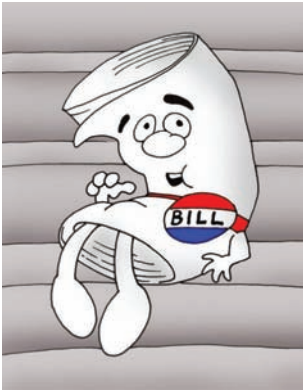


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## Problem of theft persists

Awareness is key  
to keeping items  
safe at school

By Megan Van Bortel  
and Jackie Reynders

Although students sometimes forget the risks of theft can happen within the confines of a place typically associated with safety, Appleton North is not immune.

Phy. Ed teacher Mr. Maves agrees that theft is “an increasing problem,” stating that he sees about 15 real thefts occur throughout the course of a school year in the locker room and about six to seven locks taken on a weekly basis. Locker rooms are particularly susceptible. Gym teachers often advise students to lock up all belongings, especially valuables. Ipods, cell phones, and wallets are the most commonly stolen items and should always be carefully watched. “As a staff we are addressing the issue to see the problem become diminished,” Maves said.

Prevention is the greatest way to combat theft. The



Photo by Jensen Enz

Leaving belongings unattended in either the hallways or locker rooms is a recipe for disaster.

chance of recovering a stolen item is, unfortunately, very slim. Police Liaison Officer Sergeant Allaback asserts that theft at North is a “far too common problem.” He has found that about 100 to 125 stolen items are reported to him annually; however, there are often many cases that go unreported.

Senior Jose Ellies, a foreign exchange student from Chile, experienced a rude welcome to North earlier this year when his wallet was stolen from the locker room. In his wallet was cash, identification and important documents

about his exchange program. Fortunately, after reporting the theft to Sergeant Allaback, Ellies’ wallet showed up — minus the cash — with the garbage in a hallway trash receptacle.

The best advice Sergeant Allaback gives is to “lock your stuff up.” He warns students against those who go “locker shopping,” advising many to avoid leaving backpacks sitting out in highly populated areas.

Although the locker room is the most vulnerable place for valuables to be, classrooms, as well as the commons, are other

places where students should always be wary. Fortunately, Sergeant Allaback reports no cases of stolen items coming from a regular hallway locker.

In addition, he advises all students who do have an item stolen from them to report it immediately. Sergeant Allaback will then be able to investigate the situation as soon as possible. He maintains that the more “timely the better.”

Protecting personal belongings from thievery is especially important, Allaback says. If any item is not a necessity to have during school hours, there’s no need to bring it. If students do need to bring either an Ipod or cell phone to school, keeping it hidden in a car or locker will protect those items much more than a backpack or coat pocket will.

Theft is a serious problem that can only be prevented if students continue to be active participants in protecting belongings and keeping North a safe place for everyone.

People who know of a theft or see something suspicious should contact Sergeant Allaback or school administration.

## ‘Phantom’ comes alive on North stage

Over 150 students  
get involved with  
famous musical

By Siri Pairin

The Appleton North Theatre Department is taking on what has been judged as one of their grandest, most complex projects yet. “The Phantom of the Opera” is said to not only be the “greatest musical of all time,” but is also the longest ever running show on Broadway.

Involving a huge set, difficult music, and a massive chandelier, North’s production of “Phantom” is expected to please crowds and uphold high standards.

“We were able to undertake this rigorous show because of our dedicated director, our hardworking cast and crew, and our high standards to be upheld,” stage manager



Photo by Jensen Enz

Students rehearse diligently for the upcoming show.

Katie Bellile said.

Originally based off of Gaston Leroux’s novel, *Le Fantôme de l’Opéra*, this musical tells the story of a masked man who lives in the catacombs beneath the Paris Opera House in the 1870’s and causes terrible “accidents” to those in the theatre who do not abide by his wishes.

With a cast, crew and orchestra of over 150 students

devoting time, energy, and concentration into producing a magnificent show, “Phantom” has been a great opportunity for a large fraction of the school to be involved.

The show, which requires of its musicians high levels of ability, has been a fun challenge for some.

The pit players aren’t the only people facing challenges, however. The tech crew has

been hard at work since the beginning of January building an enormous and impressive set. Consisting of many large moving staircases and even a loft for the orchestra, the “Phantom” set allows for scenes in a ballroom, an underground lake, and a graveyard.

For the dramatic drop of the enormous chandelier, North is bringing in ZFX, INC. to help with flying stunts. A world-class provider of flying effects, ZFX, INC. has been a part of several Broadway shows including *Wicked*, *Peter Pan*, and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

With all its complexities, details, and difficulties, “The Phantom of the Opera” has been and will be a challenge, but one the theatre department is willing to take on. Show times include March 10th-12th and 17th-19th at 7:30 p.m. and March 13th and 20th at 1 p.m. Tickets are \$12 and going fast.



## Help yourself to health TOM's Shoes

By Katie Fleming

Every day at North, hundreds of students eat meals prepared in the school cafeteria. The cafeteria provides plenty of choices for what each student can eat for either breakfast or lunch. The question remains whether or not students really know how to make healthy choices as they go through the lunch line.

According to mypyramid.gov, a healthy diet should consist of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and fat-free or low-fat milk and dairy products. There are also many items in certain foods that should be avoided, such as saturated fats, trans fats, cholesterol, large amounts of sodium, and added sugars.

Elements to consider while maintaining a healthy diet are keeping a balance between food and physical activity, and remaining within the suggested calorie intake which averages at 2,000.

To learn how to make good lunch choices in our own school's cafeteria, Joan, one of the cafeteria's staff members, suggested foods available every day. "The most common dishes that are ordered for lunch are the Nacho Grande and the deli wraps," Joan said, "For me, I think that some of the healthiest choices are the sandwiches, deli items, salads, and sides of fruit. The least healthy items would have to be the Nacho Grande and the breaded chicken. However, I am seeing students making healthier choices every day. We keep track of everything that is sold each day,



Photo by Jensen Enz

Fruit can often be overlooked despite abundant health benefits.

*Fast Facts: The Noctiluca looked at nutritional facts for some of the cafeteria's most popular picks. Here's how they fared:*

### Calories

Most: Nachos (514)

Least: Deli Wrap (218)

### Fat

Most: Nachos (26g)

Least: Deli Wrap (7g)

### Carbohydrates

Most: Nachos (62g)

Least: Side Salad (5g)

### Protein

Most: Breaded Chicken (36g)

Least: Deli Wrap (7g)

\*information approximate.  
www.nutritiondata.com

and a lot of the healthy foods sell quickly."

