: You will be eaten buy the heater monsters after being snowed into the school.



Leo: Try not to get eaten when the turkeys revolt.

Virgo: Your grandmother will die after she eats the salmonella-ized Hershey's bar you gave her.

Libra: Today, after stopping an evil dictator, preventing a nuclear war, and stopping an army of evil robots, you will fall down the stairs.

Scorpio: Your day will go downhill after discovering that newsprint gives you a deadly rash.

Sagittarius: 10 feet of rock hard snow will fall on your house, and your house only; today, giving you a week of snow days.

Capricorn: Your day will start great when you think you discover the fountain of youth, but begin to degrade when you find out that it is the fountain of aging.

Don't You Just HATE That?



Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

- When you're completely torn between taking a bite of that delectable slice of pizza or singing along to a favorite tune.
- That even though it was in the announcements, teachers have reminded you, and the underlying fact that after years of attending school in district 382, you still show up at 8:15 on late-start day.
- How all 400 students clap offbeat at pep rallies.
- Having old school rap, classic rock, pop and country playing in a classroom at once because students are too lazy to pull out headphones.
- Writing something important on your hand as a reminder, only to find a few hours later, to your horror, it has washed off.

Meghan-isms

*"Un-educating students
one Meghan-ism at
a time."*

Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

To continue your un-education, I present three additional Meghanism's.

1) **Cloventalor-** (Clove – in – ta – lore) n. The constant re-arrangement of desks in Mr. Sharp's classroom.

In context: If Mr. Sharp's 5th hour doesn't learn how to behave, Anatomy and Physiology students will never see the end of **cloventalor**. (C'mon freshmen, we like sitting in our groups.)

2) **Omnigloid-** (Ahm – knee – gloyd) n. One who is exceptionally faultless.

In context: When passing me in the hall, feel free to call me an **omnigloid**.

3) **Kubbaloof-** (Coo – buh – loof) n. The upper respiratory infection you're bound to catch with all the particles floating around construction areas.

In context: Hey, use it to your advantage, call in "sick" due to **Kubbaloof**.

Powderpuff and Buff n' Tuff big success

Had anyone not familiar with Pratt's 'Buff and Tuff' tradition wandered into the gym on the 6th might have been shocked to see guys duking it out on the court clad in bright shirts and even a pink bra here and there. "We lost big time," says Parker Huitt, jr., "If you could tell the junior team cared much but it was still fun." The sophomores ended up winning the Buff and Tuff title this year with a win over the seniors in the championship match.

Out on the football field the girls were getting aggressive. After the freshmen beat the sophomores and the seniors took the juniors, the championship game was a game to see. "They were quick but we were faster and smarter and cooler." laughs Jordan Matthews, sr. "Theyre going to turn out just like us, you know? Lose their freshman year and win all the rest. Good luck next year," Says Tia Nickelson, sr. The seniors ended up keeping their three-year reign over the Powderpuff field but after the fight the freshmen put up, all eyes will be on them next year.



Above: Hannah Melichar, fr., attempts to sprint past defenders during the freshman/sophomore game.
Right: Two freshman Buff n' Tuff players fight for position for a hit. (Photos by: Neil Goss)

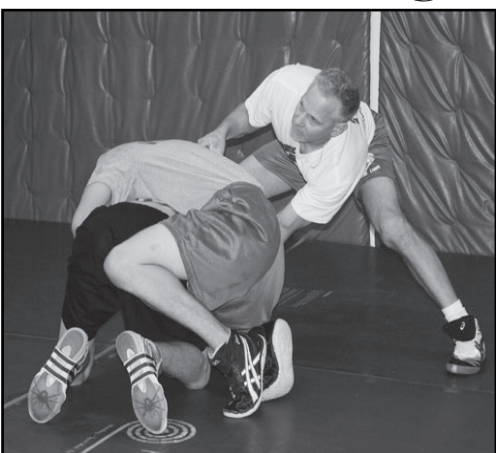
Did you know... Ben Franklin wanted the national bird to be a turkey instead of an eagle.

Wrestlers bring experience to the mat

Eric Kocher
Staff Photographer

After a lackluster ending to their season last year, the Pratt High wrestling team looks to redeem itself. With 35 students attending the preseason meeting, this year's team is not in any shortage of wrestlers. PHS brings back some experience as well, with state qualifiers Caleb Campbell and Asher Riner, srs, and Jonathan Prater, jr. The wrestling team makes it debut on November 30th with a double-duel against Mulvane and Newton in the PHS gym.

Bruce Kocher coaches two wrestlers during practice. The team is hoping for a good season this year. (Photo by Neil Goss)



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November 21, 2006

Boys basketball hoping for a strong season

Jan Howard
Copy Editor

With fall sports now over, has been going on since mid-November that can mean only thing: back to the in preparation for Pratt's first game, some hard courts and the wrestling mats. That's in preparation for Pratt's first game, some have even been training since October to get in shape for the season. right, Boys Basketball is back in action for another season. The team has lost a good number of players with a lot of talent from last year, including some seniors that are out due to injuries. However, despite the number of players being down, the team is still determined to put together a good season. Practice

We need to bring some respect back to Pratt High basketball.

-Andrew Dinkel, sr.

Andrew Dinkel, sr., has a good outlook toward the year despite the young and small team. "Hopefully we'll have a good season this soon. We need to bring some respect back to Pratt High basketball." The boy's first game will be at Collegiate on the first of December.

Girls basketball Reloaded

■ Talented team striving for a good season

Jan Howard
Copy Editor

Last year featured some very athletic and talented girl basketball players, and with them gone, the seniors from this year are going to have to put on the same performance. The team, just like the boys, is once again small, but the talent is there to succeed. Since practice began, the coaches and the team have been working together to create the best team possible. Naturally, many of the young players are going to have to step it up in order to have a successful season, and the seasoned veterans will have to do the same. Collegiate will be the girl's first test of the season on December 1.



Left: Sophomore Hayley Henry watches as her teammate Ema Hitt takes a shot. Right: Stuart Sullivan, so., shoots over Bronson Blasi, jr. Practice began for both boys and girls last Monday. They've been working hard in preparation for their December 1st game at Collegiate. (Photo by Neil Goss)



GO BIG GREEN!