

# DECISION 2010



TIM LEE • COLLEEN ROBERTS • WILL BARTLETT

On Thursday, March 11th, the junior class selected the three candidates for Student Body President for 2010-2011. Speeches were on Monday, March 29th, and the vote will be held on Monday, April 5th.  
Who will you choose?

## Taking It Upon Ourselves to Boost School Spirit

By ROXANNE FEITEL (IV)

If you go to Pingry, it's more than likely you participate in at least one sport during the fall, winter, or spring seasons. Or, if sports aren't your thing, you might act in our plays or play an instrument in the Jazz Band. No matter what your inclination, any athlete or actor can tell you that having an audience of your peers makes the experience more exciting. So I have a request for everyone who has or will participate in a school-sponsored event: support your friends and fellow players and attend their performances.

Perhaps you attended the boys' Varsity Soccer game against Bernards this fall. If, like me, you did so, you were among a number of people, including parents and opposing fans, who stood rows deep in the cheering section of the World Cup field. Boys' Soccer is one of the best examples of a team with

spirited and committed backing from students and parents in the community. Because the team is talented and successful, it's inevitable that people will want to watch them play. But I must wonder, would other teams be just as successful if that many fans came to watch them?

Pingry girls' Varsity Basketball, for example, had the most successful season in their history this winter. Going 21-3 and advancing to the semifinals of the State tournament, their record would be impressive in any arena. Still, the stands were fairly empty throughout the season.

During the state tournament, the administration began sending reminder emails to parents and students about the games, trying to encourage attendance. The Athletics Department even provided free admission despite the usual charge of three or five dollars for students and adults, respectively. It worked, and at-

tendance was up at the games that we were baited to attend.

But this shouldn't be a necessary measure! It's our duty as members of the Pingry community to support all of our peers by showing up and cheering them on. However, for some reason we seem to pick favorites. Boys' Soccer and Hockey games were consistently well-attended this year, while other teams won just as many games and had a fraction of the fans.

So, what can Student Government do to improve this particular problem? Remind your friends that a team is playing later that day, whether or not you play for the team. It's the job of Student Government representatives to serve the best interests of everyone at Pingry. Since Pingry doesn't have cheerleaders, serve as an honorary one. All it takes is one person to get others enthusiastic about something; students, take it upon yourselves to do so!

## Freshmen Freedom: Reorganizing Couches and Locker Locations

By CAROLINE MURPHY (III)

Whether or not you've had a science teacher warn you and your friends about your noise level in the hallway, you're probably aware that freshmen hanging out by their lockers have been reprimanded for disrupting nearby science classes this year. I'm a freshman Student Government member, and I know first-hand that Student Government representatives and teachers have met since the beginning of the school year to discuss possible solutions to the problem. While an additional area for freshmen to spend free time has been suggested, the problem still has not been properly addressed.

The freshmen mainly congregate in the science wing during seventh period and talk and play hacky-sack until the noise level reaches

the point where teachers can't take it anymore. Eventually, school administration and student government decided to give the students the benches near the health rooms to hang out and do work during free periods. However, freshmen ended up not using the area and stayed in the forbidden zone, despite the continued warnings about disrupting classes.

I was one of the students who occasionally found myself gravitating toward the freshmen lockers in the science wing instead of the health rooms on the opposite side of the school. Whether it's the easy access to books from lockers, or pure laziness of not wanting to walk across the school, freshmen usually find themselves in the science wing.

At this point, is there anything the Student Government can do to successfully

address the issue? Maybe, but if so, its members and the school administration need to plan on strategically placing the freshmen lockers and couches in an area of the school where teachers won't mind too much noise.

The fix would also require some effort on the students' part. Teachers are constantly yelling at freshmen for the noise level, but we don't always take the warnings from teachers seriously. It can get repetitive listening to the same teacher yelling at you. Afterward, some students still don't care how disruptive teachers may think they are. It isn't as if the freshmen run through the halls yelling and screaming, but we should just become more aware of our actions and behave better than we currently are.

So is this year's group of freshmen particularly loud and irresponsible? I don't think so, but if nothing is done between this year and next year, I think the school will face the same problem with the new freshmen. The rising freshmen are given new freedoms, but they don't always understand the responsibility that comes along with them. For this problem to be solved, compromises and effort from the school administration, Student Government, and students are necessary.