All of the milk cartons offered in the cafeteria are low-fat, and around 650-700 of them are sold daily. Approximately 200 fruit sides are sold each day, and about 80 deli wraps are purchased per day as well. The sales of healthy items has increased compared

to last year, and the salad bar offers an excellent opportunity to eat healthy.

"The salad bar is not so popular right now," says Joan, "We would really like to know about any ideas that students have about what they would like to see offered at the salad bar, as well as for the rest of the cafeteria. We make 125 side salads per day, and those sell out quickly, but not as many students have a salad as their main course."

The opinions and choices of students definitely influence the sales of certain food items. "They offer a good variety to choose from, but when you first walk in there, you're not sure what to get," freshman Neha Siddiqui said about the cafeteria.

Making healthy choices every day will lead to improvements in health, level of happiness, ability to concentrate, and even an increased level of academic performance. Doing small things now can help positive habits grow now and in the future.

## gives back for week in April

By Angel Wigley

TOM's Shoes, an organization that donates a pair of shoes for every one that is purchased, started in 2006 when Blake Mycoskie went to Argentina and befriended children there with no shoes. These kids had the unfortunate foot disease that affects daily life called Podoconiosis (PODO).

Shoes donates shoes, they pair up with a non-profit organization. That means every child will be guaranteed a pair of shoes that fits until they are 18 years of age.

During the week of April 4, there will be a week just for TOM's Shoes at North. All the fundraising collected throughout the week will be donated back to a non-profit organization through TOM's. During



Photo from toms.com

TOM's Shoes influences millions worldwide.

When he came back to America, he founded Shoes for Tomorrow (TOM's Shoes). Later that year, he went back to Argentina with 10,000 pairs of shoes with family and friends and began the first ever "shoe drop." Every time TOM's

that week, shirts can be ordered from the school store; one shirt describes a day without shoes, and one shows the TOM's Shoes logo.

Monday of that week will be an informational day while Tuesday is the actual day where students are encouraged to spend a 24 hour period without shoes to experience life without the luxury most people take for granted. On Wednesday, students can wear TOM's Shoes apparel to win a prize. Thursday is "design your own sole" day where participants can win a \$50 gift card for TOM's website. Finally on Friday, the winners of the raffles will be announced.

In addition to, TOM's Shoes representatives will be selling shoe cutouts that will also be entered into a drawing to win another \$50 gift card.

Currently, TOM's Shoes donates to 24 different countries. More information about TOM's Shoes can be found on their website where shoes and apparel can also be purchased.

Come support TOM's shoes at Appleton North by partaking in the events during the week of April 4!

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### 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 and 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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# Trust in government needed for success

By Riley Sutika

Unless you have been living under a very large and sound-proof rock for the last several weeks, you have probably heard about the controversy surrounding Governor Walker's proposed Budget Repair Bill. The bill, which exists solely to help close the vast Wisconsin deficit, has liberals across the state infuriated. The modest proposals outlined in the bill would ultimately save the state 300 million dollars in the next two years by asking state employees to contribute six percent of their salaries to their pensions and thirteen percent to their healthcare.

However, it would appear that some Democrats are opposed to repairing Wisconsin's financial health. Between the missing-in-action Democratic senators and some state employees playing hooky to protest in Madison, it is no surprise that nothing is being accomplished. People cannot seem to fathom why Governor Walker won't concede to a negotiation regarding collective bargaining. If I had to guess, it would be because of the blatant disrespect that has been shown—and there has been an abundance of it. Entire school districts have been shut



Photo from minnesota.publicradio.org

Governor Walker's budget bill aims to pull Wisconsin out of its fiscal problems.

down due to teacher absences, protestors have refused to follow orders in the interest of public safety, and senators are not showing up to their elected positions. The whole situation has adults acting like children. Last time I checked, those types of theatrics do not solve problems and they certainly do not make Republican lawmakers sympathetic to the loss of collective bargaining rights.

The elimination of collective bargaining is not – contrary to popular belief – a personal attack on unions but rather an additional way to save money. It is a very important aspect of balancing the budget, which is why Governor Walker is continuing to insist that it is not up for negotiation. No amount of

protesting is going to change that. However, what I find most surprising is that union members would rather fight about collective bargaining than keep their jobs, which is rapidly becoming an improbability every day that Democratic lawmakers prolong their absence. Governor Walker has put the possibility of layoffs on the table if the senators do not return, which one would think should generate some motivation from the Democratic Party. Considering the current recession and recent layoffs in past years, it seems irresponsible to gamble with job security.

Teachers are absolutely essential in the education system – nobody is attempting to dis-

pute that. However, in order for the system to work everybody is going to have to make some concessions, starting with state employees. I think the most important thing to remember throughout this ordeal is that Governor Walker and the GOP did not create the financial crisis we currently find ourselves in, they are simply trying to solve the problem. Rather than handing down our debt to future generations the way we have done in the past, he is attempting to permanently solve it, and this is only the first step in an effort to do so. That being said, it is probably time to clean up Madison, go back to work and trust the government to do what is best for the State as a whole.

# Cheers and Jeers

By Laurel McKenzie

### Cheers

*Spring break* – for getting closer and closer by the very day...

*Teachers* – for doing what you do day in and day out – you have our undying gratitude.

*Literacy* – for granting us insight into the murky world of such grammatical conundrums as “there, their, and they’re.”

*Jersey Bagel* – for never being out of those delicious chocolate chip baked goods.

*The Citgo on the Corner* – for replenishing every student's needs of processed sugar and fat. Yum!

*Nonviolent protests* – for keeping things safe and reasonable during these turbulent times. Martin Luther King would be proud.

*Pomegranates* – for being packed with cancer-fighting antioxidants!

*More Variety in the Cafeteria* – because spinach on sandwiches and taco dip are delicious.

### Jeers

*“Snowdays”* – for being different from legitimate snow-

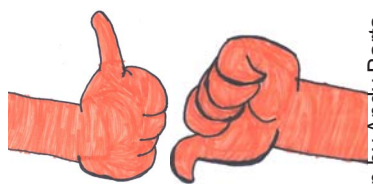


Illustration by Andy Barta

days. “Snowdays” are apparently announced when school has already been canceled, thus defeating the point.

*Heavy backpacks* – for cursing nearly all of us with futures of chiropractic needs.

*The hiccups* – for defying all the prescribed cures.

*World War One* – for all the atrocities—physical and mental—that it created and for still impairing the world today.

