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Jonathan Law High School

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Free

Law's Knoth Wins UCAN Inspire Award

Nolan Rourke
Staff Reporter
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The 2012 Connecticut All-State football team was honored on Saturday, January 12, at Anthony's in New Haven, but Law senior linebacker **George Knoth** stole the spotlight.

Knoth won the inaugural Walter Camp UCAN Inspire award, an award presented to an individual who demonstrates exceptional leadership qualities on and off the field.

"It was an incredible honor to be chosen for this award," Knoth said. "UCAN is an amazing organization, and since I was the inaugural winner of the award, I am looking forward to coming back and meeting future winners."

Knoth has two younger brothers with autism. Aside from leading his football team, Knoth has dedicated his life to helping **Justin Knoth**, a freshman at Jonathan Law, and 12-year-old Samuel Knoth.

Not only does Knoth help his brothers at home, but he also organized an Autism Awareness day at the Milford mall.



Law senior George Knoth reads with his younger brother, Samuel. (photo courtesy George Knoth)

"He makes it cool; he is a great spokesman for autism," football coach **Mr. Robinson** said. "A lot of people shy away from it because they don't know what it's about; but George really brings coolness to autism."

Assistant coach **Mr. Beler** has also noticed Knoth's leadership on and off the field.

"George has a very strong foundation, from his character to his faith," Beler said. "He

has incredible faith in his family and brothers; they do a good job working together, and that character has carried over to the football field.

This award has meant a lot to Knoth's teammates as well, such as junior **Tim Maher**.

"George's award is more of an honor than anything else," Maher said. "Kids like George are the kids who everyone should be cheering for and talk-

ing about."

Over his four years at Law, Knoth has taken an active role in providing for his brothers.

"My parents work incredibly hard to provide for us," Knoth said. "I don't want them to come home and feel more pressured to take care of my brothers, so I try to take as much of that responsibility as I can."

Knoth has also been recognized by people outside

the Jonathan Law community for his outstanding leadership qualities. One of these people is Hillhouse coach Tom Dyer.

"What he's done for his family and community, those are the type of young men that really we should be hearing more about," Dyer said.

Knoth was recently a candidate for the Timex Heart of a Giant Award. Despite coming up short in the voting for that award, Knoth could not be more thankful for winning the UCAN Inspire award.

"I was much more excited to win this award, to be honest," Knoth said. "Everybody has heard of Walter Camp, and it's such a privilege to be affiliated with them."

More important than anything, Knoth wanted people to create awareness for autism.

"I hope that by hearing my story, people will realize how special kids with autism are," Knoth said. "They are the most loving people you will ever meet, and they just need to be loved in return."

(Some information courtesy nhregister.com)

Drama Club Wows Crowds With Oscar Wilde Play

Jesiree Carrera
Staff Reporter

The Jonathan Law Drama Club presented "The Importance Of Being Earnest" on January 11 and 12.

It was Jonathan Law's first official "strict" play since 2008 and featured a cast of eight students from Jonathan Law and one Foran student. Described as "a trivial comedy for serious people in three acts," it offered a different experience for the young aspiring actors.

"Through 'The Importance Of Being Earnest', Oscar Wilde continues to poke fun at those who take life too seriously and become far too earnest," said director **Michael R. Mele**. "His legacy continues to challenge our expectations and entertain us; it has truly been a blessing

to be able to share my love of theatre with [the cast] these past years and watch them learn to become their own identities full of spunk and energy."

Since the play took place in Britain in the 1800s, the cast had to learn how to speak with British accents. They had to participate in online lessons where they were taught how to speak with proper British accents early on and get into character as well.

"We even learned how to have proper British teatime, such as manners and etiquette," said junior **Amanda DeLeo**, who played Lane.

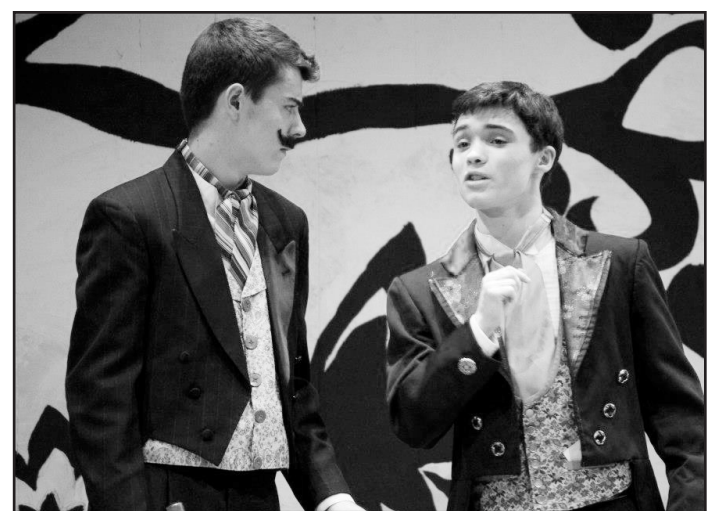
In preparation for the show, the cast also watched clips from the movie version to see what was required of their characters. After learning how the

characters needed to act and speak like, it was only a matter of learning the lines.

"I was asked to join the show only a month before [the Drama Club] presented it," said senior **Sean Davis**, who played Chausable. "I had to study my lines and repeat them over and over."

Oscar Wilde has a very distinct writing style, and it's important to get the lines right for the jokes, and even the whole play, to be understood. Paraphrasing is often easy to recognize since being able to paraphrase in context of 19th century Britain is not something the cast was used to.

"Lines were definitely a worry and the British accents were a first," said junior **Melissa Padilla**, who played Miss



Liam Rice and Jubilee Witte perform a scene from "The Importance Of Being Earnest." (photo courtesy Jesiree Carrera)

Prism. "Overall, I think the show went very well; I love the musicals, but I found the play was just as rewarding."

The play was a new experience and showed the diversity of Jonathan Law Drama Club's capabilities.

"The crowds definitely enjoyed the show," said senior **Liam Rice**, who played Jack Worthing. "They were all laughing and had a great time!"

The cast truly showed a lot of talent and also featured a freshman from Foran, Jubilee Witte, who played Algernon Moncrief.

"It was a great show that I

enjoyed participating in," said Witte. "I felt honored to be able to participate in a play produced by Jonathan Law's Drama Club. It was also great since I got to see people I don't normally see on a daily basis."

There were not that many people in attendance compared to the musicals; however, the audience had very good reactions to the show.

"We appreciate all the people that come to our productions and support us," said senior **Jessica Noe**, who played Gwen-dolyn Fairfax. "We hope more will come and support us for our future shows!"

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Jonathan Law High School Mission Statement

Jonathan Law High School is a community that exists to maximize the intellectual, the social, and the emotional growth of each student in a safe, stable, supportive environment. We believe that a positive, collaborative atmosphere fosters high expectations and recognizes individual differences. In partnership with students, parents, and the community, we are committed to developing the skills necessary for educational, career, and life choices.

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New Schedule Brings Pros, Cons

Each school year presents a series of changes for Law’s students, but the 2013-2014 school year will be bringing a modification that will change the fabric of a school day.

Beginning next year, Law will be switching to a “modified block schedule” that has a six day rotation in school days. On A, B, D, and E Days, there will be five 57 minute classes and one 78 minute class. On C and F Days, there will be four 78 minute classes and Common Time.

This idea presents a large array of pros and cons in terms of preparing for the future. The schedule will create benefits in the near future for students, as longer classes will resemble multiple hour- long classes that are commonplace in college. Students who have been accustomed to 45 minute classes will learn to be prepared and learned to stay focused and a sharp mind for hours at a time. For the next few years, the 78 minute classes will be great practice for retaining large amounts of information, while outlasting the long length of the periods.

The new schedule also helps in the short term, as it fixes a common complaint for many underclassmen: lack of schedule flexibility. The new schedule adds an extra class choice for all students in order to allow them to explore many opportunities that weren’t available for freshmen and sophomores before.

Extra courses have been developed for next year and extra electives will be offered next year, which are both positive changes for all

students at Law.

Finally, in terms of the specific classes themselves under this schedule, teachers will be the most happy for the time extension. Many of Law’s teachers that cover complex subjects have to split chapters and lessons over multiple days which ends up proving less effective for their students. Getting an entire lesson plan into one session eliminates having to spend a length of a class recapping the previous day and taking advantage of every minute instead.

Though the new schedule seems to offer an unlimited amount of positives for students and staff alike, some issues will definitely arise, though they are limited. While this plan will prove to extend the success of hard working students, for those that fall behind the work will be tougher.

There is no problem with separating those that put in effort and those that slack via a new schedule plan, but the work for teachers will be even harder. Teachers will have to put double the effort in to catching some students up which will result in extra time after school for help as well. This in turn could create a chain reaction leading to worse grades.

Other issues revolve around students who are sick on these longer class days. This could lead to large amounts of work to catch up on. If the teacher is absent, double the amount of lesson will be lost, rather than just 45 minutes now.

All in all, the new scheduling plan has a lot of positives, but adjustment will likely be a long process for all current underclassmen.

Common Time Will Benefit All Students At Law

Hayley Sanchez
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Law High School will start to have Common Time every Wednesday and every other Friday starting second semester.

During Common Time, which will be between periods 2 and 3 like the current Advisory period, students will be able to go to any of their teachers to get help or make-up work they missed if they were out.

They can also study, do homework, or just relax before going through the rest of the school day.

Like Advisory, Common Time will be 30 minutes long. The teachers and administrators at Law are hoping that this addition to the schedule can help improve the academic perfor-

mance of all students.

Foran High School already had Common Time every other week that they did not have Advisory. Foran began the Common Time program during first semester.

This new Common Time program will help all of Law’s students. It will especially help the students who work, are involved in activities, or do sports after school and have meets or games on the days that their teachers are available after school.

During Common Time, these students can go to their teacher and get the help that they need and not have to worry about missing a game or a part of practice.

Having regular Common Time will also help all students

to not fall far behind in class. They will be able to get missed work, they will know what is happening that week and what the other students in the class are learning, and they can seem additional help with material if necessary.

Having Common Time will also benefit all students because they will be able to get the help that they need at a time that is perfect for both the teacher and the student.

Common Time is something that is needed at Law because it can help raise students’ grades because they have time to do their homework and have time to study for a big exam.

So many students at Law are busy with work, homework, activities, practices, and games. They need a time during school

Common Time will be held every Wednesday and every other Friday during second semester.

that they can use to catch up on their work and get their grades up.

Having Common Time does take away from class time, but the time that the students will be getting to study and do homework will benefit them more then missing that class time.

In the end, Common Time will help the students succeed in the Jonathan Law community.

During Common Time, which will be between periods 2 and 3 like the current Advisory period, students will be able to go to any of their teachers to get help or make-up work they missed if they were out. They can also study, do homework, or just relax before going through the rest of the school day.

Obama's First Term Deserves Failing Grade

Jack Campbell
Staff Reporter
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On January 20, 2009, over a million people packed the National Mall in Washington D.C. to watch Barack Obama become inaugurated as president of the United States.

Obama's inauguration was hope for many people around the world that a change may be coming to the bad state of the economy and other issues that needed tending to, including social security and health care.

As the country flashes forward to present day, the people can now reflect on Obama's first term in office. His term was not just bad, it was atrocious.

He only managed to pass an extremely flawed Obamacare, dig us deeper into a national debt, and has made no impact in job creation.

For starters, Obamacare has major flaws that need dealing with soon.

It is far too expensive, with the cost of it increasing nearly \$540 billion dollars by



(photo courtesy theenglishblog.com)

the year 2021. Obamacare also has created a new group entitled the Independent Payment Advisory Board which is comprised of 15 appointed bureaucrats who make decisions about people's

access to healthcare, yet these officials are not at all accountable, due to the fact that they are not elected.

The list of things wrong with Obamacare goes on and on, however the largest flaw

of it has to do with its mere existence. Universal Health Care is unconstitutional and shouldn't exist in the nation. With its passing under Obama's watch, the nation is moving more and

more towards a socialist state. Obama has emerged in his role as president, not as a democrat, but rather a textbook socialist. His ideas of Universal Health Care and a heavy government influence on the economy align perfectly with the platform ideologies of the Socialist Party.

In regard to Obama's efforts in the economy during his first term, the national debt increased more under him than it did under former president George Bush. And unemployment has barely changed since Obama took office.

It's yet another example of an empty promise he made in regard to job creation.

Another inability of Obama during his first term has been bipartisanship. Instead of working hard to reach across party lines to work together on legislation, Obama has decided to rather publicly bash Republicans and remain in political gridlock.

All in all, President Obama's first term can be summed up as a failure.

China's Social Networking Ban For Citizens Goes Too Far

Bhavani Jaladanki
Editorial Editor

These days, there is probably no one who can live without social media like Twitter, Facebook, and Youtube.

Surprisingly, there are 1.6 billion people who have no access to these networking sites, yet still are living normal lives. This is only possible in the extremely communist country of China, which claims the world's largest population of over one billion people.

