



Inside:

**Sports: NHS Swim Team: Just keeps winning!**

Narragansett High School

# the Valentimes

Narragansett High School's student newspaper since 2008.

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Slumdog  
Millionaire  
sweeps the  
Oscars,  
winning 8  
out of 10  
categories.

Volume 101 Number 4

Friday, February 27, 2009

Page edited by **Ashley Carr and Sherry Hannan**

## A third world country of her own



## NHS student helps those in need

by **ASHLEY CARR**  
*reporter*

Erin Van Hemelrijck, junior, and her two parents, recently boarded a plan that would be taking them on vacation. When most people think vacation, they think of things like swimming pools, skiing, cruises, nice weather and luxury. However, Van Hemelrijck is on a different kind of vacation, and the last thing she will be doing is relaxing.

For two weeks, Van Hemelrijck will be volunteering her time to making water filters and visiting sick and diseased children in Cambodia. During this period of time, she will be visiting ANGKOR Children's Hospital and small villages in the country

making and demonstrating how to use water filters to clean the areas unsanitary water.

"I'm excited and I'm scared, I don't know what to expect," Van Hemelrijck said.

The weather will be nice, but despite the 80-90° temperature, it is considered offensive to reveal yourself too much, including sleeveless shirts and other ordinary vacation clothing. Aside from wearing appropriate attire, Van Hemelrijck was warned about the rate of poverty in the area, which is something that she is most concerned about. "I'm afraid about how much the poverty will affect me emotionally,"

(see CAMBODIA p. 3)



## Anyone for a dip?

by **KYLE DOUBRAVA**  
& **MATT PISTACCHIO**  
*reporter*

On the morning of February 6, strolling into Narragansett High School was just like any other morning. Students were mingling, teachers were preparing and the back hallway was flooded with a substantial amount of water.

It is safe to say that the maintenance crew was mildly overwhelmed by this matter, more specifically Ms. Williams, maintenance. Williams stumbled upon the flood at around 6:30 and said she was the first one in the

building to notice it. "It was not a burst pipe or anything like that," Williams said. "It was a broken coil that caused hot water to spew out wherever it could find an opening."

Williams went on to say that the flood must not have occurred in the middle of the night due to the fact that not a tremendous amount of water was in the hall. "We are lucky that it didn't happen in the middle of the night," Williams said.

Maintenance members quickly responded to Williams' stress call and

(see FLOOD p. 3)

## ESD: reality vs. myth

by **ASHLEY CARR**  
*reporter*

one; if not two teachers there to help each student meet proficiency on time.

Despite many students' beliefs, extended school day is here to help. "It is not detention and it is not punishment," John O'Brien, graduation coordinator, said.

It is though, something to take advantage of. Every so often deadlines are set for the senior class graduation papers and portfolio assignments, and also every so often these dates are not met.

Starting at 2 o'clock after school Monday through Thursday, students are offered extended time on any assignments they have not yet completed.

To ensure that the students get the job done as soon as possible there is

February 10, 2009 was a recent deadline for some of the tasks. "We're starting extended school day for graduation portfolios today, and could be expecting up to 80 students," O'Brien said.

Several of the portfolio requirements were due in

(see ESD p. 3)

# Oceanography: find your inner Nemo

by KAITLYN MURRAY  
reporter

For the first time in the history Narragansett High school, Oceanography has joined the curriculum as a half year course. Mr. Adam Reis, science teacher at NHS, is in charge of the two full classes in session this semester, and he has a lot planned for the new elective.

"We will be studying the four main branches of oceanography, which include physics, biology, chemistry, and geology," Reis said. "The class isn't going to be an easy A like some students like to think electives are for, we're going to be learning a lot this year."

The University of Rhode Island is even helping out and supplying the classes with Oceanography textbooks, furthering proving that the work will take some time and effort. But still students remain unfazed and optimistic



about the course.

"It will be different than other electives I've taken in that it will be challenging," Derek Stritzinger, Junior,

said. "But still from what I've seen of the class so far it seems like really interesting stuff."

Plus, oceanography

won't really just be all work and no play.

"We're going to take a field trip to the (URI) bay campus towards the end of

the semester." Reis said. "Also, students can receive extra credit for any independent trips or projects, such as visiting the mystic aquarium, scuba diving, or even keeping a surf log."

