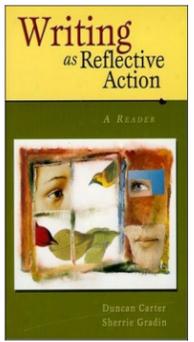




Inside:

Sports: Basketball team's D-I addition

Inside: NEWS



# the Maritimes

Narragansett High School

Narragansett High School's student newspaper since 2008.

2011's  
new wave  
of writing  
reflection  
prompts

Volume 103 Number 4

Monday, February 28, 2011

Page edited by Gabrielle Risica

## Baby, its cold outside



by CHRIS MARSH  
reporter

Few people venture to this destination due to its very harsh conditions. Its full of ice, its hard to get to and most of all, it extremely cold.

Recently Danielle Budaj, junior, went on a two week expedition to this destination, known as Antarctica. While she was there, frigid temperatures were recorded and very distinct wild life was seen.

Thanks to the scholarship company Students on Ice, which is based in Quebec, Canada, many students across the world were invited to make the trip to the Arctic, free of charge. One of the lucky recipients was Danielle, who applied to go on the trip.

"I applied to go on the trip a few months ago, not knowing what to expect. It did seem very interesting though. Looking back, I am very happy I applied," Danielle said.

However, any student that applies is not guaranteed a trip to the frozen tundra. A student, like Danielle, must contain many characteristics that reach the qualifications of Students on Ice and they must be selected by the N.H.S science department.

For example, a student must show lots of interest in environmental issues,

see ANTARCTICA, p3



## It's a dance revelation

by TAYLA FAY  
reporter

Fundraising plays a major part in all classes success, but if these fundraisers aren't even given a chance to happen how will they ever be able to afford things such a prom?

Not only do the multitude of dances raise money for the classes that are sponsoring it but these dances also give more opportunity for students to socialize.

Although classes do not lose any money from the cancellation of such dances, they also do not make any money that

see DANCE, p3



## How the Grinches vandalized Christmas

by BRITTANY BUTLER  
reporter

The exhilarating feeling of doing something that would get you into a lot of trouble if you were caught can be thrilling, until you actually get caught. Apparently, "thrilling" includes breaking and entering into greenhouses and setting off fire extinguishers.

When Mr. Breene, faculty, walked into his greenhouse classroom on November 27<sup>th</sup>, the last thing he was expecting to see was tons of chemical dust, footprints, a pair of discarded pants, and ruined poinsettias.

Eight students, who will remain anonymous, broke

see POINTSETTIA, p3

## Let it snow, let it snow

by MORGAN-KATE  
MCLAUGHLIN  
reporter

Love it or hate it, there is no stopping the amount of snow we keep getting week after week. School days have been cancelled, and so far there are up to four make-up days in June, but it doesn't stop there. With another month of winter left, more snow days are bound to come.

"I'm not a big fan of snow

days, they mean one less day of summer," Victoria Alves, junior, said. After the second snow day, students started worrying about how much was going to be cutting into their summer time.

And would anyone enjoy missing school two days in a row? "Nah, I like a day at a time, two days is a long time," Mr. Gartner, math, said, "but I am glad for the snow, 'cause it's winter!

You can ski!"

There are not a lot of complaints about the snow, "I'm happy about it! I love the snow just as much as I love the summertime. The best thing about Rhode Island is the beautiful changing seasons," Marisa Haggstrom, junior, said.

"We don't need any more snow. This is good because we got just enough so it looks pretty, but cars can still drive on the road,"

Alves said.

"If we got even more snow, I don't really know what I'd do. I guess I would sit around the fire and read a book," Gartner said.

Obviously a few academic things were missed because of the cancellation, "I had to miss an algebra test and I was wicked bummed because I studied so hard. But it's fine because now I'm super prepared!" Hagg-

see SNOW, p3



## Big plans for Musical Mariners

by DAVID MENZIES  
reporter

Mariner musicians look forward to big plans for the new year. The band and chorus will be performing an array of pieces from different generations and different cultures.

The concert band will be playing the Ralph Vaughn Williams *Suite for Band*, Jack Bullock's *Okeanos*, as well as a few other pieces. The jazz band will enjoy *Sing Sing Sing*, *The Final Countdown*, and *The Eye of the Tiger*, to start and may add a few more.