China says that its strict online censorship policies are in place to maintain social stability, and to stop the spread of fabricated material.

China blocked Facebook in 2009 after the Urumqi riots since Xinjian independence activists used Facebook for communication. Then, China created Renren, which is a social network similar to Facebook, but is constantly filtered by the government.

After advocates of the Dalai Lama fabricated a video showing Chinese police beating Tibetans after some riots, and uploading the video onto Youtube, the Chinese government banned citizens' access to Youtube. China is so communistic that it has even blocked certain parts of Google.

Some Chinese citizens may be fine with not having access to the networking sites that the

rest of the world has access to, but some people are not happy.

For example, Kai-Fu Lee, who used to work at Google China, announced February 17, 2013 that he was banned for three days "from China's popular Twitter-like Weibo Services, Sina and Tencent, where he has a whopping 30 million and 24 million followers respectively."

The ban was placed for no apparent reason, and although Lee had no problem with the ban, those millions of followers felt frustrated that they could not access the only limited freedom they had to connect with the people they look up to. This frustration among some citizens has caused Chinese Internet users to take advantage of a glitch in the country's censorship so they can have more freedom and do what they like. As long as the users used HTTPS instead of HTTP in the web address, they were able to access Facebook.

"We've seen glitches for a few hours, or even a few days, before. Unfortunately, things don't seem to come back from the dead. Not since 2009, when things got much stricter in terms of web filtering. So I'd err on the side of caution and say, unfortunately, it's just a glitch, so enjoy it while you can," said Steven Millward, China editor at TechAsia.com.

Up to 700,00 people in

China are using Facebook behind their government's back, by using a glitch. No citizen should have to ever break a law in order to connect with friends and family around the world. Facebook, Youtube, and Twitter are simply websites where people can have fun and keep in touch with things going on around the world. Sure, blocking these website can prevent false rumors from spreading around, but China is just creating more rebels instead of preventing them by banning Facebook. If people are misusing these websites, the Chinese government should block those specific people instead of punishing the whole country.

Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg tried making business in China, and was appalled that the country did not want its citizens to have access to Facebook. Today, without websites like Facebook, people would never be able to maintain relationships, connect with new people, or even make business. Facebook's and other social networking sites' purpose is to get the whole world to connect with each other, but China is impeding this goal by preventing its 1.6 billion citizens from having this privilege.

(Some information courtesy emergencyemail.org, and bangkokpost.com)

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Law Graduates Share College Experiences

By Tarah Kelly
Columns Editor
@tarahkelly

Every year, the senior class dreads the thought of preparing for college.

From the application process to finding a roommate, challenges come from each and every task.

The National Honor Society, though, does something to help students take a break and learn from the experiences of 11 Law alumni.

"We wanted the graduates to come back to give juniors and seniors an opportunity to get a feel for college life," said NHS advisor **Ms. Turcotte-Mottas**.

Their annual Welcome Back Graduates presentation was held on January 9 in the senior café.

"It's great to see some familiar faces back and Law," said senior **Rachel Hannan**, "especially when their telling us about their experiences and giving us great advice."

The students that came



Nine alumni came back to Law to discuss their college experiences. (photo courtesy Tarah Kelly)

back gave much advice on their roommates, classes, and the infamous college cafeterias.

Not only were seniors invited to this event, but many juniors came to get a head start on the college process.

"I never really knew what to expect about the college experience," said junior

Brooke Bonetti. "It gave me a great understanding about how their lives change and how they're dealing with everything."

Law alum **Nicky Wasson** faced the same struggles any other student faces. Along with her classwork and homework, she was a part of the UConn

cheerleading team.

"I loved coming back and sharing my experiences from the first semester," said Wasson, "I hope everything we said helps seniors make the transition from Law to college."

The Law alumni currently go to different types of college,

from arts schools to tech schools. One alum, Class of 2010 graduate Virginia Orman, took two years off to travel the world and volunteer.

"I always thought that when most people take a year off they just sit around doing nothing," said senior **Nolan Rourke**. "But I never knew the different things and different organizations you can join."

Each alum gave advice on how to deal with the change from high school to college, but the greatest advice was to always go to class.

"I never realized that by skipping a college class your wasting your money," said senior **Morgan Stevens**. "I'll be going to every class."

Some alumni loved their roommates; others did not. Some said that Greek life will help incoming students with homework as well as help them find a college family.

These tips - and more - made the annual Welcome Back Graduates program a helpful one once again.

Keyettes Jump Into Second Semester

Anisha Manglani
Staff Reporter

The Keyettes is a volunteer organization around the community. Currently, the Keyettes are planning the end of their year.

In November, the Keyettes planned a Talent Show, a performance Jonathan Law has not seen for three years. The show featured many guitarists, singers, and dancers before Marin Sanchez was crowned the winner with her cover of the song, "Home."

Earlier in the year, the Keyettes have participated in smaller events like freshmen orientation, open house, and beach clean-ups.

The newest event the Keyettes have planned is the African Library Project. The Keyettes have collected gently used, child-level books to build libraries in Africa for children.

"It's a great way to expand the activities of the club," said senior secretary **Bhavani Jaladanki**.

Though cut short by the week of snow days, the fundraiser managed to collect three bags of books.

"Next year I would suggest for our Keyettes to commit to the Meadowside homework club because this year we failed to continue doing it," said senior co-president **Isamar Mejia**.

For previous years, members of the Keyettes have committed themselves once a week to Meadowside homework club to aid the elementary students

with their homework after school. This year, the members failed to show interest, and the tradition fell through.

"We've had a consistent number of girls helping out at all the events which is what we like seeing," said Jaladanki.

Members who will continue on to run the club next year feel there are a few things that could be changed.

"I would suggest the Keyettes find a program that the group as a whole could participate in, say, once a month," said junior member **Kate Brady**, proposing unity as a key to hold the group's commitment.

The members have enjoyed themselves as well.

"This year, Keyettes Club has been great," said senior secretary **Valerie Coleman**, "There have been lots of new people and great ideas."

The Keyettes are most known for their organization of the Mr. JLHS pageant where the junior and senior boys of Jonathan Law participate in formal wear, talent, and dance segments. The event will continue on this year in March.

"At Mr. JLHS last year, about 200 people attended," said advisor **Mrs. Jaekle**. "I feel the turnout will be better this year, for many of the junior boys from last year will return."

Because the event will take place on March 28, Jaekle assumes it will not be snowed out.

"My one word to describe Keyettes would be: enthusiastic," said Jaekle.

Law Inducts New NHS Class

Bhavani Jaladanki
Editorial Editor

As is the case every year, Jonathan Law's National Honor Society accepted more students into its prestigious club on February 7.

Parents, siblings, and grandparents all packed into the senior café to proudly watch the students get inducted into NHS.

"We had a ton of new members being inducted this year compared to all other years," said **Ms. Turcotte**, the advisor of NHS. "I am very proud to see so many students portraying all the qualities of an NHS member."

This year, Law's NHS had around 25 inductees, which is the most NHS has seen in years.

Most of the inductees were juniors, but there were also some seniors among the group.

In order to be accepted into this club, students have to have a grade point average above 3.6, good character, volunteer service, and leadership.

"Being around students who are so motivated to volunteer their time and efforts toward academic standing, character, and volunteer service is really encouraging," said **Anisha Manglani**, the president of NHS.

"It's amazing to have so many juniors join our group this year. They're all great kids, and I'm sure they'll continue the National Honor Society with a committed drive once we've graduated."

Present at the ceremony was the school principal, **Mr.**



There were 25 new inductees to Law's National Honor Society. (photo courtesy Bhavani Jaladanki)

Thompson, NHS advisor Ms. Turcotte, history teacher, **Mr. Iacono**, and **Dr. Feser**, the superintendent of Milford Public Schools.

Mr. Iacono came and gave a speech on behalf of the request made by the current NHS students.

"Being inducted into NHS makes me feel extremely proud and privileged since this was not just some average school club," said senior and new NHS member **Tatiana Eng**. "I have to give props to Mr. Iacono for his speech because he is very eloquent and one of the most inspiring people I have ever met."

At the ceremony, the inductees, along with the current members, walk in, take the NHS pledge, and sign the

NHS official register in order to become a member.

"The NHS induction was a beautiful ceremony and the speeches were great," said junior and new NHS member **Hope Cupole**. "The family members that attended were not only proud of one person but basically proud of each inductee. The ceremony was beautiful and the speeches were great."

The new members are really excited to work with the current members of NHS to plan upcoming events such as the Brain Bowl and other community service projects.

"It was a quality experience and I am happy to have been inducted," said junior and new NHS member **Brooke Bonetti**.

Law, Luralton Combine For Percussion Group

Michael Vaccaro
Staff Reporter
(@mikevaccaro)

The percussionists of Jonathan Law have teamed up with students of Luralton Hall to make an independent percussion group.

The group will compete in the Musical Arts Conference competitions. This is the first time Law students have congregated with an outside school for the winter percussion program, which started last year at Law.

Last year, Law students participated in their own winter percussion program where they played their own rendition of the orchestrated song "Russian Easter Overture." The program is headed by Law band director **Mr. Marino**.

This year, Law percussion instructor **Mr. Allen** had the idea of combining the Law students with students of Luralton Hall, where Allen teaches history and helps out with the music classes.

"The kids really enjoy it so far and they show a lot of potential," said Allen.

"Our show is entitled 'The Big Apple Symphony.' I chose to do it because it's a cheerful tune and the kids from Law were tired of doing songs by



The Law and Luralton percussion groups have teamed up this year. (photo courtesy Adam Weber)

Gary P. Gilroy. They just did a song called 'Afterworld,' so they wanted something that was interesting and not gloomy or boring."

Law senior **Adam Weber** really enjoys the program. Weber has been playing marimba for four years now and is also a master piano player.

"I really enjoy the program this year," said Weber. "It's a

much different atmosphere but I enjoy it because it's a different change of pace from the typical riff raff that I am used to."

The group is separated into two different components. One component is the pit, where students play keyboard instruments such as the marimba and vibraphone. The other component is the battery, where the other students play snare drums,

tenor drums, or bass drums. Junior **Rachel Gomes** is one of the tenor players.

"I play tenors in winter percussion which is cool because I mainly play snare drum for percussion," said Gomes.

"It's a different experience with both the program and the new instrument but I really enjoy it a lot."

While some kids from Law

are experiencing the program for a second time, the kids from Luralton are trying to get into the swing of things.

Luralton junior **Liz Getts** is really into the program.

"This program is really new and different for me because I don't typically play percussion instruments, but it is truly a phenomenal experience," said Getts.

"It's also kind of hard to do this while balancing out my schoolwork and swim practices, but it's fun so I don't mind."

Getts isn't the only one new to winter percussion.

Law freshmen **Catilynn Murphy** and **Jacob Fucci** are learning to adapt to the program. Murphy and Fucci have previously played bass drums for the marching band so they have some experience under their belts, but Murphy is challenging herself by playing tenors for winter percussion.

"It's nice to be playing tenors this time around instead of bass," said Murphy. "It's kind of challenging but I like to think of it as practice so when four years pass by and I'm a senior, I'll be an experienced tenor player."

The group's first show is on March 9 in Shelton and their finals are on April 13 in Shelton.

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Cheerleaders Travel To London

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

It's not often that a group of high school students get the opportunity to travel to a foreign country to do what they love.

Eight Jonathan Law cheerleaders had this opportunity. Seniors **Miranda Edson** and **Abbey Krupienski**, junior **Christina Mazzeo** and sophomores **Darby Hudd**, **Morgan Colombo**, **Barbara Perugini**, **Annalyse DeLucca**, and **Ming-Yeah Hu** went to London, England recently to cheer in The London New Year's Day Parade.

"The main purpose of the trip was to cheer in the New Year's Day parade, but we got to do a lot of touring around London," Hudd said.

The seven attended a cheer camp this summer run by the Universal Cheerleaders Association (UCA). At the camp they had the opportunity to try out for "All American" and they were selected.

"We had an assigned dance, cheer and two jumps," Hudd said. "The UCA staff judged us on that."

They were in London from December 26 to January 2.

"We saw Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, rode on the London Eye, went to Windsor Castle and did some

"I learned so much about the British culture."
- Senior cheerleader
Miranda Edson

shopping," Hudd said. "They even had some nights planned for us, one night we went on a disco cruise and danced all night on the Thames Rives and on another night we saw a musical."

They performed along 10,000 other performers in the parade and cheered past Berkeley Square, Big Ben, Downing Street, Trafalgar Square and The Ritz Hotel.

"The highlight of my trip was definitely to spend a week in a foreign country with a few of my teammates and close friends and getting to see a different culture and meeting new people," Mazzeo said.

Aside from cheering in the parade, they had the chance to visit many famous places in London and meet new people.

"I got a lot out of this trip. I learned so much about the British culture, their history and their traditions," Edson said. "We got to experience how they live day to day, as well as do the one thing we all love, cheerleading."