Reis been proposing the idea of an oceanography class to the school for a few years now, and was excited to have it finally approved for this year. He has a professional background in the field and is very passionate about the subject.

"I used to work at Mystic, and also the national marine fishery where I would snorkel and be in charge of counting fish." Reis, said. "It was a great job."

"You can tell he really knows what he's doing," Hillary Carr, Junior, said. "It makes the class even better." Suggested for all Junior and Senior students

The Class is rigorous, but the class is fun for anyone with a interest in or is thinking they want to pursue a career in the ocean.

## Snowball: plowed down by low attendance

by KIANI CARROLL AND  
TYLER CASEY  
reporters

One of the major dances of the year at Narragansett high school is the Snowball. It is a winter affair where the school gets together like all dances to get down and boogey. Usually the dance is more of a proper dance similar to homecoming. Normally there is a good turnout for this dance. However, this year didn't do so hot. There were a total number of about 50 students who attended the dance. This can be seen as epic failure.

This could reflect on our school that we are all extremely bad dancers or after a week of exams sleeping is the only thing on our minds.

Brian Hannan, a junior, was one of the few attendants at the snowball dance. "The dance was not fun. There were like 30 kids there and one of them passed out," Hannan said.

As to the incident about the kid passing out, no one would comment and many rumors are circulating the student body.

The rule of not leaving until 10:00 wanted to be broken by everyone who attended. Maybe this will awake the faculty that when a dance is not fun, you can leave.

I wanted to leave the



entire time. I felt as though I was a pig in a rodeo that couldn't get out," Hannan said.

The ratio of chaperone to student was 2:1. The teachers watching the dance seemed to overcrowd the actual dancers themselves.

The chaperones were equally disappointed in the turn out. They went there to watch kids dance, not pass out and play guitar hero.

Mr. Hackett, social studies teacher, has his own

theory as to why it was so low attended. "I think it was clear that the absence of Mr. Joubert's slew of innovative dance moves resulted in the poor turnout," Hackett said.

As to the real reason that the dance was so low attended, nobody really knows. The Narragansett High School can only hope that next year's will be better. We don't want the snowball to get snowed on again.

## Keep up with your grades with Power School

by DELANEY SAN MARTINO  
reporter

and rumors about why the site was having so much difficulty.

"There are no mechanical errors with the site, the problem was staff inexperience. We had to have the teachers trained and able to use the site before letting the students look at it so there were no errors," Emery said.

Although some students may have been happy with the delay of report cards.

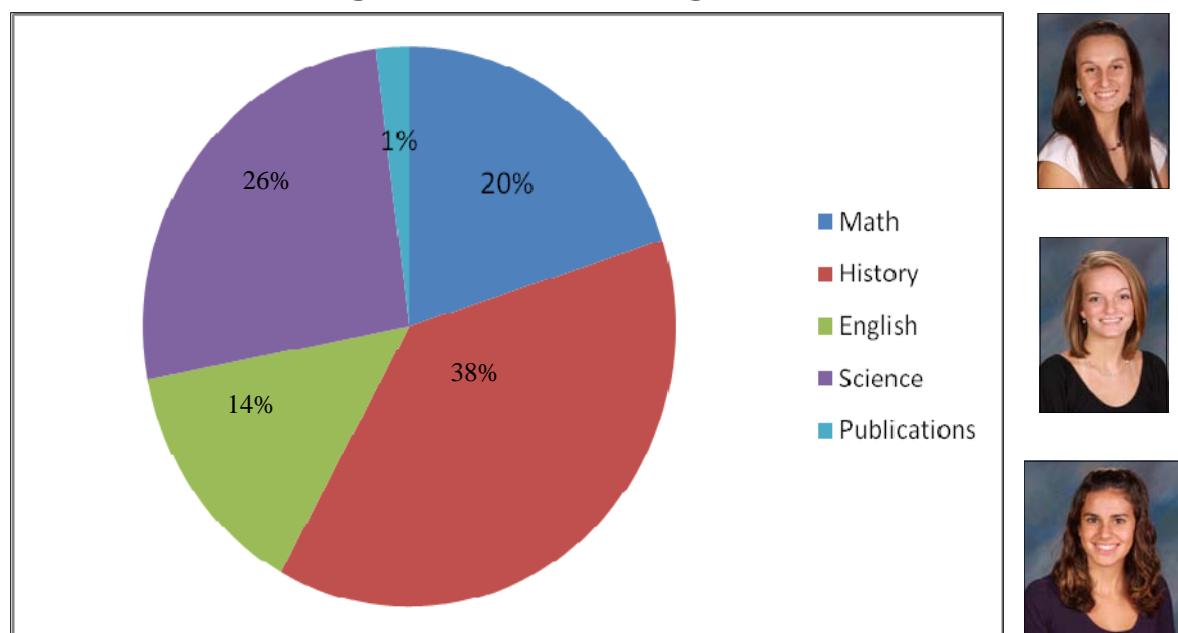
"I was relieved to put off getting my report card, but my mom wasn't so happy," Ryan Field, sophomore said.

