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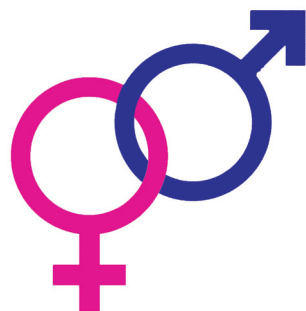
Sweeney Todd-School Edition to make its debut in March




Help for Haiti



The iPad



Sex and Health education



Blogging



Photo by Zac DeRidder

Sweeney Todd dance ensemble works out movement during recent rehearsal.

By Jensen Enz

Appleton North’s award-winning theatre department is eagerly preparing for its upcoming performance of the Sweeney Todd this coming March. Sweeney isn’t necessarily the classic high school musical with predominantly dark themes and difficult repertoire, but the North theatre department isn’t new to atypical productions. With a history of stellar, yet controversial

shows such as Miss Saigon and Aida, there is much confidence in this show’s potential. Sami Barnett, a junior and member of the pit orchestra for Sweeney shares her thoughts, “At first, I was skeptical about Sweeney Todd. I knew that it was a dark comedy type of show, which is not always accepted by the public – plus I wasn’t familiar with the music, but I also believe that North can pull it off.” Barnett also speaks on how the Pit Or-

chestra members are given an unusual opportunity, “Not all high school pit orchestra players can say they were on stage and wore costumes for the entire show. Usually the attire is simply all black.” It seems as though the play will truly incorporate all involved, and, as Barnett says, the end results will be worth all the hard work required of those taking part in the production. A movie version of the famously homicidal barber came

out recently with star-studded leads like Johnny Depp, Helena Bonham Carter, Alan Rickman and others. The film was praised and, as per usual, Depp fantastically portrayed a more than slightly insane character with wonderful gusto.

“The standards are set high for North’s performance.”

The standards are set high for North’s performance with such a publicly known musical, but Junior Samantha Rude, who will be playing Johanna in the upcoming production, happily comments, “It’s really cool. We’re incorporating certain parts of the movie and certain parts of the Broadway show for our performance.” With elements from the original stage production, the recent film adaptation, and the hard work, talent, and style that North performers infuse, Sweeney Todd: the Demon Barber of Fleet Street is sure to be an absolute success. (For ticket info. page 12)

Freedom Writer leaves lasting impression

By Brooke Resch

Ironically, the most talked-about Global Week presentation for 2010, instead of being a person from a foreign country or a group of students discussing their culture, was a Midwestern man. Junior Juan Contreras started the commotion. He has been communicating with Manuel Scott—being referred to in Scott’s speech as a “brother from another mother”—and organizing his arrival. This one student got the ball rolling. Scott was highly anticipated. Announcements were made about his arrival, and banners welcomed him to the building. T-shirts were given out for the occasion and diary excerpts were read by North’s Drama department. By the time the seats were filled in the auditorium, a lot of hype was built up over this Freedom Writer: hype that Scott countered with his memorable speech. The presentation opened with a trailer for the movie Freedom Writers—which was based on his classroom—fol-

lowed by Scott entering while singing “If I can help somebody...then my living shall not be in vain.” Manuel then used true stories from his youth to relate to the North student body. He discouraged drugs and inspired his audience. He advocated for high schoolers to “make your haters your accelerators” and to pursue their dreams. Through incorporating humor and seriousness, he made everyone laugh, and a few people cry.

Both his third and seventh hour speeches went over the time limit, but no spectator felt that he had talked for too long. The room responded to the speeches with standing ovations. But why not stand after you’ve just heard such an impressive public speaker? In 2009, Scott spoke to over 300,000 people, and at times had up to 60 engagements a month. With such a busy sched-

ule, he talks to a lot of high schools. Still, he commented that “North was one of my most memorable times at a school.” And North certainly is remembering Manuel Scott. A there is now a Facebook group for those who enjoyed the presentation and want him to return. There is even buzz about Scott making a possible 2011 tour of Appleton schools.



Photo by Brooke Resch

Manuel Scott’s presentation allowed students to open up about difficult topics and evoked tears and strong emotions from students and staff.

Destructive earthquake effects already third world nation

By Jackie Reynders

January 12, 2010 was a devastating day for an already disadvantaged country. Haiti, the poorest country in the western hemisphere, suffered its worst earthquake in over 200 years. Hundreds of thousands of its citizens are dead, injured, and missing. Hospitals, prisons, schools, orphanages, and

homes have all collapsed.

Before the earthquake, four out of five citizens of Haiti lived in poverty. Now the outlook is much worse. The earthquake hit at a 7.0 on the Richter scale ten miles away from Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince. The capital now lays in ruin, with thousands trapped beneath the rubble of the destroyed city. Half a mil-

lion people are left homeless and left to sleep in the streets. Food, water, and medical care for the injured are all in great need.

The already 380,000 orphans of Haiti have been greatly added to in numbers. In short, Haiti needs an enormous amount of help. There are a ton of organizations dedicated to aiding Haiti, and they can all



Already poverty-stricken, the newly devastated country of Haiti needs aid now more than ever as thousands are left without food or water.



Photo by cnewsworld.co.cc

use donations, big and small. The American Red Cross provides emergency food, shelter, and basic needs for Haiti victims and can always use donations, www.redcross.org. The Clinton Bush Haiti fund makes donating easy; just text HAITI to 90999, and \$10 will be given automatically to the Red Cross. Food For The Poor is accepting both cash and food/medical supplies, which are being distributed in the effected areas of Haiti. For more information go to www.foodforthe poor.org. National Nurses United is an organization sending volunteer nurses to aid the injured in Haiti. Over

11,000 have already volunteered, but NNU needs funds to fly these professional nurses over. To donate, visit www.sendanurse.org.

All of these organizations will spend donated money wisely to make sure that those who need help receive it. For a list of other efficient charities, visit www.charitynavigator.org.

The reconstruction of Haiti will take a vast amount of time, money, resources, and man-power. Here in America, most people have enough of all of these and can afford to share. This is not some distant problem that can be ignored.

Global Awareness Week Showcases destruction in Darfur

By Siri Pairin

It didn't take longer than 15 seconds for the entire auditorium to become completely enraptured by junior Helen Powling's captivating depictions and heart-wrenching narrative about Darfur at her global week presentation.

Originally becoming interested in the injustices in Darfur through her church, Powling further expanded her knowledge on the topic at a convention in Washington DC. The grueling truth and terrible images that she so realistically described to the awe-struck students were her motivation for educating the kids at North.

"We always say that we will never let history repeat itself. But we've let homicide happen over and over again. Darfur is just another example of that."

Darfur is a province in south-western Sudan, a country incredibly polarized due to decades of civil wars. In her presentation, Helen told the audience what life would be like living in Darfur. She described a life of fear, destruction and

loss. In an attempt to get the audience to visualize themselves in the shoes of children in Darfur, Helen described the obliteration of villages, the terror of rape and murder, and the destruction of livelihoods.

"Global Week is a time where we can expand our knowledge of the world and learn about what's happening in other places. It's quite sad that there is only one designated week a year for this, but with what little time I had I wanted to make a difference."

The most important point Powling wanted to stress to high school students was how long this injustice and genocide has gone on.

"Seven years. This has gone on for seven years and we have done nothing about it."

Awareness, says Powling, is the key to understanding what's going on in the world. Global Week is only the first step for many high school students.

Helen plans on starting a club dedicated to helping the Darfur cause for students at North interested and moved by her presentation.

The State of the Union Address takes on the big issues

By Nate Correia

Article II, Sec. 3, of the U.S. Constitution requires that, "The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the State of the Union and recommend to their consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary and expedient."

What this means is that every now and then, the President must give a speech about how America is doing and recommend things for Congress to do. George Washington gave the first one about 220 years ago on Jan. 8th, 1790 and 221 have been given to America since.

