



THE MIRROR

"Reflections of the Pratt High student body"



Sports Round-up, pg. 7-8

Issue 7, Volume 94

Pratt High School

April 4, 2007

A week of fun, or a lifetime of regrets?

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

Spring Break Stats

Katie Walters
Staff Writer

It is not a secret that Spring Break is a time known for partying. Spring Break is usually spent with friends, traveling, and clubbing. Many students and young adults travel out of the state or even out of the country for just one week. Every year over 100,000 students travel to Cancun, Jamaica, Aruba, and other island retreats.

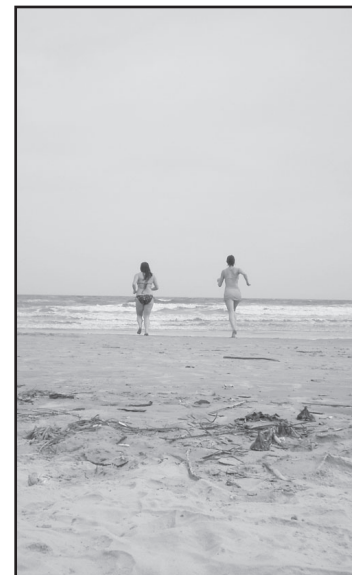
The average male downs 18 drinks each day and the females are right there along with 10 drinks. A study done at the University of Wisconsin showed that a whopping seventy-five percent of college males and forty-four percent of females were intoxicated daily over Spring Break.

A recent survey was also conducted by American Medical Association (AMA) and seventy-four percent of women said their sexual activity increased on Spring Break, which twenty percent regretted, and twelve percent felt forced or pressured. Almost sixty percent (See Spring Break on Page 2)

with marijuana. However, some are arrested for the consumption of alcohol.

Seniors of Pratt this year took the same paths as the seniors last year. However, members of Pratt High band took their quadrennial trip to Florida, in which they took part in a parade at Disney World. Some seniors made plans to rent a house up in the beautiful mountains of Colorado, whereas others headed south to San Antonio and the beach for the week. Of course, there are those few who don't have any plans and just kicked back in Pratt

Luckily, everyone came back in one piece, and parents couldn't be more relieved.



Students enjoy a beach run in San Antonio. (Courtesy Photo)



Students enjoy a dinner at Joe's Crab Shack in San Antonio, TX during spring break. They are (left to right) seniors Neil Goss, Jordan Matthews, Lindsey Melichar, Aaron Landry, Dexter Deitz, Andrew Dinkel, and Amber Ladenburger. (Courtesy Photo)

With the coming of the spring months, everything is warming up. Adults are getting ready to do some spring cleaning, high schools are starting spring sports, but college and high school seniors only had one thing on their mind: SPRING BREAK!!

Once mainly a college ritual, spring break fever hit high schools across the country. Many seniors were busy planning their trip of a lifetime (or, at least, of the year) to some sunny, overcrowded beach, or to that mansion up in the mountains of Colorado.

Wherever the trip might have taken them, teens everywhere were pumped about a week without school, with their friends, and most importantly, away from their parents. For many teens, spring break translated to "NO RULES."

Spring break is infamous for wild parties, risky behavior, consumption of alcohol, and use of illegal substances. Many teens believe this is their first chance to get a taste of freedom from authority for a week. Unfortunately,

this can be disastrous. According to About.com, the highest risks include promiscuity leading to unprotected sex, drinking leading to assault, and illegal activities leading to arrest. Crimes such as vandalism, theft, assault, and rape commonly occur during spring break. In fact, according to the United States Department of State, Bureau of Consular Affairs, more than 2,500 Americans are arrested each year while on spring break. Many of these arrests are due to drugs, commonly dealing

Music Reviews



AROUND THIS TIME IN HISTORY:

Neil Goss
Photography Editor

Mates of State- *Bring It Back*

To explain my endearment for Mates of State I will tell that after I purchased the album, it didn't leave my car CD player for four days. I simply fell in love with the superior lyric content, harmonizing vocals, tender and elating arias, and the whole pure satisfaction it put upon my life. Mates of State are the married couple of Kori Gardener and Jason Hammel. Their music consists of an organ soaked in lovable bass played by Kori, tied in with outrageous and severely contagious drums that Jason so skillfully plays, and of the course the mind-blowing, life-affecting elegance of Kori and Jason's crafted vocals. The first album from MOS was listed as one of the best records you probably didn't hear in a 2000 *New York Times*. This band will impact your life if you listen intently and sincerely to every aspect of its brilliance.