Law's 'Challenge' Team Competes On MSG Varsity

Kyle Kandetzki
Editor-in-Chief

Jonathan Law is filled with many academically gifted students, and some of that knowledge got put to the test recently on MSG Varsity's hit show The Challenge.

Law students **Jack Campbell**, **Soumya Kundu**, **Dan Ourphalian**, and **Josh Paton** traveled to New York City on February 7 to compete on MSG Varsity's "The Challenge," a trivia game show for high school students. The contestants tackled questions from various academic fields, as well as pop culture.

"I think we performed well as a team," said Campbell. "I would've liked to have gone deeper in the tournament but it was a fun experience for all of us."

The four contestants traveled to Manhattan with a bus full of students and The Challenge team's advisor, **Mr. Boynton**, in tow. Once arriving at the studio, the competitors were taken with the production team back stage to prepare for the show, while the audience members were seated in a room watching other episodes of the show.

The contestants weren't given a long time to prepare. After quickly receiving the rules and going in for makeup, they were all out on stage for



The Law Challenge team competed against Barlow.
(photo courtesy Curtis Cocco)

the taping of the show.

"We prepared for the show by watching episodes that aired prior to us so we would get accustomed to how the show was run and so we weren't uneasy when it was our turn to compete," said team captain Campbell. "I was fortunate enough to have had experience on the team last year, though."

Law went up against Joel Barlow High School from Redding, CT, which was stiff competition for Law throughout the four-round game. As the stakes got higher and point value increased, Law inched closer to Barlow.

The first round was a simple five-point trivia round, after which Law trailed 140-135. Next was a 10-question

lightning round on first world countries. Law ended the round trailing by five points.

The third round went back to basic trivia. Barlow began to pull away in that round.

They took the final round as well to win by a score of 325-285.

"Although we lost, I am proud that we put up a good fight and were in the lead at certain times," said Kundu.

Though Law didn't win, the experience was a unique one for the four contestants and the dozens of audience members too. All who attended got to see the workings of a professional TV show, from the camera work to the production team, while enjoying an intense trivia game.

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Aldean Better Than Ever On ‘Night Train’

Megan Fitzsimons

Staff Reporter

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Jason Aldean was ready to give it all up in the summer of 2003 after he’d been dropped from his record company’s roster. His songwriting contract was expiring. But Broken Bow Records was not ready to see Aldean fail. Just weeks after his fall, they offered him a deal.

“I do believe that if it’s meant to be, it will be. Luckily for me, things worked out. I mean, it went from looking really bad to looking really good,” Aldean said.

As a kid, Aldean’s parents were all about music. Aldean knew right from the start what his life would be about.

“One day, I was sitting at home watching the Country Music Awards on TV. I was just watching the show. Then I suddenly got up and told my mom, ‘I think I’m ready to get on stage and just see what happens, see how it goes.’” Aldean said.

Aldean’s mother knew someone who played in a band at the VFW in Macon. She called him and asked if Aldean



(photo courtesy billboard.com)

could go there and play a song. He went there and sang John Anderson’s song ‘Seminole Wind’ and ‘Sticks and Stones’ by Tracy Lawrence. All 10 people that were there applauded. At age 14, Aldean was hooked.

Aldean now has five albums: “Jason Aldean” released in 2005, “Relentless” released in 2007, “Wide Open” released

in 2009, “My Kinda Party” released in 2010, and his brand new album “Night Train” released in October 2012.

“Night Train” has a very classic country feel mixed with some rock. For example, in his song “Wheels Rollin,’” he sings about being on tour and going up on stage. It goes from having a very country feel in the music

to being mixed with rock during the chorus.

The album has the first song to ever mention honky-tonk hero Joe Diffie. The song is called “1994.”

The most popular song on the album is “The Only Way I Know,” featuring Eric Church. It’s an upbeat song that talks about the country life and basi-

cally says to never give up and that anyone can get through something as long as they really try. The chorus of the song says it all. Aldean sings, “That’s the only way I know/ Don’t stop ‘til everything’s gone/ Straight ahead, never turn round/ Don’t back up, don’t back down/ Full throttle, wide open, you get tired and you don’t show it/ Dig a little deeper when you think you can’t dig no more, that’s the only way I know”

Aldean shows his country upbringing in many of his song. He appreciates his home town. The song “This Nothin’ Town” shows it when he says, “Don’t let that one red light fool ya there’s always something going down in this Nothin’ Town.” Aldean’s unique way of singing country makes him stick out among the other country artists.

Most of Aldean’s songs sound somewhat alike. They all have the same style and feel to them. Aldean’s other albums could fit in with his new one “Night Train.” He doesn’t change his styles but he has grown as an overall artist.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Avenged Sevenfold Builds Up Fan Base

Kurt Holden

Staff Reporter

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Formed in 1999 out of Huntington Beach, California, heavy metal band Avenged Sevenfold has built a huge fan base.

After five great studio records, the band continues to play shows on tour and produce music, and hopes to have a new album out this summer. Their latest album, “Nightmare,” which was released in 2011, won four Golden God awards for Best Drummer, Best Guitarist, Best Vocalist, and Best Album of 2011. One great song from the album, “Buried Alive,” was also nominated for the Best Song of 2011.

Former drummer James “The Rev” Sullivan played with the band since 1999 but suddenly passed away May of 2009. The band took the loss extremely hard since he was basically a family member to them. “Nightmare” was dedicated to him as well as several songs off the album. A very personal and heartfelt song, “So Far Away,” was written by guitarist Synyster Gates in memoriam of The Rev.

After five solid albums, Avenged Sevenfold has created many notable songs. They include, “Afterlife,” “Almost Easy,” “Beast and the Harlot,” and “Bat Country.” Some of their fans’ favorite songs are “Seize the Day,” “Chapter Four,” “Welcome to the Fam-

ily,” “A Little Piece of Heaven,” and “So Far Away.”

Avenged Sevenfold was influenced by many great previous artists. They include Metallica, Pantera, Guns N’ Roses, Alice in Chains, Iron Maiden, and Korn.

Since 1999, the band has sold over eight million records worldwide. A few of Avenged Sevenfold’s top hits have appeared in video games as soundtracks. The track “Chapter Four” appeared in “Madden 2004.” “Call of Duty: Black Ops” used “Not Ready to Die” for the Zombies game mode and “Carry On” appeared in the sequel to the game, “Black Ops 2.”

The band has been criticized by some fans for being “not metal enough” because they encompass some brass and stringed orchestras into some of their songs. The band members like to mix things up and make the orchestral instruments sound heavy, so they fit in.

In concert, Avenged Sevenfold puts on an amazing show with lasers and light shows, fire and explosions, and the oozing fog that helps the typical dark and creepy Avenged Sevenfold background art come to life. The quality of their music is outstanding and sounds better than the album. Having a great front man, M. Shadows, keeps the crowd alive more than anything, with help from great guitar and drum solos.

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Foster The People ‘Torches’ Music Charts

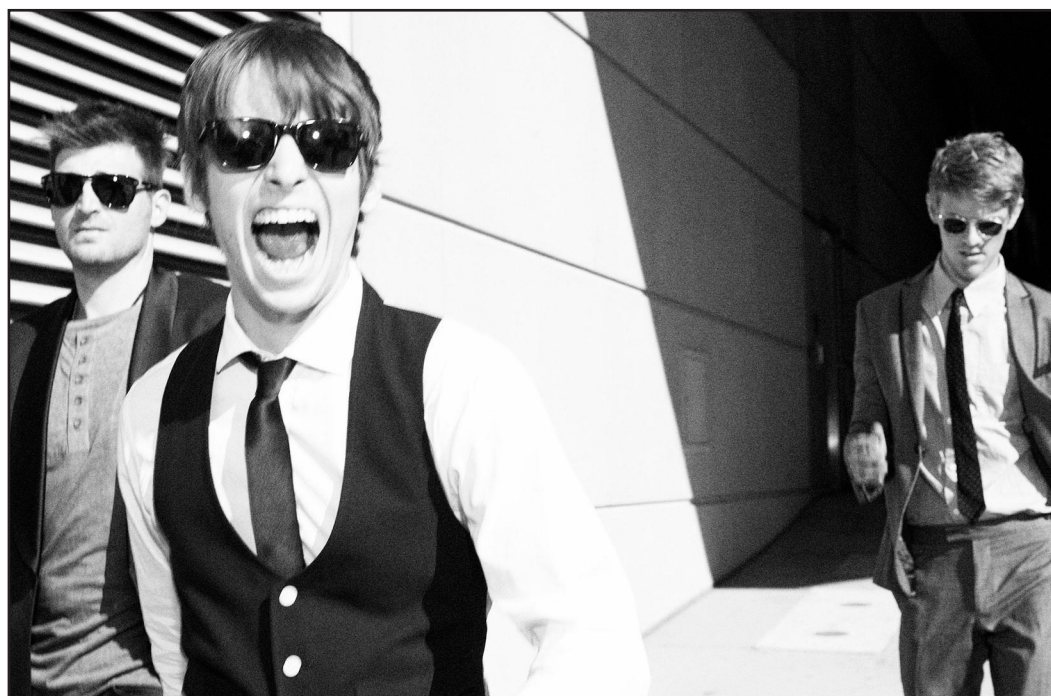
Adam Weber
Staff Reporter
@awebr

Based out of Los Angeles and formed in 2009, Foster the People has become a viral hit in the past years. Most people only have heard the name connected to their song “Pumped Up Kicks,” but the rest of their album “Torches” is great to listen to.

As a struggling musician, Mark Foster created the group after working as a jingle writer for commercials. Cubbie Fink joined as the bassist and Mark Pontius was added on the drums. After “Pumped Up Kicks” became a viral success, the group got a record deal and produced more music.

Mark Foster originally named the group Foster & the People, but people misheard the name as Foster the People and eventually, the name stuck.

Their album “Torches” falls within the genre of alternative rock/indie pop and diverges from the mainstream radio music that is pervasive today. Although the group utilizes modern technology such as electronic sounds and instruments, they still stay authentic



(photo courtesy theaureview.com)

with true talent and the absence of any autotune. The music from this album is generally characterized by powerful keyboard riffs, solid drums, and a great range of vocals. A majority of the songs are quite catchy and contribute highly to the album’s quality of listening.

The first song off the album, “Helena Beat,” sets the stage

for what’s to come in the rest of the collection. A simple yet driving drum beat keeps the song flowing while the thick synth chords make an interesting melody. What’s great about this song and many others from Foster the People is that it’s not just the same four chords throughout the whole song; there’s a break where a differ-

ent feel emerges into the tune and brings it back to the main chorus. In this particular song, the vocals and synth drop out to leave drum fills and bass, building up tension that leads back to the initial melody.

“Houdini” is arguably one of the best songs from the album. It not only sounds amazing, but sends a message with

the lyrics.

The lyrics, “Got shackles on, my words are tied / Fear can make you compromise / With the lights turned up, it’s hard to hide / Sometimes I want to disappear” express Foster’s apprehension about performing on stage and the pressure that arises when he’s put on the spot. But by doing the best he can in these situations, “Raise up to your ability,” he can overcome the fears. The last song, “Warrant,” is yet another exceptional song and ends the album on a positive note. The piano and vocal combination works well in this song, and as previously mentioned, includes a break from the standard progression to switch it up a bit.

Unfortunately, not all the songs are as amazing as they have been portrayed to be. “Miss You” doesn’t have much supporting melody behind the vocals and the transitions into the chorus are strange. However, all the songs are recorded with brilliant quality.

Even with a few songs not up to par, Foster the People’s “Torches” is a superb recording and deserves to be listened to.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Shomo Takes Break From Attack! Attack!

Pierce Edward Holveck
Staff Reporter
@PierceHolveck

Attack! Attack! front man and vocalist Caleb Shomo has made the decision to leave the band once and for all.

Shomo’s reasons for doing so are upsetting and heart-breaking, but they are for the better. Though he has waited until now to make the official announcement of his departure from Attack! Attack!, Shomo has technically been out of the band for three months, having waited until the band had everything established with their new vocalist, Johnny Franck.

The reasons that caused Shomo to leave the band were not ones of childish drama or financial aspects, rather ones regarding a more personal register. He has been dealing with severe clinical depression for years, which is only made worse by the stress of his touring musician lifestyle. He often advocated his struggles while on tour, giving speeches during his bands sets, stressing the importance of staying strong and having heart.

In the official announcement of his departure, Shomo brought to light a few points and personal secrets that few people knew about. On top of his depression, Shomo also is

dealing with eating disorders, constantly struggling with himself to accept his self-image.

“I’ve struggled on and off with eating disorders, self-image problems since I was announced as the front man a few years ago, and various substance abuse and addictions for about the past year. Having thousands of people tell you you’re fat isn’t exactly the easiest thing to deal with at 17, and I could imagine ever,” Shomo said at the press conference in which he announced his departure from the band.

