

20-Year Peer Leadership Program Is Temporarily Suspended

By THE EDITORIAL STAFF

In November, the Peer Leadership program was suspended for the first time in its 20-year history.

The suspension was the result of Peer Leaders drinking at an out-of-school party, a violation of the contract that every Peer Leader signs at the beginning of the program.

Rumors of the incident circulated soon after the party, and reached the ears of program heads Dr. Michael Richardson, Mrs. Patricia Lionetti, and Ms. Laura Yorke. "We went to the Peer Group leaders and said, 'People are saying there was drinking where you were, and if anyone did drink at any time during the program, we want you to come forward,'" Dr. Richardson said.

Several Peer Leaders did come forward, according to Dr. Richardson, "and we explored some possibilities." Eventually, Dr. Richardson and Mrs. Lionetti suspended peer group meetings for one

week and the Peer Leaders for two additional weeks as "we tried to separate fact from rumor."

The heads of the program held a meeting with freshmen – and sent a letter to parents – explaining why the program was suspended. The Peer Leaders who came forward also received an extra 25 hours of community service, Dr. Richardson said.

Mrs. Lionetti said, "It's obviously too early to know how the freshmen will behave as seniors, but I hope they see the humiliation this year's Peer Leaders have gone through."

Responses from freshmen, however, were varied. "My opinion of my peer leader, who was suspended for drinking, didn't change. It was good that he confessed, I think, because he told me that he wouldn't have been caught otherwise," one freshman, who asked to remain anonymous, said.

The future of the Peer Leadership program is uncertain, according to Dr. Richardson and Mrs. Lionetti. "We don't know how we're going to change the program, or whether we're going to have a program at all next year," Mrs.

Lionetti explained. "If possible, I would like to continue the program," she added.

In order to prevent future problems, however, Dr. Richardson and Mrs. Lionetti have asked the Peer Leaders to talk to Middle Schoolers about peer pressure.

The issue of school involvement in outside student activities has been a recurring problem, although Upper School Dean of Students Mrs. Joan Hearst said, "We don't want to play weekend police."

"Off-campus activities only become an issue when the health, safety, and well-being of our students are in jeopardy. That's when we start to address such activities with students and their parents," Mrs. Hearst said.

According to Mrs. Hearst, the specific consequences of certain off-campus activities are detailed in contractual agreements for extracurricular activities like school plays, the Peer Leadership program, and sports teams.

"The peer leaders have to sign a contract saying they will not drink," Mrs. Lionetti explained. "But the contract is an evolving thing, and perhaps we were not specific enough about consequences. Ten years ago, we did not even need the contract."

Mrs. Hearst explained the school's disciplinary policy in broad terms. "The administration will ask a student, 'Were you drinking? Yes or no.' And if the answer is yes, we will pass on the student to the appropriate department

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Mr. Nat Conard Will Become New Headmaster in Fall 2005

By CHANTAL BERMAN (V)

Mr. Nathaniel "Nat" Conard, the school's new Headmaster as of July 1, says that "teaching is like a calling for me. My parents were educators, my relatives are college professors, I tutored in college, and it just seems like the natural thing to do."

Mr. Conard, who is currently the Assistant Head for Academics at the Emma Willard School in Troy, N.Y., was picked "because he is a bright, well-rounded, and enthusiastic leader," said Mr. John Holman III, Head of the Board of Trustees' Search Committee. "Nat Conard has dedicated his life to education while developing skills critical to managing a complex organization like Pingry."

Mr. Conard is originally from Vermont, where his parents were cofounders and operators of the Mountain School, an alternative K-12 day school that combined a traditional small schoolhouse education with organic farming. Mr. Conard went on to study biology at Yale University and gained an MBA from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth before beginning his career in education.

After several years of teaching in the New Hampshire Public School System, Mr. Conard began to contemplate an administrative position that would offer him the opportunity to have a larger impact on the overall education system.



C. Berman (V)

Mr. Nat Conard, pictured above, will be next year's Headmaster. He hails from the Emma Willard School in N.Y.

"In New Hampshire I could influence the students on an individual level, but I realized that in order to have an effect on the entire system, I needed to be able to run things," he said.

Since then, Mr. Conard has worked in several administrative positions, including Director of Development at the Chapel Hill School in Massachusetts and his current job at Emma Willard. From these jobs, Mr. Conard says he has drawn experience in fundraising, alumni projects, teaching, and the admissions process – all the foundations upon which, as Headmaster, he will build a lasting relationship with the Pingry community and maintain a "symbolic presence as the main person who

articulates the purpose of the school and represents what is best about Pingry." Being a good headmaster, Mr. Conard believes, is a matter of being accessible and resourceful while maintaining the ideals of the school and understanding the dynamics of the student body, faculty, and administration.

Mr. Conard says he wanted his next step to be a Headmaster position, and he began looking for a K-12 school in the Northeast with strong

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82.4% OF SENIORS APPLY EARLY TO COLLEGES & UNIV.

Mr. MacLellan Says Trend Is "Consistent"

By CAROLINE SAVELLO (VI)

As of November 30, 103 seniors, or 82.4% of this year's graduating class, have submitted early applications to college.

In total, 127 applications were submitted Early Decision, Early Action, or Early Action Single-Choice. Students may apply early to more than one school under Early Decision and Early Action plans, but are limited to only one selection under Early Action Single-Choice.

If accepted, Early Decision applicants are contractually bound to matriculate at that college next fall, while Early Action applications are non-binding.

Early Action Single-Choice (EASC) was instituted two years ago at Harvard College, Yale College, and Stanford

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Committees Complete Extensive Search for New Headmaster

By ADAM GOLDSTEIN (V)

In mid-October, Mr. Nat Conard discovered that he was one of the semifinalist candidates for Pingry's headmaster position. It would be another two weeks, however, until the Board of Trustees came to its final decision – and, in the meantime, Mr. Conard would visit Pingry twice, undergo several interviews, and be the subject of numerous closed-door meetings in specially chosen search committees.

Mr. Conard's semifinalist status was itself a statistical accomplishment; out of 60 original candidates, only six became semifinalists. Despite this competition, the eventual selection of Mr. Conard was unanimous, according to Mr. John Holman, chairman of the Board of Trustees' Headmaster Search Committee.

The headmaster search process began less than a month

after current headmaster Mr. John Neiswender announced plans to retire. According to Mr. Holman, the Board of Trustees convened to create a Search Committee in July, eventually spawning an 8-person group comprised of the chairs of existing Board committees.

The newly formed committee promptly set out to search for a specialized consulting firm, eventually settling on Educators Collaborative, an organization that Mr. Holman said "has a network of headmaster candidates at any time." The firm recommended 60 preliminary candidates, and every member of the Search Committee reviewed each candidate's résumé.

At the same time, each candidate received a 25-page document detailing virtually every aspect of the school, from college acceptance rates to the school's employee benefits. "Every candidate knew what they were getting into," Mr. Holman said, "and the Search Committee only pursued candidates that wanted to come."

According to Mr. Holman, the

Search Committee had no litmus test for candidates' résumés, but was rather looking for a "talented administrator, credible intellectual leader, and a candidate with demonstrable communication skills in the 'Statement of Philosophy'" that each candidate submitted.

With these criteria in mind, the Search Committee narrowed the field of candidates to 12 by September – a process Mr. Holman said was "not very difficult." From there, the committee worked to narrow the lists of candidates to six semifinalists, each of whom visited for a day and a half each in late October.

The committee's schedule went faster than originally planned, Mr. Holman said, in order to pick a candidate before other schools nationwide. This measure was mostly successful, as only one of the six semifinalists accepted a job elsewhere before visiting Pingry.

While at Pingry, the semifinalists were interviewed not only by the official Search Committee,

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Inside The Record



N. Lee (V)

Artist Edward Fausty and his model, Mei, stand in front of "Macro-Mei/Micro-Me," a two sided mural. Mr. Fausty's work is currently exhibited in the Hostetter Arts Center.

New SAT to be given in March

The guidance department believes that Pingry students will perform well on the new writing section on the SAT I. P. 5

Locks of Love

Several Pingry students and teachers have donated their hair to the Locks of Love organization. P. 5

Winter Style & Entertainment

Courtney Jackson (V) praises her UGG boots, while Evan Rosenman reviews the new hit WB series "Jack & Bobby." P. 6

Dr. Pingry Statue Sculpted by Famous Artist

Renowned artist Robert Shure constructed "The Beginning of Wisdom from bronze and 22,000 pounds of granite. P. 7

Fall Sports Wrap-Up

Four teams win state championships in impressive fall season. P. 8

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EDITORIAL

The Rejection of the Rejection Tree

As the first notifications of college acceptances, deferrals, and rejections come in, the senior class feels especially privy to attacks of self-doubt, anxiety, and apprehension. While all recognize that the decisions heaped upon them by the "powers that be" are in no way life-destroying, or even life-altering, our jumpy nerves are not entirely unwarranted. When opening a college letter, one may feel that one's entire being is being validated or, well, rejected.

In the midst of all of this, the seniors have still found ways to enjoy the holiday season, including the 16 foot tall Christmas tree, decorated in tinsel and candy canes, next to the senior couches.

They have also found a way to commiserate and connect with one another. In a tradition that was established a number of years ago, many Pingry seniors hang their rejection letters on the tree. Many in the senior class can even recall memories of the large conifer and its important history from seventh grade.

A few members of this senior class had another idea to sweeten their sorrow – they bought candy canes to hang on the tree to convey their sympathy for those posting their letters.