Mr. Healey, music director, feels positively about the progress being made this school year. "I feel that this band has taken great responsibility for its own growth this year. We have excellent senior leadership, and a very ambitious, hungry freshman class" Mr. Healey said.

Mr. Healey has recently returned from The Mid West Band and Orchestra Clinic which is the largest instrumental music conference in the

world. "It was truly inspiring to be surrounded by thousands of exceptional teachers and performers" Mr. Healey said. "I feel that I gained great insight into how to better develop a band curriculum, and how to more efficiently run rehearsals."

Midterm exams are slightly different this year for the Mariner musicians than previous years. "Instead of focusing on individual pieces per se, it will consist of exercises designed to increase technical facility such as scales, technique, and music theory" Mr. Healey said.

The chorus looks forward to some challenging songs in the new year. The chorus is working on selections from all over the globe, including pieces in Japanese, Spanish, and Latin. "We will also be working on some German and English selections" Mr. Healey said.

Freshman musicians have come to a big metamorphosis from the musical ballads of the middle school to the challenging pieces in the high school.

Leia Mistowski, Freshman Flautist, has had a challenging transforma-

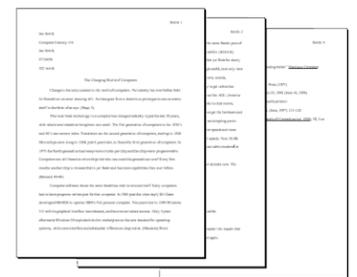
tion from the middle school band to the high school band. "It was hard to transfer because the expectations for the high school band are much higher than the middle school's band" Mistowski said.

Mistowski has a vivacious background of music. She has been playing the flute for three years.

Mistowski has positive strengths in music and is currently working to strengthen her weaknesses. "My strengths consist of reading music and knowing the key signature. I am also pretty good at sight reading" Mistowski said. "When it comes to memorizing music or various scales, I can get aggravated and annoyed due to messing up."

As the midterm exams are approaching, Mistowski has been avidly practicing for her band exam. "Since midterms are approaching, I am constantly practicing and progressing" Mistowski said.

The New Year looks to be a progressive musical journey. As Mr. Healey says, "I feel that this will go down as a great band in NHS band history!"



## Reflections take on a new prompt

by SEAN MURRAY  
reporter

The new reflection prompt that was assigned at the beginning of the year has had a lot of effect on the students here at the High School.

At the beginning of the year, the school board had decided on a new reflection prompt for the common tasks that can be very stressful, especially towards seniors here at the NHS. Some people have been affected by the reflection prompt.

The majority of the teachers can agree that the new reflection prompt is more beneficial for the students. It's also beneficial for the teachers because they can customize the prompt in their own way and to correspond to their class.

"I prefer the new one because the old one doesn't feel like a forum and is different in every class." Mrs. Nardone, faculty, said.

Some of the students can disagree though, and feel that a change in the reflection prompt is not helping. They say it's difficult jumping from one prompt to another, having been used to the old prompt.

"It's pretty easy," said Richard Petrarca, freshman, "But I would change the conclusion a little".

The people that were affected the most by the new prompt were the sophomores and the seniors. The sophomores just got in the school last year and had just gotten used to the old prompt when the new one came in.

The seniors were also affected because of the last minute reflections they have to upload and now have a whole new prompt to worry about, affecting senior portfolio.

Some students have spoken out about the reflection prompt being changed back to the original.

Meetings are being held to work on future prompts to make it easier for all students to adapt to a prompt that will work for everyone.

## There's no class like Technology

by ZACH CASEY  
reporter

In some classes you're asked to stay seated but in Technology that is not the case

Mr. Pinch the Technology teacher explained "I like working with students with hands on activities" Pinch recalls his first Technology in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

In Technology 2 they're expected to be able to safely operate power tools in the Tech room and be able to design and build wooden products.

Matt McGreen NHS student has taken Technology and mentioned that his favorite project was the picnic table because it took all of the skills he acquired throughout the class and got to work with a fun group of his friends.

Some skills McGreen acquired in this class would be how to use a Band Saw to properly cut the wood to the size or shape needed. Also he adjusted to using wood for all the projects in Tech class.

