

# The Pingry Record



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THE PINGRY SCHOOL, MARTINSVILLE, NEW JERSEY

OCTOBER 2, 2003

## BOOKSTORE OPENS BIG

BY ELANA WILF (VI)

The new school bookstore, located in Mrs. Edwards' old art fundamentals room near the cafeteria, opened at the start of the new school year. According to Mrs. Nancy Wojnar, who runs the store, it has already sold more merchandise than it did most of last year.

Laid out like a college bookstore, the new store is far more spacious and accessible than the old one. "This makes it easier to stop in between classes and stock up on pens, new sports gear, or even a soda," Mrs. Wojnar says. "I love it because it gives me more contact with the kids."

The new store recreates the bookstore of six years ago, which was located in the current PC tech lab. However, that bookstore, while offering food and drink, had a smaller selection of supplies and apparel and was in a less convenient location than the new store.

The new bookstore is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mrs. Wojnar says that the new location is wonderful not only because of the selection of items, but also because it has so many windows facing the back of the school.

The most popular item this year, Mrs. Wojnar says, is a pencil caddy. It was available last year, but sometimes out of students' view.

There is a wider selection of food than in the Snack Shack last year, including more Powerbars and a full array of chips and candy. There is also a variety of clothing, including Pingry pajamas and mesh shorts.

All these features please students. As Amanda Smith (V) says, "I really like it because there's so much stuff and more food."

A new, sophisticated scanning and computer system makes checkout much easier. Currently, students must wait for their name to be looked up



Driveway construction obstructs some entry and exit from the building.

N. Lee (IV)

## Students Come Back to Newly Renovated Campus

BY ROHAN MATHEW (VI) & RAVI PARIKH (VI)

Students returned to school this year to see a polished new art center, a new entryway and parking lot, and a new bookstore and dining hall.

Some of the most important changes have been superficial. Construction of the new 42,000 square foot art wing was so hastily completed that many minor details, such as doors, were omitted. Completed over two and half months, the final stage of the building project consisted of the minor bits and pieces to finish the wing.

Outside the building, the main driveway from Martinsville Road is being widened to three lanes. This will add more room for police and firemen to enter the school in the event of an emergency and for parents and students to exit during the

peak traffic hours.

Two of the lanes will be exiting lanes, one for turning in each direction. The curb will also be raised to ten inches to prevent parking on the sides of the driveway.

Headmaster John Neiswender says that parking along the side of the driveway, which has been common for years, can block the road in the event of an emergency. Once, he says, a field hockey player was injured, and the ambulance could not get through because cars were parked on both sides of the driveway.

A new parking lot will add 85 spaces of spillover parking for events like sports that exceed the capacity of the existing parking lots. A new stone sign will also be added to mark the entrance.

Inside the building, new flooring has been added to the

Upper and Lower Commons as well as the dining room. Mr. Neiswender remarked, "The flooring was 20 years old and had been giving us problems for years. We plan to refloor the remainder of the building over the next two summers."

In the dining room, new tables and chairs have replaced the wooden furniture, some of which was over 30 years old.

The downstairs Technology Lab has also been updated with new equipment and desks. The room next to the lab has been converted into a new office for the tech team, who are always available to answer any questions about new computers.

"A new bookstore, new facilities, and the new parking lot are welcome changes and certainly brighten up the place," Mr. Neiswender says.

and the receipt to be signed. Once student IDs are issued, only a swipe of the ID will be necessary to buy anything in the store except food and drinks.

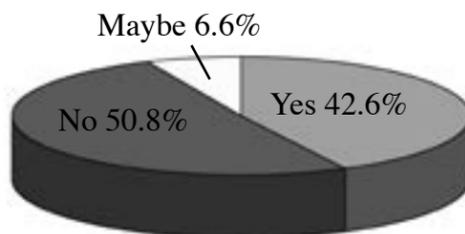
"If the kids keep it clean, eventually we can have more things," Mrs. Wojnar says. "However, if they make a mess, the place will close."

Some of the apparel available in the bookstore.



N. Lee (VI)

### If you saw cheating, would you ever report it?



## Poll Shows Few Cheat, Many Witness Cheating

BY SUSANNAH BRAGG (VI)

In The Record's September 12 poll, 12.5% of students admitted to cheating on a test, while 56% reported that they had seen cheating take place. More than half of students said that if they were to witness cheating, they would not report it.

The poll, which received responses from 73.5% of students and 48% of teachers, aimed to analyze the prevalence of cheating at Pingry and the effectiveness of the Honor Code.

Larger numbers of people divulged that they had cheated on smaller assignments: 36% had received help on a graded assignment and 17% had taken extra time on a take-home test. (12% admitted to plagiarism and 12% to cheating on vocabulary quizzes.)

Despite all this, the student body gave the Honor Code high marks. On a scale of 0 to 5, in which 5 was the highest, the average student rating for the Honor Code's effectiveness was about 4.3.

The majority of the student

body, which graded the Honor Code so highly, has witnessed cheating, not reported it, and would probably not report it.

Of the students polled, not including those new to Pingry, only about six percent had actually reported cheating in the school.

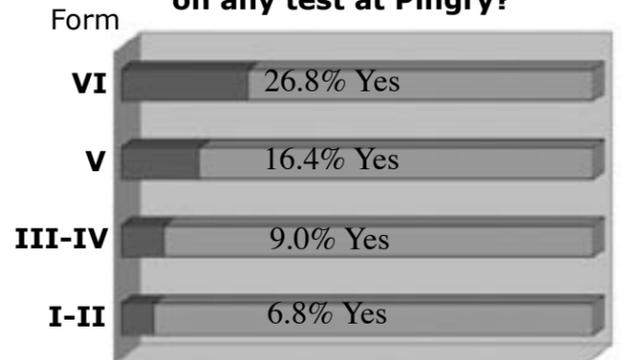
More students in higher grades confessed to various forms of cheating. Approximately 27% of seniors and 16% of juniors had cheated on a test, compared to only about 7% of Middle Schoolers and 8% of freshmen and sophomores.

In addition, 79% of seniors and 69% of juniors had witnessed cheating, in contrast to 35% of Middle Schoolers. Both seniors and juniors were more likely to have cheated on vocab quizzes and take-home tests.

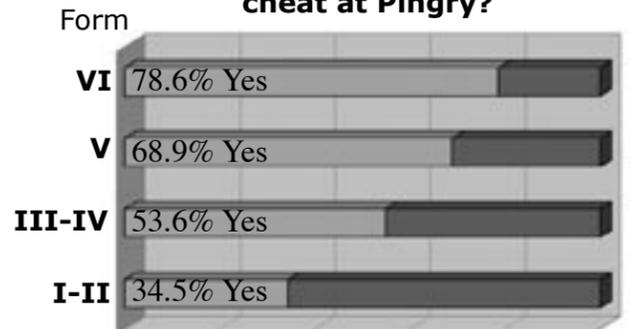
With their higher awareness of cheating occurrences, Upperclassmen also considered the Honor Code much less effective than younger students did. Seniors and

*Continued On Page 5*

### Have you ever cheated on any test at Pingry?



### Have you ever seen anyone cheat at Pingry?



## Inside The Record



Heavy backpacks may be the cause of back pains. Page 4.



Meet Julie, the AFS student from Germany. Page 7.



Amanda Smith leads the cross country team to victory. Page 8.

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# The Pingry Record

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## Editorial: Cheating Now and Then

The greater number of people admitting to cheating in 1975 implies that students were more hesitant to own up to infractions in the September 12 poll. Nearly half of the student body confessed then to cheating on a test (compared to 12.5% this September). And though this seems to indicate an obvious decline in the problem, cheating may be a more serious issue now than ever.

In the high-stress environment that is Pingry, students often bite off more than they can chew when it comes in classes and extracurriculars. They attempt to be the best and the brightest and the most accomplished, but often there simply is not enough time. With so much focus on going to a "name" school, students feel even more pressure not to fail.

The internet, too, is a tool for plagiarism that is undeniably tempting to a student starting a paper a 2 a.m. Students hear endless lectures on the immorality of cheating. They know that getting caught incurs serious punishments. And yet, they convince themselves that small deviations from the Honor Code aren't really "cheating." Perhaps the poll is accurate in that less students today take the clear risk of cheating on tests. When it comes to seemingly insignificant assignments like vocab quizzes or lab reports, though, students probably do not even think of "a little bit of help" as breaking the honor code.

How many smart and reliable young people have involuntarily glanced at a neighbor's paper during a reading quiz because, just this one time, excessive work had prevented their finishing the book? How many have changed lab results so the data would better fit into a report? How about the student who, correcting a take-home math test in class, gives himself a slightly higher grade than he received? If he had not forgotten a negative sign here or there – a careless mistake he feels has little to do with calculus – he would have had an A. So he decides he deserves one.