Unfortunately, the tradition behind our tree – The Rejection Tree – has been spoiled this year. The administration and college counselors have termed the tradition "tasteless" and will not allow seniors to post their college letters on the tree, unless, as they say, they are turned into origami figures or snowflakes.

However, if the hanging of these rejection letters is of the students' own volition and, in many cases, is the best way for these students to cope with mild disappointment, then it seems unfair that we should not decide what we can and cannot broadcast to our peers.

The letters are not taped to the new statue of Dr. Pingry for parents to see every morning, nor are they publicized to belittle or disparage anyone. The intention of posting these letters is not to hurt; rather, it is perhaps the most important way of making light of a situation that should be much less taboo.

Unfortunately, if this editorial affects the consciences of anyone involved in this decision, it will be too late. By the time this paper is distributed at school, most college admissions decisions will have been received. And by the time we return from vacation, the tree will be gone and the tradition's time will already have passed by.

We all more than appreciate everything the College Counseling Department and the school have done for us throughout the application process thus far and are very grateful for the ways in which they have attempted to lessen the pressure during this time of year. But hopefully, for future graduating classes, the school will not be so hard on the seniors and their Rejection Tree.

Proudly Made in the U.S.A.

One clothing company's website actually tells it like it is – "While apparel is a universal necessity that transcends almost all cultural and socioeconomic boundaries, most of our garments are made in exploitative settings." This one company stands above the fray in an effort to break that trend. **American Apparel** is dedicated to non-brand name products made without the use of sweatshops or foreign labor.

In fact, every step of the manufacturing process is performed under one roof, earning them the title of a "vertically integrated" company. The entire process, from designing, to piecing and sewing, and even the photography and marketing, is completed in-house in their Los Angeles factory. Not only do their methods allow for more fairly treated workers, but they have a higher efficiency rating than do large chains like Gap and J. Crew, who have to wait on middlemen in foreign countries.

To see just how widespread outsourcing is, I checked some of my t-shirts' tags to see where they were made. Two identical, though different-colored shirts from Banana Republic (owned by Gap, Inc.) were made in different countries – one from the Philippines, and the other from Cambodia. Likewise, two polo shirts from Abercrombie and Fitch, bought on the same day in the same store, came from completely different continents; one was from Peru and the other from Malaysia.

The pattern continued

through Gap shirts and sweaters (from Indonesia,

Mexico, Bangladesh, and the Philippines) and other name brand garments until I looked at my American Apparel shirts. Both proudly proclaimed in bold letters on their tags to be "Sweatshop free T-shirts" that were "Made in the USA."

Not only are American Apparel's products made in this country, but they are also made by workers who are treated fairly. Wages for their mostly Mexican immigrant employees range from eight to eighteen dollars an hour, and health insurance is available for employees and their families.

A Human Resources department goes over any questions a worker might have about his or her paycheck, and American Apparel works with banks to get their employees free checking accounts. There are also health/wellness and massage consultants available free of charge as well as free public transportation, English classes, and a bicycle-lending program. In fact, American Apparel employees are considered some of the highest paid and best cared for workers in the apparel industry.

In this era of "made in China," outsourcing, and kids working in sweatshops, maybe more companies should follow Amer-

Nadine Reitman (V)
CULTURAL OPINION

ican Apparel's revolutionary steps. Clothing companies like Nike, J. Crew, Gap and many others fall especially short in treatment and pay of their factory workers.

According to sweatshops.org and behindthelabel.org, there have been reports of sexual and physical abuse, unpaid overtime hours, enforcement of twelve-hour workdays, banned unionization, and other violations of safety, health, wage and hour regulations in sweatshops around the globe.

Maybe more companies should follow American Apparel's revolutionary steps.

Gap workers in Cambodia are reportedly paid only 21 cents per hour, and J. Crew factory work-

ers are required to put in 70-80 hour workweeks. And factory laborers for Tommy Hilfiger must work twelve hours per day, seven days a week – in other words, an 84-hour workweek. However, the company claims to require only a 48-hour workweek.

Perhaps the most astonishing figure available, though, comes from Nike. Their long-time endorser, Michael Jordan, makes more money from Nike annually than all their factory workers in Malaysia combined.

There is no way to excuse the atrocities committed by these large corporations in the name of profits, but in the case of Wal-Mart, it is all for low

prices. Wal-Mart sells itself on having the lowest prices around, but they have to make up the difference somewhere – namely, in their sweatshops. Wal-Mart is one of the worst corporations in the business. In fact, sweatshops.org gives them an "F" for abuses in sweatshop employees on their "Retailer Scorecard."

Perhaps it is too optimistic to hope that every major garment maker will suddenly start paying and treating its workers fairly. After all, American Apparel has done the "impossible" in the world of retail – they have kept prices low and steered clear of sweatshops, while becoming very popular. So how did they do it?

It is all about their image. In a *New York Times* article, the company's founder, Dov Charney, explained that, "this is a new generation of young adults...they want to learn something, they want to be happy. At the same time it doesn't feel good when their happiness is based on exploitation."

However popular American Apparel has become, it is far from "the next Gap," as a *New York Times* article quoted Irma Zandl as saying it could become. In fact, this would be impossible since Gap is known to use sweatshops and cheap labor in foreign countries. Another reason for American Apparel's success is its image as a company with good ethics. I'm sure the provocative ads don't hurt either.

However, if each apparel company tried a little harder, and each of us were willing to pay a few cents more for a t-shirt, maybe factory workers in Malaysia and the Philippines could come closer to just eating a good meal.

Source: *The New York Times*

On Political Biases in Classes and Clubs

The presidential election has come and gone, but in its aftermath there still remains one important issue: where do political campaigning, propaganda, and expression fit into Pingry?

Walking through the halls during election week, one was assaulted by a barrage of political propaganda ranging from signs to pins to bumper stickers. There was also the written expression of the school's politics voiced through "Vital Signs."

But if one were to delve beneath the surface of this seemingly balanced campaign, one would find that some aspects were as far from balanced as the weights of an elephant and a donkey.

For example, when I opened the November presidential issue of "Vital Signs," I expected to read articles with clear divisions in favor of one party or another. I was prepared to disagree with some of the arguments, but I was not prepared for the unbalanced number of arguments clearly in support of one candidate.

I found six articles and four cartoons that began or coincided with the opinion along the lines of, "As I watched many Americans continue their support of Mr. Bush, I must admit I felt a growing despair for the misjudgment of my fellow citizens," or, "Decent education is a vital part of a strong country. George W. Bush seems fated to misunderstand

this concept." However, I found only two articles that actually endorsed Bush, and one of them only half-heartedly. Obviously everyone is entitled to his or her own political opinion, but shouldn't both sides of the story be heard?

This is not to say that other aspects of the election at school were fair and balanced. In terms of political organizations at school, I know only of the Grand Old Club, which represents the interests of the school's

young conservative patriots, though I have yet to hear of a club for Pingry's young liberal patriots. And during election week I saw many "W '04" bumper stickers, but no countering Kerry stickers. There was also an attempt to bring a huge Bush/Cheney sign into the auditorium, but no Kerry/Edwards sign in tow. In terms of visual propaganda, Bush was clearly in favor, while Kerry decidedly won the written component of the school's campaign.

To clarify what constitutes an appropriate expression of political beliefs at Pingry, I arranged an interview with Mr. Leef. He said that, to his knowledge, there exists no written policy regarding to what extent teachers and students are allowed to express their political views.

"Certainly the spirit of

Katie Jennings (V)
SCHOOL OPINION

the Honor Code is consistent and applies in all scenarios of any issues with student, faculty, or school life. I think a teacher in the classroom has a responsibility to point out when something they are saying is a political belief or political opinion. Certainly there is a difference

[between] someone in the community wearing a pin on [his/her] shirt that might endorse a candidate and a big sign turning up in the grass courtyard next to the statue," Mr. Leef said. Essentially, there is no regulation on what teachers or students are allowed to say, but they are expected to behave within the bounds of the Honor Code.

When asked about his opinion of written expression of political opinion, Mr. Leef said that he would feel less comfortable in an environment where the publications were stilted one way or another and the alternative viewpoint was not voiced.

The Record welcomes all letters to the editor. Anonymous submissions cannot be printed. Submissions may be edited due to length constraints. Send all correspondence to pingryrecord@yahoo.com.

On this point I agree with Mr. Leef. It is important to have both sides of an argument to promote healthy political competition and discussion. But in our interview he suggested that both viewpoints were equally presented in the past "political season." With this point, I must disagree.

In terms of written opinion and propaganda, the viewpoints were not equally balanced, and I think this is something we must strive for in the future. We need to make sure that everyone sees both sides of the issue. Pingry is an educational environment where kids and adults alike are trying to find themselves and their beliefs, and voice their opinions. It would be unfair for the po-

litical growth of students or teachers to be stunted.

Mr. Leef added that he "wouldn't want a particular class period to be dominated by anyone, student or teacher, just expounding upon their political views. A teacher pointing out that this happens to be [his/her] take on this particular issue in the context of the broader discussion that happens in the classroom is appropriate, as are responses from kids in the class."

We need to pave a road of tolerance, respect, and open-mindedness. Even if you don't agree with what someone is saying, you should still listen to their ideas, and maybe in turn they will help you grow.

CORRECTIONS

From the October 9 Issue

In our October 9 issue, the Editorial Staff incorrectly attributed "New Telescope Opens Up the Skies" (p. 4) to sophomore John Scrudato. In actuality, the article's author was Maggie O'Toole (VI).