The opening song "Think Long" catches your ear with a dreamy pop beat, a taste of soothing synthesizer, and a flawless blend of vocal bliss. This imposing tune is only the first, however, leading to "Fraud in the 80s". The buoyancy of this song is sure to put an ear-to-ear smile upon your face. The powerfulness of MOS's lyrics allow you to look into any area of mind, or any place in the world, and simply go. The fourth track "Beautiful Dreamer" is a very nice, chill song. Happiness will envelope your life after a listen to this song. Aspects of this song can be compared to Belle and Sebastian. The closing "Running Out" is a robust song with a lot of obvious emotion pouring from the disc to your ears. There is not a lot more I can say about Mates of State and this ten-song piece of sagacity except if you don't make an effort to hear this band, you are missing out on an underground band that rips for sure!

Elisabeth Short
Staff Writer

- 1794 – Eli Whitney patented the cotton gin
- 1804 – Johann Strauss Sr., Austrian composer born
- 1879 – Albert Einstein, German American physicist born
- 1983 – Miss Kahmeyer decided to come back and teach at Pratt High.
- 1985 – PHS Cheerleaders host the first "Little Greenback Clinic."
- 1999 – Band is off to Florida with 132 band members

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Recommended Reading

Ana Whitson
Staff Writer

How Green Was My Valley by: Richard Llewellyn

When I was first starting this book I was a bit surprised at how fast it was going. It isn't a very big book, but it's a bit wordy. The story begins when Huw Morgan is an old man, talking of how his childhood was, and how he was sad that he had to leave the home that he had lived in for the better part of his life. Huw is a part of a middle class Welsh family, who survives by the coal mine upon which practically every man works at in their village. The church is a big part of their lives, and they attend Chapel every Sunday. But, their lives aren't without hardships. The start of a revolution is in site, and is threatening the lives of the Morgan family, and the families of the surrounding valleys. Llewellyn writes a tale of a boy who is growing up in a loving environment, but is brought down by the constant change of life.



The Key to the Golden Firebird by: Maureen Johnson

After Mayze's dad dies, the family is left in ruins. Her older sister, Brooks, has started drinking heavily, her younger sister, Palmer, is dragged down by the stress of being the only freshman on the varsity softball team. To top that off, their mother pretends everything is alright, and is never home. It seems the only thing that keeps them together is their memory of their dad. His golden Firebird is their only link to him. They took it to see a baseball game, one of their dad's loves, and made a scene in the middle of it all. This is one of the top 20 books to read because it shows the grief that comes along with losing a loved one, but also the love that keeps them together.

EDITORIAL:

When analyzation goes too far

Joe Schmisser
Head Staff Writer

We've all had it happen. We have to read a short story for class, put it off, and quickly glance over it in the five minutes before class, and think that it is not that bad, or maybe, by some odd twist of chance, you actually read the story like you were supposed to and you really like it. However, once you get into class your teacher ruins the entire experience by asking "What does the author mean by this?" With those seven words a good story is destroyed, and all that remains is a smoking crater of literature. The story that you loved is gone, replaced with vague attempts to find hidden meanings and symbolism.

Nothing annoys me more than this. Not every story has to have a deep hidden meaning. Not every word is a statement on human existence. Sometimes stories are just stories. When you try and find the hidden meaning behind all literature then the phrase "Go, dog, go," could be taken as much more than telling a dog to move. This sentence could be taken as a comment on human existence. See, mankind is the dog, and the line is telling humanity to break free from the social bonds that are placed on us and asking us to unleash our creativity upon the world. It *could* mean that, but it really is only telling a dog to go.

If we learn to over-analyze these stories to try and find hidden meanings that may or may not exist in stories we may begin to over analyze real life. Instead of trusting people we might try and find the hidden meanings of everything they say. This is not the Cold War; we don't have to worry about political intrigue in everyday life. Now, I understand trying to find hidden meanings in terrible stories, as these stories need some redeeming factor. But when it comes to good stories, we should just appreciate the story.