This logic leads many people to cheat without admitting it even to themselves. They picture themselves as hard-workers, who earn rewards through intelligence, rather than cheaters, who take the easy way out. And they are hard-workers – who occasionally slip up. Intelligent people who do stupid things like buy a paper off the internet after not leaving enough time for an assignment. Working so hard every night, do they not feel entitled to taking a shortcut this once? Who is to blame when a student gets home past ten o'clock because of a basketball game?

It is always upsetting when someone gets caught for cheating. People protest the harsh punishments their friends endure, and they may be right that Pingry needs to be more consistent in its policies. Perhaps it is overly rigid for a school claiming to build character to immediately expel those who most need the moral instruction. The real solution, though, is for students to look inward and realize that looking quickly at a friend's quiz to remember the definition of "acquiescent" is, in fact, cheating. And although this may not fit neatly into a person's self image, becoming an adult means acknowledging one's flaws.

It is not that every mistake must receive severe penalties; people often should be allowed second chances. But there can be no cure if few admit to the problem.

*The opinions expressed here reflect the views of the editorial board.*

## Scratch the Surface

We've all seen people wearing "Spear Britney" shirts. And although they justify this act of hatred by claiming they are "making a statement" or "defying the norm," I always find myself asking how one person could possibly have warranted so much malice and spite from people who don't even know her. And what makes a single entertainer a perfect target for vilification when there are so many other worthwhile things to take a stand against?

In other words, what has Britney ever done to you?

The sad fact is that people are critical. Whether human beings are critical by nature or are simply trying to attract attention, offering criticism and skepticism is a major aspect of our culture. Openly denouncing something, or someone, requires courage. The denouncer can reap the benefits of attention and admiration, while the denouncee chokes back tears of shame. It's a brutal system, but one we have all adapted to.

An even sadder fact is that people tend to be excessively critical of things that don't

**CHANTAL BERMAN (IV)**

matter at all and are less willing to speak up against great injustices. We as a community are often accused of being overly critical. A more accurate accusation would be that we are critical about the wrong things. There are so many backward standards as to what gets attention and what doesn't.

For example, during the sex scandal that ruined former President Clinton's reputation, the media and public ignored the fact that his presidency had brought about the first national treasury surplus in a decade plus an economic boom that meant thousands of more jobs and benefits for many Americans. So what is more important: one man's personal life, or the wealth and economy of an entire nation?

Nike uses thousands of underpaid children working in their third-world factories. Citizens of Rochester, N.Y. were poisoned by illegal dumping of chemicals by Eastman Kodak that caused hundreds of cases of can-

cer. Every day laborers and workers across the United States have their basic human freedoms infringed upon by the companies they work for. And when was the last time you saw someone sporting a shirt that declares "Spear Enron"?

What you didn't realize about that "Spear Britney" shirt is that it is probably made through the sweat and labor of hundreds of exploited workers trying to support their families in a factory in Taiwan somewhere. Hence, by buying that shirt and "making your statement," you are supporting this unjust system.

So what's the answer? Where's the love? Are people just too wrapped up in the superficial aspects of our world culture to care about anything important? You can always close the magazine or change the channel on Britney, but the more important flaws in our society can't be concealed or forgotten that easily. Why not divert your energies into a more worthwhile protest? Our society will thank you, and so will Britney.

## Ask Jewelz

**Q:** I'm breaking out all over my face. I've tried every product to make my zits go away, but it seems as if I'm getting more! Help!

**A:** Okay, first things first: relax and don't panic. I have a cure. First of all you need to be washing your face twice a day, preferably when you wake up and before you go to bed in order to kill blackheads and breakout-causing bacteria. If you have acne-prone skin, make sure to use a face wash with salicylic acid or benzoyl peroxide, which are acne-fighting medicines. Also, make sure the product is oil free and dermatologist tested.

**JULIE ANN AUERON (V)**

After washing, use a toner or astringent applied with a cotton ball or square. This clears the face of any trapped oil, dirt, or makeup and penetrates deep down to the pores to clean your skin as well as leaving your face with a refreshing tingle.

Next you can apply an on-the-spot blemish treatment. It is best to apply this type of product before bed because the body is less active, which causes fewer oils to be produced. Spread a thin layer of the product onto the problem areas.

After this has dried, make sure to apply a moisturizer. Many people skip this important step because they believe extra moisture will make zits worse. However, using many anti-acne products at once can dry your face out. This causes oil glands to produce more oil and re-hydrate your skin. Again, make sure the moisturizer is oil free.

Lastly, don't pick! Do you know how many different types of bacteria are on your hands? If it becomes unbearable for you to look at the zit anymore, make sure your hands are clean and the zit is at the surface. If it doesn't surface after your first two attempts of popping, forget about it. If you keep picking, it is likely more bacteria will get into the zit and make it redder.

If you are truly unhappy with your skin, visit your local dermatologist. He or she can prescribe you with a medicine formulated for your specific skin type, which may be best.

Well, until next time I hope this will help. Don't forget to drop a question in my mailbox or e-mail me at [jaueron@pingry.org](mailto:jaueron@pingry.org) with any concerns.

*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](mailto:pingryrecord@yahoo.com).*

## Will We Ever Become One?

The day before school officially began, I attended a Pingry-sponsored leadership workshop for all 2003-2004 sports team captains. At this workshop, a group of seniors and a handful of juniors learned to deal with diversity not only on their respective teams but also on the campus as a whole. Although my immediate response to this workshop was not entirely positive, it made me reflect on some of the finer aspects of our school.

Yet I also wonder at times if we are not unified enough as a school and a community. From our two distinct campuses, to the separation of the upper and middle schools, to the exclusive junior and senior couches, an institution that is supposed to bring us together actually drives us apart.

This separation not only affects students, but teachers as well. I have spoken with English teachers who know only a few of the Language and Middle School teachers simply because our building does not encourage the flow of ideas between its far ends. Even the new art wing, a brand new 44,000 square-foot space, seems eerily empty every time I walk through it.

Beyond the inherent disunity fostered by our school's design, class disunity contributes to a sometimes fragmented environment. This is especially true in this year's senior class, one historically low on class pride and school spirit. In my five years at Pingry, it seems that every Rufus Gunther Day and Pep Rally has my class finishing dead last in

**BRYAN ZUPON (VI)**

the competitions.

Further, the cliques in my grade are so apparent that even the administration has no problem labeling a certain student as part of the "cafeteria crew" or "couch crew." Although I am slightly oversimplifying, this rift has become one of the defining features of my class. One of my friends is even writing a college essay on the evolution of this split and its detrimental effects on the senior class as a whole. And though I feel this division is not immediately harmful, it does undermine the campus-leader status of the senior class.

The future of Pingry's unity is ultimately up to the students. With plans for a separate Middle School building on

the horizon and no way to modify our current building's architectural shortcomings, the administration can only sponsor so many all-school Field Day and Winter Festival events to combat Pingry's continuous expansion and growth.

In recent weeks, I have spoken to numerous team captains who have made it their goal to see that their teams not only win games, but that they do so with a sense of teamwork and togetherness. I have also listened to the plans of several new Peer Group leaders who feel empowered not only to incorporate the freshmen into the upper school but to also unify the freshmen and senior classes.

Despite this scattered support for school unity, I still have misgivings about the

rest of this year, as it is so easy to simply follow our current course and hinder change. Mr. Rohdie's annual beginning of school address in which he challenges us to mature every year seems especially fitting now, as it goes beyond individual progress and offers all of us the chance to redefine who we are as a school. Borrowing from Mr. Rohdie's rhetoric, in these opening weeks of the school year it will be easy for all of us to retreat into our comfort zones so that we, as a school, may simply get by.

Ideally, those rare moments when we look past our labels of student, teacher, or administrator will become common so that we may be proud to be members of a more cohesive Pingry community.

# A Tuck for Mankind

It was the happiest moment of my day: lunch. Relief, anticipation, and the smell of fresh-cooked pasta combined euphorically inside my tired head. I turned the corner, expecting to see my meal-to-be, but there stood a figure in the way. "Detention," it said softly.

"Uhh, I have a detention... for my shirt being un-tucked?" I said, as if it were unbelievable.

Confused, angry and appalled, I got my detention. By the time you read this, I will have served it.

For the whole day, I felt violated. Sure, I was out of Dress Code. Sure, I should have paid attention to Mrs. Hearst's announcements. But to say I was disrespecting myself or my community with the 2 inches of cloth hanging neatly around my belt would be malarkey.

I understand the argument that it's unfair to criticize the

**JAMES SOMERS (V)**

enforcement of the Code but not the Code itself. Surely, you can't disrespect a police officer for doing his job.