We sincerely apologize for the mistake.

Please report all errors and admissions to the Record at pingryrecord@yahoo.com.



The Pingry Record

VOLUME CXXXI
NUMBER 2

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Peer Leaders' Mistakes Make Them Human

By definition, a role model is one who leads others by his or her words and actions. In today's world, one besmirched by temptation and enticement, role models play a vital role in the positive education of our youth. Here, at Pingry, these crucial positions are filled by the senior Peer Leaders.

As much as we'd like to think we can prevent it, the pressures of high school will eventually overpower us. Each of us will succumb, in one way or another, to its irresistible illicit offerings.

Jessica Westerman (III)
SCHOOL OPINION

The distinction of an upright and mature student, however, lies in how he or she deals with the consequences of his or her actions. Furthermore, a respectable Peer Leader is one who is able to set an example for others in handling oneself with honor in the face of a wrong decision.

Clearly, our Peer Leaders, though exceptional students

Peer Leaders prepare us for what we will inevitably encounter some day.

and members of the community, are only human, and cannot be expected to avoid making some mistakes. However, it is their ability to deal with the consequences of these mistakes that sets them apart as Peer Leaders.

As a current Form III student and resident "Peer Groupie," I may say that the Peer Leaders have become prominent role models in the minds of freshmen. Because they themselves have experienced many or most of the social situations we will undoubtedly encounter,

they are able to relate to us on a more personal level. They have the experience with which to advise us on how to handle the situations that they have been faced with. Moreover, by opening our eyes to the "dark side" of high school, they are able to prepare us for what we will inevitably encounter some day.

In light of recent Peer Group activity, the extraordinary qualities of honor and honesty within this select group have shone brightly. Although the decisions made by many of the Leaders may have been hasty and damaging, their ability to admit to their mistakes is what distinguishes them above their classmates as superior role models. It is for this reason that these individuals are upstanding and moral – not because they are flawless human beings, but because they are the Peer Leaders we freshmen have come to know and love.

Clearly, the students of Pingry's Peer Leadership program are a unique group. They are not, however, perfect. No one is. Their imperfections and subsequent knowledge, however, are what allow them to teach others how to handle themselves with a sense of duty and maturity as they progress toward those couches in the Lower Commons.

When Charity Goes Chic, People Lose Focus

Emily Chertoff (III)
CULTURAL OPINION

contribute to the charity.

Giving money to the Foundation is a "good thing," and the bracelets may get people who would not otherwise donate money to charity to give to a good cause. But what happens when the bracelets are not legitimately purchased from Nike? For instance, when the company ran out of bracelets due to popular demand, many people bought them off of eBay for much more than a

If you think you are benefiting the troops, you are probably mistaken.

dollar. Is the money from those purchases going to the Lance Armstrong Foundation? Of course not.

Nike has made the bracelets available once again, but many people who now buy them do not even know where the proceeds go.

I also find it ironic that Nike has suddenly become so charitable, when the company has been accused of violating human rights and working conditions for years. Although CEO Phil Knight insists that the company is for workers' rights, Nike still operates sweatshops in Asian countries with loose labor laws. To that I say, charity begins at home, Phil.

Another example of a "charity chic" fad is the increasingly popular yellow ribbon-shaped "Support our Troops" magnets and stickers.

Many people have one or more stuck to the back of their cars. These magnets were originally sold by the wives of troops in Iraq to help raise money to fill soldiers' wish lists or to help support the family with some extra income. But when the magnets caught on, stores began selling them for much less than the soldiers' wives had, and many stores did not donate any of the profits to the original cause.

It is commendable to want to show your patriotism, but if you think you are benefiting the troops by purchasing one of these magnets, you are probably mistaken. It is true that there are still ways to purchase these magnets from sources with truly altruistic motives, but many people do not like to be inconvenienced with the burden of searching for these sources. Rather, they prefer to purchase the magnets from whoever is selling them cheapest.

Perhaps it would be more beneficial to volunteer your time for one of these charities, rather than just throwing money at them. Instead of buying a "Support our Troops" magnet for your car, why not volunteer to help one of the countless organizations that fill the troops' wish lists? Not only will you receive community service hours, but you will know that you are really going to help our soldiers.

Of course, it's always nice to donate money to charity, and it helps spur further benevolence by offering a token of appreciation in return. However, when the token of appreciation becomes more important than the act of giving to charity, society has a serious problem on its hands.

Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, and Happy Holidays from the Staff of the Pingry Record!



Liberty Has Its Faults, Too

It seems the American controversy over ratings-magnet shows "The Swan" and "Extreme Makeover" was not enough to deter the transfer of the plastic surgery craze across the barrier of the Western world.

China is currently hosting the Miss Plastic Surgery competition, a beauty contest composed only of women (including those who were once men) who have had plastic surgery. The competition is the brainchild of a woman who spent \$13,000 on eleven cosmetic operations before being barred from participating in a traditional beauty pageant.

The "renzaο meu" contestants, or man-made beauties, include a 62-year-old woman and a woman who was a man just three years ago. They look just like any American beauty queen, with teased hair and plunging necklines in a country that less than thirty years ago mandated shapeless, colorless clothing for all its citizens.

The public appearance of such clothing is a result of China's recent lifting of a 54-year ban on beauty pageants, instituted because the government believed them to be indulgent and provocative.

The lifting of the ban is assumed to be a result of China's recent industrialization and the now-booming, five-billion-dollar cosmetics industry. It certainly seems that such a newfound obsession with self-beautification is a result of the advent of commercialism, as well as an influx of American culture. After all, "The Swan"

was first and foremost an American creation.

And thus we must ask ourselves: is the never-ending search for beauty and perfection an inevitable result of highly American capitalist commercialism? And are we now not only pressuring ourselves in our own culture, but transferring such pressure to other countries through our media?

But more importantly, what is the effect of such a culture of youth and beauty on our own citizens and the citizens of countries we influence? Feminists have been railing against the media since Gloria Steinem burst onto the front pages of American newspapers, but is their point valid?

Perhaps it is: a recent finalist on Tyra Banks's "America's Next Top Model" was eliminated for her struggle with bulimia, while other anorexics and bulimics were previously eliminated. Famous faces such as Christina Ricci, Mary-Kate Olsen, Elisa Donovan, Jamie-Lynn Sigler, Calista Flockhart, Victoria Beckham, and Lara Flynn Boyle have also all had well-documented struggles with eating disorders.

Is such a literally deathly obsession with thinness yet another aspect of our culture we will pass on to other societies? It seems inevitable that eating disorders will follow plas-

Danielle Peretore (VI)
CULTURAL OPINION

tic surgery, as each trend pursues the same deceptively beautiful end.

Our desire to export such negative aspects of our own society perhaps stems from our belief that the women of America are liberated, while the women of other cultures are restrained. However, it is simply impossible to declare our women truly liberated when so many are literally starving and cutting themselves in the name of beauty.

This issue was recently dealt with on the WB drama "Jack & Bobby," in which Professor Grace McCallister, the show's resident feminist and mother of its two title characters, inadvertently insults what she sees as the misogynistic culture

Americans in general often fail to see that our culture is not perfect.

of a Muslim student named Hebba. Hebba, who wears a headscarf and conservative clothing, is deeply hurt and endeavors to explain her beliefs to Professor McCallister, explaining, "You look at me, and you see an oppressed Muslim woman, forced to cover her head by a misogynistic and backwards culture [...]. You know, there are two girls in my hall who are anorexic, one has breast implants, and two others are considering surgery either to their body or their face [...]. This is what your culture does to women. It suggests ideals they'll never attain, and when

they fail to attain them, tells them they're worthless. [...]. This is me saying 'no' to all of the ways your culture tries to exploit me. This is me saying 'yes' to my religion, and my god, not 'no' to being liberated. I am liberated."

Perhaps this is where we as Americans and so-called Westerners, go wrong. By believing that our culture and our beliefs are more progressive than those of other societies, we instead end up imposing our restrictions on people who otherwise would have remained untouched by the pressures of our society.

We must heed Hebba's words and become aware of the slippery slope we have placed ourselves on. A debate is currently raging in our courts as to whether or not American culture is rightfully dominated by Christian beliefs, but there is a larger issue at hand.

We as Americans in general seem to believe that our culture is worthy enough to be imposed on other cultures, and thus endeavor to aid its spread worldwide. But we fail to see that our culture is not perfect and contains aspects just as damaging as those of other cultures.

Also, we must be careful, for while other women may be suffering as they overheat in burkas, our women are suffering as they starve and chop themselves into dying skeletons. True, we do not physically force our women to make damaging choices, but perhaps our women have less choice than we believe.

-5 = 5

The absolute value of -5 is 5. Does that make me a jerk?

James Somers (VI)
SCHOOL OPINION

The thing is, I find myself criticizing critics, getting stressed out about people getting stressed out, and being generally against negativism.

Thus one could say I am the proverbial pot calling a bunch of kettles black. But maybe that would be missing the point; maybe my criticisms are warranted.

See, I've been noticing a lot of changes at Pingry – a lot of kids whining

I just want to say: quit complaining and do something useful with your time.

about how pathetically uninvolved our generation is in social causes, how bad school policy is, how unfairly teachers grade and how tough the college admissions process is. And to these people I just want to say: quit complaining and do something with your time.