*Adobe InDesign Buffers* – for forever impairing the editors' ability to tech efficiently and easily.

*Missing Chapstick and Hair Ties* – for leaving people with painfully chapped lips and untamed manes.

*Broken Vending Machines* – for not only eating our money, but for tempting us with appealing processed sugar just behind that glass window...

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## Controversial bill reduces rights, not deficit

By Austin Herrling

Kill the bill. The bill in question? Governor Walker's "Budget Repair Bill," which focuses not so much on fixing the deficit as it does on fixing the opposition to corporate interests and the wealthy elite. The bill calls for, among other things, drastic pay cuts to public employees (except the police, firefighters, and state troopers – interestingly, groups that backed Walker's campaign), and the elimination of their right to collectively bargain in order to fix a projected \$137 million deficit. Some see this as necessary, citing the salary of Wisconsin public employees in relation to other states, or the apparent issue of public employees not paying for benefits, or the allegedly overpowered unions. Though these may be partly truthful, they are overwhelmingly flawed. Wisconsin state employees may earn more in contrast to other states, but when compared with private employees, they earn an average of eight percent less, in some cases as much as twenty-five percent less. When compared with similar skilled positions, Wisconsin public employees are undercompensated. Ad-



Photo from rrstar.com

Demonstrations have continued for weeks as thousands of Wisconsin citizens show up at the Capitol to protest the bill's impact to unions.

ditionally, though public employees may appear to not be paying anything towards benefits, public unions have actually negotiated lower salaries for the cost of including these benefits; thus, state employees actually do contribute.

Furthermore, unions and state employees had actually agreed to cuts prior to this bill, in recognition of the need for decreased expenditures, so any indignation expressed for state employees "not pulling their weight" is based on misinformation. The call for the removal of unions from government, however, is repre-

sentative of the political swing away from the people towards party politics and power jockeying. This bill is, at its core, a scheme to strip unions of power, and, by extension, strip the power from progressive reforms. Scott Walker said as much in the now infamous prank call from editor Ian Murphy. Walker spoke of his union-busting goals, and the baseball bat that he keeps for such issues. Barring the serious ethical violations in Walker's words, the goal of union-busting is obvious, especially when viewing provisions that negate mandatory participa-

tion in unions and the paying of union dues. This destroys the finances of unions, but Walker then moves on to the very rights that define them – the right for workers to collectively bargain. Wisconsin was the first state to provide this right, as we have historically been very pro-labor. Walker's actions have been described as not like him, and not as radical as his normal politics, suggesting an interest or group behind him pulling the strings – and with similar actions against unions being taken at this moment in other states, we cannot help but see the grip of corporate control ensnaring the rights and freedoms which define us as Americans.

***This bill is party politics for corporate gains, false economics, and elimination of rights.***

This budget repair bill makes no economic sense; it will pull over a billion dollars in purchasing power (based on an eight percent pay cut for public employees) from Wisconsin's economy. The egregious ef-

fects of this are not difficult to understand, and are essentially basic high school economics. A decrease in consumer expenditures, from the decrease in pay, leads to a direct contraction in the economy, only worsening problems like unemployment and state debt. This bill is party politics for corporate gains, false economics, and elimination of rights. If Walker had wanted to fix the deficit, he needn't have given \$117 million in corporate tax breaks, or spent \$140 million on special interest groups.

This bill is not a credible political proposition, it is a travesty of democracy in which the people of the state of Wisconsin are being lied to and cheated by politicians elected to represent them. More have protested this bill in Madison than protested the Vietnam War; the people who elected the politicians are making their opinions clear. We are a democracy, literally "rule by the people," and the people will not sit down and accept legislation that serves no other purpose than to increase the power of its writers and the corporations that finance them. This, Wisconsin, is democracy. It's not going anywhere.

## Opinions deserve respect, value, and consideration from all

By Danielle Dahl

Although we are meant to see in color, we have now begun to see the world in only black and white where every issue settles upon sides of extremity; one liberal Democratic, the other conservative Republican. There is no longer any grey area, no more mutual understanding or civil disagreement. You can no longer see both sides. You are now either, "with us or against us."

***The concept of having an opinion is meant to be healthy, civil.***

Since the establishment of the notion, "you are what you believe," opinions have become the most sensitive and defensive approach to any subject. The concept of having an opinion is meant to be healthy, civil. It is meant to be a means of discussion and a way for people to gain new insight and information on current events, topics and debates. This seems, however,



Photo from meciabistro.com

Concessions and compromise are an important part in moving forward in society. Today, too many people are stuck in their rut and unwilling or unable to examine the situation from a perspective different from their own.

to no longer be the case as our opinion has become our means of identification to outsiders.

I find the topic of opinions incredibly timely and appropriate as our state government is changing, creating an uprising and rigid division amongst the state, specifically in regards to Governor Scott Walker's Budget Repair Bill. Before the obvious establishment of political parties, people were able to defend and

support particular issues based upon personal beliefs that they held to be true. The distribution of personal support was real, honest and raw. Support was not put under the pressure to be held up by a Democratic or Republican label. Today, it seems we've become cemented to one side or the other.

Opinions are not facts. They have the ability to be supported by factual evidence, but one person's opinion is not

necessarily the truth of someone else. This fact has long been forgotten as we automatically assume our truth is the universal truth and any disputes are foolish and wrong. This leaves differences among personal views projected as uneducated beliefs resulting in the accusation that the opponent clearly doesn't "know what they are talking about." But who are we to determine what is right and what is wrong

for someone else? We are not them and we do not live their lives. The fact of the matter is that no one can live honestly by the exact same beliefs as someone else. Each of us leads a different life and every rule, policy, controversy, etc., affects us in a different way. We should not be subject to discrimination, nor should we submit our beliefs in order to fill a generic, impersonal mold.

***Who are we to determine what is right and what is wrong for someone else?***

I do not discourage personal opinions, nor do I discourage activism of political parties. I have several opinions of my own, ones that will not retire. I do, however, strongly discourage the incivility among differences. Disrespect of differences, no matter what these differences may be, is unacceptable. "Everyone is subject to their own opinion," but, will this idea expire when it ventures to the other side?



## March Horoscopes: Aries



Illustration by Jensen Enz

By Natalie Duncombe and Jackie Reynders

### Aries (March 21-April 20)

Dress up your pet as a leprechaun! Or your mom!

### Taurus (April 21-May 20)

The luck of the Irish is on your side this month. Try to enter as many eating contests and goat races as possible.

