The Bryan High School

# NORSEMAN

Volume 40. Number 2

December 2010

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#### VISIT US ONLINE

The Norseman is now online as an interactive website. Stories are posted as they are developed and students can post comments and questions to specific articles. Visit BryanHighNorseman.com to read and comment on articles, contact the staff, and even submit your own content to be published online. There is also a link to our facebook page, where we will post links to content as it is posted and ask questions for surveys and student opinion on articles. In addition, students can subscribe to the twitter feed or RSS feed on the site.

#### WHY ARE YOU SMILING?



"I'm smiling because Christmas is just around the corner."

Mimi Wade, 11th grade

### Student, staff volley to raise funds

Stephani Whisenant Staff writer

On Tuesday, November 22 the girls Volleyball team,

challenged the faculty to a volleyball game.

While the students may have taken an early lead, the faculty fought back and held their own, pulling out a victory with a score of 32-26.

The game served as a fund raiser for the volley-ball team to help fund the costs that arise during the season.

Students had to pay \$1 to attend the game, and were allowed to purchase snacks from the concession stand.

"We'll use [the money] to buy stuff for the kids, pay for hotel rooms for overnight trips. It all goes back to

the kids," volleyball coach Caroline Simpson said.

Simpson also participated in the game, and thought it was an overall good experience.

"Getting the opportu-

"Getting the opportunity to see my colleagues play, and getting to see them in a different light [was fun]," Simpson said.

The students who participated in the game were surprised by the competitive spirit of the faculty.

"It was harder than I thought it would be," sophomore Brittney Little said. "It was just fun playing against the staff, even though we lost."

Faculty members plan to participate in future games against the student body and keep the competitive atmosphere alive.



Science teacher Robin Colicchio spikes the ball for a point as the faculty faced off against the students

### Students send packages to troops overseas

John Fuller Editor

Throughout the rest of the school year, Key Club will be creating care packages to send to the American soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan fighting in the War on Terrorism. In order to sponsor and create these packages, Key Club is joining with an organization known as Honor Our Troops (H.O.T.).

"Honor Our Troops is a program where schools or individuals collect money and every \$25 collected pays for a care package that goes to a soldier in Iraq or Afghanistan," Key Club sponsor Ted Vaughan said.

One of the strong motivations for Key Club members to get involved with this project deals with making sure the American armed forces know that they have civilian support.

"Everybody wants to know that

there's still somebody who cares about them," Key Club secretary Jacquelyn Montoya said. "No matter what, we should always support our troops because they're the people that keep us protected."

Vaughan has also noticed that visible support for the American troops has tapered off in comparison to past conflicts.

"I don't want the guys over there to feel like they've been forgotten," Vaughan said. "It's been such a long conflict, too,

that [the well being of our troops has] probably moved to the back of people's minds a little bit."

Key Club treasurer
Justin Mendez said
that he believes the United States
military is in need of support from
the American public.

"Small organizations like Key Club are starting to help and make people realize that they can make an impact by getting the whole school to help out," Mendez said.

Each classroom is asked to make a donation for one care package, but is not limited to a single donation and Key Club will be providing students the opportunity to donate and sponsor packages on their own.

"I hope that students gain the realization that there's a G.I. over in Iraq who's a little bit happier be-

cause their essential daily requirement has been honor our troops. filled by some kid

at Bryan High who had no idea who they were," Vaughan said.

### Page 2 - Faculty & Club Spotlight

## Culturing the minds of students through language

John Fuller Editor

Andere Länder, andere Sitten. When in Rome, do as the Romans, or literally, Other countries, other customs.

As the head of the Languages Other Than English (LOTE) department and a fluent speaker of Italian, German, French and English, German teacher Jan Krammer embodies this classic

proverb as she teaches students about the values of studying other languages and cultures.

After studying French in college and obtaining her master's degree in German, Krammer began teaching at Bryan High in

"It's never boring around here. There's always something going on," Krammer said. "My colleagues are wonderful. I work with really nice people."

Krammer has also spent an extensive amount of time studying and practicing each of the languages she speaks, as she and

her husband have traveled and lived in Europe several times.

"[My husband and I] decided at one point to spend a year in Germany, as he was going to teach in a university there," Krammer said. "So, I decided I

would take advantage of the opportunity and I started taking some classes there and continued to pursue it when we got back."

Ten years after originally moving to Germany, the Krammers returned for another year abroad and Krammer taught English and French in a German high school.

Learning foreign languages, Kram-

mer said, is important for each high a trip to Europe to visit and practice school student.

"In learning about culture as well as language, you really gain some insight into the world and you really become a citizen of the world," Krammer said. "You can understand other people a ferent cultures from Germany, Austria, little bit. It makes you aware that the world is bigger than Bryan, Texas or Brazos County."

As the only teacher for each of the four levels of German, Krammer has

> already made a lasting impact on her students.

"Frau makes it fun to be in class." sophomore Allison Wilder said.

"Instead just forcing the stuff on you, she comes up with fun things to play and she uses the computers, which are really fun."

Each Krammer also takes several students on

the languages they are taught in class and to be exposed to different life-

"It's not just a tourist trip. It's really a way for us to be exposed to the difand France and to learn more about the history of each," senior Mary-Clare Wise said.

After last year's trip, Wise said that she is more motivated to not only study German, but pursue all of her studies with more vigor because she wants to study abroad in the future.

"It's so cool that she was able to develop her language skills to be so adept at using it," Wise said. "That just inspires me to be like that with my German. It's also made me serious about my schoolwork because I want to go back there."

Other teachers on campus, like French teacher Tara Bailey, have noticed the dedication that Krammer has for her job and students.

"She cares a lot about her students," Bailey said. "She takes a lot of time to create cool activities that are fun and exciting rather than the boring notes and lectures. She tries to make things interesting."

While Krammer enjoys the learning of foreign languages, she also loves being able to teach these languages to students.

"Seeing how those kids change and how they grow and develop is very very rewarding," Krammer said.

## **HYPE:** expanding opportunities for students

Jamie Berthold Staff writer

Hispanic Youth Promoting Education (HYPE) is an organization that brings students together to take part in different types of community service and encourage them to further their education beyond high school.

While the club is geared towards Hispanics, any students looking to fulfill their academic goals are welcome to join.

In order to promote college life, the sponsors of HYPE, Atanasio Valadez and Joanne Reyes, provide opportunities for students to become aware of the different choices they have once they are out of high school.

"We have guest speakers who come in and we do mini workshops," Valadez said. "We provide financial aid opportunities, we have college application information and we also try to take field trips to universities, colleges and work sites to see what people do in the real world."

also provides opportunities for students to get involved with and give back to the community

"Community service projects this year are still in the works, it just depends on what the kids do," want to Reyes said. "We definitely want to get involved in the community though."

Senior Alyssa Salinas appreciates the community service HYPE allows her to take part in as well as the impact HYPE has had on her aspirations for life.