But alas, my main concern is with the infamous Code. I'd say it was written with a clear point: to keep Pingry looking ship-shape. One could hardly argue with that, as I'm sure most of us appreciate a respectable-looking student body. But what is respectable? These subjective details are the real source of controversy.

Throughout the year, new styles are introduced for men and women, and it's important that our school does its best to keep up with the times while maintaining high standards. In some capacity, this system has failed. It takes no more than a walk down Pingry's halls to see the inconsistencies: an un-tucked Polo shirt warrants a detention, yet a

sleeveless, nearly strapless T-shirt doesn't. Jeans and sweatpants are hardly noticed on girls, yet on boys, it's "see you Thursday at 7 a.m." Last year's greatest Student Government victory involved flip-flops, which are surely worn far more by girls than boys. The list really does go on.

I think that there's just not a lot of attention to boys' fashion concerns. That's understandable in a society where the fashion industry is dominated by women. And there's certainly a much smaller selection of men's styles: it's a Polo shirt or a button-down.

I ask not for sweeping reform, but for a reasonable consideration. Is it really disrespectful to have a shirt un-tucked? Are women's tight pants not more revealing and less tasteful?

All I ask is to be able to stand comfortably with a neat, un-tucked, collared shirt.

# It's Not Always Clear-cut

The Record's cheating poll in this issue raises a number of pressing questions. The majority agreed the Honor Code is effective, and most indicated they had never cheated on a test at Pingry. However, a conspicuously large number of people had witnessed cheating.

Furthermore, a mere 6% have ever reported any kind of cheating. While these discrepancies suggest some kind of moral misalignment on the part of the student body, I believe there are deeper trends at work.

Although I am a new member of the senior class, cheating and dishonesty are not foreign phenomena to me. Coming from another intense prep school, Phillips Academy in Andover, Mass., I have known offenders who have been punished for "crimes" ranging from false claims of having "put the paper in [a teacher's] mailbox" to buying a paper on the Internet and turning it in.

One experience in particular stands out to me. During

**ROHAN MATHEW (VI)**

the dreaded spring term of my junior year, I took a rather difficult Spanish quiz. After I finished, I left with a friend of mine who remarked, "Thanks for saving me. I would have failed if I hadn't looked at your quiz."

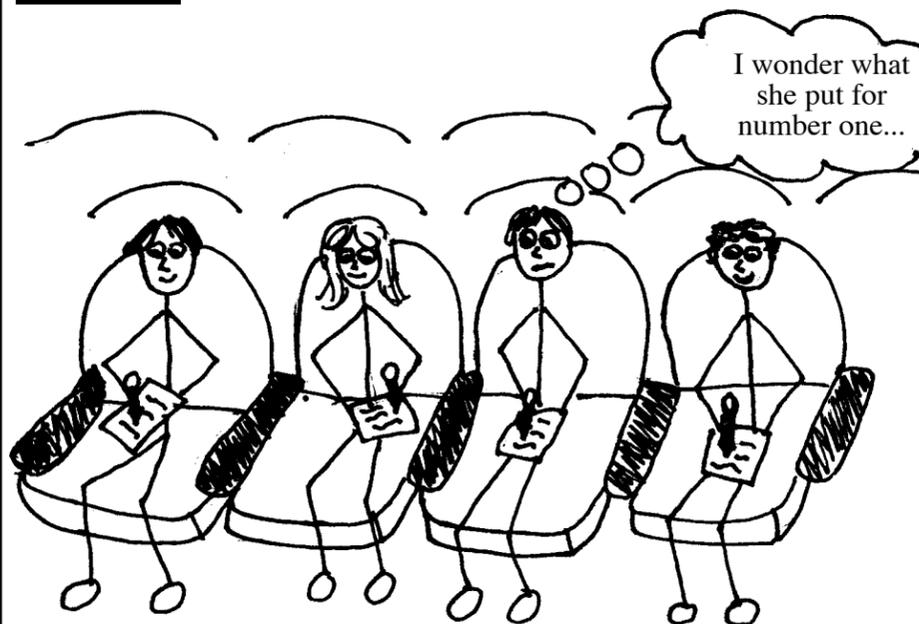
She left me in a trance, taken completely off guard. I felt insulted and angry that she had taken advantage of my fastidious preparation. Despite my fury, however, I was unwilling to turn her in. Call me selfless, but my loyalty and desire to be a good friend outweighed my need to carry out justice for myself and for my school. When I found out a few days later that my friend's father had died just a week before, I decided I had done the right thing.

The issue of cheating is not as clear-cut as it may seem. Does the death of a family member justify cheating? While I used that logic to give myself peace of mind, it seems as if something is wrong with it. Although cheating may

never be justified, it certainly isn't always as abominable as it can be made out to be. At Pingry, which seems to be a more competitive environment than schools I have attended in the past, the cut-throat atmosphere may inadvertently encourage students to cheat and be dishonest.

At the core of this trend is an insatiable endeavor for perfection. Just as I wanted to be the perfect friend, the student who bought a paper online couldn't stand to turn it in late. These endeavors are all flawed because it is excellence, not perfection that is a virtue. Perfection is the will to win at all costs (even cheating), while excellence is the ability to admit you are wrong.

**S. Bragg**



Filling out the cheating poll...

## On the Accuracy of our Poll

We concede that the results of our cheating poll cannot be entirely accurate. While we made every effort to ensure that the poll was precise, our findings are by no means scientific.

We chose to distribute the poll in the auditorium, when the entire student body is together. By having everyone fill out the survey, we achieved a larger sample size and thus improved the poll's accuracy.

Record editors distributed and collected the surveys to make it clear that teachers were not involved in the survey or its findings. We made an onstage announcement, instructing students not to write their names, to fill out the survey in its entirety, to be truthful and honest, and not to look at others' papers. We read the official school definition of cheating aloud so there would be no confusion, and we assured everyone that all answers were confidential.

In the auditorium, everyone sits close to each other. We realize that conducting our poll in that environment inevitably made some students self-conscious about admitting to cheating.

Considering the alternatives, however, we determined that the auditorium was the best location to conduct the survey. The other possibilities were to place the survey in mailboxes (problem: students don't respond), to have advisors distribute the surveys to their advisees (problem: teachers, not students, would be passing them out), or to conduct the survey in random classes (problems: getting teachers to agree, and fewer students responding).

We consulted two psychologists who are parents of one of our editors. They agreed that the auditorium would be the best and most accurate place to conduct the survey.

If you ever have opinions on our newspaper you would like to share, we encourage you to write a letter to the editors. You can e-mail us at pingryrecord@yahoo.com.

*The opinions expressed here reflect the views of the editorial board.*

# On Doing What I Told You Not to Do

**ROBERT ZACHARIAS (VI)**

Some of you may recall that I gave a short speech at Convocation. Among those who recall that I did indeed give a speech is a smaller group that may recall what I actually said during this speech. In case you are not a member of this elite team of seven, I'll quickly recount for you: I spoke about the importance of having free time to do what you want, as opposed to having every minute of your days scheduled.

Well, I am going to willingly admit that so far this year, I have been a very good example of everything I advised students not to do. I have no frees, I anticipate maybe two CP's per week unoccupied, and I spend lots of my out of school time completing very school-related tasks. And so if my speech didn't get through to myself, who could it have possibly have gotten through

to? The moral of this story is that it is more important to come to your own conclusions than to take all of the advice that is tossed your way. Not to say that a lot of the advice you will hear will not be heartfelt and good, but you need to choose for yourself what to adhere to.

Allow me to take this opportunity to make a completely illogical bridge to the subject of the Pingry Student Government.

Thank you, kind reader, for that allowance.

This is my outlook: students have many different things that they would like to get out of the school throughout their careers. We have our daily gripes, like dress code issues, etc., but perhaps more importantly we all see ways

in which we would like to really change the school. Obviously some of the things we as students would like to see implemented aren't feasible. But how can we know the limits of feasibility without testing them? i.e. entertaining the possibility of giving serious recommendations to the administration regarding what students want.

I know I have proposed a variety of different ways of actually effecting change at Pingry. Perhaps students have decided that I have no clear path to actually making any difference here, and that is of course their prerogative. But if you choose to believe me—I think that being candid and vocal about your views of the school is the foundation for change. Democracy strongly

encourages free and lively discussion (it often requires it). So if something's bothering you about the school, be it everyday (I wish there were clocks in the halls) or more complex (the Honor Board should be restructured to increase transparency), talk about it.

Ask one of your representatives to bring it up in a Student Government meeting, or better yet, come to the meeting and present your case—you'll almost certainly find support from the Student Government.

It is easy to be passive and not care about what is going on. It is harder, though, and perhaps more noble, to give a hoot and not pollute. In other words, get involved in critical discussion and to try to change things for the better.

