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Snow storm hammers Pittsburgh
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Pittsburgh Pirates look to lose ending
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The St. Clairion

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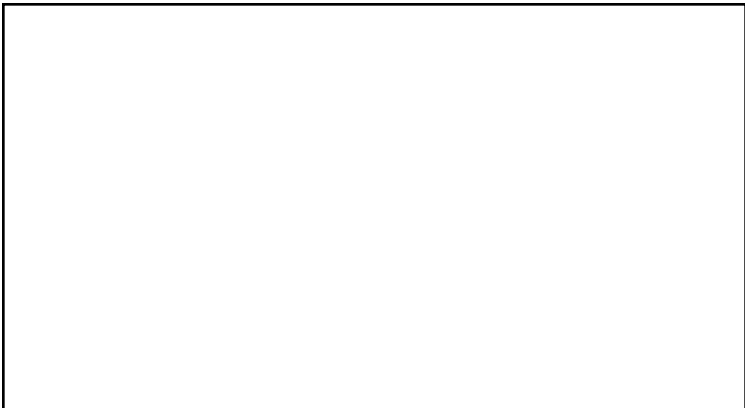
All the news that fits...And then some!

The Pennsylvania gubernatorial candidate field strengthens

By: Vijay Viswanathan
Features Editor

Since Ed Rendell took office almost eight years ago, the governor’s position in Harrisburg has faded away from the interests of Western Pennsylvanian stu-

numbers, with 19% of all voters supporting him (www.rasmussenreports.com). This strong figure has not only showed his real potential for statewide governor, but it also has set him apart as a clear Democratic leader. On the conservative side,



Governor Canidate Dan Onorato. Photo Courtesy of Flickr.

dents. His reforms, once held as visionary, have now become mundane to some students. While he did really help Pennsylvania by reducing taxes while still generating government revenue, it feels like high time for a new man in Harrisburg. As the elections in November of 2010 approach, it is clear that the race is narrowing.

The governor elections have faded away from students’ eyes this time around. For example, Sophomore Andy Tomiczek said that “[he knew] very little about it.” However, many of the candidates are quite familiar of Pittsburghers. Dan Onorato, the Chief Executive to Allegheny County, is one of the frontrunners for the position. He became famous with his 2007 alcohol tax, which was met by protests from Pittsburgh bartenders and restaurateurs.

His name became shrouded in relative infamy after a referendum in the general election reversed his legislation. However, being a household name is making him a clear contender in the election. According to Rasmussen Reports, he has received the majority of poll

strong candidates are also present. For example, incumbent Attorney General Tom Corbett is making a strong case for the position after officially placing himself in the running this past September (www.post-gazette.com). Former Senator Rick Santorum is also a potential candidates, but many more possible candidates could capitalize on the fact that now the popularity rift between Democrats and Republicans is settling. Sophomore Poorwa Godbole commented, “Although I want the Democrats to win, the trend in Pennsylvania could give Republicans the lead.”

Then, there are the politicians who don’t stand much of a substantial chance. Former Steeler great Lynn Swan may run again after a crushing defeat to Ed Rendell in 2006. A truck drive from McKeesport named Richard Gordon is trying to establish himself as the grass roots independent leader (www.pa2010.com). Jay Russel, another long shot candidate, is what is known as a perennial candidate. This phrase means that he runs with little or no success at every possible election.

President Obama commits more funds to nuclear energy

By: Vinay Viswanathan
Senior Issue Editor

On the last week of February, President Obama announced that he would increase loan guarantees for nuclear power from \$18.5 U.S. dollars to \$54.5 dollars. In previous years, nuclear energy was synonymous with the enemies of the United States. President Barack Obama is now listening to scientists who are calling for increased nuclear infrastructure.

The rise in nuclear energy has taken its center in academia. Since the invention of nuclear fission, high profile universities in the United States such as the University of Chicago and Columbia University, as well as European universities like the German University of Marburg and the Danish University of Copenhagen, have perfected nuclear fission. Various gov-

ernments such as those of the Japanese, German, British, and American soon followed in lieu to develop technology, a phenomenon which increased during the Cold War, cooled down in the late 1980’s, and resumed in the 1990’s.

Junior science master Matthew Vernacchia commented that “While nuclear power plants would take at least 3 years from now to be built with new money, this could still have a positive impact, but I think that money should be given to nuclear fusion research, which would take at least 50 years (smiles), but it would still be good.” Both current technologies and future technologies can be refined to give a good energy infrastructure in the present and the future.

Many skeptics think that nuclear energy might not be the best solution. Junior chemistry enthusiast Kate Groschner

admitted that “nuclear energy is a good temporary solution, but won’t be a good long-term solution.” Some cite the large costs of nuclear power plants as their largest detractor, but their fees are “about a third of those for a coal-fired plant and between a quarter and a fifth of those for a gas combined-cycle plant.” (www.world-nuclear.org).

Fusion, which is the collision of atoms to form energy, is perhaps the best prospect for a green revolution in the energy sector. Fusion, as of now, has only happen for a split-second in European laboratories, but its strengths are remarkable. “Waste from nuclear fusion is only radioactive for 50–70 years, compared to the thousands of years of radioactivity that result from fission.” (www.firstscience.com). All in all, nuclear energy, with the new funding, has a handsome future.

Delayed Sadie Hawkins Dance proves to be a hit

By: Meghan Taylor
Front-Page Editor

The Sadie Hawkins Dance occurred after much anticipation on Saturday night, March 20, 2010 in the Upper St. Clair High School Gym. Despite the delay, the dance was a great night that students will remember throughout their high school career.

The dance was originally scheduled for Saturday, February 6, but was cancelled as a result of the February snow storm. The snow caused a major inconvenience to the

dance-goers started with pictures and dinner. Because of the nice weather, some groups were able to go to their favorite ice cream



Entry Way to the Sadies Hawkins Dance. Photo Courtesy of Tori Bishop.

dance-goers, as girls had to reschedule hair appointments and dinner reservations had to be changed. The decorations had to be taken down and saved for the rescheduled date. Once the dance occurred, though, the students who attended had a great time.

The typical night for most

place for dessert if time allowed. Dinner allowed groups to bond and have a nice time before the dance.

Once at the dance, students were immersed in a whole different view of their school. The theme of the dance was night on the Nile, which transformed the

Upper St. Clair High School into an Egyptian river. Decorations were placed about the theater lobby and the walkway to the gym.

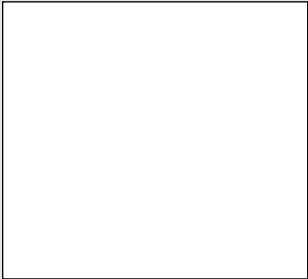
The most popular attraction of the night was the gym where the DJ was set up. The music was generally popular and modern-day which enhanced the dance goers’ night.

Tori Bishop a junior at Upper St. Clair High School thought that “the dance was really fun. They could have played more popular music and maybe some slower songs, but overall it was a great night.”

Maggie Betschart, a junior at Upper St. Clair High School, said of the dance, “The dance was really fun. Every event of the night was entertaining and the songs and being with friends made it one of the best.”

Panther
Predilections

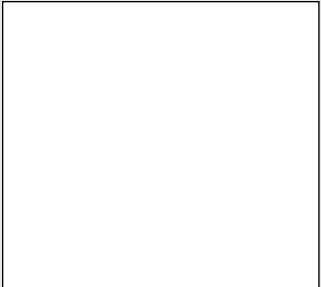
What song describes
your life?



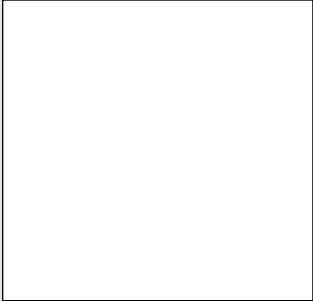
“Imma be”
– Caroline Wilson
Freshman



“Azo tle nelli in
Tlalticpac”
– Troy Schoeppner
Sophomore



“Blackbird”
– Grace Rubright
Junior



“I love you”
– Pete Subosits
Senior

By: Greg Schlosser and
Devin Ellis

Desk of the Editor

The United States and Israel may
have to reconsider their relationship

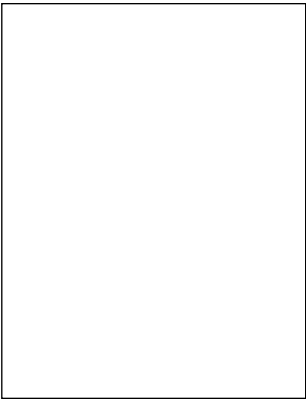
By: Marni Schreiber
Editor in Chief

On March 10, 2010, the United States received a diplomatic slap in the face by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Netanyahu irresponsibly and rudely announced that 1,600 more developments would be built in East Jerusalem on the day Vice President Joe Biden was visiting the country.