"I think it has brought my confidence up. Before, [I joined HYPE] I was like, 'I'm not going to college. I can't afford it,' but now, [HYPE] has made me deter-

Besides preparing students for their future, HYPE mined to want to go to college," Salinas said.

HYPE gives students the opportunity to meet some of their peers with the same interests.

> "Sometimes I see that there's not very many Hispanics in the professional work place," Valadez said,

"A goal of mine is to maybe raise that number, beginning here in the classroom and encourage students to continue with their stud-

ies. Throughout my education I have had several mentors

guide me. Therefore, it is my responsibility to help students and hope that they also pay it forward."

Students can find out more about HYPE by attending one of the meetings held every Thursday at 4:00 in room 2122. Everyone is welcome to come and take an active role in the organization.

## Students encouraged to 'cut up' during class

Emily Nash Staff writer

If you've ever woken up with a bad hair day, you know the frustration that comes with not being able to fix that jungle you roll out of bed with.

At Bryan High, the cosmetology program helps prepare students to deal with these 'jungles' as a professional career.

The program's higher level class is a three period block, where the students study to obtain their cosmetology license, which

will allow

students to work as professional cosmetologists after graduation.

"This is actually a career, it isn't just

a job so when they get done they are licensed cosmetologists," cosmetology teacher Sharonda Williams said. "They come straight out of high school

at the age of eighteen and have their license."

In order to earn their license, though, students must meet certain criteria, like completing a certain number of hours spent working and practicing the skills learned in class.

"We have to have our one thousand clock hours plus the five hundred we get from graduating so it's one thousand five hundred hours," senior Rosio Gonzales said. "We take a test on everything we learn and then there's TTLR (a test) which is divided into two sections. First is the reading questions, and if you pass that, you go on to the next

[section of the test], where you have to [do different processes] in front of the judges."

Gonzales says she enjoys cutting hair, but before she could style anyone's hair she had to become familiar with the routine of the class.

"First we clock in and dress out in our uniform if we have a uniform day,"

During her afternoon block, junior Stephanie Lopez uses a straightener on senior Jamie Enriquez's hair.

Gonzales said. "Then we go into the classroom and work on whatever we're assigned."

Senior Veronica Martinez says it's worth the work to be in the cosmetol-

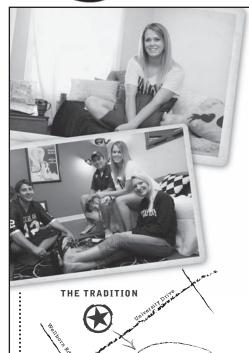
ogy program.

"Whenever you're in the eleventh grade, you miss out on a lot of stuff, but by senior year, if you're caught up in

> all your classes, you have two extra class [periods]. You can take whatever you wanted to take earlier," said Martinez.

With teaching cosmetology, Williams finds joy in not only competitions and preparing students for careers, but also in seeing each of her students grow and develop.

"I enjoy seeing the different creativity of each student and their potential and pulling that out of them is exciting," said Williams.



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### Page 4 - School News

### Saving lives through donations

Staff writer

With a goal of helping those within the community hospitalized and in need of a blood transfusion, the National Honor Society (NHS)

hosted a blood drive November 17 and 18, collecting a total of 252 units from students, staff and community members.

"The thing this about blood drive is that all of the blood that is donated goes to this community and within stays this commu-

nity so anybody who's in the Med or at St. more donations. Joseph, who need blood, can get this blood," NHS president Kasie Tedrick said.

In order to put on the blood drive, NHS partnered with Brazos Blood Bank, which provid-

"It's going to do good for other people, and possibly save lives," junior Jacob Huckabay said.

Tedrick agrees that students rise to the oc-

casion when it comes to a good cause.

"It's saving lives, so that's pretty good motivation; if someone donates, they save three lives," Tedrick said.

The annual blood drive was expanded to take place in both the spring and fall this year in hopes of having more students participate and gather



drive which benefits patients around the community.

The next blood drive will take place on January 19 and 20, and the NHS has a goal of receiving 350 donations.

#### **Academic UIL success**

Cecelia Mata

Staff writer

On Saturday, Nov. 20, BHS hosted nine schools for a fall UIL Academic Invitational.

The Bryan team earned 15 individual honors with the following students placing in individual events:

Speech

Jose Uscanga - 2nd place - Informative Speaking Nic Buc - 3rd place - Persuasive Speaking Izamar Martinez - 4th place - Poetry Ashton Maxwell - 5th place - Poetry

Academic

Zuriel Williams - 5th place - Ready Writing Joseph Haven - 6th place - Calculator Applications Zamantha Guerro - 6th place - Number Sense

Ricky Lara - 4th place - News Writing

John Fuller - 5th place - News Writing

- 4th Place - Feature Writing

- 6th place - Editorial Writing

Jamie Berthold - 6th place - News Writing

- 2nd Place - Feature Writing

David Gilman - 1st place - Current Issues and Events Rachel Warden - 2nd place - Current Issues and Events

Team Awards

Current Issues and Events - 1st place David Gilman, Rachel Warden, Mary Gibbs, Samantha Weaver

The team will compete again on January 29 at an invitational in Navasota as they prepare for the district meet in March.

## United Way, local schools partner to develop leadership

Eduardo Alvarado Staff writer

Students from local high schools attended United Way Youth Leadership Day, which focused on teaching students how to help out the community. Attendees also learned about several organizations in the community that promote the United Way focuses of education, financial stability and health.

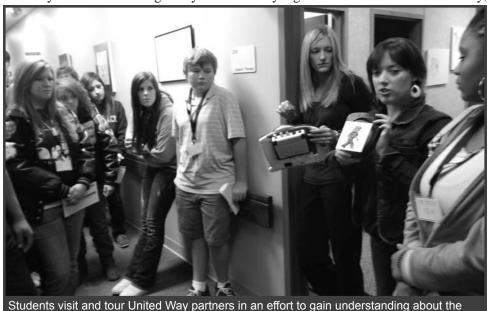
"More students should take the time out to help," senior Jorvis McGee said. "someone else could need help, and we just wouldn't know because we're to busy trying to help our own self, but we should help others in the process of helping ourselves."

This event was planned by the United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet, which is formed by students from local high schools. The organization helps students become better leaders and also helps volunteer around the community.

"I hope that everybody here will realize that they were leaders when they

walked in," United Way marketing director Laurie Garret said. "And, they can maybe do some things they never

learned how they can be better leaders through tours of some of the United Way agencies around the community,



thought that they would be doing."

Besides learning about volunteering around the community, students also

causes and work of each agency in the community.

service-oriented skits, and a keynote speaker from United Way.

"It's how we develop ourselves to be-

come the people we are if we're good leaders," United Way CEO Hank Roraback said "We are setting an example for other people in the community to do the same, so it really is what makes a community successful is to have good leadership."