McGreen said "my favorite tools are the hammer and screwdriver because these two tools are mostly needed in



every project." McGreen enjoys this class because he feels like he's trusted in this class and looked up to for help around the class.

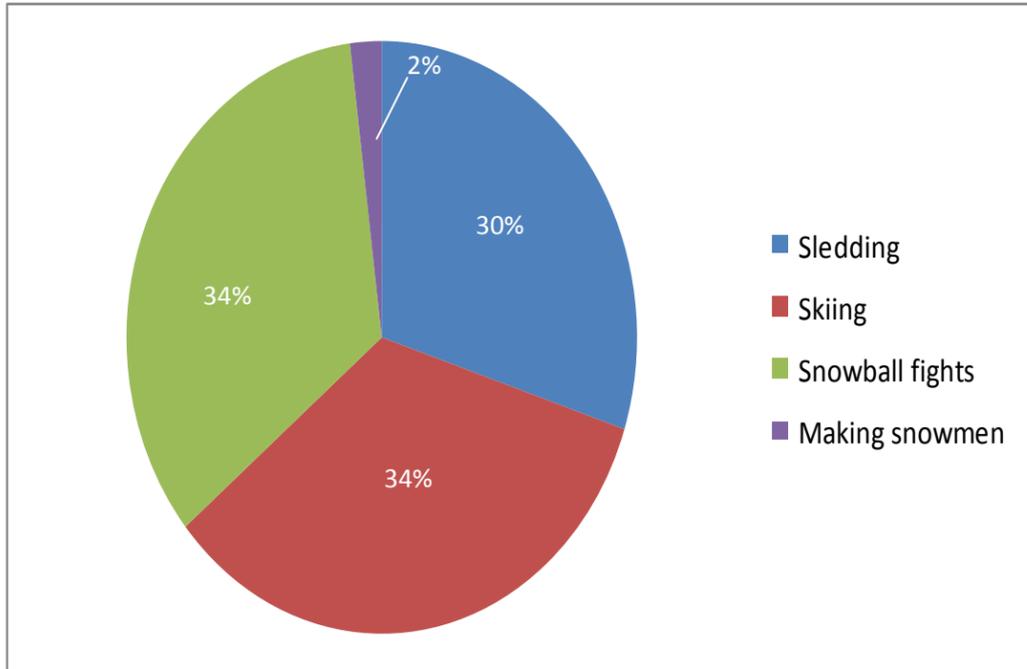
In class Mr. Pinch makes sure the students are all safe by having them take a safety test and the students must wear safety glasses. Pinch also demonstrates how to use each tool.

An enjoyable project was building

the cubbies in the office which did not take much skill as the picnic table.

"Tech is what I look forward to on my B days because I know that I could have the most fun" McGreen said. McGreen would prefer this class to anyone if they're looking for an elective because it teaches you how to build.

# Monthly Survey: Favorite Snow Day Activity



## DANCE

can be so important by the time they are seniors.

Over the course of two years almost every dance, other than homecoming and prom were either cancelled or had minimal attendance.

Student Council Advisor Mr. Schroeter gave his opinion on this issue.

"The ticket policy change I believe has led to the decrease in dance attendance" Schroeter said.

Last year the school changed its ticket buying policy so that you could only buy tickets for the dance in school before the dance and not at the dance like it used to be.

"If kids are sitting at home bored on a Friday night and they don't know

what to do they might say 'hey lets go to the dance.' Kids like to make last minute plans" Schroeter said.

Alison Rugg, junior, said her reason for lack of interest in dances anymore is the new restrictions on dancing that is usually enforced at all dances.

"I think it annoys people when they tell us how we can and cannot dance, so people just don't go."

"If the dances continue to stay the way they are now then the dances should just be cancelled. They need to change it up if they want kids to go," Paige Frankovich, junior, said.

The idea came up in class council, however, to bring back the formality to the snowball dance.

Hoping to spark an inter-

est in the students the idea of having it be more like a mardi gra or a masquerade was also tossed around.

When asked about the idea of having a masquerade dance Frankovich said "That sounds so cool! I'd definitely want to go to something like that. Its something different than we've ever done before." "We hope it will help the attendance at dances and make more money for the classes hosting the dances," Schroeter said.