## The Need to Be More Proactive with Event Planning

By MARISA WERNER (IV)

This year, the Blue Army was started to encourage students to support their fellow classmates by attending their games and spreading school spirit. I believe that we need more groups that "force" students to attend games and watch the plays.

In the fall, specifically, we should have more school-sponsored events, rather than just the Friday Night Lights game. The beginning of the school year is the perfect time for students to catch up with everyone and meet new people. Furthermore, the weather is still pleasant, so we can participate in outdoor activities and take advantage of the warm evenings.

One suggestion discussed in Student Council was having a bonfire so that students could bond and get to know more students in other grades. However, in order for this event to have taken place, we needed to obtain a permit from the town and discuss

it with the Martinsville firemen. We, the Student Government, did not have enough time to plan this event due to Homecoming and other domestic matters, such as cafeteria cleanliness, which unfortunately brought this plan to a halt.

As many of you know, planning for any event takes time and cooperation of a group. So before, we can start planning for fall events, we absolutely need to worry about the problems we have at school first. These problems are

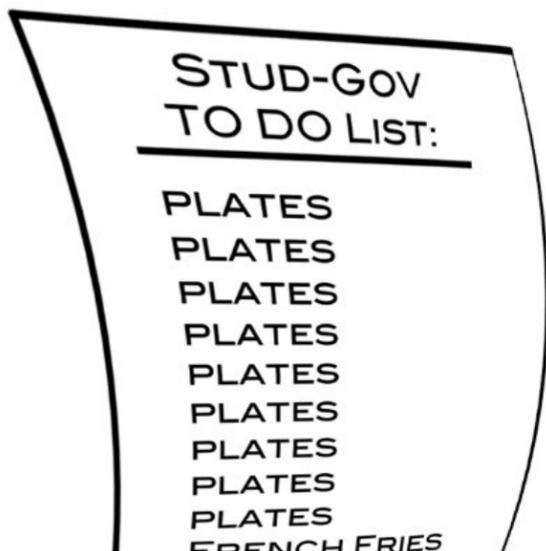
hindering Student Government and are not allowing them to plan events.

As Student Body President elections are approaching, the candidates need to explain to the school that before we begin planning fun events we need to clean up our act at school. The candidates should also explain that as leaders of the Pingry community, they will try to incorporate more events that encourage students to support one another.

I know that all people love to be cheered on and supported, especially by their classmates. Everyone does much better and feels more confident when there are fans screaming and cheering on the sidelines. This alone demonstrates the importance of student attendance and participation in school games and plays.

Since there is so much craziness in the fall at Pingry, we need to start thinking about events for next fall now. Then, we can start planning a date, and the event will have a better chance of hap-

pening. The primary focus should be directed at hosting events in the fall so that the freshmen can get acquainted with their grade, and the upperclassmen can get to know the freshmen and other new incoming students. These events will bring the school closer together, so that everyone can share a sense of unity, acceptance, and recognition in the community.



C. Laud (VI)

### Inside The Record

#### Uniform Unrest

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# The Benefits of Instituting and Enforcing a School Uniform

By LIZ JOLLEY (IV)

Although the idea of getting a uniform has been discussed before, the administration has yet to seriously consider enforcing one. For many years, students have followed a dress code that was written and decided upon by Pingry students. This year, Student Government finally changed a controversial rule in the dress code: boys no longer have to tuck in their shirts unless wearing a button-down dress shirt.

The upside of our dress code is that students have a say in what they do and don't like. For instance, next year, Student Government may try to change the rule against wearing shorts in the fall. Currently, the boys have a much more restricted dress code than the girls in that

they must wear pants or slacks and a collared shirt or sweater, while girls are allowed to wear anything modest that is not made from sweat-pant or denim material.

Yet, despite these changes, the administration and students would still be wise to re-consider the advantages of uniforms.

One immediate benefit would be that uniforms would save parents and students quite a lot of money. Instead of buying an endless number of outfits for the school year, one could buy four to five of each uniform set and wear them all year round. A uniform would stop the problems of short skirts and inappropriate tops, as well as simplify students' already stressful lives. I know I waste precious hours in the morning trying to pick out an outfit.

