

Calm Down, We're Still Here: A Theory Behind Apocalyptic Obsessions

BY: STEFANIE JOHNDROW

The word "apocalypse" seemed to be everywhere in 2012. People around the globe couldn't help but wonder if the 21 December 2012 Mayan calculation for the end of the world would prove to be true. From 634 B.C. to 2012, at least 158 predictions for the end of humankind have been made. So far, zero of those 158 have come true. Therefore, the worry and wonder that consumed many people this year seemed unnecessary. There appears to be a fear among humans—a fear of the future.

Society is intrigued with all sorts of "future-telling" techniques. From checking one's daily horoscope to visiting a psychic to trusting in such things as the Mayan apocalypse, trepidation of the anonymity before us presents itself throughout the general culture every day. While many will partake in some of these activities just for the fun of it, humans have been shown to be afraid of the things that have not happened yet. As a society, people fear uncertainty, not knowing whether or not they will find what they are after.

Ironically, people are constantly searching for a peace within; however, according to writer Peter Shepard, the "very nature of fear makes us anxious about the present and not at peace." The voice of fear embedded in the minds of society conducts an internal dialogue of doubt.

The constant second-guessing, wondering if choices that one has made was the right choice, wondering how to keep certain events from happening, keeps the mind trapped in time. The dwelling of the past or the future keeps society from noticing the present. Shepard also commented that "most people live in the past or future, harboring guilt and resentments."

Continued on pg. 6



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Here Comes The Sun: Lockout No More!

BY: SAMANTHA MARCKIONI

The sun came out, the people cheered, Canadians crawled out of their igloos, and it may have been the first time you've ever seen a Flyer's and Pen's fan hug; the lockout is over. What's not to be excited about? Hockey is back, and due to the Steelers being out of the playoffs, it seemed to be perfect timing for sport-lovers in the city of Pittsburgh to get their game faces back on. The longest 113 days of a hockey fan's life, the NHL can now be forgiven for the excruciatingly long lockout.

One of the questions that now arises is, will the fans come back? This is the third major dispute in Gary Bettman's career as Commissioner, and though the fans returned in the past, the jury seems to be out this time. Going through social media websites, there seems to be a pattern among people to skip the entire season. Many are saying that the league and players don't think enough about the part-time employees and local businesses that needed the sport

for financial support. The NHL has to realize that they have to repair the damaged relationship with the die-hards. Niklas Backstrom, Minnesota Wild goalie, knows the players and league are going to try to fix the



relationship with the fans once again. "I know they're mad," Backstrom said. "It's something that shouldn't have happened. In 20 years, we've lost probably two seasons if you count all the games. They (the fans) should be mad. It's not enough for us to say we're sorry."

Pittsburgh Penguins own Sidney Crosby said in an interview that the prolonged lockout could have ended a month ago with what essentially was the same agreement that was reached. However, every time negotiations

seemed to collaborate, and the lockout might be over with, negotiations were halted. The constant "maybe this time" disheartened the Penguins' Star, who was eager to play after missing much of the two previous seasons due to multiple concussion layoffs. Penguins' forward Craig Adams, who was also very involved in the talks, agreed with Crosby in that the agreement took far longer than was necessary. "Even though that week in New York ended badly, we still made a lot of progress, so I agree with Sid," said Adams. "That probably ended up laying the groundwork for what was the deal. And, yeah, it's frustrating we didn't get it done then and we could have taken four to five weeks off this lockout. But whatever reason it didn't happen then, and here we are now."

As for the negotiations, Crosby said both sides should be happy with the deal, if only because it buys at least eight years of labor peace. Even though the Winter Classic and All Star games are both out of the question, fans will get to watch their teams play nearly four times a week. At 48 games, it's still hockey at the highest level.



Swimming to Victory

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

As temperatures continue to drop, so do times. That's right, its swim season again! The Hopewell Viking Swim Team is now in the midst of their new season, and so far, all is well in the water. Captains for both the girls and boys teams have been selected. Brianna Morrison and Hannah Palochak have been voted the captains of the girls, while Ronnie Debiec and Logan McCrory are the captains for the boys. The team is already approaching the halfway point in their season, and captain Hannah Palochak noted, "The season is going really well. We are working hard and looking hard to improve from last year." Out of the meets that have occurred so far, the girls are 3-1 and the boys are 4-0. The scores are as follows:

Hopewell vs. Mars:

Girls: 43-51 (L)

Boys: 54-36 (W)

Hopewell vs. Montour:

Girls: 58-36 (W)

Boys: 67-27 (W)

Hopewell vs. Trinity:

Girls: (W)

Boys: (W)

Hopewell vs. Beaver:

Girls: 51-39 (W)

Boys: 50-42 (W)

As the team continues to achieve their times for the nearing MAC's in February and the WPIALS in March, they need support at their upcoming meets. January 17, 2013 (vs., Blackhawk) at 6:30, and January 22, 2013 (vs. North Hills) also at 6:30, are two of their upcoming home meets.