If more students don't start going to dances then a harsh risk may come to reality. They might all just be cancelled and the classes will need to find another form of fundraising. With a little support this will remain but a risk.

## POINSETTIAS

into the greenhouse, took the fire extinguisher from the wall, and set it off all over the greenhouse.

The chemical dust was blown around by the two fans used to circulate the air, and it settled on the poinsettias. The whole crop was lost.

"I don't think they went in there with a malicious intent," Breene said.

"They just wanted a place to hang out, and you know how it is. One boy, one brain. Two boys, half a brain." Half a brain, indeed.

The vandals left behind incriminating footprints and a pair of pants. Yes, one reads the truth. One of them left their pants behind. They then wore the shoes that had fire extinguisher chemical on them to school. They may as well have left their names and numbers behind.

In any case, the entire Narragansett chapter was distraught.

The mum, poinsettia, maple syrup, and plant sales all fund the chapter's activities.

Last year, only four gallons of maple syrup was able to be made when the chapter can usually make about 30.

The plant sale last spring was also hurt because of the economy and people's unwillingness to spend extra money.

With the inability to sell the poinsettias, the chapter is at a loss.

"It's a tragedy for the FFA," Vinny Ballirano, senior, said. "We're going to have to work extra hard at the plant sale to make up for, well, everything."

"We can only sell them during the Christmas season, that's it," Breene said.

"There's a very small market window for poinsettias, from the day after Thanksgiving to Christmas, then they have no market value at all. They're a one-shot deal."

To begin the poinsettia project, the chapter invested \$1,000.

They were hoping to make \$800 in profits, but ended up losing nearly \$2,000, not to mention all the time and effort put into growing the plants. They had begun the process in September, after all, and it's impossible to cram close to two months of work into a few short weeks.

"I don't know what we're going to do," Breene said, "It's really discouraging."

The vandals were charged and ordered to pay restitution, and of the eight people, only three had apologized or acknowledged that they did something wrong.

It is truly a gross infraction in damaging property that undermines one of the more influential programs of the school.

The FFA has been an active force and almost an identity for this school for several years, with its alumni being the more prominent townies and supporters of NHS. This compounds the crime as one can only ponder, why?

## SNOW

-strom said.

Most kids are pretty productive on their days off though, "On my snow days, I definitely sleep in. I make myself some eggs for brunch, I do some homework--not very exciting, and then I usually go out with

friends." Alves said.

Teachers are guilty of playing in the snow, too. "I made a big igloo with my kids. I just piled up the snow with my tractor and they dug tunnels in it," Gartner said. Snow days are great, and despite their multiplicity, one secretly hopes for more.



## ANTARCTICA

academic studies, and extracurricular activities. Since she was able to, she was selected by the science department to represent Narragansett High School.

"We suggested a few students that applied. There was a quick deadline and Danielle really took the initiative to put together a great application in a very short period of time. We suggested her as the applicant due to her academic background, was a member of the Envirothon team, and had summer job experience with the RI Department of Environmental Management," Mrs. Couchon, member of science department and science teacher, said of Danielle's selection.

Of any member on the science department, Mrs. Couchon was the most helpful when it came to preparing Danielle for Antarctica. This was because she has made trips of her own to places like the Poles, Norway as well as the Arctic. Therefore, Mrs. Couchon decided that she would be most helpful when preparing Danielle.

With the previous knowledge, Mrs. Couchon gave some very helpful advice to Danielle mainly regarding freezing temperatures.

"I gave her suggestions about what to bring and how to avoid seasickness for being on a ship for the whole trip. Mostly, I encouraged her to take a good camera and to take as many photos as possible," Mrs. Couchon said.

Then the trip came

abruptly. In order to get to Antarctica, Danielle had to drive up to Boston.

Then after many flights from Boston, to places like Miami, Chile and Argentina, Danielle had to take ship to Antarctica, where she spent the rest of her time on the trip.

"The trip was very long and it felt like forever to get there. But, the wait was well worth it because of the great time I had," Danielle said of her travels.

While in Antarctica, Danielle did many exciting things and met many new people. For example, Danielle conducted research about the area as well as learning about the area, and she hiked. According to Danielle, hiking was the most fun thing to do because of the distinct wildlife she saw.