Enforcing a school wide uniform would also result in an increase in school spirit and unity. The uniform could include a Pingry crest and come in our school colors, blue and white. While uniforms do have the potential to strip students of their individuality, students could stay unique by accessorizing. And, although no longer able to dress how they want to during the school week, students could still freely express their style on weekends and dress down days.

If the school were to enforce a uniform, the idea would have to stem from a collaboration between students and administrators. Overall, a uniform would greatly benefit the Pingry community, removing stress from our already stressful lives and increasing school spirit.

# Pinke Reflects on Presidency and Offers Words of Wisdom

By WILL PINKE (VI)

I'd like to start off this Op-Ed by thanking the Pingry Record for making me write this over my Spring Break. I really appreciate it. And while that may have been sarcasm, doing things like this is what the presidency is all about. I've had to come in on weekends for special events, wake up early in the morning for meetings with the administration, and write numerous Op-Eds and speeches in the midst of all the other work and stress I deal with just by being a regular Pingry student. Most people probably think I just make announcements, but there is a lot that the Student Body President does that you don't know about. I won't mention any more specific examples in this article because I don't want to give away all of the presidential secrets, but I promise they exist.

It is hard to believe that my year as President is almost up. It feels like just yesterday I was the kid that had never been on Student Government before. Now that I have finally experienced it, I definitely can say that it was worth the wait.

Last year, when I made my campaign speech, I had no idea what I was getting myself into, but there was one thing I was right about. I said, "There is no 'I' in President. It is going to be a team effort." Those words could not have been truer. I have had a lot of fun working with my fellow council members and the faculty, learning more about how our school functions and trying to give back to the community that has given me so much.

I came into the presidency with

a lot of goals. I had no idea how many of them were possible or whether or not I would actually accomplish them. To be honest, I did not accomplish most of them, but that is not how I measure the success of my presidency. Although there is more I wish I could've done and more that I probably could have done with more time, I am proud of what has been accomplished this year.

One of my main goals, improving school spirit, was achieved. Starting with the establishment of the Blue Army at the beginning of the year, there has been a marked improvement in our school's sense of community and the support that we show our peers. Spirit Week, homecoming, and Snowball were the most successful that they had been in years. We have more and more student performances at assemblies. SAC has become more involved and has garnered more support than it has in a long time. And school spirit is not over yet, with a very special Spring Fling currently being planned which will be announced soon.

Nobody can accomplish all of his or her goals. Hopefully you kept this in mind when listening to the speeches from this year's candidates. They proposed many ideas, but they will not end up doing them all. But if there are a few ideas that really stand out and that you are passionate about, you should support that person. And next year, speak out and make sure it gets done. Everyone in the community has a voice. Believe me, Student Government hears all of the complaints from the

teachers and students, and we do discuss them.

The part of being President that I have come to value most is the relationships I have made both within Student Government and outside of it. I think that the presidency has become a means for me to grow much closer to the entire school community. In the first week of school, I made a speech at Convocation. My main message in that speech was for everyone to "reach out in the time you have left to as many people at Pingry as possible." I still stand by those words and, now more than ever, I understand the importance of making an effort to build connections with people at Pingry. We have such a diverse population with such amazing and talented people, and I know that I will likely never be a part of a community like ours again.

I am going to miss being President, but most of all I am going to miss all of the people I have forged relationships with here. Being elected President was one of the greatest honors of my life. I know that Colleen, Tim, and Will are all very capable candidates, and I would be happy to see any one of them succeed me. My message to them is to not take the position for granted and to dream big. Think of as many ideas as possible and then decide what is the most important to you and make it happen. It is a very rare opportunity that I have really come to cherish, and I know that whomever wins will too.

Enjoy the campaigns, everyone, = and to the candidates, good luck! I love you all. <3



## The Pingry Record

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## Will Bartlett

### IN HIS OWN WORDS...

Some people may call me the anti-Will Pinke. His platform was based on his lack of experience mixed with his incessant attempts to make it onto Stud Gov. That along with his boyish charm and handsome face made him what seemed like the perfect candidate; that was, until I showed up. Although I'd like to consider my boyish charm more of a rugged sexiness, they're pretty similar in my book, only with mine being better. With bountiful amount of experience on Stud Gov, some as president, this is just a preview of what will catapult me to the top of your brains, the top of your ballots, but above all else, the top of your hearts.