Most people expected a strained relationship with Israel once Obama took office last year. Over the past years, Israel has consistently moved more to the right, which matched the right wing politics of the Bush Administration. Once more leftist Obama took office, however, it seemed that the friendship between the two countries would be strained.

Even so, after Obama’s Cairo speech earlier this year, Netanyahu responded that he would be willing to re-discuss a peace agreement regarding the much-disputed East Jerusalem and Gaza Strip.

The West Bank of Israel has been a source of contention for many years. The death toll in the Gaza Strip alone has



Editor-in-Chief Marni
Schreiber

reached to over 1,000 Palestinian deaths yet under 30 Israeli deaths (www.bbc.co.uk).

The source of the conflict lies with the Palestinians and the Jews. The most obvious option for peace lies in a two-state solution, a separate Palestine and Israel.

Unfortunately, neither side is very willing to take the steps to make peace. On no account can Israel be entirely

to blame, the Palestinians have constantly threatened Israeli safety with bombs and terroristic activities. Despite this, Israel still has a responsibility to push for peace.

Netanyahu, as the most influential political figure in Israel, needs to stay true to the peace agreements he agreed to back in November. In these agreements, Netanyahu promises a ten month freeze on the building in the West Bank and the prospect of a two-state solution.

Israeli advocate for two states Shimon Peres commented earlier in the year that “Calling for a two-state solution was an ideological breakthrough [...] [Netanyahu] wants to be the man that makes the peace. He is not sure about the cost of it. He wouldn’t like to find himself in a situation where he makes peace and discovers in the morning that he doesn’t have a majority for it” (www.nytimes.com).

It seems, however, that Netanyahu would rather

please his right wing conservative party than form a peace that will save the lives of Palestinians and Israelis alike.

By announcing that Israel would continue building, Netanyahu broke a trust he was beginning to develop with the Palestinians and the Americans. A Palestinian spokesman comments “With such an announcement, how can you build trust? This is destroying our efforts [...] It’s a really disastrous situation. I hope that this will be an eye-opener for all in the international community about the need to have the Israeli government stop such futile exercises” (www.cbsnews.com).

If Israel continues to act irresponsibly, the United States cannot constantly pledge to help the peace proceedings in Israel. While the United States does have a responsibility to help Israel, as the country that chose to place Israel in such a high-tension Arab-dominated Middle East, the U.S. cannot accept Netanyahu’s actions.

A critique of the fortune cookie: a lost art

By: Devin Ellis
Humor and Lifestyle Editor

The orange chicken that occasionally appears in the high school lunches is admittedly good, even if it is just popcorn chicken covered in some weird orange sauce. The cafeteria workers do their best to make the dish look as authentic as possible, including adding rice and a fortune cookie. This recent influx of fortune cookies has shown many students at our school that fortune cookies are no longer what they used to be. Now it seems that fortune cookies have gone from containing interesting views of what might happen to the recipient in the future to containing vague, clichéd opinions about life. This change begs the question: what has happened to the fortune cookie?

One might think it is possible that these disappointing “fortunes” are simply exclusive to the “Golden Bowl” fortune

cookies served in the school lunches here at USCHS, but this is not the case. A quick trip to one of the many surrounding American-Chinese style restaurants illustrates that the fortunes in fortune cookies nearly everywhere have become mindless and deprived of actual substance.

Junior Yudi Chen expressed his opinions on the little orange cookies: “The fortunes in fortune cookies aren’t even fortunes anymore! They’ve become more like useless advice.”

A recent “fortune” found in a school lunch is: “Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change” (oh wow, that’s so deep! If only it made the slightest bit of sense.) Another “fortune” that accompanied orange chicken in the school cafeteria was: “Only if you dive for pearls shall you find one” (only if I write this article will this article be written by me). A message to fortune cookie mak-

ers (because clearly fortune cookie makers make up a portion of the St. Clairion readers): just because you accompany some emotional nonsense with a Chinese translation of wildebeest and lucky numbers on a slip of paper inside a folded cookie does NOT make the finished product a fortune cookie. After all a FORTUNE cookie, without an actual fortune is pointless.

Junior Kate Groshner said about fortune cookies: “I don’t even eat the cookie, because for me the cookie is the tasteless transporter of the fortune. The fortune is the best part of the cookie, and without a good fortune, the fortune cookie becomes unnecessary and stupid.” Kate is not alone, many people can be seen in Chinese restaurants discarding the cookie itself and just reading the fortune.

It does not even have to be a good fortune; just any actual fortune will suffice. I still

remember one fortune I received while in a Chinese restaurant with my family: “Lock your doors, someone comes to your house tonight.” Scary? Yes. Absurd? Clearly. However, it was a fortune, and I still remember reading it to this day.

The human mind is a weak device, and it needs to be constantly uplifted and reassured. People love reading good fortunes in fortune cookies and knowing (well, thinking) what to expect in life, it’s simply human nature. Since their invention in 13th century China, when these “moon cakes” made of lotus paste were used secret messages to raise the Ming Dynasty to power (chinese-fortune-cookie.com), the fortune cookie has been lifting and pacifying human spirits. Just imagine the vast quantities of human spirits crushed with the lukewarm, half-baked, so-called fortunes that cookie companies are churning out by the millions.

The St. Clairion
Upper St. Clair, PA

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The St. Clairion staff is made
up of students who are commit-

ted to producing a newspaper for their fellow students that provides entertainment, self-expression, and relevant information in a fair, honest, thorough, and respectful manner.

The newspaper is financed by the sale of advertisement space to local businesses. Advertising rates will be sent to any business upon request.

The St. Clairion is a forum for student expression.

Opinions expressed in by-lined articles are those of the authors, not necessarily the entire St. Clairion staff.

Letters to the editor are encouraged. All letters should be signed and submitted to The St. Clairion mailbox in the main office. Obscene, libelous, or otherwise inappropriate letters will not be printed.

St. Clairion Editorial

The media’s bias will be its downfall

When the first newspaper was published in 1612, the media had just one goal: to spread the news. Nowadays, the news has become more of a recitation of opinions, with politically biased networks like Fox News, CNN, Mother Jones, and even America’s widest-circulating newspaper: the Wall Street Journal taking advantage of the freedom of the press. The media is changing from the spreading of fact to the spreading of opinion.

Amateur political pundit, former American Civics teacher, and current Social Studies substitute teacher Ben Edwards, said that “It is unfortunate that ‘infotainment’ has replaced news and has been accepted as fact on both political spectrums.” Mr. Edwards also commented that both the left-wing Keith Olberman of CNN and the right-wing Sean Hannity of Fox News often invent information to push their political views. For example, Sean Hannity applauded and praised a viewer for saying that English should be the official language because ‘Jesus spoke English’ (www.questia.com). This is fallacious because, first of all, Jesus Christ spoke Hebrew and a bit of Greek, not English, and second because not every citizen of the United States is Christian.

Many critics claim that the media is pushing bias for attention. Sophomore Suraj Sundar asserted authoritatively that “the media is just trying to get viewers, so they try to put sen-

sational news.” The media is, after all, for profit. According to the late Walter Cronkite in 2007, “Pressures by media companies to generate ever-greater profits are threatening the very freedom the nation was built upon,” (www.cbsnews.com).

Additionally, the media has groundings in power and public engagement. Many people say that the media has become too powerful because it can control politics unlike any other force in America. Two examples of the power of media are H1N1 and the Tiger Woods controversy in January. With H1N1, the media spread mass hysteria about the influenza even though it was less harmful than the common influenza. While with Tiger Woods the press exposed many new lovers of Tiger Woods, many of whom did not actually have affairs with Woods. Junior Evan Pye defended the media by saying that “I think everyone is the media, and therefore the media is not too powerful.” While Pye is right by saying that many modern journalists, such as bloggers, are unbiased, large news networks are usually skewed to the political poles.

Sophomore Benjamin Reicher said that “Fox News is filled with fallacies, and yet over 50% of Americans watch it.” Reicher brings up a great point: the American populous loves sensational news that raises eyebrows and television ratings. The news is no longer informational. It’s now more or less a reality show.

Mario Lemieux and the Pirates: a match made in hockey heaven?