"I saw a really gigantic, super and epic Leopard Seal. That was by far the coolest animal that I had seen," Danielle said.

Also like Mrs. Couchon forecasted, it was extremely cold. While on the two week excursion, temperatures were in the negatives but the temperature did peak at 5 degrees, which is rather tropical for the summer season in Antarctica.

This is because the average temperature in the summer is -35 degrees to -5 degrees, with penguins being the beneficiaries. Then after the two weeks, the trip concluded and it was time to go home. Looking back at the long journey, Danielle truly did have a great time and will always remember the trip.

## LETTERS to the editor

**Question: Last year I had an exceptional time after prom. This year I want to make sure that does not happen again. Do you have any fun ideas for after prom events?**

Sincerely,  
Puzzled Prom Attendee

Dear Puzzled Prom Attendee,

Nobody wants to have a fun time at prom and then be bored sitting at their house afterwards. Don't miss out on the fun to be had after prom.

Living in such a small community such as Narragansett there is a limited amount of things to do. The typical thing teenagers tend to do is go to dangerous and illegal parties. Though there are plenty of other fun things to do to make it a memorable night. One thing you could do is have your friends over for movies, games, and food. Having a get together at your house ensures a night full of laughter and a lifetime of memories.

If this is not appealing to you, you could suggest to have a Lock Down at your school. A Lock Down is when the students all stay at the school over night and play games, and eat food. You could also use school funds to have a DJ or other professional performer come and keep the party going all night long.

If you are a big dancer, there is a after prom idea for you! Pick a house out of your group of friends that has a Wii, and you can play one of the Just Dance editions. This is a fun, active, and easy way to keep the fun dancing going all night long.

Another idea for something to do after prom is a camp out. Have you and your friends grab sleeping bags, marshmallows, and tents, ect. Be sure to pick a safe spot ahead of time to make sure your night goes as planned.

I hoped this helped you with picking something to do after prom, have fun !

# Foozball diaries

Why do people watch the Super Bowl? Is it because of the game, the half time show or the commercials? In past years, great commercials have been made that result in laughter. Ones made by big companies such as Bud Light, and always seem to make you laugh. This year, these companies were the only ones that performed, as usual, while others seemed to flop. Bud Light, made a few good commercials this past Super Bowl. After all, it was a tough act to follow after many years of producing great ones. Ones like the Magic Fridge commercials, that included a revolving wall and a fridge full of bud light, will always be remembered. This year, there also will be ones that are remembered for a long time. The first televised on Super Bowl night was the Bud Light home makeover commercial. In this commercial, the Bud Light construction crew went into a kitchen to make some modern improvements. However, the only improvement they made was adding a bucket full of Bud Light by plac-

ing it on the counter. The couple receiving makeover was extremely shocked to see the improvements. Also, Bud Light made a good commercial that displayed a dog sitter throwing a party with all of his dogs. At the party, all of the dogs participated by serving the Buds and playing cards.

Like Bud Light, Doritos has always made good Super Bowl commercials. This year two more funny ones were added to the collection of the many greats. The first great commercial produced was involving one with a Doritos cheese lover. In this commercial, the ecstatic cheese lover goes to the extreme by licking a mans cheesy fingers. Also, this cheese lover rips off another mans pants, after that man wipes his cheesy fingers on them. Doritos also made a commercial featuring a roommate leaving for the week. When he is gone, he expects his other roommate to keep everything in order. However, the week flies by and the roommate didn't take care of any-

thing. In a rush to get it all done, he gives Doritos to the dead fish, making it come alive. Lastly, he knocks down an earn and gives the Doritos to the ashes. Then, the vacationers grandpa comes back to life leaving the returning roommate in shock to see his grandpa. The last and most heart warming commercial of the night was the Volkswagen commercial featuring a little boy dressed as Darth Vader. In this commercial, the boy tries to be like Darth Vader and command other objects to do things. After failing to make the washer machine and dryer work, he then goes outside to make his father's car turn on.

While inside with the remote car starter, the father decides to turn on the car, leaving the boy in total excitement due to his powers.

Overall, the night of commercials was not a total flop, but there truly should be some improvements. Hopefully next year, the commercials will be even more consistent and hilarious.