“MIRROR MIRROR on the wall...”

What is your dream Spring Break getaway?

Jenna Gatz
Ad Manager



“AKE to my left, McGweezy to my right, a case of Pepsi, bubbles and a hot tub, what could be better?”



“Disney World, where all my dreams come true...and after I get back, hang out with Gillig’s mom.”

-Chase McCormick, so.



“To be out on an all-expense-paid golf course in California or Las Vegas for a week of uninterrupted bliss and a golf cart that goes more than 2 miles per hour.”

- Ms. Conn, faculty



“Definitely the 28 hour bus ride to Florida.”

-Lexi Trimpe, jr.



“I would spend my time in the Bahamas and go shopping at the Mall of America.”

- Sarah Mason, fr.

Featured Website

www.musiccovery.com

Emily McIntosh
Editor-In-Chief

I’m a firm believer that music exists to fit almost every mood or situation people might find themselves in. With the help of musiccovery.com, this music can be accessed exactly when needed. Musiccovery, an interactive web radio site, allows users to choose from a variety of genres, including pop, rock, rap, electro, reggae, metal, blues, and many others. Musiccovery lets you choose a mood, from a range of calm, energetic, dark, and positive music, and the website creates a playlist based on your settings. You can also choose a decade for music, or take a mix of the ‘50s through today. This radio station includes a “Lo-Fi” setting, which makes it perfect for interruption-free listening on our Pratt High Server. Musiccovery.com provides a great way to discover new artists and find that perfect song to complete your day.

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Fax: 620-672-9574
Cell: 620-770-0005
kcgates@prattwell.com



Neil Goss
Photography Editor

Hello 8* Ball, did you go anywhere for Spring Break?

Yeah, Florida...I went to the closet Neil, are you kidding me?

Sorry man. New sports seasons are starting, are their futures looking bright?

Yes, some defined beams are definitely shining through.

Solid. Will there be any state qualifiers?

Yes, at least three.

Eric and Joe's

HORRORSCOPES

Joe Schmisser and Eric Kocher
Head Staff Writer and Staff Photographer

Aquarius - If Laurence Fishburne asks you if you want the red or the blue pill, take the blue pill.

Pisces - If by some random chance you obtain a lightsaber today, try and avoid men in white armor.

Aries - If you find a simple golden ring with markings that only become visible in fire do NOT pick it up!

Taurus - Today you will wake up on a large boat going to New York with both Leonardo DiCaprio and Kate Winslet as passengers. We suggest you go back to sleep.

Gemini - 42.

Cancer - If you see a large man in black armor who breathes heavily and mentions being your father we suggest that you go the other direction.

Leo - If your computer asks, "Do you want to play a game?" turn it off.



Virgo - Today you will be changed into a llama.

Libra - Today, Mr. Lee will install a new program on your computer named HAL that will allow it to help you get your homework done faster. However, your computer decides that it can do its job much more effectively without you and will try to kill you off.

Scorpio - Today you will invest all of your money into one of the most expensive movies ever made that takes place on water. It will quickly flop and you will be forced to live under a bridge.

Sagittarius - Today, if you wake up in tights with an S on your chest, enjoy yourself.

Capricorn - Today, while driving around in your new DeLorean, you will be sent back 65 million years. The discovery of your skeleton during the late two thousands will lead to a complete change in Kansas science standards. (Beware the Libyans!)

NeNe & CoCo's NEVERENDING ADVENTURES



THE ADVENTURE CONTINUES ON THE NEXT PAGE!



Starring: Neil Goss and Courtney Witten, with
photography help by Meghan Connelly

After acquiring the necessary attacking skills from the mysterious Indians, Ne Ne and Co Co head to Nemesissy's lair. Once they enter the gates to the scary hysteria, NeCo come to realize that in order to get to Nemesissy, a ridiculously extravagant obstacle course must be passed. NeCo ascend the tree to find the needed key, the key to unlock the course.



Ne Ne and Co Co gained a new confidence in finding the key. The key led them to a ten-foot wall, smooth and slick as snot. What was on the other side didn't matter. They just knew they were on the right track. After fighting for three-and-a-half hours climbing the wall, NeCo made it to other side.