By: Nick Buzzelli
Opinions Editor

Whenever you mention the name Mario Lemieux to a hockey fan, one thing comes to mind: the greatest National Hockey League player of all-time. Lemieux was a vital part of the Penguins’ back-to-back Stanley Cup championships in the early 1990’s and he later saved the team from bankruptcy at a time when the Penguins threatened to leave Pittsburgh.

Lemieux has an impressive résumé not only as a player, but also as an NHL owner. It seems he would then be the perfect match to buy the struggling Pittsburgh Pirates and turn them into a perennial winner.

Lemieux first purchased the Penguins in 1999 at a time when it seemed like the team would either move to another city or fold altogether (www.postgazette.com). Seven years later, Lemieux worked his magic once again, striking a deal that would guarantee the Penguins stay in Pittsburgh for the next thirty years and receive a new arena ready for the 2010-2011 season (www.pittsburghpenguins.com). For the past seventeen seasons, the Pirates have finished at the bottom of the NL Central standings, and it doesn’t appear they will make the leap to first place any time soon.

One of the main reasons the Buccos consistently have losing season after losing season is the lack of a talented management team.

Let’s not forget that it was Lemieux who brought Ray Shero to Pittsburgh in 2006. Three seasons later, Shero architected the Pens’ third Stanley Cup title (www.espn.go.com).

If Mario Lemieux and Ron Burkle were to buy the struggling Pirates, the Buccos’ front office would be overhauled and hopefully Pittsburgh would be able to field a winning team in the near future.

“I believe it would be a good deal for both sides if Lemieux and Pens’ co-owner Ron Burkle purchased the team from owner Bob Nutting,” said junior Tyler Zinc. “Hopefully if that did happen, Mario would hire a new management staff and help put an end to the shame of having losing season after losing season every year since 1992.”

It doesn’t appear that Mario Lemieux will be the sole owner of two of the three professional sports teams in Pittsburgh because Pirates’ owner Bob Nutting rejected the offer made by the hockey legend.

Pittsburgh would be a better baseball city if Lemieux owned the Pirates. Do the city a favor, Nutting, and sell the team to a loyal and successful owner, who just so happens to be a member of the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Panther Predilections

What song describes your life?

“Party in the U.S.A”
– Rob Moore
Freshman

“Walking on sunshine”
– Alexa Gross
Sophomore

“Love is a battlefield”
– Steve Rosso
Junior

“Skydives”
- Amy Anderson
Senior

By: Greg Schlosser and Devin Ellis

Anti-Abortion Violence: How is that pro-life?

By: Devin Ellis
Humor and Lifestyle Editor

After about six months of the long and drawn out process that the US legal system uses, Scott Roeder, the man accused of killing abortion doctor George R. Tiller was sentenced to life in a recent court decision by Roeder’s peers (www.nytimes.com). During the trial, Roeder admitted to murdering Tiller on May 31, 2009 while he was in Church on a Sunday afternoon.

The court case was soon transformed by the media as instead of deciding whether Roeder was guilty to whether the murder of Tiller was justifiable because of his Tiller’s profession.

Tiller, who was shot in cold blood by Scott Roeder at 10 am on May 31, 2009 while Tiller was attending Reformation Lutheran Church (www.cnn.com). Tiller, who was 67, was shot in both arms in

a similar attempt in 1993 and he survived, but was not so lucky this time (www.nytimes.com). Tiller’s wife, four children, and ten grandchildren released this statement following the murder: “Today we mourn the loss of our husband, father and grandfather. Today’s event is an unspeakable tragedy for all of us and for George’s friends and patients. [...] George dedicated his life to providing women with high-quality health care despite frequent threats and violence. We ask that he be remembered as a good husband, father and grandfather and a dedicated servant on behalf of the rights of women everywhere” (www.huffingtonpost.com).

However, the murder of Tiller divided media opinion and people with conservative and Christian based beliefs have not exactly expressed grief on the man they called “Killer” Tiller. Conservative analyst Brent Bozel complained that "Politics

dictated that they be outspoken on the murder of Dr. 'Killer' Tiller, but be silent on the murder" (www.foxnews.com). Others opposed to abortion have hailed the murder of Tiller citing Roeder’s and their own Christian beliefs and questioning Tiller’s morals.

Junior Bruce Franz said, “I think it’s stupid and ironic that someone was killed because the murderer thought that the victim was a murderer himself. It doesn’t make sense.” Bruce is right, how can someone justify stopping what he or she considers to be murder by murdering someone?

Tiller was a good family man, and (if it matters) an avid church attendee. Tiller was, after all, killed in his place of worship. If these Christian-conservative extremists cite Tiller’s profession as an acceptable reason for his death, can they honestly justify the murder of someone they consider to be a murderer? Does it not say in the

bible that God is the final decider of right and wrong? Plus, any suggestion that Tiller murdered babies is ridiculous. Being an abortion doctor was Tiller’s job (had he not done it, someone else would have), the women who wanted the abortions came to him for help.

Therefore it was the women that made the decisions to have the abortions. Furthermore, any violence against abortion clinic workers is blatantly un-American because, as Tiller’s family mentioned, Tiller and people that work in Tiller’s field all over America give women the right to choose whether they want children or not.

In the case of Tiller’s, or any such self-justified murder, the verdict should always be a straightforward guilty. While people have the right to free speech and the right to disagree, they did not have the right to take away Dr. George R. Tiller from his family, friends, and patients.

Sony Playstation 3 rocked by Y2K virus

By: Garrett Cimina
Entertainment Editor

As if Team USA’s heartbreaking overtime loss to Canada wasn’t enough to dampen the spirits of February’s last weekend, those who tried to cheer themselves up with a Playstation 3 gaming session found their game machine had fallen through the fabric of the space-time continuum. Dates on all PS3s worldwide reset to December 31, 1999, and the Playstation Network completely fell off the grid. Not only were Playstations unable to sign in to the network, but the lack of connection rendered many games completely unplayable. It seemed that Y2K was ten years late.

As gamers worldwide slowly became aware that something was seriously wrong, shock gave way to gaming withdrawal. “Well...this sucks,” said sophomore Josh Critelli.

Strangely, however, not every Playstation was affected. Only the older, “fat” models had their lights knocked out. The newer, “slim” models escaped the network failure, and were playable all through the terrible night of February 28th.

As dawn broke on March 1st, it became apparent that the Playstation Network failure was a bigger issue than a mere bug.

Over twelve hours since the crash, Sony Twittered that they had “narrowed down the issue” (news.cnet.com). However, even if a fix was found, there was a question as to how a patch could be delivered to the systems, as they were unable to connect to Sony’s update service. Sony was “still mum” as of press time as to the cause and solution to the problem, but Playstation users continue to be in an uproar on message boards across the internet (gamer-crave.com).

A day later, as Playstation 3 clocks rolled over to a new day, the Y2K symptoms abated, and gamers were able to resume their playing. Not all was returned to normal, however, as gamers who lost their trophies (badges of honor earned for completing specific tasks in games) found they were unable to retrieve them. Years of work went down the drain overnight.

In the aftermath of Playstation Network’s first major hiccup, Sony fans are praising the fast response of the company in fixing the issue. The more savvy observers noticed that Sony didn’t actually do anything. So while their game system continues to be praise-worthy, their critical response team might as well have stayed home. In fact, they probably did.

Missing California teen found dead in community park

By: Alaina Zemanick
News Editor

On March 2, authorities in San Diego, California, confirmed that the remains found in Rancho Bernardo Community Park were of missing teen Chelsea King. King, a 17-year-old high school senior, was found in the shallow grave near the trail where her car had been found (www.cnn.com).

King was last reportedly seen on February 25 at school and went missing later that day. Her car, with her cell phone inside, was found near a jogging trail located near Rancho Bernardo Park. Authorities suspect that King, an avid cross-country runner, was probably on a jog at the

time of her abduction (www.cnn.com).

“[I]t was so out of character for Chelsea not to tell us or call us and say I’m going to be late,” explained Brent King, Chelsea’s father, “[W]e just had that feeling” (www.huffingtonpost.com).

On March 1, one day before King’s body was found, police in the San Diego area arrested John Albert Gardner III, a registered sex offender, on the charges of suspicion of first degree murder and rape. Gardner had been previously indicted for committing lewd acts on a child under the age of fourteen (www.abcnews.com).

“It is a step in the right direction,” said San Diego County

Sheriff Bill Gore to “Good Morning America,” “We’re confident we have the right man in custody.”

Police have also stated Gardner might possibly be connected to additional crimes, the most extreme being the abduction of 14-year-old Amber DuBois. Dubois was declared missing on February 2009 when she was kidnapped on her way to school (www.abcnews.com).

