



Japanese 'Macbeth' orientally enticing

Samurais a highlight in PVPA play

By Matt Strom '07

In the midst of a story filled with murder, deceit, duels, and mind games, there stands one samurai caught in the thicket of a web from which he cannot escape.

This samurai is Macbeth, and as sword-wielding Japanese warriors pursue him through the aisles of the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts School auditorium, audience members cannot help but feel that this rendition of "Macbeth" has been formed around - rather than in front of - them.

As Macbeth runs from these stealthy assassins, a rhythmic melody formed by African drums pulses through the air, and actors clad in martial arts uniforms congregate around their intended victim.

This is the blend of culture you receive when you hand PVPA students a classic tale by William Shakespeare that takes place in 12th century Scotland. They indulge in a bit of tantalizing freedom and spin it in their own creative way. Director Dean Acheson developed the idea to do Macbeth in a Japanese style setting due to many similarities between Scotland and Japan during that time period. In the Scottish rendition of the play, Macbeth would have been a knight.

He was a high-ranking officer who served under the king and was held in high regard, much like the samurai of the 12th century. Dean spoke of the freedom that Shakespeare implements into his plays and how he, as a director, took advantage of it. "Shakespeare never tells you why the Montague and Capulet fight," Dean said. "He allows you to make that assumption on your own."

Dean also explained how he likes to make the audience more involved during his productions. He calls it breaking the "fourth

wall," where the play is brought to the audience. This is evident as witches, samurais, messengers, and nobles make their way through the audience in both panicked and passive states. There is one scene in particular where lights flashed from aisle to aisle as the samurai crossed blades with one another.

Authentic musical instruments ranging from Tibetan singing bowls to African bongos allowed for multiple "feels" throughout the play. Some conversations called for quiet, relaxing, and almost cricket like chirping, while others called for a more dramatic effect involving fervent music.

Of course, no play is complete without scenery and costumes. The costumes and blades were true to the Japanese samurai style. Each samurai was equipped with one, and in some cases two, katanas. The robes looked as though they were pulled right out of "Crouching Tiger Hidden Dragon," as did the choreographed fight scenes.

The stage was complete with Japanese-style sliding doors, and other authentic objects. Scenery ranged from low tables to a well that witches danced around.

The two-hour play was intense due to the actors' remarkable mastery of Shakespeare's language. Shakespeare's words are hard to memorize, and even more difficult to accurately portray.

Macbeth slips in and out of sanity throughout the play. His traitorous deeds against his emperor haunt him and cause panic amongst those who know him best. Once Macbeth is crowned emperor of Japan, his visions intensify and lead to his undoing.

The PVPA school's interpretation of Macbeth kept the audience riveted with intense battles and a mind-blowing command of language.



Photo by Matt Strom '07

Ready to attack whomever comes his way, this actor shows what it's like to be Macbeth in Japan, during the PVPA's performance of 'Macbeth.'

Strong mock trial season ends with close loss

By Ali Blajda '05

The Hopkins Academy mock trial team once again got out to a nice start by winning the first two matches of the season. The first two trials took place at the Northampton and Orange Court-houses.

After easily beating Easthampton in Northampton as the defense team on Feb. 4th, the team next went up against Mahar.

On Feb. 9th the Hopkins mock trial members won a hard fought, and often-intense match against the Mahar Mock Trial team. Against Mahar the team competed as the prosecution and succeeded in proving the defendant, Carmella Berncoat, guilty on two of four accounts.

Witnesses Mallery Brown, Charity Delsie, and Becky Sadlowski were praised by the judge for their excellent retention of the affidavits and their acting abilities. Elizabeth Klein and Gary

Pelissier also performed well on their opening and closing statements.

On Feb. 18th the team participated in its final match against the PVPA Charter School, a longtime rival. This match was extremely important because the winner would go on to the next round of the Mock Trial Tournament.

The Hopkins Academy team, which performed once again as the defense, lost a close match to PVPA, 97-105. Had the team won it would have been its first time advancing in the tournament.

The Charter School Mock Trial team was extremely well prepared, and by far the best opponent that Hopkins Academy faced all season.

Though the team was disappointed in the loss, all felt that they had given their best effort and learned a lot from their final trial.

News Briefs

Bottle and Can Drive

The senior class held a bottle and can drive on March 5th. All money raised went towards the senior class trip to Montreal. The class raised over \$700. Thank you for bringing your bottles.

Spirit Week

Spirit Week took place during the week of February 14. The Senior class won the highschool competition while Mrs. Pipeczynski's homeroom won in the junior high.

Dance

The Senior Class held an informal dance on March 5th to help finance the trip to Montreal.

Mock Trial

The Mock Trial team performed its final match against the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts team on February 18th. The team lost a hard fought match 97-105

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Marching Band will go to Holyoke on March 20th to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Senior Class Trip

The Senior Class will take a trip to Montreal from March 30th to April 2nd.

Senior Night

Girls Varsity Basketball celebrated their Senior Night Friday, February 18th with a win against Athol., while the Boys had their Senior Night February 10th against Smith Academy.

Basketball Tournament

The MIAA Varsity Basketball tournament began Friday, February 25th. The Hopkins Girls team qualified for the tournament. Good luck!

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Three seniors, 3,000 points

By Matt Kushi '06

On average, it happens once every five years. It requires hard work and relentless determination and drive from those who accomplish it. Scoring 1,000 points in a High School Basketball career is an accomplishment that forever links the names of those who have done it to the legend of a school.

Usually sports teams have one or two players that stand out from the rest. They make the big plays and perform well in the clutch and under pressure. They are the stars of the team.

That is what Senior Tyler Hammond is to the boys varsity basketball team and what Seniors Lauren and Katie Sylvain are to the girls varsity basketball team.

When you walk into the gymnasium, you can't help but look at all of the championship and individual banners. On the 1,000-point basketball list no new names had been added to them since 2000 when Leslie Cook scored her 1,000-points.

That is until this year, when not one but three new names were added to the prestigious

1,000-point banner. Tyler Hammond, Lauren Sylvain, and Katie Sylvain can now look up at the gymnasium wall and see what they have done.

Never before in the history of our school have three people accomplished this in the same year. It is also remarkable that two are twins. In 1998, the Zieja brothers both reached the mark, but they did not reach it in the same game as the Sylvain sisters did.

Hammond and the Sylvain sisters have been immortalized on that 1,000-point banner and everyone who passes through that gymnasium will see those names emblazoned on that banner.

However, Hammond and the Sylvain sisters will be more proud of their team accomplishments than their individual milestones. They will always be proud of those milestones but they will take even more pride in the championship banners that their teams have managed to put on the walls.

As the saying goes, there is no "I" in team.



Photo by Kristen Hayes '05

They're not just twins anymore, as Katie and Lauren Sylvain celebrate their entrance to the 1000 point club earlier this season.