For junior Nash Porter, being a part of the United Way Youth Leadership Cabinet is an opportunity to give back to the community.

"[Being a leader] gets you far in life," Porter said. " I think a lot more people can give a lot more than they think they can."

Other students have also noted the need for student leaders, to serve as role models and to benefit the commu-

"I think some people just need a role model and some people just need that extra push to help keep them growing," BHS student Marissa Fava said. "It's a learning experience for everybody."

#### Texas A&M and Bryan ISD

Emily Nash Staff writer

Gear-Up (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs), a grant from Texas A&M University, is a new academic program for this year's freshmen class hoping to ensure that they graduate from high school in four years.

Principal Diana Werner expects that the Gear-Up

staff will continue to support these students throughout their high school career.

"The Gear-up program is going to follow these 9th graders all the way through 12th grade," Werner said.

"The plans are that each year the [Gear-Up] office will still be on our campus and that we have a parenting center up there as well."

One of the focuses of Gear-Up is the completion rate, which affected the school's TEA ratings, and initially ranked Bryan High as 'unacceptable'.

VersaSpa\*

"Our completion rate is the number of students who

"It gives students a developing skill

that they can use throughout their

life and not just through academics."

graduate from Bryan High and because they didn't graduate, the Gear-Up grant helps with that situation," Werner said. "The goal with gear up is to have everyone graduate."

To address the completion rate and promote college readiness, Gear-Up teaches several strategies includ-

ing how to use a planner, which the program provides for each student.

"It gives students a developing skill that they can use throughout their life and not just through academics," world geography teacher Patricia Bailey-Jones said. "The most successful people use planners; it's just a great skill to have. It benefits students because it's an easy way to find what they did in class and what to prepare for."

The current freshmen class also sees the difference Gear-Up has made.

"They teach us how to study and take notes so we can be organized," freshmen Brandon Kveton said. "They give us stuff so we can be prepared for college."

One of Gear-Up's main focuses is to help send students to college.

"[The Gear-Up staff's] support and choosing what can be the best for us, it just helps me knowing that they're there," freshman Madison Goolsby said.

Head of the Gear-Up Program Lourdes Gorzycki has some future plans with the freshmen class this year.

"We are meeting with every 9th grader to access Bridges.com for career and college counseling and creating 4-year plans," Gorzycki said. "In the spring we will provide "Get a Life", a reality game, to help students be more aware of their needs for the future."

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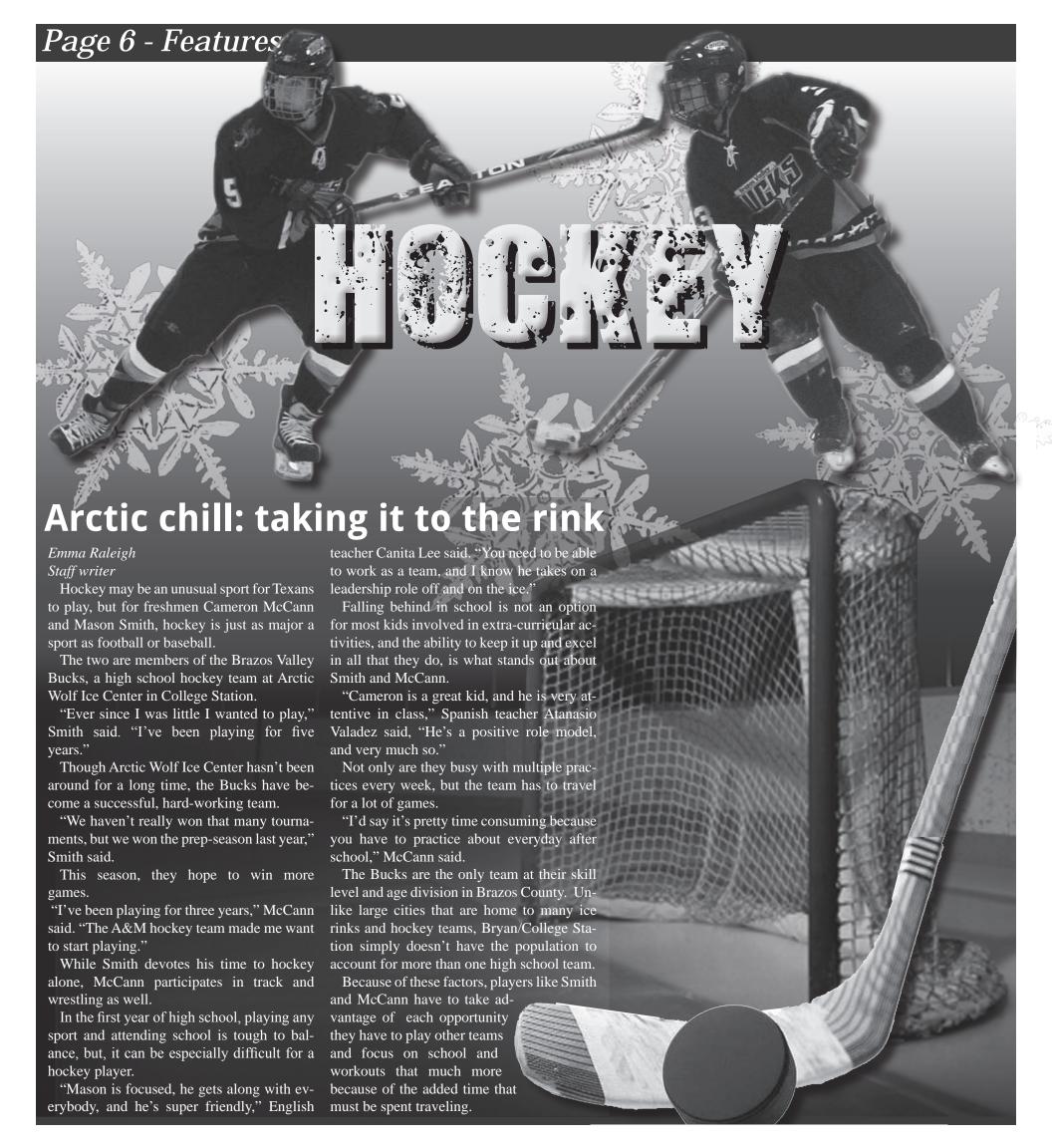
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## Wrestling continues successful season going into Classic

Stephani Whisenant Staff writer

The wrestling team has proven themselves each season by sending well qualified team members to the state tournament. The team hopes to continue its past success with four returning members who made it to state last year.

Senior Victor Thomas earned the highest placing for Bryan High at state last year.

"I got sixth place. Some people call that good, but I think I could have done better," Thomas said.

Even though Thomas is motivated to do even better this year, the experience of competing at such a high level was definitely one to remember.

"You get to be in the spot-

light, everyone watching you, and pressure is definitely there but you learn to cope with it," Thomas said.

Others love wrestling because of the motivational drive and values of good sportsmanship it fosters.