President Obama gave the most recent State of the Union Address on Jan. 27th, 2010 as the Iraq war continues for the seventh year and the recession for its third. In his speech, Obama broadly talked about the things he would like to have Congress do, and his plans for the upcoming year. Many of his ideas centered around higher education, including improving Community Colleges, giving \$10,000 tax cuts for families for 4 years



www.primary.who2.com

President Obama's first State of the Union Address touched on many subjects.

of college, increasing government grants to students, renewing education acts and not allowing banks to charge more than 10% of a person's income for student loans.

President Obama also addressed ideas like giving 30 billion dollars to local banks across America, giving tax breaks to people with houses that are more energy efficient,

building nuclear power plants, exploring off shore oil drilling, building clean energy plants, fighting childhood obesity, ensuring equal pay, allowing homosexuals to serve in the military, reforming immigration, increasing tax cuts to families with children, eliminating government programs that don't work and limiting contributions that loyalists give to candidates.

Lastly during his speech, Obama criticized a recent Supreme Court decision that allowed corporations to give unlimited funding to candidates that they endorsed. President Obama claimed that this would "open the floodgate for special interest, including foreign corporations to spend without limit in our elections." Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito was seen expressing doubt and defiance at this, reportedly saying, "that's not true."

Despite rumored disagreements between Obama and the Supreme Court, the State of the Union Address has always given the American people an idea of where the country is heading.

West HS teacher's death affects District

By Staff Editor

"My Dearest Wombats," began the cheerful note, dated Jan. 15, from communication arts teacher Ann DeBruin to her students at Appleton West High School and Renaissance School for the Arts. "As you've probably noticed, I have been absent most of this week," she wrote, explaining how a substitute teacher would take her place through the end of January, at least.

"Right now my medical issues are making me exceedingly weak. But I plan to get better ASAP, because I love my job and I miss you. I will still be grading many of your papers/tests etc. and will stay in touch so you don't forget me

... or think you've been set free from my watchful eye (think 'Eye of Sauron'). I hope to see you soon, Mrs. DeBruin."

Friday night, however, DeBruin suffered a fatal heart attack, and Monday grieving staff, students and parents struggled with the sudden passing of a beloved teacher and Appleton West High School icon.

A memorial service for DeBruin was held on Wednesday January 20th in the West auditorium. Hundreds of students, colleagues and community members paid their respects to the DeBruin/Ropella family at the Visitation until the time of the service. To honor her memory, West senior Hannah Offerman created a Face

book page joined by more than 1,000 former and current students who wished to show their support to Ann's teaching legacy.

While the passing of a teacher at another school within the District does not often directly affect the student body, many of North's students currently attend the Renaissance program and have had Mrs. DeBruin as a teacher. Also, Mrs. DeBruin is Career Academy teacher Mark Ropella's sister.

Making her passing even more relevant to North students, communication arts teacher Cindy Fahrenkrug will be leaving our school to take over DeBruin's position at West in the next several weeks.

Fire devastates Carney home

By Brooke Resch

February started off on a tragic note for one of North's staff members. Lisa Carney, a math teacher, saw her home go up in smoke and flames. Although no one was harmed in the fire, the home was completely destroyed. A spark from a battery charger in the garage had ignited the fire, and spread from there. A woman at the scene said that an explosion occurred once the flames hit the snow blower. By the time help had arrived, the home was engulfed. The house was a total loss.

Out of the ashes, however, rose an immense amount of community support. Students have responded to the tragedy with a variety of fund-raising methods. Collection buckets were passed around at home basketball games, and donations are being accepted at all Capital Credit Union locations.

The Love-Struck Week pep rally even featured an event where donators were eligible for gift cards and prizes.

Junior Alex Dennee told WBAY news station that at North "we're all pitching in to help support her and hopefully raise enough money to help her out."

Melissa Drezdon, a senior, said that "I think it's great that our whole school is coming together... we're still helping her out and I think that's a great thing for us to do."

In response to North's rally behind her, Carney made a comment to the student body and staff about how their support is appreciated.

"We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the overwhelming support you have given us following the loss of our home. Your kindness, love, and generosity has helped, and will continue to help us through this very difficult time. We only wish we had the chance to personally thank each and every one of you. We feel very fortunate to be part of such a wonderful and caring community.

With Love and God Bless, Kevin, Lisa, Ryan and Rachel Carney.

AP Test results earn North students honors

Excerpt from School Newsletter: "The Lightning Link"

The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative educational endeavor between secondary schools and colleges. It exposes high school students to college level material through involvement in an AP course and gives them the opportunity to show that they have mastered the concepts by taking an AP exam.

Many colleges and universities then grant credit and/or placement based upon the student's scores on the exams.

Appleton North offers 15 courses which are designed as preparation for Advanced Placement exams: AP Art History, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Computer Science, AP English Language & Comp: [American Lit.], AP English Literature & Comp: World Lit., AP Calculus, AP French, AP Spanish, AP Psychology, AP American Studies, AP Comparative Politics, and AP World History. In addition independent study students may also take AP exams to earn college credits and placement.

Each exam has a multiple-choice and a free-response (essay, problems, etc.) section. Scores on the AP tests include: 5 (extremely qualified), 4 (well qualified), 3 (qualified), 2 (possibly qualified), and 1 (no recommendation). A student who earns a grade of 3 or better on an AP exam is generally considered qualified to receive credit for the equivalent course at one of over 3,000 colleges and universities that give credit for AP exams.

In Appleton, registration for AP exams will take place during February. The non-refundable fee of approximately \$86 is due at the time of registration. The College Board offers a \$22 per exam credit to qualified students with documented financial need. Additional financial assistance may be provided by AASD if needed. The dates of exams will be announced at a later time.

Students and parents should consult their guidance counselor and teachers for information regarding Advanced Placement opportunities in their academic area of interest. Through these resources, the suitability of the program for students can be assessed.

Appleton North Recognizes 2009 Advanced Placement Scholars: A total of 72 North students have earned the designation of AP Scholar by the College Board. The designation is in recognition of their exceptional achievement on the college-level Advanced Placement Program (AP) Exams last spring, May 2009.

The College Board's Advanced Placement Program offers students the opportunity to take challenging college-level courses while still in high school, and to receive college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams.

About 18 percent of the more than one million high school students in more than 15,000 secondary schools worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to merit the recognition of AP Scholar. Students took AP Exams in May after

completing challenging college-level courses at their high schools.

The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on student's performance on AP exams. Sixteen (16) North students qualified for the AP Scholar with Distinction Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams: Anna Berceau, Jacob Bergman, Alyssa Buechel, Max Davis, Wes Davis, Kristen Diedrich, Bradley English, Eric Hagen, John Idlas, Courtney Klauck, Rachel Larson, Erin Oakley, Aubrey Rockman, Zachariah Sachs, Andrew Schoen, Kayla Simon.

Fourteen (14) North students qualified for the AP Scholar with Honor Award by earning an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams: Katherine Anderson, Melissa Cameron, Anaita Chindhy, Kathleen Detloff, Melissa Drezdon, Ivan Fan, Adriana Gerhardt, Ryan Goggans, Tyler Jansen, Autumn Lemke-Rochon, Joseph Maule, Amber McKenzie, Sydney Petersen, Mariah Sachs.

Thirty-nine (39) North students qualified for the AP Scholar Award by completing three or more AP examinations with grades of 3 or higher: Walter Ames, Sarah Backer, Leah Barton, Elizabeth Boveroux, Laura Bowman, Sarah Bruce, Alexandra Christiansen, Karen Chu, Samuel Coe, Mackenzie Connellee, Kathryn Costello, Erika Crockford,

Jamie Cronce, Rohit Dadi, Emily Dreyer, Kristine Fisher, Hannah Fitton, Kelly Fochs, Felipe Giuste, Elizabeth Guenther, Kaitlyn Hermesen, Allison Hibbard, Danieelle Holso, Edward Hou, Stephen Knudstrup, Garrison Kubis,

Benjamin Kula, Emily Lovison, Daniel Lowery, Briana Meyer, Frank Ontaneda, Clayton Patros, Kenneth Pisaniello, Kevin Reinhold, Karen Taylor, Nicole Tennessen, Eric Wang, Samuel Winter, Steven Yungwirth.

ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM
MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2010
6:30 P.M. - AUDITORIUM

APPLETON NORTH HIGH SCHOOL'S
ACADEMIC AWARDS PROGRAM
WILL BE HELD ON
MONDAY,
MARCH 1ST, 2010
IN THE AUDITORIUM.

THE CEREMONY
WILL BEGIN AT 6:30 P.M.
AND RECOGNIZES HONORS
(SEMESTER GPA OF 3.6 OR HIGHER)
DURING THE
SECOND SEMESTER OF THE
2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR
AND THE FIRST SEMESTER OF THIS CURRENT SCHOOL YEAR.

INVITATION LETTERS WILL BE MAILED TO
RECIPIENTS OF THESE AWARDS SHORTLY
AFTER THE END OF THE FIRST SEMESTER.

IT IS OUR HOPE THAT
ALL ELIGIBLE STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS/
GUARDIANS WILL BE ABLE TO ATTEND.

Let your voice be heard

The Noctiluca staff graciously accepts any letters to the editor which will be published as space allows. Please limit submissions to no more than 250 words.

Anonymous submissions will not be printed and all writing is subject to editing via our policy statement below. All letters to the editor can be dropped off in the designated folder on the door of the Publications Lab at the south end of the LMC, or e-mailed to Mrs. Bruce, the staff advisor, at:

<brucesusanne@aasd.k12.wi.us>

Noctiluca Mission Statement

To publish news, information, entertainment and opinion articles for and about student, faculty and administration activities, interests and policies.

Our goal is to maintain high ethical standards and provide a forum for free and responsible expression of student views. The newspaper strives for a high level of competency welcomes diversity of scope, depth and breadth of coverage in order to heighten mutual understanding and awareness through our entire school community.

Noctiluca Policy Statement

Published ten times per year, the student newspaper of Appleton North High School is a forum in which its student editorial board makes decisions regarding its contents.

Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board. Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows.

Letters must be signed, although the staff may withhold the name in certain circumstances.

The paper reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion or policy of the Appleton North High School administration, unless so attributed.

The Noctiluca reserves the right to publish images in both print and online format.

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Media releases images of tragic luge accident

By the Editorial Staff

These days, graphic images can be found on the web, in movies, and on television. While many news reports may issue a warning about "graphic content" in their telecasts, we believe that plenty of images do not need to be released at all.

On February 12, 2010, prior to the opening ceremonies, Olympic luger Nodar Kumaritashvili died when he lost control of the sled he was riding and flew off the track. The 21-year old from the Republic of Georgia was racing down the ice at close to ninety miles per hour, nearing the end of what is proclaimed as the fastest luge track in the world.

Lyons: Talk or type?

By Sean Lyons

Communication, whether we want it or not, occurs inevitably with everyone we encounter; even deciding not to communicate with someone is a form of communication. The weird thing about it is how different forms of it can give different messages. Not in content, but in context.

Take, for example, texting-what does it really mean? Honestly, I don't like it, unless I'm texting a good friend about something really funny or relevant, but otherwise, I find the whole concept rather stale. You can never tell if the person actually means what they type over texting or Facebook Chat.

Chatting can be fun at times but I definitely get bored with things fast. Facebook is cool and everything, but my life doesn't revolve around it. I guess I'm not really the biggest fan because it's much



Photos showcasing athletic ability are appropriate for public release; their devastating effects are not.

est luge track in the world.

While Kumaritashvili's death was caused by his own mistake, his accident was caught on tape and broadcasted by NBC a short time later. Shocking photos were posted online and the world could see exactly how the accident happened.

While most people were curious as to how Kumaritashvili could fly off the track in

less tangible. Granted, it is still communication, but it just doesn't feel real for me.

I'm sure you can draw conclusions on which method of communication I prefer, mainly because I feel it's more reliable. Texting and Facebook, however convenient, have ruined our physical and verbal communication skills. If you ever listen to someone from our generation and count how many times they say "like"? Outside of a smile, the word doesn't mean anything. It just goes to show how our language has been dumbed down by our easier and more distant communication methods.

Sure, you can gain some things from an easier way to communicate, but what does everyone lose? Their real voice.

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Visit us at www.aasd.k12.wi.us/north

dent.

It was also disrespectful to the memory of the luger himself, who will be remembered for the pictures and details of his death, instead of his supreme talent that allowed him to qualify for the Olympics in the first place. For media outlets to release the photos and videos of the crash was irresponsible and showed bad taste and poor judgement.

The Noctiluca editorial staff believes in privacy and decency when it comes to graphic images. We feel that news stations should have used more discretion and shown more respect in their decision to broadcast the Olympic tragedy.

Our Take: Thumbs up or down



THUMBS UP

South Pacific in Concert

*Over 200 North students making beautiful music – amazing!

Global Awareness Week

*Hats off to the many vibrant presentations.

Carney Contributions

*Big hearts and deep pockets are appreciated by this family in need.

The Flying Tomato

* You can't order a Double Mctwist 1260 at McDonalds but you can on a snowboard - way to go all Olympic athletes.



THUMBS DOWN

Endless Tug o' War Pep Rally

*How many sophomores and juniors does it take to get three boys and two girls onto the floor?

MR. Lightning?

*Who says spirit has to be male? And ("It's a costume thing" is not an excuse!)

Poor sportsmanship

*To the North basketball fans who boo'd our own cheerleaders during the West away game – shame on you.



February Gadgets: Apple's revolutionary iPad

By Max Edwards

The wait is over. On the final Wednesday of January, technology giant Apple made an announcement about its much anticipated tablet device.

The iPad, which will be available for purchase in March or April, has the benefits of a laptop, e-reader, and smart-phone combined into one sleek mobile device.

While many top technology critics are disappointed in the absence of features they would have liked in the iPad, the device delivers a large performance in a small package.

Under the 9.7 inch display lies a powerful 1GHz Apple A4 Chip, making the device ideal for graphic applications such as games. The HD multi-touch capable screen gives the user a wide view, making it ideal for optimal movie-watching experience.

Toting a similar immersive multimedia experience provided by the iPod, the iPad also provides many additional features including a full HTML internet browser (without native Flash support, a common internet animation format) aiming to make the entire web experience more intuitive, according to Apple. Among other features are an e-mail application, an interactive photo app, video viewing and YouTube application, along with calendar, notes, maps, and a contacts application. In addition to these included applications, an iPad user is able

to easily download apps from Apple's "App Store" through the iPad's wireless internet connection. Virtually all current iPhone and iPod touch applications will be compatible with the iPad. Apple also recently released a Software Development Kit (SDK) which will allow developers to generate applications which take advantage of specific iPad features.

To compete with rival



The iPad raises hype over the latest advancement in reading and media.

title, as well as through their collection of books. "The high-resolution, LED-backlit screen displays everything in sharp, rich color, so it is easy to read, even in low light," said Apple executives.

Other features include the ability to download iTunes songs, podcasts, movies, and TV shows directly over a wireless internet connection, and an application that allows one to search for content across

tion in the 3G capable iPad is identical to the connection on the iPhone, but current iPhone users wishing to buy an iPad must purchase a separate data plan.

While some compare the iPad to a net-book computer, it is also meant to compete in the e-reader market and offer additional features that aren't present in Amazon's Kindle, along with other e-readers.

The units are priced be-



Photo by apple.com

net-books and e-readers, Apple has announced iBooks, its very own e-book store. With this free application, avid readers can download full length books, from classics to best-sellers. Apple believes iBooks will expand and hopes more publishers will join the digital book market. As soon as a book is downloaded from the iBooks app, the book can be read immediately, and the intuitive user controls make it easy for one to navigate through a

their iPad.

As far as connectivity goes, there will be two ways to access the internet.