Springfield 12-year-old accused of rape, murder

By Owen Stebbins '07

A 12-year-old of Springfield was charged with delinquency and murder of a 3-year-old, who was pronounced dead on Dec. 19th of last year.

Police responded to a 911 call Dec. 17th at 8:40 PM about a child who was not breathing properly after falling and hitting his head.

Jeremy Rosario Milian of Springfield was treated for a severe head injury and multiple bruises at Baystate Medical Center.

At the age of 12, the suspect, who's name has not been released, became one of the youngest people to receive murder charges in Springfield since the '01 stabbing of an 11-year-old by another 11-year-old in a dispute over a girl outside Regal Cinemas.

At that time, he was the youngest person charged with a homicide in Springfield since 1834.

The crime index per 100,000 people in Springfield is more than double the national average, as is the number of forcible

rapes per 100,000 people. In 2004, there were 134 rapes and 17 murders in the city.

Springfield police officials and Hampden County District Attorney William Bennett claim that the child had been sexually abused at least two times. Bennett also said that Jeremy Milian's injuries were acquired between Dec. 11-17. As required by state law, the 12-year-old will be prosecuted in a juvenile court. The suspect's mother is being held responsible for the charges against her son.

Hopkins Trustees fund a bounty of programs

By Ali Blajda '05

Each year Hopkins Academy is given opportunities and extra funding that other school districts are rarely offered. The Hopkins Academy Board of Trustees not only gives thousands of dollars to help fund activities at Hopkins, but they also award several scholarships each year to students at graduation.

This year the Board of Trustees gave \$20,200 in grants to the school. This money will help to fund Honor Roll Breakfast, MCAS Breakfasts, AP Testing, Kidsports, Project Close Up, Journalism/Yearbook conferences, the physics and astronomy club, as well as other activities.

The Trustees awarded \$2,600 in order to alleviate the \$82 cost of the Advanced Placement exam, \$1,400 to help in the printing of the Hawk's Claw, \$4,000 for MCAS remediation, \$200.00 in funding for new clubs and organizations, \$2,900 to purchase computer software for the journalism classroom, \$600 for peer mediation training, \$1,600 to provide telescopes for the physics and astronomy club, and \$1,000 for new microscopes for the biology and advanced biology classes.

The Hopkins Academy Board of Trustees has been in existence since 1839, when they were put in charge of overseeing the Edward Hopkins Trust. The trust was the sole source of funding for the school, while it was a private institution from 1664-1839. By

1839 the trust was not enough to support an entire school. However, even when Hopkins became publicly funded the trust remained in existence and continued to help run the school.

Currently the Board of Trustees has 10 members, who meet annually to discuss and decide on funding and grants for the school as well as candidates for graduation scholarships. Any graduate from Hopkins Academy can be considered for membership to the board. When a vacancy becomes available it is the current members who nominate and vote on potential new members.

Today, Hopkins is one of the only public schools in the state to continue receiving some type of funds from a private source. The trust funds do not replace state funding. Instead according to Principal William Mahoney, the funds are "there to pay for things above and beyond what the regular budget provides."

The over \$20,200 that the Board of Trustees has donated to the students and faculty at Hopkins Academy thus far this year has made a great impact on the schools ability to purchase new equipment and continue to keep up already existing programs. "It is important to our school and without the trust and board of trustees many of the extras at Hopkins would not be available" said Mahoney.

By Jack Peirce '05

A Connecticut man, who has been on death row for 17 years, has recently given up on his years of appeals and offered himself for execution. His execution was set for Wednesday, January 26, until the Supreme Court of Connecticut issued a stay of execution.

Michael Ross, who raped and killed eight women ranging in age from 14 to 25 between 1981 and 1984, was set to be the first person executed in Connecticut since Joseph Taborsky in 1960. Since then, death row policies have changed. Taborsky was sent to the electric chair, but Ross is set for lethal injection.

Ross first volunteered for execution in the winter of 1998 when he published his article, "It's Time for Me to Die: an inside look at Death Row" in the Journal of Psychiatry and Law. He opens the

article with the words "It's time for me to die."

He continues in the article to explain how both inmates and guards have attempted to kill him multiple times. One time, the guards let other inmates in, and one of the inmates stabbed him 15 times with scissors. Another time, an inmate beat him in the stairwell, sending him to the hospital.

In recent months, many third parties, including the American Civil Liberties Union, contacted by Ross's father, Dan Ross, have sent briefs to Connecticut's Supreme Court to order a stay of execution. These groups of Psychiatrists claim that Ross is not mentally capable, because no man wants to die.

A court ruling decided that no law allows family members of an inmate to legally challenge

the death sentence without the consent of that inmate. His execution was then reinstated until T.R. Paulding, Ross's lawyer, filed for a delay due to a conflict of interest.

Paulding claimed that District Judge Robert Chatigny threatened to suspend Paulding's license if it was found that Ross offered himself for execution only because he did not enjoy living life while on death row.

Paulding wanted to resolve his personal conflict of interests between representing his client's interests, and his own interests in retaining his law license.

Ross and his lawyer plan to continue on as if the execution was not delayed, and are trying to prepare both mentally and emotionally for his death.

New 'Star Wars' film last in prequel trilogy

By Matt Strom '07

The trailers are rolling and the people are hyped. The newest installment of the Star Wars Legacy is coming soon to theaters everywhere. This will be the final movie for the prequel trilogy and the sixth Star Wars movie overall.

Star Wars: Episode III – Revenge Of The Sith, will encompass Anakin Skywalker's conversion to the dark side, the continuing battles of the clone war, and the final fate of the once prominent Republic.

The cast from the two previous movies will be returning including Ewan McGregor, Obi-Wan Kenobi, and Hayden Christensen as Anakin Skywalker.

The movie's plot is based around Anakin's impending fall to the dark side. The previous

two movies have lead up to this climactic fall, and what will become the unveiling of the notorious Darth Vader.

Fans of the Star Wars Epic, old and new alike, are pumped and ready for what they hope is a thrilling conclusion that will tie up all loose ends in the Star Wars Legacy.

Hopkins Academy is no exception to having fans. When asked about the new movies up and coming debut, Peter Bova '05 said, "I'm looking forward to it. I can't wait to get dressed up in my Jedi outfit and go see the first showing; it's marked on my calendar."

Star Wars: Episode III-Revenge Of The Sith will be appearing in theaters May 19, 2005.

'Lemony Snicket' unloyal to books, fascinating, entertaining to viewers

By Laura Phelon '07

Most directors are hesitant to accept the job of directing a movie based on a popular book because they are often afraid of disappointing the fans of the book which are the target audience.

Satisfying the fan is difficult because they expect the movie to be unbelievably loyal to the book, detail-by-detail. "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" is far from loyal to the books, but it is a fascinating and entertaining write-up.

Unlike the books, the movie starts out extraordinarily

happy in a singing elf sequence that has nothing to do with the story, but it adds a touch of comedy before the tragic news about the death of the Baudelaire children's parents arrive.