## the Maritimes

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## WORD ON THE STREET

What do you most enjoy about snow days?



“Going sledding then having hot chocolate after - Josh Lugo, Junior”



“No school so I can sleep in and watch movies all day - Robby Pratt, Freshman”



“I like to sleep in and hang out with friends - Grace Castro, Freshman”

## VOICE YOUR OPINION

### BY MAIL

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### EDITORIAL POLICY

Please keep letters to the editor no longer than 250 words. Longer letters may be used as guest columns at the editor's discretion. All letters must be signed and include an address or phone number for confirmation. Letters may be edited for libelous statements, available space or factual errors.

## RED creates a spectrum of responses

by MATT PISTACCHIO  
editor

Bruce Willis reemerges on the action circuit with his portrayal of a retired agent who is now deemed RED, or Retired, Extremely Dangerous, by the CIA.

His film culminated a unique blend of action and situational comedy, keeping the viewer forever enthused.

This movie, titled *RED* for intensive purposes, details multiple conflicts as Frank Moses (Willis) goes on the run from upstart CIA operative, William Cooper (Karl Urban).

The fight scenes of this movie were of epic proportion. A scene where Cooper faces off with Moses threads the theme of youth vs. experience with a rather notable reaction when Cooper finds himself looking like a hospital patient.

Within the chase a conspiracy is unfolded, entailing a list of names dwindling by the day as each witness of a vice presidential killing spree is hit up by a corrupted CIA assassin force.

The conspiracy seems to engulf Moses in his quest to get his life back, as well as it affects all of his quasi-unwilling sidekicks.

In his flight from retired

life, Moses feels he has to protect Sarah, a woman whom he had recently been sharing phone conversations (Mary-Louise Parker) from the head-hunting CIA.

The different side of Moses as a romantic is displayed to complement the consistent action, adding the essence of comedy in his attempts to woo his phone-pal.

Along their escapade Moses meets up with other retired members of his old black-ops team, including Morgan Freeman, John Malkovich, and Helen Mirren playing the latter.

This all star cast only accents what the movie stands to do: a) to entertain and b) to make sure the viewer does not leave the film without asking one question...

Why Morgan Freeman, why?? Isn't this eighth movie in the last three years that you've either died or came close to death?

No one wants you to go, documentaries would never sell again! We know all lives come to an end, even one as long and successful as yours.

But you don't have to shove it in your audience's face.

Seriously, his first ten minutes of screen time he says he has liver cancer.

Porque?

I didn't come here to watch *The Bucket List*; how can one be extremely dangerous and be a month from their deathbed? And then there's the borderline mental patient Malkovich.

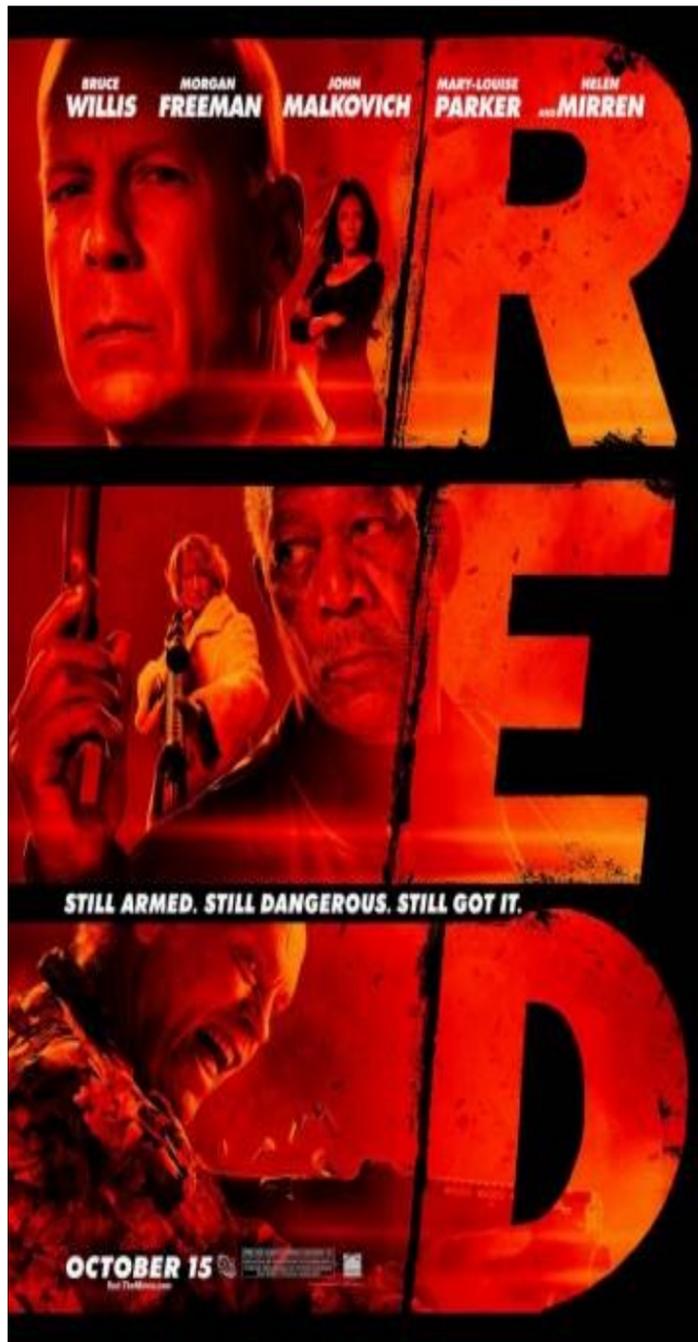
He has one great scene where he beats a bazooka with a handgun, yet out of that feat of luck, the guy provides evidence that therapists do not suffer from the current recession.

