



## Juniors take class trip to Newport mansions



The Vanderbilt summer home was one of the most impressive sights on the juniors' trip. (Photo by Ashley Gwozdik)

Ashley Gwozdik '07

On November 16, 2005 the class of 2007 headed off to Newport, Rhode Island for a field trip to explore two mansions, one being the Marble House. The trip there was approximately three hours long, and due to our school bus breaking down the night before, we were graciously equipped with a coach bus to ride in style.

It was a shock to hear that the first mansion we looked at, with approximately 70 rooms in it, was considered to be the summer cottage for the Vanderbilts'. When I think of a summer cottage, I see a small 2-or-3-bedroom house at the Cape, not an enormous house with a great ocean view.

The Vanderbilts' home that we first visited was considered their summer cottage where they only stayed for a few weeks at a time. At other times they were off gallivanting about on the ocean with their yacht. The Vanderbilts were the richest family in America at the time and loved to buy many things to show off their wealth. Frederick William Vanderbilt's wife loved to host dinner parties where their friends came to have a great dinner and later engage in dancing.

"I was very jealous of the Vanderbilts as we walked through the first mansion. They have so much that I wish I had, it must be really nice to be able to afford such extravagant houses and cool toys to play with, like their yacht," said Lucas Wood '07.

The Vanderbilts could not keep all these houses clean by themselves and were rich enough to have servants; they hired 60 servants whom they referred to as the staff because they considered it rude to refer to them as servants. These staff members would travel with the family from estate to estate to attend to their needs.

As everyone was awestruck by this magnificent mansion, we headed on down the road to our next destination, the Marble House. The Marble House was not as large as the first one, but it was still a beautiful house. Not too many people were impressed with this tour because you had to listen to a headset rather than a speaker.

But all in all, this trip was a very educational and enjoyable trip. It was a great eye opener to see how other people lived, especially in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

## Death of civil rights activist Rosa Parks reminds America that fight for equal rights is not over

Cathy Keough '06

How often is it that the death of a person brings back a wave of nostalgia and strong remembrance? Isn't it ironic that in death an individual's deeds, actions, and opinions become strangely alive and begin to flame up again in others? The death of Rosa Parks on October 24, 2005 did just this.

On December 1, 1955, Parks was arrested for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man—a life-threatening move. The incident played a strong role in gaining support for the Civil Rights Movement, proving that nonviolent resistance is powerful resistance. Parks provided inspiration for future Civil Rights leaders such as Martin Luther King.

Parks has received plenty of official commemoration over the years. She was a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient, and

her funeral was held in the dome of Washington's Capitol Rotunda. She did not ask for this national recognition, though she has earned it, but she did ask for something that is much harder to give. She asked for awareness and bravery. She asked people to follow her example—to stand up against injustice and inequality. The question to ask now is, have we given her this? Have we repaid this woman who was willing to risk her life for the rest of American society? Have we learned from her example and stood up to say "no" when we felt our rights were being violated?

It's a hard question, and as the Civil Rights Movement fades farther and farther into the past, we begin to feel that such risks and declarations are unnecessary—that everything has been taken care of. But there are always

things we can improve on. To keep equality alive, we must remember that there is still inequality, and that the fight is not yet over.

Mourner Adrienne Lotson felt that Parks' death helps remind people that issues such as inequality never disappear, and that the past was once a reality. "The better this country gets, the easier it will be to forget the past. I think very few people think about where they sit on a bus. That's why we need monuments and times like this — so people never forget." As time passes and problems fade, the actions and words of people become history—they seem to appear as nothing more than words on a page and a few old photographs. Parks' death is a strong reminder of the savage inequality that used to be, and sometimes still is, a part of this country.

## Sophisticated NASA spacecraft on its way to Mars to photograph planet in high-resolution

Wendy Waskiewicz '06

A NASA spacecraft is halfway to Mars on a mission to collect more photo-image data than all previous explorations of Mars combined. The Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter is expected to arrive back on Earth in March. This length of time necessary for a trip to Mars and back provides an idea of the tremendous distance between Earth and Mars. This distance ranges from 88 to 390 million miles, depending on where each planet is in orbit around the sun.

The orbiter has on-board some of the most sophisticated science instruments that have ever been flown into space, including a telescopic camera. This camera will be able to take the sharpest pictures possible of the planet's surface. Astoundingly, only about two percent of the planet has ever

been viewed using high-resolution cameras. Therefore, the telescopic camera that has been installed in the Orbiter has a big job. The Orbiter will also continue to seek evidence of water, search for future landing sites, and provide for a communications link with Earth.

The United States is not the only country that is involved in current space exploration, however. Japan says that the Hayabusa probe successfully landed on the asteroid Itokawa, which is presently orbiting the sun between Earth and Mars. The purpose of the mission was to briefly land on the asteroid, collect material, and then bring the material back to Earth for examination. The probe was only on the asteroid for about half an hour, and is now on its way back to Earth.

## Daniel Craig becomes new James Bond in upcoming movie

Matt Kushi '06

"The name's Bond, James Bond." Since 1955, actor Pierce Brosnan has spoken these famous words. Now it will be the voice of Daniel Craig. For the first time in history, James Bond will have a different appearance about him. British actor Daniel Craig, who was named the new James Bond after the complex contract fiasco with Brosnan, takes over as 007 in the next film of the legendary series of M16's top agent.

One may not think of Bond when they see Craig. The first thing that you'll notice is that Craig has blond hair and, at a quick glance, looks like a young Paul Newman. However, the producers say that Craig is suited for the role.

It is ironic to note that a role that Craig is known for is the sinister son of the character played by Paul Newman in "Road To Perdition". Some have also

noted that when he dyes his hair the customary Bond black, he bears a resemblance to Bing Crosby. Craig will also be the shortest James Bond, as of yet, at the height of 5'11.

The next James Bond film is slated for 2006 and will be an Ian Fleming original. Casino Royale was originally supposed to be the first James Bond movie, but Dr. No got the honor of being the first.

Many people are wondering if Craig will be a James Bond for the ages, such as a Sean Connery or Roger Moore, or a Bond that will last a short time, such as George Lazenby did. In Casino Royale, the world will see if Daniel Craig is worthy of performing the duties of 007.