Although there were some difficulties PowerSchool is now ready to help students with course selection for next year, codes are being handed out to students, teachers, and guardians. This is a brand new convenience for all.

*"Baby Monkeys are so cauttte, and love the Maritimes!!!!"*



# Monthly Survey: Favorite Core Subject



"My favorite class is math because it always has an exact answer."

-Stacey Moskwa



"I like science because it deals with the environment and that's what I love."

- Jess Motherway



"My favorite class is publications because Mr. Shields is a wicked good teacher."

-Rachel Gouveia



**Author Loung Ung spoke to the school about her trial and tribulations she suffered as a young child and how she overcame and survived the odds to make her way to America.**

## ESD

the fall, and throughout the year students receive scores in their English classes that the faculty and administration scores either proficient or not profi-

cient. From there, the seniors may correct and revise their work until it is able to be accepted. The only thing that will not benefit you from this academic support program is if you decide not to come. "If you don't show, you're

put on social suspension, and you can talk to Mr. Smith about it," O'Brien said. The extended school day offers an hour of support, individual help and guaranteed completion of your tasks. This is undoubtedly worth the bit of extra effort after school.

the kids in the hospital," Van Hemelrijck said.

"I was nervous for her at first, but knowing that she will be in a hotel and is protected against nearly any disease out there makes me feel a little better," Gibb said.

At 2 am on Friday, February 6, Erin took her first plane ride of the trip, from Providence to Washington DC. From there, she will be traveling with Korean Air for 14 hours until she reaches Cambodia. She will be missing a week of school, and has offered to do a presentation of what she has experienced on her trip when she returns back to Narragansett.

## CAMBODIA

Van Hemelrijck said.

"It's a really cool thing to be able to say one of my best friends took time out of her life to help better the life's of those less fortunate," Jayne Gibb, junior, said.

Van Hemelrijck got involved in the trip with the help of her parents who are doctors, and have previously visited the area. She was warned that there will be very sick children, and she will be exposed to many things that we do not see in the United States. "My mom and I picked up coloring books and play dough for

construction things might slip and it's to be expected."

O'Connell said that Mr. Gary Minett, who is in charge of the maintenance of all three Narragansett schools, was called to the scene to examine the situation.

"All of it was cleaned up by the end of first period, so it was done very efficiently," O'Connell said.

O'Connell gives a final word of advice to those in a position of authority who may encounter a similar fiasco with importance consequences. "Things always have a way of fixing themselves."

## FLOOD

efficiently cleaned up the mess, according to Williams. "I don't want to be called a hero or anything," Williams said.

Mr. O'Connell, teacher, was replacing Mr. Warner as principal for the day as a part of his Master's degree requirement at the time of the event. O'Connell does not believe that the flood was a bad omen for him.

"I don't think it was a bad omen at all, I think that it's just an everyday thing that occurs," O'Connell said. "Under new con-

struction things might slip and it's to be expected."

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**The Maritimes**  
Rocking you like a hurricane!

## "Gag me with a chopstick"

Loung Ung came to visit the Narragansett High School on March 3 to make an inspirational presentation.

In discussing her tragic story she expressed her humorous side. She did this by making light of a life filled with sorrow, heartache, and the deaths of many loved ones.