NFL Has Had Its Share of Tragedies, Too.

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

It's getting close to February 3, the Super Bowl, which stirs a lot of excitement from fans, coaches, and especially players. For teams such as the Kansas City Chiefs and the Dallas Cowboys, though, who didn't make the cut, bitterness isn't the only thing on

their minds; there's also sorrow. Kansas City and Dallas both lost players to tragic incidents that occurred off the field this year. The Chiefs lost linebacker Jovan Belcher, and the Cowboys lost practice-squad linebacker Jerry Brown, Jr.

Jovan Belcher, 25, according to police reports, got into a fight with girlfriend, Kasandra Perkins, and shot her at their home at 7:50 am. Belcher then drove his car to the Chiefs facility and

met with the team's now ex head coach, Romeo Crennel, linebacker's coach Gary Gribbs, and general manager, Scott Pioli. He reportedly said to the coaches and GM, "I hurt my girl, I can't go back. Take care of my baby." He then went behind a car, made the sign of the cross, and committed suicide.

Jerry Brown, Jr.'s story is different, but still tragic. Brown, Jr., 25, was riding home with Cowboys and college teammate Josh Brent, 24. Brent, whose blood alcohol level was 0.189, was speeding on Texas State Highway 114 and struck the outside curb. The car caught on fire and was extinguished when first responders came. Brown was found unresponsive and later pronounced dead. Reports were also noted that Brent was trying to pull his teammate out of the car. Brent was later charged with driving under the influence and intoxicated manslaughter.

In both incidents, two kids have lost their fathers. Jerry Brown's child is unborn, but in Belcher's case, Zoey, his 4 month old daughter, is without both her parents. She remains in the care of



Belcher's mother and will receive financial help. The Chiefs players and coaches have set up a trust fund for Zoey. She is also eligible for \$1 million from the NFL's surviving child benefit, including a payment of \$9,000 per month for the next four years. Chiefs fellow linebacker Derrick Johnson said, "This is something you can do, whenever you can make a difference for a special girl like Zoey, you've got to get on board. I'll be the first one."

Athlete Profile: Mackenzie Biggs

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER



Hopewell Hi-Lites athlete profile for January is senior, Mackenzie Biggs. She stays active with

basketball and volleyball and has played for all four years in both sports. Biggs plays outside hitter for volleyball, and fulfills the position of forward in basketball.

Mackenzie stands tall at 6' 1' and is a fierce competitor who's always a team player. Her favorite class is math, and she holds a GPA of 3.3. Mackenzie will be attending Clarion University for a major in physical therapy, and will continue to play volleyball. She comments on her years at Hopewell, "It's been great. I have a lot of memories in this school that I will never forget." Mackenzie says she'll miss her friends the most when she leaves. Congratulations, and good luck!





Playoff Look: No Steelers This Year

BY: RACHAEL KRIGER

The Pittsburgh Steelers suffered a major blow on December 23 when they lost their playoff spot to the Cincinnati Bengals on a 13-10 loss. The Steelers, who were playing at home, finished off the season 8-8 as their record. They have missed the playoffs for the first time since 2009, while the Bengals go to their second straight playoff appearance since 30 years ago.

The Steelers cited injuries as their main problem list season. Just recently, 2012 MVP Heath Miller was subject to an ACL and MCL injury and Brett Keisel sprained his MCL against the Browns. Max Starks, offensive linemen, said, "We battled them left and right the

entire season. We have capable and confident guys who filled in, but that's still one of the things every single week. That's the nature of this game, who gets injured the least going into the end of the season. It wasn't in the stars for us."

If Steeler fans aren't ready to stop watching football just yet, in the AFC. The Denver Broncos and New England Patriots with first round byes. For the wildcard match-ups, the Baltimore Ravens will be playing the Chuck Pagano led Indianapolis Colts and the Bengals will play the Houston Texans, just like last year. On the NFC side, the Atlanta Falcons and San Francisco 49ers have the bye week. The Green Bay Packers will play the Minnesota Vikings, a rematch from week 17, and the Washington Redskins will meet up with the Seattle Seahawks.