Fabian Diaz said. "A lot of working out and physical endurance are required."

With hard workouts, long practices and physical brutality, some may think wrestling is something only guys can

"Wrestling is great," junior handle, yet, others, such as female wrestling team members Laura Hawk and Nesly Mata, disagree.

> "A lot of guys think that girls shouldn't wrestle, because we [aren't perceived to] work as hard," Hawk said. "But girl

wrestling and guy wrestling are completely different. I can keep up with some of the guys."

Although they may have to use different styles, the girls are still expected to maintain the same amount of intensity as the guy wrestlers.

"You have to be willing to work hard," Hawk said. "A lot of determination is required by both guys and girls."

Male or female, the wrestling team will be working hard towards their goal of getting as many members to state level/tournament as possible this year.

"We're in the 21st century," Mata said. "It's not about what specific genders should do; it's about what vou can do."

#### **Upcoming Wrestling Competitions**

| DATE      | COMPETITION                                      | LOCATION                         |
|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 12/18     | 14th Annual Doc Hes Classic                      | Bryan HS                         |
| 1/6       | District Quad: Ellison, Killeen, Consol          | Consol HS                        |
| 1/7-1/8   | Cy Fair Invitational                             | Berry Center, CFISD              |
| 1/12      | Quad meet: Oakridge, Conroe, Consol              | Bryan HS                         |
| 1/15      | State Dual Tournament                            | Bryan HS                         |
| 1/20      | District Quad: Shoemaker, Harker Heights, Consol | Bryan HS                         |
| 1/22      | Morton Ranch Tournament                          | Morton Ranch HS                  |
| 1/27      | District Tri: Copperas Cove, Consol              | Bryan HS                         |
| 1/29      | Bulldog Duals                                    | Austin Bowie HS                  |
| 2/2       | Crosstown Showdown                               | Consol HS                        |
| 2/5       | District Tournament                              | Shoemaker HS                     |
| 2/11-2/12 | Region IV Tournament                             | Blossom Ath. Center, San Antonio |
| 2/25-2/26 | State Tournament                                 | Delco Center, Austin             |

### Making waves: swim team dives into season with speed

Ricky Lara Staff writer

Imagine that your muscles are aching, you're surrounded by competition and you're fighting with everything you have, yet, instead of being on land, you're in water.

The swim team is a busy and focused group of students, who have already swam in many meets this season, but still face district, region and state meets.

"We swim about 3,000 yards a day to get ready for meets," junior Alex Manzano said. "[We practice] in the mornings at 5:30 and after school."

Head Coach Mike Ortiz, who has been coaching swimming for 12 years, said conditioning on swimming is based on several factors.

"Training depends on the athlete and the type of swimmer [students] are," Ortiz said. "You can tell the type of swimmer someone is just by watching their stroke mechanics."

Sprinters are one type of swimmer and they practice an anaerobic workout, which involves less yardage and short bursts of power. On the other hand, distance swimmers complete aerobic workouts, which involves more yardage and reps with little rest. Practices are very intense in order to prepare for the meets.

"It takes me, [since] I don't swim during the summer, at least two months to get back in shape for district," Manzano said.

Whether swimming sounds like an individual contest, rather than a team effort, or vice versa, each swimmer plays a factor in the team's results.

"This is a debate that will continue forever, but swimming is an individual sport that contributes to team success." Ortiz said. "Seeing the

successes

of each individual swimmer contributes to the overall team atmosphere."

Sophomore Jonathan Haven has been swimming for two years at Bryan High and has won many meets in his time.

"I just feel like I'm better than everyone else out there [when I win]" Haven said.

Manzano also enjoys the feeling she gets when she wins one of her meets.

"[When] you're swimming, your muscles are burning by the time you touch the wall," Manzano said. "You're like, 'Ahh, I just won!"

> Coach Ortiz enjoys meets, especially when his kids win, but it's not all about winning for he also enjoys seeing the swimmers improve over time.

> > "It's a roller coaster ride with meets, but success only comes when you can beat yourself," Ortiz said. "Though beating the person in the next lane doesn't hurt either."

### **DISTRACTIONS CAUSE ADDITIONAL** PROBLEMS FOR INEXPERIENCED DRIVERS

A pickup truck from which students who

wore seatbelts walked away safely from

Staff writer

With a heightened desire to grow up quickly, you take your eyes off the road, you could be today's youth are eager to master driving.

While they may claim 'I'm a good driver!', this Lugo said. is not always true. Things like music, the company of friends and the time of day can influence how distracted while driving seems to be lowwell a teen drives.

For anyone, music can be a distraction from the things going on around them. which is dangerous while driving.

"It could possibly get my mind off you're not paying attention, it could af-Huckabay said.

Friends, as well, can be a distraction from the driver education and traffic safety courses during road and can contribute to causing an accident the school year.

an accident.

without meaning to.

"When passengers are talking to you and weaving in and out of lanes," senior Nayeli

With parents, however, the risk of getting

er. Whether it is because they're more strict, or merely to prove that the youth can drive safely, the chances of having accidents diminish.

"I definitely drive better with my parents, because I don't act up when I drive with them," Hucka-

Because of a lack of experience, external factors can be far more distracting and dangerous to teen

To avoid any future collisions that may occur, it's recommended that teens get the required



DRIVING AFTER HAVING FOUR BEERS

**Associated Cont** 



John Fuller

As one of the fastest-rising causes of community. death in teenagers, texting while driving, is "This is especially relevant because we are a

Dec 6, as they showed videos on the daily announcements, passed out informational materials and held a pledge drive related to texting while driving. "In doing research for thi

topic we realized that teens Junior Tyler Jordan participates in are the most likely to have an accident while texting

the most inexperienced drivers," student council simultaneously operating a motor vehicle. sponsor Cyndi Owens said. "[Texting while driving] increases their likelihood of having an acci- nation have begun to pass laws restricting the use dent by 38 percent. It's totally avoidable."

One of the aspects of the campaign being led by has yet to pass a bill of this nature through legislathe student council is a pledge drive, which looks tion. to encourage students to pledge to not text while The texting-while-driving campaign led by the driving.

"I feel like people should know that texting and school community for distracted driving educadriving is not a good thing and it's killing people tion, after a texting-while-driving simulator was every day. I don't want to lose any of my friends brought to campus in October.

dent Council hopes to expand the drive and raise awareness throughout the year and throughout the

the focus of a new school-wide campaign to young community. We not only high school drivaise awareness of the dangers and effects of ers but young college student drivers," Owens said. "Texting is something among the young The Student Council kicked off their population that is a way of networking and it's al-

> most impossible to stop unless you mentally make the decision that you have to stop, at least while you're driving."

