

The Proclamation

Wilbur Cross High School
Issue #2 -- January 2012

"It is the duty of a newspaper to comfort the afflicted and afflict the comfortable."-- E.K. Hornbeck, *Inherit the Wind*

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No Easy Answers

BY Daniel McDuffie '12



What if I told you that I lived in one of the most crime-infested cities in the country? Would you call me crazy and tell me to run for dear life? What if I asked you to come join me in this city where FBI data states your chance of becoming a victim of a property crime is one in 17? Would you come to a place where you'd have a one in 73 chance of being the victim of a violent crime? Chances are, if you're reading this article, then you're already there.

New Haven has one of the highest crime rates in America compared to all communities of all sizes - from the smallest towns to the very largest cities. One's chance of becoming a victim of either violent or property crime here is one in 14. Property crime includes burglary, larceny, theft, motor vehicle theft, arson, shoplifting, and vandalism. More than 99% of communities within Connecticut have a lower crime rate than New Haven. New Haven's annual crimes total at about 8,855; 1,692 of those have been violent. The Elm City follows Flint, Mich., Detroit, Mich. and St. Louis, Mo. as the U.S. city with the largest violent crime to population ratio according to the FBI's 2010 data. If you live in the New Haven area, it's easy to tell that the rate of crime, especially homicides, has risen. Homicides have increased sharply over the years. New Haven has had 32 murders this year, the city's highest since 1994. Homicides refer to the act of a human intentionally killing another human. So why has New Haven become so filled with crime and violence? Is anyone doing any-

thing about it? A lot has gone on with the security of our city. The New Haven Police Department has increased street patrol officers day and night, yet this hasn't been enough to stop what is going on in our city. It has to do with the budget cuts that have been made, laying off many of the same 56 police officers they hired earlier this year. It seems when new Police Chief Dean Esserman took the city greeted him with crime. Frankly, his short time as police chief doesn't seem to have made quite a difference, so what do

If you ask me, maybe the answer lies with past means of neighborhood protection called community policing. Community policing is a philosophy that promotes organizational strategies, which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the underlying conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear. Community policing is comprised of three main components: community partnerships, organizational transformation, and problem

Here lies the key to success in reducing the violence in New Haven. New Haven is a beautiful place with a lot of potential, but is normally overlooked because of the crime within the city. We need to address this problem at the root, and change the way our police system works at i

Opinion

Privatization: A Threat Or A Solution?

By David Elkin-Ginnetti '14

On December 31st, Joseph “Chickie” Vaspasiano, custodian for 3 years at Wilbur Cross, will be left without a job. “My elbows hurt, my knees hurt...my whole body hurts,” Vaspasiano said. “I’m not going to get any benefits.” The job cuts are part of recent union arbitration with the city, which is cutting many unionized custodial jobs and reducing the number of jobs unionized custodians perform from 24 to 4. Starting at the beginning of 2012, there will be no unionized custodians in many New Haven high schools, including Cross, Hillhouse (and its Field House), Hill Central, and Career. The number of union jobs is being reduced from the current 154 to 130. From January 1st to June 30th, the city aims to cut another 30 jobs. But it will be impossible to achieve these high cuts solely from early retirement and severance pay. There must be layoffs at some point. And while Vaspasiano is getting severance pay, it’s a small amount. “This decision has been on its way for years,” he said. “This privatization is a pet of the mayor.”

Indeed, a deal has been in the makings for years between the unions and the city. But only recently had they entered binding arbitration, in which “we got hammered,” said a Cross custodian who wished to not be identified, on the grounds that he might still be keeping his job. The city won on the vast majority of its points. According to the city, the deal will save New Haven \$4 million per year. But in order to get the deal passed, the city had to show that it was exceedingly close to bankruptcy. Now, the already stretched unionized custodial force will be shuffled around, and workers being managed by the private firm will clean in the high schools, receiving no benefits. Vaspasiano said the union still doesn’t know who that outside firm will be.

Our country is turning its back on unions. Even if the city is saving money on privatization, who will have the best interests of our schools at hand- unionized custodians paid by the city, or a management company that exists only to profit from custodial work? The answer is obvious. It’s hard to tell what will happen in the future, but the privatization of custodial management is a foot in the door for more privatization to come in the public school system.

America: Land of GPS?