Though it is the end of Attack! Attack! For Shomo, it is not the end of his life as a musician. For now, he is taking some personal time to recover and out himself into a better, more stable state of mind, he has plans to continue his music career in his relatively new band, Beartooth.

“That is a hardcore band where I will be screaming and yelling and singing and running around on a stage generally making a fool of myself and all that good stuff I did in Attack! Attack!” he said.

The good news is that there is hope on the horizon for Caleb Shomo, and the hardcore music scene is anxious to hear what his new band has to offer. Fans hope it will be worth the wait.

ASAP Rocky’s Debut Album Leaves Good First Impression

Jack Merva
Staff Reporter
@jmervaa

After going on Drake’s Club Paradise tour, ASAP Rocky has gotten some fame and has now released his debut album “LONG.LIVE.ASAP.”

ASAP which usually means “As Soon As Possible,” actually has many meanings including “Always Strive And Prosper” and “Acronym Symbolizing Any Purpose.” This is not only the symbol of ASAP Rocky, but also his ASAP Mob that includes rappers, producers, and music video directors. This album starts off with two songs that were released earlier than the album as singles. The first song, “Goldie,” talks about his lifestyle that is gold compared to everyone else’s life.

Another song that was released early to get people excited for this debut album was “Problem.” The song features Kendrick Lamar, Drake, and 2Chainz. This was the most popular song off the album and really got people to listen to ASAP Rocky for the first time and realize they should listen to more songs. Another one of the popular songs on this album features the artist Skrillex. Skrillex usually does dubstep music but they were featured in a dubstep-like song called “Wild for the Night.” Skrillex



(photo courtesy respect-mag.com)

produced the song.

Besides Skrillex, the album’s production was handled by Hit Boy, AS\$AP Ty Beats, Soufien3000, Clams Casino, Danger Mouse, Noah “40” Shebib,” and Emile Haynie, along with other very successful and popular producers.

ASAP Rocky has guest appearances on this album which are very rare for a debut album. For example, Drake and Kendrick Lamar are famous already and don’t need to be featured in songs that might not be well-received, so that goes to prove how good ASAP Rocky is and how bright his future is.

One of the songs on the album is called “1 Train” and features Kendrick Lamar and many other rappers. It is the

longest song on the album.

Rocky said, “I wanted to make a posse cut that felt like an original ‘90s underground track, and I didn’t have to tell anyone what to do.” He also said, “(I) took it upon myself to feature all the people who I respect as artists of my generation.” He also said his favorite verse is from the rapper Big K.R.I.T.

This young new rapper from Harlem knew he had to prove himself and he did. This album is composed very well and has the right ratio of R&B sounding songs and club songs. This ratio, the right amount of features, and the best sounding beats are what ASAP Rocky need to leave a good first impression and that’s what he has done.

Rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars



(photo courtesy tumblr.com)

‘Pretty Little Liars’ Fun For Everyone

Meaghan Sollitto
Staff Reporter

“Pretty Little Liars” is a television show on the network ABC Family.

The main characters in this show are Lucy Hale, (Aria Montgomery), Ashley Benson, (Hanna Marin), Troian Bellisario, (Spencer Hastings), and Shay Mitchell, (Emily Fields).

Hale started her quest to stardom at the age of nine by taking voice lessons. Since then she has starred in movies such as “Sorority Wars” and “Scream 4.”

Benson started to like theater around age three, and started acting around age nine. Since then she has been in “13 Going On 30,” “Bring It On: In It to Win It,” and she stars in her own film “Spring Breakers.”

Bellisario previously had a recurring role in NCIS and JAG.

Mitchell began dance lessons at age five and started acting at age ten. Her biggest role was in “DeGrassi: The Next Generation.”

The show takes place in Rosewood, Pennsylvania. Best friends Aria, Emily, Spencer, Hanna and Alison were inseparable.

They knew everything about each other. Then the summer before they were all about to start high school together, things took a turn for the murderous.

Their friend Alison, “Queen Bee” of the group, went missing in the middle of the night. The girls were so devastated that they all went their separate

ways that summer, and lost touch.

Right before school, they all return to Rosewood to find out that Alison had been murdered and her funeral would be the following week.

Now, the girls need each other more than ever.

As they reconnect, they receive texts from a mysterious person named “A”. The texts are threatening and dangerous.

However, if the girls do not comply, their deepest, darkest secrets will be revealed, and their lives will be shattered.

The writers of the show do a very good job at creating and keeping suspense. At the end of every episode the viewer will be left saying “what!?” and will be wanting the next episode right then.

They are also very good at keeping the viewer guessing. Every time the viewer thinks they know who “A” could possibly be, something happens where those ideas get killed.

Some weak points are that there have been way too many seasons. Also, the show is very unrealistic.

Ninety percent of what happens in this show would never happen in real life.

However, the show has a ton of suspense, an extremely interesting story line, interesting characters, humor, love and of course, drama.

This show would appeal to anyone. It has something for everyone in it, and it stays interesting throughout the whole show.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars

Reruns Revive Hilarious Television Series ‘Monk’

Christina Macaluso
Staff Reporter

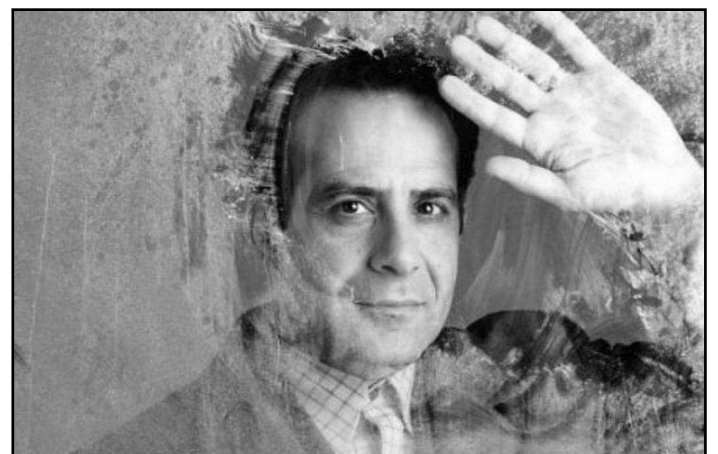
“Monk” is a TV series on the USA network, produced by Andy Breckman. The series is full of drama, mystery, crime, and of course, comedy.

The first season of “Monk” aired in 2002 and the show’s final season aired in 2009. Throughout those seven years, eight seasons were aired. Shortly after, a special DVD titled “Best of Monk” was released. The DVD contained one episode from each of the eight seasons that were selected by Breckman.

The series is now available on Netflix, as well as on the USA Network as reruns air every few weeks. Reruns and Netflix make it possible for fans and viewers of the show to enjoy it although it ended in 2009.

The series is about Adrian Monk (Tony Shalhoub) who is an amazing San Francisco detective, but loses his job after the tragic death of his wife, Trudy, causes him to gain a multiple list of phobias and obsessive compulsive disorder. Monk then continues to work as a consultant and private detective. He helps the San Francisco police department solve crimes that no one would have been able to figure out otherwise.

Although he has a hard time controlling his phobias, he is never on his own. Monk goes through two assistants, the first being Sharona Fleming (Bitty



(photo courtesy usanetwork.com)

Schram) who after a while stops working for Monk when she decides to move to New Jersey. His second and last assistant is Natalie Teeger (Traylor Howard) who bonded with Monk because she too tragically lost her spouse.

Monk also had two different therapists, the first being Dr. Charles Kroger (Stanley Kamel), who passes away, and the second being Dr. Neven Bell (Hector Elizondo).

Other main characters include Captain Leland Stottlemeyer (Ted Levine), who was Monks former boss and partner, and Lieutenant Randall Disher (Jason Gray-Stanford), who works for the police department alongside Stottlemeyer.

Once viewers watch a few episodes of “Monk,” they will get hooked and find themselves travelling beside Monk while he faces the many emotional

rollercoaster’s of his life. When watching, people can’t help but become emotional and attached to a great man who is dealing with phobias and OCD every day of his life. They’ll also find it amazing how naturally Monk is able to solve crimes and how he puts clues together that no one even came up with.

A few of Monk’s many fears are germs, milk, heights, and crowds. In fact, his assistant carries wipes at all times because Monk uses them after shaking hands, or touching anything, which he tries not to do. The only negative thing about the series is that there aren’t any more seasons or episodes after the eighth season. Fans all over became upset when the series finally came to an end because of how great it was.

Rating: 5 out of 5 stars.

(Some information courtesy usanetwork.com)

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Kendrick Hits Right Notes In 'Pitch Perfect'

Nadia Lynch

Staff Reporter

"Pitch Perfect" is a cheerful movie about the U.S. college craze for a cappella singing. It is just like the TV show "Glee" but in movie form, it's much, much better.

The movie is a comedy about a college freshman who joins a girl singing group after some persuasion to join. When the main character reveals a beautiful singing voice as a record producer and tries to bring an all-female singing group into the latest musical trends.

Many of the singing performances are show-stoppers, and several performers look like stars of tomorrow.

Rebel Wilson, who plays Fat Amy, is hilarious throughout. One of the most memorable lines in the movie was about Wilson's character. "You call yourself Fat Amy?" gasps one of the skinny girls in the singing group.

This movie should be recommended to anyone that enjoys a musical comedy. At the university the girls attend,



(photo courtesy imdb.com)

there's a tremendous rivalry for the crown of a cappella champs between an only male group The Treblemakers, with the leader Adam DeVine, and all-girl group The Bellas, led by

Aubrey (Anna Camp).

The music and choreography in this movie was astounding and anyone who is well-educated in singing or dancing will appreciate the girls' perfor-

mances. The script was written by Kay Cannon and was full of entertaining sarcasm about life in an a cappella group.

"Even though some of you are pretty thin, you all have fat

hearts, and that's what matters" is one of the famous quotes from the character Fat Amy.

She also said the hilarious line, "I've wrestled crocodiles and dingoes simultaneously."

The one hour and 52 minute movie will have all viewers interested and laughing the whole time. The cast consists of Anna Kendrick, Brittany Snow, Anna Camp, Rebel Wilson, Alexis Knapp, Christopher Minz-Plasse, Adam DeVine, Brock Vincent Kelly, Cameron Deane Stewart, and David Del Rio. The director Jason Moore has meshed all of that talent together for this memorable movie.

"Pitch Perfect" came out on September 28 and recently came out on DVD. "Pitch Perfect" is the kind of movie that is good for all ages. This movie has already become a teenage sensation. Younger kids also very much enjoy this hysterical movie. Anyone who watches this movie will find themselves quoting the movie and making jokes about it.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

EA Sports Creates Hockey Game That Tops All Others

Luke Mazzeo

Staff Reporter

@lukemazzeo

The NHL season just kicked off, and now there is a video game that is practically like the real thing.

"NHL 13," made by EA Canada, but published by EA Sports, is the top hockey game there is to buy on the market. This game is the 22nd game in its series and was released in America and Europe in September. Claude Giroux got the honor of being on the cover of this edition of "NHL 13." This game is available on the Xbox 360 and the PlayStation 3 platforms. Gamers can also play online against their friends or against other gamers around the world.

It was a monumental task to one up EA Sports' "NHL 12," but somehow EA Sports did just that; they have created a game that rises above all other hockey games. To put this game above the competition, EA Sports added True Performance Skating.

This is a new skating engine based on physics; it makes the player skating more dynamic and realistic. The skating engine is divided into three parts: explosiveness, top end speed, and momentum. This makes the game have great flow with no freezing while playing.

For this reason as more, "NHL 13" is obviously the best hockey game on the market right now. This game also



(photo courtesy of playscope.com)

has the ability to adapt to one's playing style. The game will learn the style in which the gamer plays it. For example, if someone always scores a goal the same way, soon enough the game will pick up on that and the defense will make it harder for players to score that same way. That way, players always have to switch up how they approach the opposing team.

The one downside to the game is that it gets glitches from time to time. The big problem with the game is the physics don't work so well all of the time. For example, players get knocked down from behind far too often, and the puck physics

are wildly inconsistent to the point of being unbelievable. Sometimes the puck loses all momentum when hitting off of the goal post, and drops straight to the ice. Other times it ricochets off of the post really fast like someone hit the puck. Also, the referees in this game don't call enough penalties; when a foul was obviously committed, they some times completely ignore it. On the positive note, games like this are always making changes, so hopefully this will be fixed soon. If so, "NHL 13" will maintain its spot atop the hockey video game standings.

Rating: 4.5 out of 5 stars.