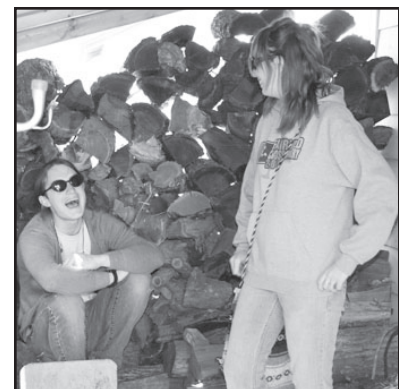
Waiting on the other side was a quarter pipe dropping into a desolate field. Co Co began to walk across the quarter pipe. As soon as the rubber soles of her thong sandals touched the ground, they melted. Ne Ne grabbed Co Co and got back on top of the pipe. Co Co pulled out the key. She saw a keyhole on the ground and unlocked it. Two skateboards appeared before Ne Ne and Co Co. Only urethane can make it across the ramp's surface. NeCo dropped in and shredded to the barren field.



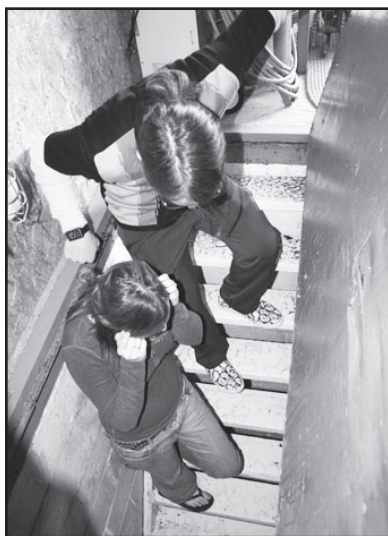
Reaching the dry, intimidating field, Ne Ne and Co Co think it appears too easy. They begin to crawl across the ground to the lush green grass. Ten feet have been passed when all of a sudden; smoke starts billowing out of the ground. A minefield! But no ordinary minefield; a tear gas/laughing gas minefield. Covering as they crawl, NeCo made it to the other side bawling and laughing hysterically.



A large watchtower stands as the last obstacle for Ne Ne and Co Co. The guard is asleep and this elates NeCo. Ne Ne climbs on top of the tower and lends Co Co a hand. This is only possible because of the outstanding bond and trust between these two dynamic cohorts.



After completing the obstacle course, Ne Ne and Co Co take a break and relax on Nemesis's hidden log pile. They take some time out to re-discuss their strategy, laugh, talk, and have a good time for possibly the last time.



The entrance to Nemesis's layer was surprisingly simple. NeCo lifted the large rectangular door allowing their presence into the cellar. Staring down the 80-foot stairwell, Ne Ne and Co Co begin to think about what they are about to get themselves into, nothing but pure adrenaline pumps through their veins.

NEXT ISSUE:

NE NE AND CO CO WILL BE IN AND FACE-TO-FACE WITH THEIR ADVERSARY, NEMESSY. NEMESSY WILL BE KNOWN AND SEEN. YOU WILL HAVE TO READ NEXT ISSUE TO SEE THE OUTCOME OF THE FIRST ENCOUNTER WITH NEMESSY.



After deciding and contemplating for 3 minutes and 47 seconds, NeCo decides to open the door separating the two enemies, Nemesis and NeCo. Co Co reaches for the doorknob.....the dramatic suspense kills them both.....



Andrew Taylor
Emily McIntosh

Editors-in-Chief

Ian Howard
Jenna Gatz
Neil Goss

Copy Editor
Ad Manager
Photography Editor

Joe Schmisser
Meghan Connelly

Head Staff Writers

Staff Writers:
Courtney Witten
Katie Walters

Ana Whitson
Audrey Kisner

Staff Photographer: Eric Kocher

Adviser

Larry Kahmeyer

BRUNGARDT'S



309 S. Main
Pratt, KS 67124
(620) 672-2371



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April 4, 2007

Winter sports wrap up seasons

Wrestling:

Eric Kocher
Staff Photographer

After four long months of grueling physical labor, intense mental preparation, and putting up with Coach Kocher's cruel-yet-comical attitude, the Pratt High wrestling team's effort paid off.