BY Tatiana Diaz '12



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Amendment rights, because you have any reasonable expectation of in your own driveway. According to the Supreme Court, the little privacy that does remain should mainly belong to the resident. The case started back in 2007 when the Supreme Court decided to monitor a man named James Earl Ray Moreno, who they suspected was selling marijuana. They snuck onto his property in the middle of the night and attached a GPS tracking device to the back of the resident’s Jeep. Moreno decided to challenge the DEA’s action, but the Supreme Court ruled it was all perfectly legal. Justice Antonin Scalia pointed out whose homes are open to strangers: rich people. According to Justice Scalia, “people who protect their homes with electric gates, fences and security systems have a large protected zone of privacy around their homes. People who do not afford such barriers have to put up with the government sneaking around a person’s home. However, attaching a GPS to a car is not the only way the government can track a person’s movements. Everyone with a cell phone is already carrying a device that the government can use to track his or her location. This kind of tracking is extremely invasive because if the government knows where you are, it knows who you are. Anybody who values privacy should hope that the government ensures the government cannot use these technological advances to undermine the principles on which this country was founded on.

The Proclamation

The Proclamation is Wilbur Cross High School’s student newspaper, published in print and on line. It is dedicated to bringing you accurate, thorough, and complete news, features, arts, sports, editorials, and more. Opinions and viewpoints stated in The Proclamation are not necessarily the opinions or viewpoints of The Proclamation or its editors (except for unsigned lead editorials), the faculty advisor, Wilbur Cross High School, or the New Haven School District. The Proclamation is a designated public forum for student expression, and its mission and policy is to encourage student expression. Students make final decisions on content, edit the stories, and design the paper. Viewpoints, including ones that oppose those appearing in The Proclamation, are welcomed. Wilbur Cross High School students may submit articles and letters to the editor, the publication of which is subject to approval by the student editors. All articles and letters selected for publication are subject to being edited for length, clarity and appropriate language.

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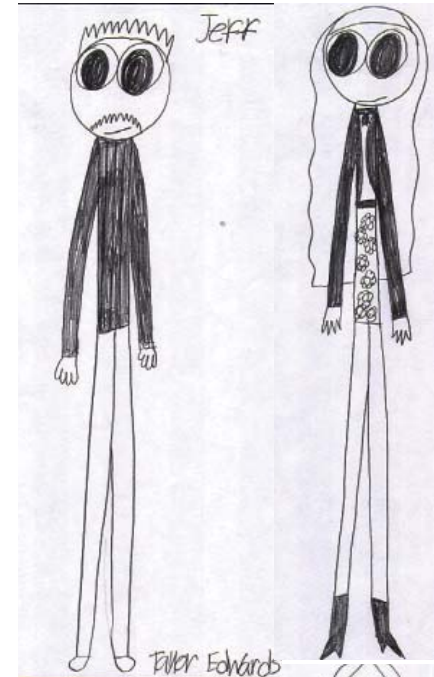
Nuclear Weapons in Iran

BY Tomer Canaan '12

On November 8, 2011, a United Nations report was released that reaffirmed one of the biggest threats to the US and the majority of the world. The Iranian government, confirmed by the UN, is on the verge of nuclear weapon capabilities. Iran is one of the United States' biggest threats. If Iran manages to build up a stockpile of nuclear warheads, we may see a nuclear showdown.

Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has pitched countless insults towards the US and other democratic nations in the UN and other international forums. His hate for the US would put the United States in imminent danger if Iran should gain nuclear weapons.

Diplomats and intellectuals have debated the Iranian nuclear threat for several years. The Iranian government has claimed that Iran has established nuclear facilities with the intent of creating nuclear energy. The UN report contradicts this claim, finding "credible evidence" of a military program within the nuclear facilities. Iran is not fooling anyone, but some do scholars believe that it is Iran's right, as a sovereign nation, to have nuclear weapons. Iran should not be allowed to have nuclear weapons under any circumstances. The Iranian government is extremely unpredictable and unstable. It should also be noted that the Iranian government does not have many allies in the world, which makes them even more dangerous. Ahmadinejad is an erratic dictator, and would only use nuclear weapons to cause havoc for many countries. Furthermore, Iran doesn't need nuclear weapons. There are no imminent nuclear threats to Iran or the Iranian people. Iran's race to own nuclear weapons is a simple way for the country to become a future international superpower. The American government needs to recognize the severity of the Iranian nuclear threat. The Israeli government has already hinted at a possible airstrike against Iran's nuclear facilities. However, this will only be a temporary solution to an issue that will last as long as Ahmadinejad is still in a power position. An Israeli airstrike will also increase preexisting tensions between Israel and almost every country in the Middle East. Sanctions, embargos, and all other negotiations have failed against the Iranians. It seems that the only other choice that the American government as well as Israel has is a military one. Only a military measure will be successful against the Iranian nuclear threat.



Pictured: Members of Occupy New Haven. Clockwise from top left are Jeff Silks, Ina Staklo '09 and David Elkin-Ginnetti '14. Pictures by Taylor Edwards '13. Occupy New Haven is one of the largest physical Occupys remaining in the country.