In May 2000, Gardner plead guilty to molesting a 13-year-old girl. He lured her to his house to watch the Robin Williams film *Patch Adams*. He subsequently served five years in prison for his crime (www.huffingtonpost.com).

King was a straight-A student at Poway High School and a talented musician in the San Diego Youth Orchestra, playing the French horn. She also actively volunteered in her school’s peer counseling program (www.huffingtonpost.com).

Massive earthquake shakes Chile

By: Marni Schreiber
Editor in Chief

On February 27, 2010, Chile was hit with an 8.8 magnitude earthquake that left more than 2 million Chileans affected. The Chilean government, as well as the United Nations and other organizations, are frantically supplying aid and trying to maintain stability.

The damages to this earthquake are still being discovered, but more than 500,000 homes have been severely damaged, there is no electricity, major bridges and hospital have been knocked down (www.cbsnews.com).

The death toll is also rising. New estimates show that more than 700 people have been killed by the earthquake. The World Health Organization expects this number to rise once communication improves and that health services will prove to be a challenge (www.cbsnews.com).

In addition to physical damage, the economic repercussions of the earthquake will be tremendous; it is estimated that the earthquake did between \$15 billion and \$30 billion in economic damages to the country (www.cnn.com).

The United States, European countries, and the U.N. have already pledged their support to Chile. The U.N. has already given three million Euros in aid and President Obama, during a television address explained that the U.S. “stands ready to assist in the rescue and recovery efforts, and we have resources that are positioned to deploy should the Chilean government ask for our help” (AFP).

Even with all the damage done to Chile, the country is still proving strong. While there was severe destruction, Chile was more prepared for the natural disaster than Haiti, who experienced a 7.0 earthquake weeks earlier.

Chile’s earthquake was 500

times stronger than the quake which hit Haiti, yet fewer lives were lost and there [in Chile] was less damage to infrastructure.

This phenomenon is, in part ,because “the government there forces builders to adhere to rigorous codes, while Haiti’s incorrigible corruption and carelessness left such regulation all but nonexistent” (www.times.com).

During the U.N. conference scheduled March 31 in New York City, where leaders will determine how to best help Haiti rebuild, it is likely leaders will now place stricter regulations on the Haitian government.

This earthquake, while devastating, has placed an even greater emphasis on the abysmal state Haiti was in before the earthquake hit. Haiti, in return for the billions of dollars in aid, will hopefully build itself from the ground up, not only in terms of infrastructure, but also in terms of less corruption and stable government.

Disastrous landslide hits Uganda

By: Marni Schreiber
Editor in Chief

Over the past month, international seismic conditions have taken a turn for the worse, including massive earthquakes in Haiti and Chile.

The next of the natural disasters is the landslide in Uganda, which has left hundreds of people missing.

The landslide which hit Uganda at the beginning of March completely erased three villages in the Bududa district known as K u b e h w o , Namakansa and Nametsi located in Bukalasi sub-county in Uganda (www.allafrica.com).

While there is not a total death count as of yet, there have been at least 106 deaths reported, but there are more than 300 people missing and feared to be dead. The search for the lost has been difficult because of the continued rain and impossible road conditions (www.cnn.com).

The terrain of Uganda has also been an obstacle in giving aid and supplies to those affected by the landslide. Catherine Ntabadde, a spokeswoman for the Red Cross in Uganda explained that “[i]t’s impossible to take bulldozers and any heavy equipment to the site. The

earth is very delicate and heavy machinery may cause more landslides” (www.cnn.com).

Because of this terrain, rescuers, volunteers, the police, and the Ugandan military are forced to use shovels to dig their way through the

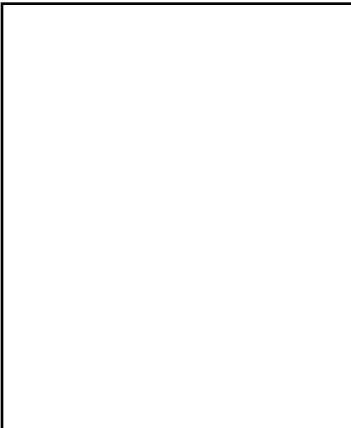
mud and musts walk at least six miles to the nearest camp to bring food and supplies to the people.

Of the victims, there were 100 students who desperately attempted to find shelter when they could not walk home because the River Wukha had already flooded. The students found shelter in a shop in

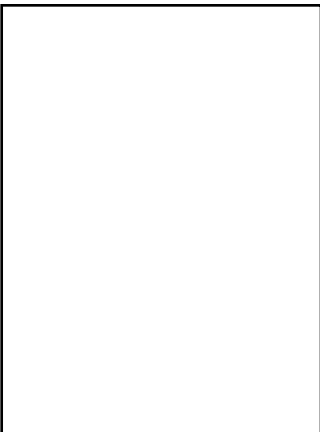
Nametsi but were buried when the landslide hit (www.allafrica.com).

The country is desperately trying to free the people who have been buried because of the landslide and, with help from the Red Cross, is trying to bring adequate supplies and food to those affected.

Jacob Zuma, the president of South Africa, was one of the first African presidents to respond to the natural disaster. Zuma expressed his sorry stating that ““I wish to extend, my dear brother, sincere condolences to the government of Uganda and to the families of the deceased. Our hearts and prayers are with the African brothers and sisters befallen by this disaster”” (www.news24.com).



An old Uganda man walks back to his village with Red Cross supplies after the landslide.
Photo courtesy of Flickr



A poster for Chelsea King in her hometown of San Diego.
Photo courtesy of Flickr

Toyota’s recalls cause drastic downfall in auto industry

By: Nick Buzzelli
Opinions Editor

Toyota, one of the leading auto manufacturing in the United States, has seen the ups and downs of the auto industry in the past year, but because of one incident that has put the company in the news recently. Over 2.3 million vehicles have been recalled and as a result consumers may no longer trust the Toyota name. (www.toyotarecall.org).

Toyota’s problems began in September, 2009 after owners complained of a sticking accelerator pedal. Because of the faulty pedal, which causes the engine to accelerate without the owners putting pressure on it, Toyota has had

trouble selling the 2010 models to consumers and as a result, they have ceased production in three of their U.S. plants.

When the recalls first started five months ago, the blame was put on floor mats that came standard in new Toyotas. After further investigation into the incident, company officials now believe that the cars on board computer system may be the problem (www.usatoday.com).

“Toyota was once a maker of respectable cars at an affordable price, but with all of the recalls they have had, I don’t know if they can climb back to the top of the auto industry,” sophomore Michael Polens said. “It will

take drastic change for Toyota to once again become a premier manufacturer.”

Since the recall was first issued on Toyota and Lexus branded cars, there have been over 17 crashes and five fatalities due to the sticking accelerator (www.msnbc.com). In one of these instances, a Lexus reached a top speed of 120 mph without the owner putting pressure on the pedal and the car crashed in San Diego.

Previously, Toyota has had a reputation of building safe, quality vehicles. Now, on the brink of sixth largest recall in U.S. history, Toyota’s reputation seems to have been diminished and it may take time before it can be restored to its former glory.

Snow blasts Pittsburgh

By: Meghan Taylor
Front-Page Editor

February marked the snowiest month of the year for Pittsburgh, actually the fourth snowiest winter in Pittsburgh history. The initial snow was the worst storm since the Blizzard of 1993 and the fourth worst storm ever in Western Pennsylvania records. When the snow began on February 5th, Pittsburghers everywhere prepared for the snow, stocking up on water and food for the estimated 10-12 inches that was estimated for the weekend. It was reported that snow shovels, salt, calcium chloride, and other snow clearing equipment were in short supply. The snow continued to fall over the weekend adding to the troubles of snow-covered roads, power outages, and falling trees. According to Trib Total Review, "Pennsylvania American Water warned customers not to use water because of low tank levels caused by the powerless pumps" (www.pitts-

burghlive.com). Because the snow continued to fall and cause problems for thousands of Pittsburgh residents, Mayor Luke Ravenstahl declared Pittsburgh to be in a state of emergency. Ravenstahl said of the recovery plans, "We'll have Humvees here hopefully sometime this evening. They'll be pairing up with paramedics to ensure ambulances can get to the most important medical calls. They will also be with firefighters and police officers to help them respond to any important public safety needs" (www.wpxi.com). Ravenstahl was also forced to worry due to budgetary constraints. WTAE Channel 4 reported that although the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) had already exhausted "\$159 Million out of its projected winter allocation of \$180 Million" on February 25, the snow kept on coming. Other states, such as Virginia, had their snow removal costs run three times over their budget

(www.orangenews.com). The snow continued to fall for the next week, making it nearly impossible to restore power to the thousands of people. The difficulty in commuting closed schools and stores for the entire week. Upper St. Clair enjoyed a surprising second winter break, missing the whole week of school from February 8-12. However, the exciting Sadies Hawkins Dance had to be cancelled. Other ramifications of the snowfall are still being felt now. While it is officially spring at this point, there are still many areas of Pittsburgh whose infrastructures have been ravaged by the storm. The Lebanon Daily News reported that a local ice rink, the Rostraver Ice Garden, caved in on February 15. It still has not recovered, and it won't open until August. The students enjoyed their break. Emily Roarty a junior at Upper St. Clair High School said of her break, "I drank a lot of hot chocolate and played in the snow."