> In the past, focuses of safe-driving campaigns revolved around abstaining from drugs and alcohol, but in the digital age, student council members see the need for awareness about the dangers of operating mobile devices while

State law-making assemblies throughout the of telephones by drivers, but the State of Texas

student council is the second major push by the

and family members to it," student "The administration's number one goal is to care of them, whether it's in a car or when they're





# Page 10 - Entertainment My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy tops charts

Marisa Lindeman Staff writer

Kanye West's new alubum, My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy, is truly one of the greatest albums ever made, with each song holding its own as a musical masterpiece.

Many artists don't step out of

in a barrage of typical music. West, however, takes pieces of almost all genres of music and combines them into one amazing album. A feat such as this is very difficult to do, but West definitely pulled it off.

What artist can go from featuring Chris Rock performing a monologue at the end of one song to having a legend like Elton John perform a piano solo and then also feature a British-accent toting Nicki Minaj? West can.

One of West's greatest abilities is to bring in and maximize the abilities of a wide range of guest artists.

For instance, the song "All of the Lights" features Rihanna, John Legend, Drake, The Dream, Ryan Leslie, Tony Wil-

their boundaries, which results liams, Charlie Wilson, Elly nificant new aspect to the song, Jackson, Alicia Keys, Fergie, KiD CuDi, Elton John, Alvin





Fields and Ken Lewis. While this extensive amount of artists seems overwhelming each contribution adds a unique and sigmaking it one of the most well written and produced songs





In addition, the fact that all of the songs are very well written, the accompanying beats

are equally as amazing. All of these crazy and insane beats and samples go perfectly with each song throughout My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy.

In his quest to push the envelope of pop music, West takes the album to another level by producing, starring in and directing the "Runaway" short film. West incorporates each song from the album into the film and to tell the twisted love story with him and a phoenix.

After watching the short film, the listener is able to understand the symbolic and emotional meaning behind My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy.

My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy can be described as one of the greatest pieces of music ever created, as it combines pop culture with artistic taste and brilliant production.

## Movies promise blockbuster year

Ricky Lara Staff writer

While great movies such as The Expendables, Iron Man 2 and Inception were the talk of the movie industry this past year, it's time to look forward to what 2011 has in store for us at the box office, which looks to be plenty of 3D movies and sequels.

Green Hornet is due to release in mid-January and stars Seth Rogen and Adam Sandler in 3D. While Green Hornet looks exciting, even in 3D, Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides (in 3D) is one movie I'm not getting my hopes up for. Although Johnny Deep returns as Captain Jack Sparrow, the storylines of Keira Knightley and Orlando Bloom's ended in the previous film. The fourth *Pirates of the Caribbean* movie is due to come out May 2011.

Along with 3D, sequels are a big focus this coming year. Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2: Rodrick Rules is the sequel to Diary of a Wimpy Kid, which was quite enjoyable, however, we'll just have to see if this one can follow up the first. With Kung Fu Panda 2 in May, Cars 2 in June, Transformers: Dark of the Moon in July and Happy Feet 2 in November, the sequels of 2011 do look very fun to watch. The Hangover 2, for mature audiences only, will also be released next year in May.

Big Mommas: Like Father, Like Son will be released in February which is the third moving in the

Big Mommas franchise. X-Men: First Class, out in June, is a prequel to the original X-Men movie. But, being a small fan of X-Men, I'm not so sure I'll be seeing this in theaters because it does not seem too interesting and the cast names are those of whom I'm not quite fond of. Probably joining X-Men in the list of disappointments will be movies Scream 4, or SCRE4M, that will hit theaters in April, Final Destination 5 in August and Paranormal Activity 3 out in October.

Aside from the interesting and seemingly boring, there's always going to be the most anticipated movies for the year and 2011 is no exception. Green Lantern is definitely one to check out when it reaches theaters near you in June. Although Green Lantern does look exciting, the two movies that get so much publicity are Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2 coming out in July and The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn will be in theaters in November. And not being a HUGE fan of either movie, it's undeniable that the movies will probably disappoint such loyal fan bases with Breaking Dawn being the 4th of its kind and Deathly Hallows: Part 2 following up the highly anticipated movie this past November.

So, if you didn't enjoy the movies that 2010 brought to your local theater, don't forget there's another year for plenty of romance, laughter, and action...plenty of action.



## MTV sheds light on truth, troubles of teen pregnancy

Emma Raleigh Staff writer

Teen pregnancy is on the rise, but a show first played in 2009 showed America the lives of girls who were 16 and Pregnant.

> By watching the show, viewers are exposed to difficulties and obstacles that teen mothers face. The show ended its 2nd and three 21.

season in April, season began on October The show was created by Lauren D o 1 gen, a

member

of the MTV team and reality television erty and family divorce. executive. In her twelve years of working with MTV, she was involved with creating Rob Dyrdek's Fantasy Factory and Parental Control.

On the show, every girl's experience with teenage pregnancy is different. Some girls, like Farrah, have to go through the difficult times alone, without the father of her baby. Others, like Catelynn, put their children up for adoption, hoping they will have a better life with other parents.

By watching this show, I personally have gained respect for these moms-tobe, even if they are looked down on by a large number of people in society.

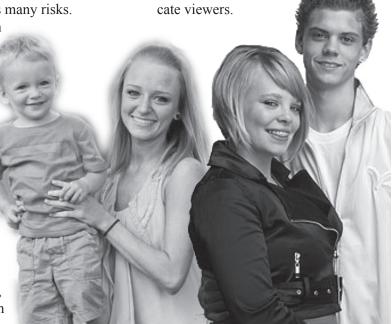
The problems they go through are more stressful, heartbreaking and straining than I could imagine.

They almost always learn from their mistakes, and through this reality series, they can teach girls of the same age to be careful and to wait to have children. It discourages teen pregnancy by showing instances of domestic violence, pov-

Many of these girls have experienced one or more of these consequences as a result of having a child. They can't handle it all at once, because they, themselves are still children. Not only does teen pregnancy change your outlook on life, your body and your relationships, but it also poses many risks.

After season one of 16 Pregand nant, four of the teens went on to be the cast of another documentary series by Dolgen, Teen Mom. On this spinoff of 16 and Pregnant, follow Maci, Farrah, Catelynn and Amber's first few years of motherhood.

With both of these shows, MTV has successfully portrayed to many struggles of teenage mothers. Unlike other shows on MTV, like Jersey Shore, 16 and Pregnant actually serve a purpose: to document and edu-



## Classic cartoon captures Christmas spirit sical that should be watched around Christmas, but It's a perfect family

Staff writer

Christmas is almost here, and that means presents, putting up the lovely Christmas tree, eating, and of course spending time with your family and friends. As Christmas comes closer and closer, the time for those classic Christmas movies to come on television is just around the corner.

Although Christmas movies are not my favorite to watch, there are definitely two that are on my list of movies not to watch and one I always look forward to seeing each year.

I have never finished watching A White Christmas, because it's so boring, I find it hard to stay awake during the movie. It's

a movie that's considered a classic mu-

from what I've seen of the it, it's one I try to avoid every year. I don't particularly like old-people musicals, especially ones about Christmas.