### Gemini (May 21-June 20)

Take a pudding bath. They are more relaxing than you think and delicious too.

### Cancer (June 21-July 21)

Your sign is the crab. It might be advantageous of you to start an underground star crab fighting ring. Note: the *Noctiluca* does not endorse any form of gambling or the harming of animals.

### Leo (July 22-Aug. 21)

Don't be afraid to rock a sweater vest. They are super classy and you can pull it off.

### Virgo (Aug. 22-Sept. 21)

Add some spice to your life this month by checking out Swedish pop sensation Günther. You will not be disappointed.

### Libra (Sept. 22-Oct. 22)

Yes, you would look great with a jerry curl. You go girl! Work that hair do! Boys, it can work for you to. Just have confidence.

### Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

A metaphorical pot o' gold awaits you at the bottom of this metaphorical rainbow known as March.

### Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 20)

Give a senior a cookie this month and good things will come your way. Already a senior? We see sweet treats in your future.

### Capricorn (Dec. 21-Jan. 19)

Allow yourself to be moved by the beauty of the upcoming spring season.

### Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Get in touch with your wild side. Throw a crazy arts and crafts party. Wear leopard print and stay up to nine p.m. live life on the edge.

### Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20)

Feeling glum? Have no fear! Spring is almost here! Take advantage by planning a road trip with a friend.

## Ask Nurse Deb: Heavy backpacks

By Katie Fleming

From backpacks with the straps ripped in half to book bags with the bottoms falling out, bookbags with heavy loads are everywhere. Heavy backpacks are a thing that most, if not all, high school students have incorporated into their daily routines.

Most classes require students to carry around thick textbooks and binders overflowing with papers. What is worse is that students often have to bring home about half of what they tote around all day in order to complete homework assignments and study.

While heavy backpacks may be a pain today, in the long run they can become a serious health concern.

"Heavy backpacks can cause students back pain, and they can also cause problems with spine alignment," Nurse Deb said.



Illustration by Andy Barta

Textbooks and other school supplies can strain the back and make the backpack more likely to break.

"Students should make more frequent trips to their lockers instead of carrying everything with them all day.

"Heavy backpacks can also harm other students. We have had reports of injury from students that had been tripped or smacked into by someone

else's backpack."

Thankfully, there are ways to put that overstuffed backpack on a diet.

Using the online textbooks is one. The first step is to ask teachers how to log on and how to use the virtual textbook system.

Make sure that this process can also be done at home. Also, check for a dependable internet connection in order to avoid surprise nights without any homework access.

Another way to reduce backpack weight is to empty out binders, trapper keepers, and folders quarterly. Save the important things to use for finals, or anything that is still in use.

All the other papers and worksheets that do not need to stay should be kept in a separate folder in somewhere safe, like at home, in case they turn out to be necessary. Organizing backpack can improve both study skills and provide a health boost.

## Enjoy March holidays besides Mardi Gras

By Caroline Duncombe

Many U.S. citizens suffer 364 days per year from a difficult to pronounce name. Their names are constantly slaughtered by people who mispronounce them. Well, guess what? March 27th, is national "Joe" Day. So everyone who hates their name can change it to "Joe" for a day. Of course national "Joe" day is only one of the many weird holidays that happen in March.

On March 22nd it's National Goof-Off Day, a day for doing everything and nothing

(as long as it is nothing troublesome).

Like potato chips? Well guess what? On March 14th, there is a whole day dedicated to them. Don't worry about how unhealthy they are. This day only comes once a year, so take this opportunity to indulge with pounds of Lays and Pringles, because there is always the other 364 days to burn off the calories.

The most well known March holiday is St. Patrick's Day, on the 17th. The lesser-known Submarine Day occurs on the same date.



Image by googleimages.com

Celebrate Pig Day by avoiding pork, enjoying pork, or just watching *The Simpsons Movie*.

## March Sudoku

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

March 1st is an especially busy day. This day contains of national Pig Day (so try to avoid eating ham on the 1st), Peanut Butter Lover's Day (ironically, peanut butter makes a great ham glaze), and Share a Smile Day.

March 4th is National Pound cake day. For those who don't know what a Pound cake is, it is a cake that usually consists of a pound of flour, sugar, butter and eggs. Of course, there are many different variations to the original Pound cake recipe, each of which can be enjoyed on the 4th.

March is filled with numerous mood-improving holidays, so participate in as many of them as possible.



## Some Middle Eastern governments restrict media

By Megan Van Boxtel

With the recent shutdown of some Internet access and other telecommunication devices in Egypt and Libya, many are now beginning to question the repercussions of preventing people their right to communicate, work, and indulge in the type of electronic systems that most citizens in the United States take for granted.

According to guardian.co.uk, Egypt only has about 21 percent Internet penetration with connections that are mostly at dial-up speeds with strict regulators who care mostly about “slowing and controlling rather than energizing the flow of information.”

While the Internet provides for a major source of many expressions of freedom in the United States, this sim-



Photo from www.pbs.org

These Libyan revolutionaries fight against their country's leader and restrictions on freedom.

ply is not possible for many in Egypt and other neighboring countries. The First Amendment right to freedom of religion, press, and speech are privileges that most do not stop to think twice about in this country.

In a recent attempt to access a Twitter page from Abu Dhabi, one journalist found

this surprising message: “We apologize but the site you are attempting to visit has been blocked due to its content being inconsistent with the religious, cultural, political, and moral values of the United Arab Emirates.”

Surprisingly, this type of blocking is not uncommon in many Middle Eastern coun-

tries. Government officials have even gone so far as to arrest those who do not comply with their standard of what should be said freely on the Internet or any other type of media. This was the case with Saudi Arabian blogger Fouad Al-Farhan in late 2007 who was held in solitary confinement for nearly five months after voicing his opinion on his website.

Although it sounds unjust to citizens of the United States, severe

restrictions of freedom of expression in the Middle East is the true reality for millions for people.

Such restrictions have been implemented to deter uprisings, but they have only fueled the fire in Middle Eastern revolutionaries as they revolt against their oppressive regimes.

## Freedom of expression evolves in high school setting

By Paige Resch

One of the most common forms of expression for high school students is clothing. In the same way, group-dress has also been widely used by like-minded students as a way of sending a political message. By wearing important colors, ribbons, badges, sandwich

boards, and even face paint, students promote beliefs in politics and social issues.

The case of Tinker v. Des Moines School District was based on an incident when John Tinker, his sister Mary Beth, and their friend Christopher Eckhardt wore homemade black armbands to school with white peace signs on them in



Photo from www.pbs.org

Thanks to the bravery of the Tinker siblings in 1969, students are now free to express their political views, as long as it doesn't jeopardize the educational environment.

boards, and even face paint, students promote beliefs in politics and social issues.