## Write for The Record

We have introduced a number of changes in this issue of The Record. First, the paper is the shortest it has ever been: 8 pages. Our new, shorter length will enable us to publish more frequently and to present the news in a more current fashion.

We have also implemented a more serious layout this issue in hopes of becoming a more professional school newspaper.

There is more change to come, and we need your help. We are especially looking for good columnists who want to write about national, world or in-school issues. We are also looking for profile writers who are willing to interview and follow a stranger for a significant amount of time.

Anyone interested in these jobs, or in any other Record job, should attend our next article assignment meeting. Just listen for an announcement at assembly.

## Blaster Virus Infects School Network



Students experience delays while logging on to the network.

D. Spett (VI)

less connections. Although "network access was very slow," according to Ms. Rodriguez, the network remained functional throughout the removal process.

"Many other schools totally shut down their networks," Ms. Rodriguez said.

Network services are slowly returning to normal. There is no sign of the virus on any of the systems, and the network is back to normal performance levels. To avoid future incidents, Ms. Rodriguez says all equipment will now be checked and inspected before being plugged into the network. The anti-virus software and windows patches will continue to be updated regularly to combat the latest threats.

Despite these preparations, a future attack is still possible, the tech team says. Technology Director Ms. Gracemarie Cirino advises, "Don't open e-mail from people you don't know, or even if you do know them and it doesn't look like

something they would have written." Most importantly, though, according to Mrs. Cirino, students and faculty should "just use common sense."

She also underscores the importance of using the latest anti-virus software from vendors such as Symantec or McAfee. Without them, personal laptop computers cannot be registered for use on the school network.

The Blaster virus, which was allegedly written by someone with a grudge against Microsoft, has infected an estimated 300,000 computers worldwide. According to Microsoft, the worm "exploits a vulnerability in Windows 2000 and Windows XP machines." The virus replicates itself and attempts to prevent access to the Microsoft web page containing a patch that removes the virus. Microsoft has since claimed victory over the Blaster virus, but advises users to fix the hole in their software.

## Back Trouble Linked To Backpacks, Sleep Or Sports, Lalley Says

BY HADLEY JOHNSON (III)

Back problems among students are significant, says school trainer J. Michael Lalley. Mr. Lalley says heavy backpacks, poor sleeping habits and sports may be to blame.

Mr. Lalley says he has noticed a strong connection between improper use of backpacks and back injury. "When students carry heavy

While many students think they can help their backs by sleeping with too many pillows or excessively large pillows, Mr. Lalley believes this practice can actually have the reverse effect and cause back and neck damage.

Sports have a more direct role in causing back injury. Mr. Lalley says that football is the number one cause of sports-related back injury



Students sport heavy backpacks.

D. Spett (VI)

## 'Book of Days' is a Calendar Event

### Rehearsals Well Underway for Nov. Fall Play

BY MARISSA BIALECKI (IV)

This year's fall play, "Book of Days," will show from November 20-22 in the new Macrae Theater.

Written by Lanford Wilson, "Book of Days" features the small rural town of Dublin, Mo. and its unwillingness to accept reality and challenge authority.

Directed by Mr. Al Romano, rehearsals for the 18-member cast began the first week of school.

"I chose this play because I liked the structure, and I really love the characters. The scenes are emotionally challenging for young actors. However, Wilson's language throughout the play is outstanding," Mr. Romano says.

Mr. Romano adds that he liked the idea of exploring a small town in America at the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. "It's unlike any other play that we've done," he says. "I felt it was a challenge, with a cast of young actors, to communicate both the surface issues as well as the underlying, negative issues of a small town."

The play's heroine, Ruth Bates (Susannah Bragg, VI), has been cast as Joan of Arc in the town play, "Saint Joan," working under the direction of acclaimed Hollywood director Boyd Middleton (Amit Kumar, VI) and his assistant, Ginger Reed (Caroline Savello, V, and Marissa Bialecki, IV).

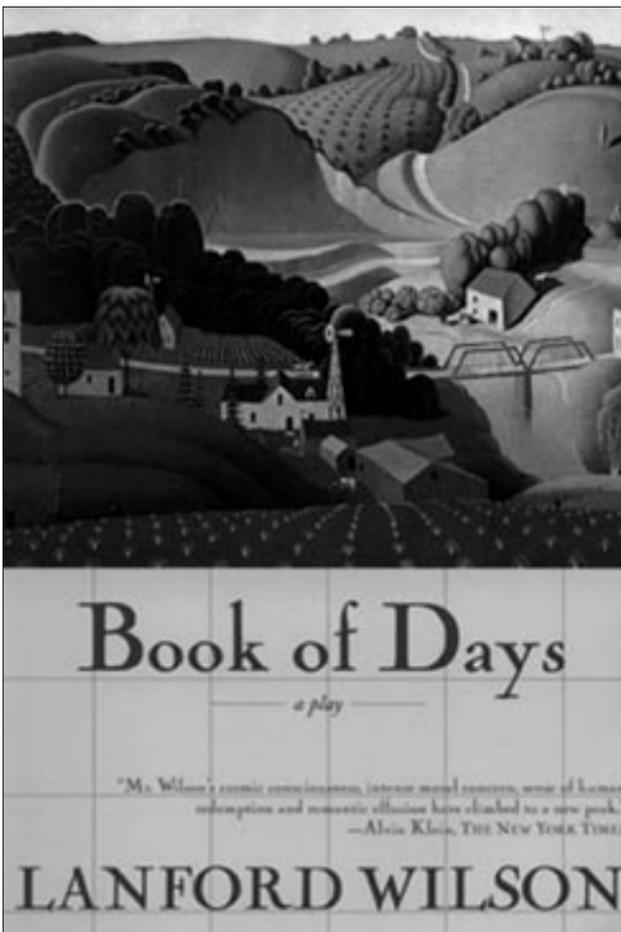
Ruth's husband, Len (Robert Zacharias, VI), works with Earl (Greg Selover, IV). Meanwhile, James Bates (Dennis Malkov, VI) is discovered to be cheating on his wife, LouAnn (Halley Gross, VI),

with a hairdresser outside Dublin. The plot thickens when Walt is mysteriously killed while hunting with Earl during a storm, and Ruth takes it upon herself to solve the mystery.

Although the play is a serious social drama, it is full

happy to be in the play but says he misses being part of a large cast.

The cast this year is much smaller than it has been in years past. Due to the limited number of roles, many students who auditioned were cut. Of the 18 cast members, six play



of humorous comments and scenes. "The characters are truly dynamic and realistic," Mr. Romano says. All the cast members have been working on acquiring the subtleties of a Missouri accent.

Denis Malkov (VI) is

the role of townspeople. The other twelve members play the main characters of the drama in Dublin.

Lisa Thomas (III), stage manager and member of the chorus, says everyone should see the play.

## MUSIC DEPT. REVAMPS SCHEDULE

### Adds Wind Sinfonia

BY TALIA RAY (III)

Taking full advantage of the new art wing, the music faculty have expanded performance opportunities for students in the Upper School.

Previously, the conference period instrumental opportunities consisted of the Brass Choir and Orchestra. This year, the Brass Choir and Orchestra have been augmented by the addition of the newly created Wind Sinfonia.

Wind Sinfonia is open to all upper school instrumentalists who play a woodwind, percussion or brass instrument. In the new Upper School Orchestra, the strings (violins, violas, cellos and basses) will be joined by woodwind, brass and percussion players selected by audition. "The demands of the music and orchestration will dictate the size of the woodwind, brass and percussion sections," says Mr. Sean McAnally, director of instrumental groups.

Modified rehearsal schedules were designed by the department to accommodate students in both instrumental and vocal groups. Instrumentalists rehearse during Conference Period on Mondays and Fridays, and the Glee Clubs rehearse during Conference Period on Wednesdays with vocal sectionals on Tuesdays or Thursdays.

The new schedules will eliminate all conflicts between vocal and instrumental

backpacks, they pull their shoulders forward. It is a tug of war against the back which leads to spasms," he says. He suggests students carry lighter loads or keep two backpacks, one for each side of the building.

Mr. Lalley also suggests that students exercise better judgment about which books to lug around. He says students should do the homework that requires bigger books before they leave so they don't have to take the books home.

He feels that backpacks pose a greater threat for younger students. "Heavy backpacks are more of a problem in the Middle School," he says. "Upper schoolers are smarter about backpacks."

Mr. Lalley and school nurse Mrs. Joanne Childs advise that the maximum weight students should carry on their backs varies from 15 to 25 pounds, depending on their body size.

Mrs. Childs suggests that students use both shoulder straps of a backpack, because using only one can damage the spine. "It can lead to scoliosis," she warns.