I'm tired of people talking about teenage angst; I'm tired of seniors telling juniors

how hard the work is, and how hard it's going to get;

I've just about had it with kids wearing college sweatshirts and talking about admissions all day; and I'm tired of hearing kids lambaste their own peers in Record editorials.

Which brings me back to my own hypocrisy. It seems I've been adding stress to my life getting upset about kids talking about stress, that I've been negative in my attempts to quiet negative-Nancys, and

that I've been talking about college in talking about avoiding talking about college.

Is my dis-disestablishmentarianism as bad as the disestablishmentarianism itself? For those of you interested in physics, one could say the "magnitude" of our attitudes is equal, but that they're polar opposites.

Who's right? Who cares. At least there's a nice balance.

Peer Leadership Has 20 Successful Years

By JESSICA ZHAO (III)

Ever since the Peer Leadership program was first introduced in 1984 by former faculty member Mr. John Platt and former headmaster Mr. David Wilson, the Freshman Peer Night has been an annual event.

The program first ran as a pilot during the winter of 1984 with twelve seniors and volunteer freshmen, who met during conference period. In 1985, the school determined it a success, and the program began full-time. Peer Leadership was then granted a class period and expanded to include all freshmen and 28 seniors.

Faculty members Mrs. Patricia Lionetti, Dr. Michael Richardson, and Ms. Laura Yorke, a former peer leader, currently run the program.

According to Ms. Yorke, "It's interesting to have been a peer leader for freshmen when I was a Pingry senior, and now, essentially, as a young faculty member, be a peer leader for seniors."

The purpose of Peer Leadership has always been to help integrate the new freshmen into high school and assist them in dealing with surfacing issues early in high school. The seniors would help their "peer groupies" cope with peer pressure, athletics, academics, and social issues, such as friendships and dating.

In February, juniors interested in becoming peer leaders must complete a lengthy application, in which they must respond to many questions about themselves, their goals, and their values. Ju-



Courtesy of Mrs. Pat Lionetti

This year's 32 senior Peer Leaders pose for a group shot on their August retreat to the Baptist Conference Center in Lebanon, N.J.

niors also must submit three recommendations. Faculty members then evaluate the list of applicants for their potential as peer leaders. Athletic coaches and the current senior peer leaders also have input.

"The only things that don't matter in our evaluations are grades," Mrs. Lionetti says. After all the recommendations are assessed, "We meet daily along with Ms. Yorke and we come up with a list that will be demographic in every way with the freshmen. We try to get a very diverse group. It's really very difficult because there are always more applicants than we can take - many more."

Generally, 28 of these applicants become peer leaders; however, this year there are

32, because the freshman class size is greater and "we wanted to experiment with smaller groups," Mrs. Lionetti explains.

Once the peer leaders have been chosen, there is a three-day retreat at the Baptist Conference Center in Lebanon, N.J. The goal is both to train the peer leaders and to create a time for bonding. During the retreat, the seniors also learn who their co-leaders will be.

"Values are important" when deciding co-leaders, and very often have a "personal impact on leadership style," Mrs. Lionetti says. "We look at different strengths. We might pair someone involved in drama with a three-season athlete."

In September, the new

freshmen and the peer leaders go on a retreat to the Bryn Mawr Camp in Pennsylvania. The groups used to go to Blairstown, but, according to Dr. Richardson, the camp was simply not big enough. Mrs. Lionetti adds that Blairstown was "pretty rustic" and the discomfort defeated the purpose of the trip.

After the peer leaders and their groups have a chance to bond and get to know each other better, the Freshman Parent Night is held. It has run since 1985 and was once a part of the original program devised by Princeton University's Sharon Powell. The session allows parents and students to ask and answer questions about peer pressure, high school, and stress.

Committees Complete Headmaster Search

Continued From Page 1

but also by four Advisory Boards, representing students, faculty, alumni, and parents. Mr. Neisweinder also had an opportunity to interview his potential successors, and he gave "extremely helpful" comments to the Search Committee, Mr. Holman said.

The next step in the search process was to narrow the field of candidates to two finalists. For that, Mr. Holman said, the Search Committee looked especially in depth at the candidates' "fit" among students, teachers, and the school in general. The committee wanted the school's new headmaster to have personal integrity and intellectual credentials that would mix well with the environment of the school, Mr. Holman said.

The committee selected two finalists in late October, and both visited the school for the second time in early November. During this time, the Search Committee conducted more "relaxed" interviews and the committee had a

chance to meet each finalist with his spouse or fiancé.

Previous experience as a headmaster "turned out not to be a deciding factor," Mr. Holman said, as neither of the two finalists had been school headmasters before.

Soon after both finalists left, the Search Committee reconvened to make a final decision. "There was no slam-dunk case against the rejected finalist," Mr. Holman said, "but we felt Nat Conard would be the best long-term fit for the school."

Nikhil Srivastava (VI), head of the Student Search Committee, said that he approves of the decision. According to Srivastava, the Student Advisory Board was unanimous in its vote to endorse Mr. Conard, as was the entire Board of Trustees.

"The intensity of the search process really speaks to the intensity of the community," Mr. Holman said. "Nat Conard is absolutely qualified to become Pingry's new headmaster, and I'm sure he will make a creative, inquisitive, and talented leader."

Mr. Conard Assumes Headmaster Position

Continued From Page 1

academics, arts, athletics and a "strong ethical core." He felt drawn to Pingry because "many schools profess to have great academics, title-winning sports teams, et cetera, but rarely is that the case. Pingry, however, truly does provide a superior education in all

aspects."

Mr. Conard was also impressed by the community's energy, the caring atmosphere of the Short Hills Campus, and the pervasive presence of the Honor Code. He described his meeting with the Student Advisory Group of Form Presidents as a highlight of his first visit.

Mr. Conard's primary concern in the coming year will be to get to know the students and faculty "before passing judgment on how best to structure and guide Pingry." He noted that at Pingry, he will have more interaction with younger students and less involvement in student life outside the classroom than at Emma Willard, a 9-12 all-girls school where a significant proportion of the students board at the school. He does, however, still plan to stay involved in student life "to the extent that non-school-related issues affect the community and how the students are perceived."

Over the summer, Mr. Conard wants to meet as many students as possible, possibly by holding social events. He also plans to experience Pingry student life through his two children, Ben and Rebecca, who will be entering seventh and ninth grade, respectively.

In addition to his teaching and administrative positions, Mr. Conard has worked as a consultant for Bain and Co. in Boston and has done construction work as well as carpentry and house painting. His personal interests are "anything to do with nature." He enjoys hiking, kayaking, and gardening with his wife, Brenda Hamm, and their two children.

Mr. Conard describes his leadership style as "collaborative and straightforward," and looks forward to seeing students "in the classroom, on the playing field, on the stage, or wherever they are in their element."

103 of 125 Seniors Apply Early to Universities

Continued From Page 1

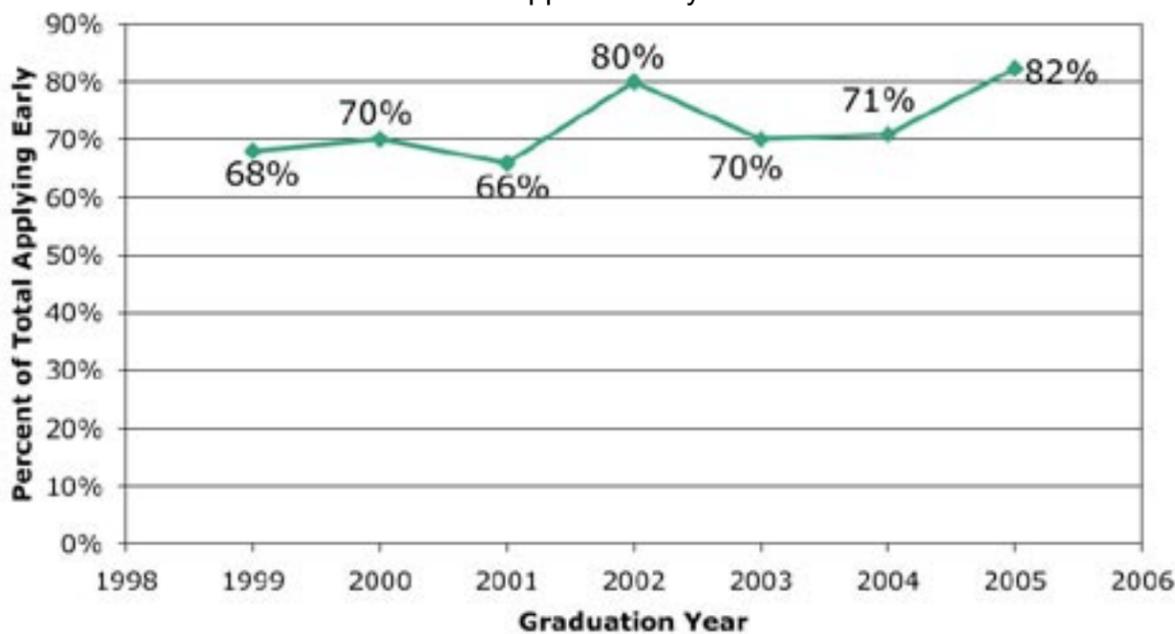
University. Through EASC, students may apply by November 1 to only one of these three colleges. However, like other Early Action programs, if offered admission in mid-December, students are not obligated to accept.

According to Director of College Counseling Mr. Bob MacLellan, 70 to 75 percent of the class will typically apply early to college. Though this year's number is higher than in the past, the trend appears more or less consistent.