This popular form of visual expression may be common today. However, the rights to wear cloths that send a message stem from a very con-

troversial case in 1965, when three students were banned from wearing arm bands. The case of Tinker v. Des Moines School District was based on an incident when John Tinker, his sister Mary Beth, and their friend Christopher Eckhardt wore homemade black armbands to school with white peace signs on them in

pendent.

Even though the school organized the wearing of black armbands the year before to mourn the death of school spirit, wearers of the anti-war bands received both threats of suspension from the district and unofficial threats from the staff and students.

When the three students were suspended, they took their case to court. Two other students were also suspended for wearing the armbands, but did not press charges.

They did not reach the Supreme Court until 1969, but eventually, a decision was made in their favor. In the process, the Court issued a statement that became a mantra for students' freedom of expression: “students do not shed their constitutional rights when they enter the school house door.” This case and many that followed led to a mushrooming of student rights in public schools.

Today, student expression through clothing is commonplace. Members and supporters of the Alliance club wear ribbons, name tags, and purple to express their beliefs in tolerance, especially during the Day of Silence. Students go

one step further near the end of the school year, when volunteers paint their faces white throughout the day and restrain from any speech or expression in order to represent the victims of drunk driving.

This year, many students have had many new celebrations and controversies to make known through clothing. Of course, the colors green and yellow coated the school to celebrate the success of the Green Bay Packers; however, students and faculty alike have also recently expressed their political concerns through dress. The recent controversy over the Walker Bill led to opponents wearing red and proponents wearing blue, especially on February 17th.

Junior Hannah Phillips was one student that showed her political beliefs that day. “I wore red to support the teach-

ers and just to oppose the bill in general,” Hannah said.

Cheyenne Klauck, a senior, wore blue to represent her political views towards Walker's bill. “I feel very free because we are allowed to [express ourselves] through clothes.”

The freedom of dress has evolved in the past 42 years. Unlike John Tinker and his fellow protesters, Phillips and Klauck both say that they experienced no harassment for wearing their politically-charged colors.

“Free Speech” image by Kelsey Lorenz



# Shut the 'front door!'

## What can and can't be said on TV

By Brooke Resch

In modern America, the limit to communication is only the creativity of the person. Citizens can feel free to express themselves however they deem appropriate... almost. Sure, it's okay to get angry

States has consistently ranked as a leading country for freedom of the press.

Still, some guidelines must be in place to ensure the safety of the general public. Citizens are warned against any speech that is likely to entice "imminent lawless action." This is why it is literally illegal to shout "fire" in a crowded room.

Like-  
wise,  
the

Leo was awarded an Oscar for Best Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role. Leo's speech appeared unrehearsed, but nothing gave her away more than the expletive she inserted into her acceptance speech. Fortunately, the program's delay kept the profanity from entering the households of the American public.

Surprisingly, the United States was the only country where Leo's "f-bomb" was bleeped out. In other English-speaking countries that broadcasted the ceremony—such as Canada and Australia—the program was streamed live without any censorship of the word.

This raises the question about whether the FCC is too strict on censoring private television networks. Are they too involved? Senior Adam Havel shared how he feels about censorship on television. "People swear, you know. It's a part of life." Havel believes that it isn't the government's job to censor television and that it should be up to the viewer to decide what is appropriate to watch. "Both parents and kids make that decision," he said. This self-proclaimed sports fan also added "During a game, anything can happen, from fighting to swearing to violent actions... I think it makes it more entertaining."

Brandy Krueger, senior, feels

similarly about her favorite programs: wrestling. "Sometimes it is [live]; sometimes it's not. Either way, it still gets bleeped...but I don't like it when wrestling gets bleeped," she said. Still, Krueger feels

speech. Some clarification can be found on the FCC's own website, where it reads "What people may not recognize is the extent to which every area of their life is intertwined with the [FCC]."



Image from google images

The beloved Family Guy animated sitcom aired an episode during its fourth season about the corruption of the FCC.

that family programs should be thoroughly censored for inappropriate content.

There is disagreement about whether or not the government recognizes too many restrictions on freedom of

gov-  
ern-  
ment re-  
serves the  
right to censor  
the blogs of mil-  
itary personnel.

The most common way that the government practices restrictions on speech is through television and radio. While most media is under private ownership, the airwaves are considered public property. The Federal Communication Commission (FCC) reserves the right to censor any content transmitted through those airways—this excludes cable and satellite broadcasts.

Ever since the "Janet Jackson incident" at the 2004 Superbowl, it has become common-practice to air "live" broadcasts on a short delay (usually about five seconds). This came in handy on February 27th, at the 83rd annual Oscar Awards when Melissa

on television but it's not okay to use a select word bank. People are allowed to think offensive things but not permitted to vocalize them.

These restrictions on speech might be in place for the well-being of the general public, but are they entirely constitutional?

The First Amendment to our national doctrine protected freedoms of religion, press, and expression. Generations later, Americans are still passionate about maintaining those rights. In fact, according to the annual Freedom House index, the United



Photo from usatoday.com

Steven Tyler has been notoriously flagrant as an American Idol judge. For the show's first live episode of the season, host Ryan Seacrest gave Tyler a prop that resembles the censor used on Idol.



## Travel log: Lake Geneva

By Monica Stoeger

Located in the southern part of Wisconsin is a quaint little town called Lake Geneva. A great one-day tourist getaway with many attractions, this town is a popular border destination for residents of both Wisconsin and Illinois.

Lake Geneva offers many serene activities. Guided lake cruises are offered which provide an intriguing history of the area. While gently gliding over the lake's smooth waves, be sure to have a camera ready, especially when one of the local teens is jumping back and forth delivering the U.S. mail between the boat and the docks.

Perhaps the most picturesque part of the tour is the grand mansions. Many have been purchased as vacation homes by famous actors and

actresses, cartoonists, athletes, etc. These mansions are a must-see.

In 1900 and 1901, a man by the name of Otto Young built the Stone Manor, an 18,000 square foot palace. The largest mansion on the Lake Geneva shoreline, it features gold-plated fixtures, a third-floor miniature golf course, and a basement bowling alley. It was constructed at an original cost of \$1,000,000, which would be over \$25,400,000 today with inflation. Today, the Stone Manor has been restored and is divided into six condominiums priced up to \$1.6 million each.

