

# Hopewell Hi-Lites

1215 Longvue Avenue, Aliquippa, PA 15001

## Introducing The New Editors-In-Chief

BY: GRACE WARGO

As the 2013-14 school year passes, Dr. Sam's PhD has been revoked, and Taylor's gears have been ground to the studs. Who will save our beloved paper? Who will be the new head honchos of the HiLites? We are proud to reveal the new Editors-in-Chief, Brie Miller and Rachael Kriger!

Get to know the boss's of the paper:

**Q: What is your favorite book genre?**

*Rachael:* Anything by the incredible genius, Daniel Silva.

*Brie:* Dystopian fiction/ Self help/ D+D strategy guides

**Q: If you could be a celebrity who would you be and why?**

*Rachael:* Alexis DeJoria. She's a female drag racer and she's super cool. I even got to meet her a few times in Indianapolis, Norwalk, and Reading.

*Brie:* I wouldn't want to be a celebrity I would just want to be rich, but if I did have to choose, RuPaul.

**Q: What are your favorite movies?**

*Rachael:* Tommy Boy and Black Sheep. Chris Farley is literally the most hilarious person ever.

*Brie:* Frozen, not the Disney one, the one directed by Adam Green

**Q: What qualifies you to be an editor and chief?**

*Rachael:* The fact I have the most experience out of everyone here, as well as Brie.

*Brie:* I've been in journalism since my freshman year and there's only 2

people including me that have been in journalism since freshman year.

**Q: Are you going to make your own signature article?**

*Rachael:* My articles about the NFL and the Steelers have my own signature spin on it, but I'll write whatever. It doesn't really matter to me.

*Brie:* No, I'm afraid of commitment

**Q: What changes would you like to make to next year's paper?**

*Rachael:* Just have more people read it.

*Brie:* I'll continue to improve it and try to draw in readers.

No one looks forward to coming back to school, but look at the bright side! You always have the Hopewell HiLites.



## 21 Injured at Franklin Regional

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

Local Pittsburgh high school Franklin Regional has been the subject of national attention over the past week after sixteen-year-old Alex Hribal wielded two knives and stabbed 20 of his classmates as well as a school security guard

in the early morning of April 9. The incident occurred roughly around 7:10 a.m. throughout one of the school's hallways.

Student Nate Scimio pulled a fire alarm amidst the chaos, and saved the lives of many other students and administrators through his astute actions. After the alarm was pulled, the school's 1,229 students filtered out of the campus. Security guard John Resetar attempted to apprehend the suspect, who was speeding through the hall. Resetar was stabbed in the process. Moments later, assistant principal Sam King and senior Ian Griffith tackled Hribal and handed him over to the police. Each of these courageous individuals are regarded as heroes.

An additional instance of valor and composure arose when a sophomore student tended to her fellow classmate who was injured, and saved his life in the process. Hopewell senior Kelsey Wertz noted that this brave student played a pivotal role in keeping this student, a family friend, alive. "Greg is stable and recovering. Thank you for your support in all of the victim's recoveries."

A seventeen-year-old still in critical condition at UPMC Presbyterian attained the worst of the injuries from the stabbings; a knife missed his heart by millimeters and nearly struck his spine. Hribal has been charged with four counts of attempted homicide and 21 counts of aggravated assault, and is being held without bail at the city's juvenile detention center.

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## Court Is In Session!

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

After school, many travel home and pass the Hopewell middle school; chances are some have seen the Hopewell boys' tennis team practicing. Led by third year coach, Erin Grow, the team is confident and looking forward to a successful season. They made it just above the .500 win

percentage mark last year. The team is also being led by senior co-captains, Andrew Brunette and Aaron Pfeifer.

Coach Grow says she asks their views on various things, because she values their opinions and "they have done an excellent job in representing the team. They reinforce basic skills with the younger players, remind the team of its rules, communicate expectations, and explain not just how we run drills, but why we do the drills. I couldn't ask for two better captains!"

Coach Grow's experience involved playing Singles One for Hopewell in her high school days. "Now I play on several women's and mixed doubles. I also play singles for a Pittsburgh Tennis League."

Coach Grow's experience involved playing Singles One for Hopewell in her high school days. "Now I play on several women's and mixed doubles. I also play singles for a Pittsburgh Tennis League."

Coach Grow's hopes for the season are to see returning lettermen improve their individual records from last year and I'd like to see our younger players get as much court experience possible." She says she loves coaching because it combines her passion for the sport and her love for the kids. "The boys and girls tennis teams are like an extended family- an environment I credit Coach Andy Brunette for creating. For how much time coaches



dedicate, it's important you like what you are doing and who you are doing it with, and I definitely do."

When asking one of the captains what it was like to be a leader this year, Andrew said,

"it's pretty nice. I feel honored. It's rewarding because I set the example, and the other players gain a lot of respect for me." Brunette's expectation this year is to play hard at matches. "We are in a tough section, and I expect the practices to be fun, but still serious. I expect to push myself to do my best to lead this team." Brunette believes that there is some potential for the upcoming years, noted that the most surprising freshman is Eli Loncar.

Another member of the tennis team, Joe Drewitz, has

played tennis for two years. He is one of the five seniors on the team; the other seniors are Dillon Kmetz, Pfeifer, Brunette, and Alec Schoedel. Drewitz says that his personal goal this season is to win most of his matches, and that he is looking forward to the next time Hopewell plays Ellwood City. Drewitz says that there is plenty of leadership on the team, "Andrew Brunette brings his dad's legacy to every event we have, be it a practice or match. He keeps things fun, but also makes sure we are staying focused and confident." Lastly, about his hopes for the team this season, "I expect to have the new guys ready for the section we will be playing this year. I'm confident about the future of this team."

