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

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

Community policing is comprised of three components: community partnerships, organisational transformation, and problem solving.

Here lies the key to successfully stopping 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 its
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 recently who was entered binding arbitration, in which “we got hammered,” said a Cross custodian. 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.
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.

The Explosion Of Occupy
BY David Elkin-Ginnetti ’14

On December 17th, I went to Duarte Square, Manhattan, New York to be with Occupy Wall Street for the day. We were trying to reclaim public space- in this case, a vacant lot of Trinity Church. The sense of community 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 claiming community and public spaces.

What do we want for our country? What do we want for our planet? Should we have equal rights for everyone, or should money control our lives? I want a true democracy. That’s why I 
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 it’s “so boring.” Upset, she decided to intoxicating 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-Qaeda 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 third weighing more than 200 pounds has been from his family and placed into foster care after county social workers said his weight wasn’t doing enough to control his health.

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

They are trying to make it seem like he 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 that is the task.” A spokeswoman says the county saw an increase in the child because caseworkers saw his inability to reduce his weight as medical.

County workers were alerted when the boy’s weight early last year after his parents took him to a hospital for breathing problems when sleeping. He wears a neck brace that eases and monitors his breathing. Agency Administrator Patricia Pimental 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 Amberger, said Monday that the custody removal was challenged based on the contention the boy is not in immediate danger. “We don’t think there’s that kind of requisite danger,” he 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 into 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.

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.

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 knowledge with students in a fun and fresh way.

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,” 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 she learned about “Teach For America,” a nonprofit organization that aims to eliminate education inequity in America.

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 knowledge with students in a fun and fresh way.
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.

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 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 the overwhelming, glamorous, explosive dance itself. But after years of minimalism, the 2011 competitors for school-wide titles, 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, Samantha, Keila Carabajo, Jazmin Antrum, and Ayanna Belle took that initiative and ran with it. Posters with patterns, vibrant colors and glitter lined the whiteboards and blackboards of every classroom. Walking through the halls of the cafeteria was like entering a pink Miss Cross wonderland, brimming with streamers, photocopied self-exclamation points. In the halls it was never hard to find someone wearing a pro-Miss Cross tee-shirt with one of those girls’ faces plastered on the front. The student body could get a different sugary delight every day; the variety of colorful desserts provided by 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 exhilarating 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-downs, enveloped in a simultaneous mass, it was only a partial heap of this sort. And having the dance spilled over onto the emptier part of the gym spilling onto the dance floor did not help. But this lack of overflowing enthusiasm was somewhat redeemed by the vivacious attire wrapped tightly around every girl at the event. The clothing never fails to achieve its goal of throwing glam and sheen in the faces surrounding, and making the teachers and administrators present sufficiently unimpressable. This year’s dresses did not disappoint. I have never before been a room for many sequined, curve-hugging frocks. The light refracting off of them made for a satisfyingly over-stimulating, making up for the substandard dancing. Over all, the Wilbur Cross Coronation “experience” was fulfilled. Watch out class of 2013, you have 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-Torácico. 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 más agradables en el corto tiempo que he pasado en el hospital fue cuando una paciente, cuyo nombre no puede ser revelado debido a la privacidad, me pidió de favor que ordenara su cena. Sin duda fue una tarea simple, pero el simple hecho de que agradecerle posteriormente, logro hacerme sentir bien.

Sin embargo todas mis experiencias han sido agradables sino cómicas. En varias ocasiones llegué 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 mí. Ella sonrió, 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 más tiempo. También la recomiendo para vastantes 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 Martinez

BY Emmanul 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 Ms. Josie Martinez, I had no idea what she would be and how much of an influence she would have on me. Ms. Josie Martinez, born in the state of New Haven, one day decided to leave her family and head straight to New York, searching for new adventures and opportunities. After a long time being separated from her family, about 6 years, she returned to town. One being her son and the other being 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 do, and not for what they have”

This’s the phrase that people should know, when they grow up. Ms. Josie Martinez was working as a secretary for Betsy Ross High. At the same time, making a good professional work with Ms. Moore, now working for the state 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 those persons that no matter what she don’t look for help. But if you ever need help of course she will be there because, the greatest persons are those with a good heart; Honesty, sincerity and with a good heart. Life has 2 ways, the one that you want to do, or the other one that people want you to do.

Life is always made of surprises. People that are waiting for us, we can be the person that this world need or we can be those kind of person. When Ms Josie Martinez left, both sons were searching for new adventures and opportunities. One being her son, and the other being her granddaughter. When Ms Josie Martinez returned, both sons were waiting for her, about 6 years, she returned for two reasons. And the other being her granddaughter.

Sometimes people say things happen for a reason, and I think there is something in life that would have on her.

Sometimes people say things happen for a reason, and I think that’s true. When I first met Ms. Josie Martinez, I had no idea what she would be and how much of an influence she would have on me. Ms. Josie Martinez, born in the state of New Haven, one day decided to leave her family and head straight to New York, searching for new adventures and opportunities. After a long time being separated from her family, about 6 years, she returned to town. One being her son and the other being 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 do, and not for what they have”

This’s the phrase that people should know, when they grow up. Ms. Josie Martinez was working as a secretary for Betsy Ross High. At the same time, making a good professional work with Ms. Moore, now working for the state 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 those persons that no matter what she don’t look for help. But if you ever need help of course she will be there because, the greatest persons are those with a good heart; Honesty, sincerity and with a good heart. Life has 2 ways, the one that you want to do, or the other one that people want you to do.

Life is always made of surprises. People that are waiting for us, we can be the person 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 on the top of your list, but always wait for the surprises that is around you. You can fill your life with surprises.

Life is always made of surprises. People that are waiting for us, we can be the person 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 on the top of your list, but always wait for the surprises 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 to be 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.

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 humbling Rick Perry. Bitter partisanship continues to boil.

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

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.
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?

Album Rankings

BY Quiesha Ham ’14

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Album</th>
<th>Rating</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tha Carter IV</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lil Wayne</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take Care</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drake</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adele</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When the Sun Goes Down</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selena Gomez</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unbroken</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Demi Lovato</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>#1 Girl</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mindless Behavior</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beyonce</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whatever</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hot Chelle Rae</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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 compartíamos. También nos enseñan como energizar nuestro cuerpo y cómo relajarnos. Cuando nos reunimos en grupos, ponemos a jugar entre todos, las maestras son muy divertidas con los estudiantes. Enseñan como confiar en otras personas, como sentirnos cerca de otra persona y compartimos.

Freshman Poem

Time on Earth
Together
Individual
Movement
Engaged

-Breath = Awareness = Energy

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

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

-Marily