The reason for Mrs. Ung's visit was the recent reading of her book in the 10th English and Humanities classes. Her book, *First They Killed My Father*, expresses her story of her young life struggling in Cambodia to survive.

After surviving and leaving Cambodia she came to America to live. She suffered from depression and the constant memories of her awful past. To recover and help herself get through all the pain she wrote down her hardships in a journal that eventually would become the skeleton of her first book. She said that she filled over three hundred pages in her journal and wrote for six consecutive months. She used this writing technique as a form of therapy mainly because she was afraid to confide in her American friends.

Ung is a fervent activist against land mine injuries. She has given a vast amount of effort and energy towards this cause by working with an organization to make prosthetic limbs. She showed a five minute slide show presentation displaying photos of those who have been severely injured due to land mind accidents. She said that about forty percent of Cambodia's land is hazardous due to hidden land mines. She explained that people have made an effort to find and remove the dangerous land mines, although they still present a problem to Cambodia.

Her oration gave a chance for the realization that there are horrors taking place in the rest of the world and just because we can not see something going on does not mean we should turn our backs to them. Although Cambodia has come a long way since the reign of the Khmer Rouge through land mines and other tragedies, the nightmare won't end without efforts.

## the Valentimes

### Volume 101 Number 4

The Maritimes, Narragansett High school's student newspaper, is published by students bi-monthly during the regular school year. The students are responsible for news and editorial content.

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## Life as a senior...

by SHERRY HANNAN  
Columnist



Everyone has always said that junior year is your hardest year of high school.

However, with senior project, presentations, research papers, portfolios and community service having to be completed in order to graduate, many seniors are beginning to believe senior year is by far the hardest. In addition to all of this extra stress, we also have to worry about applying to colleges, maintaining good grades, and holding a job (or two), while attempting to have a social life. There is no room for slacking, unless a senior wants to be in extended school day everyday for missing deadlines or working papers and projects until 2AM. As soon as one deadline passes, another seems to be looming over us.

Life has changed dramatically in four years. People have moved and "the new kids" have replaced them. Some friendships have fell apart, while

others are stronger than ever. As freshman, we came to the high school excited, nervous and small, although some of us still are, and couldn't wait to become the seniors that we looked up to, respected, and we're petrified of, admittedly or not. Now that we're on top, I don't think that we look unfriendly or even all that big to the 2009 freshman class.

When we were freshman, we all seemed to be in our own little cliques, as cliché as it sounds, and anyone that we didn't want there, clearly knew it. However, we all came together during spirit week of our freshman year to win it all, as well as during our sophomore, junior, and senior year. No one can deny that we get ill at spirit week. As different as we may be, we now all have a common goal, to make it to June 19 in one piece, with some of our sanity still in tact. We are the unfortunate victims of senior project, graduation portfolios, and presentations. Senioritis began kicking in at the beginning of September and it has only gotten steadily worse.

We are moving on to bigger and better things, new friends, and a lot more work and college. We are dying to graduate but once we get over the whole "oh my gosh we're in college" thing, we're probably going to be wishing we were back in high school. On the brighter side, now this year's underclassmen can finally win spirit week!

Senior year always seemed to be the year that we would just coast through and get by without doing much work. We were wrong.

There's that saying that goes "Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for awhile and leave footprints on our hearts. And we are never ever the same" We may have lost people we thought were real friends or became friends with people who were once our enemies, but either way, we lived and we learned. I'm sure most of us will cry at graduation, go to college, and lose touch with each other, but the memories we have made as the class of 2009, good and bad, we will remember forever.

Life on the street

## WORD ON THE STREET

What do you think of the snow we've been getting this winter?



I hate the snow! Where is global warming when you need it?  
Sara Balestrieri, Junior



AS long as it's the winter we might as well have the snow.  
Mrs. MacNamara, Spanish teacher



The snow is not worth it if we can't get out of school for it.  
Deanna Casey, Sophomore

## VOICE YOUR OPINION

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Call The Maritimes  
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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.

## "Slumdog Millionaire" rich in every way

by KYLE DOUBRAVA  
reporter

Many films in this country make it to the big screen, but seriously, how many do we actually remember being that were worth seeing three times and then buying it on DVD?