## East Coast Bias?

BY: JUSTIN MARCHIONDA

Is there such a thing as an East Coast bias? Since Christopher Columbus landed the East Coast believe the country and even the world revolves around them. Consider that approximately 50 percent of the U.S. population lives in the East Coast Time Zone, some argue that an East Coast bias is justified. The biggest example of the bias would be in the fields of sports and network television.

In all four major North American leagues: NHL, NFL, MLB, and NBA, the majority of teams are located in the Eastern Time Zone. This leads to unfair coverage for teams located in the Central, Mountain, and Pacific Time Zones. Since each time zone is one hour behind each other this means that games on the West Coast start at 10 p.m. Eastern Time when everyone on the East Coast is going to bed. This means that many of the nation's most influential sports writers are sleeping while talented players are just beginning to play.

Consider this in MLB, 13 out of 30 teams are located in the Eastern Time Zone. MLB includes six franchises alone along the Interstate 95 corridor which connects Baltimore, Washington D.C, Philadelphia, New York, and Boston. Close to 35 percent of the United States population lives in

this corridor. With such a huge population density this has led to players playing outside the Eastern Time Zone not receiving as much attention. Over the last four years only two players have won a Most Valuable Player Award in MLB playing outside of the Eastern Time Zone.



Another big aspect of this is television. For those living on the East Coast games starting at 8 p.m. begin at 5 p.m. on the West Coast while people may still be at work and are unable to watch. This has another effect Sunday's when 1 p.m. NFL games on the East Coast begin on the West Coast at 10 a.m., while many people are still sleeping away.

In addition to sports programming issues primetime television on national networks is bullied by the East. Primetime television begins at 8pm Monday through Friday. The problem with this is that it is tape delayed on the West Coast so that it can begin at 8 p.m. Pacific time. This leads to a big problem with spoilers. Take the series finale of *How I Met Your Mother* for example, the episode aired on March 31 at 8 p.m. Eastern Time, but the episode would not air for another three hours on the West Coast. People on Twitter were talking about the episode results before some people in the West were able to view the episode. The problem could be avoided if they would put on the episode at 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on the West Coast.

There are many problems with an East Coast bias. It affects half of the country from the Great Plains in the Central Time Zone, to the sun-soaked beaches of California in the Pacific Time Zone. It would be better for the nation if we focused on issues and people in all time zones and locations.

## Pittsburgh Sports: Pirates & Penguins

BY: SANTINO CICCONE & RACHAEL KRIGER

When people hear the city name of Pittsburgh, most thoughts shift to the phrase, "The City of Champions." The three teams that helped create this nickname, with their tremendous amounts of success, are none other than the Steelers, Penguins, and Pirates. The Steelers are not close to beginning their season, yet they are still making headlines with the free agency releases and signings. However, the Penguins are in the middle of their season and the Pirates are currently in Spring Training.

The Pirates are coming off of their successful winning season that had everyone in the MLB talking. After a 21 year losing streak, the Pirates finally broke that with a win-loss ratio of 94-68 and a percentage of .580. At the end of the year, Clint Hurdle won NL Coach of the Year and Andrew McCutchen won MVP and the Silver

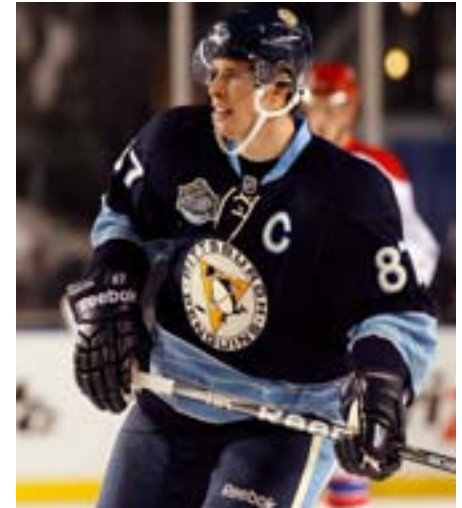


Slugger Award by the National Baseball Writers Association. McCutchen was also voted the second best outfielder behind Mike Trout of the Los Angeles Angels.

Currently, the Pirates are in Spring Training in Bradenton, Florida. The last Spring Training game is against the New York Yankees on March 27. The starting pitcher for the Pirates currently consists of Francisco Liriano replacing A.J. Burnett, whom was traded to the Philadelphia Phillies. The big question mark lies on the

first base position, between Gaby Sanchez and Chris McGuiness. Sanchez, along with Garrett Jones, swapped positions as the starting first baseman. Not returning to the team notably are Justin Morneau, Marlon Byrd, A.J. Burnett, and Garrett Jones. Morneau went to the Colorado Rockies, Byrd and Burnett went to the Phillies, and Jones went down south to the Miami Marlins.

From February 9 to February 24, the NHL was not in session due to the Olympics. A way teams cope after the Olympics is a big concern for hockey fans.



Before the Olympics, the Penguins had a 39-19 with a .672 winning percentage.

Luckily, the Olympics didn't affect the performance and chemistry of the team. A few Penguins still lead the league in some categories, such as Sidney Crosby with 100 points and 64 assists. Marc Andre Fleury has 36 wins and third place with 5 shutouts. Matt Niskanen is fourth in the league with 34 for plus-minuses.