Yet the most interesting character seems to be Parker in her unique role as the damsel in distress. Cast from the popular comedy *Weeds*, Parker accents her routine psychotic awkwardness as she is paired up with strict and apparently clingy Willis.

Willis is not often known for exhibiting a soft side in his movies, especially in the post-2005 era where he has been notably leaning toward action, action, and more action.

Yet *RED* challenges the conformity of action movies and provides some interesting plot twists as conflicts aplenty come to form.

This is definitely a great movie to watch for the first time, yet I would not advise a second time unless you were preparing a psychoanalysis of Malkovich, or a career synopsis on Willis.



## What's your Top 5 Best Christmas Presents

**5**



Sam Hicks

5. Uggs



4. Clothes



3. Money



2. Gas cards



1. GPS



## Where's the beef? I'm not looking...



by DELANEY SAN MARTINO  
editor

If you're on the road and you get a little bit hungry, fast food is the way to go. Although it's empty, useless calories and not even close to being healthy, it is extremely beneficial when you are on the go.

Though Taco Bell, along with other fast food restaurants such as Burger King, McDonalds, and KFC, are extremely popular, people are slowly starting to realize that fast food is not all that it seems to be.

Regardless of the negative and infamous rumors spread about Taco Bell's

"beef" products people do not seize to eat it. Maybe this is due to the wide variety of their menu that provides meals for all taste buds.

Growing up I have been raised a vegetarian and often go on road trips with the family. Taco Bell is a great place for my family and me to eat because they give so many vegetarian choices.

They have a wide bean and potato selection that provide a lot of tasty on the go foods. That is the great thing about Taco Bell, its wide variety that is capable of satisfying any hunger and putting a smile on people's faces.

Valentines Day has passed

BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T STILL SHOW SOME

LOVE

for your

Maritimes



## Mariners are off to a rough start

by MARK MURPHY  
reporter

The expectations for Narragansett high school boy's basketball team were very high this year but as of the months of December and January they haven't been performing to what they were expected to do. The Mariners have had glimpses of brilliance yet falling short of dominance late in their games through personal error and lack of poise. It seems as if the mariners are leading the state in technical fouls. In a few games the Mariners received many unnecessary technical fouls that resulted in the suspensions of two leading rebounders, Brendan Farley, senior, and Marciano Brunette,

senior.

Some technical's included unnecessary grabbing of the rim which resulted in a technical and a goal tend also a outburst in the westerly game that resulted in a technical and an ejection from the game. "We can't execute down the stretch, and were not emotionally strong so we break down in close situations and get on each other when we should be working as a team." Brad Loomis, senior.