## France: the romantic nation falls into riot

Todd Foy '08

The nation of France is often associated with peace, love, and the arts, but it has recently been shaken with riots. What began on October 29th as a peaceful demonstration by Muslims protesting bad treatment has turned into a nationwide crisis. Two boys, ages 15 and 17, were electrocuted as they scaled a wall and fell onto an electrical relay station. Witnesses to the incident say that the two boys were running from French police who violently threatened them for no apparent reason. Muslims are now saying that the French government is responsible for the casualties. However, participants in the riots say that the anger with the French government has been building for several years. In most parts of France,

Muslims are secluded to a special "ghetto" of sorts for only those who practice Islam.

Also, many well-educated French Muslims are refused jobs because of their race and religion. Unemployment among French Muslims is at an excess of nearly 30%. The peaceful protests became violent in Parisian suburbs during the night of October 30th. Cars, buildings, and subways were main targets of aggression by the protestors. In the first night alone, more than a dozen cars were blown apart with homemade bottle-bombs. Rioters with rocks and glass bottles also attacked police officers trying to suppress the violence.

By November 1st, the violence had spread as far south as

Lyon and the Bordeaux region. There were attacks in almost 116 different towns in all of France. Several Muslim extremists are even calling for actual organized revolution all over France. As of November 10th, 617 cars were destroyed and 120 rioters arrested. President Jacques Chirac says the only way out of this situation is to find peace somehow. Unfortunately, his solution is to now impose a curfew upon these Muslim ghettos under penalty of death. Some French Muslims are even being deported from the country for their treason. As the violence continues in spouts, it seems that the French nation is falling deeper into the horrible vortex of racism.



The annual semi-formal hosted by the class of 2006 and held at the Most Holy Redeemer parish hall on December 3, 2005 was a kickin' beginning to the holiday season. Groovin' Disc Jockeys Brett Long and Jared Delaney provided suave beats. "I had a great time hanging out with friends and listening to the music, and, as the saying goes, the best things happen while you're dancing!" said Matt Kushi '06. The semi was a great ending to a great year. Now, onward to 2006!

## Foreign language students experience New York City

Hannah Ryan '06

Bon voyage! French III/IV, Spanish III, and Spanish IV students took a daylong field trip to New York City on November 30th. The trip included a tour of the United Nations building, lunch at Planet Hollywood, and a Broadway production of Beauty and the Beast.

The group left at 6 AM on a Travel Kuz bus, and after a three-hour ride (consisting of Mulan and sleeping) arrived at the largest city in the country.

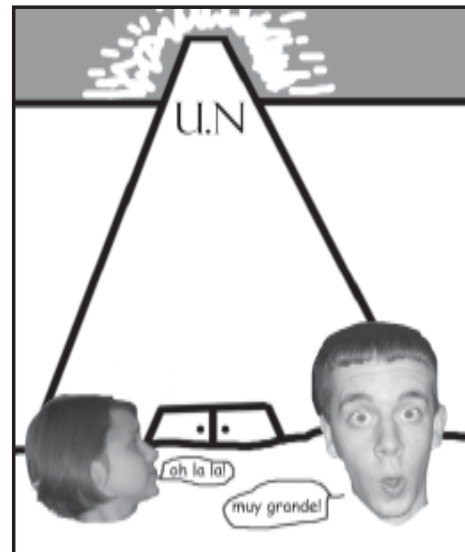
The U.N. tour was intended to introduce students to international politics. Due to traffic, the bus was late in arriving, so the tour was cut short. Students

had the opportunity to see the famous works of art dedicated to the United Nations, and also could walk through the General Assembly room while a meeting on the Israel-Palestinian conflict was taking place. "The UN building was a strong building that was very reassuring as it had such a commanding and large presence. I really felt the strength of international law," said Cathy Keough '06.

Both classes had done work with the Beauty and the Beast story—the Spanish IV class both watched the Disney movie (dubbed into Spanish, of course) and read the book, so the Broadway production was the culmination

of a lot of work on the subject. "The sets and costumes were amazing," said Nelly Czajkowski '06. The Broadway show of Beauty and the Beast won a Tony award for its costumes in 1994 and is still popular. Though, luckily enough, not so popular that it was full on a Wednesday afternoon, so some students were allowed to move from their nosebleed seats into ones closer to the stage.

The bus ride back (consisting of War of the Worlds and sleeping) arrived at Hopkins at 9 PM, and students went home to finish the homework they hadn't yet done for the next day.



Natalie and Mikey absorb the grandeur of the U.N. building. (pictorial representation by Hannah Ryan and Cathy Keough)

## Love it or Hate it, Winter is here

Kyle Milardo '06

Let us open with a scene: you sit cuddled up by the fire, in which are some roasting chestnuts, as you sip on some hot cocoa, or maybe even some eggnog. A light powdery snow is falling outside making your neighborhood look like a winter wonderland. You can see the local children running about, building snowmen, sledding, and making snow angels. While you admire the twinkling light of the fire on the tinsel, the sweet smell of a cooking turkey fills your nasal cavities as the Nutcracker plays for your aural pleasure. Finally, winter has come.

Or, do you see it more this way: it's cold and dreary outside; you are doing everything you possibly can to stay warm, but nothing seems to be working. The cold is biting at your face as you trudge through the muddy and slushy snow. As you look around, everything appears to be dead and the sky is a gloomy gray. Oh no, winter has come.

Winter has its ups and downs, but most disagree whether ups outweigh downs or visa-versa. "I love the winter," says Erick Klepacki, "it's my favorite season." One of the perks that winter brings for automobile enthusiasts like Klepacki, is the ability to

rip around on their snowmobiles. For some, it might not be worth riding in the cold wind just for a few kicks, but Klepacki and friends aren't about to be stopped by a little frostbite on their noses. "I would rather be too cold than too hot," he says.

"I don't like winter," says Emily Izer in opposition to Klepacki's claim of winter being the best season of the year. Izer is one person that is not a big fan of winter. She is one of many people who hate the feeling of having to bundle up and desperately try to stay warm whenever outside. "It's freezing," she said, "everything is dead and it lasts too long." The only perk Izer sees in winter is that it's a sign of her upcoming birthday, though she wishes it were in the summer.

Most can agree that winter definitely has its strong points and its weak points. There aren't many people who can say they don't like wearing comfy sweaters, or having a good snowball fight, sledding, or even just the way it looks after the first snowfall. But, then again, there aren't many people who can say they like the slush and mud, and look of death it leaves behind. But no matter if you love it or hate it, there is no doubt that winter has come.