The movie goes into detail about the mystery of the fire that killed Mr. and Mrs. Baudelaire. In the books, the children were too busy trying to escape the evil Count Olaf to even consider how the fire started.

By the end of the movie, the mystery of the fire is solved and all is well, which is quite unlike the books. All of the present books have a terrible and tragic

ending, but the movie (based on the first three books) ends on a light-hearted, happily ever after conclusion.

The movie releases information that doesn't appear until much later in the series. The movie can be viewed as helpful, releasing valuable information in an easy, accessible way, but it can also be annoying to a fan of the series.

If you have not read all of the books in the series, this information ruins the experience for them. It all depends whether you are a dedicated fan, or a moviegoer looking to enjoy a bizarre story about three orphans.

'Hawking it up' more than ever

By Gary Pellissier '07

Move over cheerleaders and watch out pep band! A new kid (bird?) is in town and he's been tearing up the basketball scene.

Everyone who regularly attends basketball games knows what I'm talking about, our revived school mascot, the Hawk. For generations, the Hawk has been at basketball games, 'hawking it up' and this year is no exception.

The only real exception, and the only one that is relatively obvious, is that this year, the Hawk is better than ever. From dancing with the cheerleaders to making fun of the refs, this year's hawk knows how to make the games a good time, no matter what the score is.

So who is the masked, or should I say beaked, man of mys-

tery? None other than Matt Strom '07, who came to our school just last year, but it's fair to say he has already made a name for himself.

And on hawking, itself: "I have to represent our school and what we stand for."

That's the attitude that makes Hopkins Academy what we are, so who better to pick to represent our school in our furry and enthusiastic Hawk suit?

However, it doesn't just take courage and a few good dance moves (including his signature: the pineapple). That hawk suit, so adorned by many, is hot.

No, it's not hot, it's boiling. To top that off, vision is restricted and, well you walk around in those shoes for a couple hours,

and tell me just how ambulatory you are.

But he makes the sacrifice, and does it gracefully and comically.

"Being the hawk isn't so much difficult as it is tiring, and on occasion frustrating." Now a days, however, people aren't going to the game so much to watch the players, but to have a laugh or two with his antics.

"Sometimes, I get so worked up about the game I want to go out there myself."

That'll happen, but he needs to remember that he, in fact, is out there and we're all watching him, but with a smile. Let's see Smith put on a show like he does.



Photo by Jack Peirce '05

Shakin' his tailfeather like his mother taught him, Matt Strom shows why he is one of the best Hawks ever at a recent basketball game

What is up when school's shut down

By Veronica Hilton '07

Winter is the only season where we get to miss school because occasionally the weather is too bad to transport students to and from school.

Snow and freezing rain in the morning can bring a smile to a student's face because this likely means a snow day. Who doesn't mind a day away from the books?

Seriously, it's a day away from school where you don't have to sit in class and listen to teachers lecture on monotonous subjects.

The next day you come to class prepared to chitchat about that wonderful day off from school.

So, what do the students of Hopkins do on their unexpected day away from school? Here are some activities:

"I end up going to work." Shanice Jackson '06

"I sleep." Chris Peirce '07

"My mother makes me clean the house and I baby-sit my little sister." France DuVal '08

"I wake up, take a shower to rejuvenate my senses, then proceed to pour my most inner thoughts and emotions into my journal." Courtney S. Reed '06

"I sleep in late and watch T.V." Sam Hahn '07

"I sleep for hours on end." Briana Yusko '09

Senior hockey star plays for love of the game, dreams of college stardom

By Ali Blajda '05

When asked, Patrick Phelon cannot remember a time when he didn't look forward to lacing up his skates, and speeding onto the ice. Phelon began playing hockey shortly after he learned how to walk, and it has remained his favorite sport ever since.

Though playing this sport forces Phelon to make sacrifices and does not allow him to gain the same type of recognition as high school athletes his love for the game has never wavered. "I love hockey because of the huge adrenaline rush it gives me every time I step into the rink."

Phelon got involved in hockey when he was 4 years old because of his older brothers' interest in the sport, however he is the only one of the Phelon brothers to still be playing hockey and his goal is to continue to play next

year in college. Phelon is interested in attending and playing hockey at Western New England College in Springfield, Massachusetts.

The Amherst Hockey Association Rangers have provided a team for Phelon to hone his skills for the past 14 years. In that time, he has developed into a dominant defensive player and a leader on his team.

This year his team has a record of 3-2-0 and they hope to go on to win their second straight GSL (Greater Springfield League) Championship. Last year, the team won its first championship

Phelon's team practices every Tuesday and Thursday night from 8-9:30 at Orr Rink in Amherst and has games on Fridays Saturdays and Sundays. Many times, Phelon is forced to sacrifice

his weekend plans for a hockey game or practice.

However he confidently states that this does not bother him. "I don't mind sacrificing the time because to me it's not a sacrifice but a privilege to be able to play this game"

Even if Phelon is not able to make a college team he does not plan to give up his love for hockey. Phelon will play on an intramural or club team in order to continue participating in a sport which he has loved since he was only four years old.

"I have loved hockey since I was little because when I step onto the ice, the world around me goes away. The only thing that matters is stopping that breakaway or scoring that goal."

Hampshire Mall makes shopping easier for all

By Ashley Gwozdzik '07

As more brand name stores come into the Hampshire Mall, we find ourselves not having to add miles to our cars or sit in lines of ongoing traffic when the consumer bug hits.

With all the new stores, including; Target, Aeropostale, American Eagle, Hot Topic and Dick's and Best Buy recently opening, Hadley residents now have some of the largest American chain stores right in their back yard.

Now parents who have kids that are not yet old enough to drive don't have to worry about going over the bridge and trying to avoid crowds at the Holyoke Mall during large sales or holidays.

The Hampshire Mall will be just as good, if not better, than the Holyoke Mall because the ad-

ditions are stores that most people shop at, unlike stores such as "As Seen on TV."

For all the kids who want to show off a "sporty" or "prep" look, American Eagle, Aeropostale, and Dick's are perfect places to drop some cash. For individualists who like to express themselves in unique fashions can do so with clothes from Hot Topic.

No matter what kinds of trend you sport, there's a store for you at the Hampshire Mall (unless you have a very sophisticated style, then The Banana Republic at the Holyoke Mall is where you want to go).

And if you need cash to spend at the mall, there's plenty of jobs at the Hampshire Mall that will satisfy every teenagers need for money.

Greensboro sit-in remembered during Black History Month

By Veronica Hilton '07

Black History Month was started by Dr. Carter Woodson, the son of two former slaves. After finishing high school he went on to college at Harvard University.

He was horrified by the lack of historical references on African-Americans. He established Negro History Week to bring national attention to black history.

He chose the second week of February because it was in between the birthdays of Frederick Douglas and Abraham Lincoln; both of whom had an impact on black history. After 1976 Negro History Week became Black History Month.