Another popular mansion is House in the Woods, a stunning private estate with a combination of many styles of architecture.

Other activities revolve around boating and relaxing

on Lake Geneva's many beautiful sand beaches. For those who prefer to spend time away from the water, golfing or hiking the famous Potawatomi Trail provide wonderful diversions.

Lake Geneva offers a vast variety of specialty shops and galleries to satisfy the souvenir needs of shopaholics. One can buy paintings, jewelry, clothing, and more. These unique stores have a lot to offer in all price ranges.

When the sun is setting and everyone is ready to relax, check out one of Lake Geneva's many scrumptious cafes or restaurants. Afterwards, retire in any of the area's superb lodging services.

For a trip that is both affordable and guaranteed to create lifelong memories, set that GPS for the destination of Lake Geneva.



Photo by Katie Fleming

Art teacher Mrs. Edge takes great pride in her art programs and students.

## Teacher Feature: Mrs. Edge



By Katie Fleming

Mrs. Edge has been teaching art classes all over Appleton for 13 years. She teaches art because she loves art and working with children and young adults.

Upon graduating college, Mrs. Edge taught for one year, but then took a break to raise her children. After that, she once again began her teaching career. She was hired by Einstein Middle School, and has been there ever since. She has also taught part-time at Appleton West High School, Central High School, and now she is here at North.

Mrs. Edge is an active artist in the Valley, and has helped many of her students learn the fundamentals of art and what it takes to be an artist.

Students enrolled in art classes all throughout Appleton are currently in the process of creating a piece of the Com-

passion Project. The theme of this project is for children of all ages to express what the meaning of compassion is for them and to convert that into a work of art.

Every single clay tile created by the city's art students will be combined together into a mosaic and will be put on display at the Trout Museum of Art from May 1st to June 30th, .

Mrs. Edge has already helped to guide hundreds of the Appleton Area School District's students through this project and teach them how to express themselves in their artwork.

"I love art, and I feel like I have lots to share with my students," she says.

In addition to being an artist, Mrs. Edge loves to golf, go for bike rides, and read. She lives with her husband, and has 3 sons, a stepson, and a seven-month-old grandson.

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### WISCONSIN RUNNING OUT OF STEAM BY PAIGE RESCH





# Girls season has been a thing of beauty

By Alex Dennee

The Appleton North Girl's Varsity Basketball team has secured a number one seed in the Oshkosh North Sectional with an overall record of 18-4 and also achieved a first place FVA Conference title. This journey started back in the beginning of summer with early morning workouts and numerous league games.

"All our hard work in the off season has really paid off and brought us close as a team," co-captain Kati Baker said.

The regular season kicked off in mid November with a seven day long "boot camp." "Boot camp" is meant to get the players both physically and mentally ready for the upcoming season.

The North girl's style of

basketball is fast paced filled with intensity. Conditioning and energy are what takes this North team to this next level. Basketball is one of the longest season sports at Appleton North lasting about four months.

Each player made a huge commitment to the team and was prepared to work hard each and every day in practice and games.

"This season we knew that we could reach every goal we set. We worked hard in practice and really emphasized teamwork," co-captain Jennie Stage said.

Early in the season, the girl's team suffered close losses against Kimberly, Oshkosh West and Neenah. These losses forced the girls to go back to the drawing board and make adjustments to their play. These adjustments resulted in a more connected team that believed they were capable of doing anything they put their mind to.



Photo by Greg Coley of DigitalTheta

The unity of the girls basketball team is special.

The turning point of the girl's season was their away game against Fond du Lac. The team put all of the pieces in place: playing excellent team defense, keeping the energy high and playing for each other on the court.

After the big win against Fond du Lac, the team was unstoppable in the FVA conference. The team's second encounters against Kimberly, Oshkosh West and Neenah

resulted in exciting wins and gave the North girls a top spot in the conference.

The Appleton North girls are continuing their momentum in the off-season and are confident they can achieve great success.

"I am very proud of the team we have become this season. We set our expectations high and never lost sight of all we wanted to achieve," co-captain Alex Dennee said.

## 'If you can dodge a wrench, you can dodge a ball'

By Natalie Duncombe

"Dodgeball!" echoes through the gym as teams rush to the center line. Practicing all five d's of dodgeball – dodge, duck, dip, dive, and dodge – these warriors sacrifice life and limb to avoid being hit by the plastic spheres flying through the air. After a seemingly endless stalemate with both sides giving it their all, one team finally emerges from the carnage victorious and the other walks off downtrodden to inspect their battle wounds.

Thanks to the new intramural dodgeball league, this scene will become a weekly occurrence in the gym during lunch hours. Organized by Coach Danny Rivers, a competitive league will meet Mondays and Wednesdays and a less competitive league will play on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Intramural dodgeball is starting after the finish of a successful volleyball league that ran from the end of January to mid-February. Competition started out with four teams in a round robin; teams were then seeded and tournament play began. The Dream Team, consisting mostly of boy's varsity volleyball players, took

the student championship after a battle over underdogs The Claymakers. Senior starter for the Claymakers, Breckenridge Russell, said "The intramural championship was even more epic than the Super Bowl. Unfortunately, unlike the Packers, we were unable to hold off the late comeback for the win. I also thought that the Dream Team could have played a classier game; I do not enjoy being told to feast on anyone's butter."

With their victory, the Dream Team won a chance to play an "elite" staff team.

***I do not enjoy  
being told to feast on  
anyone's butter."***

In what was a true nail-bitter, their undefeated season finally came to an end at the hands of a team made up of administrators and teachers with a final score of 31-29.

Although the sign up for dodgeball has already closed, it is not too late to get in on the exciting intramural action. Make sure to listen for upcoming league information, rumor has it that Ultimate Frisbee will be coming to a lunch hour near you.

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# Bjornerud finds 'chills and thrills' in sledding

By Siri Pairin

Finn Bjornerud sleds. Falling into the category of unique and unusual sports, knee-board sledding is an intriguing form of exercise, art, and past-time.

Originating in Vermont, knee-board sledding is not only allowed at ski-resorts and snowy hills alike, but is a common sight.

The sleds, specially designed to strap to one's lower legs, are called Mad River Rockets and were created by David Sellers.

Ski resorts in Vermont such as Whaleback Resort has jumps and rails specifically for sleds like the Mad River Rocket and adventure-seeking sledders like Bjornerud.

In Wisconsin, however, ski resorts aren't as welcoming to sledding, and sleds must find elsewhere to launch themselves off the tops of hills.

"I sled pretty much anywhere there is a hill and snow," said Bjornerud.