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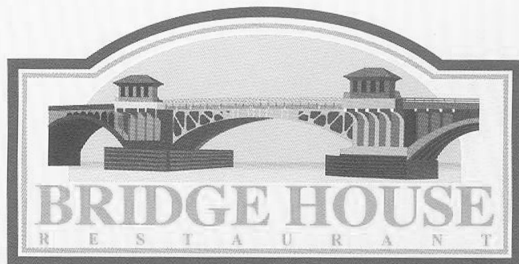
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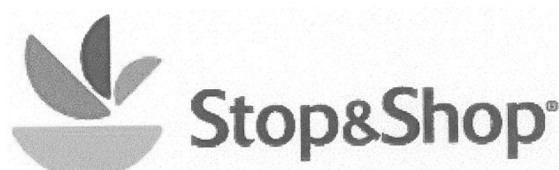
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(photo courtesy filmofilia.com)

‘Goats’ Leaves People Curious

Kendra Walker
Staff Reporter

If for some odd reason a person was interested in watching a film about a 15-year-old boy who moves to an elite prep school on the East Coast while leaving behind his eccentric mother and goat herding mentor, the best suggestion anyone could give them is to watch “Goats.”

“Goats” premiered at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival held in Utah. Directed by Christopher Neil, he stays relatively true to the novel of the same name, working closely with the author and screenplay writer Mark Poirier.

The movie starts off a bit slow with Ellis, the main character played by Graham Phillips, is on his last journey in the deserts of Tucson, Arizona with Goat Man, the only father figure he has ever had for the majority of his life. After Ellis makes Goat Man promise he’ll write to him, he goes to Gates Academy, the same exact prep school his birth father attended.

Ellis bonds with his roommate Barney, who is obsessed with being as smart as his Yale-attending older brother. He agrees to spend his Thanksgiving break with him in Washington D.C. where Barney’s mother leaves them alone for the weekend. Ellis leaves Barney to spend time with his dad who lives happily with his pregnant wife nearby.

When Ellis returns home to his mother on another break, they engage in an argument about Ellis never calling from school to check in and how he’s starting to resemble his selfish father.

To get away from his moth-

er, Ellis agrees to go on a trip with Goat Man and his two goats to rescue a refugee. When he realizes that there is no refugee and Goat Man was actually smuggling in drugs to sell for profit, Ellis calls his mother and leaves with one of the goats while Goat Man is missing somewhere. He makes up with his mom and returns to Gates shortly after. Concerned about the whereabouts of Goat Man, Ellis calls home frequently to see if he returned. He doesn’t hear anything for months but later receives a package from Goat Man, assuring him that he’s home safe and sound.

The school year ends and Ellis goes back to Tucson where he’s greeted by Goat Man and his mother’s new and improved attitudes. The movie closes with Ellis telling Goat Man that he wants to go on vacation with his father, step-mom, and new baby brother Gabriel. Goat Man tells Ellis he should go because he thinks it’ll be good for him.

The film’s overall moral was to show viewers to trust their better judgment and be accepting of those different from us. The entire hour and a half of “Goats” was enjoyable, yet completely strange. The viewer may find him or herself questioning throughout the movie why they began watching it to begin with. It’s the abnormality of the plot though that makes it so memorable to others. The actors seem to have a good understanding of their characters which helped them portray the very diverse groups of people throughout the film.

In the end, the movie fulfills its goal of teaching people not to let others “get their goat.”

Rating: 3.5 out of 5 stars

Crystal, Midler Shine In ‘Parental Guidance’

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Staff Reporter
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“Parental Guidance” is a comedy that was released on December 25. The film was directed by Andy Fickman. The cast includes Billy Crystal, Bette Midler, Marisa Tomei, and Tom Everett Scott. The film grossed over \$14.5 million on its opening weekend, and has made about \$105 million total. It has been released in the United States, Canada, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Dominican Republic, Venezuela, and Singapore.

Artie (Billy Crystal) and Diane (Bette Midler) are living a content life in California. Here Artie has his dream job where he announces minor league baseball. They have one daughter, Alice (Marisa Tomei) who is a successful businesswoman that lives with her husband in Atlanta. Her husband Phil (Tom Everett Scott) is an electronic systems inventor. They have three kids named Barker, Turner, and Harper.

With Phil’s parents are unavailable to watch the kids while Phil and Alice are away the “other grandparents” Artie and Diane are summoned. Right before Artie and Diane leave for Atlanta Artie finds out that he has been fired from his announcing job because the team is in a modernizing stage and he doesn’t fit into that frame. Upon arrival, Artie and Diane notice that don’t even know their own grandkids like they should. They notice that on the



(photo courtesy imdb.com)

mantle in Alice’s house there are all pictures of the grandkids and their other grandparents, and none of them.

Artie and Diane are ready to impose their old-fashioned ways into their grandkids. For example, the kids are not allowed to eat sugar. Artie ends up letting the kids eat cake while Phil and Alice are gone. Diane is outraged on how her granddaughter, Harper, never has any fun and practices her violin all day, every day. The film shows that being a good parent isn’t about being strict. At the beginning of the movie, Alice and Phil are very strict, protective, and serious. Artie and Diane instill the idea of having fun and laughing. Artie especially is never serious, always has a smile on his face, and is always laughing. This rubs off on all of the grandkids, especially Baker who nicknames Artie “Fartie.”

These old fashioned ideas and laid back style of parenting rub off onto Phil and Diane.

At the end, they allow the kids to eat sugar with Artie’s help. They also become better parents having the strict side, but also being able to change when the time is appropriate to be laid back and have fun. For example, at the end they allow Harper to go to a party to see a boy that she likes. In the past Phil and Alice would have never allowed Harper to attend. Aside from making the audience fall out of their chairs with laughter, the film instills the concept of how important family is. At first, Artie and Diane are non-existent in their grandchildren’s lives. By the end they are beloved by their grandchildren, and awarded some precious photo space on the mantle.

Rating: 4 out of 5 stars

Horror Movie ‘Mama’ Falls Short

Trace Malone
Staff Reporter

The new horror movie “Mama” came out in theatres on January 18. The movie was written by Neil Cross, Andrés Muschietti and Barbara Muschietti. The director of the movie was Andrés Muschietti. The stars of the movie are Jessica Chastain, Nikolaj Coster-Waldau and Megan Charpentier.

“Mama” is about a man who kidnaps two little girls and takes them to an abandoned cabin out in the forest. But before he was able to harm the two girls, some monster comes from behind the cabin and kills him, keeping the girls alive and safe.

After keeping the girls alive, the monster keeps the two little girls safe in the cabin for five years and raises them as if they were her own children. Then one day, the father of the two girls’ brother finds the two girls and decides to raise them as his own, but realizes the girls came with a bad side.

“Mama” was a lot less scary than what the previews made it out to be. In total, the movie had about five scenes that were “jump out of your seat” scary.

This movie had a very vague, confusing story line and was hard to follow. In the end, one of the girls ended up going back to live with the monster that they called “Mama” and one girl continued to live with her uncle who found her in the cabin.

This movie was a lot less scary than what the previews made it out to be. In total, the movie had about five scenes that were “jump out of your seat” scary. This made this movie

seem more like a thriller than a horror film.

Also, this movie had a lot going on, which made the movie hard to follow at certain points. The movie went to deep into the life of the girlfriend of the uncle who found the girls, which was information that was totally irrelevant to the rest of the movie.

Another problem with this movie was that it seemed that it had a lot of scenes that were added in just to make the movie longer. An example of this was when the girlfriend was at band practice and talked about her life with her band members. Another scene that could’ve been removed from the movie was when the uncle’s friends were feeding their dog in the woods before they went out to find the girls.

Overall, this movie could’ve been a lot scarier, had a smoother story line and have less irrelevant scenes.

Rating: 3 out of 5 stars

'Dead Space 3' Continues Horror Adventure

Bryan Creevy

Entertainment Editor

@BCreevyDaWriter

The Necromorphs of the "Dead Space" series changed the face of fear. The first game in the series focused on this fear and utilized it to scare the crap out of any gamer that put the game in his console. The sequel was almost equally as terrifying as the original. It kept the same close quarters environments and delivered the same close encounter scares but with a larger world to venture. It also went in deeper to the storyline that the first created. The final battle, the ending cut scene, and the extra after the credits left gamers wanting to know what was next for our hero.

When the release date for "Dead Space 3" was given out to the world, gamers were pretty skeptical. The setting of the game looked like it was completely changing from the dark and close environments to a bright, open world on the new planet of Tau Volantis. Also, gamers wondered how Visceral Games would create new scares for them. After two long games filled with enemies popping out of vents and creeping through the dark, it would be hard to catch anyone off guard since the scenarios in which attacks come were all pretty much known.

"Dead Space 3" blew away all doubts about the game. The only piece of the game that gave off a different feel than previous "Dead Space" games was the beginning where gamers fight off Unitologist soldiers as they help Isaac escape from them. Immediately after this beginning chapter, gamers are immersed straight back into the familiar world of this game franchise. The favorite scene from "Dead Space 2" of Isaac flying through space dodging debris is the first scene replicated as your ship is blown apart by mines and Isaac is separated from his group. Quickly after, gamers are right back in those dark hallways walking gingerly around dark corners awaiting the imminent scare by Necromorphs as Isaac explores the remains of 200 year old ships floating above the planet. During one mission aboard these four ancient ships, gamers even are pitted against the infamous Ubermorph, or regenerating Necromorph, which never fails to scare through the dimly lit, cramped hallways as he chases Isaac down.

A scene new to the series that amazed almost everyone was the flight down to the planet. Gamers had to control the flight of the ship as it descended down to the planet keeping it in line with the course by staying within certain square boundaries while at the same time shooting down mines and



Isaac Clarke battling off a group of Feeder Necromorphs. (photo courtesy whatculture.com)

debris that would otherwise collide with the ship. Usually, crash scenes are a part of a cut scene where gamers standby as all the action occurs. Being able to be in charge of the ship as it plummeted and crash landed is one thing that makes "Dead Space 3" stand out.

An extra to this game that wasn't available before is the option to do what is called "Optional Missions." These missions, as the name suggests, are not required to complete the game. Gamers can choose to complete them or ignore them; however, there are always supplies or info waiting for Isaac at the end. Each mission usually supplies gamers with circuits (the items used to upgrade weapons), ammo, and supply boxes with resources to build and upgrade.

One of the most anticipated parts of the game revealed before its release was that gamers don't need to go into the fret alone. "Dead Space 3" doesn't only have a Single Player Campaign but also a Co-op Campaign. Each campaign follows the same general story and has the same ending; however a lot of cut scenes and optional missions are available only in the Co-op Campaign. John Carver, the character controlled by the second player in co-op, is the reason for these extra missions and cut scenes. In the Single Player Campaign, John Carver is still a character in the game; however, he only interacts with gamers through cut scenes and parts of the game with no danger. During Co-op, he follows Isaac around through the entire game and something interesting and unique to this campaign happens. The player who is in control of John Carver can actually see things that the player in control of Isaac can't. This can be related to how Isaac was able to see Nicole Brennan, his dead girlfriend, in "Dead Space 2" except it's not exactly the same. What Carver sees are images of his child and wife whom died before the events of this game

during a Marker uprising. The optional missions that branch off from the main story in Co-op mode are extensions of Carver's story and how he is personally affected by the events of this game. Just as Isaac faced Nicole, his Marker created demon, Carver faces his own throughout this game alongside Isaac.

The Weapons System and Bench has been completely overhauled in "Dead Space 3." In the previous two Dead Space titles, players would find schematics for weapons which they can then bring to a Store to buy. From there, they could bring weapons to a Bench to add Power Nodes to them in order to give them upgraded abilities. Now, the Visceral team completely scrapped the Store and credits system to buy guns and items. Everything is now made through resources and frames. Gamers can literally build their own personalized gun with an upper tool and a lower tool to fit their style for cutting down Necromorphs. If a gamer has a preference to the original weapons from the original games, blueprints can be found throughout the game to bring to the bench. From there, they can construct each weapon using resources found everywhere throughout the game from Necromorph bodies to loot found at the end of Optional Missions. A few different resources that can be found are Scrap Metal, Tungsten, and Semiconductors. These resources not only can be used to create weapons from Blueprints but can be a replacement to credits and Power Nodes. Certain resources can be used to create health packs, ammo, and Statix Packs. Also, even though Circuits are used to upgrade guns, resources can be used to build circuits to be used to upgrade weapons. The uses for resources don't end there. Since the Store no longer exists, Isaac and Carver need a new place to change suits. A new station called the "Suit Kiosk" contains all suits each player

can change into and also acts as the place where players' suit can be upgraded. Health, Air, Armor, Statix, and Kinesis can all be upgraded at this station through the various types of resources that players collect.

One small change to the way characters can move made one big change to the engagement of Necromorphs. Gamers can now make Isaac and Carver roll forward, back, or to either side. It sounds like a small concept, but when a Slasher is reaching out at Isaac for an execution or a Pucker is shooting his puke directly at Carver, being able to dodge roll to the side can be the difference between life and being brutally ripped apart.