## Holiday cheer for all during Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa

Todd Foy '08

We are coming back up onto the busiest holiday of the year: Christmas. Every December 25<sup>th</sup>, we celebrate this holiday with cookies, milk, gifts, and all kinds of holiday cheer. But what about the other holidays? Some think only of Christmas and seem to ignore the other holidays celebrated each year by people all over the world.

The Christmas holiday is the most well-known and most celebrated holiday. It began on a cold winter night in a stable in Bethlehem with the birth of God's son, Jesus Christ. Therefore, every December 25<sup>th</sup> people all over the world celebrate the coming of the Savior. The practice of giving gifts also started on that very night with the famed "Three Wise men" who followed a bright star to the stable. Upon arriving, they gave the newborn Jesus Christ great gifts to welcome him.

Another world holiday celebrated around this time is Hanukkah. It is a Jewish holiday that begins on November 25<sup>th</sup> and is

celebrated for the following eight days and eight nights. During this time, the Jews celebrate the rededication of the Temple in Jerusalem after their victory over the ruthless oppression of the Syrians and Greeks. Every night a candle is lit on a special holder called a "menorah" to commemorate the survival of the last defenders of the temple who lived on a small amount of oil for eight days.

One other famous world holiday is Kwanzaa. The word "Kwanzaa" is derived from the Swahili phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits". Every December 26<sup>th</sup> to January 1<sup>st</sup>, African Americans all over the country celebrate Kwanzaa to remember their ancestors and the sacrifices they made for the fruit harvests. It is celebrated with a great gathering of dancing and feasting.

As you can see, there are many different celebrations during the holiday season. No matter what you celebrate, the holiday cheer ceases to diminish.

## As cycling deaths mount, bicycle safety becomes more important

Wendy Waskiewicz '06

Most people think that just because there are crosswalks and laws that say we must yield to pedestrians and that we have to stop for them. We do, but there is a certain level of respect and consideration from both parties for everyone to stay safe.

Did you know that in 2001 there were 4,882 pedestrians killed in traffic accidents and 78,000 pedestrians injured? That's about one pedestrian killed in a traffic crash every 108 minutes and one being injured every 7 minutes. Ages 16-20, followed very closely by 21-24, are the groups whose lives are claimed the most from car accidents. In both age groups, the number killed is in the high thousands, and the number injured is over a half a million.

Most accidents occur because of impatient drivers as well as pedestrians who just walk out into the traffic, assuming cars will see them and stop. Obviously, this is not the case. There is no

possible way to prevent these awful accidents from happening. There are a lot of ways to avoid getting yourself into these situations, especially this holiday season. So here are some tips to help you stay safe.

If you are a driver, even though it can be very tedious to wait for people, try to keep your patience. Wait for pedestrians to cross if you can see them, and use caution wherever there could be the potential for someone to dart into the street. Go slow around corners of busy streets, especially ones with shops on both sides, like in Northampton Center.

If you are a pedestrian, don't take having the "right of way" as a sure ticket that cars won't hit you. Here are some very helpful hints to keep yourself safe. Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk and you have to walk in the road, always walk facing the traffic, so you can see any car that might go out of con-

trol. Dress to be seen in brightly colored clothing makes it easier for drivers to see you during the daytime. At night, you need to wear special reflective material on your shoes, hat, or jacket to reflect the headlights of cars coming towards you. When crossing the street, cross only at corners or marked crosswalks. Stop at the curb, or the edge of the road and look both ways twice before you step into the street. If you see a car, wait until it goes by, then look left, right and left again until no cars are coming. If a car is parked where you are crossing, make sure there is no driver in the car. Then go to the edge of the car and look left, right and left until no cars are coming. Keep looking for cars coming while you are crossing, especially around corners.

These are the best tips that you can follow to avoid getting hurt for the holidays. Stay safe everyone.



Bicycle safety is very important-- wear your helmet! (<http://www.sxc.hu>)

## Pedestrians have personal responsibilities to uphold

Rachel Brin '06

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These are the best tips that you can follow to avoid getting hurt for the holidays. Stay safe everyone.

## Lights, camera, action! April student film festival

Nathaniel Hudak '06

The inaugural film festival, which will take place this April in the cafeteria, should prove to be a successful event. Students ranging from 12<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> grade have started to prepare short films for the upcoming presentation. Films range from comedies to action and suspense. The administration, however, has asked that all films be kept to a teen ranged audience level of appropriateness. There will be no limit on the number of entries, so get started if you haven't already! For more information contact Emily Morse or Jason Vachula.



Is the film festival for reel? Yes!

# Dynamic Programming Technology May Challenge Java's Development Dominance

Sean Paradiso '06

Since its release in 1995, Java has grown in popularity among software developers. Within a few short years, the allure of simple syntax, speedy runtime, and the all-powerful Applet won Java and its founder Sun Microsystems a seat next to C++ at the head of the development table. No technology is everlasting, however, and now in 2005, a new programming project code-named "Ruby" is making waves.

To understand what makes a programming language more favorable than another, I offer the following comparison: In Java, this code would compute the first 10 numbers in the fibonacci sequence (1,1,2,3,5,8, etc):

```
Public class fibonacci{
public static void main (String
args[]) {
    int x1 = 0;
    int x2 = 1;
    int total = 1;
    for (int i=0; i<10; i++) {
        System.out.println(total);
        total = x1+x2;
    }
}
```

```
x1 = x2;
x2 = total;
}
}
```

In C++, the exact same output would require:

```
#include <iostream>
#include <vector>
using namespace std;

unsigned int f(int x) {
    vector<unsigned int> fib(2);
    fib[0]=fib[1]=1;
    fib.reserve(x);
    while(x>=fib.size())
        fib.push_back(*(fib.end()-2)+
*(fib.end()-1));
    return fib[x];
}
```

```
void f_print(int n) {
    cout << n << "th Fibonacci number is " << f(n) << endl;
}
```

```
int main() {
    f_print(46);
    return 0;
}
```

In glaring contrast, here's what Ruby has to say:

```
x1,x2=0,1
10.times do
    puts x2
    x1,x2=x2,x1+x2
end.
```

As anyone with no programming background to speak of can plainly see, C++ code is very difficult to read. This is one of the many reasons why Java became so popular, since it's very easy on the eyes. C++ is not only hard to read, but also takes up 18 lines for the same effect as its 11-line Java equivalent! Ruby, however, does everything Java and C++ do...but with half the typing. Although to the uneducated observer, the Ruby seems almost too concise, at the cost of readability, to a programmer, each line is self-evident.

Given it's history and power, Java's throne isn't about to be usurped just yet, but Ruby provides an interesting new look at how code is structured and run.

