

THE MIRROR



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February 20, 2007

"Reflections of the Pratt High student body"

Local couple finds itself in a "sticky situation"

Andrew Taylor
Editor-In-Chief

A strange sight greeted the eyes of fans at Pratt's basketball game against Scott City last Friday night; the sight of superintendent Dr. Glen Davis and his fiancé Joy Kahmeyer duct taped to the wall of the gymnasium. This odd occurrence did not happen without cause, though, as the National Honor Society used the event to raise money for the Leukemia-lymphoma Society.

This out of the ordinary idea came to the mind of several NHS members during a recent meeting as they were searching for a way to raise funds. Following a little bit of brainstorming, the club organized a committee to ensure that everything went smoothly. The committee

consisted of seniors Joe Schmisser, Ally Waddle, Jordan Matthews, and Judy Parsons. Heather Geortz represented the sole junior on the committee, while Elisabeth Short was the only sophomore.

The group decided on the teachers that would be duct taped to the wall. After a little bit of trial and error they narrowed the field down to the willing participants of Dr. Davis and Ms. Kahmeyer.

They next decided on selling a yard of duct tape for two dollars. Various NHS members then sold the tape to students at lunch, while others ventured throughout the town talking to several local clubs. "We've been trying to get the community involved," said

Parsons.

The group did an excellent job of achieving this goal as the majority of the \$250 raised came from within the community.

"The Pilot Club really supported us," said Parsons.

Overall, the inventive new idea worked like a charm as NHS raised a fair amount of money to donate, and involved the community very

well. NHS sponsor Rita Phillipi said

"We want to thank Dr. Davis and Ms. Kahmeyer for being such good sports and we all wish them much happiness in the future."



Vandals wreak havoc

Elisabeth Short
Staff Writer

On Friday, February 9, 2006, students were buzzing around discussing the major events of the day. This sounds like a normal school day, except these topics involved arson, and lockers collapsing. The first event was a fire that took place on the second floor in the boy's bathroom. Igniting a roll of toilet paper started the fire, and the damages were estimated at \$3,000. The bathroom was painted over and the ceiling tiles replaced. Monday morning the kids rolled in and out and went back to their daily routines. They spent the day of the fire at the Barron Theatre while the police continued their investigation. Police believe they

caught the juvenile, and are now waiting for trial. The juveniles' identity will not be disclosed, nor will any information pertaining to his family be released.

The other occurrence happened in Pratt High nonetheless. During our first lunch period the lockers across the hall from Mr. Jackson's room collapsed. No one was hurt in this situation, and many were glad it happened when few people were around. That way many people were out of harms way and life could go on. The lockers collapsed because kids were hanging and leaning on them, causing them to collapse. The lockers were hauled off immediately.

CONSTRUCTION STALLED

Work on the new school has all but stopped as snow has covered the ground the past few weeks. When things dry out again, work will begin with a renewed vigor as the struggle to complete the school before next year resumes.



Photo by: Neil Goss

“ Until things warm up and things dry up construction is going to be kind of slow. ”

- Tim Kuhn

February 20, 2007

St. Valentines Day; Cards, Candy, and Death?

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Valentine's day is a day of love, happiness, and caring...at least most of the time. While we may spend February 14 sharing love notes and candy, some people have, historically, put the date to more violent use.

In fact the reason that Valentine's Day is February 14 is because of violence, murder to be exact. The date was about 270 A.D. and Claudius II was emperor of Rome. He supposedly decided that Rome needed a stronger army, and thought that having a family kept men from joining, so he made marriage illegal. This made many young lovers very sad, but they had hope of obtaining that eternal bond. There was

a young Christian priest named Valentine in Rome that was performing secret marriages named Valentine. Valentine had two strikes against him: he was a Christian and he was breaking an Imperial decree. In Roman days you didn't get three strikes so it was off to the Coliseum for young Valentine who supposedly lost his life on February 14.

One of the next violent St. Valentine's Days (Valentine was, of course, made a Saint and got his own day) took place in 1349. According to an article in Wikipedia the Christians in the town of Strausbourg, France rounded up about 2,000 Jews and burned them at the stake. The nobles

leading the mob claimed that the Jews had poisoned their water supply and brought the black plague unto their houses, but they also owed the Jewish moneylenders large amounts of money; take that, as you will.

The most famous deadly St. Valentine's Day was in 1929, the St. Valentine's Day Massacre. This bloody event came at the height of the prohibition era and the time of the classic gangs in Chicago. Five members of the North Side Italian gang, lead by Al Capone, ambushed seven members of the South Side German Irish/German gang lead by George "Bugs" Moran. Supposedly two of Capone's

men were dressed as police officers and none of Moran's men were even facing their killers. Capone, who most likely organized the attack, was in Florida on that Valentine's Day and was never convicted of any crime relating to the St. Valentine's Day Massacre.

Fun Fact:

The Mona Lisa doesn't have any eye-brows.