Early Decision and Action programs benefit schools as much as they do students, Mr. MacLellan says. In addition to potentially boosting the college's yield, or percent of students accepting offered admission, Early Decision programs reduce the size of the regular applicant pool while creating "a core class that feels bonded to that school much faster and often will publicize the college among their peers."

As of November 30, there were eleven colleges to which five or more applications - both for early and regular review - had been sent, including five each at Stanford University and Yale University, six each at Dartmouth College and Villanova University, sev-

Percent of Graduating Class Applying Early More or Less Consistent
Though 82.4% of the senior class applied early this year, numbers since 1999 average out to approximately 72%.



en each at Cornell University and Rutgers University, nine at Princeton University, ten each at Boston College and Harvard University, eleven at the University of Michigan, and twelve at the University of Pennsylvania.

Mr. MacLellan says the high number of applications at University of Pennsylvania can be partially attributed to the University's policy that applicants with legacy status will only have that advantage

bear weight on their application if they apply Early Decision.

"I felt pressured into applying early because of this policy," one senior, who asked to remain anonymous, said. "Having a legacy at a school is an obvious perk that I couldn't afford to miss out on."

For others, however, the early admissions process was less stressful. Mr. MacLellan says that the EASC programs at Yale, Harvard, and Stanford

have "allowed kids to do a real search. If they get in early or they don't, they can continue looking elsewhere, even after the early deadline, and I think students feel less pressured."

During interviews on the senior couches, thoughts on the stresses of the early application process ran the spectrum. A few of those interviewed said that their parents had significantly influenced their decision to apply early, while others said that their

applications had been entirely their own choice. One pointed out that many colleges accept up to half of their class from the early applicant group, while another said she had felt pressured to "just get the whole application process over with before Christmas."

Throughout the past week and a half, colleges have been informing early applicants of their admissions decisions. These notifications will continue throughout December.

New SAT I Includes Harder Math, Essay, Grammar Section, Extra 800 Points, Headaches for Class of 2006

By MAX HORLBECK (IV)

The SAT is undergoing several major content changes that will take effect in 2005. The SAT, long acknowledged by Pingry students as a necessary evil in the college applications process, is expanding in length and time.

Changes to the SAT include the addition of an essay, a grammar section, and Algebra II topics. Quantitative comparisons and analogies will be discarded.

According to Time Magazine, the new SAT was created as colleges began discontinuing using SAT results in their admissions decisions. The final straw came when the entire University of California system, which includes Berkeley and UCLA, threatened to drop the SAT unless it became more achievement oriented.

Originally, the SAT was designed to predict the raw potential of students applying to college. According to Pingry guidance counselor and SAT tutor Mrs. Patricia Lionetti, "The SAT was never really an aptitude test." Colleges eventually agreed, arguing that the test did not accurately assess a student's performance and knowledge at both the high school and college level.

Though the SAT was

originally an acronym for the "Scholastic Aptitude Test," the initials no longer stand for anything as the SAT's creators attempt to base the test's results more on achievement.

Critics of the new SAT say that creating an achievement test will force schools to change their curriculums to train students specifically for grammar and fast essay writing.

"Some schools have already started prepping students for the essay," Mrs. Lionetti says, "but I highly doubt the Pingry English Department will make any specific shift because a lot of

writing is already built into the curriculum."

Another objective of the new SAT is to make the test less "coachable." Mrs. Lionetti, however, expects that no real change will be made to the Pingry tutoring program. "We will just tutor for the SAT II: Writing and the normal SAT material at the same time.

According to Mrs. Lionetti, the new test may result in lower scores for certain types of students, especially those who typically perform well in school, English class, and analytical writing. "Kids who need time to reflect and organize their ideas will have

time issues when it comes to the essay," she explains.

Conversely, she adds, "Students who can just write off the top of their heads or kids with good writing practice will do much better than they would have before."

Mrs. Lionetti also mentions that she is glad the analogy section is being discarded, because "it only tests reasoning skills if you know the vocabulary, which is very difficult."

However, some students are disappointed. "I was nasty at analogies," says sophomore Dan Davidson.

Most students interviewed were indifferent to the ad-

dition of the essay. Russell Simpson (IV) points out, "I would probably have taken SAT II: Writing anyway." The school's College Counseling Department recommends that all students take the SAT II: Writing test regardless of their abilities, because most schools require that subject test to add to the overall picture of SAT I scores.

One concern with the addition of the essay is that it may compromise the objective nature of the standardized test. Mrs. Lionetti acknowledges that fact, but says, "Each essay is read by two readers, who are highly trained, and if there is any disagreement it is also read by a supervisor. In addition, each reader must follow a strict grading matrix."

Nevertheless, the writing section will have a 41 point margin of error, according to preliminary trials. A score of 670, for instance, could really be a low 700 or a low 600 – quite a large swing for most success-oriented Pingry students.

In addition, the volume element of thousands of SAT-takers that exists in real life has not been tested in trials. SAT readers will have millions of essays to read, and, as Time Magazine reporter Mr. John Cloud says, "The pressure to read fast – and to reward competent but formulaic essays – will be massive."

Although only a few concerned parents have called Mrs. Lionetti about the new SAT, she says there is a "growing awareness" of it. And although certain details have yet to be determined and announced, such as the amount of time allowed for the essay portion of the test, this year's juniors can look forward to taking the new SAT for the first time this coming spring.



A. Savello (IV)

Featured, a plethora of SAT study guides that every aspiring Ivy Leauger should own.

Veteran's Assembly Speaker Talks About Personal Experience in Persian Gulf War

By ELIZA ADAMS (III)

On Friday, November 10, Army veteran Mr. Matthew M. Douglas visited the Martinsville Campus as the keynote speaker for the school's annual Veteran's Day Assembly.

Mr. Douglas, a former lieutenant in the Persian Gulf War, addressed the student body in a short presentation during which he recounted some of his most profound experiences and the effects they had on him.

"The hardest part for me was deciding which lessons

and experiences to talk about because I have so many. I chose the ones that I thought would interest and benefit the Pingry students the most," Mr. Douglas commented,

Mr. Douglas served in the U.S. Army for a single year after spending his college years in the Army ROTC. While serving as a lieutenant, Mr. Douglas led the largest ammunition logistics operation in the entire Persian Gulf War from 1990-1991.

"I value my military service more than any career I'll probably ever have," Mr.

Douglas says. He now holds a B.S. Engineering degree from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and an M.B.A. degree from Vanderbilt University, and currently works as the Director of Operations for the Andrew Corporation, a \$1.8 billion wireless communications business.

As Brittany Waser (III) remarked, "I liked the way he narrated his experiences and left us to interpret them for ourselves rather than simply lecturing us."

"I am very happy to be able to share my experiences with

the Pingry students and [I] hope that my short presentation helped to explain why we celebrate Veteran's Day each year," Mr. Douglas added. "As everyday citizens, we are indebted to all out veterans, past and present, who have defended our freedom and our way of life."

From another point of view, history teacher and assembly organizer Mrs. Madeline Landau commented, "I liked what [Mr. Douglas] had to say about the elements of leadership and hope students try to learn more about the Persian Gulf War."

The Persian Gulf War began in August of 1990 when Saddam Hussein ordered his armed forces into the neighboring nation of Kuwait, proclaiming its annexation to Iraq. In response, President George H. W. Bush worked with the United Nations to form a worldwide coalition consisting of Italy, France, Egypt, Great Britain, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Canada, and Belgium, among others. When Saddam Hussein refused to withdraw from Kuwait, the U.N. Security Council authorized the U.S.-led coalition to attack Iraq. By January 1991, a half a million allied troops were stationed in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf area.

The Gulf War lasted only 43 days, ending with Iraq's acceptance of the cease-fire proposed by President Bush. In the end, 148 U.S. troops were killed in action, 458 troops were injured, and 121 died in non-combat incidents.



N. Lee (V)

Students look through the mementos of Mr. Matthew Douglas's years of army service. After serving in the Gulf War, Mr. Douglas brought home an Iraqi soldier's uniform.

STUDENTS & FACULTY DONATE THEIR HAIR TO LOCKS OF LOVE FOUNDATION

By JAKE KREEGER (IV)

Over the past year, several students and teachers have made charitable donations not of clothes for a drive, cans for the homeless in Newark, or money for a Dress Down Day, but rather, a little piece of themselves: their hair.

Locks of Love, founded in 1997 in alliance with a wig-making company in Florida, is a non-profit organization that "provides hairpieces to financially disadvantaged children [...] suffering from long-term medical hair loss," according to the foundation's website.

Today, it accepts hair donations from men and women of all ethnicities, all over the world.

The organization's largest contributions in recent times, however, have come from younger generations – more than 80 percent of all donations to Locks of Love are from children.

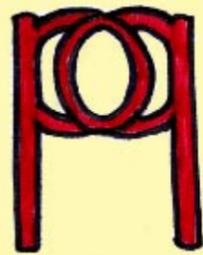
Sophomore Amanda King has already donated her hair twice. "My brother's friend had leukemia and lost all of his hair," she says. "I knew how big of a difference my donation would make in the lives of kids just like my brother's friend."

Some teachers, too, have contributed to the program. English teachers Ms. Molly D'Antonio and Ms. Laura Yorke have both grown out the required ten inches of hair and donated it to Locks of Love. "Hair is a part of who someone is, and the thought of a child not having that is just awful," Ms. D'Antonio says.

Even though the majority of the organization's contributors are females, male students at school have also grown out the requisite ten inches of hair. Donor Sam Waterbury (IV) says he plans on giving his again in the future, "when my hair grows out long enough."