Are SAT classes really worth it?

RBy: Greg Schlosser
Sports Editor

As high school juniors begin to sign up for SATs, many will enroll into SAT preparation classes in order to get the best possible score on the SAT. Are these prep classes worth the time and money? Most classes are split into two sections: a class focusing on the math portion of the SAT and a class focusing on the reading portion. When looking at the math portion, an SAT prep course could really not make an impact. For the most part, the math part of the SAT is primarily information learned sometime throughout high school. The only reason to attend a math class would be to review

some information from the freshman or sophomore year that might have been forgotten, but it is difficult to pinpoint the exact information one would need to study for his or her specific SAT test. Reading classes, however, are probably the most beneficial. The reading classes aim to improve reading short and long passages, vocabulary, and writing the essay. Strategies for reading the long passages will be helpful in saving time and choosing the right answer, while tips for writing the essay will likely improve one's organization and timed writing skills. However, these tips for both the reading and the writing portion of the test may not work for some.

Also, strategies for the vocabulary part of the SAT are not very helpful, as just knowing the vocabulary on the test will determine whether the test taker will receive a good score on that section. In reality, a student would probably benefit most if he or she takes several practice tests on his or her own time, and tries different strategies each time. Junior Sam Degregorio said, "I thought that the reading classes were definitely beneficial because I learned a lot of good techniques. Plus, it was a good way to force my self to study." However, Degregorio did not take math classes because "I already felt the math part would be easy."

iPad apps prove to be more versatile

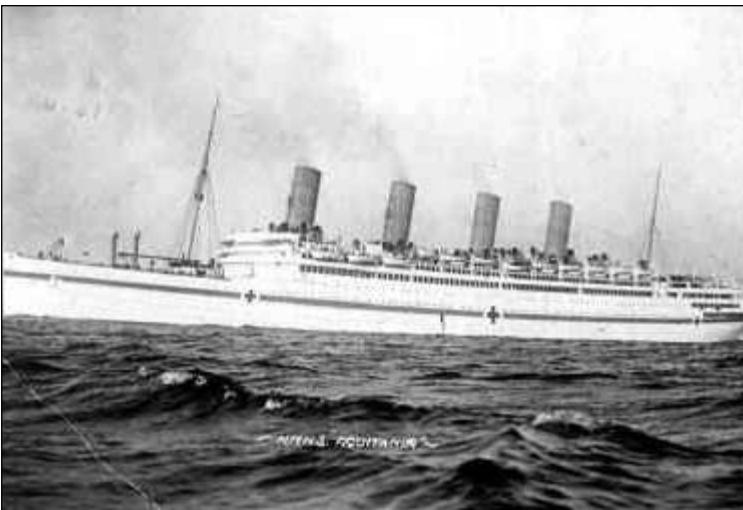
By: Vijay Viswanathan
Features Editor

With the iPad's release last month, it has become evident that this technology is being considered by some, to be a landmark step. Others, however, are calling the iPad nothing more than a larger version of the iPod Touch. Still, the iPad could be put into the hands of users due to the tremendous array of offered applications. With a 9.7 inch touch screen, Apple is trying to bring a whole new experience with the apps. One of the iPad's biggest marketing points is the apps. Apple's iPad site even touted its "amazing new apps" (www.apple.com). The company also claimed that each individual app was specially constructed for the larger, Multi-Touch screen. A major app they have been highly publicizing is "iBooks."

The iBooks platform is seeking to feed off of the popularity of the Amazon Kindle and Sony Reader. Using technology, it attempts to replace the feelings and ease of a paper book onto a device. Companies such as Condé Nast (the publishers of The New Yorker and Wired) have begun building on this flagship app, by creating interesting works such as an interactive magazine. Still, these projects are being halted in their progress due to the iPad's lack of support for Flash. If that difficulty is settled, the iBooks platform could soar. Some critics have focused on the size of the new iPad apps in their evaluations. For example, PC Magazine wrote that "Epicurious," a digital cookbook, could become more accessible with a larger and more readable size. They

also say the new Flickr and Google Earth applications built for the iPad will allow larger, more appealing images. These and other applications could get a boost from the 9.7 inch screen. Finally, the games for the iPad look great. Grand Theft Auto: Chinatown Wars, was a success for the iPod 3Gs, but it could reach greater heights on the tablet. With a larger size it would be able to capture graphics that would make the gameplay more like playing on a standard video game platform. SimCity and The Sims 3 will now have more options due to the increased size and increased space for motions. The Madden franchise will also thrive on the iPad, as Madden 10 will now allow users to take full advantage of the touch screen in choosing receivers and plays.

A beautiful (and lucky) ship



By: Garrett Cimina
Entertainment/Assistant
Opinions Editor

As James Cameron's latest hit, Avatar, moves inexorably up the list of all-time great movie earners, inevitable parallels are being drawn between it and Cameron's previous king of all blockbusters, Titanic. The difference? Titanic, of course, is based on actual events. Set back in the year 1912, it chronicled the events leading to the famous ship's tragic sinking. Despite earning rave reviews and an unsurpassed (until Avatar) mountain of money, Titanic offered only a glimpse of one ship, on one trip. Ironically, while the Titanic steamed into eternal fame and glory on its maiden voyage, another ship built around the same time served its owners for a then-record 36 years, survived two world wars and the Depression, and managed to earn its keep from the heyday of European immigration through the dawn of airplane travel. The ship was the Aquitania. Built by the British shipyard of John Brown & Co., the same yard that had built the famous Lusitania, Aquitania seemed poised for reliable yet under-the-radar service from the day of her maiden voyage. What should have been a festive affair filled with the hope of a long career was dampened and wholly overshadowed by the sinking of the Canadian liner Empress of Ireland the previous day, resulting in nearly as astronomical a death toll as that of the Titanic disaster. Aquitania, however, made it across the Atlantic in fine shape, helping to quell public fears over the safety of the new breed of "mega-liner" then roving the Atlantic seaways (bryking.com). Aquitania's quiet beginning to her career didn't last long, though. After only two more trips to New York, World War I broke out in Europe, and the British government requisitioned Aquitania for use as a cruiser. After being quickly renovated to function efficiently as a machine of war, Aquitania spent the next five years as a cruiser, troop transport, and hospital ship (oceanliners.com). Finally returned to her owners, the Cunard line, once hos-

tilities ceased, Aquitania was refurbished to her pre-war glory and, it seemed, given a new lease on life. Having only made three crossings prior to the war, Aquitania's voyage to America on July 17, 1920 was billed as her "second maiden voyage" (lostliners.com). Aquitania proceeded to spend the next twenty years in faithful service to the Cunard line, making numerous journeys to America as well as Mediterranean cruises. Despite being neither as fast nor as large as Cunard's other ocean liners, Aquitania was considered the most beautiful, earning her the nickname "Ship Beautiful" as well as legions of satisfied customers. As the 1930s wound down, Aquitania was beginning to show its age. Over twenty years had passed since her construction, and her slightly older contemporary, the Mauretania, had already been sold for scrap. As Cunard pondered her fate, though, World War II began and Aquitania would once again show her usefulness was a military ship, although this time only as a transport. During the war, Aquitania carried troops all over the world, including voyages to Singapore, Australia, Greece, and the Indian Ocean. After the war ended and a quick refit in order to return to passenger service, Aquitania spent her final years carrying refugees and war brides from Europe to Canada. Once this special charter was up, Aquitania was finally retired from service. In her 36 years afloat, Aquitania had traveled over three million miles and carried 1.2 million passengers while making 450 peacetime voyages. Her retirement signaled the end of the age of the transatlantic ocean liner, as she was the last operational four-smoke stacked liner. So it happened that the world's most successful ocean liner ended its record-setting career at a scrap yard in Scotland. Ironically, while a far cry from the dramatic demise of the Titanic, Aquitania's fate was that of a truly successful liner. One could only hope that such a tale of success would prove as popular in movie form as a tragic one. Sophomore Suraj Sundar certainly thinks so. "I so think the Aquitania was better than the Titanic."