Scoliosis is a lateral twisting of the spine, and, while many cases are not severe and clear up on their own, a few can be serious, according to Mrs. Childs.

rehearsals. Because of the size of the new art wing, the two Glee Clubs will be able to rehearse together on any Wednesday, and the instrumentalists will be able to have all their sectionals in different rooms at the same time. "I am thrilled by the opportunities we are now able to offer," Mr. McAnally says.

and that contact sports such as wrestling can pull and strain back muscles.

Other sports can cause back problems, too. "At the start of the season, field hockey players must get accustomed to hunching over, which causes strain on the lower back," Mr. Lalley says. "Most players get used to it by mid-season."

Many students worry that excessive slouching under a heavy backpack leads to a negative self-image.

As Ally Melligon (III) says, "I'm always hunching over when I wear my backpack. It's really unattractive and that's why I don't have a boyfriend."

Mrs. Childs says that while back injury is a significant problem, it has been "pretty consistent" and has not risen over time.

Lower School typing teacher Mrs. Elaine Krusch says that poor posture while using a computer is also directly related to aching backs. "Any poor posture can have an adverse affect of the spine," she says. "It doesn't just have a poor appearance."

When sitting at the computer, you should sit up straight in a comfortable chair that provides back support.

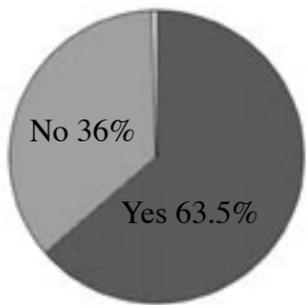
Mr. Lalley and Mrs. Krusch agree that "most of it is just common sense."

Write for the Record.  
Write for the Record.

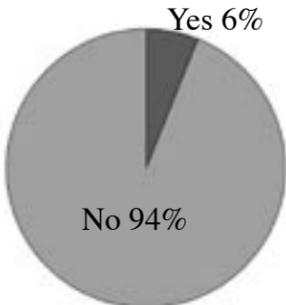
write@pingryrecord.com

**STUDENT POLL RESULTS**

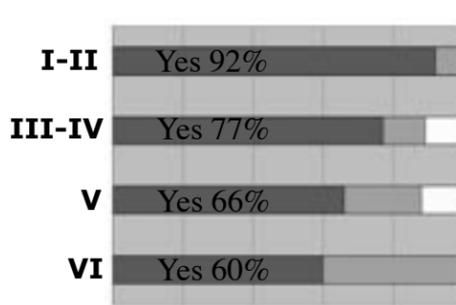
**Are you aware of the procedure for reporting cheating?**



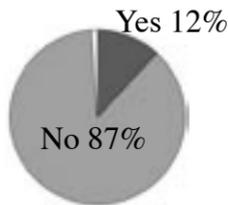
**Have you ever reported anyone for cheating?**



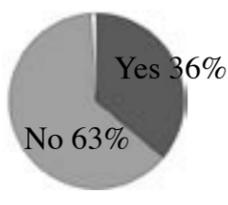
**Do you think the Honor Code is effective?**



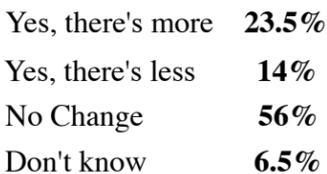
**Have you ever cheated on a vocab quiz?**



**Have you ever received help on a graded assignment?**



**Has the amount of cheating changed in recent years?**



# Discrepancies, Trends In School Poll Results

*Continued From Page 1*

their classrooms, 7% of faculty marked "other," meaning that they do not follow the school policy of reporting all incidents. Some wrote in that they preferred to talk to the involved students first. (24% had never been confronted with the situation.)

About 7% of teachers also admitted to having ignored cheating in their classes. In spite of their strong approval of the Honor code, 41% of faculty answered that they felt uncomfortable leaving the classroom while students were taking a test. A couple of faculty members wrote explanations on their polls, such as "I know I shouldn't, but..." and "Sometimes, particularly when a student's eyes are wandering."

The majority of faculty and students alike felt that the amount of cheating at Pingry has not changed in recent years. 26% of students (including 36% of seniors) and 19% of faculty responded that more cheating exists now. One faculty member marked that less cheating exists at school now, but that there is "more plagiarism." Others also wrote in theories that, though cheating may not be more common, it has taken on new forms.

Also, new students showed a greater determination to report cheating. 62% said they would report such an instance (compared to 43% of the whole student body). The separate faculty poll also revealed high ratings (an average of 3.8) for the Honor Code.

When asked how they deal with cases of cheating in that. No morals or Honor Code can change it."

But in the Honor Code's defense, Nina Mikkilineni (V) says, "I think people do pay attention to it because they have that fear they will get caught."

Brian Combias (IV) says, "Teachers could scan the room a little more."

When people do get caught, Tuller says, the Honor Code's punishments are often too harsh.

Chapman has similar concerns. "The Code is ineffective because the punishments aren't consistent," she says.

Ryan Maxwell (II) says the school should adopt a clear-cut policy in which students are suspended for the first cheating offense and expelled for the second.

Bryan Zupon (VI) disagrees, saying, "Cheaters should be harshly punished."

juniors gave the Honor Code average ratings of 2.7 and 3.2, respectively.

The Middle Schoolers admitted to committing the most plagiarism. Over 15% said they had taken material from outside sources without citing. Juniors were second in this category with 14%.

Freshmen and sophomores were the leaders in receiving help from tutors or parents on graded assignments, with 46% of them accepting aid. 36% of seniors answered yes to the same question, as did 30% of Middle Schoolers and 26% of juniors.

New students' responses were collected separately since those students had barely been at school a week when the poll was conducted. They gave the Honor Code's effectiveness an average rating of 4.0. No new student ranked it less than a 2.

Also, new students showed a greater determination to report cheating. 62% said they would report such an instance (compared to 43% of the whole student body). The separate faculty poll also revealed high ratings (an average of 3.8) for the Honor Code.

When asked how they deal with cases of cheating in

## Campus Responds to Our Findings

### Mr. Rohdie Connects Results to National Trends

BY CAROLINE SAVELLO (V)  
Assistant Headmaster and Upper School Director Mr. Adam Rohdie believes the results of the September 12 poll on cheating are more or less a reliable indication of cheating at Pingry.

"It's hard to speculate," he says, since the majority of cheating at the school goes unnoticed and unreported.

The Upper School director feels that some cheating at a school is always inevitable. "Taking the easy way out is human nature," he says, "even when it's the wrong thing to do."

He cites his alma mater, Stanford University, as an example of national averages. In a recent 2003 poll there, 5.4 percent of the students admitted to having copied from another person's test during an exam. 20 percent of students, however, said they have actually witnessed cheating during a test more than once.

Mr. Rohdie adds that improper citations, involvement by parents or tutors on graded assignments and dishonesty towards teachers are just as prevalent at Pingry as glancing at a neighbor's test.

Cheating on papers happens frequently and inadvertently, Mr. Rohdie says, explaining that the lack of citations for statistics is a common problem.

He also feels that academic integrity (plagiarism, dishonesty and outside help) is a bigger problem than outright cheating. He points to the Honor Board, where he says about half of all cases are concerned with academic integrity, while fewer than half involve actual cheating on a test.

Mr. Rohdie says Pingry's "character education" campaign aims to stop these problems. He cites an old saying of Mr. Hanly's: "A good education without a moral compass is dangerous." He adds, "The way I see it is, you can go to Yale whether or not I'm your teacher. What's more important is what kind of person I help you become."

The program of character education has its basis with Mr. Hanly's words in mind. Mr. Rohdie thinks that one of the biggest portions of being a teacher is to "grow good people." Without moral education or an Honor Code, it would be easy for an institution like Pingry to produce "very smart, but very bad people," Mr. Rohdie says. He names examples of successful executives turned criminals like Enron CEO Kenneth Lay, Tyco CEO Dennis Kozlowski, and ImClone compadre Martha Stewart.

The assistant headmaster disagrees with the 56% of students who responded that cheating at Pingry has not changed. "I think it has increased over the years," he says.

According to him, there are two causes for the rise in cheating: technological advances and widespread grade inflation. With the burgeoning resources of the Internet, Mr. Rohdie says the availability of obscure information and websites has increased tremendously. In addition to a greater temptation to plagiarize a few sentences from an unknown website, this technology also means more mistakes are possible.

Mr. Rohdie adds that with grade inflation, students who bring home B's do not consider that grade acceptable and feel pressured to cheat. A recent study conducted at Harvard University found that 48.5% of Harvard's grades were in the A/A- range, making an A- the average grade. The report also found that 90% of Harvard students graduated with honors.