For more information about Locks of Love, visit their website at www.locksoflove.org.

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“Harmonium” Shows Minimal Discord

By ALEX SNAPE (IV)

Who's to say Vanessa Carlton won't last? No one! But if anyone believes so, then the alternative rock singer's new album “Harmonium” will prove him or her wrong.

While most artists suffer from follow-up-flops and sophomore slumps on their second albums, Carlton uses the opportunity to soar and grow as an artist.

A thousand miles ahead of her first album “Be Not Nobody”, “Harmonium” goes places the first album never did. Carlton experiments with new lyrical styles and distinctive piano accompaniments to complement her soothing and captivating vocals.

Produced and inspired by boyfriend Stephen Jenkins of Third Eye Blind, “Harmonium” mixes drums, piano, and Carlton's beautiful voice. The album also has more of a band feel, inspired by touring with



Courtesy of Amazon.com

Jenkins. Other respectable artists also contributed to the album, including Stevie Nicks, Pharrell Williams, and Kanye West, who give the album that important surprise element.

The first single, “White Houses,” is already storming

the charts and paving the way for the album. It is a seasonally themed song about first love and putting things behind you. The recurring piano line, forceful orchestral sections, and Carlton's blooming vocals are what make this track shine.

Another stand-out track, “Who's To Say,” is exceptional in its build-up from a quiet bass line and spotted piano chords to thriving vocals and frequent use of orchestras. The track contains unrecognizable backup vocals from Pharrell Williams and mysterious lyrics like “Mother don't tell me friends are the ones I lose/ 'Cause they'd bleed before you/And sometimes family are the ones you'd choose/It's too late now/I hold onto this

life I found.” The song hints at newly found independence and separation from a sheltered childhood.

The album's most rock-oriented song is “Private Radio.” Though it is noticeably influenced by her boyfriend's band, piano still dominates “Private Radio” while vibrant violins fill the track's background. During the chorus, guitars and tambourines chime in to blend smoothly with jumpy lyrics like “And if the silence was a song/Well, it's rhythm grooves and it's a private radio/And on this night I did belong/In harmony.”

Unfortunately, the album does have its lows with tracks like “San Francisco” and “Annie,” in which the lyrical creativity is lacking and the songs sound like they could have been b-sides to Carlton's first album. The vocals are not as interesting or experimental as they are throughout the rest of the album, and “Annie” becomes boring and repetitive after even the first listen.

From journeys through white houses to sessions with a private radio, “Harmonium” proves itself one-of-a-kind in more than one way. It brings together love and lust, adulthood and childhood, and most importantly, Carlton's incredible talent at the piano and her sensational vocals.

Download these: “Who's to Say” and “Private Radio.”

Warm Winter Footwear from “Down Under”

By COURTNEY JACKSON (V)

One wintry cold evening in Los Angeles, California, two weeks before Christmas, a young woman makes her way to Macy's to pick up the last pair of Uggs that she had placed on hold weeks beforehand. However, as she excitedly arrives to the scene, her precious Uggs are in the hands of two vicious women who are tearing at the box, fighting like wolves over the package. The young woman holds her breath, dives into the middle of the bickering, grabs the box, and runs home without looking back.

The most popular boots currently known in the world of fashion, Uggs are a rapidly selling phenomenon across the globe. At the onset of winter, people long for the soft sheepskin fur, lining the inside of these boots, that keeps feet warm down to -30° F. Originally created in Australia, Uggs have since been widely distributed to department stores all around the world.

Uggs were first introduced to the United States in 1978, when Australian Brian Smith left his surfing life in Australia to come to the United States in an attempt to introduce these sheepskin boots to the American market. Australian surfers had traditionally worn Uggs as a post-surf beach boot to keep ocean-soaked wrinkly feet at a

comfortable temperature.

After an unsuccessful reception in New York, Smith headed west to test the boots in California and, sure enough, Smith found a group of surfers who loved the boots. As the years went by, more and more people began to wear these sheepskin boots in order to keep their feet toasty-warm during the cold winter.

These boots made a huge comeback in 2003 when, in a matter of weeks, all Uggs were sold out of department stores before Christmas. Millions were sold, with many pairs back-ordered until April 2004.

Fashion-wise, these boots are both trendy and versatile. From a New England ski resort to a casual dinner with friends, these boots fit most occasions during the winter season. Whether paired with cords or with a denim miniskirt, these boots make any outfit a chic one.

In this 2004 season, new colors and styles have been added to the Ugg collection. In addition to light pink and blue, Uggs now come in purple and red. Ugg ponchos and handbags are also hitting the department stores, as well as sheepskin-lined clogs and slippers.

Grab your Uggs before they are gone because each pair promises to make your holiday season just a little bit warmer!

Winter Fashions Hit New York Runways

By DARINA STRAKHMAN (III)

With winter setting in, students' attire is shifting from light autumn clothing to heavier winter apparel. For some, a shopping spree may be necessary to update their winter wardrobe; for others, only guidelines as to what is hot and what is not this winter season are needed.

Top designer fashion shows for winter couture in New York, Milan, and Paris reveal two distinct categories of popular style: classic preppy and urban chic.

Conservatism has taken over the fashion world of New York. Designers such as Marc Jacobs and Oscar de la Renta all showcased displays of tweed pantsuits and fitted cardigans at the 2004 Winter Fashion Week.

Designers also introduced more traditional colors into this season's fashion, with lilac and camel dominating Michael



Kors's show and black prevailing at Ralph Lauren's. These colors appeared mostly in the cable-knit sweaters that were popular at both events.

Anna Sui chose to spice up her preppy outfits by lacing her sweaters with colored ribbons and pairing them with floral-patterned skirts.

Conservative designs also found support in the runways of Paris. Christian Lacroix chose to keep his designs simple by focusing on pale tops, knee-length pencil skirts, and long coats. Roberto Cavalli's color theme included dirty plum, sharp green, sage and navy hues.

Yet in Europe, it was not conservatism, but rather swanky, urban attire that prevailed. All designer shows displayed lots of vintage clothing, layered tops, and decorative, but not-too-short skirts.

Prada's line included a vintage brooch on almost every outfit.

The trend became a craze among the fashion-conscious when Sarah Jessica Parker began wearing them on “Sex and the City.” Now, women all over Manhattan, L.A., and Milan alike are sporting their own designers brooches.

Other Italian lines focused on expensive textiles and lavish looks. Dolce & Gabbana designs this season are all about long fur and faux-fur coats. Armani designers opted to center their line on the use of velvet.

Neon colors also emerged from certain Paris designs. John Galliano highlighted his already over-the-top, metallic outfits with shocking pinks, while Chanel head designer Karl Lagerfeld accentuated many solid black outfits with electric greens.

Boots were the most popular choice for winter shoes on all major runways. All varieties, including UGGS, ankle-height leather boots, and tall leather boots, were seen in the various designers' shows.

A few of last year's very popular looks dropped in popularity this season. According to Ralph Lauren, the ultimate fashion faux-pas is now the pleated skirt. Skirts have increased in length this season, with knee-length skirts pushing out minis.

Ponchos and pashminas have also stopped popping up on runways. Although the trend was very hot in early fall, it has now been declared an “End-of-the-Trend” by E! News Live.

Above all else, the key thing to remember when selecting this year's hottest winter outfit from your own wardrobe is sensible layering. Washington Post fashion writer Janelle Diamond says not to overload and to remember that “warmness doesn't have to equal bulk.”

“Jack & Bobby” Steals the WB Spotlight

By EVAN ROSENMAN (III)

“In 2041, one son will be president,” reads the intriguing premise of this fall's new show “Jack and Bobby”, which follows the two young McCallister brothers, one of whom is destined for greatness. The decidedly adult-themed show has given teen-oriented WB its largest critical hit since 1999's “Angel,” but ratings have significantly lagged.

While the show incorporates elements of drama, humor, and political intrigue with great skill, it has won over a relatively small audience of three million viewers. The show lacks the sexy audacity of fellow primetime shows “The O.C.” and “Desperate Housewives,” but the remarkable qualities of “Jack and Bobby” overshadow its lack of spunk. As student fan Britney Waser (III) puts it, “The show is original, like no other on TV.”

Waser says the plot structure “adds to the show because it reveals the shaping of the show's future president: how he was raised and how his family values affected the way he lived his life.”

Each episode tackles a new issue that is paralleled by Bobby McCallister's presidency. Bobby learns new lessons in each episode, and the viewer sees how these lessons are applied in interviews taking place in 2048, as advisors and friends recount events of the historic



Courtesy of WB11.com

The cast of “Jack and Bobby” has received critical acclaim for their performances in the new WB drama.

presidency.

While comparing teen drama to politics could often come off as superficial, a host of talented young actors handle the material deftly. 16-year-old brother Jack is played by the supremely charismatic Matt Long, who seems charming even when he is cheating on his girlfriend. Even though it is revealed that Jack will not live to see Bobby's presidency, Jack serves as the main influence for the confused Bobby, whose attempts at normalcy can barely mask his extraordinary brilliance and compassion.

Jessica Paré plays Jack's troubled on-and-off girlfriend who will later be Bobby's wife, and in a tragic monologue on her mother's suicide in the fifth episode, she proves that she is an equally talented actress.

The future president is played by 12-year-old Logan Lerman, a precociously talented young actor who plays his nerdy character with the perfect touches of humor,

innocence, and potential. Every character discredits a viewer's expected stereotype with nuance, intelligence, and witty dialogue.