## HOW TO...

### Go with the flow and let the good times roll

Ashley Gwozdik '07

On a Friday night you and your friends are out having a good time while planning to go eat dinner then venture off to go see that movie ya'll have been dying to see for along time.

You all are really excited to go out for the night to wind down from the long school week you had that was full of joyful tests and long nights of traumatizing homework that you still have nightmares over. When all of a sudden things go wrong and it all goes downhill from there.

Your favorite shirt you pulled out of the dryer was about two sizes smaller than when it went in, you bent over and your pants split right up the middle, and then you get a phone call from one of your friends saying that your best friend is talking a whole lot of smack about you. Then you just sit there thinking, can anything else possibly go wrong? It sure could, but you won't let it because you're going to relax.

I'm sure you are overwhelmed at this point and just feel like giving up or yelling at the top of your lungs. Don't worry! Take a step back and breathe. Take a long deep breath in and slowly release it. Instead of getting all worked up you can easily fix these problems. It only takes about one minute to rummage through your closet to find a hot new outfit and you can accessorize to make up for the effect of your shirt you felt was lost when it shrunk.

So the lesson here to be learned is that with some quick thinking and long deep breaths, you can easily avoid your great night turning into one big mess. Don't let the little things get to you because those are just minor technicalities that can be worked around.

## Hopkins changes over the years

Nicole Bercume '06

Anyone who has been in Hopkins since 7<sup>th</sup> grade to present time has witnessed a gradual change in the reputation Hopkins tries to withhold. New students and faculty have made Hopkins change by adding different teaching methods, bringing in students from many different areas and re-sembling Hopkins more to Amherst High School then a private school. These various attributes that alter the morality of Hopkins have both been positive and negative.

Teachers have brought a new method of teaching into this school that doesn't always agree with the students and makes for an adjustment in the way students are used to being taught. Hostility and arguments arise from the adjustments needed to conform to new teachers methods. Class time is spent arguing which causes a loss on the student's part in not being able to enjoy and learn from the class. Students, especially seniors who want to be prepared to college need a knowledgeable teacher that leads the class through curriculum. Most of the new teachers provide a good class where everyone is learning and following along but it takes time

to prove yourself into new surroundings, especially with teenagers.

The new students arriving to Hopkins every year provide for a more broad range of options students can have for friends but also bring in problems. The line between grades shouldn't be blurred, underclassmen friends has always been a normal thing but when you're in a younger grade, respect is due for the older teenagers. The younger, middle school children seem to lack any respect for upper classmen which accounts for hostility between 12<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders. Developing a name in high school, successful going from grade to grade and just being older deserves respect, not only from younger ones but for classmates also. People in society give respect to their elders; in high school it's the seniors and juniors that should be given the respect. It seems that the fear younger children had for older teenagers has been dwindling as the years pass. When I was younger I can remember being very scared of the upperclassmen, now all the little children talk to not only with a lack of respect but with no manners.

## Western Mass. greets Kanye West

Wendy Waskiewicz '06

On October 31<sup>st</sup>, I was able to enjoy the musical stylings of hip-hop/rap artist Kanye West at his concert at the Mullins Center in Amherst. The performance was one of the many shows of Kanye's nationwide tour entitled "The Kanye West Touch the Sky Tour".

What made the concert so entertaining and unique was the fact that not only did Kanye have backup singers, but there was also a pianist, drummer, group of strings musicians, and world-renowned "DJ A-Track". The performance was distinctive because of this mixture of many different types of musical styles. Kanye opened his currently number one song in the country, "Gold Digger," with a jazzy feel, and then the original hip-hop beat picked up and the crowd went wild.

Kanye played several songs off of his new disc, *Late Registration*, including "Hey Mama," "Diamonds Are Forever,"

and "Gold Digger," as well as some songs from previous discs, such as the popular "All Falls Down." He also changed outfits three times in between songs. One of the most notable aspects of the concert was how a particular hand symbol was held up by all the concert attendees during specific songs based on when Kanye and his two backup singers prompted it—that of a diamond (made by putting the thumbs and pointer fingers of each hand together). The diamond symbol is important because it ties into Kanye's song "Diamonds Are Forever," in which he raps about how the blood-diamond trade in the African country of Sierra Leone is devastating and deadly for the workers in the mines.

Overall, the concert was very enjoyable and I recommend listening to Kanye's music with an open mind, because he truly has something to say about issues that are important to him.



Kanye West puts on a good show. (AP photo)

## Sufjan Stevens: Illinois

Katie Brennan '06

Two years ago, Michigan-born folk musician Sufjan Stevens released his third album, a home-state tribute entitled *Greetings from Michigan*. The Great Lake State, and, amid widespread acclaim, revealed his ambitious plan to eventually write an album for each and every one of the 50 states.

Well, he hasn't exactly been churning them out—last year's follow-up to Michigan was not a state album at all, but the minimalistic, folksy, and banjo-laden *Seven Swans*—but this summer, Stevens finally released the second installment of the 50 States Project.

Illinois (or, as the cover of the album proclaims, *Come On Feel the Illinois!*) has gotten a lot of hype, and after listening to it, it's not hard to see why. Stevens does everything right with this album. It is meticulously crafted and brimming with over-the-top instrumentation, but it's a good kind of frivolity. The songs are hugely diverse in their styles and structures. Stevens himself plays over 20 different instruments over the course of the album, including banjo, acoustic guitar, drums, piano (recorded at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Carroll Gardens, Brooklyn), accordion, bass, and flute, and his intimate, stick-to-the-basics vocals are backed by a cho-

rus aptly named the Illinoismakers.

Stevens' lyrics are poignant enough to stand alone in many cases, making some of his songs seem like narratives put to music. His creative writing background and extensive research into his subject matter shows, especially on songs like "John Wayne Gacy, Jr.," a haunting portrait of the serial killer that is both biographical and intensely personal. In fact, this applies to most of the songs on the album—while Stevens uses the state and its history as a starting point, he constantly branches off into self-scrutiny and personal reflections, transforming what could have been just an album about a state into an album that is more often about himself. In "Come On! Feel the Illinois!," Carl Sandburg visits Sufjan in a dream and asks him, "Are you writing from the heart?" "Casimir Pulaski Day" is the story of a friend with bone cancer whose death falls on the holiday.