Every iPad comes standard with WiFi to let users connect to wireless hotspots. For a premium price, a 3G version can be purchased. For \$29.99 a month, a user can have unlimited access to the web, email, and any other internet features anywhere in the range of a mobile broadband network. The cellular connec-

tween \$499 and \$829, depending on the configuration.

Apple has been known to re-invent existing product categories, and the iPad just may follow that same pattern. Just as Apple's introduction of the iPod caused people to look at music and music devices in an entirely new way, Apple hopes the introduction of the iPad will change the world of multimedia devices.

Wordsearch: test your skills

See if you can find...

AWARENESS BLACKHISTORY CUPID
FEBRUARY HAITI HEART LOVE PDA
ROSE SAINTS SUPERBOWL TWENTYEIGHT
VALENTINE

L T K R E K X F E B R U A R Y
J W D V W W E X B F E X F A P
Y R O T S I H K C A L B K L U
D V M I T S U I T I A H R S F
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G J T L N E W H X H Z I R P I

Ask Nurse Deb: Sinuses

By Charlotte Hale

This time of year ushers in a plethora of indoor activities and widespread sicknesses, including colds and sinus infections. A common misconception is that colds happen more frequently, when sinus infections, or Sinusitis, tend to occur the most. The problem is that many people can not distinguish between the two illnesses.

Q: What happens with a sinus infection?

A: A sinus infection is the inflammation of your sinus cavities, which are located in the hollow spaces in your cheeks and around your eyes, and lead to the nose. The infection causes those

cavities to swell, blocking drainage areas, causing sinus pressure.

Q: Why can't I tell the difference between a sinus infection and a head cold?

A: Sinus infections and head colds are often caused by the same virus or bacteria, therefore the symptoms are similar.

Q: How can I tell the difference between a sinus infection and a head cold?

A: Head colds generally produce an overflow of clear mucus in attempt to flush out the virus, whereas sinus infections usually have greener mucus and less drainage due to inflammation.

Teacher

Feature:

Sra. L. Meyer

By Paige Resch

Señora L. Meyer has been a teacher at North High school since it first opened and a teacher within the district for even longer. During all of these years of education, her passion has been teaching Spanish. Meyer knows other languages, like English and French, but Spanish has always been her subject of choice.

Señora L. Meyer is one of the two Meyers at this school, both of whom teach Spanish. What makes L. Meyer stand out is her leadership role in the annual Global Awareness Week. This week is anticipated by students and staff alike.

"I think it's great that so many unique countries were represented this year" says sophomore Brenna Rathstack.

Running the week is a responsibility that Meyer has had since the school opened. "At West, we did it different" says Meyer. At the same time, she has seen changes to the week since coming to North. "In a way, I would say that we have more student participation than we did in the past."

Sometimes the cultures represented are present in the United States, such as the Jazz Band performances, and many of the other student led presentations.

This event is not just for Spanish students, or even for foreign language students. It is meant to be enjoyed by every student and staff member that can fit in the auditorium. For example, this year's much anticipated event was a presentation by Manuel Scott, an original Freedom Writer. Students crowded in to hear this inspirational speaker talk about his hardships, accomplishments and life lessons. Thanks to L. Meyer, Global Awareness Week was a success.

Favorite music artist: Juan Guerra, he makes such awesome music.

Favorite place to visit: Well, I do love Seville (Southern Spain).

If you had to do something else for a living, what would it be: Travel guide

Favorite color: Blue
Dream car: I'm not much of a car person

“The Sex Talk” in High School

By Brooke Resch

There are a few classes that every North student must take in order to graduate. These classes are required because they are arguably the most important. Some would say that Personal Financial Management is the most important half-credit if any high schooler's career; others would argue that Civics is most important, as it gives young Americans a greater understanding and appreciation for their country. However, in today's society, many would agree that it is important to educate the young about sex and its repercussions.

The Freshmen Health is not just place where fourteen-year-olds blush and giggle at their vocabulary packet, but a place where important concepts are instilled. Along with lessons addressing CPR, the Heimlich maneuver, eating disorders, mental illness, and the value of REM sleep, there is a portion



photo by Brooke Resch

Books available to students in the Freshmen Health class reflect current health issues.

of the class devoted to sexual education.

Freshmen may choose to decline this opportunity to learn with their peers for personal reasons. Some students feel too uncomfortable talking about sex in a room full of classmates. Some parents feel that the content of this unit is inappropriate for their son or daughter. In situations like these, students still do the manual labor (worksheets, tests, etc) but are not present for the classroom activities and discussions.

Although these select students are removed from a brief unit on sex, they don't miss out

on the conversation. Although it doesn't say "sex" anywhere in any other course descriptions, it is still talked about in many other classes. With teachers often establishing a relaxed classroom atmosphere, and with the right group dynamic, class discussions often touch on or even revolve around sex and how it relates to literature, culture, or historic events. In addition, no high school student misses out of sexual banter and jokes that go on in less-formal settings all over the school.

Classroom debate rages

By Bill Hackett

Teen pregnancy rates are down, but the debate continues over which type of sex education should be taught in schools: abstinence-only or comprehensive sex education. While the Bush administration increased funding for abstinence-only sex education during his time in office, this type of sex education program has come under attack from critics. Thus the Obama administration is currently weighing its policies on teen sex curriculum mandates in relation to its overall health care reform agenda.

Abstinence-only classes are backed by conservatives, most religious groups and many parents as the only responsible way to teach children about sex. Such classes provide information on STDs and sexual intercourse but generally emphasize that premarital relationships are immoral and that sex itself is potentially deadly. Instead of instructing students on contraceptive use, the programs present premarital abstinence as the only acceptable standard.

Yet, in April 2007, a federally mandated study found that abstinence-only sex education classes did not keep teenagers from having sex or affect the

likelihood they would use condoms during sex. Researchers followed 2,000 teenagers from either elementary or middle school through high school. A little more than half of them had received education instructing them to wait until marriage to have sex. The remainder either received no sex education, or education that included the use of contraceptives. Researchers found that, on average, children from all groups began having sex at around age 15.

Comprehensive sex education is based on the premise that every person has a right to information about sex and contraceptive choices. According to the National Guidelines Task Force for Comprehensive Sexuality Education, sex education should encompass "sexual development, reproductive health, interpersonal relationships, affection, intimacy, body image and gender roles." Although effective sex-education programs emphasize abstinence, information about contraception needs to be included, supporters of comprehensive sex education say, and topics such as sex roles, masturbation, homosexuality, abortion and prenatal care ought to be discussed as well.

In January 2007, a Columbia University study was pub-

lished showing that 86% of the decline in teen pregnancies between 1995 and 2002 was caused by the use of birth control, while abstinence accounted for only 14% of the decline. Birth control proponents argue that the study reaffirms their views that comprehensive sex education works better than abstinence-only sex education programs.

Currently the Appleton Area School District policy supports a sex education policy which incorporates a comprehensive sex education curriculum. However, contraceptive agents are not available at schools. Its mission statement reads: health is a dynamic state of well-being. *Total is the lifelong interdependence, constant interaction, and balance of the physical, emotional, social, and intellectual dimensions of human growth and development. Health education can prevent health problems and improve the quality of life and total well-being. Health instruction provides students with opportunities to develop skills for daily living and prepares individuals for their multiple future roles in society. Quality health education motivates individuals to voluntarily take responsibility for protecting, maintaining, and improving their health.*

Hanging Out: a more casual and economic way to enjoy the company of your partner than going on a date.

Sex

Lust: a physical attraction/emotional infatuation

Love: pinnacle of emotional attachment.

The emphasis is on having individuals successfully develop, establish and achieve positive lifestyle goals. Health instruction is a basic ingredient to facilitating achievement of a healthful lifestyle. It encourages the individual and the community to assume responsibility for the promotion of well-being and the prevention of disease and disability.