Billy Byrne, senior, is the team's leading scorer averaging 18 points a game and his take on the season is similar to senior guard brad Loomis. "We are a 500 team that could do a lot better and people are still trying to figure out their roles" senior Byrne.

Although things may start looking up for the mariners as they now have gotten many of their difficult opponents out of the way and with the addition of junior guard Pat Doyle, a transfer student from Bishop Hendricken High School, who will hopefully provide a much needed spark for the Mariners. "I think Doyle will be another person on the team who can score and make us faster and play good defense, he will fit right into the team that we are and that is one that plays good defense and tries to outscore teams" senior Byrne.

Pat Doyle is hoping he can be a key contributor but does not expect to start right away. "Obviously nobody comes

into a program mid season and expects to start. I just want to work for some time, provide a spark of the bench for the Mariners and hopefully work into a starting spot, but the most important part is doing my part to help the team win games" said Doyle.

The Mariners already have contributors coming off the bench so it will be difficult for Doyle to work for his spot. "With the starting five putting in the work that they do and Francis, Jack, Aaron, Griff, Brad, and Big Stash coming off the bench and contributing to the team, Doyle will have to work to get a role on this team. Nothing is given to anyone on this team" Byrne said.

With all said, it'll be an interesting ride.

## Cheerleaders are dropping like flies

by KIERAN KENNY  
reporter

With cheerleading competitions starting, the Mariner cheerleading team should be running as a well-oiled machine.

However it looks as if the team is splitting at its seams.

Cheer leading is a two season sport and that may be the very reason cheerleaders are dropping like flies,

The mariner cheerleading team has not had to endure this type of drama and most of them are used to success, especially after winning the small school division last year and qualifying for the New England competition.

The Mariner cheerleading team has had six girls quit the team up to this point in their season.

With a team with roughly 20 girls that is a catastrophic amount of girls leaving.

"This team has had a lot more drama than any team I have cheered for before" there seems to be a fight every practice, and when there is not a fight you can feel the tension in the gymnasium," Alicia Perry, freshman, said.

After cheering for so many years Perry can tell what is good and what is bad for a team to work together, and having girls quit in the middle of the year isn't going to help the team.

"It messes up your timing for our routine; we have to make adjustments for our comp," Perry said.

"I have been cheering since middle school and have never seen anything like this" Borges said.

With all of these girls quitting there has to be a reason for these girls' departures, Borges thinks it is due to the team being over worked and problems with the coach.

However Borges doesn't look at this as a problem to the team, she thinks it is a blessing in disguise.

"It hurt our team at first losing all these cheerleaders but it is bringing our team closer now because we had to come together and work as a team" Borges exclaims.

With all the drama that this team has suffered from this year, they have managed to not take their eyes off the prize of gaining another state championship win. For quality bests quantity every time.

## Lady mariners on their way to championship

by ANNA KYLE  
reporter

With a mostly lower classman based team, the girls are very optimistic about their playoff chances this season.

The girls have a record so far of five and three putting them in second place to Prout.

Maggie Salomone, sophomore, is the leading scorer on the team for the Lady Mariners.

"We definitely work very well together; we have known each other since we were ten years old. Ever since then we have always clicked and known when to cut or what pass to give, and when to drive," Salomone said.

On Friday January 14<sup>th</sup> the Mariners beat Prout, their biggest rival, 38-34.

Although it was a close game it was an enjoyable one for the girls.

"Every time we play them it's a challenge, but it never gets to be a rough game, they are a friendly rival who are always a challenge," Salomone said.

Although the team lacks in upperclassman, having only one senior, the girls are able to stay confident and work well with each other to create a close linked team.

Team chemistry is a vital element in this team's eyes to achieving success.

Hannah Lindsley, senior, is one of the two captains, along with Jackie Iannucci. "We all get along very well, we're like a family," Lindsley said.

Salomone says she is able to bring a helping hand to the team. When they are in



trouble she tries to calm them down and help the team get through tough parts of games. Salomone says the team sometimes lacks in communication skills and starts to get panicked when they are down a few baskets.

"So far this season, my expectations are beyond what I thought we were

going to be doing. I can honestly say that we are doing much better than I thought, we know the game so that has helped us along the way," Salomone said. The girls are looking forward to the rest of their season and they are feeling confident in where they stand with other teams in their division.