SUPER BOWL: Colts win big

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

All the critics said he was one of the greatest choke-artists in sports, he would never win the big one, and he left the Dan Marino of his time. However, Peyton Manning finally silenced all the nay-sayers, and got that proverbial monkey that's been haunting him for years off his back. At a rain-soaked Superbowl XLI at Dolphin Stadium in Miami, Peyton Manning and the Indianapolis Colts won their first Superbowl since moving to Indianapolis with a 29-17 victory over the Chicago Bears. The game started off with an exciting first-play kickoff return by Devin Hester for a touchdown, the first in Superbowl history. Things grew even grimmer for the Colts after Manning was intercepted on a third down play to set up a great spot for the Bears. However, they failed to capitalize and the Colts took advantage with a 53-yard pass from Manning to Reggie Wayne. The Colts botched the extra point. Right after that, Thomas Jones of the Bears galloped for a 50 yard run to set-up the go-ahead score from Rex Grossman to Mushin Muhammad, but that play would be the last great one for the Bears. After that, the surgeon Peyton Manning and his offense dismantled and pounded the Bears defense into submission with long drive after long drive. Even though the Colts were only

getting field goals out of the long sustained drives, the morale of the Bears defense collapsed. In total, the Colts ran over 80 plays, and kept the ball nearly two-thirds of the game. Plus, Rex Grossman proved all the critics right with yet another awful game with two lost fumbles and two costly picks in the second half, one of which was returned for a touchdown. But in the end, it was Peyton Manning's, coach Tony Dungy's (who became the first black head coach to win a Superbowl, and only the third person to win a Superbowl as a player and a coach), and the Indianapolis Colt's time. The only question that remained with the Colts in the end was who was to be named the MVP. Many Colts players deserved it. Joseph Addai, Dominic Rhodes, Bob Sanders all had convincing cases. But they gave the honor to Peyton Manning, who threw 25-38 for 247 yards with one TD and one INT. Manning now will be remembered in the category of John Elway, who won two Superbowls with the Broncos, and he now has distanced himself from the great Dan Marino, who owns all the passing records but not a ring. As for the Bears, the off-season will now be focused on Rex Grossman, and whether or not he will return as a starter for the Bears. But let's give him a break... until March, when workouts begin again.

FBI LOSES LAPTOPS

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Good job PHS, we have proved wrong all of those people that claimed that we would only have our laptops lost or stolen, proved that we can take care of expensive equipment given to us, or at least that we are better at it than the FBI. Between February 2002 and September 2005 the FBI has had at least 160 laptops stolen, ten of which contained classified information and one that had the names and addresses of several FBI agents. In contrast, since August of 2006 PHS students have had less than five laptops stolen and none of the information on any of these computers might reveal national secrets.

The files on these stolen FBI laptops contained information on agents and the software to create personnel and security

badges. The FBI also does not know what was on six of the stolen laptops. Along with the computers, more than 300 weapons of various types have gone missing from the FBI; however, about 150 of them are inoperable. The FBI is taking steps to make sure that problems like this are reduced and to take care of any national security risk that may arise from the information on the stolen computers.

Inspector General Glenn Fine said in his report about the missing laptops, especially the aforementioned six, "Without knowing the content of these lost and stolen laptops, it is impossible to for the FBI to determine the extent of the damage these losses might have had on its operations or on national security."



Rhett Hostetler, Jr., handles the ball while Catherine Schotte, Jr., attempts to steal it. Other students look on. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

Tanning bed safety

Katie Walters
Staff Writer

On an average day in America, more than one million people visit a tanning salon. Tanning beds become quite popular in the months of February and March to get that sun-kissed tan for Spring Break. Here are a few things a tanning addict might want to know. Many dangers come from fake baking such as running the risk of developing skin cancer, like melanoma, the most deadly skin disease. In fact in 1994 a Swedish study found that 18-30 year olds who use tanning beds more than ten times a year had seven times greater occurrence of melanoma. Not only does it increase your chances of skin cancer, it can cause premature aging. Surprisingly enough, spending enough time under the bed also suppresses your immune

system. According to Consumer Reports Investigation, spending twenty minutes in a tanning bed is equivalent to an entire day at the beach without sunscreen. However, most tanning bed industries claim that indoor tanning is safer than tanning outside. Light released from tanning beds contains approximately 40% less UVB rays, the most harmful type of radiation, than does light from the sun. Therefore, the chances of getting burned in a tanning bed decrease dramatically. If fake baking is an absolute must, then it is highly encouraged to apply a sunscreen of at least SPF 15 every time, especially in the most forgotten areas like the ears and scalp.

Winning the war on cancer

■ Cancer caused deaths decline across United States

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Cancer is one of the deadliest diseases know to the human race. Each year millions of people are diagnosed with cancer, and hundreds of thousands of people die each year from cancer. However there is hope.

According to an article from msnbc.com, since 1998 the number of women diagnosed with lung cancer has gone down by 2% a year, a trend that started in men several years before 1998.

The number of people surviving five years after being diagnosed with cancer, a very important amount of time because after five years the chance of dying becomes very small, has gone down. A study that compared the cancer survival rates of

1975 to 1979 and 1995 and 2000 shows gains have been made. In the study from the 70's only 70% of men diagnosed with prostate cancer survived for five years, but in the more recent study found that 99.3% of men survived. The number of women surviving breast cancer has increased from 75% to 88%.

However, minorities still have a higher chance of dying than whites. Black men have a 26% higher chance of dying than white men, and Hispanic men have a 16% higher chance of death. Black women have a 52% higher chance of dying from cancer, and the Hispanic women have a 20% higher chance.

Smith meets untimely end

Courtney Witten
Staff Writer

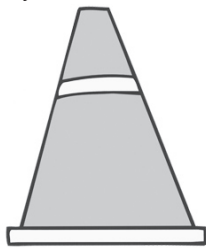
In a strange turn of events, Anna Nicole Smith suddenly died on February 8, 2007. Just two months prior she had given birth to her second child, Danielynn and lost her eldest son, Daniel, to a drug overdose involving fatal amounts of antidepressants and methadone. Only 39, Anna Nicole's death took everyone by surprise. You might remember Anna from numerous sources. She made her way around the Playboy industry, covered tabloids with her marriage to millionaire Howard Marshall II, she starred in her own reality TV show, The Anna Nicole Smith Show, and showed off her dramatic new figure in the weight loss treatment TrimSpa's commercials. Although she was nowhere near the top of Hollywood's food chain, she was still a powerful figure in the media today and her death shocked the TV world.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE



Work on the new school has been slow but steady. The weather has hampered efforts to build, but progress should once again be made as spring temperatures arrive. (Photo by Neil Goss)



6
days until Academic Olympics

27
days until Spring Break

47
days until Easter

67
days until Prom

85
days until seniors get out

93
days until school gets out

February 20, 2007

Top 10!