The Greensboro Sit-in of 1960 was a very important part of

Black History. It started when four freshmen from North Carolina A&T State University decided to have a sit-in at the F.W. Woolworth Co. store because African-Americans weren't allowed to be served at the luncheon counter.

On February 1, 1960 the four students by the names of Jibreel Khazan (Ezell Blair Jr.), Franklin Eugene McCain, Joseph Alfred McNeil, and David Leinail Richmond, went into Woolworth Co. Store about 4:30 p.m. and stayed without service until the store closed at 5:30 p.m. This started a protest against the store.

The next day, twenty or so students came into the lun-

cheon counter and sat down. They were there from 10:30 a.m. until after 12 p.m. without service.

The sit-in was peaceful without any disturbances and the students conversed amongst themselves. The students said that more and more would join the sit-in until something was done.

The protest continued and it spread to other cities in the state. This particular sit-in began with only four college students and spread to other places.

This shows that we should stand up for what is wrong and what we believe in. The sit-in is an example of what a few people can do.

Selig is Hopkins' resident math wiz

By Lina Phou '07

For this edition of Hawk's Claw, Christine Selig is given the honor of being our Teacher of the Month.

Mrs. Selig, high-school math teacher, teaches during the morning and when the bell rings for the high school lunch period, she's out the door and on her way home to care for her son, Tanner.

Mrs. Selig attended Cornell University and Western New England College where she received her graduate's degree. She originally wanted to major in engineering, but then changed it to math, when many of her teachers encouraged her to do so.

In college, she had an internship working at a business firm, but after one entire day of being confined to a lonely cubicle, she knew that business wasn't the right course for her.

She decided early on that she wanted to teach and said that she had, "good grammar school teachers," and that she wanted to work with special education students, but since she was such a good student in math, she became a math teacher.

She loves interacting with people, which was why the business internship didn't work

out, but was also one reason why she went into teaching. Apparently the students of Hopkins Academy impress and amuse her because "there hasn't been one day when I haven't laughed at something a student said or did," she says.

"I enjoy how enthusiastic and respectful they are. They're a neat mix of kids, and I like the fact that they not only tolerate, but enjoy each other."

Here's some **intriguing information** about Mrs. Selig:

She does poor in **history** and isn't very knowledgeable in **government, politics, and hands-on crafts**

She has trouble fitting in **everything** she wants to do all in one day

Her favorite animal is the **pig**

Three people she would like to be are her son **Tanner** (to see how he views his parents), **Emma Thompson**, and **Frederick Gauss**

If she had an unlimited amount of money she would get every student **mathematical programs** and **computers**

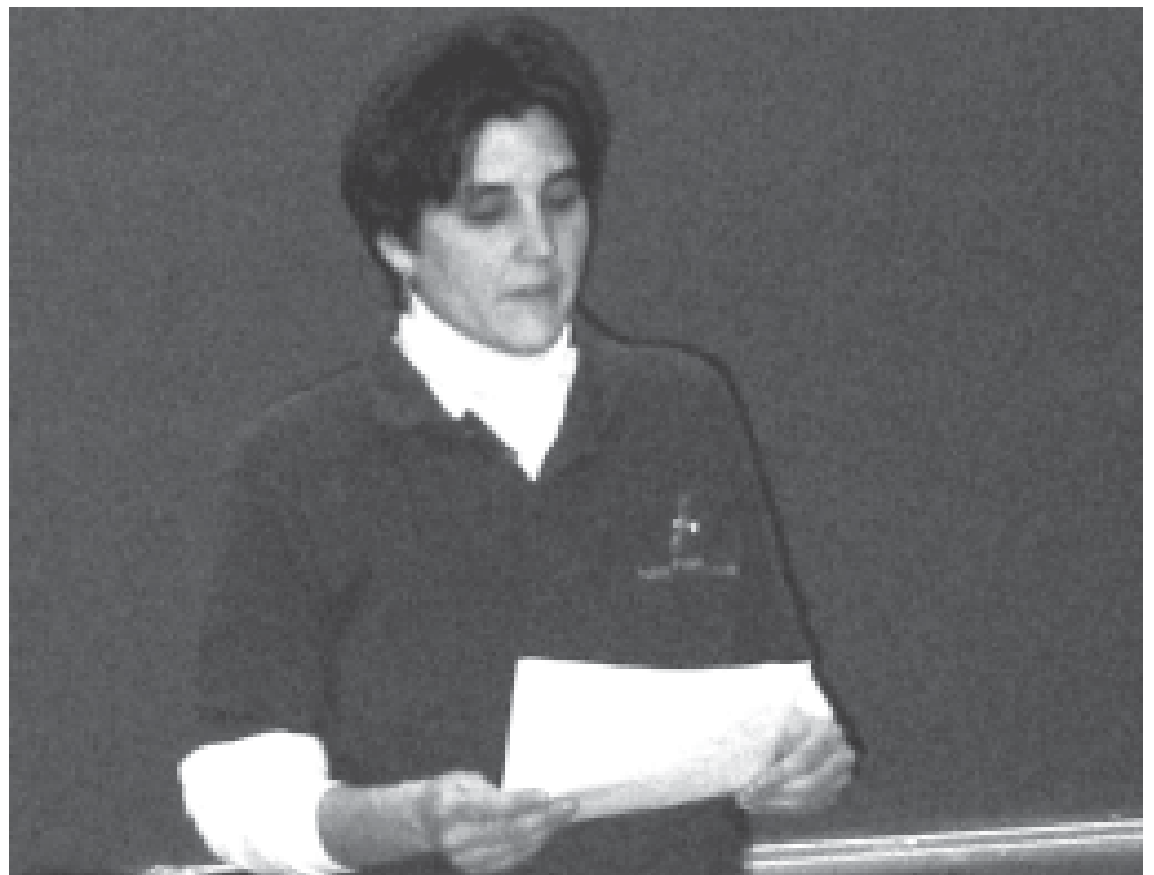


Photo by Lina Phou '07

"Now class, what is the fifth root of 248 divided by the seventh root of 856?" Mrs. Selig, shown here teaching one of her many math classes, is this month's "Teacher of the Month."

Popular holiday named after renegade priest

By Lina Phou '07

Boxes of rich, creamy chocolate, dozens of vibrant, red roses, and cards with cute little phrases are gifts given to significant others and friends to show they are cared for on the most romantic day of the year—Valentine's Day. To most people, Valentine's Day is just a holiday to express one's love for those who are important.

Its origins are somewhat ambiguous. There are many legends of how Valentine's Day came about, but one thing we know for sure is that it was named after Saint Valentine.

One legend declares that Valentine was a priest during the third century in Rome. The emperor at the time felt that bachelors would make better soldiers than those who were married, so he had outlawed

marriage for young men.

Valentine, feeling that the law was unjust, disobeyed the emperor by secretly marrying young couples. He was caught, sent to prison, and was later sentenced to death.