Although the Penguins are in first place in their conference, they still are making deals. Pittsburgh acquired veterans, Marcel Goc and Lee Stempniak without affecting their current roster before the trade deadline. General Manager, Ray Shero, stated that he doesn't know where the new acquired players would be placed. Positively, they are very versatile and could be placed on either side in any line. Shero states "I am looking forward to seeing how the newest Penguins fit in."



## Hurdling the Last Obstacle to Graduation

BY: ANDREW BRUNETTE

One hundred twenty hours....and counting. Everyone wants to graduate, but there is one obstacle that all the seniors still have to overcome: Senior Projects. The entire senior class has been struggling to finish their projects that they have been working on for at least a year now, logging in countless hours along the way. The stress is building up more and more each day as the project deadlines draw near.

Aaron Pfeifer, a senior at Hopewell High School, talks about the struggles of his senior project. "I act as the math counts sponsor for my senior project," said Aaron, "The hardest part about this project is time management. It's hard to find 120 hours of free time in my busy life that I don't use towards this project." Aaron claimed that being the math counts sponsor is difficult. He says that it's hard to maintain the attention of small 7th and 8th grade children that clearly have not matured yet. "If I could do this project again, I would change the days that we would

have the meetings," Pfeifer said, "Having meetings on Mondays and Thursdays didn't really bring in much of a crowd, so changing the dates might have created a higher attendance." Even though it was difficult for him, Pfeifer enjoyed working with the junior high kids for his Senior Project.

So what's the point of even participating in this whole extravaganza? The point of the Senior Project is to help us prepare for college, depending on what our senior project was about. Pfeifer wants to pursue a career in chemical engineering, so sponsoring math counts may prepare him for the math portion of his major. Most people do a service project, which is what Pfeifer did, but people can also do creative, technical, or career projects. No matter what project someone chooses, it still must be completed in order to graduate.

After getting through the Senior Project speeches, everyone will be relieved. Achieving this goal will be one of the best things that people have ever accomplished throughout their entire high school career. No more stress will be brought upon the seniors of Hopewell, and the suffering will come to an end. Graduation is right around the corner, and the class of 2014 will finally be free!



## Best Elective?

BY: BRANDON EATON

Make room in your schedule for this one, folks. Advanced Social Studies, taught by Mrs. Kanitra, is listed as a history elective. However, it is a comprehensive class that focuses on several topics including: government, geography, religion, and economics. "This is a class that you can't miss," said senior Andrew Brunette.

The year starts with current events, reviewing both local and global events. From there, the class jumps into the history of the United States government. The next section introduces the federal government. This includes how each branch of the government works, the powers of each branch, and even the requirements to be a member of the federal government. Next, the class learns about state and local government, a topic that is very relevant.



The lesson of geography is broad as it focuses on local, state, United States, and world geography. Religion is studied as a means of learning religious tolerance. Five main religions are studied from an objective point of view giving students a chance to form their own opinion. The last topic taught in this class is economics.

This class offers plenty of grades throughout the year. Projects give the opportunity for the more creative people of the class to shine. The objective of these projects is to create something and then give an oral presentation on the subject. These presentations are "good practice for Senior Project," said Mrs. Kanitra.

This class is a great hit with students, every day the class has fun while learning interesting topics. This is a cannot miss class for anyone interested in having fun and learning.

# Missing in Malaysia

BY: LAUREN TRIMBER

At the beginning of March, Malaysian Airlines Flight 370 went missing. For most of the month, there was no sign of the plane or the 239 passengers on board. Countries around the world contributed planes and technology to solve the mystery, and they might have done just that.

Chinese satellites found images of large items, about 70 feet long, floating in the ocean, but when planes were sent out to investigate further, the items were gone. However, a Malaysian representative promised that they wouldn't stop searching. Although they don't have the technology to properly look for the plane, other 25

countries are contributing satellites, planes, and even submarines to help.

About a week after China lost sight of the floating items, Australian planes found its own



lead. They spotted large debris in the waves, but when they flew closer there was nothing there.

England sent out submarines on April 2, and famous director Peter Jackson even donated his private jet for the search.

Not long after the plane went missing, the pilot's last words were released to the public: "All right, good night." But a correction was later made to those words, changing them to, "Good night Malaysian three seven zero." Because of this, several people have become skeptical, questioning how officials could have mixed up the phrases and suggesting various conspiracies.

Meanwhile, families of the missing people haven't given up hope. Among the missing is a newlywed couple on the way to their honeymoon. Cousin of the groom, Mohammad Sahril Shaari, told CNN, "We don't know for sure if (the plane) is in the Indian Ocean. We want to see that plane. Even if he's gone, we want his body -- and this is the wish of all families...I just feel so helpless."

# Journey to Germany

BY MADDY HOPKINS

A rare opportunity, a vacation during school, touring castles, and eating cultural food. Who could say no?

Emma Rose, a sophomore at Hopewell High School, stepped into the Munich airport buzzing with foreign words and searched for two familiar faces. She had just arrived from D.C. after single-handedly braving passports lines and turbulence, and her grandparents were excitedly awaiting her to join their expedition of Germany and Austria. This was the start of a breathtaking journey.