Plunging For A Good Cause

BY: BRIAN ZAHN



On Saturday, January 12, a team of both students and faculty took the plunge at the Bridgewater Marina in the twenty-nine degree water. The team, going by the name of the "Red Hot Chili Dippers," raised nearly \$960 for the Beaver County Special Olympics.

Pictured above from left to right: Mr. Spinnenweber, Mr. Ray Smith, Mrs. Vanyo, Mr. Allison, Ms. Pander, Ms. Meyers, Ms. Quigley, Mr. Rowe, Alex Lopez, Tyler Pajack

Bring It On: Hopewell Cheer Edition

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

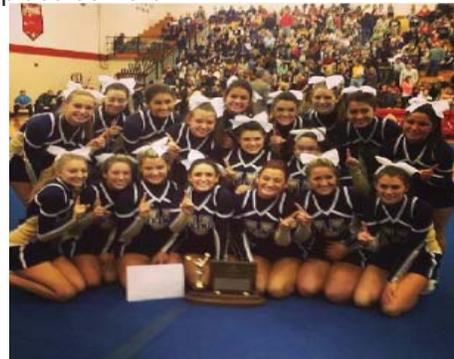
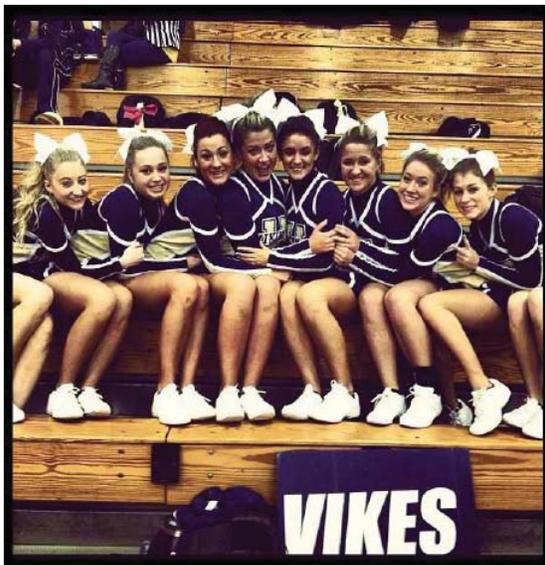
A special congratulations goes to the Hopewell Cheer team on their WPIAL championship. The competition took place at North

Hills High School on Saturday the 12th. With this being their first scholastic competition, the team had to put in a lot of effort to show the PIAA that cheerleading is a sport. The girls competed against Indiana, South Fayette and West Shamokin in their AA

bracket. Senior Kyligh Hebert said "A lot of people didn't think we would be good enough because we only had one month to prepare."

Due to a last minute injury the team had to change the routine up a bit but still came out

on top. Because of their win, the team will advance to Hershey with hopes in bringing back first place yet again.





Locked Away!

BY: REBECCA HADDIX



If you think high school is bad, imagine being locked in prison for the rest of your life without any chance of parole.

That is what life looks like for approximately 2,600 inmates- adults who are still in jail for crimes they committed as teenagers. Recently, there has been more attention paid to juvenile crime, yet few are fully aware of what happens to the juveniles afterwards. According to the Juvenile Law Center's web site, 450 of those, about 20%, are from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania law states that "mandatory life imprisonment without parole has been the sentence for first or second-degree murder for nearly ninety years." PA didn't adopt a minimum age for a juvenile to be tried in adult courts until June of last year, said Bradley Bridge, a prominent defense attorney crusading for reform of juvenile sentencing in Pennsylvania.

Many people, even the friends and families of victims of juvenile crime, claim that children should never be imprisoned for life. Multiple psychologists

have conducted studies that show that young people are more likely to be reformed in the prison system than older people. Meanwhile, people like Bobbi Jamriska disagree. In 1993, Maurice Bailey of Crafton Heights, then 16, was arrested. There are individuals who are not fit to be part of a lawful functioning society," said Jamriska. "There has to be within the legal system a means to keep these individuals from doing more harm to the innocent."

According to Pennsylvania Supreme Court records, the case (officially titled Commonwealth v. Batts) is still being discussed. Groups such as the ACLU lobby to have the juveniles' sentencing reduced while the National Organization of Victims of Juvenile Lifers (NOVJL) disagrees, arguing that the now-adults deserve to be locked away for life.