The Unitologist soldiers were a good thought to bring into the game, but fights against them didn't often play out as epic as they were acclaimed to be. First of all, the AIs controlling the Unitologists are really dumb. When they clearly outnumber Isaac, they continuously get up from cover and run to a different spot that half the time is no closer than where they were before. Second, the majority of the fights where Unitologists appear, Necromorphs appear too, however,

they attack the Unitologists. If the gamer lets them fight it out, they will all kill each other. Usually, one soldier or Necromorph survives who then goes after the gamer, but sometimes the last Necromorph and soldier end up killing each other leaving the gamer to walk through, collect ammo, and move on unscathed. Another thing that wasn't thought out well is the cover system. When Isaac or Carver is behind something that can be used as cover, the gamer can hit the "LT" button on the Xbox Controller to shield himself behind that cover. If they aim while behind cover, they can aim their weapon over the cover and aim it around in different places. However, once they are behind this cover, they cannot move left or right unless they leave the cover and move over. It is a minor detail, but can become very annoying in fire fights. "Dead Space" is not a "Call of Duty" or "Battlefield," so their cover system isn't their primary focus, but it wasn't perfected as it could have been to fit the setting of the fire fights in the game.

"Dead Space" has never disappointed before and the third installment has definitely followed this trend. Despite the disappointments from the Unitologists and imperfections from the over system, Visceral pulled out all the stops in order to keep the "Dead Space" feel throughout the game and to create new scares and heart-pounding fights. The new customizations and abilities really add to the experience and help get immersed in this new world. If none of these changes are enough for a fan out there, the story is definitely worth the buy. The ending will evoke many emotions and the special secret after the credits will evoke even more. This title lives up to the legacy and deserves all the praise it has received.

Rating: 4.75 out of 5 stars



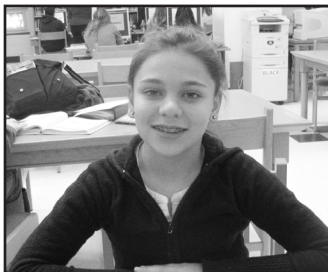
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What's In Your iPod?



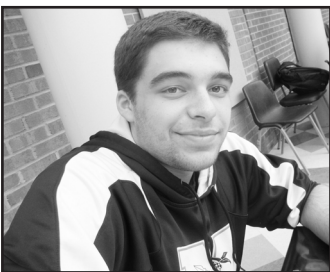
(photo courtesy Danielle Gray)

Freshman: Brooke Kolliopoulos

- 1. One Thing - One Direction
- 2. Little Things - One Direction
- 3. Baby Boy - Beyonce
- 4. Love - Beyonce
- 5. Rock Me - One Direction

Sophomore: Colin DiPisa

- 1. 1994 - Jason Aldean
- 2. Banjo - Rascal Flatts
- 3. Wheels Rolling - Jason Aldean
- 4. Take A Little Ride - Jason Aldean
- 5. Under The Bridge - Red Hot Chili Peppers



(photo courtesy Danielle Gray)



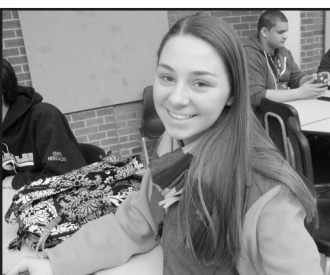
(photo courtesy Danielle Gray)

Junior: Chase Mitchell

- 1. Love Sosa - Chief Keef
- 2. Ghetto Symphony - ASAP Rocky
- 3. 1 Train - ASAP Rocky
- 4. Hood Rich - DJ Scream
- 5. Anything But Broke - Waka Flocka

Senior: Shaina Jennings

- 1. Wanted - Hunter Hayes
- 2. You Ain't Alone - Toby Keith
- 3. State Of Grace - Taylor Swift
- 4. Feel That Again - Jason Aldean
- 5. All You Ever - Hunter Hayes



(photo courtesy Danielle Gray)



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Stop & Smell The Roses: The Magic Of Our Words

Anisha Manglani
Staff Reporter

Dominoes stand in a rigid line, balancing ever so slightly and waiting for the lightest breeze to knock them over. A doe grazes in an empty forest with its ear tuned for the faintest threat, posed to run at the first alarm. The sun shades its eyes behind gray clouds, hesitant before the blue sky but brilliant with a smile to light up the morning.

Every little word you say is magic. Magic not with witches and spells and potions but magic, with the effects you'll never know you have on others, exists in all of us. Words are the most powerful forms of magic we hold.

The boy whose artwork you've just praised raises his eyes to meet yours. He will not dare to respond, and you'll never know that he has gone through months without muse. Your words have encouraged him to open his eyes again. He rushes home after school, picks up his paintbrush, cleans the

*Everything you say
and everything you
do creates a
ripple effect.
Some ripples stay
ripples, but others
transform into
tsunamis.*

dust from his canvas, and splatters color across a blank page.

A boy who posts a depressing status update expects nothing in return but hopes desperately for an ear to listen. You type "I'm here to talk if you need to. Are you okay?" and continue scrolling down your feed. The boy sees your comment as soon as you post it and exhales slowly. An hour later, a Facebook chat pops up on your screen. "Thank you," it says.

However, like all good things in life, the magic of our words has a dark side. Without

careful choice in our actions, we can upset an avalanche with the trip of a pebble.

A boy you tease for no reason but enjoyment blushes and laughs along with your "jokes." Inside, however, a little voice reminds him that there must be something wrong with him. There is something that will always stop him from becoming something more. His hopes have fallen.

The girl walking briskly down the hallway with her hands buried in her pockets and her eyes glued to the floor hears your snickers as she passes. Her pace quickens. She races home. She locks herself in her bedroom and vows not to return to the outside world where she will only ever be treated with disrespect.

Everything you say and everything you do creates a ripple effect. Some ripples stay ripples, but others may transform into tsunamis.

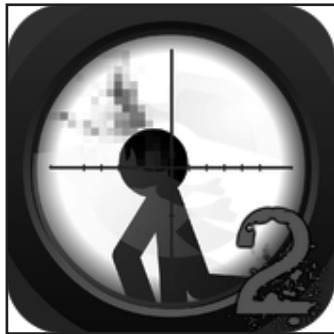
Slow down, think before you speak, and be sure to stop and smell the roses.

THE ADVOCATE
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What’s APPening?: 5 Apps To Download Now



Bryan Creevy
Entertainment Editor

“What’s hAPPening?” is a monthly column that reviews the hottest, most popular, and newest apps that are out there for the iPod touch, iPhone, and iPad. Each month, it will have five different apps that have the highest ratings or have just recently come out.

Fun Run

There is just something about simplicity and violence that makes an iPod game great. Fun Run is a multiplayer game you can play with your friends that fools you with cute characters and its cheerful title. The game is a racing game where your adorable fox-like characters race to the end of the track grabbing power-ups and attacks along the way. You can place bear traps, send lightning bolts on others, and cut straight through your

friends. Other abilities speed up your character to help you surpass your friends.

There isn’t too much to the game, but that, along with the ability to brutally kill cute little foxes, is what makes Fun Run so much fun.

Temple Run 2

Temple Run was a very popular and addicting game, so I saw this coming a mile away. Just like the first game, Temple Run 2 follows our runner as he attempts to steal yet another idol. The first thing noticed about the game if it’s not the giant monkey chasing after you now is the substantially better graphics. What used to be the same boring background is now a beautiful sunset sky, mountains, and the clouds below that constantly changes. Also, there are new obstacles to maneuver such as a spinning spiked barrel and rushing

rivers. The coolest changes are the ziplines and the cart rides. There is one new power-up: gems. They can be used to save yourself when you’re killed.

Overall, everything that we loved about the first has been improved in the second. You can expect more hours of your life wasted away while you try and fail at running away from Temple Run 2.

Last Alert

Dear God, is that app helpful. Last Alert can help you track down an iPod even when the battery is dead!

There is a three step process to Last Alert. First, when the battery is getting low, the device will sound an audible noise to let you know it is about to die. Second, it will issue an e-mail alert to you with the devices precise coordinates when it issued the audible alarm. Lastly, if you

have another device with Last Alert, a compass feature with a distance meter will point you in the direction of the device and tell you how far from it you are. The louder it beeps, the closer you are.

For those of you who constantly lose your iPods, it would be smart to get this app on two separate devices. It can be the difference between fun and games and hours and hours of intense boredom.

Clear Vision 2

Stick Figures? Snipers? You already know it’s going to be an entertaining game.

Tyler Smith, the protagonist stick figure, is the best hitman around, but when his wife gets kidnapped because of his job, he will kill anyone in his path to get her back.

Sniping other stick figures is more amusing than you would think. It feels like a real

action flick and the pace is pretty good.

You can’t afford to miss a shot in this game. Make sure your shot is clear before you pull that trigger. Remember, your wife’s life is on the line.

Plague Inc.

Have you ever wanted to create an infectious disease to spread across the globe and wipe out mankind? Well now you can!

Create your plague from scratch by picking its genes, characteristics, and what it affects in the body. As your disease starts spreading around the world, you can unlock upgrades to make it even deadlier.

See how fast you can wipe out all the humans. That kid who was making fun of you or calling you names the other day, you can infect him/her first.

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The Advocate's Monthly Focus on Art Section

This Month's
Artwork:

Regina Hu
(Self-Portrait)

The Confessions Of A Wicked Mind: "Reality"

Anisha Manglani
Staff Reporter

There are more than two sides to every story. A story can be a word; it can be a face.

It can climb a mountain and collapse under an avalanche. It can live, and it can breathe. A story is more than words on a page. A story is exordium.

For nineteen years, the New York skyline awoke William Morgan. Most mornings, he pulled the sheets over his head and groaned at sun's glare through his high-rise window. Sometimes, like today, William crawled out of bed and into the city.

For some, Manhattan shone with opportunity. It twinkled in the eyes of young adults searching for the glimpse of a dream. William saw the city for what it was – a map lined with dirt and grime. He followed the eyes of broken men, scuttling rats, and pieces of scantily dressed trash. William's imagination spun tales from the stories he traced, and he soon grew unable to distinguish fantasy from the truth. Reality was important, they insisted, but when he asked why, they never had an answer.

A man in a tattered business suit raced out of an apartment building and nearly tackled William on his way out. Though the city shunned the man for his

dishevelment and carelessness, William pitied him. Judging by the empty briefcase hanging by its hinges, William assumed the man was laid off from work for several months. William pictured the small apartment behind him with the man suffocated by his overbearingly high maintenance family. Instead of confronting his wife with their financial troubles, the man pretended as though nothing had changed as he spent his last few pennies at the bar. To waste a life, William thought, could lie on either end of the scale. It could drive a man to insanity, or it could numb him to death. The man turned the corner with the tails of his coat trailing behind him. William bit his thumb and walked on.

Down the street, William sat by the feet of a boy playing his guitar. He couldn't catch the boy's face hidden beneath long, dark hair but figured he could be no older than seventeen. It wasn't a song he recognized. The tune droned on, each note a long drawl. William dropped the change from his pocket into the guitar case and tilted his head to steal a glance at the boy's face. His eyes were black. Empty. Devoid of feeling. Of love. William froze. This boy had no family. He must have been scraping off a living from his street collections and paying

the bills for his mother's apartment so not to be orphaned off. William shivered, dropped a couple dollars in the guitar case, and walked on.

On the curb hunched a man wrapped in large cloth drapes. The only thing distinguishing him from the concrete wall behind him was a cardboard sign reading, "NEED MONY 4 MY BOYS SCHOOL." The crooked message was difficult for William to read, even when he squinted his eyes. There was nothing William hated more than the sight of a hopeless man, deemed a lost cause by the universe. All men, he thought, were destined for their place. The man at the bar was never going to make his way back to the top of the business ladder. The boy on the street would soon be phoned by Child Protective Services and shipped to the nearest foster home. This man, slumped against a cold wall like a dead body, would never fund his boy's education. He would spend his day's collection after making an ill-fortuned bet. He would fail. They would all fail. William handed a dollar to the man before proceeding down the street.

In the park, William spotted a young woman with her face buried in a camera. She was perched at the top of the playground's slide, so close to

the edge that she could have fallen with the slightest breeze. He stood below the slide, ready to catch her if the wind blew. He followed her camera's focus across the park and met a man clutching a bundle of blankets to his chest. William felt compelled to approach the man and read the look in his eyes. Was it anger at his wife for giving him the full responsibility of a child? Was it hesitation for the uncertainty in raising a child alone? But a more pressing question was why the girl before him was so desperate to catch the perfect snapshot of one man among hundreds.

She pulled the camera away from her face and knitted her eyebrows together as she looked at the photo.

"Come on then, take a look," the girl smiled, leaning further over the edge of the slide to give William a glance at her screen. "What do you see?"

He was silent, still focused on the girl's miraculous stance on the slide. She was bound to fall any moment now.

She zoomed into the screen, "See how the man's eyes refuse to leave his child's? His wife has recently gone missing – maybe even dead – and the only thing that brings her back to him is their little boy's eyes."

"The kid's asleep," William murmured under his breath.

"That he is!" the girl exclaimed, "His father silently wishes him to wake, so he can catch another glance at those eyes. But, no, he won't ever wake his son – not in this world where everyone is destined to fall."

"The naïve mind is always at peace."