PHS took 13 athletes to the Regional competition, which was held at Pratt Community College. And of those 13 students, 10 qualified for the State tournament the following Friday and Saturday. Jonny Prater, jr. and Asher Riner, sr. both reached the finals.

The following Thursday the wrestlers departed for Salina and the long-awaited state championships. Pratt showed that just because someone was higher up in the state rankings or had a better record did NOT mean they would automatically win. Caleb Campbell, sr. was the best example of this. He lost to both Goodland's Bob Doxon and Colby's Taylor Brown at Regionals, but fought to a 6th place finish. Neither Doxon or Brown placed.

Prater also had an outstanding tournament, moving to the quarterfinals before falling to Kyle Hudgins of Spring Hill. Jon fought back through the consolation bracket to the consolation semifinals before taking another loss to Thoman of Andale. He then proceeded to win his next match to come home with an impressive 5th place finish.

In an almost metaphoric turn of events, Asher Riner

fought his way through the 171 lb. bracket, defeating the #1 ranked wrestler, Will Irvine of Chapman, in the semifinals to earn the honor of wrestling Clay Center's Ben Davis on Saturday night for the individual championship.

"It was awesome" says Riner, "All the hard work finally paid off."

At the end of regulation, the score was tied 1-1. After a scoreless first overtime, Asher chose the bottom position. He quickly escaped, giving him a one-point advantage, 2-1. Davis chose bottom in the second half of the overtime period. It seemed as if Davis was going to escape early, but Riner managed to take the struggle out of bounds. Riner then rode Davis for the remainder of the 30 second period to win the state title.

"I knew the kids would do well, but I didn't expect them to wrestle like they did. It was easily their best tournament this year" says Coach Bruce Kocher. Pratt finished 13th as a team with 49 points.

Boys Basketball:

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

It was learning season for the Pratt High Boy's Basketball team, as the team failed to put a W in the win column. That doesn't mean experienced wasn't gained for the upcoming season. Only three seniors went out for basketball this year, with the rest of the team made up of underclassmen. Although the boys lost every game,

they still had to play very competitive teams.. Scott City, TMP, Wichita Collegiate, and the small but always strong St. John and Macksville were all opponents the boys had to face this season. Andrew Dinkel, sr., led the team this year, as both a leader and a scorer. Clayton Suiter, Aaron Landry, srs., Jeff Lynch, jr., Jake Garrett, Bryce Krehbiel, Stuart Sullivan and Chris Nicholoso, so., were also great help throughout season. Youth prevailed this season, as the underclassmen were given tons of playing time by Coach McMillen, which will be a factor that should make the boys better next year. With that being said, the boys will be ready to return next year and have hopefully put this season behind them.

Girls Basketball:

Ian Howard
Copy Editor

Girls basketball had a down year, only picking up one win during the long season. However, there were only four seniors on the team, with the rest being made up of underclassmen with little or no varsity experience. The girls never gave up in the fight, playing till the end in every single game. Throughout the TOC, the girls played close in every game, and could have placed in the top three. In the end, the season was a learning experience. Hopefully next year, Coach Henry and the Greenbacks will return with more maturity, and have a much more successful year.

Inexperienced team hits the court

Emily McIntosh
Editor-In-Chief



Despite a large number of new team members, the Pratt High boys tennis team has high hopes for this year's season. With Travis Ward and Andrew Taylor as the only returning seniors, the team lacks experience. Spirits are high, however, as they look forward to their first meets. Varsity's first home meet was cancelled, but the team headed to Smoky Valley on April 3.

Returning players are Ray Williams, jr., Greg Jones, soph., Willie Rempe, so., and Logan Barker, so. New recruits include Sam Morrison, sr., Bo Borst, jr., Brent Bergner, so., Josh Rennaker, soph., and freshmen Jake Whitson and Brendon Whited.

"It's gonna be a good year, as long as Greg doesn't screw up." said Ward.

The team often shares this lighthearted banter, but they remain focused as the first meets draw closer.