Specifically the health course offered to all high school ages students includes the following topics:

- promoting gender respect
- reproductive health
- healthy relationships
- analyzing appropriate behavior in dating relationships
- sexual orientation
- love and infatuation

- preventing stereotyping
- promoting sexual responsibility
- analyzing media influence

- fluence to be sexually active
- using assertiveness skills to avoid negative pressure
- coping with family change
- reproductive anatomy/physiology
- conception and pregnancy
- effects of teen pregnancy
- preventing sexual harassment/abuse including date rape
- abstinence/family planning

The district allows for students and families to determine their participation level during the family health unit. Should one decide not to participate, an alternative assignment is assigned.

Hook-Up: a romantic physical encounter

Public displays of affection

By Jenna Otto

Public displays of affection, also known as PDA, are frequently debated topic in the hallways here at Appleton North. Just how

much affection in school is too much?

Different types of PDA can be spotted in every corner of the school. Some forms are as innocent as holding hands, while others are as extreme as full-on make-out sessions against the lockers. After being questioned about PDA, most North students said "I think its gross" or "People should wait until they are alone to do that stuff". So if so many people find PDA unappealing, why is it that so many are found guilty if the crime? Some of these acts are so over the top that teachers have stepped in to break up the love fest. Why is it that the PDA debate still continues? Has PDA become acceptable? 25-30 years ago, this kind of behavior was frowned upon



Couples feel comfortable having intimate moments in front of a crowd.

and flat out unacceptable. Have standards been lowered or has society loosened up a little and stopped caring so much? The bottom line is that most forms of PDA, beyond holding hands and hugging in the hallways, make other students uncomfortable and a little nauseated.

However, many couples feel that showing affection is an appropriate and healthy part of a relationship. They do not hesitate to demonstrate their feelings in front of their peers. If so many students participate in the high school ritual, then

maybe there is some validity to it. Actually, most people who publically display their affection experience a rush of hormones and adrenaline, which improves general mood and attitude.

So, ultimately, PDA comes down to personal preference. It is considered an expression of a relationship and, typically, expressions—like what a person wears or how they like to talk—are not condemned. Public displays of affection, however, are in a grey area and are still subject to interpretation.

Date: a formal, planned interaction between two people used to enhance or establish a romantic relationship.

Group Date: multiple dates going on simultaneously. This strategy reduces uncomfortable situations, and cost-per-person

Health

Hot: physically attractive

The media: selling sex in bulk

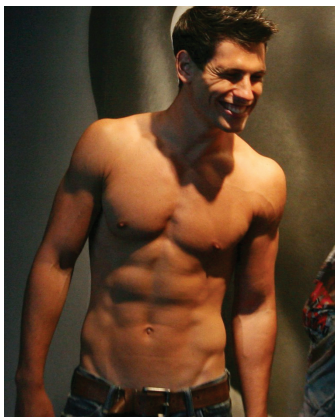
By Jensen Enz

There is scarcely a corner one can turn in America without coming face to face with sex in the media.

It shows up in the dance routines of pop artists, it's one of the most highly discussed topics on Mom's favorite talk show, and it's in the lyrics of the radio's top songs. It's on the magazine covers, in the tabloid tales of the celebrities, and in the coveted Super Bowl advertisements. But why is American culture so seemingly enamored with the exploitation of sex? Why has it become all right for "tween" role models to pole dance on stage? Why is it okay for a star to publicly speak about their sex life? Why are shows such as "Gossip Girl", "90210", and many others so very accessible to American youth?

Sex holds a coveted place in American media—it seems glamorous, it can help push a story to a new direction, it creates drama, and it sells big time.

Stars like Brittny Spears were made into sex icons at a disturbingly young age be-



Many ads, like those for Abercrombie&Fitch and GoDaddy.com, use sexuality to 'attract' customers.



cause it is so marketable; television programs like the previously mentioned "Gossip Girl" have beautiful yet promiscuous characters because it sells.

Magazines everywhere are covering Tiger Woods' affair and supposed sex addiction: a disease that doesn't even exist yet, according to most medical books, and was unheard of even a few years ago. Woods' public scandal is not only raising questions about the legitimacy of sexual addiction, but also exposing sexual immorality to many young sports fans.

Even children's toys, such as

MGA's 'Bratz' dolls with their hugely unrealistic portrayal of women, seem to place sexual features upon a pedestal. Toys like these are not kept on high shelves at stores, but market towards America's youth.

The hefty cons of this exploitation include glorifying casual sex and infidelity, drawing connections between sex and violence, and creating generally negative stereotypes of men and women. The excess of sex in the media also, inadvertently, downplays the consequences of promiscuity and sends nearly unavoidable sexual messages to younger

and younger audiences.

Yet, the bad does not necessarily outweigh the good here. The popularity of sex in the media helps promote safe sex and educates society about AIDS and other dangerous STDs, and fosters sexual independence.

The media has proven its ability to provide its own form of sex education. Dr. Drew, producer and host of *Teen Mom*, has used his star power to inform about sex, rather than simply glorify and promote it. Popular programs like *Teen Mom* have not only entertained teens and adults

alike, but also shown the possible consequences of unprotected sex.

Thanks to the media, sex is being moved from taboo, unspoken secrecy to open conversations and more easily accessible information.

Public fascination with sex does not seem to be nearing a definite end any time soon, though it can be said that with celebrities like the Jonas Brothers, Selena Gomez, and American Idol's Jordan Sparks vowing to remain virgins until marriage, America may see a slight change in the way young stars expose their sexuality.

Horoscopes: February



By Paige Resch

Aries (March 21- April 19)
Don't worry about being so stressed. Your life will slow down soon.

Taurus (April 20- March 20)
You will go to the movies, get stuck watching something you don't like, and realize that you have found your new favorite movie genre.

Gemini (May 21- June 21)
For you hopeless romantics out there, don't worry. Your love is near. Actually, they're following you via Twitter.

Cancer (June 22- July 22)
Make new friends but keep the old. One is silver and the other's gold.

Leo (July 23- Aug 22)
Stop hibernating. Bundle up and take a walk outside for a while.

Virgo (Aug 23- Sept 22)
Take a picture. It will last longer.

Libra (Sept 23- Oct 23)
Everybody is a critic. Be the one with the positive attitude.

Scorpio (Oct 24- Nov 21)
You will have a dream that reveals to you the meaning of life. Try not to misinterpret it.

Sagittarius (Nov 22- Dec 21)
You will stumble upon a pancake with Obama's face on it. Unfortunately, you will eat it before you even notice.

Capricorn (Dec 22- Jan 19)
It is time to enjoy the winter before it ends. Make a decked-out snowman.

Aquarius (Jan 20- Feb 18)
Go buy yourself some candy. It is really cheap right now. Besides, you deserve it.

Pisces (Feb 19- March 20)
You will find a creative way to celebrate your birthday.

Conscience Chaos By Sarah Burts-Kust



Underground By Laina Wydaven



February Sudoku

	8	7	4		2	1	9	
2	4	5	1	6	9	7	8	3
9			5	8	7			2
7								6
4	2						7	9
	3	9				2	4	
		1	6		3	8		
			8	7	1			
				2				

January Sudoku Answers

2	8	9	4	5	6	7	1	3
3	5	1	9	2	7	4	8	6
7	6	4	8	3	1	2	9	5
6	2	3	1	4	5	8	7	9
9	7	8	3	6	2	5	4	1
4	1	5	7	8	9	6	3	2
8	4	6	2	1	3	9	5	7
1	9	2	5	7	8	3	6	4
5	3	7	6	9	4	1	2	8

Featurettes

Compiled By Paige Resch

Clean out your drawers

The Art Department is in major need of:

- 100% old wool sweaters (very much in need)
- T-shirts (for rags) - Cigar boxes/art boxes (no plastic)
- Ties
- Exotic hardwood scraps (Teak, African Mahogany, etc.) for jewelry mountings
- Jewelry & beads
- Fashion magazines and other magazines listed below:

Oprah "O," Real Simple, Ranger Rick, Conde Nast Traveler, any plant/nature magazines

Please label: "ART DEPARTMENT" and drop off at North Business Office.