The Santa Clause, though, would have to be by far the worst Christmas movie ever made. It's about a dad who magically turns into Santa Claus and has to take the place of the real Santa Claus when he accidentally kills him on Christmas Eve. Unfortunately, there have been two sequels and they're just as bad as the first one.

Now that you know which movies to avoid let's move on to the must see movie of the holiday season. A Charlie Brown Christmas would have to be my

It's a perfect family movie for you, your younger siblings and even your parents as they remember watching the same movie around Christmas time when they were kids. Who doesn't love all the Peanut characters, like Lucy, Linus, Charlie Brown, Sally and the ever so popular Snoopy and his partner Woodstock? It's a positive movie that sends the message of love, friendship, and the true meaning of Christmas. If you've somehow made it this long without seeing the movie, make sure you change that this year and have yourself a Charlie Brown Christmas!

The Christmas season is home to numerous movies, yet most of these films just aren't worth watching.

> Instead, stick to classics like A Charlie Brown Christmas.







# Page I2 - Entertainment Crash course on best DVDs to buy this season

Eduardo Alvarado Staff writer

As more and more movies come out each week, I've noticed that they don't compare to movies from the past. There are some movies that are really good, but most of them are a waste of time and money.

Paranormal Activity, for example, was a movie that got a lot of hype, but it just put me to sleep. If you want to go see a good movie, just rent one, because there doesn't seem to be a lot of good ones in the theaters.

My must see DVD recommendations are Crash, Next Friday, and The Silence of the Lambs. All

three of these movies, are really good and can provide a great night of entertainment.

Crash is based on a real life car accident and tells several stories through interesting characters. There's a racist white cop who disgusts his partner, a

successful Hollywood director and his wife who deal with the cop, a Persianimmigrant who buys a gun to protect his shop and a Hispanic locksmith and his young daughter who's afraid of bullets. Most of the movie is straightforward and easy to understand, but you do have to pay attention or you could

> feel lost. There are even one or two parts that are funny. Loretta Devine, who portrays Shaniqua Johnson, did a really good job in the film and she will make you laugh when she argues with the other characters.

When you need a good laugh, I recommend the hilarious Next Friday, a

sequel to the popular film Friday. This movie was released in 2000 and is about someone who moves to his uncle's house to get away from a group of people that want to hurt him. The cast was very comedic and will have you cracking up throughout the movie. You

preciate or follow what is going on in this one. The main character repeatedly finds himself in awkward situations, adding to the humor that truly makes this movie a must see. If you're looking to watch a good comedy over Christmas break go out and rent, or buy, Next

Friday. You won't be disappointed.

Finally, The Silence of the Lambs, a thriller film from 1991, shows how a suspense film should be done.

The movie has a bit of gore, but not as much as movies like Saw. It starts out with Clarice, the protagonist, going to interview Hannibal Lector, a key-per-

son in finding the serial killer "Buffalo Bill".

The movie progresses through a series of interactions between the two as Clarice tries to hunt down the serial killer. At first, the film seems like it is going to be boring, but then as the mov-

don't need to see the first movie to apie goes on it captivates viewers as they wonder what will happen next. I would not classify this movie as "scary", but it does have some elements that are chilling because of the realistic nature of the plot. The movie was not made to scare viewers by having things jump out or do things for shock value: instead it

> takes a realistic scenario and keeps you on the edge of your seat as you wait to find out what happens to Clarice and Hannibal. I highly recommend watching this movie if you're looking for a good thriller without that much horror; sure beats the boring Leprechaun movies.

> Buying DVD's is a good investment, because

if you like the movie you can watch it over and over again instead of having to go rent it every time. And if you make sure you only purchase DVDs that you know you already enjoy, you will always be able to enjoy your investment.



#### Latest Potter movie awes audience Rowling's Harry Potter books, I think this film was the best in-Emma Raleigh Staff writer The long-awaited final installment of the Harry Potter se-

ries hit theaters on Nov. 19. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part I continues to tell the story of the three young

wizards our generation has come to know and

In the movie, Harry, Ron and Hermione are on a quest to find and destroy horcruxes, the only way to completely destroy Harry's supreme enemy: Voldemort. Life is dangerous for the trio as they travel across the country, dodging the Dark Lord and his followers.

This movie is appropriately darker than the other movies as Harry enters the final chapter in his showdown with Lord Voldemort. The stories have evolved and matured along with the readers and movie goers to ensure a successful

series.

As far as the Harry Potter movie series goes, part one of the seventh movie was the closest to its novel counterpart.

As someone who has read all seven of J.K.

terpretation of the book by far. While watching it in the theater, I was happy to see almost every detail of the book come to life on the screen.

The attention to detail and accuracy of the story when compared to the book helps make the movie successful and not fall into the unfortunate "the book is better" category.

Through the years, we've seen best friends Harry, Ron and Hermione grow up, but in this movie, we see them mature even further to rise to the challenge of saving the wizarding world. The actors did an outstanding job of making viewers laugh, and even cry throughout the film. The actors made the audience truly feel and understand the emotions the characters were going

Director David Yates really put his all into making this a movie to remember. The interesting shots and beautiful scenery made the movie that much better. Also, the unique touches like the animation in the film were something that had not been done in a Harry Potter movie before. The leading actors: Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint gave award-winning performances, leaving a good impression on the minds of view-

The second part of Deathly Hallows is scheduled to come out in July 2011. Just as part one was highly anticipated, the eighth and final movie will provide a bittersweet ending for fans, as the tales of their beloved characters will come to a close and the decade of Harry Potter releases will be over.

## 3D Television

it took almost ten years for color televisions to become a popular mainstay in the American home and render black and white television obsolete.

Now, an argument is being made that three-dimensional television is about to have the same, revolutionary effect on the television and movie industry that color television had in the 50s.

3D TV, as it is being dubbed, currently works by having the viewer wear special glasses to interpret, to the naked eye, a blurry and hazy picture.

This means that for a family to watch a feature presentation in 3D, they must all wear and own special glasses, as well as view it on an actual 3D TV.

I can't picture anything more annoying than having to wear special, clunky glasses while watching TV, since this would make laying down in bed or on the couch impossible.

Furthermore, 3D TV doesn't even offer any more information than the standard, 2D television.

With color television, viewers are instantly able to see a wealth of information that was never before visible. For instance, many people may have never known that Opie, from The Andy Griffith Show, was a redhead until the show began airing in color.

In 3D TV, we don't gain any new perception of depth or understanding that we couldn't already get with 2D TV. Color plays such a huge role in our lives, and our perception of the world, so it's

natural that color should be built into television.

Of course, 3D does have its purpose, like in "Honey I Shrunk the Kids!" at Disney World or in certain thematic movies, or even sports events.

Yet, it's ridiculous to

After being introduced in the 1950s, make every new movie in 3D when hardly any of these movies benefit from being done that way.