Penguins strike deadline deals with Leafs and Panthers

By: Nick Buzzelli
Opinions Editor

Pittsburgh Penguins' general manager Ray Shero has a knack for building championship caliber teams, and he is hoping that 2010 is no exception. After acquiring Marian Hossa from the Atlanta Thrashers in 2008, as well as picking up Bill Guerin and Chris Kunitz at the trading deadline last season, Shero is once again trying to architect a Stanley Cup Finals team as he did the previous two seasons.

Ray Shero worked his trading skills prior to the 2010 NHL trading deadline, as he is trying to get the Pens back to the finals for a third consecutive year. Jordan Leopold, a six foot-one defenseman, was acquired from the Florida Panthers, while the Penguins gave prospect Luca Caputi and Martin Skoula to Toronto in exchange for veteran Alexi Ponikarovsky.

After a stellar collegiate hockey career at the University of Minnesota, where he won the Hobey Baker Award in 2002, Leopold broke into the league with the Calgary Flames. During his rookie season, the Golden Valley, Minnesota native posted an impressive nine goals and 24 assists in a total of 82 games (www.hockeydb.com).

Alexi Ponikarovsky was brought to Pittsburgh to be the legitimate scoring winger that can play alongside Evgeni Malkin, after losing winger Petr Sykora to free-agency at the end

of last summer. "Poni," as he is referred to by his teammates, will play on the Pens' second line along side Fedotenko and Malkin, while winger Pascal Dupis will get bumped down to the checking line with Jordan Staal and Matt Cooke. (www.sports.go.espn.com).

The native of Ukraine has proved that he has what it takes to play at this level of competition. In eight NHL seasons, all with the Maple Leafs, Ponikarovsky scored 95 goals and 121 assists for 216 points (www.kdka.com). The left winger's best offensive season was 2008-2009, where he lit the lamp 23 times.

"I feel that the Penguins' deadline moves were necessary if the team has hopes to make it back to the finals once again and hoist the Stanley Cup for a second consecutive season," said junior Nick DeLong. "Shero was able to bring Leopold and Ponikarovsky to Pittsburgh without giving up to much young talent, so it was a good move for both sides."

In the modern game of hockey, teams must trade up-and-coming prospects if they want veteran players in return and vice-versa. Pittsburgh's trading deadline moves to acquire Ponikarovsky and Leopold proves to the rest of the league that the Penguins' are fighting for the chance to be the first back-to-back champions in the NHL since the Detroit Redwings did over 12 years ago.

Hopes are set high as the Pirates look to end the losing streak

By: Nick Buzzelli
Opinions Editor

After 17 straight losing seasons, the Pittsburgh Pirates have become accustomed to not only being at the cellar of the National League Central standings, but also staying there.

While it doesn't appear the Buccos will be the next World Series champions, key off-season signings, as well as minor league talent moving up in the farm system, inspires hope that the Buc's offense will improve drastically this year. The Pirates will begin the 2010 season with one thing in mind: have a winning record and end Pittsburgh's dreaded 17-year losing curse.

Last year, Andrew McCutchen had a break-out season with the Pirates, recording 12 home runs, 54 RBI's and a .286 batting average in 108 games as a rookie centerfielder (www.pittsburghpirates.com).

With McCutchen in the lineup, the Bucs are given a chance to win every game, as he is a five-tool player who has the skills to become one of the most dominant players at his position.

Garrett Jones is another returning player who was a

bright spot during last year's dismal season. While Jones, who was a veteran minor leaguer, was only in the majors for half of the 2009 season, he proved why he belongs in



The Pirates walk on to the field in preparation of playing a day game at PNC Park.
(Photo courtesy of Nick Buzzeli)

Pittsburgh by posting a .293 average and a rookie leading 21 homers (www.sports.yahoo.com). Jones has also proved he is a versatile player in the Pirates' lineup because he can play first base as well as the outfield positions.

"Even though McCutchen and Jones were rookies last year, they know that with playing in Pittsburgh comes the shame of 17 losing seasons," said junior H.B. Mertz.

Newcomers to the Pirates this year include former Oak-

land A's second baseman Bobby Crosby and utility man Ryan Church. Crosby was brought to Pittsburgh to try to fill the enormous gap left by all-star infielder Freddy Sanchez. While Crosby does not have the bat that Sanchez once did, he will look to use his glove to make up for the skills that he lacks at the plate.

Ryan Church, who previously played for the Washington Nationals and New York Mets, was brought to the Buccos for his veteran leadership. Despite his low career offensive numbers, Church can be a very productive hitter, posting 15 home runs, 70 RBI's and a .272 batting average during his breakout season in 2007 (www.baseball-reference.com).

Because of his experience in the big leagues, Church will try to help an outfield full of young talent as they prepare to enter their first full season in the major leagues.

Despite the fact that the Pirates have not been as successful in the past as many Pittsburghers would have hoped, with key new players and a plethora of young talent, 2010 might be the year we have all been waiting for.

Will the NHL go to Sochi in 2014?

By: Greg Schlosser
Sports Editor

In 2010, hockey fans around the world were treated to a fantastic Olympic hockey tournament in Vancouver, British Columbia. Stars from the NHL represented many different countries, and fans were able to witness match ups such as Russia vs. Canada, USA vs. Canada, and Sweden vs. Finland.

In the end, the Canadian team won the gold medal with a Sidney Crosby overtime goal against the USA.

All of this excitement, however, might be gone in 2014 as NHL commissioner Gary Bettman is questioning whether to allow NHL players to play in Sochi, Russia. Bettman said, "Vancouver was an easy call because we're going to play the games in Canada. Salt Lake City was an easy call. Japan and Italy might not have given us in terms of focus and attention and impact what we may have hoped from taking a 17-day break" (www.thehockeynews.com).

Sochi, which is located near the coast of the Black Sea in

Russia, is not near a hockey-crazed area. Because of this location, hockey will not be as popular as it was in Vancouver or Salt Lake City. Fans from the US or Canada will not likely make the trip to Sochi because it is halfway around the world.

Hockey will not generate enough of a profit for Bettman to justify sending the NHL to the Olympics for almost three weeks.

The hockey season is long enough as it is, and skipping events such as the All-Star game and skills competitions will only hurt the NHL's popularity in the United States.

Some NHL stars, however, have already stated they will play in the 2014 Olympics, no matter what. Washington Capital's star Alexander Ovechkin has said he will play for Russia in his home country in 2014.

Ovechkin said, "Nobody can say to me you can't play for your country in the Olympic Games I'll go play in the Olympic Games for my country. If somebody says to me you can't play, see ya" (www.espn.com).

2010 NFL draft, led by Suh, McCoy, and Haden, is dominated by defense

By: Greg Schlosser
Sports Editor

Every year, 32 NFL teams enter the draft with an idea of the kind of player they think will escalate said team to the next level. Most of the time, however, the draft picks end up being busts and teams go back to square one. Despite that fact, the 2010 NFL Draft class is one of the most talented defensive classes ever.

Leading the way is Ndamukong Suh, the phenomenal defensive tackle out of Nebraska. Most likely to be taken number one by the Rams in the NFL draft, Suh amassed 82 tackles, twelve sacks, one interception and one blocked kick this year alone (www.espn.com). Suh also had the four sack performance against Texas in the Big 12 Championship. Suh will most likely transfer over as a 4-3 defensive tackle, as he is a whopping 6'4, 300 lbs (www.yahoosports.com).

The number two defensive prospect is the safety Eric Berry from Tennessee. At 5'11, 203 lbs, Berry had two interceptions in his senior



Nebraska Cornhusker defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh tackles a Missouri Tiger player in a Big 12 conference game. (Photo courtesy of Flickr)

year and was second in the team in tackles with 87 (www.utsports.com). Don't let the interceptions fool you, however, as teams would often have to game plan against Berry and would try to keep the ball away from

him whenever possible. Berry also has the ability to play cornerback, which adds to his versatility.

The linebacker prospect to look out for in the draft is Rolando McClain out of Alabama. He led the team this year in tackles with 105, and also had four sacks (www.rolltide.com). McClain contributed two interceptions this year. McClain would most likely translate as a 3-4 inside linebacker, which is the position he had at Alabama. He has the size (245 lbs) to stop the run, and can even bring the blitz every once in a while.