Thank you!

Senior citizen Mardi Gras succeeds

On February 21, the Appleton North National Honors Society hosted a senior citizen Mardi Gras.

The day was based on a casino style, including games, bingo and prizes. There was also live music and dancing.

The event ran at North from 1-3 p.m. but preparation was provided by volunteers and National Honors Society members for previous hours as well.

**Sponsored by Appleton North National Honor Society



Debate team delivers

North's Debate Team became part of a cooperative team with West this past season. Two public forum debaters, Abhishek Parekh and Adarsh Dave, took quarter finals at the Kimberly Tournament. Lincoln Douglas debater, Christian Bakken, has debated compulsory immunizations and high school graduation exams and has achieved an overall winning record.

The National Forensic League extended new memberships to Elizabeth Braatz, Saarth Mehrotra, and Adarsh Dave bringing the North NFL chapter up to 19 members.

North debaters will do national qualifiers for NFL on January 8-9 for nationals in Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. Steven Gargo serves as the debate coach for the North-West cooperative team.

Olympics showcase lesser-known sports

By Katie Hermesen

At this time of year in the sports world, America is usually focused on basketball, both in the NBA and the college realms.

This year, however, the Olympics in Vancouver British Columbia have caused basketball to share the spotlight with other, more obscure, sports.

Americans are less familiar with Olympic favorites such as the luge, skeleton, curling, and

bobsled, but with the exciting atmosphere of the winter games, most people can find something to cheer about.

Curling is one such sport that can't exactly be found on ESPN.

In this sport, teammates take turns sliding polished granite stones along lanes of ice while sweeping in front of the stone in an effort to make it go faster.

While most people wouldn't have the first idea what curling

really is, this sport has a presence in Appleton at the Appleton Curling Club, where curlers of any age can join.

Ice dancing is another winter sport highlighted at the Olympics. While this form of figure skating may look similar to normal pairs skating, it has very strict regulations on lifts and jumps. It draws heavily from ballroom dancing and partners are required to be no more than two arm-lengths from one another.



alpine-connect.com

Zoe Gillings competes in the snowboarding competition in Vancouver.

At a glance: North sports' shorts

By Staff Reporter

Tonight is the A-North vs. A-West basketball game and North fans are planning a pink-out. Make sure you buy your pink T-shirt at lunch today. This is your last opportunity so don't miss out! We are competing with West for the most fans wearing pink T-shirts.

Congratulations to the Lightning Powerlifting Team with great individual finishes

at the Neenah Invitational. The Lightning were led with 2nd place finishes by Tom Lalande, John Wulterkins and Jeremy Fischer. Taking 3rd place in their weight brackets were Eric Davidson, Kadie Flynn and Lisa Danielson. A Special Congratulations goes to Kadie Flynn for qualifying for the State Powerlifting Championships!

Congratulations to the Appleton North Wrestling team. This past weekend the

Lightning wrestlers competed in the WIAA Regional tournament and qualified 11 wrestlers for the upcoming WIAA Sectional tournament.

Qualifiers include: Michael Yang, Kevin Granatelli, Vili Xiong, Chase Eagan, Alex Ross, Steven Richards, Evan Jozwiak, Sami Khatib, Tremayne Williams, Kolby Knuth and Tommy Fruehe. Congrats gentleman and good luck at Sectionals.



By Max Edwards

Senior Kolby Knuth competing in the WIAA Regional wrestling tournament.



dailycontributor.com

The definite beat of the music the skaters dance to is also important since ice dancers must skate to the rhythm rather than the phrasing of the music.

Luge and skeleton also tend to bewilder people not familiar with more ambiguous Olympic sports.

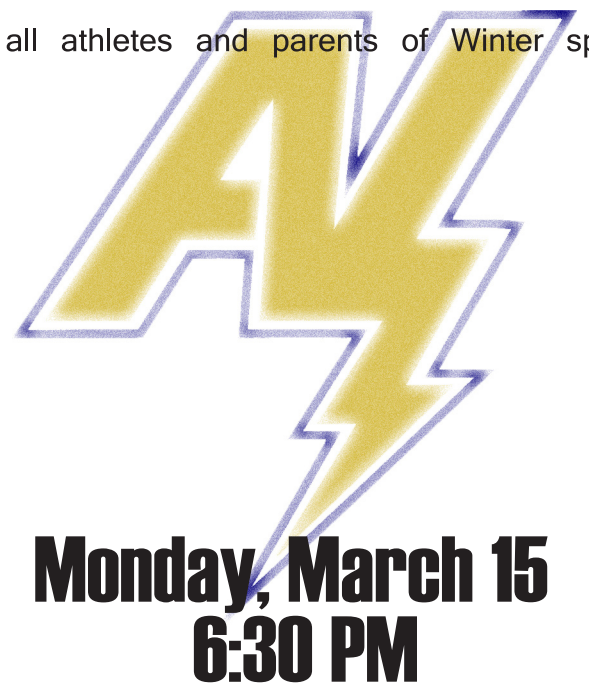
In luge and skeleton, athletes essentially slide down ice tracks at nearly ninety miles an hour. Lugers go feet first, while

those who participate in the skeleton go head first. In these dangerous sports, competitors turn and maintain speed by flexing certain muscles or merely laying completely still.

While the Winter Olympics doesn't always showcase the most popular sports, it only comes around every four years and can attract many fans of obscure, interesting winter activities.

Winter Athletic Awards Night

for all athletes and parents of Winter sports



**Monday, March 15
6:30 PM**

Evening will begin with a large group welcome, followed by individual team meetings.

Athletes of the month: Made of muscle

Tremayne Williams: King pin



Photo by Zac DeRidder

Senior Tremayne Williams participates in three sports at North.

By Melissa Cameron

“People might think getting fourth at state,” Tremayne Williams replied when asked about this greatest sports accomplishment, “but I think beating the East wrestler sophomore year at the conference tournament was because that wrestler pinned me at our first duel meet earlier in the season.”

As for his favorite thing about wrestling, “It isn’t one of those sports that you look forward to during the day. But when I finish with practice each night, I feel accomplished if and only if I worked as hard

as I could,” he added.

Williams regards fellow wrestler Kolby Knuth as his favorite athlete. “We are very competitive and push each other everyday.”

“I don’t plan on wrestling in college, but I am going to St. Thomas to play football and get a degree in electrical engineering,” said Williams.

“Sports bring out things in people that everyday things might not. You get to see how much drive and heart someone has for the sport they play through how much effort they put in. The friendships and people I have met are my favorite memories of my sports.”

Tremayne Williams

On his iPod:
Mostly hip-hop and rap

Describes himself as:
-Dedicated
-Hard Working
-Passionate

Who he would like to meet:
“Michael Jordan because he is the man.”

Meghan Blazer

Describes herself as:
-Unique
-Adaptable
-Driven

On her iPod:
“Everything from Black Eyed Peas to Bring Me the Horizon, Fine Frenzy to The Used, Rob Thomas to Taking Back Sunday. And of course Kid Rock.”

Who she would like to meet:
“Becca Swanson, she is the only female to ever lift over 2000 pounds. Her bench alone is over 500 and she squats over 800.”

Meghan Blazer: Power lifter



Photo by Zac DeRidder

Senior Meghan Blazer is one of the leading members of North’s newly created Power Lifting club.

By Melissa Cameron

“My favorite thing about power-lifting is that your failure or success is on you. There is nobody you can blame, no excuses. If you fail a lift it’s because you did something wrong,” said Meghan Blazer, one of the athletes of this year’s newly created power-lifting team.

“Looking back to the beginning in general,” Blazer replied when asked about her favorite memory. “Just to see how far not only me, but the entire team, has come is incredible. Every time a fellow teammate makes it to state is a good memory.”

For Blazer, every achieve-

ment is one of her greatest accomplishments. “I benched 105 at the Neenah meet this past weekend. The meet before I tried for 100 and missed it, so that extra 5 pounds may seem small, but it is huge to me,” she explained.