While in jail, he met the prison guard's daughter and fell in love with her. Before he died, he supposedly wrote her the first Valentine, and signed it "From your Valentine," which is still used t o d a y .

Valentine's Day is placed in February for many reasons. Some say that it was in mid February to recognize the death of St. Valentine, while some during the Middle Ages, in England and in France, believed that on February 14th the birds' mating season began so that's when Valentine's Day should be celebrated.

But before the "bird reason," Pope Gelasius, in 498 A.D., stated that February 14th was to be St. Valentine's Day.

Around the 17th century, Valentine's Day became quite popular, and by the 18th century it became common for people to give their friends or lovers little handwritten notes. At the end of the 18th century, printed cards began to replace written ones and soon ready-made cards were available. Esther A. Howland, in the 1840's, sold the first mass produced valentines in the United States.

Today, along with the United States, Canada, Mexico, the United Kingdom, France, and Australia celebrate this loving holiday.

**April is National Poetry Month.
Submit your poems to have them
published in the next issue of
the Hawk's Claw in honor of
National Poetry Month.**

Organic fixtures for brittle winter skin

By Ashley Gwozdzik '07

This year's winter has brought us a good amount of snow. Just about everyone has taken advantage of it by going snowmobiling or ice fishing out on the frozen ponds. But there is one thing that has not appreciated the cold air: Your skin.

It has been said that each day you lose up to a pint of water. Since some people don't like to drink water, the skin on their face is becoming dry and dead looking. I'm sure that many people have tried plenty of healing lotions that have not successfully worked. Well, how about trying a home-

made avocado mask? If not, you should. It may not smell great, but the vitamins in the avocados and strawberries will help to nourish your skin back to health.

To make this mask, take half of an organic avocado and one ripe strawberry and mash them together into a bowl until the mixture turns to mush. Next, add 1-tablespoon of fresh lemon juice and mix. For the final step, just apply to your face and let it stay there for 5 minutes.

Now all you have to do is say see yah to that nasty dry skin.

Tsunami pounds Southeast Asia

By Ashley Gwozdzik '07

Southeast Asia was hit by a Tsunami on Dec. 26, 2004, which left little behind. Families were separated from each other and people are still missing. In Indonesia, an estimated 210,000 were claimed to be dead. On the northern tip of the Sumatra islands, the town of Aceh was right near the earthquake's epicenter, and thus was hit the hardest in Indonesia.

The tsunami created large pools of water on once typically dry areas of land. This has become a problem because water is a breeding ground for infectious mosquitoes. Standing water can also cause outbreaks of typhoid fever, diarrhea, dermatitis, ear, nose, and throat infections. The

mosquitoes can also pass on malaria and West Nile virus.

With so many corpses being found, there is limited space to where they can be put until they can be buried. With dead bodies lying in streets rotting, this can cause tuberculosis and blood-borne viruses.

With so much lost, the victims of the Tsunami need money more than anything. The Bush administration has only paid \$92 million of the \$350 million that they were expected to donate. With so many homes ruined and people still missing, money is the primary thing that will help Indonesia get back on its feet.

Napolean Dynamite cuts the ham on DVD

By Aaron Thayer '05

How many times this week have you heard "Tina you fat lard, come and get some dinner!" or "What ever I feel like I wanna do, God!" But it seems that most people enjoy quoting the movie more than they enjoyed watching it.

Personally, I loved this movie, but it is definitely for a select group of people.

It seems that the recent release of *Napoleon Dynamite* on DVD has had an impact on our

school. I'll be the first to tell you that this movie is hilarious.

But as funny as I think it is, the movie has gotten mixed reviews from both students and parents.

The movie mostly appeals to those who were part of the late 80s - early 90s generation. A lot of the outfits and music are certainly dated.

For instance, in the scene at the school dance, Cindy

Lauper's "Time After Time" can be heard playing in the background.

This movie provides a good laugh for those who enjoy clean humor. Due to the fact that this is an independent film, it's not so much about the action, as it is about the characters and their emotions.

I would definitely recommend this movie if your in the mood for a movie you will talk about for weeks to come.

Millions anticipate new 'Harry Potter' book

By Laura Phelon '07

Millions of people have waited over 19 months to read *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* and the wait is almost over. Joanne Kathleen Rowling (J.K. Rowling), the author of the Harry Potter Series, released a statement that the book was completed and the date of release will be July 16, 2005.

Having the book released in July pleases many fans, especially since they had to wait over three years for the fifth book,

Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix.

The sixth installment of the series is expected to have many answers to questions that fans have been asking, including the question on everyone's mind: Who is the "Half-Blood Prince?"

The sixth book is also supposed to have certain explanations that weren't clear in the fifth book, such as the motive for killing off a major character.

One certainty about *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince* is that it will be just as successful as its five predecessors.

In less than a month, millions of copies have been pre-ordered and reserved, and fans are already planning to go to a local bookstore at 12:00am on July 16 to have this book as early as possible.

Speak Out!

By Veronica Hilton '07

The dreaded week of exams always arrives without fail every year. Some freshmen may dread the idea of having exams, but exams aren't as bad as they seem. Having exams is something to look forward to.

Sure, you might have to pull an all-nighter for those troubling classes, but on the bright side you get to leave school early for four days while the middle school has to stay here until the 2 o'clock dismissal.

Besides being dismissed early, you don't have homework or teachers to deal with.

So, how do the Hopkins' high school students spend their time off away from school?

"I hang out with my cousin."
-Shanice Jackson '06

"I go to Primos or go home and sleep."
- France DuVal '08

"I go home, take a nap, go online to my poetry forum and post my poems."
-Courtney S. Reed '06

"I sleep and go out to the mall with my friends."
-Sam Hahn '07

"Sleep."
-Bill Wonsey '06

"I work and ride my snowmobile"
-Joe O'Conner '07

"I either go home, go to a friends, or to my boryfriend's, where I take a nap or just chill."
-Stephani Labonte '05

"Go back to sleep, play Halo 2, and hang out with friends."
-Paul Hilton '05

Looking back at February, before looking ahead to Final Exams.

By Lina Phou '07

Valentine's Day; the one day that's celebrated with candy, hugs, roses, and plenty of kisses.

Everyone is supposed to be filled up to the brim with happiness and love, and some are, but there are those who are just unhappy on this romantic holiday.