Two hours later, the Hotel Lechner came into view through the windshield. Being a quaint, family-owned hotel with just three floors, its staff spoke no English. Emma, who takes German here at school, found her language skills were less than adequate with how quickly they spoke, but her grandparents were luckily fluent. Emma just sat back, watched, and followed them to her room. With the combination of being six hours ahead and arriving early in the morning, she was exhausted. But she only got a short nap before she was whisked away to admire German culture.

The experience was like none other, one that some never have the chance to enjoy, much less a high school student. Emma enjoyed everything from the warm, and even sometimes hot, climate to the "mac and cheese with a little twist" called *kasespatzle*, a word that literally translates to cheese dumplings. She even had Nutella-gorged crepes which she confessed was the yummiest dessert she ate.

Emma toured all over,



starting in Munich, Germany with colossal churches before heading into Salzburg, Austria. Here, Emma went on a tour for the Sound of Music, one of her favorite movies that was filmed right where she was standing. "It was weird to think that I have seen these places on my television screen, but now I'm standing in the church where Julie Andrews and Christopher Plummer got married," Emma said. She was equally amazed when she visited Nym-

phenburg and Neuschwanstein, the castles of King Ludwig. Cinderella's Castle in Disneyland was actually based on Neuschwanstein.

Oberammergau, Germany was Big City #3. Four hundred years ago, the villagers had promised that, if spared from the bubonic plague sweeping Europe, every ten years they would celebrate God with plays depicting the life and death of Jesus. These are the passion plays, and, alongside woodcarvings, are what the historic city is known for. The buildings are even decorated in religious and German fairytale pictures. As historic as Oberammergau is, though, it wasn't the oldest city Emma visited. That would be the German city Rottenburg, the oldest medieval city in Europe. Grisly torture devices adorned the city's Torture and Criminal Museum that Emma toured. She also walked around the old walls surrounding Rottenburg.

Though it was her first time even outside the country, Emma already can't wait to go again. The memories she made are unforgettable and she is grateful for the chance to have done something not many teenagers get to do. In fact, she advises others to take the opportunity to travel if it presents itself. She said, "I want to travel the world, but I think I started in a good place."

# Silent Weapon

BY JUSTIN KRAUS

Every kid who attended junior high remembers the “mosquito tone” or “death tone”—a high pitched tone that many students set as their ringtone because older people’s ears can not hear it. While the mosquito tone can save students in class, it was also used as a deterrent for youth crime, because the tone is very high pitched and, at high tones, can cause physical pain. However, what is concerning the world today is the opposite of the mosquito tone; very low pitched sounds, called infrasound, which can cause serious damage without being heard.

To understand infrasound, the hearing range of humans must be fully understood. A normal human can hear sound in the frequency range of 20-20,000 hertz. However, everybody’s hearing deteriorates with age, usually the high-range frequencies are first to go, followed by all sound slowly becoming harder to hear. Infrasound is so effective because it is played at frequencies too low for anybody to hear.

Infrasound is very loud sound played at a frequency too low to be heard. The sound is enough to cause pain and permanent damage to hearing. Pain from sound occurs between 115 decibels (db) and 140 db. Infrasound played below these frequencies will be completely unnoticeable to anyone, and could be playing at all times everywhere in the world. The damage starts to be done when infrasound is played in that threshold of pain. Persons in the range of the sound will start to feel intense pressure in their ears, getting more intense the closer to the source someone is and the louder the sound is played.

The real craziness happens when infrasound is played lower and at a louder level. When played at 0.1 hertz per second, and at 160 decibels, infrasound actually penetrates the lungs and controls breathing. At even higher levels, eardrums can burst, intense hallucinations can be experienced, permanent mental damage, and even death can occur.

This is all terrifying, but the

real terror comes when infrasound gets into the wrong hands, and it already has: military use. An LRAD (Long-Range Acoustics Device) is being used by many governments against rioters to deter their behavior. During riots, the machine is cranked up to 142.7 decibels, causing major pain, but no serious lasting effects. The scary part is that this is not the machine’s limit, it doesn’t have one. At 200 decibels, lung rupture and death occur; which these machines are very capable of. Every machine comes with a safety switch, leveling the sound off at around 140 decibels. However, once that switch is flipped, there is no limit.

These machines right now are only used on riot police trucks; however, there is nothing stopping any country from putting these machines on a plane, drone, or even a spacecraft. The threat of infrasound causing widespread damage is real and very possible. All that is needed is the flip of a switch.

## Pirates in Hopewell?

BY: MARY-JANE HOUSTON

Not the pirates that involve big ships and stolen treasure, but the kind that download music illegally. According to Times Online, the average teenager has illegally downloaded 800 songs, almost 50 percent of their music library. Believe it or not, selling your old iPods or MP3 players with previously bought music on it is also illegal. Although this is a crime punishable by major fines of up to \$ 250,000 and 5 years in prison, about 95 percent of people download illegal music, movies, and/or TV shows.

Seventy percent of these people don’t see a problem with what they are doing or don’t realize it’s illegal. They are not making profit from this so no one should care. But in reality, global music piracy causes \$ 12.5 billion of economic losses every year, according to the analysis done by the Institute for Policy Innovation, and 71,060 U.S. jobs are also lost.

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) did a study in 2009 that showed that only 37

percent of music acquired by US consumers was paid for.