In spite of this, Stevens manages not to take himself too seriously. Many of the songs are full of ridiculous rhymes, such as "Ronald Reagan" with "xylophagan" and "Decatur" with, well, pretty much everything. The song titles themselves are worthy of note. I'm afraid to talk about "The Black Hawk War, or, How to

Demolish an Entire Civilization and Still Feel Good About Yourself in the Morning, or, We Apologize for the Inconvenience but You're Going to Have to Leave Now, or, 'I have fought the Big Knives and will continue to fight them until they are off our lands!'" for fear of having to write out the whole—oh, wait.

Even with 22 tracks (several of them short interludes under two minutes long), there are few dull moments on the album. Highlights include "Chicago," in which Stevens tells a story of road trips and self-discovery while the Illinoismakers shout, "All things go! All things go!" "The Predatory Wasp of the Palisades Is Out To Get Us!" is an emotional narrative of lost love and friendship that slowly builds to a majestic finish. And "They Are Night Zombies!! They Are Neighbors!! They Have Come Back from the Dead!! Ahhhh!" features a fantastically funky bassline, punctuated by a violin harmony and a rhythmic chant of "I-L-L-I-N-O-I-S!"

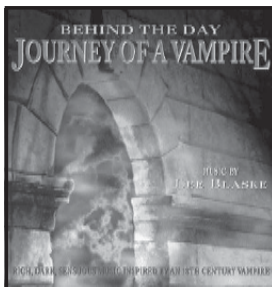
Though Stevens has previously been given a folk label, his unembellished vocals have never really fit into the traditional folk genre, and this album is more pop than anything else. Not that it matters, because no matter how it's labeled, Illinois is still one of the best albums of the year.

## Lee Blaske: Classical Music Goes Straight for the Jugular

Courtesy Reed '06

Through his music, Lee Blaske creates the darkly romantic world where the vampire lives in the hearts of true romantics. His CD entitled, *Behind the Day: Journey of a Vampire* released in 1998 does not fit into the genre of typical gothic music.

Horrible Goth singing or t a c k y techno-like beats and rhythms do not plague this album. Don't expect those typical Halloween-like sound effects either. Blaske uses piano, pipe organ, harp-sichord and synthesizers to create a hypnotic, cryptic and haunting atmosphere. These tracks, or musical works of art, are darkly beautiful and emphasized with poetic verse recited by the character of an 18<sup>th</sup> century male vampire. He speaks of love



and lost and his loneliness in a seductive and commanding, yet smooth tone. He longs to be alive and human once more to consummate his love. The whole work is soft and foreboding. While you listen, you drift into an unknown

world. The music and verse allow you to feel sympathy for a creature that is otherwise associated with evil and death. Blaske's music is a different take on classical music. It has the same relaxing effect as Moonlight Sonata, laced with a bit of darkness. If you have an acquired taste for romantic poetry and piano music, then this album is calling your name. Be prepared to fall hopelessly in love and travel to a place between darkness and light.

## Drama club's "Haunting of Will Shakespeare" a triumphant spectacle

Sean Paradiso '06

On November 18th, 2005, The Hopkins Academy Drama Club reconvened for a night of Shakespearean fun and merriment. This truly enchanting comedy of errors was met with open arms, as Hopkins embraces yet another dramatic accomplishment.

The play opens with the three weird sisters (from Shakespeare's *Macbeth*), plotting like all good witches do. Cathy Keough plays the eccentric Paddock, whose aspirations to escape the forest, in which she and her sisters reside, leads her to conjure up a myriad of playful sprites, one for each of Shakespeare's greats. These sprites are then sent off to inspire Will (Kyle Milardo) to become a writer. Senior Hannah Ryan

(Graymalkin) plays Paddock's complement as the drowsiest of the three, and would offer her insights into the true meaning and underlying motivations of her character, but all she can manage at present time is "I'm too tired right now...come back later."

The play's featured spirits, although they seemed a little trite at first, end up being the real life of the play. The *Midsummer Night's Dream* characters (played by Hayden Durand, Bryan Perley, and Tripp Aquadro), however, stole the show. Don't get me wrong, all of the spirits did a wonderful job, executing their lines perfectly and conveying all the appropriate feelings, but the three theatrical spirits' energy and en-

thusiasm could galvanize even the most obstinate of audiences. Hayden Durand shone brilliantly as the play's token ass, Bottom. Bottom, the brunt of many a jab and practical joke, is the character everybody can't help but appreciate, blending in perfectly with the rest of the oddball Shakespearean revives.

For all of you who missed the performance (by some astonishing lapse of reason and accountability), you missed quite a show. The drama club retires, for now, with yet another brilliant success under its belt. We can only hope that we'll have another play to enjoy come spring, provided we have the actors and director to supplement and produce it.

## Epic poem “Beowulf” a rollicking good time for all ages!

Cathy Keough '06

Hurry kids! Hot off the presses! Copies are flying off the shelves like wildfire! What, has the last Harry Potter book come out? Is the next season of *Lost* out on DVD? No! It's *Beowulf*! Coming soon to an English class near you.

That's right, what's hot in the literary world this winter has been making its way down to the public through the oral tradition since approximately 750 A.D.! With its rich language and pleasing metaphors, *Beowulf* is a great epic poem for all ages.

*Beowulf* is fast-paced and fun. We meet quirky characters like the lovable king Hrothgar, the jealous Unferth, the hideous Troll-Wife, and the loyal Wiglaf. This timeless tale confronts the big questions—what is a hero? What is a leader? How can I get rich and famous?

*Beowulf*, our gallant protagonist, shows readers how to achieve wealth, fame, and glory in four easy steps:

1. Fight a battle against a demonic monster, preferably one that has been ravaging the land of a very wealthy king. Rip the monster's arm off, thus ending its life. Allow the very wealthy king to shower you with praise, gifts, and lots and lots of gold. Thank him kindly, and proceed to the door.
2. As you are making your grand exit, spot the monster's mother—now ravaging the land to avenge her baby's death. Follow her to her lair—an underwater cave—and proceed to fight an underwater battle, making use of your super underwater breathing skills. Proceed to slay the mother, narrowly escaping with your life. Upon your return the wealthy king throws you a big party, gives you more praise, and presents you with more gold. Return as a celebrity to your homeland, and sit back and relax as you receive more honor and glory.
3. Your celebrity status brings you close to the king, so, when he passes away, take his place! Rule for half a century, bring peace and harmony to the land, and become pretty much the best, most famous king ever.
4. As you are now old and withered, it's necessary to ensure that you go out with a bang, and are honored with a very expensive funeral. Locate a fire-breathing dragon with a large supply of gold. Proceed to ride out onto the battlefield in full armor, and assault your reptilian foe. Slay the dragon, but receive fatal wounds in the process, and check out of the mortal world. Once you are gone, your people build a huge boat, load your coffin, fill it with heaps of gold and riches, and burn it ensuring that you go out in a flame of glory.