So I asked the students and staff of Hopkins what Valentine's Day means to them. Here are some their responses:

"A day where everyone else is happy."
-Kevin McDonough '07

"A time for everyone to show their feelings and a time for loved ones to cuddle."
-Cindy Hopf '07

"Valentine's Day to me, means another great excuse for everyone to eat more chocolate."
-Natalie Kulikowski '07

"It's more of a friendship holiday than a romantic holiday for me."
-Mrs. Selig

"I don't really celebrate it. My wife is more into it than I am."
-Mr. Madenski

"Not much."
-Kevin O'Connor '08

"It's a day that you spend with your loved ones."
-Stephanie Labonte '05

"Everything with hot chili pepper on top."
-Kenny Neyhart '06

"Not a whole lot."
-Katie Brennen '06

"A time to show that special someone you care."
-Ian Steele

"It's a day to appreciate someone you care about."
-Richard Hutchings '08

"Valentine's Day is great when you are with someone so you can love and be loved. However, if you are unfortunately on the other side of the fence, like me, then it's quite depressing and really cr*ppy."
-Courtney Reed '06

"It's another business holiday. If you treat your wife or your girlfriend the way you're supposed to, then you don't need Valentine's Day."
-Mr. Talenda

Proudly flown flags

After the attack against the U.S. in 2001, a beast arose that couldn't be stopped: The profanation of the American flag. Its original home - where it was carefully watched over - was on poles in front of schools and government buildings. While it was seen elsewhere from time to time, it was hardly ubiquitous - nor in any real danger.

The flag has since found itself displayed on cars, bridges, and front porches - not the usual safehavens to which it was accustomed. Flags have flourished with such intense frequency that it has become hard not to notice them.

It is clear that Americans were proud to hang flags and show their remembrance of September 11th. Unfortunately, these flags - once held in such high regard - have fallen off our cars and become strewn across streets. Flags that waved brightly on bridges or porch poles have become tattered and discolored.

Our flags need renewal; they should be replaced with a new fleet of flying banners. We shouldn't stop waving them just because time has passed. Let's keep our patriotism alive.

A New England sport resurgence

If you're a sports fan in New England, you're more than likely a very happy person. For the last few years, New England has become a home for champions with the Patriots' three Super Bowl Championships in four years. The Red Sox have also made their mark in history with their first World Series victory in 86 years.

Coaches in New England now have plenty of motivation for their players. Attempts to fire up their teams with Knute Rockne-type speeches are no longer required - though someone like Bill Belichick might think differently. Now coaches can say to their players - some who haven't the faintest clue who Knute Rockne was - that they can be like Curt Schilling, David Ortiz, Johnny Damon, Tom Brady, or Tedy Bruschi. It used to be that nothing inspired a team more than a good Rockne speech, but that has been surpassed by two of our local professional sports teams laying claim to the being the best in their sport.

These inspirations will lead to more motivation to win on the field for other athletes who wish to be just like their heroes. Even those who don't play sports are affected by their local teams' status. It has long been proven that people are happier when their teams are finding success. People live vicariously through these athletes, and feel as though they were part of the team themselves.

The converse is also true. Fans can feel down and dejected when their teams are stinking up the cellar. The Bay State has had plenty of teams like this as well, such as the Celtics and Bruins of the past few years. Studies have proven that people tend to get more depressed when their teams are not performing to standard. Die-hard fans can get especially depressed, as a few have even taken their lives when their team is failing.

New England residents shouldn't be worrying, though. Right now the Celtics are at the top of their division, the NHL is dead so the Bruins aren't a concern, and the Red Sox and Patriots are on top of the world. Stay happy New England and don't let the bad moments get you down.

Banishing the lion

The months of February and March are long and monotonous. They are notorious for debilitating snowstorms, frigid temperatures, and a groundhog whose shadow foretells six more weeks of winter. These months are tedious, uninspiring, and at times even painful. They most certainly are to be *endured*.

Luckily, there are a few remedies to cure seasonal lethargy. We can thank Martin Luther King every year for giving us a three-day weekend, and god bless those sporadic presents called snow days. As we pen this editorial, one staff member is clad in a towel and shower cap, and another female staffer is sporting boy's pants and a Red Sox tee, all in the name of spirit week and grateful anticipation of the end of the winter. We've made it. It's over. Right?

Not so fast. Just as we begin to think we're in the clear, Mother Nature does a 180 and hits us with an arctic blast. Memories of a recent 50-degree day and thoughts of short-sleeve shirts quickly vanish, and depression sets in. But don't despair Hopkins. The days are growing longer, and before we know it, the lamb will overtake the lion, and we'll all be shepherds in the lush, verdant valley of spring.

Mutant bacteria threatens students

By Gary Pellissier '07

Winter makes me sick. It makes most of us sick. All the hacking, aching, sore throating, coughing, and fevering; winter isn't the most healthy time of the year. And with all of these illnesses and 'bugs' going around, doctor visits are going to pop up, with the patient hoping for that pink bottle of antibiotics that will make everything better.

Antibiotics kill harmful bacteria and help sick people in disparate ways, ever since they were discovered in 1928 by Doctor Alexander Flemming. Yet bacteria are smart - smarter than mice even - and know how to avoid these traps. Bacteria, miraculously, can learn from their mistakes, and they do.

The strain MRSA is an example. This "super-bug" has become incredibly resistant to most forms of antibiotics, and is potentially fatal. With no cure or treatment, we are left defenseless.

But MRSA is just one of these examples. With bacteria mutating every day, we heighten our chances of more bugs like MRSA. How can we stop this? We can only slow it by stopping antibiotic overdosing.

Antibiotics are used to fight off such bacterial infirmities as streptococcus (strep) or the Chicken Pox, but for a cold, you should not take an antibiotic. Colds are caused by viruses, not bacteria. Antibiotics, which kill bacteria, would do nothing, and therefore colds cannot be affected by antibiotic use. By overusing antibiotics, we are just giving the bacteria more of a chance to mutate and prepare themselves.

There are a few ways, however, to combat the common cold (stuffy nose, sore throat, sneezing, and congestion):

- Wash hands regularly
- Eat well (three meals a day with healthy intake of nutrients)
- Dress appropriately for the weather
- Sleep a reasonable amount each night
- Don't overwork yourself

However, if these symptoms progress and a fever results, you should go to the doctor. You might have a bacteria infection. In that case, go for the antibiotics. If not, wade it out, and take comfort that you'll just be another member of the large, "sick club" of Hopkins Academy.

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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Bullies prevalent Survey shows 3 of 4 students are victimized at least once

By Marissa Allen '07

Why do some people get away with bullying and others get suspensions or detentions for acts that were playful? How do some get away with such hurtful acts? What happened to the zero tolerance for bullying?

Just because someone is different or not a part of your group does that make it right to subject them to your poison?

NO! No one ever deserves to be bullied and no one deserves to be hated. Bullying lowers self-esteem and in extreme cases it leads to suicide attempts.

Bullies don't come in one type. Anyone can be a bully and anyone can be a victim. This includes peers, teachers, coaches, parents and siblings.

If you're a victim of bullying, you might have feelings of anger, fear, helplessness, or rage. You're not alone.

One out of 12 students reported staying home from school because of bullies, and three out of four kids say they have been bullied at least once, according to the National Center for Victims of Crime. Bystanders only help the bully and are guilty of not speaking up.

Bullying just doesn't happen at school. The Internet is a huge source of cyber bullying. Inside forums and chats people get targeted easily. Regardless of the venue, a bully bullies others because he or she needs to feel powerful.