The girl nodded solemnly, "I'm Devin, by the way."

"William," he shook her hand, dumbfounded.

Devin pointed across the street at an old man in a suit holding a bouquet of roses, "Do you see him?"

"Looks like he's headed off to a funeral."

"You are a bit mistaken. Look closely. His knuckles are white from his tight grasp around the flowers, his left thumb is toying with his wedding ring, and his suit doesn't have a single stain."

"So he's on his way to his wife's funeral?"

"Today is his fiftieth anniversary, and he's saved all of his extra salary this year to make it special for her. He wants her to know that even though she's dead he'll always be loyal to her."

William paused, "Sounds too good to be true."

"I like to think reality can't get any worse than it already is."

THE CONE ZONE



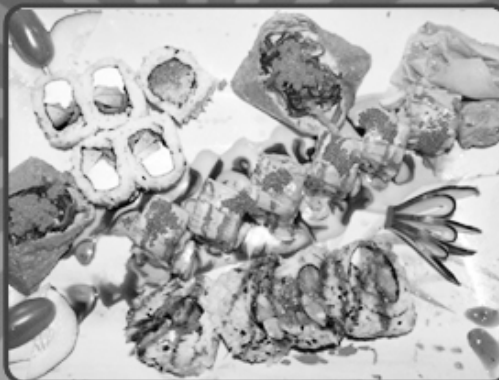
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Senior Ryan Dennis made states in the 600m.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Senior Dennis Excels At 600m

Julia Maurer
Staff Reporter

Senior **Ryan Dennis** became a top runner in the state of Connecticut for the 600m.

"The best part of this season was the first meet when I ran the 600 for the first time ever and came in first," said Dennis.

In the first meet of the season in mid-December, Dennis made states for the 600m with a 1:28 and later made states for the 4x200m relay and the 4x400m relay. In a developmental meet in January, Dennis ran his best time with a 1:27.33 in the 600m.

At the CIAC State Championships meet, Dennis just missed state opens when he came in sixth place with 1:27.7.

"I'm happy with the outcome, but I know I could've done better," said Dennis. "If I ran my best time, I would have come in first and made it to state opens."

Many are impressed, though, with Dennis' progression from last season as a pole-vaulter to this season as a states qualifying runner.

"He started out last year as a decent pole-vaulter, but has evolved into one of the better runners in the SCC," said head coach **Mr. Beler**.

Dennis first realized his potential for running events last indoor track season when Beler put him in the 400m and he ran a decent time.

"I tried my hardest to get

better," said Dennis. "I haven't stopped training since last indoor season."

Ranked twenty-fourth in the state for the 600m, Dennis' work has paid off this season to get him to states and nearly to state opens.

"I think Ryan did great in states," said assistant coach **Ms. Pirrello**.

"He ran aggressively and smart, and he ran a competitive time."

Aside from showing promise in running, Dennis acts as a motivator and leader for his teammates.

"If I'm ever tired or just feel like not doing anything, he's always there to keep pushing me and make me finish," said junior **Tim Maher**.

As a leader, both Pirrello and Beler recognize his dedication to the sport and the team.

"He is a leader by example, he always gives 100% at practice, he stays later to practice extra, and he is a great role model for the underclassmen," said Pirello.

Dennis has come a long way since last season, pleasantly surprising the whole team.

With great improvement come great expectations, which teammates and coaches believe Dennis has managed to exceed this season.

"He cares about what he does and works really hard," said senior teammate **Jake Markham**.

Manohar Swims His Way To Successful Season

Gabe Salles
Staff Reporter

Senior captain **Ratan Manohar** is hoping to end his last season as a Jonathan Law swimmer with a bang.

With nine dual meets competed, the inexperienced swim team is winless. However, Manohar is not discouraged.

He plans on driving the team harder for the rest of the season.

He believes that all the hard work the team put in this year will pay off in the future.

"This year has not been the best for the boys swim team, but we are still trying hard," Manohar said.

Manohar has been on the boys swim team ever since it was brought back to Law during his freshman year.

He qualified for the Southern Connecticut Conference (SCC) finals last year and in the third meet of the season, against Hamden, Manohar qualified for the SCC trials.

Many swimmers on the team admire Manohar's performance in meets. Manohar puts up best times on a regular basis.

"He is one of the hardest working swimmers on the team, every time he gets out of the pool he is out of breath, nonetheless he still cheers for us," junior **Jacque Jalaf** said.

To others, his attitude towards the sport also makes him a great captain. He does not let the time commitment him and asks many students if



Senior Ratan Manohar was one of Law's top swimmers this season.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

they would join the team.

"A major reason why I joined the team was because of Ratan," Freshman **Colby Brenean** said.

"I met him in boy scouts and he asked me if I wanted to join the swim team so I did and I do not regret doing so even though we are not the most successful sport."

After a short-lived success from this year, Manohar feels the pressure to improve the team. He, along with senior captain **Pat Santos**, looks to leave the team something to remember.

"Ratan and I have become really good friends throughout our swimming career," said Santos. "As captains we don't let anyone skip laps or go easy, we want the team to practice

hard because it will help us later on in the season."

SCCs is the only competition left in the season and with every day that passes the realization sinks in that this is Manohar's last seasons as a Law swimmer.

His tremendous efforts are even noticed by head swim coach **Ms. Rosner**.

"Whenever we are in a meet, Ratan tells his teammates to go cheer and support the swimmers," Ms. Rosner said. "It does not matter the score of the meet, he encourages everyone to keep their heads up because they tried their best and never gave up."

Once swim season is over, Ratan hopes to continue swimming whether it is for exercise or in college.

Holden Makes Strides On Mat

Ben Buczek
Staff Reporter
@benbuczek

Law junior wrestler **Kurt Holden** was "very inspiring" for his team this year.

Holden has been wrestling since his sophomore year and has improved drastically. He got ready for his junior season as soon as he could.

"I went to open mats whenever I could and got into condition in time for the season's start," Holden said.

Holden won 11 matches record in his first varsity year wrestling in the 170 pound weight class, even though he only weighs around 150.

"Even though he only started wrestling last year, he has improved a lot since then," junior **Chris Krouch** said.

With just one year of experience, Holden is already on the varsity team and learned the tricks on the mat quickly.

"Ever since I started wrestling last year, I've been

addicted to it," Holden said. "My technique has improved greatly along with my strength."

Even though he's only a junior, Holden is a big contributor and a great team leader.

When someone needs a laugh or is just angry with themselves, Holden is always there to make them feel better.

"He always brings a positive attitude with him and encourages everyone to do their absolute best," assistant coach **Mr. Ruzbarsky** said.

It seems like everyone on the Law wrestling team counts on Holden to be there when it matters most, and they depend on him to get everyone on track.

"Kurt is a role model for me on the team not only because he is an upperclassmen and a good wrestler, but also because of his great sportsmanship," sophomore **Tim Edson** said. "I envy how it seems like nothing

makes him mad and he will always have a smile on his face whether he wins or loses."

The wrestling team finished the regular season with an 18-14 record. The team entered the postseason with high hopes.

"I'd like to have at least five of our wrestlers place in the state open tournament, especially the captains," said Holden.

Holden has really stepped up since last year and showed his team how much of a leader he is.

One of his many goals for next year is to be a captain.

"He's a good teammate and I consider him more of a friend when I'm wrestling than just a fellow wrestler," Edson said.

The whole team seems to have great chemistry with each other and Holden has a very big part in that.

"Kurt is one of my best friends on the team and he is always there for me," said Krouch.

Hockey Teams Skate To Finish

Tarah Kelly
Columns Editor

The boys and girls hockey teams just finished up successful winter seasons.

The Milford Indians boys hockey team is getting prepared for the state tournament, while the girls are handing in their jerseys after a great regular season.

The boys ended their regular season 12-8 and now hope to repeat their state tournament success from a year ago. This year is different than last year, though, as they are able to run three effective lines instead of only two as they did last season.

Law has 10 players who are a part of the Milford Indians, which is also made up of players from Foran and Platt.

Law sophomore **Jarod Butts** stepped up for the team this season and was a defensive starter.

"During the off season I did a lot of spring leagues as well as many captain practices," said Butts.

Along with Butts, sophomore **Colin DiPisa** made a name for himself. He helped the team to several key wins.

"One of our biggest accomplishments was being a Division 1 team (East Haven)," said junior **Dylan Hallett**. "We worked as a team and got the win we needed."

Butts, DiPisa and Hallett,

along with Foran stars Zach White, Rob Buskey and Will Vitelli helped the Indians to their winning record.

The Indians are the 11th seed in the state bracket and will start their quest for the state championship this week.

Meanwhile, the Milford-Notre Dame girls ice hockey co-op team was only two wins shy of making it to the state tournament. They finished their season with a 6-14-1 record.

Junior captain **Brooke Bonetti** is already excited for next season.

"We faced many struggles this year," said Bonetti. "One of the captains broke her thumb and was out for five games, and then I tore my MCL and was out for four."

Bonetti, the team's starting goalie, had a .341 winning percentage and only allowed 55 goals in 21 games.

"Being out for the games I was really made an impact on the team," said Bonetti. "We had to suit up a new goalie, but it made everyone work even harder than they have been."

With Bonetti returning next year, the team hopes to be successful once again. Along with Bonetti, two other juniors from Notre Dame and Foran will be returning.

"With them coming back and me in the net, we hope to make states," said Bonetti.

Law Places 2nd At States

Tim Speer
Staff Reporter
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The Jonathan Law gymnastics team expected this season to be a successful one from the beginning, and they did not disappoint.

Led by senior captain **Valerie Coleman** and two junior captains, **Stephanie Cameron** and **Melissa Grabowski**, the team posted an impressive 7-3 record.

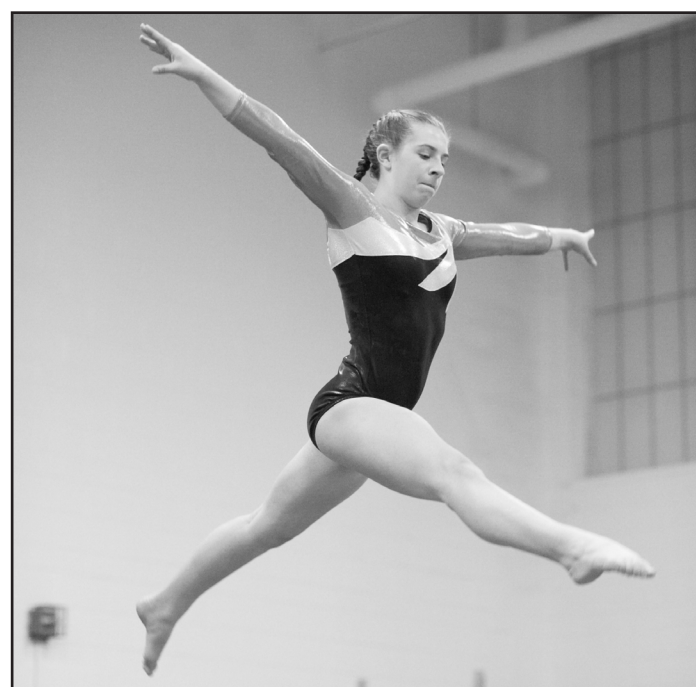
The girls also enjoyed great success in the postseason. They placed second in both the SCC and state tournaments.

"I'm really proud of all the girls on the team, everyone contributed to all of the success that we had this season," Cameron said.

One of the team's biggest strengths this year was their depth in each of their four events; vault, beam, bars, and floor. This depth can be attributed to key underclassmen like sophomore **Kelsey Kopazna**, freshman **Juliette Braccio**, junior **Carly Kalafus**, and freshman **Niamh Nelson**.

"The underclassmen contributed to the team so much this year," said Coleman. "We had a lot of event specialists this year, their strength in their events helped to make our team score the highest it has been in years."

Coleman ended her illustrious gymnastics career at Law with another outstanding season. She led



Senior Valerie Coleman competes on the beam.
(photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

her team admirably and gained widespread recognition for her individual efforts.

She was named one of the *New Haven Register's* Athletes of the Week in January.

She was awarded this honor after her spectacular performance in a tri-meet win over North Haven and Branford where she won the all-around, vault, floor, and beam.

"It was a great honor to be named Athlete of the Week," said Coleman. "I never thought I would accomplish this much in my high school gymnastics career."

Coleman went on to score her 1,000th career point later in

the season. She took sixth place in the all-around at SCCs.

For a close team like the gymnastics team, seeing a season come to an end is always a tough thing. But they will look to bounce back next year and enjoy even more success.

Replacing a gymnast like Coleman will be a daunting task, but there are many returning gymnasts who are poised to step into a bigger role next year.

"I wish this season didn't have to end," said Cameron. "But I am even more excited to come back next year and I hope to have an even better senior season."

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Sam Murphy drives to the basket. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Lady Lawmen Finish Year Strong

Kyle Kandetzki
Editor-in-Chief

It is unfortunate that record is the ultimate decider of performance in a sports season, because this year, Law's girls basketball team's ability certainly goes beyond its amount of wins.