The Explosion Of Occupy

BY David Elkin-Ginnetti '14

On December 17th, I went to Duarte Street in Manhattan, New York to be with Occupy Wall Street for the day. We were trying to occupy a public space- in this case, a vacant lot on the corner of Trinity Church. The sense of community and solidarity was incredible. Although I am not a New Yorker, Occupiers welcomed me with open arms. This is what Occupy, from Occupy New York to Occupy Wall Street, is really about. We are reclaiming community and public spaces. We are trying to make our voices heard. Human beings have the potential for incredible compassion and empathy. We have grown manipulative and individualistic. What do we want for our country? What do we want for our planet? Should we have equal access to resources, or should money control our lives? I want a true democracy. That's why I

NEWS SHORTS

The Toad That Makes You High

BY Thomas Mieles '13

In October 2011, a Kansas City man was arrested for possessing a peculiar drug: a toad. When the venom of a toad is dried and smoked, a hallucinogenic effect occurs. The venom contains a hallucinogen called bufotenine that the toad creates when it is angry or scared.

A Typographical Error

BY: Stephanie Arroyo '12

Typo leads to the election of the wrong candidate. It was a simple mistake. James J. Butler was the one who had 1,526 votes in the race for the Board of Apportionment of Taxation, In Derby Connecticut. But tragically his son named James R. Butler was the one who won. It's actually very funny. Someone put an "R" instead of a "J." It gets even better, it also turns out that they both live in the same address. They also share the same birthday. "I was the one they nominated. My son wants nothing to do with this," James told the Connecticut Post. His son, also named James, was the lucky one who was officially elected to the office. That's so great, right? But not for James (His father). I'm getting confused myself. Democrats could appoint his father to replace him. They're going to try to get this mess cleaned up. This story is just hilarious. People seriously need to stop naming their kids after them.

Teen intoxicated over Breaking Dawn

BY Daisy Gomez '14

On November 21. Olivia Ornelas, a fan of the Twilight Saga, wanted to go see the new movie Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn. Like any other Twilight Saga fan she wanted to go see it with her boyfriend. Like most of the boys, her boyfriend didn't want to go see it because he thinks is "so boring." Upset, she decided to intoxicated herself with alcohol. Olivia Ornelas was found intoxicated in a ditch off Route 71 and was charged with DUI and unlawful consumption of alcohol by a minor. She was released from custody Saturday after posting a \$300 bond.

School Bus Driver Gets DUI

BY Joyce Kinity '12

A school bus driver faces DUI charges in New Jersey after students called their parents on their cell phones to report their bus driver's reckless driving. The students informed their parent that their bus driver was swerving and dozing off behind the wheel. Carole Crockett, 46, faces 25 counts of DUI with a minor, driving under the influence on school property, disorderly conduct and 25 counts of endangering the welfare of a child. She was arrested at Holly Hills School on Monday afternoon. Crockett took a breath test and was registered with a blood alcohol level of .25%. The Highway Safety and Communications organization reports that is a crime in all 50 states to drive with a blood alcohol level over .08 %.



Terrorist in Action

BY Ameia Cato '12

In a video statement, Jose Pimental told police that on Saturday, he had been about an hour away from completing a test bomb before he was arrested. Pimental was accused of plotting to bomb police and post offices in New York City when the U.S. troops returned home. Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced the arrest of Pimental at a conference Sunday. The Mayor described Pimental as "A 27-year-old al-Qaida sympathizer" motivated by resentment of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq. Police had to move quickly to arrest Pimental, as he was ready to carry out his plan.

Ten years after 9/11, New York City remains a prime terrorism target. Bloomberg said that at least 13 terrorist plots have targeted the city since the 9/11 attacks. However, no attack has been successful. The charges accuse Pimental of conspiracy going back to at least October 2010, and include first-degree criminal possession of a weapon as crime of terrorism, and soliciting support for a terrorist act. He was held without bail at his arraignment later Sunday. Pimental confessed to building bombs and waging war against the United States, saying that he had aspirations to assassinate politicians and government workers, WNBC reported.

Mother Loses Custody of 200 Pound Child

BY Daisy Gomez '14



In Cleveland Height, Ohio, a three-year-old weighing more than 200 pounds has been removed from his family and placed into foster care. After county social workers said his mother wasn't doing enough to control his weight.

The Cleveland 8-year-old child is considered severely obese and at risk for health diseases as diabetes and hypertension. Sadly, in the US, about two million children are considered obese, weighing significantly more than what's considered healthy.

They are trying to make it seem like the child is unfit, like I don't love my child," the boy's mother said. "Of course I love him. Of course I want him to lose weight. It is very hard, but I'm doing my best." A spokeswoman says the county removed the child because caseworkers saw his mother's inability to reduce his weight as medical neglect.

County workers were alerted when the boy's weight early last year after his mother took him to a hospital for breathing problems when sleeping. He wears a mask at night that eases and monitors his breathing. Agency Administrator Patricia Williams said "He was diagnosed with sleep apnea, which is characterized by pauses in breathing during sleep and can be weight-related."