Bullying can be stopped. Talk to a teacher or friend for help, or go to the principal. Most schools have zero tolerance for bullying and violence; most teachers will help but you need to speak up.

Spirit week brings out class rivalries

By Gary Pelissier '07

"We've got spirit? Yes we do and no, *you* don't," is the brilliant premise of our beloved spirit week - the only time of the year where friends become mutual enemies for the sake of a few points and a year's worth of bragging rights.

Spirit week always promises to be great and memorable. Who could forget the *yellow brick road* of last year? Or the brief foray into Hollywood on one's way to gym class?

Between "wardrobe malfunctions" at the dance-off to bombardment dysfunction, last year was going to be tough to beat.

It would be a lie to say that spirit week scheming does not begin until that week. All year we are strategizing, plotting, and maneuvering some way to rank first. Rivalries run deep and serious.

So, on the eve of this holy week of competition, what were some of the reactions?

"Sophomores will run all over you," the ever ebullient Lucas Wood '07 so aptly stated.

Meghan Daniel '08 more eloquently conveyed the sentiment that, "It's an exciting

that a new theme day was created, where students were encouraged to experiment with gender roles in a brash display of carnivalism.

Sound fun? Sean Paradiso '06 thought not, commenting that, "The prospect of seeing 80-90% of the male population of our school in drag is enough to make me drop all the school spirit this so called spirit week has attempted to invest into my soul."

Other additions included an obstacle course, a pie worm game, where a person has to find a gummy worm inside a whipped cream pie, a cookie and cake contest and balloon tower, where the class with the tallest balloon tower made entirely of balloons and tape wins.

Retired events, however long favored, were also brought back, such as shoe scramble and three-point shootout.

This week left us with laughs, memories, and vicious battles that will long be remembered.

'Sophomores will run all over you.'
- Lucas Wood, on how his grade would fair at Spirit Week competitions

week for everyone. It's always so amusing to see what people wear, do, and how they decorate their hallways."

On the subject of dressing, many quickly learned

Where have all the 'Idols' gone?

By Gary Pelissier '07

Have you heard the latest Clay Aiken single? And, oh my goodness, the Ruben Studdard CD is *so* good. Plus, yesterday on the radio, I heard Fantasia belting out a cover. Wait...no I didn't, and Clay Aiken has never had a 'single.' And on the subject of the quality of Ruben Studdard, well, I'm not going to get into it.

So, where have all the American Idols gone? Not to a studio in Hollywood or radio appearances, I can tell you this. The irony is that a show is promising instant fame and is not fulfilling its pact to America (not to say we want to hear Clay cry over 'loves' lost or hear Ruben's plagiarized song lyrics).

So, now as we enter a season filled with screeching hopefuls, we can not only laugh at their inability to sing, but also their absolute naiveté in the fact that they think they are in line to be huge, breakout stars. Au contraire, my friends. Au contraire.

Like most reality shows, American Idol has gone wayside, joining its overused, over marketed, and under watched one-hit-wonder reality compatriots. Sure, everyone can remember that 'Sur-

vivor summer' where the whole nation turned in, nail-biting, to hear about the latest drama in the island and think back to those warm-fuzzies you got when you first saw someone eat a cow uterus on Fear Factor. American Idol, as the title proclaims, promises to be in the likes of Madonna, Metallica, and Michael Jackson - a few true, incontrovertible idols.

However, MTV isn't planning on putting on a show devoted to Kelly Clarkson anytime soon.

Yet, on the subject of Kelly Clarkson, she is the only one that truly does

pump out quasi-attractive tunes. At least we have evidence, bi-yearly, that Clarkson is still alive. The last time the world saw Ruben was when he won, and as for Clay, his attempts to sing are weak, and usually fail miserably.

Maybe I'm being all-wrong, maybe American Idol has truly made successful stars. Maybe that's why I haven't and don't see them- they are just so good that they skipped fame and did the world a favor by going into retirement. I'm thinking, then, that the show should be more correctly renamed to "American Idle."

Like most reality shows, 'American Idol' has gone wayside, joining its underwatched, one-hit-wonder compatriots.

Revved about NASCAR

By A.J. Bias '05

I'm probably going to take some heat from writing this article. But honestly, I don't really care. I like NASCAR and it's as simple as that.

So what if I enjoy watching cars go around in circles for four hours? Too many people look at the negatives of the sport, and don't stop to look at everything that is good about racing.

In case you haven't noticed, NASCAR is now the second most watched professional sport in the United States - second only to the NFL - and the final race of the 2004 season received the highest rating ever for a NASCAR race when matched on a Sunday against the NFL.

That's right; NASCAR has higher ratings than the NHL, the NBA, and Major League Baseball. For that many people to be watching, there has to be something that keeps drawing them in

week after week.

Plus, NASCAR can provide just as much excitement as any other sport. 43 cars going 190 mph, three inches apart from one another, for 500 miles.

For those of you who aren't sure how long 500 miles is, that's approximately the same distance from Dallas, TX, to Kansas City, MO.

Don't think NASCAR drivers aren't athletes either. These people have to muscle 3,400 pound cars around tracks that have corners banked up to 36 degrees, and when the temperature gets up to 140 degrees inside the racecar, they can't just stop and get water; they have to keep driving.

Also, don't tell me that you don't love seeing the crashes. Watching cars spin and crash, especially at the bigger tracks like Daytona and Talladega where upwards of 25 cars are involved at

the same time, is more than likely the most exciting part of a race and most of the time, the drivers walk away uninjured.

Unfortunately, the threat of injury and possibly even death are higher in all forms of automobile racing than any other professional sport, which in some part attributes to its popularity.

The death of Dale Earnhardt in the 2001 Daytona 500 was one of the most high profile deaths in sports history, and created a wave of safety advancements in not just racing, but all forms of sport.

So go ahead and say that racing is dumb, but I'm entitled to my opinion.

Besides, the racing season has already started, and I'm loving every minute of it.

The Hawk's Claw wishes good luck to the Hopkins Academy Girls Varsity Basketball Team in the MIAA Division III Tournament

Girls hoops team off to tourney, boys struggle

By A.J. Bias '05

As the basketball season approached its ending, the girls varsity basketball team put themselves in position for another run at the Western Mass Division III title, while the boys struggled to keep pace.

The boys stumbled to a 6-12 record to start the season, leaving them out of the running for the tournament.

Senior Tyler Hammond joined the 1000-point club in a 69-47 loss at Mahar. Hammond leads the Hampshire League in scoring, averaging over 21 points per game.

An injury to senior point guard David Artzerounian sidelined him for a few weeks, crippling a team already low on numbers.

As for the girls, they started the season 17-1 overall, and 16-0 in league, their only loss having come at perennial powerhouse and tournament foe Lee. Their

record includes victories over Division I Chicopee, and rivals Smith Academy and Frontier.