The answer is very few. However, every now and again there is a film that quietly sneaks its way into a movie theater and soon after is the buzz of the film industry. "Slumdog Millionaire" is the prime example. The film, which has been nominated for ten Academy Awards and won eight, including Best Picture, certainly made some noise at the Oscars this year.

"Slumdog Millionaire", which opened nationwide on December 26, follows impoverished Indian teen Jamal Malik (played by Dev



### *The Verdict:*

#### **5 out of 5 John Stamos's**

Patel) and his quest to win 20 million rupees in the Indian version of "Who Wants to be a Millionaire"? In fact, as he approaches closer and closer to the grand prize, people become suspicious that Jamal has cheated and is interrogated by the authorities to a severe extent.

Jamal at first appears to be an awkward teenager who is absolutely petrified of large crowds. However, as the film progresses the reason why he knows all of the answers becomes clearer and clearer. The

film possesses a unique characteristic in that flashbacks are used quite often. It depicts Jamal and his older brother Salim (played by Madhur Mittal) living on their own as small children in the slums of India after a devastating Hindu-Muslim riot leaves their mother dead. Together they hop aboard trains and live a nomadic life for a large portion of their childhood.

In their travels Jamal and Salim are exposed to elements of society that they didn't know existed. To

earn money they roam the streets of a prestigious neighborhood pretending to be blind or injured, hoping that generosity will greet them.

In the middle of the drama and conspiracy we meet Latika (played by Freida Pinto), who befriends Jamal and Malik at a young age with no parents as a result of the riots.

As Jamal and Latika mature they begin to share intimate relationships, only to find that some unlucky event separates them for months or years at a time, but somehow they always tend to find each other.

The movie has three stories within it: Jamal's goal to win on the show, his relationship with Latika, and his pitiful childhood tale. The only con about this movie is that the overall storyline doesn't seem so

realistic. What are the odds that every question on "Who Wants to be a Millionaire" coincide with your life's experiences? Nevertheless, all three plots mold together to produce a breathless and climactic ending that will leave you in your seat stunned while the credits roll.

"Slumdog Millionaire" is a must-see, no questions asked. Even though the dialogue in the movie is about 20 percent Hindi with English subtitles, it does not take away the fact that it is the Academy's best picture.

*Note: Rated "R", Running Time 2 hrs. If you liked this movie you will also enjoy: "Quiz Show", "Apocalypto." Awards won at 2009 Academy Awards include Best Picture, Best Director, Best Adapted Screenplay, Best Original Score and Best Sound Mixing.*

## Say Anything is making a statement

by STEPHANIE  
McWHINNIE  
reporter

Max Bemis, the front man of Say Anything started the band with his good friend Colby Linder who plays the drums. They started just writing songs about teenage issues in high school and soon enough a fan base grew.

Bemis pushed a lot of people who joined the band away, but one thing that never changed was him and Colby working together and their songs that ranged from love to hate and back over again.

Say Anything refused to 'sell their souls' to big labels and decided to stay underground and original by signing to Doghouse Records in 2003.

Bemis dropped out of college and went through a depressed state while in the process of recording the first CD.

An article posted on the Say Anything Web site states, "I had to write an album that was revolutionary in its content and presentation. Finally, one night, it hit me. That was what my record had to be about: the artistic struggle, the fact that every creative person has this sick ambition to affect



some sort of change in society with their art, to be more than just a guy in a band or a poet or a sculptor," Bemis said.

A year later after signing they released "...Is a Real Boy" which sold fairly well.

Through this inspiration, Bemis began to write songs that reflected him, his life and all that he's done, to somehow connect with the other fresh-faced teenagers.

Despite all the animosity towards main stream labels, Bemis concluded that his music was to be shared with the world to be enjoyed by anyone and so Say Anything signed with J Records in 2005.

They have played with most of Bemis's favorite bands, which most of them have been a major influence on their music, bands such as Cave and Dashboard Confessional. Even though they have

signed with a main stream record, Bemis doesn't care if people disown him for it. He doesn't think that mainstream fans are any less important than the ones who have followed them around from the start.

Now with Say Anything having two high selling albums and being on the covers of major music magazines the trend of the original and somewhat unconventional music has caught on.

Once they signed with J Records, their album "...Is a Real Boy" was re-released with better songs that were improved with criticism.