Over the last year or so, I've heard about how much pressure people feel. Between school, sports, and Facebook stalking, I really understand what it's like to cry yourself to sleep due to everything, so if you just keep your eyes locked in here, we can lean on each other and dry those tears together. This pressure that the average Pingry student feels on a day-to-day basis can really add up, especially around the breaks and finals. Some added events to alleviate this pressure would be extremely beneficial for all of us (teachers, that means you, too).

I know as a 7th grader there were a few events that I was extremely excited about, including the Wrap-In and Field

Day. Both came at perfect times when we would all enjoy nothing more than to forget about the upcoming tests and papers. Although this may seem counterintuitive because most of us over-achievers want to study and get our A's, let me explain. First, let's face facts: finals suck. By sacrificing a few hours of study time, we can soak up some rays, oil up our abs, get out in the sun, and meet some of the younger students we may not know. Also, it would provide some school-wide unity, not just at the Martinsville campus, but also at Short Hills.

Going back to getting all those A's, however, brings me to an important cornerstone of what I'm bringing to the table. At some schools, any kid who gets an A- or higher in a class during the year doesn't have to take the final in that class. The only thing that a final could do in this case is lower the overall grade. Eliminating finals for those who excel in the class through the year would take some pressure off of the stressed out Pingry student. Not only does this reward the students who are already doing well, but it also gives the incentive of starting summer early to struggling students.

Now, you may be thinking to yourself, "OMG WILL! How is our summer gonna start sooner? What if I have a final on Thursday afternoon?!"

Well, you're lucky I came



prepared for you, Doubt McDoubterpants. Teachers, cover your eyes, because you may not like this. At a lot of colleges, students are given the option of designing their own schedule for finals. Now, you may not be able to take a final at 11:30 PM on Wednesday night, but you would be able to put any of your finals into the given blocks that we already have. For instance, the Monday morning block would be called "Block #1" and you could place any of your finals into that block, given that you give your teacher a fair amount of advanced no-

tice. Therefore, you could, in theory, be done with finals on Monday, given that you only have to take one or two.

I know that coming into this, even maybe while reading this, people think that I don't take Student Government seriously, but honestly, I do. I just so happen to have a personality that makes people think otherwise. By embodying many of the characteristics that previous successful presidents here at Pingry have had, and armed with these ideas, I feel like I truly can make the 2010-2011 school year the best one possible.

### CANDIDATE SURVEY

#### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "Dumb and Dumber"  
**Album:** "Make It Big" by Wham!  
**Subject (in school):** History  
**Song:** "Fast Car" by Tracy Chapman  
**TV Show:** "Maury"  
**March Madness Team:** Tennessee  
**State:** Liquid  
**Animal:** Ibexes because they're territorial  
**Celebrity:** Alf  
**Place to Shop:** Goodwill  
**Teacher:** Mr. George Feeny  
**Word:** Masticate

#### PICK ONE

"Star Wars" or "Star Trek"? "Jumanji"  
Bon Jovi or Bruce Springsteen? Bruce  
Coke or Pepsi? Coke  
Mac or PC? Mac  
Shawn Johnson or Nastia Lukin? Both. At once.  
"Call of Duty" or "Halo"? Games are for children; I'm a man.

#### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

My favorite place to eat is... impossible, I photosynthesize.  
My guilty pleasure musical artist is... Pat Benatar.  
The last book I read on my own time was... "Where Men Win Glory" by Jon Krakauer.

# Colleen Roberts

## IN HER OWN WORDS...

This year marks my sixth one at Pingry. In my time here, Pingry has become my second home and the members of the community my second family, a statement to which I am sure many of you can relate. My decision to run in this election shows my great appreciation and love for this institution. We are all aware of the doctrine of excellence that Pingry adheres to. As students who continually strive for this excellence, we must take responsibility for our school.

Student Government is one of the various organizations within the community that gives students the opportunity to do so. After participating in Student Government for the past year and a half, I believe that with the correct leadership, Student Government can be a larger force so that our school can reflect our ideas and opinions.