While these are the top defensive prospects, one cannot forget about defensive tackle Gerald McCoy out of Oklahoma, cornerback Joe Haden out of Florida, or linebacker

Navarro Bowman out of Penn State. Either way, this draft class will certainly make an impact on the NFL for years to come.

Heavy Rain casts gamers into uncharted waters

By: Garrett Cimina
Entertainment Editor

A private detective enters a seedy motel and tracks down a female resident. After some prodding, she gives up some information relevant to the detective’s ongoing investigation. Soon, however, the woman grows testy and tells the investigator to leave. On his way to the stairs, the investigator is passed by a mean-looking character who forces his way into the woman’s apartment. Screams begin to echo through the hall. Should the investigator intervene, risking his life as well as the outcome of his investigation? Or should he continue down the stairs, oblivious to the pain he could be preventing? This choice, and dozens more like it, is the basis of gameplay in Sony’s new interactive drama *Heavy Rain*.

Heavy Rain, Playstation 3’s newest exclusive, is a radical departure from the prototypical

video game. Rather than implementing story-driven action as the basis of gameplay, *Heavy Rain* incorporates a kind of action-driven story. Long action sequences, gunfights, and other typical video game trappings are stripped away, leaving little more than a narrative and some context-sensitive button-pressing. While this hardly sounds like the makings of an engrossing experience, one can rest assured that *Heavy Rain* is more than an interactive cutscene. One playtester supposedly exclaimed, “I don’t know how [the game] does it, but it’s fun!”

The game is basically set up as a series of scenes. In each scene, the player takes control of one of four main protagonists, who each start off on a separate story thread. One is an ordinary guy, one is the aforementioned P.I., one is an FBI agent, and the last is a female journalist. Each character is deeply developed over the course of the game, and each

has secrets that can change the plot in an instant.

Speaking of plot changes, every choice that is made over the course of the game, willingly or otherwise, affects the inevitable outcome. Some scenes involve brutal fights, during which main characters can die. If this occurs, no “game over” screen rolls. Instead, the plot progresses down a new plotline, one without that particular character. Whole sections of the game, including a prison breakout, can only be played if certain actions are taken. However, this branching plot does, to the chagrin of both GameInformer and IGN, lead to fairly large plot gaps on occasion.

Heavy Rain is a game that deserves to be played, but a word of warning: the Mature rating it received is well-deserved. Excessive swearing, heavy violence, and nudity all make appearances. So, put the little kids to bed before tackling this unique game.

Designer Alexander McQueen dies at 40

By: Alaina Zemanick
News Editor

Fashion design phenomenon, Alexander McQueen, killed himself in his hometown of London on February 11, the day of his New York fashion show. According to the coroner’s report, he cause of McQueen’s death was asphyxiation by hanging. His suicide comes a mere 9 days after his mother’s passing from a long illness (www.yahoo.com).

“It’s so sad he had to die like that,” says junior Sarah Nadler.

McQueen was famous in the fashion industry for his intricate and revolutionary pieces as well as his elaborate fashion shows. He received his graduate degree in fashion design from the prestigious Central St. Martins art school in England. McQueen’s thesis collection was noticed by late editor Isabella Blow, who bought his entire collection, thus pushing McQueen into the fashion limelight (www.nytimes.com).

Throughout his career, McQueen created several controversial collections, the first being his opening season. In his first show in October 1993, models wore blood-stained dresses with red handprints covering the material. The models also had their middle fingers extended throughout the entire show (www.nytimes.com). In addition, he introduced the “bumster” pant, which gave light to the low-rise jean (www.style.com).

His most notorious runway show was his March 1995 “highland rape” collection in which he alluded to the destroying of Scotland by its neighbor England. Models appeared to be borderline assaulted, wearing destroyed apparel that was ripped apart at the seams. The girls also wore opaque black contacts to add to the grotesque

attitude of the collection (www.nytimes.com).

“At the time, I was finding out so much about my heritage,” McQueen said of the inspiration behind the collection, “My mum was researching our family tree and traced the McQueens back to Skye and the Mull of Kintyre. I learned about the Highland clearances—it was genocide. People still feel strongly about it up there” (www.style.com).

In addition to his collections, McQueen’s own runway shows became one of his legacies. At times, he placed models in life-threatening conditions. For his Fall 2002 collection, he sent a pair of wolves down the runway frightening the audience as well as the model restraining them. McQueen also presented a collection where the models walked a runway surrounded by a ring of fire (www.style.com).

Other times, McQueen proved to be extraordinary. In one of his most famous collections, car-factory robots spray painted a white dress on twirling supermodel Shalom Harlow. Following with similar supermodel proportions, a hologram of Kate Moss floating in a glass pyramid wowed many at his Fall 2006 runway show (www.style.com).

As of late though, much of McQueen’s fame has been derived from his famous fans, such as the eccentric Lady Gaga. For her famous “Bad Romance” music video, Gaga wore ensembles from McQueen’s latest collection which was entitled Plato’s Atlantis.

Despite his death, Gucci Group, which owns McQueen’s self-titled fashion label, stated that they will continue the line without its beloved founder. “I believe strongly in the Alexander McQueen brand and its future,” Gucci Group CEO Robert Polet released in a statement (www.cnn.com).

Shutter Island may be one of the best Scorsese/DiCaprio films yet

By: Marni Schreiber
Editor in Chief

Shutter Island, the newest hit by tag team Martin Scorsese and Leonardo DiCaprio, has not only done amazingly well at the box office, but is also being regarded as one of the best Scorsese/DiCaprio films to date.

The movie opened with \$40.2 million in its first week alone. This is the highest number of any Scorsese/DiCaprio film (previously held by *The Departed* with \$26.9 million in its opening weekend). It is expected that *Shutter Island* will soar far ahead of the other three films the actor and director have made together (www.cbsnews.com).

The film follows two U.S. Marshals as they investigate the disappearance of a dangerous prisoner from an insane asylum. Unfortunately, while on the island, the two men, espe-

cially Teddy Daniels (Leonardo DiCaprio), begin to sense a conspiracy theory.

As the movie progresses, Teddy begins to suspect everyone, including his new partner Chuck Aule (Mark Ruffalo). Teddy fears he will be trapped on Shutter Island because he knows too much about the controversial methods at the prison.

The viewer is taken on a psychological rollercoaster as Teddy tries to solve the case and escape from Shutter Island. *Rolling Stone* comments that *Shutter Island* “sizzles with so much nerve-frying suspense that it’s hot to the touch [...]DiCaprio, in his most haunting and emotionally complex performance yet, is the vessel Scorsese uses to lead us through the film’s labyrinth” (www.rollingstone.com).

DiCaprio commits fully to his complex and rather unstable character. Teddy has a dark past, including fighting during WWII and losing his wife, and this past plays an intriguing role in the movie and in

Teddy’s character development.


DiCaprio, when speaking of his character and the film, commented that it’s a “complex character study [...] I am challenged by these types of characters [...]and this is maybe the most challenging one to date. Physically yes, emotionally more so” (www.screenrave.com).

Viewers may go into the film expecting one thing and coming out having experienced something completely different. There are constant twists and turns throughout the plot and main character, which keep the viewer interested from the start.

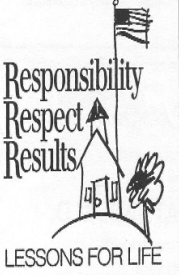
Senior Dylan Lease, who has seen the movie twice already, comments that “It wasn’t as scary as I thought it would be, but it definitely makes you think and twists your brain.”

Movie goers begin to lose sight of what is reality and what is dream or hallucination. This complexity adds to the extreme drama and suspense that permeates the film and has made it such a success.


“Life cannot defeat a writer who is in love with writing- for life itself is a writer’s love until death.”
Edna Ferber



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The Norwegian Curling Team's pants take center stage at Olympics

By: Alaina Zeminack
News Editor

The first day of the curling competition in the Winter Olympics, something very shocking and unbelievable entered the stadium. The Norwegians, sauntering with the upmost confidence, walked in with the most beautiful outfits in the entire history of the Olympics, both winter and summer. Greeks, destroy your intricately draped robes. Russians, dispose of your warm fur coats. The Norwegians have arrived in their amazing argyle pants.

These delicious slacks, created by Loudmouth Golf, are covered with rhombuses of shades of navy, red, silver, and white. Upon their first appearance in the Olympics, everyone felt uproar of jealousy within their souls. Who knew that such shapes presented across its beautiful textile would be the rage throughout the world?