'In Defense Of The Genre' was released in 2007 and sold really well, this album included two CD's with songs such as 'Baby Girl, I'm A Blur', 'The Church Channel', and 'Spores'.

## Parkside Providence: a New York-style cuisine

by KIANI CARROLL  
reporter

Parkside Providence, located at 76 South Main Street, is the place to be during the nighttime buzz of Providence. This little restaurant is a popular spot for a night on the town. It has many choices of cuisine and has some of the best looking food I have seen in awhile.

I dined at Parkside for my birthday and was not disappointed. The food was appetizing overall and the presentation of the food was even better.

I had a Caesar salad, filet steak, and a surprise piece of chocolate torte for dessert. The salad was a wonderful start to the dinner. The plate was frozen so the lettuce was crisp just the way I like it and the dressing was handmade and very good.

The filet was also very

tasty. It was a little too smothered in a wine sauce for my liking, but it was cooked to my satisfaction and I enjoyed it.

I was surprised with the dessert. Parkside certainly knows how to make a birthday special. A beautiful display of a chocolate torte, fresh fruit, and raspberry sauce drizzled in a color pattern was put in front of me. I was then shocked to see that in perfect script writing was "Happy Birthday." It certainly was a treat that tasted first-rate.

The service at Parkside was also very enjoyable as well as the atmosphere. Our waiter was friendly and often made sure that we had water refills and all of our needs were met.

So if you are ever in the Providence area and want a fine place to eat with alluring food, Parkside is the perfect place for you.



## Seeing double: student teachers in class

By SHERRY HANNAN  
Reporter

Since January, the students in Mrs. Gongoleski's and Mrs. Nardone's classes have been seeing double with the two student teachers in their classes.

Both Ms. McMahon and Ms. Lisi are students at the University of Rhode Island who are majoring in education.

One of the requirements is for them to do student teaching at both a middle and high school.

Both McMahon and Lisi were placed in the high school and then the middle school in Narragansett.

McMahon is doing her teaching until May while Lisi will be done in March.

When all is said and done, they will hopefully have a



degree in education when they graduate in May. Both McMahon and Lisi were placed in the high school and then the middle school in Narragansett. McMahon is doing her teaching until May while Lisi will be done in March. When all is said and done, they will hopefully have a

gaining teachers in order to discussion and the openness of the subject.

"It's a partnership," Gongoleski said.

"We give each other new ideas and she reminds me of methods that I used to use when I first began teaching that I had forgotten about," Gongoleski said.

Ms. McMahon is doing her teaching at the high school from January until March and at the middle school from March until May.

She hopes to get a job teaching middle school when she graduates, although she is not guaranteed a job here despite student teaching here.

She will only be certified in Rhode Island so will have to do extra work to be certified in her home state of Massachusetts.

Ms. Lisi, who is getting her master's degree, has taught at Broad Rock Middle School, as well as a freshman English class at URI. The key to her success and the success of most students is writing everything down. "I'm a note taker, I write down everything that I want to cover and it helps me a lot," Lisi said.

recertified.

The hardest thing about student teaching is getting used to being in control," McMahon said.

While it is sometimes intimidating at first, the work load that she has to do can make her forget about it.

She created the lesson plan for the book Montana 1948 that one of her senior classes is reading, which includes what she's going to teach, quizzes and tests.

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The key to her success and the success of most students is writing everything down.

"I'm a note taker, I write down everything that I want to cover and it helps me a lot," Lisi said.

## Valentine's day celebrity crushes

In the spirit of the season, the Maritimes staff has selected their 2009 valentines' celebrity crushes.