Governments are taking steps to stop the amount of illegal downloading, such as tracking the known illegal downloading websites and catching the people that use them. “You don’t have to be a mass downloader. Someone who downloads a single movie will be logged as well,” the lead researcher for this project told BBC. Jamie Thomas-Rasset of Minneapolis was fined \$1.92 million for illegally downloading only 24 songs. That is 80,000 per song, so maybe it is worth it to pay the \$1.29 on iTunes. The amounts of websites are unlimited so it’s impossible to stop all illegal downloading, but limiting it can reduce the money and jobs lost in the U.S. to illegal downloading.

## Black AND White Prom

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

Nearly sixty years after the passage of Brown v. Board of Education, the Supreme Court case that deemed segregation in schools a violation of the Constitution, Wilcox High School has finally received its own taste of equality. The 400 student Georgia school planned and hosted its first integrated prom this year on March 29 after having private, student organized “black” and “white” proms for decades. Last year, some students planned their own racially integrated prom; however, unlike this year’s event, it was not school sponsored. The last school sponsored prom in Wilcox County was held prior to Brown v. Board of Education, before schools were integrated. After desegregation in schools became the new norm, many southern schools including Wilcox left proms to be planned outside of school jurisdiction, or cancelled them altogether. Following the brave students’ endeavor to end segregated proms last year, the Wilcox school board then decided to initiate this official event. Mareisha Rucker, a 2013 graduate who was one of the few that organized last year’s unofficial prom appreciates the event, and believes that it is long overdue. She noted, “If we’re all together and love each other the way we say we do, then there are no issues. This is something that should have happened a long time ago.”



## Grinds My Gears: Farewell

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON



In light of the upcoming  
celebration,  
You know what I'm talking about-  
GRADUATION!  
I thought I'd end my Hi-Lites  
career,  
With a few last items that grind my  
gears.  
Walking the hallway on the wrond  
side,  
Brush your teeth, have a sliver of  
pride,  
Remember deodorant usage is  
critical,  
And B.O. is never viewed as a  
pinnacle.  
Hours of homework without any  
sleep,  
My obnoxious alarm with an extra  
loud BEEP.  
Teachers, acknowledge my hall  
pass plea,  
Don't make me wait for I really have  
to pee.  
Not thanking those who hold the  
door for you,  
Come on, that is something you  
should never do.  
When coughing or sneezing cover  
your face,  
Try to keep your germs out of my

personal space.  
Boys who wear flip-flops and  
showcase their toes,  
After all it is your choice, just a bad  
one, I suppose.  
"Text Talk" in real life, Srsly? Get  
real.  
Haven't you heard the English  
department's spiel?  
Interruptive Pandora ads and  
useless pop ups,  
Public displays of affection make  
me want to throw up!  
People that drive reckless and  
unsafe,  
Calm down, everything is not a  
race.  
Those who simply lack common  
sense,  
All of the petty drama and  
pretentiousness.  
Blocking the walkways and all of  
the doors,  
Use your brains you annoying  
bores.  
Birds that relieve themselves on my  
clean car,  
Do it again, and you won't be flying  
very far.  
Many things bother me; yes, it's  
certainly true.  
Sadly, next year you'll be reading a  
new point of view.  
Finally it's time for me to venture  
from the Beave,  
Don't miss me too much as I turn  
to leave.

## The Last Ride

BY: SAMUEL POOLA

This is dedicated to the life  
and soul of the 1996 Ford Explorer.  
I remember that magnificent  
day so vividly. It was a sunny

morning after a night of wacky  
excursions at my friend Noah's  
house, and it was time to go home.  
Joey, Robin, and I loaded up into  
the mighty Garofalo's special Eddie  
Bauer edition Ford Explorer and  
journeyed off into the distance. We  
first ventured to Joey's house, and  
dropped him off. It was after that  
the last ride of the Explorer truly  
began.

"Want to drive through  
some sketchy parts of town?" asked  
Robin with boyish wonder.

"It's up to you," I replied in  
a cautious manner

And so we set off down the  
streets, waving at any on goers we  
passed by. "I'm not entirely sure  
how to get out of here; Joe usually  
navigates me through this area,"  
said Robin as we were driving. With  
little understanding of where we  
were going, Robin managed to find  
a way and got back on the road  
home. On the journey, we came  
upon a red light and pulled up  
next to another car. Meaning that  
was time to take advantage of the  
Explorer's broken sway bar.

"Watch this," said Robin  
with excitement.

Immediately after uttering  
those words, he began to press  
and release the brake with quick  
manner, causing the entire car to  
bounce up and down as if it had  
hydraulics inside of it. The driver  
in the car parallel to us gave us  
a disapproving nod, and then we  
went on. As we passed Giant Eagle,  
an innocent bystander in a beige  
sedan drove up behind us. He  
proceeded to tailgate the almighty  
Explorer, so Robin acted swiftly.

"Oh God, he's so close," I  
said in an uneasy tone.

Robin responded to this  
treacherous act by decreasing the  
speed of the car down to 25 miles  
per hour. A large line of cars soon  
formed at the southern end of the  
Explorer, each driver wanting to  
proceed at the 45 mile per hour  
speed limit.

"I think the guy behind us  
is getting angry," I said in a nervous  
voice.

"Oh well," replied Robin  
smugly.

After about 15 minutes,  
we turned onto Calhoon Road and  
gingerly made our way to my house.

We got to the top of my driveway and then it happened. Robin turned down my driveway, all six cylinders of the powerful engine roaring in anticipation. But it became too much for Robin; the vehicle began to bear to the right, tires spinning in the gravel, and then bam.