WORST MESSAGES TO GET ON A CANDY HEART



Jenna Gatz and Eric Kocher
Ad Manager, Staff Photographer

- 10. "I like you, but I don't REALLY like you, but I kinda sorta like you. A little."
- 9. "Roses are red, violets are blue. This heart is sweet, but you sure as heck aren't."
- 8. "Go crawl in a hole and die!"
- 7. "Hey! Didn't you sit behind me in Chemistry? No? Oh, well, then never mind."
- 6. "You suck. Have a nice day!"
- 5. "I facebooked your mom!"
- 4. "Can I ask your sister out?"
- 3. "Hey Happy Valentines Day...I wanna break up with you."
- 2. "If I had a hand I'd slap you."
- 1. "Can I have your number? No, not you, the guy behind you."



Recommended Reading



Ana Whitson
Staff Writer

The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman, Ernest Gaines

This book is about an amazing woman who lived to be 110 years old. She lived through slavery, endured many hardships, and still managed to love and be loved. Her story begins when she was eleven or twelve living on a plantation in the south. A troop of Confederate soldiers went to her home and her mistress gave them water. Then in the same day a troop of Yankee soldiers traveled through and they also received water from her mistress. It was then that she received the name Jane Brown from a Yankee soldier. Not a year after that a proclamation was put forth that the slaves were free. Jane's master gave them the choice to leave or stay, and she left. She, and a bunch of kids set out for the North, Jane particularly wanted to go to Ohio to find the Yankee soldier who gave her her name. This was just the beginning of her long, hard journey to freedom. This book made an impact on my life in a great way. It really makes you think of how good your life is, and how bad you could have had it.

Speak, Laurie Anderson

Anderson writes a story of a girl who has gone through a lot in a short amount of time. She enters high school with no friends, and no support. Her only refuge is in her art class. She went through a traumatic experience before the school year began, and no one would believe her story, and in turn she hasn't spoken for a great deal of time. Her life used to be filled with joy, she even painted her room pink, although now it makes her want to puke. I think this book is easy to relate to, because everyone has gone through something that they don't want to talk about with anyone. In the end the story is revealed to the world, and she speaks for the first time about her horrific experience.

EDITORIAL: iPods Up for Debate in New York City



Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

OK, let's not completely dupe ourselves: we've heard of some pretty ridiculous bills. Shall I elaborate? Alright, how about Utah senator Cannon asking the President to designate the Thursday before Thanksgiving as "Feed America Day" or maybe even the bill to provide for the expeditious disclosure of records relevant to the life and death of Tupac. New York State Senator Carl Kruger just may take the cake with his mission to introduce legislation to ban use of electronic gadgets (iPods, Blackberry's, video games, etc) while crossing the street. Bogus? Yeah, I thought so, too. In fact, upon first hearing of this bill (and fellow staff members bare witness) I nearly went into an absolute fit of hysterics—not to mention narrowly escaping some serious trachea blockage thanks to a Reeses peanut butter cup. Yeah, it was pretty intense, but with good reason! According to Mr. Kruger, "three pedestrians in [his] Brooklyn district have been killed since September upon stepping into traffic while distracted by an electronic device..."

Okay...so all Senator dearest has proved is that a lot of morons in his district don't know how to look both ways. Seriously, how many accidents have you nearly been in due to blasting music? Allow me to rephrase that: how many accidents have you nearly been in due to jogging down 54th Avenue with your state-of-the-art electronic device and white-mocha-cappuccino? (See how adding verbs and adjective changes the situation entirely?) Honestly! Usage of such devices should not be prohibited due to a handful of blathering idiots.

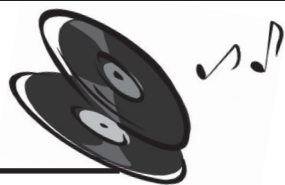
"This electronic gadgetry is reaching the point where it's becoming not only endemic but it's creating an atmosphere where we have a major public safety crisis at hand," Kruger said. Mmmm...yes. I couldn't agree with you more, Senator. In fact, maybe we should invite him to Pratt where people still (**gasp**) abide by street-crossing laws. Or perhaps we should take the more drastic route and create an IQ test that ensures the future buyers of such electronic devices can still function normally while doing whatever it is they're doing on their "gadget".

While this bill, if passed, would merely begin in New York there is no doubt that slowly but surely, it would trickle on to other large cities and then into the smaller communities. Essentially, this punishes all citizens of the United States due to less than .01% of the population. We live in the technological age where these alleged "gadgets" are becoming commonplace and widely used in even the most traditional areas of the country. Perhaps it's time the people of today learn that with technological advancements come serious shifts in the way we interact in our environment.

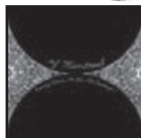
Throughout the ages humans have learned to adapt to modernized ways of living i.e.; the wheel, fire, weapons, horse-drawn buggies, vehicles, computers, etc. Which perhaps explains my absolute dubiety of why walking with headphones and cell phones has suddenly posed such a threat. I could understand completely if drivers using electronics while operating a vehicle were causing these accidents, yet it is because of the walking pedestrians this problem exists! It is not the duty of our government to punish everyone for the sake the few who lack common sense. There is only so much that can be done. Maybe they should have paid attention during crosswalk awareness—yes, there truly are cross walk awareness classes available in New York. We've already done our part...keep your gadgets. It is still unfathomable to me that there are people out there who have become so absorbed in their music, texting, whatever, that they fail to remember they are mortals living in a chaotic world filled with speeding buses, automobiles, and other passes-by.