Kiani Carroll



Pete Wentz



Leo Dicaprio



Justin Chambers

Lexy Davis



Jenna Mairs



Ashley Carr



Ryan Gosling



Janet Reno



Robert Pattinson



James Lafferty

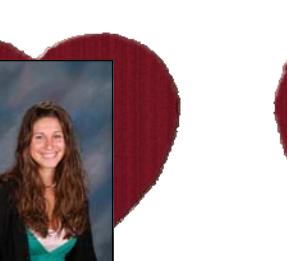
Stephanie McWhinnie



Kyle Doubrava



Sherry Hannan



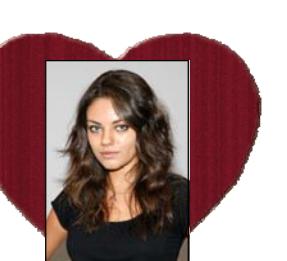
Matt Pistacchio



Tyler Casey



Ross Gorenski



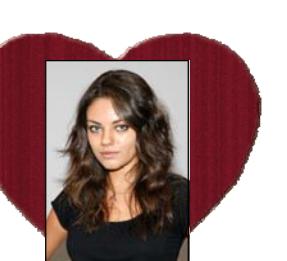
Kiani Carroll



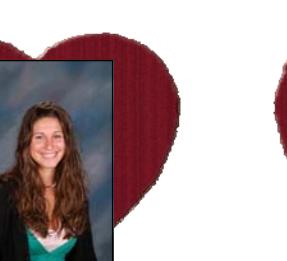
Kaitlyn Murray



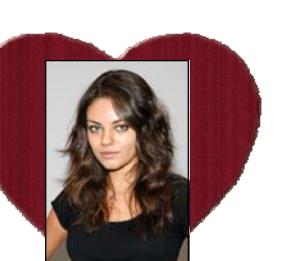
Delaney San Martino



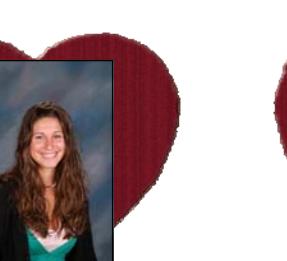
Tyler Casey



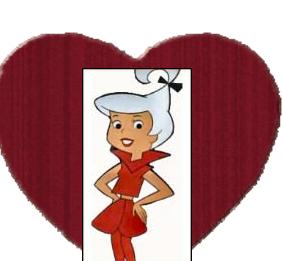
Jodie Sweetin



Optimus Prime



Ashton Kutcher



Sarah Palin

# NHS SPORTS

Friday, February 27, 2009

the Valentines

Page edited by Matt Pistacchio

7

## Swim team finishes with perfect season



by TYLER CASEY  
reporter

Lady Mariner's swim team had a fantastic undefeated season of 8 wins to 0 losses. The championship for Division II was postponed due to snow and the ladies' intensity had to be postponed as well.

The swim team went on to win the Division II championship at Roger Williams University.

The Mariners got a new coach this year which is very clear that she pushed them through long practices hoping for a nice banner in the gymnasium.

As all great sports teams know it's not just luck that you win something as big as a championship. It takes effort and hard work to get to be called champions.

Katie Degnan, a junior, was one of the key swimmers in this year's great season. Degnan admitted to the hard work her team put in.

"Every practice was long and tiring, but we knew (the team) that if we kept our attitudes positive and kept pushing each other we could do something special," Degnan said.



They sure did do something very special especially when making an appearance to states at the University of Rhode Island's pool.

Annie Carter, a junior, had this to say about the atmosphere at states.

"It's was very nerve racking at first, but after the first time I hopped in the pool I calmed down. And when I realized that we could possibly win states and that we were doing very well for a division II team I had complete feeling to our great season," Carter said.

The girls went on to take second in states which was a huge accomplishment for such a tiny school and LaSalle took first. The mariners placed in the top of all the events and gave the division I team LaSalle a good run for their money.

But to a great end of a great season comes responsibility and expectations to be always called champions. The hard work will have to continue for these girls in the pool in order to insure their reign as division champions remains in their sole possession.

The hard work will have to continue for these girls in the pool to continue their reign as Division II champions.

## Gansett ices Prout



by MATT PISTACCHIO  
reporter

Led by Matthew Wescott's three goals performance, the Mariners came from behind to beat Prout 4-3.

"I think we played hard," Tanner Littlefield, senior co-captain, said. "Our teamwork was good. We knew (Prout) was coming to work and we just had to be focused."

The first period gave an early lead for Prout, holding the Mariners to a 1-0 deficit at the sound of the first horn.

In the second period Wescott, senior, staged a rally scoring two goals to give the

Mariners the lead within the fourth minute.

However, at the beginning of the tenth minute the Crusaders answered Wescott with two goals of their own to turn the tide in Prout's favor.