Blazer plans to attend UW Oshkosh for fine arts and transfer to Fox Valley Tech for graphic arts. She hopes to be able to transfer to the Minneapolis College of Art and Design in the near future. “I absolutely plan to continue lifting. I’ve only had one year of competing and that is not nearly enough for me. I still have to lift more than Becca!” she added.

Spring sports season approaching fast

Boys’ Track - Monday, March 8; Head Coach: Bill Bush

Girls’ Track – Monday, March 8; Head Coach: Tom Gossens

Girls’ Soccer – Monday, March 22; Head Coach: John Wuebben

Girls’ Softball – Monday, March 22; Head Coach: Crystal Van Caster

Baseball – Monday, March 22 ;Head Coach: Dave Eagan

Boys’ Golf – Monday, March 29; Head Coach: Mick Gilbert

Boys’ Tennis – Monday, March 29; Head Coach: Jill Rietveld

Students planning to try out for a spring sport should listen to the announcements for meeting dates coaches will be conducting prior to the start of the season.

Wrestlers compete at Menasha regionals

By Melissa Cameron

North wrestlers recently competed at Menasha regionals, winning 11 teammates spots at sectionals.

Tremayne Williams and Kolby Knuth won the 189 and 215 weight classes. which brought the team up to 3rd place overall. Wisconsin Rapids, who will send all 14 member of its team to sectionals, took first within the tournament.

Other top matches at regionals included Alex Ross, Evan Jozwiak, Steven Richards and Sami Khatib.

The eleven qualifiers will move on to sectionals on Saturday, Feb. 20 at Green Bay Preble. Those who place in the top two will move on to the State competition in Madison the following weekend.

Varsity coach Scott Clough has also recently recieved the WIAA Coach of the year award. He looks forward to seeing his wrestlers advance onto State.



Photo by Zac DeRidder

Seniors Tremayne Williams and Kolby Knuth take a break during practice.



Photo by Max Edwards

Sami Khatib faces off against a West competitor.

Passing the time on the world wide web

By Chelsea June

Facebook and Youtube are time- passer websites that everyone knows about, but they are not the only sites that provide for an interesting click of the mouse. Goodreads, Icing, ModCloth and Fifty People, One Question, are also cool websites that can feed an on-line addiction.

Goodreads (<http://www.goodreads.com/>) allows bookworms to find out about great books from other members, answer book trivia, share favorite quotes with members, form a book club, and keep a list of books one has read and

desirable reads. This site allows members to join online groups, add friends, and explore books, writings, people, trivia, quotes, events, videos, and authors. This site is free and anyone can join. Sign up can be done directly on the site or you can sign in with your Facebook, Twitter or Google accounts.

Icing (<http://www.galadaring.com/>) is a website formed by a New Zealand girl named Gala Darling. Her website offers fashion, life style advice and tips on how to lead an ecstatic life. Gala Darling writes several articles on these topics and provides links to a variety

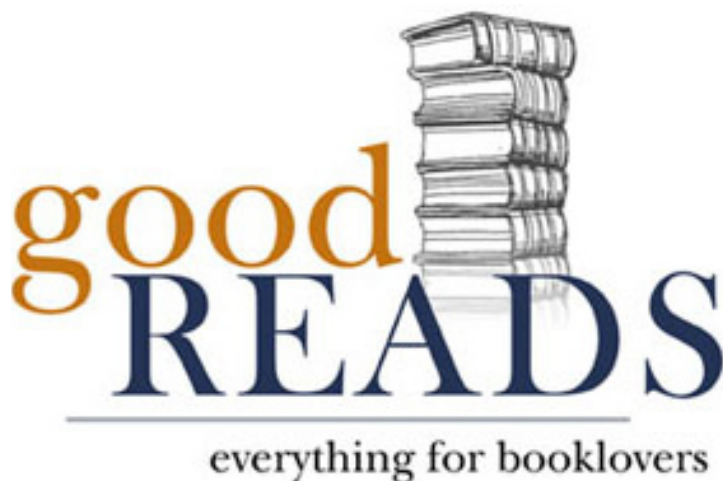


Photo by wclibrary.info/

Good reads provides book-lovers with trivia, as well as favorite quotes and reviews from other members.



Photo by wikimedia.org

If your looking for the latest clothing styles check out this user-friendly website.

of other sites that will catch your eye.

ModCloth (<http://www.modcloth.com/>) is a site where the some of the latest fashions can be viewed and purchased. Modcloth was created in 2002 by high school sweethearts, Eric Koger and Susan Gregg Koger. There is a variety of women's apparel from vintage and retro dresses to shoes, accessories, swimwear, outerwear, tops, and bottoms. Décor and a small assortment of books that fit the sites' style are also available for purchase. The Koger's also blog on their website to keep customers entertained.

Fifty People, One Question (<http://fiftypeopleonequestion.com/>) is a website composed of short films of people answering inspiring questions. A film crew awoke one morning with an idea in mind: go to a place and ask the same ques-

tion to fifty people, and film their responses. Their purpose of this project was to find and share human emotion, explore relationships between people and the places they call home, and to simply make people happy. So far, the film crew has created five films asking people about their secrets and their hopes and dreams. These

short films dispense the mission thought of by the film crew exactly. The films available for viewing on this site are truly inspirational.

Looking for more cool sites to waste time with? Go to www.about.com and type in: 20 Really Cool Websites To Help Cure Boredom.



Photo by /images.cutoutandkeep.net

Gala Darling offers her opinion on what's hot and what's not in the fashion world.

Review: *Witch and Wizard*

By Amanda Lyons

A new, action packed novel by James Patterson entitled *Witch and Wizard* stars a pair of siblings who are accused of having magical powers. As the story unfolds and Whit and Witsy fight to survive, it is obvious Patterson has written another great young adult fantasy novel.

A new form of government, The New Order, is now taking over the world along with kidnapping the two main characters from their home and everything they've ever known. The one thing they do not know, however, is the fact that they possess magical powers. Before their departure, they are allowed two items that their parents choose for them; a beat up book and a single drum stick which eventually help the characters defeat their enemies later on.

Before Whit is taken away, he discovers that the love of his life, Cecilia, is missing. As Whit sets out to find her, he soon discovers that she has died. Fortunately, she can be seen for a moment because

her soul inhabits a place called Shadow Land, but she can never leave that dreaded place.

A man named The One Who Is The One is a powerful character who is the leader of The New Order and he somehow knows Whit and Witsy's parents. Unfortunately, the two young teens find out that their life will be taken when they turn eighteen. This terrible death sentence makes the reading even more dramatic and exciting.

Whit and Witsy's adventures become even more intense when they set out to find their recently kidnapped parents.

This book is an intriguing novel for those who love to read different, yet exciting books. Although J.K. Rowling's novels seem to be number one when wizards are involved, the reviewers at Amazon.com and many other people who have read this book dare to disagree.

Luckily, the tale doesn't finish with the last page of this novel. The second book in the series will be released in December 2010 to many excited fans.

Broadway hit musical *Sweeney Todd School Edition* cont. from page one

By Ron Parker

The Tony Award-winning Broadway musical *Sweeney Todd The Demon Barber of Fleet Street* will be presented on March 11th-21st by the Appleton North High School Theatre and Music departments.

Sweeney Todd opened on Broadway in 1979 starring Angela Lansbury and Len Cariou and went on to win eight Tony Awards including Best Musical. A revival in 2006 starred Patti LuPone and received another round of Tony's. The musical also inspired a recent popular film from director Tim Burton and starring Johnny Depp. Stephen Sondheim composed the razor-sharp score and his brilliant lyrics are alternately gleeful and gruesome.

A musical thriller set in Victorian England, *Sweeney Todd* tells the tale of a man just released from jail for a crime he did not commit. The Demon Barber of Fleet Street cooks up a hilariously macabre re-

venge scheme resulting in this crafty, comedic and captivating thriller.