The Pingry community hosts so many different types of individuals, and during my time here, I have made an effort to get to know those who are involved in all areas of Pingry life. The community is made up of people of different backgrounds who excel in different areas of academic, athletic, artistic, and social life. I realize that it is impossible to connect with

everyone, but I try to relate to the different types of students that make up our community. My interconnectedness with the students of our school makes me a very approachable person. The Student Body President holds a position of service for the rest of the school. So I believe it is necessary for the students to feel that the Student Body President is a figure that they can come to easily.

It is hard to dispute that Pingry can be a stressful environment. Student Government exists so that student issues, concerns, and events can be tackled in order to de-stress students' everyday life. While my hardworking mentality and sense of dedication can lead Student Government to become even more effective, at the same time I am a relaxed person who enjoys a balance of work and fun. I have already held leadership roles and succeeded when faced with tasks in Student Government and other groups. So, taking initiative is not something new to me.

I have no problem addressing student issues with the faculty; for example, earlier in the year I discussed the reasoning behind the girl's dress code changes with Mrs. Hearst. Last year, I also wrote a proposal for



our form advisor addressing student concerns towards the controversial middle school lunch policy. These issues related to the details of our daily life at Pingry. I heard the students' concerns and was propelled to, at the very least, retrieve answers to the students' questions about these matters.

Hopefully, this has given

you some insight to my personal view of Pingry and the reasons behind my running for Student Body President. I love being involved in a community that offers so many opportunities to its members and hope to take advantage of one of those many opportunities by becoming your 2010-2011 Student Body President.

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "Fools Rush In"  
**Album:** "Thriller" by Michael Jackson  
**Song:** Right now it's "That's How Strong My Love Is" by Alicia Keys.  
**TV Show:** "Fresh Prince of Bel-Air" Reruns  
**Subject (in school):** History  
**March Madness Team:** If I actually paid attention to watched the tournament... it would probably be UNC.  
**State:** NJ, where I was born and raised  
**Animal:** Dolphin  
**Celebrity:** Channing Tatum  
**Place to Shop:** Target. You could actually live there because the store has everything.  
**Teacher:** Too many  
**Word:** Happiness

### PICK ONE

**"Star Wars" or "Star Trek"?** "Star Wars"  
**Bon Jovi or Bruce Springsteen?** Bon Jovi  
**Coke or Pepsi?** Water  
**Mac or PC?** PC  
**Shawn Johnson or Nastia Liukin?** Shawn Johnson  
**"Call of Duty" or "Halo"?** Do girls actually play these games? I haven't...

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**My favorite place to eat is....**Coldstone!!!  
**My guilty pleasure musical artist is...**wouldn't you like to know.  
**The last book I read on my own time was...**one that I probably never finished reading.

# Tim Lee

## IN HIS OWN WORDS...

I could spend all 700 words of this article bashing the other candidates or talking about myself in the highest light possible, and, as attractive as these two options sound, that just isn't me. So, who am I? I'm a student just like you, working hard to maintain good grades, hanging out with friends, and being a model Pingry student.

I'm not going to put myself in a different category than my fellow classmates. We're all equal, and just because one person is designated as a leader doesn't mean that this person should be in a different league than others. If I do become Student Body President, I can't promise you youth lounges or rooms filled with Nintendo 64's, but I can promise to be an approachable leader who is willing to listen to everyone in the grade, no matter their clique or "popularity."

I'll say it – I'm definitely not part of the "popular" group in my grade, and I am 100% satisfied with my position in the "social ladder." I mean, being well-liked is great and all, but sometimes I feel that the popular group is the only one represented in Student Government. It seems to me that every year, the person elected is part of that group and every year, I wonder the same thing: how is my group of friends going to be represented? All three years I've been at Pingry, I've never been approached for my opinion in any student affairs or events.

So this is my proposal: let there be a leader who can actually represent ALL of the students and their interests, not just those of the popular crew. Let there be someone who can be approached comfortably without concern for ridicule or judgment. I promise you that I can be that person.

I'm caring, nice, understanding, and indifferent to popularity or petty jokes. I can be that leader who can make the change for the entire student body. I can be the one to understand your problems and take them to the "man" (which happens to be a great woman in our case). I'm willing to devote all of my energy to get the changes you desire, to have good relationships with the faculty of our school in order to ensure this, and to establish myself within Student Government.