A public defender, Sam Amodeo, challenged Monday that the custody removal was unjustified based on the contention that the boy is not in immediate danger. "We don't see there's that kind of requisite danger," Amodeo said. But for now, the boy is living in a foster home.

Features

A Passion For Teaching

BY John Branch '12

In the lives of high school students, teachers' lives often seem to be static: they're the folks who've settled in to a cycle where we come into their room for an hour, they teach, and we leave. Mr. Touissant, a new teacher, is proof of just how wrong our perceptions can sometimes be.

Born in Haiti, Mr. Touissant has since lived both in Europe and in other spots in the Northeastern United States. Though he hasn't been to Haiti in 22 years, he still has extended family there. He started becoming interested in teaching while living in Europe (where he spent twelve years). After teaching himself English as an adult, he began to help other friends of his who were struggling to do the same. Through this experience he found a passion. Over time, it "Became a vocation," he says. "I discovered that I love to teach."

Nothing happened instantly; the road to his new career was, in some ways, a long one. For a time, he worked at an airport as a baggage handler. But eventually he did find himself in a classroom, teaching French and Spanish to students at Queens College in New York City. In college, he says, classes were different: "As a student, you were considered an adult."

Most recently, he was teaching Spanish to middle school students in Norwalk. Now he teaches several Spanish classes at Cross. While he stresses that he loves teaching, no matter what the level, he does prefer the high school environment, at least so far. It strikes a balance between the distance of college classes and the intimacy of middle school. "The teachers are all really open," he says. And the same can be said about Touissant: his door is open to those who need him, and he always seems up for a friendly conversation.



Straight From Da Bronx

BY Suge Zhang '14

"Education can be fun. It's not a burden. Everyone has the right to have a solid education" is the opinion of Ms. Emily Jones, a new science teacher at Wilbur Cross. Ms. Jones currently teaches Physical Chemistry. She decided to become a teacher in her senior year of college as part of "Teach For America," a nonprofit organization that aims to eliminate education inequity in inner-city schools. Before coming to Wilbur Cross, she worked in Bronx, New York as a middle school science teacher. Ms. Jones is very glad to teach at Wilbur Cross. She enjoys seeing different people and sharing her knowledge with students in a fun and fresh way.

Mr. Fee: The Man Behind the Ponytail

BY Tatiana Diaz '12 and Javieska Acosta '12

You may know him as the teacher with the ponytail, the guy with the pie, or if you're Senior Jordan Moye, someone who apparently resembles a "used car salesman". We know him as the sarcastic, funny English 4 teacher, Mr. Fee. "There's never a dull moment," says Fee when asked about what's the hardest part of teaching. "There's always something going on. You have to have energy even on days you feel exhausted."

Mr. Fee graduated from Guilford High and later attended UCONN with a double major in History and English. He then went to Central Connecticut State University for teaching.

After a few minutes of thinking, he shared with us a success story about a student he had last year that wasn't very big on education. Mr. Fee worked with him all year and recently got some good news. "I got an email from him telling me he was attending college. That was pretty cool."

We couldn't leave without asking, "What's the story behind the ponytail?". "There was someone who told me I could never be a successful male teacher with long hair. So I decided not to cut it." Looks like someone was wrong.



Coronation 2011

BY Faith Green '14

Cross Coronation 2011 was the very first Coronation I have ever attended. I was very excited to go and it turned out to be a night to remember! Everything was very last minute for me: I'd just picked up my dress a few hours before attending the dance and picked up my ticket the day before the dance. When I first arrived at Coronation, it was better than I expected. It was nice and very well organized. I enjoyed the food, the music, and there was NOTHING that would ruin my time. I had a wonderful night.



Wilbur Cro



Coronation 2011

BY Lital Avni-Singer '12

When asked about Wilbur Cross Coronation, students and teachers will often say something along the lines of "it's certainly an experience." Coronation 2011 held up to the standard. In the past, the pre-coronation traditions: the campaigning and crowning of Mr. and Miss Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, and Cross, have come second to an overwhelming, glamorous, explosive dance itself. But after years of minimalism hung throughout the school, sparse decorations in the cafeteria, and scanty festivities passed out to strangers in the hallways, the 2011 competitors for school, particularly those for Miss Cross, finally stepped up their game.

It takes a brave soul just to put yourself in the running for a class title. Candidates for Miss Cross, Elisha Brown, Shanesha Ross, Allie Scasino, Susanna Coln, Keila Caraballo, Jazmin Antrum, and Ayanna Belle took that initiative another. Posters with patterns, vibrant colors and glitter lined the whiteboards and boards of every classroom. Walking through the doors of the cafeteria was like entering a pink Miss Cross wonderland, brimming with streamers, photocopied slogans, and exclamation points. In the halls it was never hard to find someone wearing a prom t-shirt with one of those girls' faces plastered on the front. The student body offered a different sugary delight every day; the variety of colorful desserts provided for the candidates was truly impressive. These campaigns were, to put it simply, over-the-top. Between that and the abundant success of the new institution of "spirit week," the weeks leading up to Coronation buzzed with more Wilbur Cross High School spirit than I have ever seen in my more than three years as a student.