"I just love these pants...way too much," admits Brent Heard, junior.

The idea for donning the remarkable apparel was from teammate Chris Svae. He stated that the outrageous wear of the Norwegian team could help bring the spotlight onto the

unknown sport of curling.

"It's good," Svae told USA Today, "It's bringing attention to curling back home in Norway more than usual."

Or was that really Svae's intentions? The pants seem to be something more than a grand gesture to his beloved sport. They are, in reality, a conspiracy to grab the gold for Norway. The team stands at the opposite side of the curling pitch as their opposing team hurls their stone down the lane. The thrower, distracted by such awesome apparel in the distance, does not concentrate on their target. Therefore, by the other team's inaccuracy, Norway wins the game.

This tactic by the Norwegians is nothing ever seen before at the Olympics. It's pioneering and legendary beyond all terms known to man. Using clothing as a winning device is absolutely revolutionary.

Now, what if you want to be as gorgeous as the Norwegian Curling Team? Is your overwhelming need for these slacks just too much to handle? Anyone can buy their own Loudmouth Golf Argyle Pants, if they're willing to shell out a nice \$90 for them (www.intheholegolf.com). Are they worth it? Without a doubt, they are.

Suggestions for Sochi 2014

By : Devin Ellis
Humor & Liesure Editor

As the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics' Closing Ceremony came to an end, so did Olympic fever. Although our northern Neighbors' celebration for their home soil successes (especially the hockey gold medal) lasted long into the night and into the next few days, the rest of the world came down from their Olympic elation and slowly returned to their everyday lives.

However, in the closing ceremony in Vancouver also gave an excited glimpse of the 2014 Winter Olympic Games, which will take place in Sochi, Russia. Assuming we don't all die in 2012, the IOC (International Olympic Committee) will be eager to make Sochi 2014 just as fast-paced and exciting as this year in Vancouver. On that note, here are some suggestions for the IOC so they can make 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi an exhilarating and appealing spectacle.

Add new games. The games in the Winter Olympics are always thrilling, and this year was no exception. The majority of the events in the Winter Olympics have fast, edge-of-your-seat action, and the Olympic committee could use this to integrate some more exciting games to make the Sochi Winter Olympics an even more nail-biting experience than Vancouver.

One event that could be added for Sochi 2014 could possibly be the event everyone is eager to add to the Winter Olympic Games. This event is, of course, Yeti catching and fighting. We all know Yeti's exist, this is no quarrel. So for this event each involved country can release a team of 3 countrymen along with the other countries into an enclosed area that is thought to contain one or numerous Yetis.

Whichever team catches and incapacitates the Yeti first wins. The Yeti's death will result in lost style points to keep PETA off of the IOC's tails, but the judges should be willing to look the other way as far as trickery against other teams goes.

One game that is broadcasted

from the Winter Olympics is the Biathlon, but this event is not exactly popular. Therefore, a better even should be added to the games in Sochi: a Triathlon. This event will include one athlete going through three mini events to try to win his or her country the gold. First will be full contact snow shoe racing, in which athletes wearing snow shoes must use strength, skill, and trickery to be one of the first to finish this 1 mile race across thick, powdery snow.

Their speed in the snow shoe event will result in how much of a lead the athletes get in the next event: cross country skiing cross. This event is essentially a blend of a cross country ski race with ski cross, which is an event where athletes riding skis must do the best tricks off a jump to win (www.vancouver2010.com).

Therefore, the athletes will have to race each other on flat and uphill surfaces but still manage to do tricks to please the judges. If nothing else, this part of the Triathlon will be hilarious. The athletes will then compete in the third part of the Triathlon, which, in accordance to the shooting part of the Biathlon (adventure.howstuffworks.com), is bomb making.

The athletes will have try to be first to make a successful bomb and use it to blow up a snow sculpture of a Yeti (not using a real Yeti to make PETA happy, again). The athletes will receive better and less dangerous bomb making equipment based on how well they do in the cross country skiing cross event. They will also receive "boom points" for how well their bomb is, which will boost their overall score in the whole Triathlon event.

When asked what he would add to the 2014 Sochi Olympics to make the games better, Senior Michael Toth responded, "A Pollute-a-thon. How much can you pollute?"

Even though more exciting events may put the athletes in danger, the games will receive a monstrous boost in ratings with these new and exciting additions to the Winter Olympics. And isn't that what the Olympics are all about?

How to Catch a Leprechaun

By: Garrett Cimina
Entertainment Editor

Throughout human history, trapping has been an important component of survival. The first humans likely trapped their food in disguised pits. Settlers on the frontier set up snares to nab wild rabbits. As Admiral Ackbar tells it, even the Empire sets traps. But no creature has ever been the target of as many traps as the leprechaun.

According to eyewitnesses, the elusive leprechaun is a humanlike organism, normally about two feet tall, dressed in a red or green coat. These animals live solitary lives and so are totally self-sufficient, spending their days making shoes and drinking moonshine.

However, leprechauns are most famous for two things: large hoards of buried treasure, and incredible cunning. The gold has made leprechauns the targets of endless attempts at kidnapping and extortion schemes since practically the dawn of time. It is said that if someone can catch a leprechaun and keep him in his sight for long enough, the leprechaun will be compelled to give up the location of his buried pot of gold (shee-

eire.com).

Unfortunately, most encounters with leprechauns end with the leprechaun's escape, not with the captor becoming rich quick. These failures are mainly attributable to

1. The greedy urges of the captor. Leprechauns know that the people who hunt for them are desperate for easy wealth. They carry two types of coin with them, gold and silver, both magically enchanted to appear as legitimate money but quickly disappear or turn to dust after the leprechaun has negotiated his release. Simple control of one's greed should negate the careful preparation of the leprechaun in this respect.

2. The habitat of the leprechaun. Leprechauns make it a point to inhabit the most impassable of locations in order to discourage would-be treasure seekers. Tenacity and a good pair of hiking boots are all that are required to penetrate the leprechaun's world.

3. The sheer cunning of the leprechaun. In many tales of leprechaun encounters, even the most level-headed fortune hunter is easily thwarted by the leprechaun's tricks. In one case, a man, clever in his own right, not only was tricked

out of getting the leprechaun's gold, but had his own gold stolen as well (highlightskids.com). It is therefore important to take time to analyze the situation once the leprechaun has been snared.

It seems that many others have their own advice for potential leprechaun seekers as well. Sophomore Suraj Sundar advises the treasure hunter to "take a piece of jewelry, stick it in a visible location, then hide nearby in the middle of the night with a garbage bin.

When the jewelry sounds like it is getting picked up, throw the garbage bin at it."

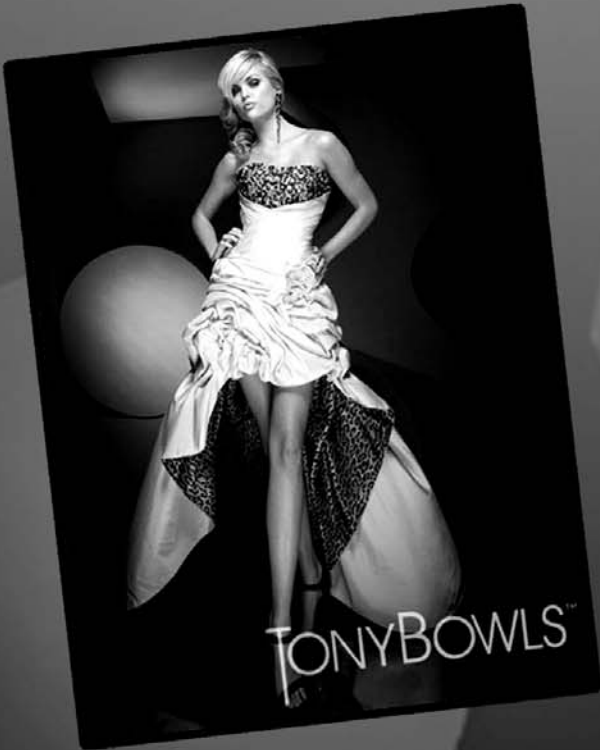
Freshman Julie Schuldt says that "all you need is a unicorn, a jar, and some chocolate sauce."

Of course, the most revealing response was that of sophomore Colin Kennelly: "I don't know how to catch a leprechaun! They keep getting away!"

This March, while others celebrated St. Patrick's Day with mint McFlurries and green-dyed rivers, some went in search of the world's most elusive treasure guardians. And with the right mindset and some simple equipment, they may finally succeed.

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