Music Reviews

Neil Goss
Photography Editor



The Shins
– *Wincing the Night Away*



Of Montreal -
Hissing Fauna, Are You The Destroyer?

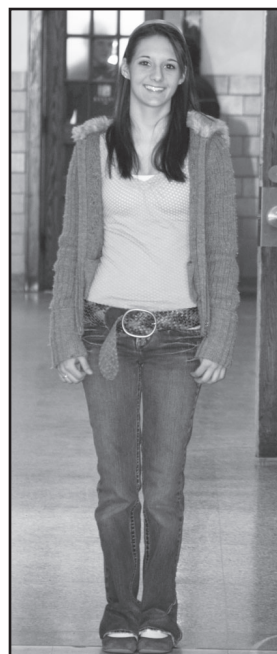
So The Shins continue to create music of beauty, calmness, and buoyancy with their new album, *Wincing the Night Away*. This album is very entertaining indeed, consisting of eleven tracks of serious solidity. The Shins have grown since their last album, *Chutes Too Narrow*, in many areas of their art. They are beginning to bring different sounds into their music such as surf guitar, a taste of the Beach Boys and Velvet Underground, experimental sounds, more flutes, and more synthesizer. The entrancing vocals are still there, no doubt. Their music touches and gives spiritual experiences more strongly on this album. My favorite aria “Australia” is one of the happiest and lifting songs I’ve heard for a little space in time, a very pleasing track. “Pam Berry,” the third song, contains the surf guitar. It is a 56-second song that only contains the grinding on the strings and some mildly sullen vocals. The song “Red Rabbits” sounds like the Velvet Underground in an uncanny way. There are differences, yes, but still a totally chill song, very relaxed. You must be careful with this one. The Shins are one of the current powerhouses in the Indy scene because of artistic beauty such as *Wincing the Night Away*. Take a dive into this album and listen in depth: close your eyes, think about life, the times, the times that have past, the times to come, the simple bliss of life. The Shins have, yet again, completed a brilliant piece of musical art.

To start this off, I am going to say that this CD is worth buying just for the casing. It’s unbelievably psychedelic and original. An assemblage of colors strategically placed develops a diamond out of four circles. It sounds rather non-understandable but trust me, it’s colorfully hip. Of Montreal, another band making a killing in the Indy scene, has stayed fairly close to their previous sounds with some minor differences, but none worth mentioning. The titles of OM’s songs have only improved consisting of names like, “Heimdalsgate Like A Promethean Curse,” “A Sentence of Sorts in Kongsvinger,” “Faberge Falls for Shuggie,” and “Labyrinthian Pomp.” Still using the upbeat, fun, and entertaining sound, Of Montreal did well on this album creating some unforgettable tracks. The opening tune, “Suffer for Fashion,” shreds. This song has the Of Montreal feel and the ability to spill some serious joyfulness on your soul. “Heimdalsgate Like a Promethean Curse” blows my lid by using some serious synth, keyboard, and an uplifting use of vocals, but that is normal for Of Montreal. “The Past is a Grotesque Animal” is a rather long song with a run time of 11:53. The beginning of the song sounds in tune with The Chemical Brothers. If you have had any enjoyment from Of Montreal in the past, you should continue that fulfillment with *Hissing Fauna, Are You the Destroyer?* This album is not my favorite from Of Montreal, but I still love the CD and the

Ana's passion for fashion

Ana Whitson
Staff Writer

This time around, when I was trying to think of a topic, I was thinking of all the different influences we have that affect our unique styles. First of all, you have the weather, then there’s mood, and of course, the ever-lacking time in the morning. I’ve noticed that these little factors play a huge role. Now, everyone knows that it’s difficult to actually get out of bed in the morning, at least it is for me, and then it’s a rush to get yourself together. Then, of course, when you don’t feel good, or you’re mad, you don’t particularly want to take the time to look nice and match. And then the weather certainly influences what you wear. I don’t know about you, but I find it annoying that I want to just want to wear a t-shirt and shorts only to find out that it’s like 20 degrees outside. So, in conclusion, there are a lot of factors and choices you have to consider when you get dressed in the morning, or go shopping, and on top of that we have to come to school and deal with the temperatures in the classrooms, and deal with teachers and assignments. We’ve got a lot on our plates before 8:25 rolls around!



Name: Whitney Austin
Grade: 9th
Do you prefer retro or preppy? Preppy
How many pairs of shoes do you own? 12ish
If you could open any store, what would you sell? Classy clothes
Jeans or Sweats? Jeans
Do you think of yourself as an innovator or follower? Wears what she likes

FLICK PICKS



Courtney Witten
Staff Writer

Crank

Wow! This one is intense. It’s about this dude that gets shot full of some poison and the only way to slow his inevitable death is to keep his adrenaline pumping at all times. So he pretty much runs around the city wreaking havoc and trying to hunt down any sort of antidote. It made me want to go bungee jumping or something.

THE ILLUSIONIST

Okay...so...I liked it. It was pretty good but I was expecting it to be better, I guess. I got this one mixed up with The Prestige (which looks AWESOME!) so I kinda set myself up for disappointment. Okay but anyways, about The Illusionist. It’s about this dude that does some crazy magic tricks and the wannabe emperor wants to know how they’re done but the magician doesn’t tell him so the emperor dude gets all ticked and stuff. It’s pretty good but I think it’s a wait-til-you-see-it-on-HBO-instead-of-renting-it type of deal.