The once immaculate front of the Explorer wrapped itself around the utility pole in my driveway. Both airbags went off in perfect succession, then, crash, another thunderous boom erupted from the rear of the vehicle. It seemed the pole was split in half, one half lodged in the front of the car and the other half on top of the roof. Smoke bellowed out of the engine, leaving a terrible odor behind. At this point I began to use some coarse language to signal my comrade to exit the vehicle.

“Get the Friday out of the car!” I yelled in a frantic voice.

Almost instantly, Robin opened the driver side door and we crawled out, sprinting for my house. We were greeted outside by my parents, who had mixed reactions. My mother was in a bit of a frantic state, while my father was pretty much relaxed about the situation. A swarm of people began to arrive after the pole was hit.

We were first greeted by our neighbor, then by several others, including Robin’s father and mother, the fire department, the state police, the electric company, the towing company, and many other concerned spectators. Robin’s mother had the best quote of the day: “It had to be this one; it couldn’t have been the minivan.”

The worker from the electric company said, “There was a live

wire producing 4,000 volts lying eight inches away from the side of the car.”

After about 45 minutes, the towing service hauled Robin’s car away and soon everyone dispersed. The aftermath of the pole resulted in the death of several of our appliances, including our washer, drier, hot water heater, TV, computer, microwave, refrigerator, and Xbox. That day I lost several physical possessions, but gained a story and a greater appreciation for life.

## How to Avoid Car Accidents

BY: BRIE MILLER

To avoid being in a bad situation, there are some methods



you have to practice when maneuvering in a large metal capsule. Teenagers are some of the riskiest drivers. The cost of insurance is proof enough.

**SLOW DOWN!** Obey the speed limit; not only will it help you from avoiding hidden cops, but the speed limits are there for your safety. According to CDC.gov, male drivers between 15 and 20 years of age who were involved in fatal crashes in 2010, 39 percent were speeding at the time of the crash.

**Avoid distractions.** Although the text message you just received may seem important, it only takes a second of distraction to get into trouble. With more people in your car your chance of being distracted increases.

**Don’t drive aggressively.**

You will always encounter people who are in hurry and its best to let them pass you. Practice a little self-control and relax.

**Wear a seatbelt.** This one might seem obvious and it won’t help avoid an accident but clicking the seatbelt can save your life in an accident. In 2011, only 54% of high school students reported they always wear seat belts when riding with someone else (CDC.gov).

**Don’t tailgate those in front of you.** Drive with a “space cushion”. Make sure you have space on either side and in front and back of you. If you have to make any sudden moves, you will have sufficient space. Following other cars too closely will not give you enough time to execute emergency safety maneuvers.

Always give a three-second lead between you and the vehicle in front of you.

**Maintain control of your vehicle.** Know your car, adjust your mirrors, pay attention to any warning lights, know your blind spots and have your automobile

checked on a regular basis. Be aware of your vehicles limits, know how fast you can safely maneuver it, and test the emergency stopping distance.

**Try to avoid driving in bad weather or at night.** Night time is the time when drivers are the most tired, it is much harder to see, and there is a greater chance of coming into contact with drunk drivers. Bad weather such as rain, ice, snow, and fog can be extremely dangerous. Make sure to turn on headlights when necessary, to use the brakes and gas gently, and increase to a five-second barrier between other cars.

Accidents are the leading cause of death among teens, with automobile fatality being the lead and representing one-third of all teenage deaths. Don’t be a statistic.





# Don't Be Lazy

BY: SANTINO CICCONE

"The only place success comes before work is in the dictionary" (Vince Lombardi). Everybody has a bad day, but the way you can turn it around matters more. With modern day technology, a bad day can be turned around easier.

One thing that must be understood is the Law of Attraction. This states that the way you feel will be continuous unless your attitude is changed. A bad day happens because of one negative action or energy that begins early in the day and just continues throughout

the day. This may sound cliché, but maintain positive thoughts and attitudes. If positive thoughts are produced, then there will be positive outcomes.

Motivation is all in the mind. Have things that motivate you at your disposal, such as changing your background to a motivational quote or watching an uplifting video everyday. A motivational video that you could watch is a recited poem with a motion picture, called "To This Day." Also, watch motivational speeches, such as "Secrets to Success,

How Bad Do You Want It?" A dream is very different from a goal. A goal is something that one works for, and a dream is something that one hopes for. If this dream is important, then turn it into a goal.

STOP WISHING AND START DOING!

# WHAT YOU DO TODAY CAN IMPROVE ALL YOUR TOMORROWS

## The Eternal

### Winter

BY: SAMANTHA MARCKIONI

After shoveling snow for days, bundling up in coats just to go get the mail, and hiding out at home for fear of the weather, people all over are highly anticipating the arrival of spring. And yet, after nearly a week into spring, many are still waking up to a dusting of snow on the ground, and chilly air. More bad news for those who are readily prepared for the hot sun and summer air; winter may not be in a hurry to let go over much of the Central and Eastern states completely.

This bizarre cold weather puzzled meteorologists all winter, while it just left everyone else irritated and cold. The big question on everyone's mind seemed to be, "Why is this winter so particularly bad?" Well, steering winds high in the atmosphere, known as the jet stream, have been in a very high amplitude since January 2, when this winter first began. This sudden stratospheric warming, which is an event where the polar vortex of westerly winds in the winter hemisphere slows down, led to the breakdown of the regular polar vortex, thus bring the Midwest some extreme cold air. This jet stream deviated to the south, bringing cold air with it, as a result of unusual contrast between cold air from Canada, and mild winter temperatures from United States.