Songs include: "Pretty Women," the haunting and melodic "Not While I'm Around," the beautiful and lyrical "Johanna" as well as the deliciously funny "A Little Priest." Newsweek said, "Must be seen by anyone who cares about the gifts and risks of Broadway at its best." And the New York Times raved, "There is more of artistic energy, creative personality and plain excitement than in a dozen average musicals." North's production will feature elaborate sets and costumes as well as an intricate and soaring score featuring a large cast of talented singers, dancers, and musicians.

While elements of the original production have been modified in this "School Edition" to make them appropriate for high school performers and local audiences, North's *Sweeney Todd* is still recommended for children 13 years of age and older due to its dra-

matically intense themes and situations.

Shows will be held March eleventh to the fourteenth as well as March eighteenth to the twenty-first.

Tickets will be available for purchase on-line beginning in February. Patrons will be able to choose their own seats, pay with a credit card, and print their tickets all from the comfort of their home. Ticket links and other information can be found at www.appletonnorththeatre.com or www.aasd.k12.wi.us/north.

Tickets may also be purchased in person at the North High School box office on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays from 3:30 to 6:00 beginning in February. Box office personnel are available to answer questions at 920-997-3994 during box office hours. For further information about the production contact Ron Parker, director, at 920-832-4300 or parkerronaldc@aasd.k12.wi.us.

Blogging, vlogging, and the internet

By Brynn Systma and Tierney Murphy

Not fond of writing down thoughts with the traditional pen and paper? Looking for a little more fun in life? For those interested in writing, creating videos, or hearing what other people have to say on the internet, blogging and vlogging has become an easy way for communication to be

established between people all around the world. Many current North students take advantage of the World Wide Web and the many options it provides to communicate with peers, family, and friends through involvement with on-line journals.

For those stuck in the twentieth century, blogs are a type of website that allow individuals to express their thoughts

for others to see. Graphics and videos are posted and shared freely. Popular blogging sites include Blogspot.com and Blogger.com. Those willing to further express themselves turn their attention to vlogs. A vlog is the video version of a blog. They can be found throughout the web including on the famous site YouTube where frequent vloggers such as Five Awesome Girls, Charlieisso-



Photo by reconstruction.eserver.org

Blogging has recently become the topic of discussion for people around the world.

coollike, and Hayleyghoover found success. These vloggers have received so much success that some of them are even getting paid for making vlogs.

Blogs have become such a fad that they are now being featured in popular television shows and movies. *Ugly Betty*, a sitcom on ABC, has featured its main character starting a blog. Betty's goal is "to inspire just one person" through her blog. The movie *Julie and Julia* also features blogging. This film features a woman that blogs about her life as a cook through the acclaimed chef Julia Child's cook book. It was based on the true story about blogger Julie Powell. Her blog eventually became a

book and then eventually, an Oscar nominated movie. Blogging is a great way people can express themselves and talk about life. As Powell proves, it can open doors that can lead to endless possibilities.

Some individuals are blogging or vlogging to vent their feelings about a terrible co-worker or teacher while others are trying to fit in and be like everyone else. In most cases though, the internet has provided a great way to make connections with others, and in today's world of popular social networking sites, blogs and vlogs provide just another opportunity to communicate and connect.



Photo by Zac DeRidder

Members of the Noctiluca take the time to blog at a newspaper contest.

Movie Review: *To Save A Life*

By Chelsea Ashland

During the winter season, many students enjoy a much needed get away to the movies. Many students are looking for a romantic comedy, a high flying thriller, or whatever is topping the charts to escape the frigid weather. However, some may be surprised to find a little more than they bargained for when coming to one film in particular this winter season. *To Save a Life*, an independent film, is more than just a movie, it is an outreach designed to do more than just entertain but possibly do just as the title implies; to save a life.

From Samuel Goldwyn Films, *To Save a Life* premiered at theaters across the country on January 20th. Regal Cinema in the Fox Valley is the only theater showing the film. While the theater is in Appleton, the location is only minutes away from nearby Kaukauna High School, where in the previous year, has been devastated by the loss of four students to teen suicide. Be-

cause suicide is becoming increasingly more common amongst teens, awareness is key. *To Save a Life* is just an aspect of that awareness. The movie website (<http://tosavealifemovie.com/index.php>) offers support and encouragement as well as links for anyone looking for help in hopes that this movie will reach out to and educate people about preventable deaths.

According to the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, suicide is the third leading cause of death amongst 15-24 year olds. With the rate of teen suicide on the rise, action and preventative measures are being sought in new and creative ways. *To Save a Life* focuses on the life of teenager Jake Taylor, played by Randy Wayne, who seems to have the world at his finger tips. He is the all-star basketball player, party king, rich kid, and boyfriend to one of the most popular girls in school. Jake's life comes crashing to a halt when his former best

friend commits suicide in the hallway at school in front of

many of his peers. While many of the students are hardly fazed

by this suicide, Jake feels that he could have done something to stop it. After seeking advice from an unlikely source, Jake decides that he is not going to let the suicide be in vain; he becomes determined to reach out to someone and potentially save them from the same preventable fate.

While suicide is the underlying theme, the film intertwines sexuality, cutting, underage drinking, bullying, drugs, divorce, college, religion, and so much more. "It is a completely realistic movie," claims North junior Samantha Rude. "I could identify with much of what was going on in the movie. I went in expecting it to be just another tragic movie, but I was shocked to find that I really enjoyed it. I came out of the theater and I was determined to take something from it." This theme is exactly what *To Save a Life* is about; awareness and hope.

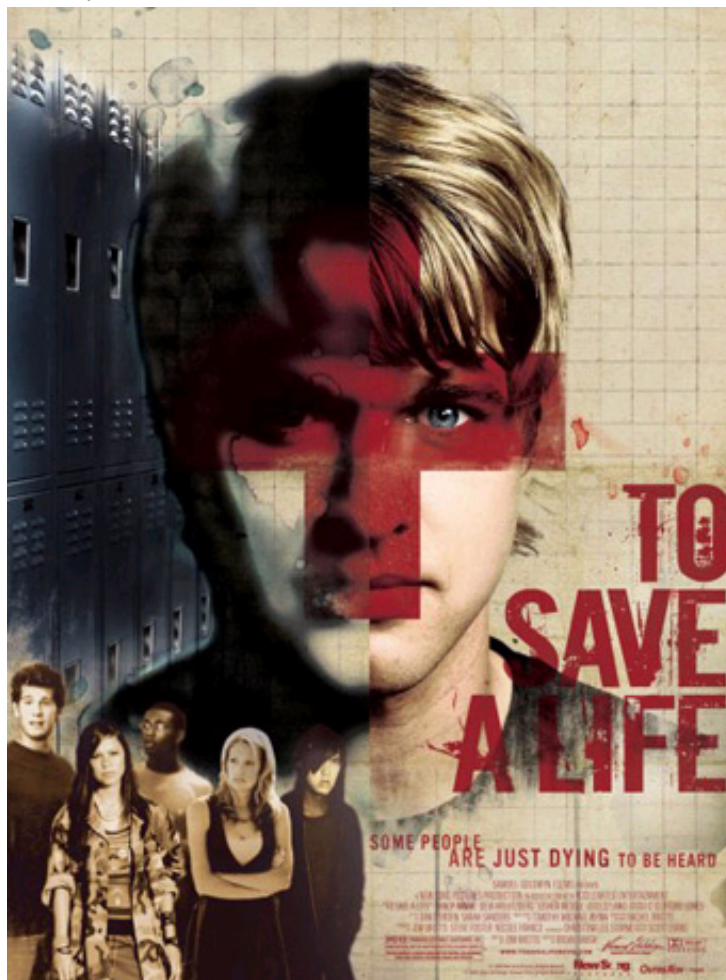


Photo from tosavealifemovie.com

To Save A Life is a heartbreaking, yet realistic new film playing in select theaters around the country.