Finding said hills on the banks of the Fox River and at local parks like Peabody and Memorial, Bjornerud spends



Photo by Finn Bjornerud

Although a dangerous hobby, Bjornerud finds a niche in knee-board sledding.

a great deal of his time taking advantage of the Fox Valley's elevated areas. Knee-board sledding, says Finn, is just as fun as skiing or snowboarding, but easier. With readily available hills to sled on, it's a wonder that not many people own Mad River Rockets themselves.

"Even though sledding is the bees' knees," said Bjornerud, "it's kind of dan-

gerous too. Along with a broken rib, elbow, and various fingers and toes, I have also knocked myself unconscious and run into loads of trees and stitches."

Although knee-board sledding isn't as popular and well known as typical outdoor winter activities, it is doable, fun, and worthwhile.

"Don't be afraid to try something different," said

***"Don't be afraid to try something different. Just because it's not a typical snowboard or skis doesn't mean you can't find enjoyment out of something."***

***-Finn Bjornerud***

Bjornerud, "Just because it's not a typical snowboard or skis doesn't mean you can't

find enjoyment out of something more unique and just as fun."

## Iotte makes history!

Victory in 200 Freestyle makes junior first male swimmer from North High School to win state

By Andrew Vanden Boogaard

At the WIAA State Meet in Madison on February 19, junior Jake Iotte finally broke through and finished among a class of his own. After previously finishing 6th in the 200 Freestyle as a sophomore, Iotte won the 200 Freestyle with a blistering time of 1:42.45, becoming the first male swimmer at Appleton North High School to win a state title.

"I don't really know what happened. I'm excited at how things turned out. I knew I had a chance to win [coming in from last year's meet]," Iotte said in an interview to HS Sports Xtra. "When I saw that I was ahead on the final wall, I couldn't help but smile and I felt so energized when I realized that I had a chance to win."

However, words didn't seem to fulfill Iotte's feelings after he had won. Iotte said,



Photo by Jensen Enz

**Junior Jake Iotte won the 200 Freestyle at State in February.**

"It feels really good. There's nothing like it. It's awesome. Just every single day at every single practice I always thought about being a state champion. I'm very excited. I knew I would have to go a 1:42 or 1:41 to win and I did just that so I'm very very happy about my swim."

Yet no swimmer truly reaches his full potential without a stellar coach to keep pushing him. "My coach, Skip [Scott Stepanski], told me to make it a race, and that's what I thought about before I got on the blocks," said Iotte. "I

didn't really have any emotions during or before the race; my head was clear of thought and focused on just simply swimming."

While back now, Iotte looks back on his swim only with pride and happiness. "After the race was amazing. It was the most amazing feeling I have ever felt and I was so excited I didn't know what to think," said Iotte. "But afterwards when I was on the podium I started to tear up because I knew that I had made my team proud. And it made me feel that through all the hours of hard training, there is something to look forward to. And I am looking forward to race at the state meet next season. I am definitely motivated to win again."

With Iotte highly energized for both his season and for the state meet next year, it seems that there is no limit to what he can accomplish.

## Greisch, Makeever and Witt set out on quest to return conference title

By Alex Vanden Boogaard

As their final year of school winds down, Billy Greisch, Joe Makeever and Cooper Witt are back seeking revenge and are stronger than ever. After winning the FVA four years in a row, the Lightning lost a tough, down to the wire meet to Kimberly after beating them earlier in the year. "Crazy stuff can happen in track, but we still are always expecting to win the conference title and this year isn't any different," senior sprinter Cooper Witt said.

According to senior sprinter Joe Makeever, he has confidence in himself and his team to regain the conference title. "Our expectation year and year out is to secure the FVA relay and conference championship and this year are no different. We will not be denied!"

In order to get ready for their final season together, Greisch, Makeever and Witt answered conditioning and

speed drills were emphasized. "I tirelessly pumped iron and worked on my cardio muscular strength," Makeever said. As for Greisch, a senior pole vaulter, "My ultimate goal is 13'3" and to hold the record by myself, I mostly worked on conditioning in terms of speed and strength."

Although the finality of high school is sobering, Greisch, Makeever and Witt will all be attending college next year. "I plan on going to UW-Madison and will not be pole vaulting," Greisch said. "As of now, medicine has caught my eye as a career of interest but that may be subject to change."

As for Witt, "I'm going to Carroll University in Waukesha for physical therapy and right now I'm going to run track there."

Rounding out the group, Makeever plans on attending a college where he can play football.



## Album Review: The Narrative

By Megan Van Bostel

For those who are always searching for a new, not-so-mainstream musical group and have not yet heard of dual vocalists Suzie Zeldon and Jesse Gabriel, their band and identically named album will not disappoint.

Creative instrumentation and vocal harmonies are the common theme among all songs on the album that was released July 27 of last year. However, as far as parallels between each of the songs goes, The Narrative always provides some sort-of fresh new style which, quite honestly, is refreshing in today's music scene. As so many artists continuously revert back to the



Photo from www.nj.com

Band members Charlie Seich, Suzie Zeldon and Jesse Gabriel have a unique sound.

same style that gained them success in the first place, many albums have become dull and do not necessarily have that "need to replay" effect that The Narrative's album does.

Based out of New York, this trio's newest album will demand the attention of any person near enough to listen. Although their style most definitely is that of a rock/pop genre, the introduction of an acoustic guitar, or light piano melody makes for some interesting twists.

Lyrical, the band seeps talent both in their emotion-ridden ballads as well as in their upbeat songs. The male/female vocal harmonies that coincide with the expressive and meaningful lyrics allow for some truly excellent musical pieces.

Fans of Death Cab for Cutie will appreciate The Narrative's self-titled album. Although still relatively unknown by the greater music industry, The Narrative is most certainly a band to watch out for in coming months.



Photo from www.inrevu.com

Their self-titled album proves to be very interesting.

## Gnomeo and Juliet new in theaters

By Brooke Resch

Disney has long been adapting classical stories into children's animated movies. Recently, it has taken on the great Shakespearean classic Romeo and Juliet. In this version, however, the characters are immortalized in ceramic figurines. For anybody with 90 minutes on their hands, watching Gnomeo and Juliet is a great way to spend it.

The characters are irresistible, especially to those who notice the subtle allusions to the original play. Matching all of the gnomes to their Italian counterparts is a way to enhance the entertainment value of the film. Mercutio has been eliminated, taking with him his infamous line "a plague on both your houses!" In addition, Paris, the nurse, and the priest have all undergone some dramatic makeovers but are, maintained in the plot.