Good at Art? Look into Graphic Design

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

With graduation slowly but surely approaching, many seniors may still be undecided in which major they will choose when they venture off to college. Even juniors should be starting to consider what they want to do when they reach college. As I discussed last month, there are many growing career fields, and ones

that people may not have even heard of or considered before. The next career on the list, graphic designer, is in the technological/creative field, and may sound more appealing if the medical world is not the right fit.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics predicts that from 2008-2018 there will be a 13% increase in the graphic design field. This is primarily caused by the expanding use of electronics for advertising and design. With print publishing rapidly declining, the need for people who are skilled with technology is definitely important to graphic design, considering someday all media may possibly be cyber.

What They

Do: Graphic designers are responsible for all of the advertising that we see day to day. Business logos, magazine ads, television ads, packaging, and basically any type of visual displays are all created by graphic designers. If you possess a strong ability for creating sketches and conveying messages visually, these are characteristics that graphic designers need to display. Words and images can be powerful, and it is the job of a graphic designer to make a consumer feel intrigued and interested simply by whatever he or she is looking at.

Education

Requirements: There are many different colleges that cater specifically towards graphic design, and offer special programs tailored towards designers. Most graphic designer positions prefer a bachelor's degree, but sometimes an associate's degree will be sufficient. Obviously a keen visual/written capacity is also necessary to be able to take on the task of creating new and unique visual designs that

will catch the eye of a consumer.

Salary: Graphic designer salaries can vary depending on what type of work the designer does, and as mentioned before, there are many variations of a graphic designer. A User Interface (UI) designer, for example, can earn up to \$88,000 per year. They design computers, appliances, software applications and websites with focus on the user's experience. On the other hand, a web designer could make around \$56,000. They create designs for company website.

Overall, if you could envision yourself becoming a graphic designer, the next step is to create a mini portfolio. A small portfolio to give to colleges while handing in your application can go a long way when they are deciding who to admit. Giving them a sampling of your work will also give them a better understanding of your creative abilities. Explore your options when it comes to the various fields of design as well. Being able to understand what kind of design you are interested in can greatly assist in choosing exactly what field you would like to enter!



Upcoming SAT Dates:

The next SAT test will take place on **March 9**. Register by **February 8** to reserve your spot. For more information, more test date options, and to register, go to www.collegeboard.com.



College Review

BY: STEFANIE JOHNDROW

As Lauren mentioned, graphic design is a booming field. For those of you willing to pay the big bucks for a graphic design degree, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh may be for you. Otherwise, Mansfield University of Pennsylvania has proven to be an excellent school

for graphic design as well.

The Art Institute of Pittsburgh is a private college.

Costs: In-State Tuition: \$22,850
Room and Board: \$9,636
Books and Supplies: \$1,500

While costs run steep, financial aid is available. According to the college's website, 62 percent of students

receive Federal Grant Aid of about \$5,580; Institutional Grant Aid of about \$1,420 to 70 percent of students; approximately \$3,203 in State Financial Aid is awarded to about 33 percent of students; and, about 89 percent of student receive financial aid of \$8,870 through Student Loans.

Along with being expensive, the Art Institute of Pittsburgh has an acceptance rate of only 39 percent. A total of 692 applications are submitted, and 267 are accepted.

Items required to apply to this college include: high school GPA, high school

\$8,078

Books and Supplies: \$1,500

Obviously less expensive, 51 percent of Mansfield U's students receive \$4,629 in Federal Grant Aid; Institutional Grant Aid of about \$2,633 is given to 19 percent of students; 49 percent of students receive \$2,672 in State Financial Aid; and, Students Loans aid about 84 percent of students, giving them about \$6,771.

Mansfield U's acceptance rate is also increasingly higher than the AI. Their acceptance rate is 77 percent,



December Students of the Month

BY: MACKENZIE HARTMAN

Courtney Sundy

Q: What kind of extra-curricular activities are you involved in?

A: "National Honors Society, Soccer, and track."

Q: Who is your favorite Teacher? Why?

A: "Mrs. Henry, because I thought her class was fun and I liked how she was able to joke around with me in class."

Q: What are your plans after high school?



Courtney Sundy

A: "Attend college to get a degree in sports medicine."

Abby Losco

Q: What is your favorite thing to do during your down time?

A: "I like to hang out with my friends in my free time."

Q: What is your favorite sports team?

A: "The Pittsburgh Penguins."

Q: If you could meet one celebrity, who would it be? Why?

A: "Mac Miller because I love his music and I think he's cool."



Abby Losco

transcript, art portfolio (items will be returned), and TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language). SAT/ACT scores are recommended, but not required.