Another driving force behind the pressure to succeed comes from teachers, Mr. Rohdie feels. "As teachers, we always say, 'Learn for the sake of learning,' but later in the period we'll add, 'Listen up, you need to know this for the test,'" he says.

Regardless of the pressure to cheat, Mr. Rohdie says, "a vast majority of our students believe deeply in honesty and academic integrity."

### STUDENTS COMMENT

BY CAITLIN BERGH (VI)

The results of our student poll showed that though few students admit to cheating themselves, many have seen their peers cheat.

"Cheating definitely goes on," says Jon Bregman (IV).

According to Sonam Sharma (VI), chair of the Honor Board, "It's horrible that people cheat. There's no point to it."

So why do they cheat? "There are a lot of motivations," Emma Chapman (V) says. "Either they've got pressure from parents, or they don't feel like working, or they just don't see the consequences."

Although some students feel cheating is getting worse at Pingry, most respondents said it has always been a problem.

Sharma and Bregman say it has been "pretty consistent" over the years. Chapman believes cheating may have gotten worse but adds, "Maybe I'm just more aware of it now."

Most students say the Honor Code does not solve all problems. "A lot of cheating still goes on even with the Honor Code," says David Noyes (VI).

Alex Tuller (VI) agrees, saying, "People cheat, there's nothing you can do to stop

## FACULTY DISMISS PROBLEM

### Most Believe Honor Code is Effective

BY REBECCA SPEISER (VI) & RACHEL VAN WERT (IV)

Most Pingry teachers say cheating is not a major problem here. Our poll showed that the majority is never uneasy about leaving their classrooms during a test, and the mean ranking of the Honor Code's effectiveness is 3.8 on a scale from 0 to 5.

Math teacher Mrs. Kate Cassidy says that for the most part students "take the Honor Code seriously and won't cheat because of that."

History teacher Mr. Mike Webster agrees. "The vast majority of students are law-abiding," he says.

Spanish teachers Mrs. Susan Ortner and Mr. Gerardo Vazquez also find that the amount of cheating at Pingry is minimal. "I see it in society, but not in my classes. It's because most students take the Honor Code seriously," Mrs. Ortner says.

Mr. Vazquez adds that students usually don't even try to cheat because they see the Honor Code as a way of life. At his old high school, he frequently saw students cheating during tests.

*Continued on Page 7*

## Cheating: A History

The core of the poll was based on a survey of 72% of students given by The Record in 1975, which revealed extensive cheating within the student body.

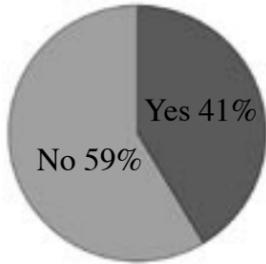
Forty-seven percent admitted back then to having cheated on a test (compared to 12.5% today), and 75% had seen someone cheat (compared to 56% today).

On the other hand, the 51% who said in this poll that they would not report cheating echo very closely the 54% who answered the same way in 1975.

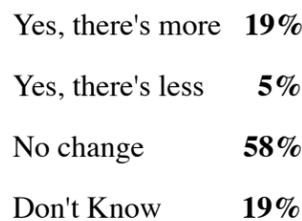
Also notable back then was that 11% of the faculty had overlooked a case of cheating in their classrooms. (7% responded yes to this question today.)

### FACULTY POLL RESULTS

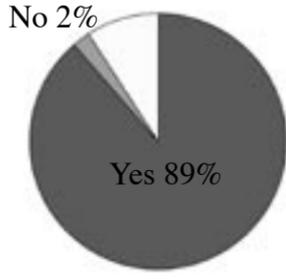
**Do you feel uneasy about leaving the room while your students are taking a test?**



**Do you think the amount of cheating at Pingry has changed in recent years?**



**Do you think the Honor Code is effective?**



## Ms. Kooheli Chatterji '93 Returns to be Dean



Ms. Chatterji left in 2000 to work for NJ SEEDS.

N. Lee (IV)

BY CASEY HUSER (V)

Ms. Kooheli Chatterji '93 may look familiar around the halls because this is actually her second time teaching at Pingry. Ms. Chatterji is replacing Mrs. Abraham as dean of the Middle School. She will also be teaching one section of Middle School English and coaching Middle School field hockey.

Ms. Kooheli Chatterji should not be confused with her sister, Ms. Ananya Chatterji, who has been a math teacher here since 1996 and a college counselor since 2002.

Ms. Kooheli Chatterji moved to New Jersey in 1983, and she began attending Pingry in 1986 as a sixth grader. After graduating she attended Wesleyan University in Connecticut, where she majored in English.

After college she came back to Pingry and worked here from 1997 to 2000. She then decided to take a job as director of programs for New Jersey SEEDS. SEEDS takes bright students from low-income families in inner cities, educates them and places

them in private schools like Pingry.

In the SEEDS program she was responsible for one-on-one conferences with students and parents, but she never got to teach in a classroom. Ms. Chatterji says she "missed the classroom environment."

She was also responsible for deciding where to place the SEEDS students all over the country. When she heard about the opening in Pingry's Middle School, she says, "It seemed perfect to me."

Ms. Chatterji says she knew in high school that she "wanted to come back to Pingry to teach." She notes that many teachers she had as a student are still here. The transformation from student to colleague was an interesting experience, she says.

"At first it seemed strange to call them by their first names, but now it seems normal," she adds.

When Ms. Chatterji has free time, she enjoys reading as well as exercising and eating. She is currently living in Bedminster, just a short ride away.

## Ms. Laura Mila Comes from William & Mary

BY BECKY NG (V)

Ms. Laura Mila, a new addition to the Foreign Language Department, teaches Middle School Spanish 1a and 1b. She will also be the assistant coach for Middle School girls' softball.

Originally from Carle Place, Long Island, Ms. Mila graduated from Carle Place High School in 1999. She then attended the College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, where she majored in Spanish. She graduated in 2003 and moved to Summit just one month ago.

In high school Ms. Mila was on both the field hockey and softball teams, and in college she played on a club softball team. In her spare time Ms. Mila enjoys running and traveling to New York City and Washington D.C. to visit friends.

Ms. Mila first decided to

become a teacher during her senior year in college, when she was an assistant teacher for an introductory Spanish class.

"I love the Spanish language and culture," Ms. Mila says. "It's just a lot of fun to see others taking an interest in something I really love. To be part of that everyday is fun, energizing, and inspirational."

Students are pleased with Ms. Mila so far. "She's nice, she knows a lot about what she's teaching, and she's good at what she's teaching," says Hannah Goldstein (I).

When asked about what drew her to Pingry, she spoke about how "great the student body is" and "how the faculty spoke so highly of it."

Ms. Mila also knew the faculty were people she really wanted to work with. "I like how the faculty gets along really well and how the



Ms. Mila teaches Spanish and will coach softball in the Middle School.

N. Lee (IV)

students are very committed to their school work. I really admire that," she says.

On the topic of school food, Ms. Mila agrees it's been "pretty good. I've been sticking to the salads, but I really like the cookies too."

## Mr. Pete D'Agostino Joins Athletic Staff



Mr. D'Agostino joins the athletic staff after coaching at Rutgers Prep.

N. Lee (IV)

BY MAGGIE O'TOOLE (V)

Mr. Peter D'Agostino, the new assistant athletic director under Mrs. De Martini, has been coaching at Pingry for two years. This spring he will be coaching JV Baseball, and currently he is coaching Middle School Football.

Mr. D'Agostino says he "enjoys the outdoors and loves all sports." Before coming to Pingry, he was a volunteer assistant coach at Rutgers Prep. He spends his summers coaching in the Atlantic Baseball Confederation Collegiate League, where he coaches players from Rutgers, Seton Hall, Monmouth, Rider, Kean, Felician and Salisbury State.

Mr. D'Agostino grew up in Basking Ridge and

attended one of Pingry's rivals, Ridge High School, where he played varsity baseball for four years and varsity football for three. After graduating, he attended Miami-Dade College in Florida where he was again on the baseball team.

After Miami-Dade, Mr. D'Agostino went on to obtain a bachelor's degree in business management from Rider University and a masters degree in finance from Farleigh Dickinson University in Madison.

He now lives in Hunterdon, just a short distance away, with his wife and two children. His oldest child attends Rutgers University and his youngest is enrolled at Rutgers Prep.

## Ms. Hope Gordon Changes Pace from Whitewater Rafting Guide to Permanent Teaching Substitute

BY JULIETTE JORDAN (IV)

New faculty member Ms. Hope Gordon will be filling in for Mrs. Landau until she recovers from surgery and returns in November.

Primarily, however, she is replacing Mr. Hedengren as the school's permanent substitute.

Mr. Hedengren is now in the math department taking over for Mr. Milner, who left at the end of last year.