The girls have been led by senior twin sisters Katie and Lauren Sylvain, both of whom also reached the 1000 point milestone this season. Also providing offense have been senior Sam Gwozdzik, sophomore Erica Hunter, and freshman Kelly Omasta.

Having already clinched a tournament spot, the girls now need to worry about not getting anybody injured and about preparing for a run at an elusive Western Mass title.

"We work hard in practice every day so we can get to the point that we can win in tournament where it matters most," said Lauren Sylvain. "Winning a Western Mass title would be a great accomplishment for our team."



Photo by Jack Peirce '05

Rising over a Smith Academy defender, Tyler Hammond drops another tre bomb to add to his already massive collection. Hammond joined the 1000 point club earlier this year, along with fellow seniors Katie and Lauren Sylvain.

Patriots win third Super Bowl title in four years

By Owen Stebbins '07

Like the Cowboys of the early nineties, the Patriots have won an unprecedented third Super Bowl in just four years at Alltel Stadium in Jacksonville.

Thanks to a solid performance by the postseason-perfect Tom Brady, and a Super Bowl MVP job done right by wide receiver Deion Branch, the Patriots defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 24-21 in Super Bowl XXXIX.

While Branch led all receivers with 11 catches and 133 reception yards, Terrell Owens put up a tremendous performance following the controversy over his broken ankle with 122 reception yards including a game-long 36 yard catch in the first half.

Two-time Super Bowl MVP quarterback Tom Brady was bested by Eagles QB Donovan McNabb in passing yards, but three interceptions by the impec-

cable Pats defense kept the pressure on the Eagles throughout the game.

Patriots strong-safety Rodney Harrison had two picks in the game including an interception with nine seconds remaining to destroy chances of a dramatic Eagles comeback. The Eagles committed four turnovers in the game compared to only one for New England.

In addition to his third Super Bowl victory with the Patriots, head coach Bill Belichick improves his playoff record to 10-1, a winning percentage that surpasses all coaches including the legendary Vince Lombardi.

The Patriots have a 3-2 overall record in the Super Bowl; 3-0 in the young 21st century. The New England Patriots have arguably become the first dynasty of this century.

Six senior boys honored for soccer achievements

By A.J. Bias '05

Although the 2004 boys varsity soccer season ended earlier than expected with a quarterfinal loss to Pioneer, six senior players on the team received individual awards.

David Artzerounian, Jon Chan, and A.J. Bias were named to the Division III All-Scholastic first team, and Peter Bova, Tyler Hammond, and Nate Rule were all named to second team.

Chan and Artzerounian were both named to the All-State team for the second consecutive season, but Chan received the greatest individual honor of all.

He was named co-player of the year of Western Mass. Division III boys soccer, along with Peter DeGregorio of Frontier.

Chan received the award at the Western Mass All-Scholastic Banquet at the Lusitano Club in Ludlow Feb. 12.

In receiving this honor, Chan became only the second player from Hopkins Academy to receive this award. The first was Michael Zieja, when he was named player of the year for 1999.

"I was surprised to win the award. The first thing that came to my mind when they said 'co-' was that DeGregorio and Stoddard (Nick Stoddard of Smith Academy) would get the award," said Chan.

However, since Chan and Degregorio split the award, and because the trophies are becoming old, Chan will not be able to show off the mammoth trophy in the trophy case here.

"Most people would have a hard time believing how much individual time goes into an accomplishment of that nature"
~Mr. Mahoney, on the three new members of the 1000 point club

Two legends join baseball HOF

By Matt Kushi '06

The journey begins with a dream - a dream to play Major League Baseball. It starts with a love. This love is the love of the game of baseball.

This year for Wade Boggs and Ryne Sandberg, the journey comes to a prestigious end with their enshrinement into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, New York.

On July 31, 2005, Boggs and Sandberg will be immortalized in baseball's most hallowed building along with sportswriter Peter Gammons, who will be honored with the J.G. Taylor Spink Award for outstanding sports writing.

Gammons is also the uncle and godfather of sophomore Owen Stebbins. "It will be exciting to see my uncle enshrined in July with baseball legends such as Boggs and Sandberg," Stebbins said.

Boggs wrapped up a long and distinguished career that took him to Boston, New York, and Tampa Bay in 1999 with a total 3,010 hits, a .328 batting average, 118 homeruns and 1,014 RBI's.

Boggs also made a name for himself defensively at third base after coming up with a reputation as a less than average fielder.

Sandberg finished his career with the Cubs and Phillies after several premature retirements in 1997 with a .285 batting average, 282 homeruns, and 1,061 RBI's.

However, it was at second base that earned Sandberg his reputation.

At second base, Sandberg finished his career with one of the highest fielding percentages in history for second baseman. Boggs will go in with a Red Sox hat on his plaque, and Sandberg with a Cubs hat.

Defending world champions retool lineup for 2005

By Owen Stebbins '07

For some of the passionate fans that make up Red Sox Nation, one World Series in their lifetime may be enough. At least now they can say they've experienced arguably one of the greatest sports moments of all time.

However, Red Sox general manager Theo Epstein has done nothing but continue to build the defending world champs into another championship contending team throughout the entirety of the off season.

The rivalry between the Beantown heroes and the "Evil Empire" in New York has become even more heated as both clubs have made some key off-season acquisitions.

The Red Sox acquired a handful of potential pitching aces to replace Pedro Martinez and Derek Lowe, who signed free agent contracts with the New York Mets and Los Angeles Dodgers in the National League. Among those looking for a spot in the Sox' pitching rotation behind Curt Schilling are Matt Clement, Wade Miller, and David Wells.

Florida Marlins ace Carl Pavano couldn't resist the big bucks in the Big Apple, while Randy Johnson is looking to play for another championship contender, after playing for a lowly Arizona Diamondbacks team last season.

Underneath all the wheeling and dealing for new pitchers, the Red Sox have acquired Cardinals shortstop Edgar Renteria, who made the final out against the Sox in game four of the World Series last October.

Also, catcher Jason Varitek will continue his pivotal leadership role behind the plate, while Jay Payton will play some kind of role in the outfield as Gabe Kapler departs.

The Sox will open up their season against the Yankees in the Bronx on Sunday April 3rd, at 8:05 PM with Curt Schilling questionable to get the start for the Sox against Randy Johnson.

As the voting set forth once more this year, there was hope that Jim Rice, former Boston Red Sox star, would finally get into the legendary Hall this time around.

However, Rice fell short once again in his 11th year of eligibility, garnering 59.6% of the required 75% of the votes. Rice still has 4 years until he reaches the 15-year deadline of eligibility. After that deadline, it would be up to the Veterans Committee to decide Rice's fate.

Boggs, in his first year of eligibility, easily made in with 91.9% of the vote. Sandberg, in his third year of eligibility, scraped by with 76.2% of the votes.

For Boggs, Sandberg, and Gammons it's a beautiful way to ride off into the sunset with baseball immortality.