> Watching movies in 3D can even cause health problems for viewers, as headaches and nausea are common for some people after watching 3D movies.

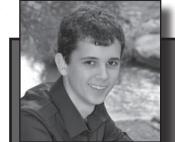
> One of the most prolific reasons that the movie industry is pushing for the adoption of 3D technology is the fact that they will profit from its sale.

> Not only are 3D movie tickets more expensive, but everyone who already has a perfectly good television will need to buy a brand new television set in order to watch films in 3D. Plus, 3D TV customers will have to buy glasses for everyone in their family and have a few extra pair for guests.

> Not to mention the fact that we already know how this 3D fad is going to play out, since there was already a '3D TV Revolution' in the 50s and the 80s. Except, we're wearing goofy plastic wayfarers instead of the paper, white glasses with red-and-blue lenses this time around.

> Each time 3D has been dubbed 'the next big thing' though, society has turned back to the normal, 2D television after straining their eyes and paying extra money became too annoying and troublesome.

> While 3D movies and videos can have their purpose, these instances are often niche cases, and as a whole, we shouldn't need to modify our entire home media set-up just to pad the pockets of the movie industry.



Junior John Fuller reads obscure blogs about obscure topics

### **Getting in the Christmas spirit**

Christmas? Would you picture it with cookies and milk, waiting for Santa Claus on Christmas Eve and decorating your tree with your favorite ornaments or, would you picture it with amazing feasts at the dinner table, gifts around the Christmas tree and kisses under the mistletoe? Whether you picture it like any of the above or not, it is important to remember one of the main values of Christmas: family.

Sure, Christmas is a fun time to feast on delicious meals, open gifts of what you wished for, and hope to see ol' Saint Nicholas in the night sky. But instead, people are dealing with lastminute shopping, putting up with the hassle of the long lines at the mall and full parking lots.

Why is it that Christmas turned into more of a chore than anything else? The holidays have become dreadfully tiring and it is ridiculous to see what others, like ourselves, will do to have a 'perfect' Christmas. If anything, we

should be making cookies for Santa, hanging up stockings and drinking some eggnog, because Christmas only comes once a year.

I'm sure you've heard that Christmas is the time

How would you portray a normal for joy and cheer since Christmas is one of the most celebrated holidays in the world. Families and friends alike gather together with the intentions of having the best time with each other, and this is the way Christmas should

> Whether you receive gifts or coal, believe in Santa Claus or don't, feast like kings or eat like the ordinary, always remember to be thankful for what you have.

> If you celebrate a different holiday, such as Hanukah or Kwanzaa, the same idea and concept of gathering around with family still applies. This time of year is a celebration for everyone, no matter your religion, race, gender or even hair color! If you have no other reason to celebrate, be happy we have 2 weeks off of school!

> So, this holiday season, remember to let the mushy love stuff flow in the Christmas wind while you're enjoying every minute of time with family and friends.



Senior Ricky Lara is intrigued by the weather.



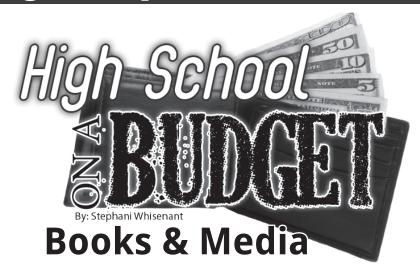








#### Page 14 - Opinions



As high school students, we have quickly. plenty of required reading we have to do in school that forces us to purchase books. Along with school reading requirements, we also have leisurely reading, music and magazines that we enjoy, but these books and other forms of media are often at prices that can add up

Instead of going to places like Barnes and Nobel or Hastings, and spending up to \$15 on one book, you should get them at a cheaper price.

My favorite place to get used books is Half Price Books. They have a huge selection of books, all for up to 70% off of the sticker price of a chain book store that sells new books.

An even cheaper option would be to just check the book out at the library. If you think you'll only read the book once and never touch it again; you'd probably benefit from this option the most.

Not only are these good suggestions for school reading, but also if you read for fun.

For a series of books, like Harry Potter, a new paperback book can cost around \$10, but if you get it used at Half Price Books, you'll only pay around

\$4 - more than half off the original price.

This method also works for CD's, magazines and computer games. I only buy magazines from Half Price Books because they are \$1 each, which is a lot cheaper than the \$4-5 you'd pay for the same magazine at regularly priced

Why waste money on something like books, when they're the exact same new

Sometimes, if you're lucky, you can even find brand new books at Half Priced Books.

Not only is this a cheaper option for buying books magazines and CD's, but it is also an eco-friendly alternative, as you are not wasting supplies on having multiple items made, when you can use one already manufactured.



Junior Stephani Whisenant is looking forward to the next Harry Potter movie.

## Celebrities serve as teen role models, for good or bad

wanna have fun then do something crazy!"

Most teens listen to the theme song of a popular television series like Jersey Shore and think to themselves, "I want to be just like the Jersey Shore cast when I get older!" But is this really the way you want to live your life?

The Jersey Shore cast members are a really bad example of role models. How do you expect to ever be successful if all you do is go clubbing every night of the week and come home at all hours of the night with some of the trashiest people.

Many young athletes also look up to Kobe Bryant, a popular basketball player for the Los Angelos Lakers. Though many people look up to his skills in basketball, do they not know what he has done outside the sport? Bryant has a series of personal problems that include infidelity.

"Get crazy, get wild. Let's party, get loud. If you I don't know why anyone in their right mind would rather than Snooki and Miley Cyrus. look up to a person like him.

> Let's not forget about the double-lived teenage star, Miley Cyrus. Many kids watch her show wanting to be just like her too! Do the kids' parents know their child is looking up to someone who danced very provocatively at the Teen Choice Awards and who doesn't seem to respect her own body?

> > What happened to people having good role models who decide not to base their lives on doing drugs, getting drunk and writing songs about vulgar things that nobody can relate to? Students

> > > should look within their lives own for a role model, but if they feel they need to look up to a celebrity there are better people to choose from

More teenagers should look up to people like the Jonas Brothers or Oprah Winfrey. The Jonas Brothers don't only write songs people can relate to but they are also the founders of a foundation called "Change for the Children." This foundation supports diabetes, Special Olympics and volunteering.

Also former drug addict, Josh Hamilton, is now a strict non-alcoholic, a strong Christian and he just led his team, the Rangers, to the World Series.

He proves that even through you may have a hard young life, you can still get back on your feet and become a honorary role model for all of his fans.

Oprah is also a great person to look up to because she is spending the money she earns to make schools in Africa for kids who are unable to get an education. Oprah once lived in poverty and now she is one of the richest and most charitable people in the world.

Our society should look up to more inspirational people who are doing good things in this world, instead of stupid, party animals. I think if our world keeps looking up to celebrities like this, we will definitely take the turn for the worst.