The Lady Lawmen completed their 2012-2013 season on Saturday, February 16, with a win against Shelton to bring them to a 6-14 record, only two wins short of reaching states. Though not reaching their ultimate goal by reaching the tourney, the team has a lot to smile about after winning their final three games, including their senior night vs. North Haven.

"I wanted to teach the younger girls everything I could this season," said senior captain **Sam Murphy**. "But for the team I wanted to finish on a positive note, and we did."

The Lady Lawmen struggled when their season began on December 5, losing to North Haven and then eventually falling to 0-8 before picking up their first win against Amity in a close 51-47 battle. Law's first win of the season was dually notable as Amity not only had beaten them early on in the season, but was also 9-1 at the time.

"Early on in the year our team struggled to come together as a family," said senior captain **Catie Miller**. "But I used my captain's position to fix that and it helped the whole team."

Wins trickled in after their first victory. Law beat Hillhouse 68-45 and then won against Branford a week and a half later, 30-29. But mixed in with these wins was a trend that occurred extremely often for Law: close losses.

The Lady Lawmen suffered an astounding seven losses

this season that were by five points or less, showing that this team was certainly better than it's hard-earned record would indicate. Notable close losses included a 51-48 defeat at the hands of Foran after battling back from being down by double digits in the second half.

The Lady Lawmen hit their peak at the end of the season. Starting with its win against Branford, the team won four out of their last five games including an offensive show in their senior night win against North Haven.

"My favorite memories from this season came from becoming a successful team in the end of the season," said Murphy.

Murphy scored 23 of Law's 50 points against North Haven, and then went on the road to Shelton to win the final game of her high school career.

The seniors not only guided the team through a tough schedule, but huge adversity when key player and captain **Hayley Soulier** faced an injury that kept her out for the season.

The team kept pushing and used their leader's injury as a motivation to push through and play better. Whether she was away from the team after surgery on her ACL, or on the bench pushing the team in a figurative coach's role, there was no doubt Soulier still affected the team in a positive way.

"Hayley helped us by cheering us on and keeping all our players positive," said Miller. "We also played our best for her because we knew how much it stinks to not have played this year."

The team's captains have cited **Laura Dulin**, **Danielle Nantel**, **Erin Saley**, and **Jess Centore** as players to watch in 2013-2014.

Law Breaks Streak, Wins 3

Tarah Kelly
Columns Editor
@tarahkelly

Some teams would be disappointed with a 3-17 record, but the Law boys basketball team is the exact opposite.

The three wins for Law were three more than the team had the season before. Their victory this season over Amistad Academy was their first win in 35 games.

"The first win was pure joy, it was an unbelievable feeling," head coach **Mr. Dooley** said.

Throughout the beginning of the season, the Lawmen faced many challenges – there were nerves and the team could not yet click.

"Our first win came as a huge accomplishment to everyone," said junior **Kevin Wall**, "I knew more would come from that."

The team continued to improve as the season went on. Their hard work paid off on Senior Night, when they defeated East Haven.

Law lost to East Haven the first time they played them this year 50-25, but they held nothing back the second time around as they beat them in a nail-biting finale, 70-68.

"Going into one of my last games of the season, all I wanted to do was win (against East Haven)," said senior **Jack**



Kevin Wall was one of Law's leading scorers this season. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

Campbell "I knew if we could all work together we could get it done."

The team had to play several games this season without key player and junior co-captain **Ryan Siddall** due to mono and appendix surgery.

The loss of Siddall for a few games made the team work twice as hard.

"It was hard to fill Ryan's shoes while he was out," said senior captain **Zack Toto**, "But Jack and **Brandon Williams** really stepped up well to take that position."

The team's third and most exciting win came in the last game of the season against West Haven, who had

previously beaten the Lawmen by 37 points. Law trailed for almost the entire game, but at the end of the third quarter, sophomore **Jeremy Doucette** hit a buzzer beater to cut the West Haven lead to just four points.

The Lawmen took the lead in the fourth quarter never looked back, defeating the Blue Devils 54-51.

"I knew that all our hard work would be rewarded this year," said senior captain **JJ Ciesla**, "And it felt amazing when it did."

Next year, Law will return Siddall, Wall, Doucette, and **Hawkins French** along with many other young players.

Wall Steps Up For Lawmen

Tim Maher
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Law refers to him as the dynamic basketball player who "Balls like Wall."

Junior **Kevin Wall** helped lead the Lawmen to three wins with clutch performances against Amistad Academy, East Haven, and West Haven.

"Kevin always brings a positive attitude to every practice and game," coach **Timothy Dooley** said. "He is always looking to improve his skills and basketball IQ."

Wall started as a sophomore for the team last year, in which they endured a rough season ending with a 0-20 record. At the end of the season, Wall decided he wanted to make sure that next year's season he played much better and could hopefully contribute to the team more.

"Kevin has shown the greatest improvement in every facet of the game since last season, a testament to his hard work," Dooley said.

Wall spent his offseason wisely by working out hard lifting weights and doing various footwork and ball-handling drills. Along with his weight-lifting, Wall spent plenty of time on the basketball court.

"I prepared by just playing

every day and trying to get better," Wall said. "I tried to get as many shots up as I could every day."

Although Wall isn't a captain he still shows leadership on and off the court. Being not very local, Wall is a prime example of leading by example.

"Kevin isn't the loudest person, he normally leads by example by making key shots or not complaining when we do something wrong," senior captain **Zack Toto** said. "Even when Kevin is hurt or sick, he still comes to watch practice even if he isn't competing."

Along with Wall's great attitude and strength of character, Wall has many other key abilities that make him stand-out. Wall's elusiveness and powerful drive allows him to get to the basket and score, but he can also make key jump shots with his smooth shoot.

"Kevin is best at making strong, decisive moves to the hoop," senior **Jack Campbell** said. "He has the ability to generate scoring opportunities off the dribble as well as stepping back and hitting a deep two or a three."

Everyone on the team relates very well with Wall. His personality is one of his greatest assets and he is able

to interact with everyone in a positive and productive way.

"Kevin puts a lot of energy in the team before every practice and game," senior captain **J.J. Ciesla** said. "Without him, we couldn't have as much excitement at practices or games."

Wall has learned the fundamentals of basketball just when he was seven years old playing on his 3rd grade elementary school team.

He also has played on various travel basketball teams. Since those days, Wall has developed great basketball IQ and has created himself as a threat and clutch player to other teams.

"Kevin steps up when we need shots and always guards the guy that no one can," junior captain **Ryan Siddall** said.

Although this year's season has come to an end with a record of 3-17, Wall still has another year to look forward to. With only one more season left in his high school basketball career, Wall is trying to pursue his dream of playing college basketball.

"I do plan on playing in college. I don't really know where yet," Wall said. "Anywhere I would be able to play and do the thing I enjoy most would be great."

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Bannon, Rebentisch Wrestle Way To Opens

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

The Jonathan Law wrestling team had a very successful season.

The Lawmen recorded many memorable individual and team performances, most notably earning its 500th program win with a victory over Stratford.

“We had many great accomplishments this season including taking third at our dual tournament, finishing with a winning record, and getting our 500th win as a program,” assistant coach **Mr. Ruzbarsky** said.

The team participated in five tournaments and 30 dual meets. They were led by senior captains **Samantha Rebentisch, Ryan Bannon, Anthony Volturmo** and **Jimmy Marron**.

Bannon earned his 100th career win during the season and now has 124 wins, which



Senior Ryan Bannon finished 5th at State Opens. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

places him in the top 10 in the history of the program.

“The season has been great,” Bannon said. “The most memorable part for me was when I got my 100th win, I pinned a captain in 42 seconds and when I looked into the crowd everyone was standing up and cheering for me.”

Bannon placed in the Top 5 at the Class M state

tournament, which was held at Law and went All-State by coming in fifth at State Opens.

Rebentisch became the winningest female wrestler in school history with 70 career wins and finished the regular season with a record of 26-18.

Rebentisch placed in the Top 5 at the Class M state tournament, and qualified for State Opens.

“My most memorable moment of the season was reaching 70 career wins which meant I had the most wins a girl has ever had in the history of law wrestling,” Rebentisch said.

Marron was one of Law’s top wrestlers as well.

“My season went well,” Marron said. “I finished the regular season with a record of

32-9.”

Marron won the 220-pound weight class at the Woodstock Invitational.

Junior **Kurt Holden**, sophomore **Max German**, and freshman **Tim Rebentisch** also played key roles for the team.

Losing wrestlers like Rebentisch, Bannon, Volturmo, and Marron will be tough for the team, but they have young talent to continue the success of the program.

“The team looks good for next year,” Ruzbarsky said. “We have a lot of returners but we will be very weak in the upper weights.”

Despite these minor setbacks, the team should be ready to work hard and improve next season.

“They’re going to be young but they’ll be able to push past that and be successful we may have young guys but they catch on quickly,” Rebentisch said.

Lewis Leads Indoor Track Team

Hayley Soulier
Sports Editor

The Jonathan Law indoor track team had a very successful second season.

In only its second year of existence, many athletes broke records set from the year before and qualified for both the Class M State Tournament and SCC Championships.

“The season went really well,” head coach **Mr. Beler** said. “We had a bunch of kids get personal records and had a very strong showing in the SCC Championships.”

For the second year in a row senior **Terrence Lewis** went all-state for the long jump. Lewis jumped 21’4” inches at state opens to go all-state and to qualify for the New England Regional meet at Northeastern University in Boston.

“Personally, I reached all my goals, going all-state for the second straight year and breaking 21 feet for long jump,” Lewis said. “As a team we did well and had a lot of people qualify for states.”

Senior **Ryan Dennis** had high hopes for this season and made it memorable.

“Ryan Dennis became one of the premier 600m runners in the league,” Beler said.

Dennis came in sixth at states in the 600m race.

“My favorite part of the season was going to states with my teammate and doing really well as a team,” Dennis said.

Senior **Jake Markham**



Senior Terrence Lewis went All-State in the long jump. (photo courtesy Rostrum Yearbook)

helped the 4x2 relay team become a premier team in the SCC after the team’s key runner, senior captain **Najee Smith**, was out all season with an injury.

“Overall our season went really well,” senior **Caitlin Prete** said. “A good amount of us made states.”

Prete was a part of the 1600m relay team, along with seniors **Carissa Benoit, Taylor Doran** and **Shaina Jennings**. The team qualified for states in the first race they ran together and broke the school record.

“The most memorable moments were when our girls sprint medley team made states and when I ran my best 800 time in a while,” Prete said. “I broke the school record for

the 600 so I was happy about that.”

Senior captain **Valerie Hiller** qualified for states and SCC Championships for the one mile and two mile races, but decided to only run the one mile at states.

“I was returning from an injury and at states I placed 13 places better than my seed which I never expected,” Hiller said.

Junior **Sarah Gambradella** qualified for states and SCC Championships for the 55m hurdles. Junior **Nick Casagrande** is top 10 in the SCC for shot-put.

Freshman **Patience Deprey** broke the school record in the long jump and qualified for SCC championships.

Casagrande Makes States In Shot Put

Stephanie Cameron
Staff Reporter

Nick Casagrande shot putted his way to states.

Only a junior, Casagrande is a leader among his indoor track and field teammates. Throwing the shot put 40 feet, Casagrande made states this season.

“Nick is successful because he wants to get better and better every day,” senior captain **Ray Cruz** said. “He is one of the most dedicated teammates.”

After being named All-Conference for football, Casagrande continued his success into track.

“Nick is always in the weight room,” junior **Tim Maher** said. “He is increasing his strength and improving every single day.”

Casagrande proves he doesn’t need a title to be a leader. Along with bettering himself, he goes out of his way to help his teammates.

“Nick is really good at teaching beginners how to throw,” junior **Meaghan Sollitto** said. “He is very patient and helpful.”

Nick has been exceptional at indoor track and field since the program’s birth last year. This will be Casagrande’s second appearance at the state meet.

“Nick has always been one of our best guys,” senior

James Ralston said. “We always expect him to do well.”

Casagrande is constantly pushing himself to get better and represent Law in a positive way.

“I train for shot put by lifting weights, doing a lot of leg exercises, and always working on my form,” said Casagrande. “I’m always looking to break my previous record.”

On top of working hard in three varsity sports, Casagrande pushes himself in school. Casagrande is on the honor roll and is involved in Natural Helpers.

“Nick is a great person in and outside of sports,” Maher said. “He’s very hard-working and always puts others before himself.”

This season, being an upperclassman, Casagrande has taken on a huge role. Being one of the only experienced throwers, he is a model for the new and younger throwers.

“He impacts the team as a whole,” Sollitto said. “He knows how to boost everyone’s spirits and provides the throwers with great tips.”

Alongside his teammates, Casagrande continued to push for a memorable season.

“I like seeing everyone improve,” Casagrande said. “If I help one person, I feel accomplished.”