Brent Bergner, so., rushes the net to volley the ball back over. (Photo by: Courtney Witten)

Swinging for the greens

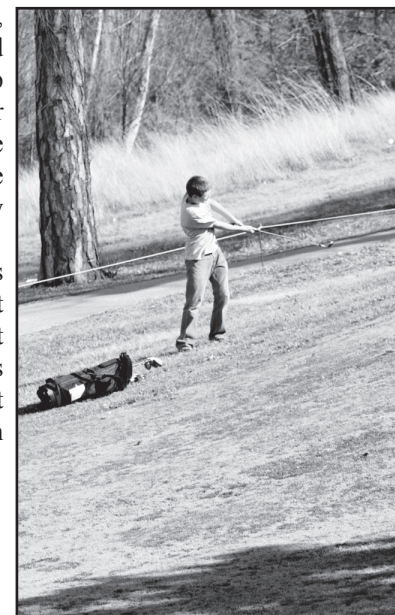


Eric Kocher
Staff Photographer

Spring is here, and with spring comes PHS spring sports. The golfers took to the course for the first time two weeks ago, and spirits were high. With two returning state qualifiers (Ben Eastes, sr., and Tyler Gatz, jr.), an impressive projected varsity lineup, and the help of head coach Andy Kisner and assistant coach Steve Landry, the Greenbacks are looking to win the majority of this year's tournaments.

The varsity team kicks off their season today at Chaparral. With a pleasant mix of experienced players and newcomers, the Pratt High golf team has high hopes for the season.

Corey Barnard takes a swing on the fair way. (photo by: Neil Goss)



April 4, 2007

Tracksters hoping depth provides boost

Ana Whitson
Staff Writer

Run hard! Jump far! Throw that discus! The season for track has begun. Practice began on Monday, March 5th. Everyone is enthusiastic about the fresh faces on the team. The first week of practice always leaves tracksters with sore muscles and droopy evenings, but despite that, the turnout for the first day was surprisingly large. With returning veterans and new freshmen, the season's outlook is great.

"We have a pretty good-sized team, and a lot of new faces. If everyone works hard we should be able to bring in some points, and accomplish a lot as a team," said Arielle Stevens, sr.

With the guidance from the coaches, the team will learn proper running, throwing, and jumping techniques to lead the Greenbacks to a bright future of victories and team titles.

"We have a lot of depth this year, and if everyone stays healthy, we should have a strong year," said senior Logan Shoup. The Greenbacks had their first meet on Monday.



UPCOMING ATHLETICS

April 5

J.V. Tennis @ Kingman, 3 p.m.

J.V./Varsity Softball & Baseball vs. Ulysses Here, 4 p.m.

Varsity Track @ Chaparral, 3:30 p.m.
Varsity Tennis, Here, 3 p.m.

April 9

J.V. Tennis @ Conway Springs, 3 p.m.

Varsity Golf @ Hutch-Highlands, 9 a.m.

Andrew Dinkel, sr., eyes his landing spot as he leaps to clear the bar. (Photo by: Neil Goss)

Baseball and Softball: Ready to swing on the diamonds

Baseball:

Elisabeth Short
Staff Writer

The grass on the outfield is green, and it's ready for the baseball team to gain some victories. The team consists of 20 members: eight freshmen, nine sophomores, and three seniors. Only two starters from the previous year are returning. Ryan Jones, sr., said, "We're gonna be young, we got speed on the team, that's gonna be good."

Their first game is at Nickerson, the Tuesday after Spring Break.

Coach Mike Jackson said, "What we lack in varsity experience, we hope to make up in desire."

Good coaches, hard work, and talented players; looks like a good year is in store for Pratt.

Freshman Brad Richardson walks around the field during a recent practice. (photo by: Elisabeth Short)

Softball:

Elisabeth Short
Staff Writer

Spring is here, and everyone can feel the slight breeze, the warm afternoons...OK, so this is Kansas and even though the "slight breezes" are huge gusts of wind and the "warm afternoons" happen only once a week, the softball team is in full swing.

The girls have been practicing hard for the season.

Kim Albright, sr., said, "With only four seniors returning, it will be an interesting year with all the freshmen we have moving up."

Half the team is made up of freshman, with four sophomores, one junior, and four seniors.

The girls are working hard, and can't wait for the first game.

Junior Heather Goertz takes a practice swing. (photo by: Elisabeth Short)