Name: Brent Bergner

Grade: 10th

What’s your favorite type of shoe? Slip-ons

Does your mood effect your style? Yes

If you could open any store, what would you sell? Clothes of any sorts

Colors? Red, navy blue, and gray

Would you ever consider being a fashion guru? No





Angela Loganbill, sr., cheers on Jon Prater, jr., as he hurriedly eats a pie at a recent Pep Rally. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

Book Review:

THE INHERITANCE TRILOGY

Andrew Taylor
Editor-In-Chief

Every great fantasy book has a healthy combination of dragons, magic, elves, dwarves, and fierce battles and Christopher Paolini's debut series does not differ from those standards. He does, however, string together a plot that more than rivals the great work of generations past. The character's in his as of yet unfinished *Inheritance* trilogy allow the readers to get a glimpse into a world of doubt and misfortune, but also, a world filled with hope and determination. Paolini's astonishing entrance into the world of writing is made more astounding by the fact that he is currently 22-years-old.

The general plot of the two books released thus far, *Eragon* and *Eldest*, entails the adventures of Eragon, a fifteen-year-old farm boy, as he discovers a dragon egg and rises to resist the evil king Galbatorix. The path to defiance, though, often pushes Eragon to his physical and mental limits as he is forced to leave his hometown, Carvahall, and begin his tutelage to become the next dragon rider. As the only current dragon rider in existence, apart from the king, he encounters admiration and in some cases disgust from those he meets on his exploits. Eragon, however, does not relish the glory that comes with his position, but works to protect those that can't protect themselves.

Throughout the story Paolini easily keeps his readers on edge with various plot twists. These twists include the demise of essential characters, betrayal at every corner, and the arrival of unexpected

allies. Every action that takes place in the incomplete trilogy has an effect on the climax of the story. Even such trivial things as love stories and fireside conversations will add to the plot of the tale.

The exceptionally entrancing plot of the inheritance trilogy would not function as well without the characters that readers quickly grow to love. Paolini illustrates his extraordinary writing ability through the development of his characters. Eragon, for example, begins the story as a lonely farm hand that slowly but noticeably evolves into an awe-inspiring hero. His path there, however, is not an easy one as he suffers various emotional and physical scars. Unlike so many of today's storybook heroes, Eragon often experiences the bitter taste of defeat. The same can be said for all of Paolini's heroes as in most instances they are saved from defeat more from luck than any skill that they possess. This trait allows the reader to better relate to the characters as he or she grows with them and come to a feel as if they know that character.

Paolini has thundered into the fantasy-writing arena. His captivating plots and lovable characters will charm readers for centuries to come as readers will pick up the books intending to read for ten minutes and then look up to realize that two hours have passed. It makes no difference whether you enjoy fantasy books or not; this series is a must read that will leave you craving for the final yet unreleased chapter of the trilogy.

Napping, Good!

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

If you ever get caught taking a daytime siesta in school or at your work, now you have the perfect alibi. According to Yahoo! News, researchers have now proved that taking a mid-day nap can actually reduce a person's chances of heart disease, especially among men. In the largest study to date on napping, researchers tracked over 23,000 Greeks over a six-year time period. The study found that those who napped for at least thirty minutes a day three times a week reduced their risk of heart disease by more than 37 percent.



The naps are a good source of stress-reducers, which is why naps also reduce heart disease, according to the studies. However, most of the studies happened in Europe, and not in the U.S. Napping isn't as common in the U.S., as opposed to other countries where napping is ingrained in their culture. Perhaps this will change now with the newfound studies. So, the next time you fall asleep in the afternoon and your teacher or boss catches you, just remember to say, "I'm only trying to be

Weird News

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

Stowaway Squirrel

Airport security has improved greatly in the past few years. If a terrorist wanted to hijack an airplane he would have to go through several layers of metal detectors, x-rays, and random searches to just get on the plane, and then go through a thick door to get to the cockpit. To manage to get the equipment and skills to bring down an airplane onto an airplane you would have to be a super genius, or a squirrel.

Earlier this month a squirrel managed to get into the panels above the cockpit in a Boeing 777, forcing the flight from Tokyo to Dallas to land in Hawaii. The pilots decided to make the landing after hearing the scratching from the squirrel; they were worried that it would chew through some wires. Authorities in Honolulu Hawaii killed the stowaway because they were afraid that it had rabies.

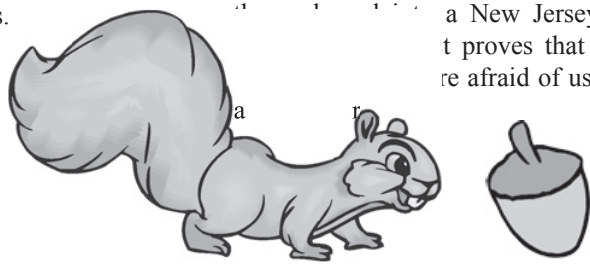
BEAR GETS STUCK IN TREE

How would you feel if you were just walking along, minding your own business, and a woman screams at you so loudly that you are frightened into climbing up a tree and you accidentally get stuck.

This actually happened to a young bear in New Jersey. A woman named Lorraine Grossman looked out her daughter's window while making a morning pot of coffee and came face to face with a 211-pound black bear.

She said to CNN, "For a minute I didn't realize there was a glass between him and me." Grossman let out a scream and the bear became so scared that it climbed 40 feet up a tree for safety. The only problem was that it got stuck.