Ms. Gordon is not only new to teaching, but also to New Jersey. She recently moved to Belle Mead, which is near Princeton.

Born and raised in Newport, Rhode Island, she graduated from Duke University in Durham, North Carolina.

Ms. Gordon got her bachelor's degree in political science and minored in art history. Showing her Duke spirit, she calls herself "a Cameron



Ms. Gordon was an intense basketball fan as a student at Duke University.

N. Lee (IV)

Crazy."

A Cameron Crazy is a Duke men's basketball fan that has a reputation for getting very

excited at games. Some have even gone so far as to camp outside Cameron stadium in tents to get the best seats for

a game.

After graduating from "Dooke," as she calls it, Ms. Gordon moved to Colorado to be a whitewater rafting guide. She "loves everything outdoors" and enjoys hiking, whitewater rafting, and especially skiing.

"The only bad thing around here is that there are no trails," Ms. Gordon says with a laugh.

This fall, Ms. Gordon is also an assistant field hockey coach. In the winter, she will coach the skiing team and in the spring lacrosse.

Ms. Gordon "is an enthusiastic coach and a good leader," says field hockey player Rachel Van Wert (IV).

Ms. Gordon first knew she wanted to teach when she was in high school. "I had a teacher that I loved, and I looked up to her so much that I knew I wanted to become a teacher too."

## Faculty Respond to Cheating Poll

Continued From Page 5

Still, our poll showed that one in every eight students has cheated on a test at Pingry.

School psychologist Dr. Mike Richardson says that stress and pressure can build up and make students feel that cheating is the only way to success. They may also become disorganized and panic-stricken as they fall behind in their classwork, Dr. Richardson says.

Many students are under pressure from their parents to get all A's, he adds. As stress to get good grades increases, it is harder for students to focus. And without focus, being prepared for tests becomes harder. For that reason, Dr. Richardson says, students resort to cheating.

Disorganization is another

main cause of cheating, according to Dr. Richardson. If students are slipping behind or are missing important information, they become anxious and are prone to cheat.

Dr. Richardson adds that getting a paper from the web has become so simple that students may find themselves resorting to using someone else's work because they haven't had a chance to produce their own.

Drama teacher Mrs. Trish Wheeler agrees. "I think that cutting and pasting just makes it easier," she says.

Cheating obviously doesn't just happen at Pingry, school therapist Mrs. Patricia Lionetti says. "But considering the type of place Pingry is," she says, "the problem is still a big one."

## Falcone's: The Better Martinsville Pizza

BY SUMEET SHAH (VI)

When Pingry students get hungry, the first food they decide to order is usually pizza from Pizza Brothers (also known as Martinsville Pizzeria). But Pizza Brothers boasts long delivery times and high prices. Their pizza isn't the greatest in Martinsville, either.

To get pizza from a fabulous family-owned restaurant with more than just pizza, stop by Falcone's Pizzeria on Washington Valley Road. The pizzeria's head chef, Carlo Falcone, does take a bit longer than Pizza Brothers to make the pizza, but he uses fresh ingredients and it takes less time to deliver it, too. In addition, Falcone's prices are rock bottom — about \$11.50 with delivery for a pepperoni pizza.

In addition to a pizzeria, there's a sit-down restaurant right next door. Recently, my brother Sachin and I drove there to eat dinner. After a short conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Falcone and Uncle Carlo, we sat down and ordered our food. We liked the ambience of Italian memorabilia and family pictures.

A friendly waiter then welcomed us and took our orders. We ordered the mozzarella caprese (slices of mozzarella, tomato, roasted pepper, and basil drizzled with olive oil)

as a small appetizer. Sachin ordered a small pepperoni pizza and I ordered veal piccata (slices of veal cooked with white wine and lemon, \$12.99).

Our caprese came quickly. The mozzarella, although not fresh, was very soft and melted in our mouths. The tangy peppers, juicy tomatoes and fresh basil complemented the mozzarella very well. The dish overall, though not superb, was a good starter.

After another 10 minutes, our pizza and veal arrived. Sachin's pepperoni pizza was cheesy and well-cooked. There were plentiful amounts of pepperoni, and it was overall very tasty and warm.

I received five large pieces of veal that, albeit a bit chewy, were cooked well in a very interesting lemon sauce. I finished half the veal and took the rest home. Sachin finished all his pizza. We were stuffed as usual, so we paid the check and went to Gabriel's Fountain for dessert.

With a better staff and a hospitable dining room, Falcone's offers better food than Martinsville Pizzeria for starving Pingry students.

Ratings (from \* to \*\*\*\*\*):

Food: \*\*\* 1/2

Décor: \*\*\*

Service: \*\*\*

Cost/person: \$5-15 pizzeria, \$25-30 restaurant

## Jackie's Music Picks: Reliving Summer

BY JACKIE MARCUS (VI)

As the queen of pop and of shocking onstage French kisses once said, "Music makes the people come together."

For Pingry students, searching for new music to listen to and annoy your friends with is sadly a far cry from the top of the priority list. So, many people end up listening to only those bands that are on the radio. I remember being a fifth grader going to my first Dave Matthews concert, and feeling a strange sense of community, seeing our school represented in each row of the immense Giants Stadium.

Sadly, now when I go to a Bright Eyes show, the only Pingry kids I know are the ones I just shared the cab fare with. I am not saying that the music everyone knows and loves around the school is trite or passé. My own AOL screen name is composed of the three letters, "DMB" (trust me, I would not keep this name if I thought the band was sub par), and my favorite sweatshirt to



wear around the house dons the faded navy blue signature of Pete from Dispatch.

What I am trying to do, however, is introduce students to some bands they may not know and hopefully bring a new rock and roll spirit to these halls of aqua and checker board.

The summer of 2003 has passed us by, bringing us back to the school we all know, and, at times, love. But though it may be over, summer has left behind some incredible and not-so-incredible music. And so I offer my reviews of a few summer albums.

Improvement Prize:  
G. Mintz

H.M. — A. Johnson, K. McIver, B. Williams

Scholarship Prize: A. Christakos

H.M. — S. Bragg, P. Kolb, S. Sharma

**Congratulations to all the academic award winners!**

"A Mark, A Mission, A Brand, A Scar"

By Dashboard Confessional

In an attempt to appeal to a broader fan base, Emo's poster boy Chris Carrabba has sacrificed raw and rousing music for radio play. The sheer power and emotion that

like "Rapid Hope Loss," this album has its good moments, but in the end lacks the inspiration that drew many people to Dashboard in the first place.

Similar bands to check out: The New Amsterdam's, Rilo Kiley, Onlinedrawing



Chris has infused into his past songs is clearly missing from this album. The usual purity of Chris' guitar has also been convoluted into a studio production, which makes the album lack the unadulterated realness that I love so much in his previous songs.

Basically, a once acoustic song is given a punk-pop makeover, which is completely wrong for what was initially a stripped down, poetic testament to Chris' sweet first kiss with his girlfriend. To be fair to Chris, however, I realized after listening to the album a few times that the tracks are undeniably catchy.

From upbeat ballads such as "As Lovers Go," to classic Dashboard breakup songs

"Knock Knock Knock E.P."

By Hot Hot Heat

This is the most fun CD I bought this summer. You may know the Vancouver band from their single "Bandages," which received much video and radio airplay this summer. With its unique throwback to new wave keyboards, 60's rock, 70's punk, and a mod style, Hot Hot Heat towers over "The" bands (*The Strokes*, *The Vines*, *The Hives*...) in style, originality, and energy. Their flamboyance may be a little much for some people to handle, but they have put a new spin on what has become the trendiest sound in music.

Similar bands to check out: Rooney, The Cure

"Give Up"

By Postal Service

This album, along with Cursive's "The Ugly Organ," is my favorite album of the summer. The only thing more incredible than the music itself is the fact that Ben Gibbard, the Death Cab for Cutie vocalist that wrote the lyrics and laid down the vocals for "Give Up," never met with DJ Jimmy Tamborello, who mixed the album.

The electronic beats here can hardly be called 80's. Gibbard's evocative voice, enhanced by ethereal background vocals, combined with Tamborello's electronic musicality make for the most unlikely yet genius synthesis.

In "The District Sleeps Alone Tonight," the sweet melody of Gibbard's voice combined with Tamborello's string samples and drum beats creates an emotional climax that makes you want to listen to the song over and over.

Smart and fun lyrics such as "I'll be the platform shoes and undo what heredity's done to you / You won't have to strain to look into my eyes" make the CD that much more enjoyable to listen to. "Give Up" has a refreshing new sound that takes hold of its listeners like a pleasant parasite, latching on to the listener and not letting go.

Similar bands to check out: Death Cab for Cutie, The Apple Seed Cast.