Interestingly, the dance itself was not exactly as overwhelmingly enthusiastic as it has been in years past, and as it was built up to be. There was a smaller turnout than expected; the gym was not a complete heap of shiny dresses and button-down shirts. In a simultaneous mass, it was only a partial heap of this sort. And having a line on over the emptier part of the gym spilling onto the dance floor did not help. Underwhelming. But this lack of overflowing enthusiasm was somewhat redeemed by the vivacious attire wrapped tightly around every girl at the event. The clothing competition never fails to achieve its goal of throwing glam and sheen in the faces of those surrounding, and making the teachers and administrators present sufficiently uncomfortable. This year's dresses did not disappoint. I have never before been a room full of many sequined, curve-hugging frocks. The light refracting off of them made the atmosphere satisfyingly over-stimulating, making up for the substandard dancing. Over all, Wilbur Cross Coronation "experience" was fulfilled. Watch out class of 2013, there's a lot to live up to.

Ayudando a tu Comunidad: Hospital Yale-New Haven

POR Jesus A. Morales-Sanchez '14

En noviembre comencé mi trabajo voluntario en el Hospital Yale-New Haven. Fui asignado a la Unidad de Cuidado Intensivo Cardio-Torácica. En dicho trabajo soy el encargado de contestar teléfonos, llevar objetos a las enfermeras y atender a los pacientes en caso de que necesiten algo.

Sin duda una de las experiencias mas agradables en el corto tiempo que he pasado en el hospital fue cuando una paciente, cuyo nombre no puede ser revelado debido al derecho a la privacidad, me pidió de favor que ordenara su cena. Sin duda fue una tarea simple, pero el simple hecho de que agradecerme posteriormente, logro hacerme sentir bien.

Sin embargo todas mis experiencias han sido agradables sino comicas. En varias ocasiones llegue a pensar que un hospital podría ser aburrido y sin chiste para alguien que trabaje ahí. Que equivocado estaba... El primer día, fue bastante inusual, y sucedió algo que no esperaba: Las enfermeras me habían indicado el modo adecuado de contestar el teléfono en la unidad. Hubieron varias llamadas, secretarias pidiendo autorización para dejar pasar a los familiares de los pacientes, enfermeras tratando de localizar a otras. Todo lo que se puede esperar en un hospital. Hasta que un señor llamó, solicitando su estado de cuenta del recibo eléctrico. Fue muy confuso y decidí darle el teléfono a la enfermera que estaba alado de mi. Ella solo sonrió, y buscando como resistir el impulso de reírse solo dijo: "Lo siento señor, este es un hospital". Sin duda, fue un momento bastante gracioso.

Hoy sé que esta ha sido una de las mas gratas experiencias en mi vida, y espero continuar con ella por mucho mas tiempo. También la recomiendo para bastantes estudiantes de nuestra comunidad. Las horas hechas en el hospital, cuentan como servicio comunitario (necesario si están interesados en The New Haven Promise). El hospital cuenta con un programa de servicio voluntario durante el verano. Las aplicaciones están abiertas a todos los adolescentes mayores de 15 años con autorización de sus padres y/o tutores. Si están interesados acudan a la pagina oficial del Hospital Yale-New Haven www.ynhh.org , o llamen al 203-688-2297.



Helping your Community: Yale-New Haven

BY Jesus Abraham Morales Sanchez

In November, I began doing volunteer work at Yale-New Haven Hospital. I was assigned to the Cardio-Thoracic Intensive Care Unit. I am responsible for answering phones, carry items to the nurses and assisting patients if they need something. Undoubtedly one of the most enjoyable experiences in the short time I spent in hospital was when a patient asked me to order her dinner. No doubt, it was a simple task, but when I was thanked, it made me feel good.

This is not to say, though, that my experiences have all been as gratifying. I used to think that a hospital could be boring to someone who works there, but evidently, I was wrong. The first day was quite unusual. The nurses had told me the proper way to answer the phone in the unit, and I was working on them for the first time. There were several calls: secretaries asking permission to let in the relatives of patients, nurses trying to locate others, and pretty much everything else you would expect at a hospital -- Until a man called, asking for the balance on his electricity bill. It was very confusing, so I decided to give the phone to the nurse who was next to me. She just smiled, and resisting the urge to laugh, said, "Sorry, sir, this is a hospital." It was a pretty funny moment.