Take this poem to heart and you are sure to be a success.

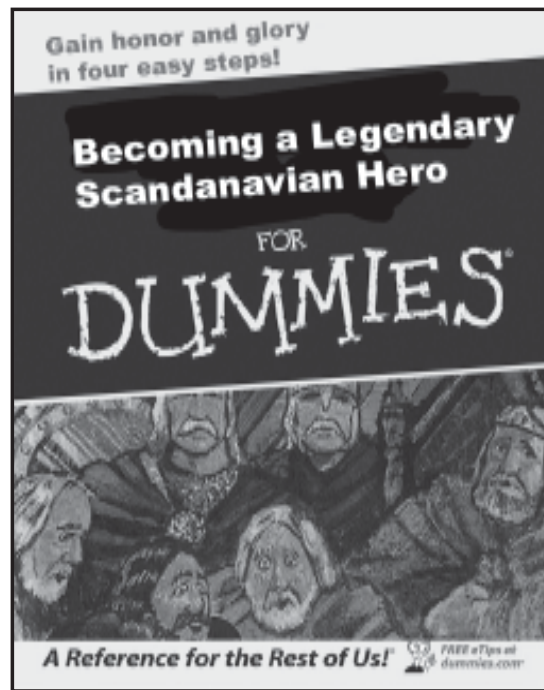
## “American Gothic” a dark, romantic tale

Courtney Reed '06

“Among the dead on the Civil War battlefields walks a creature who cannot die...”. This is the gripping tag line to Michael Romkey's latest book *American Gothic*, released in March 2004. The novel introduces the main character, Nathaniel Peregrine, whose wife and children had been butchered a year earlier. He tries

to ease his pain through opium and absinthe but nothing can erase the memory of the beautiful demon, which right in front of Peregrine's eyes murdered all who dwell in an opium den but him just the night before. This is the story of a man who bends his neck to darkness only to grow tired of living a vampire's restless existence. He

travels to the island of Haiti, whilst he meets Helen Fairweather who makes him yearn for his lost mortal life again. This longing for true love leads him to Doctor Lavalle who sets Peregrine on a deep descent that will end with salvation or damnation. Other works by Romkey include, *I, Vampire*, *The Vampire's Violin* and *The London Vampire Panic*.



A supreme debut effort from Anonymous, *Beowulf* encapsulates the true essence of Middle English heroism. (Hannah Ryan)

## That's hot: holiday gift ideas for friends and family

Rachel Brin '06


Christmas is coming, and if you're anything like me, you have no idea what you're going to get for family or friends. I find myself asking the age-old question, “what should I get?” or “what do you want for Christmas?” and always getting the same answer of “I don't know.” So here is some inside scoop just for you. The hottest thing out there for this Christmas is anything electronically based such as multimedia, wireless, or virtual products. This includes iPods or any music media, digital cameras, and game systems (especially the new Xbox 360). In the 2005 fiscal year, Best Buy's top revenue comes from consumer electronics, totaling 38 percent for U.S. stores, and also from its counterpart, Magnolia Audio Video, which brought in 97 percent of

store revenue from consumer electronics. Also, Best Buy reports that their sales jumped 10 percent in December because of a surge of holiday buying of digital music players, cameras and televisions. If this option isn't the way that you want to go, or is out of your price range, here's another very popular Christmas gift - gift cards. Almost every store offers gift cards and for some stores, they are the top Christmas gift merchandise. The most popular gift

card that is out there is the one that carries the Visa logo, which allows it to be used anywhere. You can acquire a gift card like this from any bank. Lastly, this year, both the Holyoke and the Hampshire Malls have taken away the paper gift certificates and opted to use a universal gift card that charges a two-dollar processing fee. I don't recommend buying multiple cards with low amounts for one person because with each card you purchase, you are charged the two-dollar fee.

Hawk's Claw, the school newspaper of Hopkins Academy, provides an open forum for student expression. All students are encouraged to submit their opinions and letters for publication. A writer's name may be withheld from an article; however, the adviser must be aware of the writer's name. The editorial staff reserves the right to publish, edit, or revise, without altering the content of the article.

Subjects that are covered in Hawk's Claw editorials are the opinions of the Hawk's Claw staff, not necessarily the faculty or any one individual. Columns that are signed are the views of the writer and not of the Hawk's Claw staff.

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131 Russell Street Hadley, MA	
Volume 39	Number 2
	
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## Undetectable speed radars good for police, but irritating for speeders

Nathaniel Hudak '06

My worst nightmare has unfortunately come true; radar detectors have become obsolete due to a new technology called Liar. The radar that police officers use to detect speeders covers a couple hundred feet of area and has a range of 1,000 feet. For example, if five cars are hit by radar, the car's speed that is traveling the fastest will register on the radar gun.

This new Lidar system is far more advanced than radar and covers a four-foot section and has a range of 3,000 feet. The officer using the Lidar aims the system at a sole car and can register its speed in seconds. A radar detector, like a radar gun, sends out a beam ahead of the car, and when it intersects with another radar beam, the detector goes off and warns the driver of the upcoming speed trap. This new Lidar system uses a high-tech laser that hits the side of the car in a matter of seconds, making a radar detector unable to read the incoming signal. Northampton town police officers have recently purchased a Liar system and Massachusetts, Vermont, and New Hampshire state police have equipped all cruisers with Liar systems.

According to Mayor Clare Higgins of Northampton, police officers want to begin speed patrols out of uniform. "That's like our society's degeneration from a free state governed by the people to an almost militarily enforced state; it's an omnipresent surveillance issue," says Sean Paradiso '06. If officers were to do this, it would ensure that over time, traffic would begin to slow in the town of Northampton.

As a driver, I have had a personal encounter with the new Lidar system and my radar detector merely warned me that my car had been read. As more and more police forces in the area have begun to install these new Lidar systems, consumers begin to look for alternative ways of fooling cops and evading speed traps. Currently on the market are jammers ranging anywhere from \$50 to \$1,000; however, they aren't extremely efficient due to the small width of the laser that the Lidar system uses.

From my standpoint, these new Lidar systems should prove to be very effective for police, but irritating to those who plan on defying the speed laws.