I don't want to give you some laundry list of cliché goals, but please actually listen to my concerns. I'm not doing this for any sort of recognition; I'm doing this to ensure that I can bring change to the Pingry School. First, I want to make sure that the scheduled "stress-down days" actually work. In the past, stress-down days have been excuses for teachers to schedule more work due for the Monday after. Stress is a killer at Pingry. Every day another unsuspecting student is bogged down by stress...would you like it if hundreds of students were walking around school like



zombies because of stress? Me neither. So, my plan is to schedule these stress-down days strategically, ensuring that there is no homework or tests the next day.

Second, I would like more open discussion of concerns between the faculty and the students. Our community needs to work as a unit. Both students and faculty need to voice their concerns, and both student and faculty need to work together as a community to deal with them. For example, the recent extra-classes-during-CP fiasco was a solely faculty-based decision. What say did the

students have in this? Most of us did not even repeat the important AP classes we were intended to repeat. As a president, I would ensure that issues such as the class make-ups are discussed and agreed upon by both faculty and students.

Of course, I have many other concerns that I want to address, but I have to stop blabbing after around 700 words, and I did give my speech on Monday. So, how about you come talk to me personally about your concerns? I'll always be around with an open mind, willing to make changes.

## CANDIDATE SURVEY

### FAVORITE...

**Movie:** "Out Cold"  
**Album:** "Oracular Spectacular" by MGMT  
**Song:** "Hide and Seek AutoPilot remix" by Imogen Heap  
**TV Show:** Anything that has to do with skateboarding  
**Subject (in school):** Biology  
**March Madness Team:** Georgia Tech  
**State:** Georgia. A lot cleaner than Jersey  
**Animal:** Whatever happens when you mix a jackalope and a rabbit. Wait...?  
**Celebrity:** Peter Chao  
**Place to Shop:** Forget driving to places, the Internet is where it's at.  
**Teacher:** Sra. Godfrey and the Bio department  
**Word:** Om nom nom. It's one word trust me.

### PICK ONE

**"Star Wars" or "Star Trek"?** "Star Wars"  
**Bon Jovi or Bruce Springsteen?** Bruce Springsteen  
**Coke or Pepsi?** I blame my short height on caffeine. Neither.  
**Mac or PC?** PC. The Mac commercial guy scares me.  
**Shawn Johnson or Nastia Liukin?** Nastia Liukin?  
**Call of Duty or Halo?** I hate care packaging. Enough said.

### COMPLETE THE SENTENCE

**My favorite place to eat is...**the Pingry Cafeteria. Om nom nom the food is so appetizing!  
**My guilty pleasure musical artist is...**Korean music: Once you start listening you can't turn back.  
**The last book I read on my own time was...**in a past life; reading is a lost cause.

## What Did You Think of the Candidates' Speeches?



**CHLOE BLACKER (VI)**

*"Colleen Roberts sounded very approachable."*



**HARLEN SHANGOLD (V)**

*"Go small people!"*



**EMILIE MOY (IV)**

*"Will Bartlett had great ideas."*



**YUTO TAKAMOTO (III)**

*"Every time I heard a speech, I wanted to vote for that candidate."*



**CARLY ROTATORI (III)**

*"Funny, but I could take them seriously at the same time."*



**ANDREW MARTIN (IV)**

*"Tim Lee convinced me to vote for him."*

## What Do You Look For in a Student Body President?



**LUKE POUNDER (VI)**

*"Dreams."*



**ELLEN CAHILL (III)**

*"A good role model who's interested in helping the school."*



**CARTER LUCKFIELD (V)**

*"A classy gent."*



**COREY DELANEY (IV)**

*"Someone who's nice, works hard, and has good oratory skills."*



**AARON DAVIS (VI)**

*"Teddy Corvino."*



**MAGGIE MORASH (IV)**

*"Someone who's actually going to get stuff done."*

## What Changes Do You Want to See in the School?



**CAILEE CASSIDY (IV)**

*"Being able to choose my own exam schedule."*



**JOHNNY PFLIEGER (IV)**

*"The school to get rid of pink bricks outside."*



**ASHLEY FENG (V)**

*"Sushi Tuesdays."*



**WILL FISCHER (V)**

*"Better food."*



**RACHEL LIMA (III)**

*"Freshman couches!"*



**TIM LANDERS (III)**

*"Will Bartlett."*