Within a few hours the bear was tranquilized and fell into a tight net. It was a New Jersey natural t proves that animals, re afraid of us than we

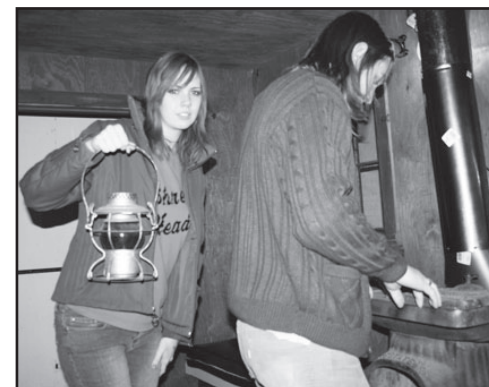


NeNe and CoCo's NEVERENDING ADVENTURES



Starring: Neil Goss and Courtney Witten, with help photography by Eric Kocher

After the tussle between Co Co and the masked murderer, who ended up being a random unidentified hit man, Ne Ne and Co Co had to, once again, get out of the country. Certain they were, however, that the hit man led to a much more dangerous and known nemesis, Major Nemesissy. The debonair duo of Ne Ne and Co Co heard a train was coming through, headed to Fiji, and they knew one thing, they would be on it.



Being on the caboose was the longest amount of carefree and relaxed time Ne Ne and Co Co had received for quite some time. Having a week away from all the enemies and irregularities was just what they needed. Some television, projected by an unheard of antiquated TV, pleased their search for relaxation.



The train Ne Ne and Co Co had stumbled upon was no ordinary train. This train consisted of numerous cabooses that served for a variety interests, hobbies, and everyday necessities. Little did Co Co know, but Ne Ne had attended many advanced cosmetology classes. So once they walked onto the hair parlor caboose Ne Ne took an hour and did Co Co's hair up "real fresh."



Co Co was so joyful and content with her new hairdo that she took Ne Ne to the ice cream parlor and treated him to a frosty, creamy, and delightful beverage. Ne Ne took a solid 45-minutes to make his decision but finally decided on a blue raspberry cream slush. Co Co of course gave him the look of remedial questioning. Co Co treated herself to a banana nut razzle-dazzle chocolate and pistachio sundae with extra limes.



After the delicious frozen treats, Co Co started to feel a little fishy. They decided to go to the hospital for a check up. Upon the arrival CoCo started getting extremely nervous due to a horrendous stethoscope accident five years prior. After the check up, they found out Co Co had received minor food poisoning from the large amount of razzle-dazzle her frozen treat contained.



The hospital trip took a mere 17 hours. The food poisoning angered Ne Ne and Co Co very deeply. They knew it was Nemesissy sending his warriors to attempt and end the legend of Ne Ne and Co Co. They knew they must fight back, with superior strategic mind power. It's only they needed money to purchase the amount of mind power they would need.



Entering the bank, Ne Ne and Co Co realize how old fashioned it was. They wonder if the bank will even give them a loan. Without asking about a loan, Co Co created a distraction as Ne Ne slipped his hand under the gate and took one blank check and in place of it left an I-O-U. After doing this, they remember their last trip to a bank that ended in a prison visit. Ne Ne and Co Co decide to hide out for a couple minutes so they don't get caught again.

**THE
ADVENTURE
CONTINUES
ON THE NEXT
PAGE!**





Locating their hiding/safe place, Ne Ne and Co Co climb down into the infinite abyss and relax for 17 minutes while the whole town searches for the notorious Ne Ne and Co Co.

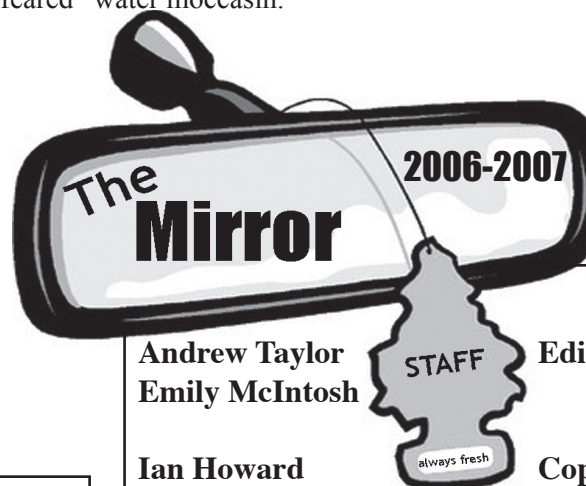
After waiting in the room playing Chinese checkers and sipping some Earl Grey tea, Ne Ne and Co Co leave the safe place. They head out and everything is different, they see a series of tunnels in front of them. There is nowhere else to go so they take tunnel number three. Where it will go, they have no idea, and honestly, they don't care. They just need to get away before Major Nemesissy tracks them down.

After what seemed to be a four-day trek down tunnel number three, Ne Ne and Co Co end up in what appears to be an Indian village. The locals were beyond friendly. They supplied Ne Ne and Co Co with Indian supplies, food, medicine, and actually tried to make them Indians. They trained them to be one with every animal in the world. Ne Ne and Co Co became snake masters, especially of the "oh-so-feared" water moccasin.

After two-and-a-half-days with the Indians, Ne Ne and Co Co had become Indians. They went through the rituals and everything. After becoming one with the earth and animals, Nemesissy will be no problem to get off of Ne Ne and Co Co's backs. But for now, a totally new experience must be completely absorbed before exiting this unheard of world.