Safe Space stickers signify classrooms in which students of any sexual orientation will be respected.

## “Safe Space” stickers: Pro and Con

### Pro

Katie Brennan and Cathy Keough '06

Hopkins Academy aims to be a place where everyone can feel comfortable and welcome. At any school, students and teachers exchange ideas on a daily basis, and in order to make the most of each student's learning experience, it is important for everyone to keep an open mind. Respect and tolerance are essential factors contributing to the success of this goal.

Recently, the Hopkins Gay Straight Alliance gave out Safe Space stickers to all of the faculty members, with an invitation to display the stickers in a prominent place in their classroom, in order to show their dedication to tolerance of and non-discrimination against gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered (GLBT) students at Hopkins. For teachers who put up their stickers, they are making a commitment to do their best to make their classroom a safer and more tolerant space for GLBT students. This means that teachers will not use or allow discriminatory language and behavior in

their classrooms and around the school.

One question that has been asked frequently is why these stickers specifically apply to the GLBT community. In the past, there have been different social movements applying to discrimination based on race, ethnicity, gender, and religion. However, sexual orientation is an issue that is just beginning to be publicly addressed. Many people are still uncomfortable with acknowledging and labeling discrimination based on sexual orientation, while they might be more confident about standing up against discrimination based on other causes without fear of being judged because of it.

In our society, heterosexuality is the accepted norm, and because sexual orientation cannot be easily determined by appearance or behavior, it is often assumed that everyone in a community is straight. However, this is not true. By forgetting this important fact, it is easy to make com-

ments in a classroom that offend, alienate, or exclude GLBT students without even meaning to. Even a comment such as, "Do all the boys have a girl they're taking to the dance yet?" can make a GLBT student feel uncomfortable or left out. It is important to remember that everyone is different, and that even if you don't know about it, there could be a student who is hurt by an insensitive remark.

Because they are part of the majority in society, heterosexual students don't have to worry about being made fun of or physically injured because of their sexual orientation. It is often taken for granted that their sexual orientation does not determine how they are perceived by their fellow students. For GLBT students, this kind of security does not exist. Thus, it is necessary that everyone at Hopkins do their part to make our school into a place that upholds a standard of tolerance and equality for everyone.

### Con

Todd Foy '08

Recently, stickers have been showing up on doors and in classrooms around Hopkins Academy. The stickers are part of a promotion of a "Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Safe-Zone" program. The stickers are supposedly placed there to make people of different sexual orientation feel comfortable in school and also to remind others that there are those out there who are different from them. I personally believe the stickers are not just for this purpose, but actually go a bit deeper. Why do we need a sticker to remind us of these things when we

are already fully aware that it is out there?

According to the website promoted on the sticker, [www.glsen.org](http://www.glsen.org), 65% of teens are verbally and physically bullied every year. When the statistic is broken down, 39% of these teens admit to being teased only for their size, looks, or other physical attributes. 33% of these admit to being teased solely for their sexual orientation. It may be only a 6% difference, but it shows that bullying is common in schools and GLBT's are not the only targets. A sticker does not cure this, because

no sticker will. The issue of bullying and harassment is one as old as time itself. Why not simply make a sticker that promotes safety for everyone? A sticker against bullying period. There are many people who are afraid of going to school because of bullies, but we don't see stickers all over for those people. Don't get me wrong, I have no problems with those who have a different sexual orientation. I can be friends with them, hang out with them, and have no problem. I also have no problem that the sticker is trying to promote a safe environment for GLBT's, but what is it really accomplishing?

## The joy of giving nullified by significant others

Sean Paradiso '06

Brimming with the raucous jingling of sleigh bells and overbearing fundamentalists, Christmas is truly the most joyous time of year. And what would Christmas be, might I ask, without the joy of exchanging gifts you've deemed either useful or amusing to those around you? This reporter submits that it would be bland, boring, and religious. This reporter then apologizes for the recursive nature of the previous statement.

Unfortunately, as I'm sure many are aware, this enjoyable activity is all but nullified by the prospect of purchasing something that conveys affection, good

will, and integrity to your significant other. This is the daunting task I will be discussing further (in nearly blinding bias), provided I make it to the next paragraph.

The paragraph is made and I shall, therefore, continue. Gift giving is a widely variable trade, depending on your gender. Buying a gift for a guy is, although not necessarily easy in the strictest sense of the definition, certainly less obscure a practice. Should his girlfriend be foolish enough to ask him what he would like for Christmas, any guy would respond with a request that this reporter recognizes as unfit for a family oriented newspaper. Buy-

ing a gift for a girl, unfortunately, isn't nearly as straightforward (sorry, guys). Fortunately, being of a fairly strong mathematical background, I've managed to derive an equation to model the emotional value of a gift, which may prove invaluable to some. As complex as the following function may seem, bear with me and I'll try my best to explain it so that all may appreciate and understand its profound mathematical, not to mention sociological, implications.

$V(c) = c$

Where  $c$  is the cost of the jewelry and  $V$  maps that item's approximate emotional value (rounded to

the nearest hundredth) with respect to said cost.

The implications here are quite pronounced. How, one might ask, could the factors in such a complicated problem be so invariable? Should you take the time to do the math, you'll see that (once the chain rule is applied) attempts to endear gifts through methodology such as sentiment and affection, actually factor out and cancel with the resulting denominator.

Another interesting point to note is that  $c$  is only applicable when concerning jewelry. When you try and plug through with a different kind of item (say

clothing or, should you decide that it's really not working out, a book), it turns out that another factor pops in which can be linked to the girl's subconscious distress at the prospect of not receiving jewelry for Christmas. This term is equal and opposite to the prospective value of the item in question.

Well that concludes our delving into the suppressive obfuscation that is holiday gift giving. Hope you all have a wonderful holiday season, and allow me to quickly obscure the fact that this article is alarmingly biased. Equality for all and for all a good night!

## Patriot's team riddled by injuries, but still successful

By Matt Kushi '06

There is no blood and no bullets but the New England Patriots, from their roster, sure look like they have been in a battle. Loyal fans of the team have noticed that the Patriots must be leading the NFL in a statistic that is not counted: Players injured per game. For the Patriots, their average is around 2.