The show's greatest creation, however, is that of Grace McCallister, the boys' passionate and liberal-minded mother. Grace is a remnant of the 1960s generation, a woman who works as a college professor in an attempt to imbue some of the “disaffected youth” with her ever-enduring idealism. Her rage at the state of the world is clear in her many rants. But Grace, too, is not without flaws. Her marijuana addiction has grown increasingly worse since the show's opening episodes, and her skills at parenting are questionable at best. Oscar nominee Christine Lahti plays Grace with a perfectly suited balance of desperation and conviction in one of the fall season's best new performances.

The show has also proved its strengths through its willingness to tackle difficult issues. In its first few episodes,

the show has handled suicide, sexual harassment, parental abandonment, teenage homosexuality, and fear of mental illness in both the modern segments and scenes from Bobby's presidency. Religion, teenage promiscuity, and drug addiction are also recurring themes throughout the show.

Judging by the school's political polarization in the last election, and the generally intellectual nature of the student body, one might assume a quality show like “Jack & Bobby” would catch on. However, only a few students profess to watch the show, which faces little direct competition in its time slot from student favorites.

It seems “Jack and Bobby”'s overly cerebral qualities may discourage many viewers, but first impressions can be deceiving. “Jack and Bobby” is certainly worth a second look, and hopefully, a third, a fourth, and many more every Wednesday night at 9.

Five Musical Seniors Perform in All-State Great in the Water, Even Better With Calc

By JULIE JOHNSON (VI)

Among the five students participating in this year's New Jersey All-State, there was easy agreement that the many rehearsals, three days in Atlantic City, and performance at NJPAC were all exciting musical experiences for a high school musician.

The five Pingry participants for 2004 include seniors Becky Ng, Edward Suh, Jonathan Roberts, and Julie Johnson in the Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass (SATB) All-State Chorus, and senior Elizabeth Sebesky in the All-State Orchestra. After competitive auditions, the top 516 musicians and singers in the state were chosen to participate in two concerts, the first in Atlantic City after three straight days of rehearsing, and the second a week later at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center in Newark.

"It's great to have a few days to immerse yourself in a passion," Sebesky commented. Ng agreed, adding it was "quite rad to be part of such a large talented group."

Pingry has only recently

begun encouraging students to take part in the All-State program, and 2004 is the highest number of Pingry student participants ever. According to Women's Glee Club Conductor Mrs. Jennifer Runge, "I would love more of our students to feel drawn to an experience like this. I can think of little else that competes with the thrill of performing at such a high level with close to three hundred of your peers."

All-State Chorus and Orchestra members were also honored to work with Dr. Anton Armstrong, who conducted the chorus and joint numbers for the final performances. A world-renowned choral conductor, Dr. Armstrong's performance ideas and conducting style are a model for music educators and directors around the globe.

Mrs. Runge said Dr. Armstrong is "a gentle giant, with very specific rehearsal ideas that always serve the music." Roberts commented that he was "a really incredible conductor to work with and it was amazing to see how much he could really draw out of all of us."

All five Pingry participants were incredibly enthusiastic about what Roberts called the "privilege" of performing with such a highly motivated ensemble. Mrs. Runge additionally marveled at the "incredibly accomplished and adept handling of highly sophisticated repertoire. These high school singers and instrumentalists put their heart and soul into the process of rehearsing, not just the performance. The execution of the choral pieces in particular was of the highest level."

For more information about the All-State and Regional Chorus programs, speak with Ms. Runge or Dr. Moore in the music department.

For Field Hockey, "Real Men Wear Kilts"

By CHANTAL BERMAN (V)

This winter will mark the advent of the first ever Pingry Men's Field Hockey team, a new intramural sport to be coached by school counselor Dr. Michael Richardson and members of the Girls' Field Hockey team.

Team Captains Mike Stuzynski (VI) and Hayden Reich (VI) were inspired to start the team one day in the middle of the lost and found room. "We were looking for clothes when we picked up sticks and starting fooling around with them," Stuzynski said.

"We wanted to start a sport with some European flavor," Reich added.

The team will practice weekends in the gym and attend a weekly clinic at Rex-Plex Sports Center in Elizabeth. The captains would also like to play games against other men's high school field hockey teams, "if we can find any," said Stuzynski.

While the men will not wear kilts to practice, they hope to have the opportunity to do so for team spirit. Scott Eckenthal (III) said, "Kilts are awesome. Real men wear kilts."

The goals for the season, the team captains say, are to have fun, "become skilled," and to be received by the rest of the school as a legitimate sport.

At age fifteen, sophomore Amanda King has several national swimming titles and even more college credits under her belt.

Home-schooled by her mother until she was 12, King came to Pingry because home schooling was "boring." King admits she was a little nervous on the first day of freshman year, but after the first week she felt comfortable and liked the new environment.

King jokes, "It's definitely been more work and stress, but I couldn't go back to home schooling now, even though waking up at 9:30 was kind of nice." Adjusting to Pingry was easy and smooth, and, as a freshman, King took BC Calculus and scored a 5 on the exam.

Even before she was one year old, King had begun reading simple words. By the time she was two, she was reading books, and by four, she was learning math from her mother.

Only a few years later, she was essentially left to educate herself through textbooks at her home. Despite the pressure-free environment, King took the Advanced Placement AB Calculus exam when she was eleven years old.

Although she scored a 4 on the exam, "It was a really new experience at that time, and I remember being really nervous because I didn't know the procedure or anyone who could help me," she says.



Courtesy of A. King
Sophomore Amanda King swims for the Berkeley Aquatics club 20-24 hours per week during the school year.

King continued her studies with two years of Physics, scoring 4's on the A.P. Physics B and A.P. Physics C exams when she was 12 and 13, respectively.

King has also been swimming competitively since she was eight. She now swims 20-24 hours a week at Berkeley Aquatics, a swim club that has been recognized as the best team in the country for the past decade.

She won her first event, the 50-meter fly, when she was ten years old, making her eligible to compete with the top swimmers in the Northeast. When she was eleven, King was named the best overall swimmer in New Jersey. She continues to swim at the Junior Olympics.

Before she began to swim seriously, King also sang for the Somerset Hills Chorus, now known as the New Jersey Youth Chorus, and played cello in the New Jersey Youth Symphony for a month. But tendonitis in her shoulder prevented her from both swimming and playing cello. She took up piano for about a year before schoolwork and her swimming became too much.

"It was a really hard decision to stop playing and singing seriously, but it really helped me find time to do better in school and swimming."

Juggling swimming and school has been difficult for King, but she says she "loves Pingry, having structure, teachers, and new friends."



Courtesy of the Boston Irish Famine Memorial website

Mr. Robert Shure, sculptor of the school's new statue, has designed monuments across the country, including the Irish Famine Memorial in Boston.

Dr. Pingry Molded By Shure Hands

By JENNA DEVINE (III)

Upon arrival at the Martinsville campus, one cannot miss the latest addition to the school's main entrance – a 2500 pound bronze statue created by the internationally renowned sculptor Mr. Robert Shure. The Woburn, Massachusetts-based artist was chosen from numerous sculptors to portray founding Headmaster Dr. John Pingry surrounded by four young children.

The work, entitled "The Beginning of Wisdom," is the culmination of two years' work by Mr. Shure and his assistant, who were commissioned by the school's Sculpture Committee to create the statue.

Mr. Shure, whose other works include the Cy Young Memorial in Ohio, a sculpture relief of George Washington at the Washington Monument, and the FAO Schwarz teddy bear in Boston, visited the school to get a sense of the space and the location of the sculpture before drafting his first sketches. Then, working from two rare photographs of Dr. Pingry, Mr. Shure began to create small clay models, called maquettes, based on the sketches.

Once the Sculpture Committee had approved the maquettes,

Mr. Shure created an accurate, scale model of the sculpture made with plastilene, an oil-based clay. Then work began on the molds.

"Much of the work is physically demanding," Shure said, "so I have assistants who help with this part of the process."

Once Mr. Shure and his team of experts finished the molds, which are made of rubber and plaster of Paris, wax copies were made of all the parts of the sculpture. The wax models were molded again using an investment material. In the final step, known as the "lost wax" process, the copies went into an oven and the wax melted out. Bronze was then poured into the mold to create the final product.

The result is the impressive statue that now stands in the student courtyard, resting on 22,000 pounds of rare African granite.

Mr. Shure says he enjoyed the sculpting process and regards the new statue as "one of [his] favorites." His other works can be seen in states from Hawaii to Massachusetts. He draws his inspiration from "all the great sculptors of the past," he notes, including Auguste Rodin and the Ancient Greeks.

Pingpong Club Is Largest in School History

By JEREMY TEICHER (V)

The pingpong club, now in its third year, has improved and has big plans for the future, says co-president Arif Rashid (VI). The club is in the midst of its first tournament and is one of the most popular clubs in the school.

Co-president Nikhil Srivastava (VI) points out "how much better the pingpong club is than any other club, ever. It is the most highly successful club of all time, as it has motivated an otherwise listless student body to participate." And indeed, it has: with its current tournament involving sixty students, it is the largest club in Pingry history, according to Rashid and Srivastava.

Perhaps this popularity is due to the "revolutionary system" with which the club is run. "Kids just come and play whenever they want," Srivastava says.

The ongoing pingpong tournament, which is the club's main focus, is set up in a random

bracket, single-elimination system, Rashid explains. The winner of each match is determined by a best of three eleven-point games, and participants can get "pretty competitive about it," Rashid continues. The playing is so intense, Srivastava says, that "fights break out quite often."