Today, I know that this has been one of the most pleasant experiences of my life and I hope to continue with it for much longer. I recommend it to many students in our community. The hours made in the hospital count as community service (which is necessary if you are interested in the New Haven Promise). The hospital also has a volunteer service program during the summer. Applications are open to all older than 15 years with parental/guardian consent. If you are interested, go to the Yale-New Haven Hospital website at www.ynhh.org or call at (203) 688-2297.

Ms. Josie Martin

BY Emmanuel De La Cruz '12

The minute you begin to do what you want to do, it's really a different kind of life. Have you ever heard of Ms. Josie Martinez? Sometimes people say things happen for a reason, and I think that's true. When I first met Josie Martinez, I had no idea how well she would be and how much of an influence she would have on me. Ms. Josie Martinez, was born in the state of New Haven, one day she decided to leave her family and head straight to New Haven searching for new adventures and opportunities. After a long time being separated from her family in New Haven, about 6 years, she returned for two reasons. One being her son and the other being her husband. Of her life and the reason for her happiness is her granddaughter.

When Ms Josie Martinez made the decision to leave, her family may have thought they had lost her, but things happen for a reason. And life goes on no matter what.

"People are worth for what they have and not for what they have"

This's the phrase that people use to know, when they grow up. Ms. Josie Martinez was working as a secretary for Betsy Moore, a high. At the same time, making a good living from her professional work with Ms. Moore, now she is of cross. After 3 months there she was referred to cross. Working in the G-Hospital with Mr. Ramos, and Ms. Gian.

Ms. Josie Martinez is one of the reasons that no matter what she don't lose. But if you ever need help of course she will help you because, the greatest persons are composed of; Honesty, sincerity and with a good life. Life has 2 ways, the one that you want to live or the other one that people want you to live.

Life is always made of surprises. We are waiting for us, we can be the persons that this world need or we can be those kind of persons that this world don't want.

So take the time to put your name at the top of your list, but always watch the people that is around you. You can fill your life with surprises.



2011 Rewind

BY Sophie Dillon '13

GLOBAL



ARAB SPRING

Opposition to dictators breaks out suddenly around the Middle East. Revolutions have happened in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya (an entire civil war, this year, concluding with the murder of dictator Gaddafi), Iraq, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, and many more.

WORLD'S FIRST ARTIFICIAL ORGAN TRANSPLANT

An artificial windpipe coated in stem cells.

WORLD'S POPULATION DECLARED 7 BILLION

by UN. Massive freak-outs ensue.

TSUNAMI DEVASTATES JAPAN

A 9.1 magnitude earthquake and tsunami hit Japan, leaving a death count of 15,822, a missing count of 3,926, and four nuclear power plants in a state of emergency.

THE ROYAL WEDDING

An estimated 2 billion people tuned in on April 29 for Will and Kate Middleton. Pippa wears white, hats go down in infamy, Princess Diana's name is thrown around a lot.

FAMINE DECLARED IN SOMALIA

EU BAILS OUT PORTUGAL

Greece's economy in the toilet.

NATIONAL



OSAMA BIN LADEN KILLED

Leader of Al-Qaeda killed in Pakistan by US Troops.

OCCUPY WALL STREET

Starts in Zuccotti Park and spreads to all 50 states—a new kind of political movement.

AMERICA LOSES SOME GREATS:

Elizabeth Taylor, 79
Amy Winehouse, 27
Steve Jobs, 56

WATER ON MARS

NASA finds photographic evidence of possible water on Mars.

NASA ENDS SPACE SHUTTLE PROGRAM

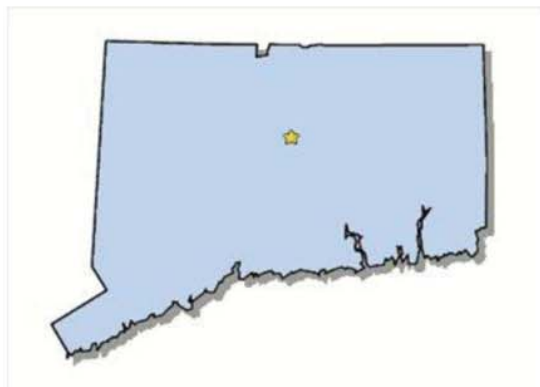
AND THE PLOT THICKENS

Republican Presidential candidates rise as the race begins with sexual assault allegations, racial slurs, and a bumbling Rick Perry. Bitter partisanship continues to boil.

UPENN SCANDAL

Retired football coach Jerry Sandusky charged for multiple accounts of rape, current coach Joe Paterno found to have been aware for years. Riots erupt at Paterno's firing.

LOCAL



MOUNTAINS OF SNOW

Ridiculous amounts of snow fell in the beginning of 2011, cumulating in Snow Days like never before.