Other Shakespeare nuanc-

es are well-incorporated into the film. Quotes and images from Romeo and Juliet are cleverly woven into this adaptation, giving any Shakespeare fan something to look out for and sink their teeth into. Details like "Taming the Glue" superglue and the addresses on mailboxes ("to be or not to be" from Hamlet) add to the experience.

For many viewers, the audio aspects of the film are its best feature. From the clinking of ceramic to the roar of a lawnmower, the sound effects immerse the audience into the world of a garden gnome.

Unfortunately, some aspects of the plot have been changed from Romeo and Juliet, especially the ending. This was to be expected, though, as the film was given a "G" rating. No toddler really wants the hero to overdose in the final scene, anyway.

Where for art thou, Gnomeo? In a cinema near you.





Photo from jimhillmedia.com


The film included many Shakespearean details.

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**Summer Classes held at Appleton North High School:**

June 6 <sup>th</sup> – June 24 <sup>th</sup>	#721	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri
July 11 <sup>th</sup> – July 29 <sup>th</sup>	#729	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup>	#737	10:00-12:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri

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June 6 <sup>th</sup> – June 24 <sup>th</sup>	#717	8:00-10:00 a.m.	Mon-Fri
	#718	10:15-12:15 p.m.	Mon-Fri
	#719	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri
July 11 <sup>th</sup> – July 29 <sup>th</sup>	#725	8:00-10:00 a.m.	Mon-Fri
	#726	10:15-12:15 p.m.	Mon-Fri
	#727	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri
Aug. 1 <sup>st</sup> – Aug. 19 <sup>th</sup>	#733	8:00-10:00 a.m.	Mon-Fri
	#734	10:15-12:15 p.m.	Mon-Fri
	#735	1:00-3:00 p.m.	Mon-Fri



# Fashion report: spring has arrived

By Corinne Austin

Although it may be difficult to realize during the trek from the warmth of a car into the frigid air outside with snow mounds so high that it's a good day when the school is even visible from the parking lot, that spring is (almost) here.

In snow covered Wisconsin it may not be here just yet, but in the wonderful world of fashion, it certainly is. This spring, the new and upcoming trends are a revamp of



Photo from lookbook.nu

Florals are a classic springtime look.



Photo from lookbook.nu

Bright prints look great this time of year.

the old with a touch of something new. Bright bold colors, delicate lace, and a mixture of prints are still being circulated in this year's look.

Color blocking or just plain solids are both acceptable style choices for the large selection of vivid colors.

For lace, shoot for more neutral tones with either complete lace or just feminine accents in dresses, skirts or tops. Good prints to use are the usual florals, leopard prints or other crazy designs which can be paired with a either a basic

solid or maybe even another bold print.

Don't get too carried away though. It's always important to be aware that two horribly clashing prints, no matter how beautiful they are separately, should never even be considered to be worn together.

Now, the two new looks that are being brought into the mix this spring are the new "midi" length and white out. The "midi" length was inspired by the "ladylike dressing," according to style.com, where



Photo from lookbook.nu

Shades of white are trending this season.



Photo from lookbook.nu

A touch of color makes any outfit pop.

the hemline hits mid-calf. This works for both skirts and dresses of all styles ranging from a sheath dress to a loose flowing skirt.

The new white out means exactly what it says: complete white, head to toe. This is an extremely versatile and simple look for those who like a more comfortable and easy to throw together style. The whole idea is to have everything white from white shirt to pants or even a dress. Although some of us fear of the horrible thought

of walking around in all white is just asking for disaster. Carrie Bradshaw stated it perfectly when she said, "I will never be the woman with the perfect hair, who can wear white and not spill on it."

New trends are designed to be experimented with. A bright blue hobo with an all white, lace dress would be perfect way to spring into the new season.



Photo from lookbook.nu

Do not be afraid to try out some bold colors.

## White Stripes break up after many years of success

By Sean Lyons

Detroit blues-rockers, The White Stripes, have regrettably called it quits. From their humbling, DIY, open-mike night beginnings as newlyweds in the Michigan Underground rock 'n' roll circuit, to the stylistic-circus, blues-rush spectacle witnessed in international tours of Canada, England, Japan, Europe, Iceland, Russia, Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Scotland and Belgium, The White Stripes can begin to revel in their well-earned legacy as the forerunners of the Garage-Rock Revival scene of recent years. After aggressively blending blues, folk styles, country flavors and razor-sharp punk songs in a hefty catalogue of 6 studio albums, 1 live album, 1 EP, 26 singles, 1 video album, and 15 music videos, it is finally time for them to remember.

As posted on the bands website on the second of February: "The reason is not due to artistic differences or lack of wanting to continue, nor any health

issues as both Meg and Jack are feeling fine and are in good health." Although this wasn't the case in 2007, when the Stripes were at their creative peak and amidst a massive tour of the United States promoting their sixth, and final studio-album, 2007's: "Icky-Thump." Having just completed the summer-long Canadian leg of the tour, and roughly halfway through their tour of America, the Stripes abruptly curtailed the entirety of the future dates of the Icky-Thump tour on September 11, 2007. Expunging 18 United States dates, and those scheduled in the United Kingdom to be played once the U.S. dates were played.

Reasons behind this seemingly impulsive pull away from the spot light was due to a nervous breakdown experienced by Meg, who for years had been known to be unusually shy, brought on by a developed "acute anxiety disorder." In wake of their apparently much-needed break from touring, the Stripes went into hibernation, allowing Jack



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The White Stripes have closed up shop after a successful career.

to soar onto extensive levels of musical experimentation, spawning two highly-talented bands, (the Raconteurs, and the Dead Weather) partnering up with Alicia Keys and penning the theme song for the 2008 James Bond Film: "Quantum of Solace," entitled: "Another Way to Die." In addition, he even made time to launch his own record label, Third Man Studios/Records.

In the February 2 post on-

line, the Stripes went on to say what will be of their unreleased and unfinished songs: "Third Man Records will continue to put out unreleased live and studio recordings from the White Stripes in their Vault Subscription record club, as well as through regular channels." In the note they go on to say the following, thus concluding: "The White Stripes do not belong to Jack and Meg anymore. The White Stripes

belong to you now and you can do with it what ever you want. The beauty of art and music is that it can last forever if people want it to. Thank you for sharing this experience. Your involvement will never be lost on us and we are truly grateful."

The White Stripes will never be forgotten for the incredible music that they have produced and shared with the world over the course of many years.