Sophomore Marisa Lindeman enjoys listening to German techno.

### Opinions - Page 15



From Furbies, to Webkinz, the way toys are made today is just not the same as it was when we were little. You used to be able to be active and hands on with toys rather than just typing on a computer, today's toys are designed for kids to be in front of a computer the entire time and ignore the world around them.

For those of you who don't remember what a Furbie was, they were electronic interactive owl-like creatures. Furbies were programmed with hearing, speech, learning and motion capabilities.

Today's version of the Furbie is Webkinz, a website that allows kids to raise pets online. They give their pet a name, design a virtual room for their pet and play with them online. To me, this is just a way to give kids an opportunity to be lazy.

Today's generation of youngsters have toys like Leapster and the Vtech Mobi Go, which requires no movement from kids at all! Don't get me wrong, I think it is a good idea to have toys that promote education, but, I have a problem when majority of today's toys involve a child sitting at a computer playing with a keyboard.

When I was younger, I had toys like Skip It, and other toys that actually force you to get up off the couch and be active.

While all of these toys provided a great opportunity for fun, my favorite toy, when I was younger, was my Easy Bake Oven.

I used to throw a fit whenever my mom

would not let me use it to create, what I thought, were my delicious pieces of art.

Besides being extremely fun to use, Easy Bake taught basic cooking skills that are needed for life, (Which might be an exaggeration, but from a young age the Easy Bake Oven sparked an interest in cooking for me.)

The truth of the matter is, due to today's technology, most children's toys are too advanced.

While it is interesting to see how time has progressed with something as simple as a toy, items kids spend their time with these days are just not as awesome as the objects we spent long days playing with. We used to be able to use our imagination to play, today computers have become a child's imagination.



Junior Jamie Berthold spends too much time on Facebook.

# Overly-strict Parents: can't live with them, can't live without them

While most of us will often complain about rules and authority, the truth is that we actually need and respect the boundaries imposed on us by our parents.

As our parents make rules, it's a sign that they actually love and care for us, because they are focused on our best interests.

However, some parents take this concept to the extreme and are overtly strict, actually causing more problems than they are preventing.

This love can sometimes be smothering, and hamper the development of their child.

As human beings, we need to grow and become our own person and to learn to make decisions regarding our own lives.

Of course, we don't come into this world knowing how to do everything, but we should be given more responsibility as time goes on. After all, the best way to learn is from experience.

We're going to make our own mistakes, but at the end of the day, these are the experiences that we will learn from the most.

Overly-strict parents can sometimes even push their children to the outer extents of rebellion.

As parents set rules that are extremely restrictive, their children will feel like there is no possible way to abide by such rules.

Thus, these kids will simply rebel and ignore anything that their parents would say from there

on out

Instances like this won't just deter a person from the straight-and-narrow while in high school, but will also give them authoritative issues for the rest of their life.

Sometimes, it also seems as if parents are simply holding on to the idea of us being little kids, and with many of us set to leave the house in the next few years, they hold on harder and suffocate us even more.

What's even worse is if parents attempt to be your best friend and then also try to impose suffocating rules.

There's a reason we have friends and there's a reason we have parents. Our parents should always have our best interests at heart, which means sometimes telling us we can't do certain things.

Yet, if parents suddenly attempt to switch gears and go from BFF to dictator-in-supreme, not only will we be frustrated, but will have absolutely no reason to follow any of the rules that they set.

For the most part, parents do they best they can. It's their job to help shape and mold the minds of their children to be productive members of society.

- The Norseman Staff

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## FINAL EXAM SCHEDULE

#### **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

#### Period Time Length 8:25-9:15 50 minutes 9:20-10:10 50 minutes 3 10:15-11:05 50 minutes 4A 11:05-11:35 (lunch) 30 minutes Lunch 11:40-12:55 (class) 75 minutes 4B 35 minutes 11:10-11:45 (class) 11:45-12:15 (lunch) 30 minutes Lunch 12:20-12:55 (class) 35 minutes

11:10-12:25 (class)

12:25-12:55 (lunch)

1:00-1:50

1:55-3:40

4C

Lunch

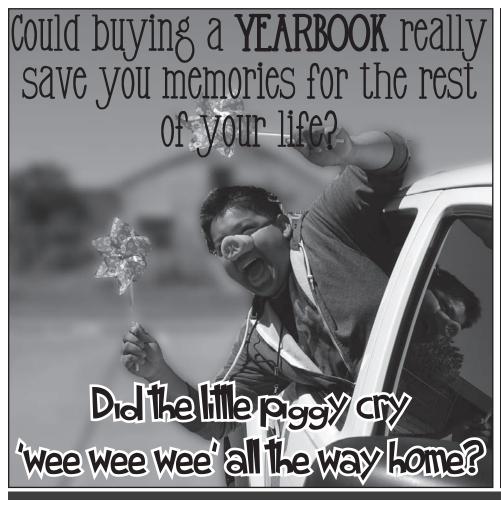
EXAM 6

#### **THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16**

| 1 | Period  | Time   | Length                                  |
|---|---------|--|---|
| ٦ | 7       | 8:25-9:00  | 35 minutes                              |
|   | EXAM 1  | 9:05-10:55   | 110 minutes                             |
| ٦ | EXAM 2  | 10:55-11:25 (lunch)  | 30 minutes                              |
|   | A Lunch | 11:30-1:50 (exam)  | 140 minutes                             |
|   | B Lunch | 11:00-11:32 (exam)<br>11:32-12:02 (lunch)<br>12:07-1:50 (exam) | 32 minutes<br>30 minutes<br>103 minutes |
|   | C Lunch | 11:00-1:20 (exam)<br>1:20-1:50 (lunch)                         | 140 minutes<br>30 minutes               |
|   | EXAM 3  | 1:55-3:40  | 105 minutes                             |

#### FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17

| Period  | Time   | Length  |
|---------|--|---|
| EXAM 4  | 8:25-10:55   | 145 minutes   |
| EXAM 5  | 10:55-11:25  | 30 minutes  |
| A Lunch | 11:30-1:50   | 140 minutes   |
| B Lunch | 11:00-11:27 (lunch)<br>11:27-12:57 (class)<br>11:59-1:50 (class) | 32 minutes<br>30 minutes<br>103 minutes   |
| C Lunch | 11:00-1:20 (lunch)<br>1:20-1:50 (class)                          | 140 minutes<br>30 minutes   |
| EXAM 7  | 1:55-3:40  | 105 minutes   |
|         | EXAM 4 EXAM 5 A Lunch B Lunch C Lunch                            | EXAM 4 8:25-10:55  EXAM 5 10:55-11:25  A Lunch 11:30-1:50  B Lunch 11:00-11:27 (lunch) 11:27-12:57 (class) 11:59-1:50 (class)  C Lunch 11:00-1:20 (lunch) 1:20-1:50 (class) |



75 minutes

30 minutes

50 minutes

105 minutes

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