RIVERS OF RAIN

Hurricane Irene blows through the United States, a storm with a \$10-15 million price tag.

DESTEFANO GETS A 9TH TERM IN OFFICE

To the surprise of absolutely no one. If anyone was wondering, incumbency is still powerful.

SHAKING UP CROSS

This will be our first year with the Freshman Academy and Advisory Programs.

Lectures Are Fun

BY Kiana M. Hernandez '??, Johanna Arroyo '??, Briana Joseph '??

Lectures are fun! They are short and interesting and absolutely don't make you want to go to sleep. At least, if your lecturer isn't one who likes babbling about the old days in the 1920s when he or she is supposed to be lecturing you about a missile crisis that happened a good thirty to forty years later. Lectures aren't boring if your lecturer is Mr. Ken Warren, a professor at Southern Connecticut State University who teaches Journalism and Communication. He strings humor and sarcasm throughout his lecture, keeping it interesting as well as amusing. He both criticizes and praises the various jobs available to the future generations of the country, keeping one on the edge of their seat, curious as to what he will say next. He also mocks and taunts celebrities, making them seem entirely human rather than some foreign, odd living things that will forever be out of our grasp. Mr. Ken Warren is, in his own right, a genius lecturer.

Most people and teachers say that lectures are the wrong way to go if you want to get a point across and the right way to go if you're trying to put your students to sleep. However, the case is not the same for this professor. On top of knowing exactly what he's talking about, he gives you real insight into the professional world, especially when it comes to journalism and public relations, two professions in which he has spent a good portion of his life practicing. He doesn't baby you, he tells it to you straight: you're going to be all alone in the cold land of the professional world. Your parents aren't going to help you out – not because they don't want to, but because they can't really do anything to help you out in your profession. In order to get somewhere in your field, you have to make yourself known. Mr. Warren stressed the idea that people wanted experience more than anything else. Education counts, but experience counts just as much. What is education if you cannot do the job anyway due to lack of experience? Mr. Warren encourages getting out there and owning your name, using the internet, and putting yourself out there to the world in order to get the experience that you needed under your belt.

His lecture was about the cold, cruel professional world. Only an hour later did the topic switch to the much broader, even colder, life-based world. Mr. Brochin's seminar wasn't a boring lecture either. As a matter of fact it wasn't a lecture at all. Mr. Brochin instructed a class on photojournalism – classic photojournalism at that.

His pictures rarely held captions or even a slight amount of information, yet the theater of students were captivated by the strong messages that the images displayed. All of the images were over thirty years old, and yet they still showed the dark world that has lasted into the twenty-first century. There were images of bloody murders, children holding toy hand grenades, transvestites getting ready for a night out, a mother caring for her paralyzed, mute, deaf and blind child out in Japan. Mr. Brochin's seminar was a horror experience, not because of how he taught it, but because of what was seen. The images are enough to send chills down even the most heartless person's spine. His seminar, images, and PowerPoints gave insight into how cold and cruel the world was, is, and unfortunately always will be. He barely gave much information on the photos as well, telling his audience to describe rather than assume what was going on in the picture, a skill he claims is hard to master. One would think that doing something such as this would be so boring and annoying that they would get up and walk out of the room. However, rest assured that his seminar, although horrifying and shocking to the pure-minded, "Everything's All Good in America" individual, is actually quite enjoyable as well as a good experience.

The before mentioned seminars, while seeming horrendous and way too fun to be educational, actually had the potential to, and did, teach quite a lot. There is not a doubt in the world that lectures can be fun. Sometimes it's not the subject of the lecture, but rather how the lecturer engages you and gives you their undivided attention.

Bodies & Words: Heart of the Story

BY Tatiana Diaz 12' & Javieska Acosta



At the heart of every story are the sources that breathe life into it. On Friday, November 17th, Ms. Helen Bennett taught us exactly that. The Bodies & Words seminar took place at the SCSU 29th annual High School Journalism Day gave us a different perspective on journalism. Ms. Bennett, who is a New Haven Register reporter, now teaches journalism at SCSU.

During the seminar, she gave us tips on how to become a better reporter. Some tips included: No "yes" or "no" questions, while interviewing, make them feel comfortable, start a conversation before the interview and lastly, always have a pen and paper.

To put our knowledge to the test, we gave us an actual police report on a robbery that occurred two weeks ago. We had to use our reporter skills to get the information we needed from the right people. Using teamwork and her useful tips, we managed to get the information we wanted. Overall, our trip to Southern Connecticut State University was a learning experience that allowed us to see journalism in a whole new light, especially of getting to the heart of the story.