If you are a fan that has been watching the Patriots weekly, you just can't help but notice the way that the men in red, white, and blue have been dropping like flies. Every week the fan has to endure the pain of watching yet another

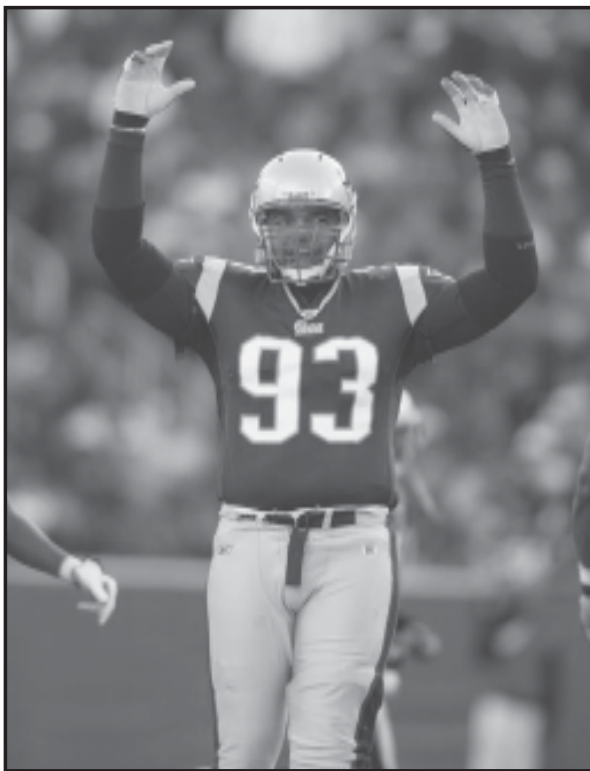
player fall to the ground and stay there in agony.

Though many fans cannot even name a quarter of the players anymore, the Patriots keep on winning and are currently sitting on the top of the AFC East with a 8-5 record and are the lone team above .500 in the weak AFC East.

The main reason why the Patriots are still floating after having so much happened to them injury-wise that could pull them under is quarterback Tom Brady. Brady currently leads the NFL in passing yards with 3,630 yards.

The rest of his stats work out to a 63.4 completion percentage, 20 touchdown passes, and a 91.3 quarterback rating.

Despite the return of running backs Corey Dillon and Kevin Faulk, the Patriots are still an injury-riddled team. It is because of this that the Patriots need Brady more than ever as the rush for the play-offs gets underway. The Patriots may be heavy underdogs this year due to the injuries but with that old Patriot magic, no one can ever be sure of where the Patriots are going.



Even with the many injuries, the Patriots and their fans hope to remain successful.

## Bowl Season around the corner

Matt Sheridan '06

The 2005 regular season of NCAA football has come to a close, after fifteen weeks of brutal competition, thrilling victories, crushing defeats, and surprising upsets. Now, with the regular season over, it's time for some Bowl games.

We begin with the first Bowl game kicking off Tuesday night, December 20<sup>th</sup>, and coming to a dramatic finale with the University of Southern California facing off against the University of Texas in the Rose Bowl for the national title on January 4<sup>th</sup>.

But USC vs. Texas isn't the only game worth mentioning,

as plenty of other powerful teams prepare to throw down. The Orange Bowl features two of college football's oldest and winningest coaches, Joe Paterno of Penn State, and Bobby Bowden of Florida State. Next up is the Sugar Bowl, with Big East champion West Virginia squaring off against a Georgia team that upset LSU for the SEC title. And in the final Bowl Championship Series game, we have Notre Dame against Ohio State in the Fiesta Bowl. This game has two of college football's most prolific teams, and while Notre Dame seeks its first top ten final

ranking for the first time since 1993, Ohio State is seeking its third top ten finish in the last four years.

And the BCS games aren't the only ones worth watching; Miami and LSU face off in the Georgia Dome for the Peach Bowl, and the Capital One Bowl has Auburn and Wisconsin battling it out as well. The next two weeks will be a series of enthralling battles, and a national champion will be crowned. For a complete Bowl schedule and preview, check ESPN.com.

## Let the madness begin

Lucas Wood '07

The college basketball season is finally here. The last time we've seen college basketball was when we saw Sean May and the North Carolina Tar Heels cutting down the nets in St. Louis. It does not appear that the Tar Heels will be repeating this year after losing their top 7 scorers from last year's championship squad.

Going into this season the Duke Blue Devils looked to be the favorites if there was one. They are led by returning seniors J.J. Redick and Shelden Williams. Hall of Fame coach Mike Krzyzewski is the all-time leader in tournament wins so in March I would look out for the Blue Devils.

A team that has been overlooked but is starting to gain the Nation's attention is the Gonzaga Bulldogs. After losing Ronny Turiaf the Bulldogs appeared to have issues with rebounding and scoring down low.

The Zags led by Adam Morrison, Derek Ravio, and J.P. Batista. Morrison who has been pronounced by many analysts "the best player in college basketball" is leading the nation in scoring.

A surprising team who was overlooked by many experts is the Memphis Tigers. This is an explosive young team who is currently averaging 87.3 PPG which is 5<sup>th</sup> best in the country. The Tigers are led by freshman Shawne Williams, sophomore Darius Washington Jr., and senior Rodney Carney. Coach John Calipari should have no problem leading this young and talented team to the Final Four.

This is going to be one of the most competitive seasons in along time because no one team is dominant. This year there are no great teams but a bunch of really good teams. This will make for a brilliant March Madness tourney in a few months.

## Boys Varsity basketball look to learn fundamentals as Girls Varsity look to maintain success

Matt Kushi '06

When one looks at the trophy case display in Hopkins Academy, they will see a plaque recognizing the 1999 Boys Varsity basketball team, that made it all the way to the State Finals. The 2005 Boys Varsity may not reach that height this year but may in the near future. The boys have a tough year this year, due to the fact that they have only 2 returning players in Joe Smith, the team's best scorer currently, and Sophomore Austin Anghilante. The boys are also a very young team as well, as a large makeup of the JV and Varsity is freshman. In fact, there is only one senior, Matt Kushi, on the team. Although winning is the main goal of every team, this year will feature a lot about the funda-

mentals of basketball for the future of the boys varsity.

The Girls Varsity, on the other hand, hope to continue the success that they have had over past years. Who can forget the Western Massachusetts Finals game that was played last year at the Cage? Although the girls lost 1,000 point scorers and sisters Lauren and Katie Sylvain, the girls still have a strong makeup. There are experienced seniors on the team. They also have a top scorer in Erica Hunter, who looks to be the next to have their name printed on the prestigious 1,000 point banner. Everyone will watch with great interest to see whether the girls varsity produces yet another great season to remember.