NEXT ISSUE:

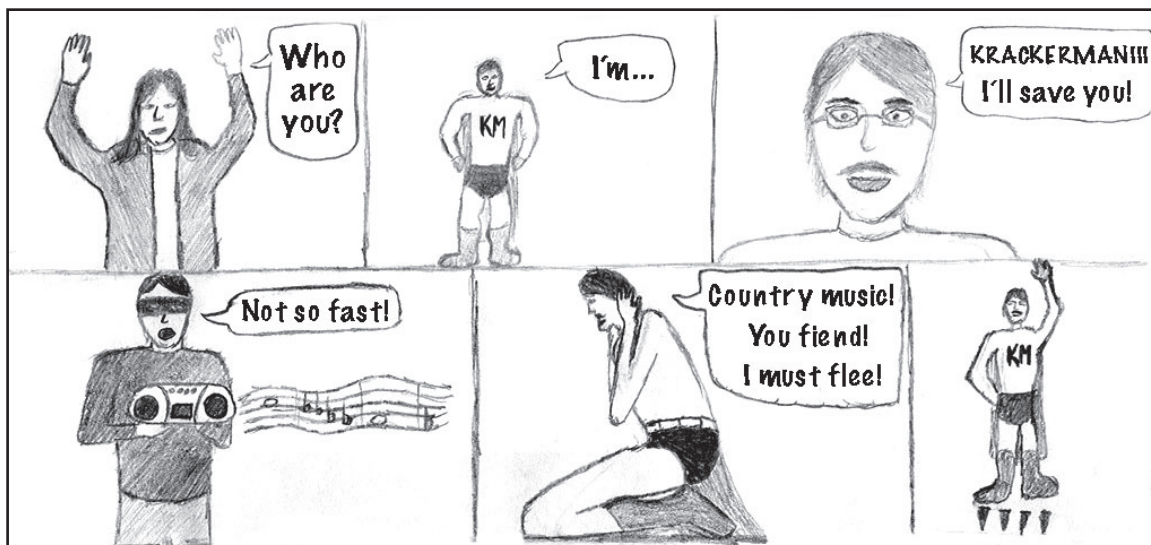
We have no clue where Ne Ne and Co Co is headed but it will go somewhere beyond belief and all things imaginable. So be patient, wait upon the ever-spinning world as time will be thrown around and gone before you get a breath of elation. It's OK, it's life, we all find a way somehow. To one and all, peace and bliss upon you, from Ne Ne and Co Co.



The Adventures Of...

KRACKERMAN!

Audrey Kisner
Staff Writer



Will Krackerman defeat the fiendish villain or has he turned into a total pansy?
Find out next time in The Adventures of Krackerman!

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Emily McIntosh

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always fresh

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MIRROR MIRROR on the wall... ”

“ What’s the worst way to break up with someone right after Valentine’s Day?

Jenna Gatz
Ad Manager



“Text messages or Internet because that just shows you don’t have any guts to break up with them in person.”
-Laramie Inslee, so.



“Probably to make them go on a scavenger hunt making them think it is romantic or something and at the end say, ‘The scavenger hunt is over and so are we.’”
-Cale Longhoeffer, fr.



“Any way that is followed by you pointing and laughing. Also, as you walk away with your arm around your new boyfriend/girlfriend... hollering over your shoulder ‘We’re still going to prom, right....NOT!’ is a nice touch.”
-Mr. Nightingale, A.D.



“I’d do it through the Pratt High newspaper, just like this....Sorry Cole, we’re OVER!”
-Beth Hill, sr.



“Over the jumbotron at a baseball game.”
-Mike Quinn, jr.


Featured Website

www.miiplaza.net

Emily McIntosh
Editor-In-Chief

Many of you have had the chance to experience Nintendo’s innovative gaming system, The Wii. The Wii combines a unique balance of traditional gaming skills with kinesthetic movement (detected by a motion sensor). Another popular feature of the Wii is the character creation option, which lets the user create a virtual version of themselves to tee off on the golf course or gear up for a round of boxing. These user-created characters, called a “Mii”, are almost limitless in their options for features and physical characteristics. This variety allows for some very interesting combinations, and the resulting characters spawned the idea for the website www.miiplaza.net. Miiplaza displays pictures of unique and original Miis, patterned after famous faces. Rock stars, famous actors, and even a few cartoon characters have made the gallery at www.miiplaza.net. My personal favorites include the Mii Beatles, Mii David Letterman, and Mii Jon Stewart. Miiplaza.net is a great way to view the creativity behind Nintendo players everywhere.

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Neil Goss
Photography Editor

So 8* Ball.....what is going on with this weather?! Will the snow ever stop?!

Yes, more than likely.

However...

It’s already midway through the third nine weeks, that’s unbelievable. Can you believe it 8* Ball?!

No.

Wow, that was a short answer. Is something wrong 8* Ball?

No, No. Not at all, just keep neglecting me two to three weeks at a time. It’s fine. I don’t mind one bit.

Eric and Joe's HORRORSCOPES

Joe Schmisser and Eric Kocher
Head Staff Writer and Staff Photographer

Aquarius - (January 20 - February 18)

The stars say that you will be randomly selected to participate in an experiment involving chipmunks and hard liquor. What the experiment actually is, we cannot determine.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20)

You might get kicked off of your next airplane flight. We don't mean kicked off as in "No, you can't come on the plane sir.", but kicked off while in mid-flight you are shoved out of the escape hatch. Our suggestion - bring a parachute.

Aries (March 21 - April 19)

While testing out the new "Battery Brain" (a device that shuts off your car battery if you accidentally leave your lights on) the device will malfunction and your car will spontaneously combust.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20)

You now have an unexplainable magnetic charge in your body, and using any electronic devices today could be fatal.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20)

You know that test you didn't study for? The heavens say that all the answers are "C".



Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Just go back to bed, right now.

Leo (July 32 - August 22)

Today you will be asked a very simple question, "How much wood could a woodchuck chuck if a woodchuck could chuck wood?" If you get the answer right, you get \$5; if you get it wrong. . . well, just don't get it wrong.

Virgo (August 23 - September 22)

Your car will be run over by a speeding semi today.

Libra (September 23 - October 22)

As you go to fill up your tank of gasoline, the price of gas skyrockets to nearly \$4.00 per gallon. Haha!

Scorpio (October 23 - November 22)

Today you will learn that you know how to fly. You will also learn that you don't know how to land.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21)

Due to a strange malfunction in the computer system, the price of gasoline will drop to \$.01 per gallon for the five minutes that you are filling up your tank.

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19)

The trucker who picked you up after your car broke down is in deep trouble, as he will be fined big time for running over some idiots' car.

Don't You Just HATE

That?

Meghan Connelly
Head Staff Writer

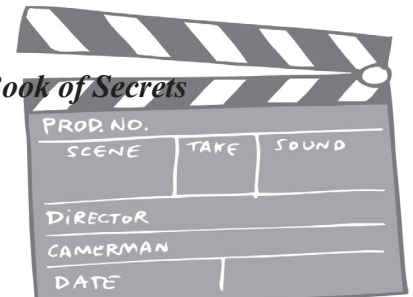
- Brakes that fail...right, Courtney?
- Rushing into Wal-Mart for one item and leaving with an entire cart.
- People that misquote well-known songs. Exhibit A: "Rock the cashbox, rock the cashbox..." --Shakes head in remorse
- Whenever you're hanging around indifferent people: Person One- "What do you want to do?" Person Two- "Oh, I don't care, what do you want to do?" Person One- "No, really, I don't care...what do you want to do?"...Two hours and a quarter tank of gas later... Person Two- "So...have you decided what you want to do?"
- Facebook withdrawals...*Twitch*

MOVIE UPDATE II: ATTACK OF THE SEQUELS

Elisabeth Short
Staff Writer

The entertainment world comes out with many new and original movies, but 2007 is the year for sequels. I know, I know, everyone is waiting for *Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End*, but there are other sequels out there you may want to know about.

- *Oceans 13*
- *National Treasure 2: The Book of Secrets*
- *Saw IV*
- *Shrek the Third*
- *Under Siege 3*
- *True Lies 2*
- *Spiderman 3*
- *Pirates of the Caribbean: At Worlds End*
- *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*



These are just a select few of the sequels that are to come out this year, and even though the characters are the same, and the story line familiar, hopefully we will all enjoy Hollywood's newest creations, and a few old story lines with a new twist.

February 20, 2007

Lady Green working hard to finish season strong

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

The basketball season is winding down for lady Greenback basketball, and the road to victory has been a tough one. The girls only have one victory on the year, coming against Macksville in the recent tournament of champions. They finished fourth in the tourney, after suffering defeats to Wichita East and Cheney. Later on the ladies lost to teams such as Ulysses, St. John, and Garden City. Overall, it has been a tough year for the girls, but the season is not over and hopefully they can turn it around come playoff time.



UPCOMING ATHLETICS

February 23

Basketball @ TMP,
4:30 P.M.

State Wrestling @ Salina

February 24

State Wrestling @ Salina,

Michelle Strohl, jr., fights through defenders at a recent game in the frog dome.

Boys Basketball; still fighting it

Andrew Taylor
Editor-In-Chief

Although the boy's basketball season hasn't gone exactly as planned, they have stumbled out to a winless start, spirits remain high.

Head Coach Jeff McMillan said, "The spirit is great. We've got a young team and with that come a lot of growing pains. It's a growing experience, but the guys come in every day wanting to get better."

This type of determination has characterized the Greenbacks season thus far. They fought through tough league matches and clashed against state-ranked

opponents. At times they have come tantalizingly close to tasting the fruits of victory. Their strongest efforts, though, have been just short of gaining that first win of the season.

Nowhere was this more evident than in the teams 50-48 loss to the St. John Tigers. A game the Greenbacks led with less than five minutes to go, but they just let it slip through their fingers. The Greenbacks fouled a St. John player with one second left on the clock, and he proceeded to drain two of his three free throws as he brought the Greenback's hopes crashing down.

The loss represented the closest the team has come to victory this season. That's not for lack of effort though as the team strives to focus on the good things that have happened this season.

"Even though we haven't won a game, we've still grown a lot," said Andrew Dinkel, sr. Pratt Basketball players get pumped up before a recent game in the frog dome. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

Wrestlers fall short at league

Eric Kocher
Staff Photographer

The Greenback wrestlers may be good, but they aren't perfect. Pratt traveled all the way to Scott City for the MSAA League Duel Tournament on February 3rd, where they had 5 individual champions, and placing 7 others. Darnell Bortz, so., Parker Huitt, Eric Kocher, and Jacob Dill, jr., and Caleb Campbell, sr., all walked away with the gold medal around their necks. Unfortunately, the Greenbacks faltered in their duel against Scott City. Pratt lost the

duel 41-24. In their last competition before the regional tournament, PHS headed to Dodge City for a double duel against the Liberal Redskins and the Hays High Indians. The wrestlers put up a good fight, but fell to Liberal 35-31 and to Hays 41-31. Pratt hosted the regional tournament on February 16 and 17, and finishes the season at the Bicentennial Center in Salina for the 4A State tournament on February 23 and 24.

Jon Prater, jr., works hard to pin his opponent at a recent home meet. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