This produced significant wind where the air masses met, leading to bitter wind chills, and worsening the impacts of the record cold temperatures.

An Arctic cold front that initially started on January 2 tracked across Canada and the United States, resulting in heavy snowfall. Temperatures fell to unprecedented levels, and low temperature records were broken across the United States. Schooling closing became the norm, along with business and road closures, as well as massive amount of flight cancellations. It's estimated that this winter caused the United States \$5 million in damages, and left nearly 200 million people affected.

Now entering March, which is usually a battle of two seasons: winter and spring. While there are indications of an end to the intrusions from the polar vortex, corresponding freezing, and subzero weather during the months ahead for many areas of the Midwest and East, this may be a slow spring. According to Paul Pastelok, head of AccuWeather's Long Range Team, it may take until late April or May for steady warmth to be widespread in the East. The slow spring transition will be complicated by rather wet and stormy weather at times in the Midwest, East and especially the South. However, after living through a winter where the national average temperature was 31.3 °F, a little rain may not sound too bad.

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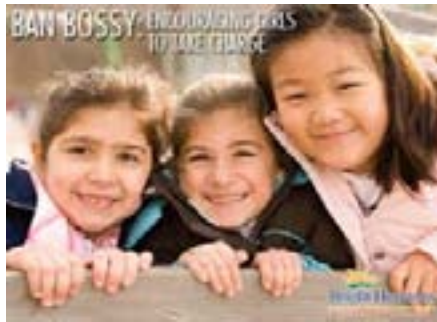
BY: MADDIE HOPKINS

The title makes me sound a little like a bossy person, huh? Oops. I meant like a *leader*. According to Sheryl Sandburg's campaign known as Ban Bossy, *bossy* is a sexist word that refers to an assertive girl and lowers her self confidence. Meanwhile, the movement argues, boys are called leaders. So, Sandburg teamed up with various celebrities such as Beyoncé, Jane Lynch, and Jennifer Gardner, to stomp out the word, choosing to raise sensitivity to it.

However, the way they choose to go about it is by advertising the negative aspects of *bossy* and attempting to eliminate it from our vocabulary. And in doing so, they only give the word more power. By claiming the mere word reduces a girl's confidence and sways her away from taking on leadership roles, Ban Bossy only reinforces the idea that the word *means* something when it doesn't.

Instead of teaching women to grow a thicker skin, they decide to demonstrate running away from the problem. Girls should be learning to overcome the obstacles in their lives, not banning words that hurt their feelings.

Furthermore, eliminating a word does not get rid of the idea behind it. Other words will



step up to take its place. *Pushy*. *Controlling*. *Imperious*. *Overbearing*. *Tyrannical*. All of these words showcase the same idea. So what are we supposed to do, flip through the dictionary and cross out every

word that even remotely resembles *bossy*? The word exists in the first place to describe bossy people, males included. Sandburg herself even wrote, "As we learn to speak appropriately, we lose something in authenticity." By dancing around a potentially offensive word, we lose the honesty of the actual word. Sometimes a person is just *bossy*, overly authoritative. Sometimes it's a girl. And sometimes it's a boy. Either way, it's the same word. If it hurts someone's feelings, maybe he or she should stop ordering others around needlessly. After all, there is a difference between leading people and ordering them around. The word might be offensive, but then again maybe that is because *you* are being offensive, and that doesn't necessarily mean you are a girl. Moreover, there are much more abhorrent words women can be called. These destroy confidence even more so than *bossy*, convincing girls they are not worth a leadership position. If Sheryl Sandberg is so dead-set on banning words, she should focus on these ones.

Coddling girls is not a way to empower women. Whining when a word hurts your feelings doesn't make you a leader. Successful women did not get to where they are by banning every word that offends them. Overcoming it by learning confidence in the face of doubt is what actually changes the world.

## Bravery at its Best

BY: GILLIAN CARR

With jarring twists and turns, *Divergent* is a great and fast read. "I thought it was an exceptionally good book and definitely one of my top ten favorite books." said freshman Dakota Forest. Set in the near-future, Chicago is divided into five factions: Abnegation for the selfless, Amity for the peaceful, Candor for the honest, Erudite for the knowledgeable, and Dauntless for the brave.

For sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior, the selflessness that her home faction Abnegation



embodies does not come naturally to her. On any given day Beatrice and other sixteen-year-olds within

the factions have to take an aptitude test to determine which faction they belong in. While most people get an aptitude for one faction, Beatrice gets an aptitude for three.

On Choosing Day, Beatrice

not only surprises her parents, but she surprises herself. Now hiding in her new faction, she renames herself Tris and with the help of her new friends and enemies she goes through initiation. By the end she is one of the top ranked initiates. She also know there is something big about to happen and doesn't know whether to trust her new friends, her family, or even herself.

The first novel from New York Times bestselling author Veronica Roth has been flying off the shelves and getting amazing reviews. The next book in the *Divergent* trilogy is *Insurgent* followed by the final book *Allegiant*.

# Summer Concert Preview

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

Once again we are nearing summer, the time of the year that brings an abundance of familiar faces and rising musicians to the Pittsburgh music scene. For all diehard music fans, this season is the best time to venture out and see the most enthralling artists perform. Concerts prove to be some of the most enjoyable and lively times of the year, and as Elvis Presley once declared, "It's my favorite part of the business, live concerts."