Aside from the tournament, club members may use the equipment to play any time they like. "It is a possibility," Rashid says, "to just come during CP and say that you've got the next game."

"One could say that not only is the pingpong club about the sport, it is also a social gathering place," Srivastava adds.

Rashid says he hopes to have another one or two tournaments this year. He also hopes to have a championship match in front of the whole school during a Tuesday or Friday morning assembly. Other ideas include hosting a faculty versus student tournament or a selective invitation tournament of the "pingpong elite."



N. Reitman (V)
Scott Menke (VI) prepares to serve in a pingpong game.

PEER LEADERSHIP PROG. SUSPENDED

Continued From Page 1

head. What we're not doing is seeking people out, and we never ask people to tell names. People think that 'the administration' is out to get them, and we're really not."

According to Peer Leader Jon Roberts, "The most important group of people to remember with this incident is the freshmen. They look to their senior leaders for guidance in getting through high school, and I believe that, after seeing the prompt and voluntary manner in which all the leaders involved came forward, the freshmen have witnessed the best possible example of how to confront and grow from the various mistakes we are all likely to make at some point."

Fall Sports Have Winning Season

By **HADLEY JOHNSON (IV)** and **MELISSA LOEWINGER (IV)**



Courtesy of Ms. Laurinda Stockwell

Boys' Soccer 19 - 1

This season, Varsity Boys' Soccer secured both the Colonial Hills Conference championship and the County Championship, which escaped the team's grasp last year. Pingry beat Montgomery 3-2 to win Counties, and upset Bergen Catholic 3-2 to advance to state semi-finals.

Delbarton was the team's toughest competition this season. In the semi-final state game at home on November 9, Pingry students, parents, and faculty braved the cold to cheer on the team. Despite the support and a late charge by Pingry, Delbarton held on for a 2-1 victory.

The team, which Coach David Fahey described as "very strong and balanced," had a large senior contingent but also had strong underclassmen whose contribution was vital.

The season record was a nearly perfect 19-1, which, according to "The Star Ledger," ranked Pingry eleventh in the state.

The captains were John Stamatis (VI), Kevin Vieira (VI), Brad Fechter (VI), and Will Munger (VI).



Courtesy of Ms. Amy Greenleaf

Girls' Soccer 21 - 1 State Champs

This season, Girls' Varsity Soccer won the Somerset County Championship, defended the Colonial Hills Conference, and won the Parochial A State Division en route to a 21-1 record.

A pre-season trip to California kicked off the year and helped the team bond.

Coach Lindsay Holmes says that the cohesiveness of this year's team enabled it to have a successful season led by this year's captains, seniors Nicole Rhodes and Allison Keeley.

Though one of their goals was to be undefeated, Coach Holmes says, "This season couldn't have been any better."

The team aims to defend all three of its championship titles next year, and will look to this year's strong underclassmen to fill the gap left by the eight seniors.

Most individual honors have not yet been awarded, but The Courier News has named Marisa Stock (V), Sara Murphy (V), and Brittani Bartok (III) to the All Area Team. The Courier News also named Stock as Player of the Year.



S. Levinn (IV)

Field Hockey 20 - 3 - 1 State Champs

In the sectional final on November 11, Varsity Field Hockey defeated Oak Knoll 3-2 to win the state championship. The team also won the Colonial Hills Conference, though they did not win this year's county championship.

According to Coach Judith Lee, the team expected a rebuilding season, as there were only six returning seniors and the team comprised mostly of younger players.

"It was tough to find out how the players would fit into the starting lineup and to figure out the connections that would make up the team," Coach Lee said.

Led by captain Louisa Moller (VI) and assistant captain Amanda Dumville (VI), the team held relatively modest expectations compared to its past enormous successes, including the goal of qualifying for the state championship. Yet, having exceeded their goals, Coach Lee refers to this season as "unexpectedly wonderful."

Dumville and Julie Hamilton (V) have since been awarded First Team All County and First Team All Conference. Nicole Danielle (VI) received Second Team All County and Second Team All Conference, and Frances Callahan (V) received Sec-

ond Team All County and an Honorable Mention for All Conference. Coach Lee anticipates that more individual awards will follow.



Courtesy of Ms. Amy Greenleaf

Girls' Cross Country 7 - 0 State Champs

The Girls' Cross Country team wrapped up their season with a stellar 7-0 record. The team also won several new titles, including Conference Champions, Prep Champions, Parochial State Champions, and Shore Coaches Invitational Champions.

They placed eleventh in the state at the Meet of Champions, and were State Champions for the first time since 1999. Senior captains Amanda Smith and Liz Encarnacion, along with sophomore Erin Toner, won All Conference, All Prep, and All State titles. Smith was also named "Runner of the Year" for Somerset County.

Coach Grant was extremely pleased with the outcome of the season, and stated, "This was the best team Pingry has ever had in cross-country."



Courtesy of Ms. Amy Greenleaf

Boys' Cross Country 7 - 2

The Boys' Cross Country team, which ended their season with a record of 7-2, "did not run one bad meet all year," said Head Coach John Raby.

The team, although comprised mainly of rookie runners, qualified to compete in the Meet of Champions, where they placed 18th out of the twenty teams that entered. They placed 4th in the Shore Coaches Invitational, 2nd in the Conference, 5th in the County, 2nd in the Prep B State Meet, and they took 3rd place in the Parochial B

State Meet.

Captain Chris Scavone (IV), who broke the sophomore speed record by 32 seconds and who is the third best cross country runner in Pingry's history, received All-Conference, All-County, All-State Prep B, and All-State Parochial B titles. Jon Bregman (V) received All-Conference and All-State Prep B titles.

As for next year's more experienced team, Coach Raby said proudly, "They'll be formidable!"



Courtesy of Ms. Laurinda Stockwell

Water Polo 4 - 7

The Varsity Water Polo team finished their season with a 4-7 record, achieving the ranking of third in the state.

Asst. Coach Jeffrey Jenkins said, "It was a building season." The leading scorers on the Varsity team were Zack Cordero (V) and team co-captain Mike Stuzynski (VI). Coach Jenkins lauded co-captain Hayden Reich (VI), calling him "an outstanding goalie."

A notable game was the one played against Malvern Prep, in which the team expected to lose by a large margin. "We had a very good game. Malvern Prep is an excellent team. We played very well and lost by only three points," said Coach Jenkins.

Hopes are high for next year's team, with Coach Jenkins reporting, "We've got a strong JV group. They had a winning record, and we have a few very good freshmen. That will help the team to more victories in the future."



N. Lee (V)

Football 5 - 5

The Varsity Football team concluded their season with a 5-5 record. Although hampered by a large number of injuries and possessing only five veteran seniors, the team pulled it together at the end of the regular season to win four straight games. The team proceeded to qualify for the state play-offs.

Head Coach Mike Web-

ster credits their success to the "determination and hard work" that the team put in throughout the season. The team is already planning for next year, with Coach Webster strategizing, "We used two different offensive systems due to injuries. Next year we will combine the two, an option system and a power system, into one very productive one." Junior Sean Bruno finished the season with 1,337 yards, which is the third highest total in school history, and was named First Team All-County by The Star Ledger.

"We had a young team this year. We are excited about having an experienced team next year," said Coach Webster.



S. Levinn (IV)

Girls' Tennis 21 - 2 State Champs

Girls' Varsity Tennis beat Kent Place 4-1 to win the Parochial A State Championship for the third consecutive year.

They also won the county championship for the second year in a row, as well as the conference championship. "The county tournament is one of the most significant because Pingry plays teams in their own backyard," says Coach Gary Miller. "It's a real team effort."

The team's final record was an impressive 21-2. The girls lost only their first and last matches, against Millburn and West Morris Mendham respectively. The team lost to West Morris Mendham in the semifinals of the Tournament of Champions.

First singles player Michelle Yuan (IV) won the individual State Championship, and second singles player Robin Moore (IV) won the individual County Championship. Second doubles players Sandra Hough (IV) and Kelly Finlayson (V) were undefeated, achieving an astounding 25-0 record.

"It's rare to have a doubles team or singles player who doesn't lose a single match," Coach Miller says.

According to Yuan, "At the beginning of the season

the team went out to win counties, while still expecting to have a good shot at states."

This year's captains were seniors Pamela Lang and Casey Huser.



Courtesy of Ms. Amy Greenleaf

CHEERLEADING

The Pingry cheerleading squad ended its season with a fifth-place finish in the Varsity high school division of the Victory All Stars Competition, defeating the powerful Oakcrest and Manasquan squads, among others.

The team cheered at every Varsity football game and performed halftime routines, demonstrating their progress with more difficult stunts with each performance. The girls also performed at the school's Homecoming Pep Rally, which allowed the cheerleaders to show the whole school what huge strides the team has taken this season. Athletic Director Ms. Jo Ann DeMartini, was so impressed by the girls performance that she approved funding for several new pieces of equipment, such as new mats, practice uniforms, and a tumbling class once a week for the winter season.

Next year the squad will lose eight seniors, but Coach Lisa Kretschman said, "I am confident that the fall returnees and captains will have what it takes to keep the program strong."

BY THE NUMBERS

31

Number of boys' soccer goals scored by John Stamatis (VI) this season.

19.29

Minutes it took Amanda Smith to win the Parochial B State Girls' Cross Country Championship.

4

Number of Pingry fall sports teams to win state championships this year.