As the third period took its course, Sean O'Connell, sophomore, tied the game at three apiece.

To change the lead once again, Wescott drove coast to coast to deliver the game clinching goal.

After this game, the team remains undefeated, 18-0.

"It puts a lot of pressure on us," Sullivan said. "We just have to keep playing to win in the play-offs."

## In the age of steroids, no players are safe

by KYLE DOUBRAVA  
columnist

It is safe to say that honesty in sports has become a thing of the past. Now all we see when we open up a newspaper or check the latest news on the Internet are scandals upon scandals in the industry, most notably baseball.

Alex Rodriguez, the third baseman for the New York Yankees, is the most recent victim to this controversy.

At the beginning of the month he was notified that he failed a steroid test when he was with the Texas Rangers in 2001-2003.

Sports Illustrated kept the news to itself until after the Super Bowl so that the story would seem more dramatic. A couple of days later Rodriguez confessed, saying that he was "naïve" and "stupid."

What makes his story interesting is that he lied about all of this. Rodriguez said on "60 Minutes" that he had never taken any

steroids.

To be honest, I think "A-Rod" is still juicing. I am not saying this because I am not a Yankee fan, but I just can't imagine how anyone doesn't feel the pressure to perform well in a gigantic market like New York.

In Texas Rodriguez was looked at as a star because of his amazing numbers. Now that he has a massive contract, every mistake he makes up at the plate will more than likely wind up in the news.

I think it's a safe bet to say that A-Rod has some issues that he needs to resolve. But then again, who doesn't?

Rodriguez was brought to New York to win, and he hasn't even taken them to the play-offs. There's one question I would like to ask Alex Rodriguez:

If you're going to try to win a championship, shouldn't you juice up in the playoffs, *not* in the regular season?

1. Badboys
2. Independence Day
3. I am Legend
4. Men in Black
5. Six degrees of separation



Mr. Goudreau



## Helping those without a home

by JENNA MAIRS  
reporter

In the dead of winter, the weather can be rough, with temperatures below 20 degrees most nights. Imagine sleeping during one of these blustery nights, but instead of lying in a warm bed in a heated house, it's outside, on the cold hard ground, with nothing for protection from the extremities of the weather.

This represents an average night for a homeless person, most not even lucky enough to have any means of heat or comfort. The typical stereotype of a homeless person is a man in rags, sleeping out in the cold with an oil drum containing a fire. However, homelessness affects many people, including women and children.

Families and individuals throughout the country are left without a home every year, and even though the rate of homelessness has been declining, it is still a problem throughout the nation. With the current recession at hand, the rate may start to rise back up again.

In an estimate taken in January 2007, almost

672,000 people were homeless or had lack of shelter on an average night. Many of these people were families, individuals, and chronically homeless people. Many people found refuge in a help shelter, but almost half of that population was left unsheltered as well.

In Rhode Island alone, 4% of the population was left unsheltered on an average night in 2007. The other 6% of the homeless population sought refuge in help shelters and domestic violence centers. In Rhode Island alone, estimates of 729 people in families were left on the streets in 2007.

Just imagine; families with small children wandering the streets, looking for a place to keep warm during a harsh winter night. The children are cold and hungry, but they cannot eat what little means they have left, for their next meal is not certain.

One congregation in Peace Dale tries to raise awareness for families like these. A sleep out is organized every year, to represent what these people go through just to make it to another day. It's just how it sounds, people gather to-

gether outside, and sleep there during the night, to show passersby that people endure those conditions on maybe even a daily basis.

This past January, another group of the Peace Dale Congregational Church endured a cold winter night to raise awareness in otherwise unsuspecting people. Groups of teens stayed outside for shifts of four, 12, or even 24 hours, enduring unpleasant weather conditions.

People came and went as they pleased, some even spending the night in a sleeping bag. All there was for warmth was an oil drum containing a fire, a makeshift wooden shelter, and the clothes people had on their backs.

With a sign that read "honk for the homeless", passersby in warm cars honked their horns late into the night, to show their appreciation for what they were doing.

With the church bell ringing in the early morning hours, people were still huddled in their sleeping bags, trying to keep warm. But, with enough firewood to last a week, the fire was kept blazing, but was only providing little warmth against the whipping night wind.