Hours
Mon-Sat
7 am-7 pm
Sun
8 am-5 pm



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Born On The Fourth Of July (1989) directed by Oliver Stone

BY Aneurin Canham-Clyne '15

Born On The Fourth July is an interesting movie, combining solid direction by Stone, a decent story, and a passionate performance by Tom Cruise to create a mostly enthralling movie. Stone utilizes good camera work, interesting color, lighting and sound to engage the viewer. Particularly interesting are the uses of smoke, faded colors, and the dulled sound of firecrackers during the Fourth of July parade and fireworks scene in the beginning of the film, these effects combine to produce a scene that appears to suggest the chaos and frightening aspects combat without showing a combat soldier. The most powerful aspects are the film are the sections illustrating Ron Kovic's childhood and combat service. After Kovic (played by Tom Cruise) leaves the veterans' hospital, the movie becomes a bit jumbled. Use of the same music causes boredom in the wee hours of the movie, which seems a bit too long and stops engaging the audience after a while. Mediocre writing limits Cruise's otherwise powerful performance. The film is entertaining, well-acted, and well-directed, but some serious flaws limit its appeal. I rate this film a 7 out of 10

Album Rankings

BY Quiesha Ham '14

Tha Carter IV Lil Wayne	5 Stars
Take Care Drake	4 Stars
21 Adele	5 Stars
When the Sun Goes Down Selena Gomez	3 Stars
Unbroken Demi Lovato	4 Stars
#1 Girl Mindless Behavior	4 Stars
4 Beyonce	5 Stars
Whatever Hot Chelle Rae	3 Stars

Sports

Will Packers go 16-0 or Colts go 0-16?

BY Brad Watson '13

From week one on, the Green Bay Packers have been running over their competition with ease. With their stifling defense and high octane offense, it seems like no teams are capable of stopping them. With an 11-0 record this year, they are the only team remaining in the NFL with an undefeated record. On the flip side, guess who is the only team remaining in the NFL with no wins? If you guessed the Indianapolis Colts, you're most certainly right. With their star quarterback sidelined by injuries, they have not been playing inspired football to say the least. Through 12 games they've come close, but still haven't won a game. So which scenario is more likely to happen: the Packers going 16-0 or the Colts going 0-16?

From the looks of the Colts remaining schedule, it looks like a win will have to wait a few more games, maybe even next season. Their next opponents include New England, Baltimore, and Tennessee, all of which have winning records. Two are the leaders in their divisions. So, the future does not look bright for the Indianapolis Colts. Other than the fact that they could be trading Peyton Manning and getting the first overall pick in the 2012 NFL draft, prospected to be Andrew Luck, what else could go wrong for this team?

On to the Packers. They seem to be the team everyone has rallied behind and wants to see complete that perfect season strong. Adversity comes along with winning 11 games and losing none. You start appearing in the lime light so much that you tend to play sub-par football, while opponents consistently bring their 'A' game. Can the Packers do it? Yes, they most certainly can, with a remaining schedule against the Giants, Raiders, Chiefs, Bears, and Lions. It's almost a giveaway season of wins. Aaron Rodgers, once second string quarterback (behind Brett Favre), now the leader of the explosive Packers offense, is shattering records left and right.

But don't listen to me, you decide who which scenario is more likely to happen. Will the Packers go 16-0, or will the Colts go 0-16?



Freshman Seminar - Youth Empowerment Seminar

BY Charle Perez '15

To me, freshman seminar isn't just another class. Freshman seminar has meant change. It's meant embracing something new that really can help you learn to cope with life and life in high school. Some people don't like Freshman Seminar, I have to admit when I first was in the class I didn't like it either. But as it went on I started to really think about what Pear and Bambi (the teachers) were trying to say to us about being button proof and about making what some situations could be generally translated into a problem an adventure. I think that's what most people don't realize. Freshman Seminar has really helped me to try to better my relationship with myself. I better understand the connection that it takes to understand yourself to better understand and care for others. So when your time comes or if you're in this class now just say YES! say YES to bettering your self! Say YES to improving your state of mind! Say YES to embracing new things. Say YES to the Youth Empowerment Seminar! Say YES to succeeding in life! Say YES!

Mi Grupo de Freshman Seminar

POR Adriana Contreras '15

En el auditorio, las dos maestras de "Freshman Seminar", nos enseñan muchas cosas. Un ejemplo de esto son las técnicas de respiración y como compartarnos. Tambien nos enseñan como energizar nuestro cuerpo y como relajarnos. Cuando nos reunimos en grupo ponemos a jugar entre todos, las maestras son muy divertidas con los estudiantes. Tambien enseñan como confiar en otras personas y como nos sentimos acerca de otra persona y sus compañeros.

Freshman Poetry

Time on Earth
Together
Individual
Movement
Engaged

-Eric

Breath = Awareness = Energy

Therefore take breath
Therefore got air in body
Therefore can keep awareness
Finally
I have POWER

-Cl

Breath is taken.
Awareness Gain It
Energy Feel It. Set It.

-Marilyn