## 2002-2003 ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### Form I

Citizenship Prize: K. Occhipinti, J. Devine  
H.M. — I. Eboh, T. Topf

Improvement Prize: T. Bourne, S. Roach  
Scholarship Prize: E. Rosenman  
H.M. — C. Pinke, J. Tanenbaum

### Form II

Citizenship Prize: L. Thomas  
H.M. — A. Conti, F. Rakla, S. Waterbury

Improvement Prize: A. Melligon  
H.M. — C. Wagner

Scholarship Prize: S. Naratil  
H.M. — V. Naratil, K. Obst, J. Kolb

### Form III

Citizenship Prize: M. Bialecki, J. Oplinger  
H.M. — B. Combias, J. Jordan

Improvement Prize: T. Javier  
H.M. — S. Blum, J. Teicher

Scholarship Prize: J. Bregman, M. Jokubaitis  
H.M. — E. Yang

### Form IV

Citizenship Prize: C. Savello  
H.M. — E. Feldman, K. Olson

Improvement Prize: C. Collins  
H.M. — J. Erickson, N. Stevenson

Scholarship Prize: A. Seebald  
H.M. — M. Rosenman

### Form V

Citizenship Prize: J. Whiteley  
H.M. — Sonam Sharma

## Wilkommen, AFS Student Julia

BY MELISSA LOEWINGER (III)

Originally from Germany, Julia Saering joins the junior class as this year's AFS student. Julia lives in Puchheim, a small, pastoral village just outside of Munich, with her mother, father and 13-year-old brother, Timo. Although she adores her own family, Julia is excited about spending this year with her American family.

This year, Caitlin Jennings (IV) and her family are hosting Julia. Julia says it is not hard to fit into a different fam-

ily. "I love my host family and I feel accepted at all times," she says.

Thousands of miles away from her native country, Julia has been busy experiencing the United States. Her favorite place in the United States so far has been Colorado, where she went with her host family.

Arriving two weeks before the start of school, Julia has been settling down and getting used to her new life. Julia goes to school with Caitlin and plays with her on the soccer team.



Julia Saering is a junior this year.

N. Lee (IV)

At the Jennings' house in Westfield, Julia has her own bedroom with "very nice furniture." She says her host family has been very hospitable. They had already hung up pictures of Julia's friends and family when she arrived.

Julia likes the atmosphere at Pingry better than at Gymnasium Puchheim, her school in Germany. The student-teacher relationship, she says, is very different in the U.S. "In Germany, the teachers aren't [your] friends," she says. She adds that German schools have a strict hierarchy with teachers at the top and students at the bottom. At Pingry, Julia says "teachers are happy when you ask them questions."

Julia says Pingry's workload is heavy, but she is not struggling. Her exemption from science helps insure that she is not overburdened. Julia is not exempt from English, but she likes it and is very good at it. She credits her fluency to six years of English classes in Germany.

Julia's main goals for this school year are to experience America and to meet new people. She finds her American friends enthusiastic and says, "students here are very nice."

# CURRENT SPORTS RECORDS

**Boys' Cross Country**  
3-0

**Girls' Cross Country**  
4-0

**Field Hockey**  
4-0

**Football**  
2-1

**Boys' Soccer**  
5-0

**Girls' Soccer**  
5-0-1

**Girls' Tennis**  
7-0

**Waterpolo**  
1-0

**Go Big Blue!**



The Boys Varsity Football team practices before their big game. N. Lee (IV)

## Homecoming Is Away-going

BY CAITLIN BERGH (VI)  
This year's Homecoming football game on October 4 isn't at home as usual, but at Mountain Lakes High School. A well-loved tradition of Homecoming being at Pingry has thus been changed into an "away-going."

Having the football game away was the only solution due to complicated scheduling problems between the football team and the administration, football head coach Mr. Mike Webster says.

When the administration began planning Parents' Day,

October 4 was the only appropriate day for the event.

Typically Parents' Day and Homecoming would have been held on Saturday, September 27, but that day is the Jewish holiday of Rosh Hashanah. So the school decided to hold the two events a week later.

Because public schools like Mountain Lakes pay money to host games, they were reluctant to change the game to Pingry's home field. Furthermore, they have only 4 or 5 highly-valued home games, and such a change in location would leave them with only 3.

The school found a way to include the student body in a different home-opener football game.

Before school closed early on Friday, September 26, for Rosh Hashanah, the Pingry football team played a home game at 1 p.m.

There was a special schedule so that all students could go out to the field to support the football team.

Coach Webster says that despite the unusual circumstances, the one-o'clock game was a different way for students to show their support.

Featured Team

## Girls' Tennis



Lucy Marchese (III) returns the ball. N. Lee (IV)

BY KATIE SUCHOW (VI)  
Led by captains Allison Johnson (VI) and Jessica Weinstock (VI), this year's girls' tennis team is "the best it's ever been," Coach Gary Miller says. Six of last year's nine varsity players have returned, and three freshmen have been added, two of whom are nationally ranked. "We have high expectations for this year's season," Casey Huser (V) says.

The girls, ranked for the first time ever as number one in the state, say they want to improve from last year, when they reached the semi-finals in the Tournament of Champions. Although Coach Miller says the competition will be stiff, he is confident that the girls will be able "to lead as a unit" and perform well in their major competitions, which include counties, scheduled for October 4, and states.

The team already has an 8-0 record, and four of the six varsity positions are undefeated. Among these are Michelle Yuan (III), Allison Johnson, Jessica Weinstock, Casey Huser (IV), Jackie Marcus (VI) and Robin

Moore (III).

Lucy Marchese (III), who plays the first singles position, and Michelle Yuan, who plays the second singles position, are both nationally ranked.

Both the girls and Coach Miller say they will have a promising and unprecedented season. "With a team this good," says Miller, "it's hard not to look ahead to what the season has in store."



Pam Lang (V) gets ready to return a serve. N. Lee (IV)

## Athlete Profile



Courtesy of Amanda Smith

## Amanda Smith: Girls' Cross Country

BY KATIE SUCHOW (VI)  
& ROHAN MATHEW (VI)

With a personal record time of 19:17, junior Amanda Smith led the Girls' Cross Country team to a 30-25 victory over their arch-rival, Chatham. Smith covered the first mile of the 5 K course in 6:01 and was "very surprised and very happy" with her first performance of the season. "At a lot of practices," says Smith, "I worked on pacing myself at 6 minutes per mile and I was very happy to be able to stay close to that pace for the rest of the race at Chatham."

Smith began running in eighth grade at her former school, Oak Knoll. "They were starting a cross country team," she said, "and I was already playing soccer so I thought it would help."

Since then, Smith has won several awards. As a freshman, Smith won Preps and placed 19<sup>th</sup> in the state after running a 19:52 at Holmdel, one of the most prestigious high school cross country

courses. She has also won Conferences each year. "We had a hard season last year," explains Smith, "[and] I hope this year we can come together as a team to win our championships and dual meets. I think we'll be able to do that because we're looking very strong."

Despite her accomplishments, Smith still looks toward the future. "I want to win both Conferences and Preps this year and run under nineteen minutes at Holmdel," she remarks. She plans to continue in college.

Smith's accomplishments extend to track and field as well. After winning the 3200 m at the County Championships last year with a time of 11:12, Smith hopes to run under 10 minutes and placing in the top five at the Meet of Champions.

Under the coaching of Tim Grant and assistant coach Bob Aromando, both Amanda and the Girls Cross Country team are off to a good start at the beginning of the season.

## Football Prepares for Strong Season



The football team lines up in a scrimmage. N. Lee (IV)

BY ROHAN MATHEW (VI) &  
DAVID SPETT (VI)

This year's football team is much younger but is still looking good, says head coach Mr. Mike Webster.

Last year, the team had its first winning record in years. According to Coach Webster, they achieved much more than they could have hoped. The team lost ten seniors from last year, but the overall number of players is greater. With a larger group of freshmen and sophomores, Coach Webster is hoping for another season over .500.

So far, the team is on the right track towards that goal. Even though they lost their first game against Boonton by a margin of 26 to 0, they won their second against Immaculate Conception, 14-12, and their third against previously undefeated Verona, 24-14.

All of last year's starters were juniors and seniors, but this year four starters are sophomores.

Coach Webster has few worries about their slight inexperience. "They're a little smaller, but they're as good if not better than last year's starters," he says.

Coach Webster had the team work hard all summer with trainer Mr. Doug Scott in the school's fitness center.

After lifting weights and running with Mr. Scott, the team "came back in good shape," Coach Webster says.

This year's senior captains are Kevin McIver, Evan Whaley, and Mark Lalli.

Overall, Coach Webster believes, "Things are going well and we're improving."

## Picture of the Month

Laura Boova (VI) and Leslie Hynes (VI) charge for the ball. N. Lee (IV)