## STAGE AE

<b>M.I.A. with A\$AP Ferg</b>	April 28
<b>Alabama Shakes</b>	May 8
<b>Neon Trees</b>	May 14
<b>Ingrid Michaelson</b>	May 25
<b>Bastille</b>	June 1
<b>Tyler the Creator</b>	June 4
<b>The Naked and Famous</b>	June 5
<b>Ray LaMontagne</b>	June 6
<b>Arctic Monkeys</b>	June 17
<b>O.A.R. and Phillip Phillips</b>	June 18
<b>Fitz and the Tantrums</b>	July 5
<b>Panic! At The Disco with Walk the Moon</b>	August 1

# BASTILLE



## CONSOL ENERGY CENTER

<b>Lady Gaga</b>	May 8
<b>Katy Perry</b>	July 22

## FIRST NIAGARA PAVILION

<b>Brad Paisley</b>	May 17
<b>Rod Stewart and Santana</b>	May 27

<b>Tim McGraw</b>	June 6
<b>Backstreet Boys and Avril Lavigne</b>	June 14
<b>Journey and Steve Miller Band</b>	June 27
<b>Dave Matthews Band</b>	June 28
<b>Fall Out Boy and Paramore</b>	July 3
<b>Vans Warped Tour</b>	July 15
<b>One Republic with The Script</b>	August 8
<b>KISS and Def Leppard</b>	August 24

## OTHER VENUES

<b>Tony Bennett-</b>	May 16 - Heinz Hall
<b>Celtic Woman</b>	- May 17 - Benedum
<b>John Legend</b>	- June 15 - Byham
<b>Luke Bryan</b>	- June 21 - Heinz Field
<b>Say Anything</b>	- July 6 - Mr. Smalls
<b>Jason Aldean</b>	- July 26 - PNC Park



## Canadian Fashion

BY: GILLIAN BELICH

Toronto is considered the New York City of Canada. Thousands of restaurants, a Starbucks on every corner, and millions of people walking along the streets, but the one aspect that makes Toronto stand out is the fashion.

During a recent bus trip to Toronto, not only did the beautiful scenery catch my eye, but also the fashion-forward citizens. Strutting up and down the streets in the latest trends, stylish Canadians showed off their killer style. With endless choices for shopping, and

the top-notch stores to choose from, they are definitely in the top ranks for the best dressed city.

When asked to describe Toronto's fashion in one word, Toronto traveler Kylie Chichester said, "Fierce. They dress way better than we do here in the states. It made me feel bad about the way that I dress. Compared to our fashion in the States, they are way more put together than we are," Kylie also commented. Fashion inspiration is abundant because they have numerous options for shopping. The Eaton Center has over fifty of the highest end stores in its large building. The style is J. Crew meets Betsey Johnson. They are very eccentric with a hipster vibe. The whole trip I could not help myself from looking out of the bus window and getting inspired for new looks.

An outfit that really stood out to me was what a woman wore to the art museum. She had on a vintage fur vest over top of a printed collared button up shirt, jeans, and unique fur boots. This outfit was a great example of how stylish Toronto citizens are. The city people are not afraid to try new styles. They mix different pieces together to really describe their



personalities. I came home with numerous finds from the hottest Canadian store "Roots" and the breath-taking three story H&M. The trip inspired me to not be afraid to try new styles and experiment with different pieces. If a guy in Toronto can rock green hair, then I can rock anything.

# The Forgotten

By MADDY HOPKINS

Baldr's absence was a deadweight in Hel's bones. They dragged her beneath the deep black waves of monotony. The perpetual dead-chill was even more bitter now that she'd tasted the summer inside of Baldr. Her limbs quaked, trembled, exposed as the crystals hanging in the air stripped her bones bare. The quiet was driving her mad.

Yet, she couldn't bring herself to wish him dead, if only to drive away the winter.

As all eventually did, she'd begun to care for him.

The Underworld was unnervingly empty as Hel wandered into her throne room. It was bathed in dimness, casting eerie shapes into the corners that very closely resembled something human. A side

profile here. A wisp of hair there. Sometimes a nose, sometimes a reaching hand.

Hel stopped before a mural on her wall, locating the image of Baldr surrounded by a halo of gold. He sat atop the Nine Worlds with the other gods, a sleek grin stretched wide on his mouth. The picture didn't do his smile justice.

Below him—painted in shades of velvet black, steel gray, and navy—was Hel, her face frightening. She reached out to touch it just as her eye landed on a head on striking copper hair. Loki. God of mischief.

He also happened to be Hel's father.

One of her eyebrows sloped into a frown, and her fingers trailed over to his visage. He sat separately from the others, not far, but enough for Hel to notice. His sly eyes were slanted towards—towards Baldr. Hel

grabbed one of her ribs. They seemed to suddenly tighten, pressing in against her heart. Loki liked to cause trouble but—

He wouldn't, would he?

Just then, Hel felt a presence appear behind her. It was familiar, but it felt wrong so wrong, lacking the warmth of life. Hel froze in a way that seemed to still time itself, her hand now hovering in the air. *No.* Dread spiked in Hel's unbeating heart.

This was how spirits came to her.

This couldn't be happening.

The worlds were all crumbling.

She trembled and refused to turn around, recognizing the voice that spoke and feeling the cool breath on her back. "The mistletoe, Hel. The mistletoe got me."

## FEATURED ART



BY: BAILEY MARSHALL



BY: NICOLE WEBSTER