According to collegeprowler.com, 80 percent of students that have, or are currently, attending this college said it is worth the money, and 87 percent agreed the college attains above average knowledgeable professors. A manageable workload was agreed upon by 61 percent of students, and 91 percent said they believe they received a valuable education. Perhaps the most important statistics in today's economy comes from the 66 percent of students that said assistance in finding a job or internship was provided.

Less expensive and more rural than the Art Institute of Pittsburgh is Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, located in Mansfield, PA.

Costs: In-State Tuition: \$8,634
Room and Board:

accepting 1,798 of 2,340 applications submitted.

Items required to apply to Mansfield U include, high school GPA, high school class rank, high school transcript, art portfolio (items will be returned), SAT/ACT scores, and TOEFL.

The best of Mansfield U, according to collegeprowler.com, includes its knowledgeable professors, manageable workload, spacious dorms, accepting community, and assistance in finding a job/internship. The worst of Mansfield U happens to be its location. Fifty-seven percent of students concluded they "can't wait to get out of that town."

Given are two very different, but very rewarding options for college. Remember, you don't always have to go to the most expensive school to receive the best education. In the end, the name of the school won't matter, but the experience and connections you make at the institution will.



Apocalyptic Obsessions

(continued from front page)

It's because of this that people are afraid of the future—death in particular.

According to Hopewell's psychology teacher Mike Samek, death is the second biggest fear among people. The worry of a person's time being cut short stems from the fear of running out of time to achieve personal ambitions. Samek also commented that a common aspect among those who buy into predicted apocalypses, are those who lack a connection with a higher power. For Christians, personal plans come second to the Lord's. They believe that whatever is achieved in this world is all that one was supposed to achieve. One did not "run out of time", God's quest on this Earth for that individual was just completed. Christians are to look forward to death on Earth, as it is the beginning of life in Heaven with his or her Creator. Therefore, looking at one's past, or worrying about the future has no purpose. What was meant to happen happened, and fear of what is coming next means a wavering trust in the Lord. Therefore, living in the present is best for one's soul.

The philosopher Wittgenstein believed that living in the present is a gateway to perceiving eternity. He said, "If we

take eternity to mean not infinite temporal duration but timelessness, the eternal life belongs to those who live in the present." Wittgenstein observed that time is defined as the interval between two events, and when one truly lives "in the now" there is no time interval, only the event alone.

So these constant predictions for when humankind will meet its demise—there are already another assumed nine—are really obsessions with having to know what's coming next. Anxiety can occur from insecurities of one's past, and nobody truly knows what the future hold. Thus, a good New Year's resolution might be to focus on happiness in the now. Pay attention to today, and search for an inner peace. What happened yesterday and what's happening tomorrow can't be helped, but your mindset and attitude about today are all in your control.

Deer Deadlier than Sharks??

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON

Ripping through the water, lashing its fin about, and housing numerous rows of teeth, enormous sharks are commonly feared. But there is an animal 300 times more dangerous despite its innocent face and bushy white tail.

Deer are the most dangerous animals

to humans. According to The Discovery Channel deer kill more people a year than spiders, bears, snakes, and wolves combined. Because of their propensity to find their way in front of traffic, deer kill more people annually than any other creature. Sharks, on average, kill only five people a year. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, there are about 1 million car accidents with deer each year that kill 200 Americans, cause more than 10,000 personal injuries, and result in \$1 billion in vehicle damage. This is because the

mating season of North American deer occur between late October and mid-December. Also, hunting is a factor that scares most deer out of the woods and into someone's headlights. For the fifth year in a row, West Virginia tops the list of states where a driver is most likely to run into a deer, State Farm reports. Obviously, deer attacks are not killing multitudes of people, they are not animals of violence; but, many people are dying as a direct result from head on car collisions with these headlight struck animals.

Senior Spotlight

BY: KRISTEN SPEZIALETTI

December



December's Senior Spotlight is Brienna Phillips. She is involved in many extracurricular activities and enrolled in several Advanced Placement classes. Brienna was on the Varsity Tennis team, Band Section Leader and Secretary, Treasurer of National Honor Society, President of Delta Epsilon Phi, and Vice President of the German Club. Brienna is also a cashier at Bottom Dollar Food. Her Advanced Placement classes include Chemistry, English, Calculus and European History. Brienna also takes German IV and her Grade Point Average is 4.67. Brienna was recently accepted into Penn State and is planning on majoring in Biomedical Engineering.

January



Bryon Jones was chosen for this month's Senior Spotlight because of his dedication and hardwork both in and out of the classroom. Bryon is currently enrolled in Advanced Placement Chemistry, World Literature, German IV, Advanced Placement Calculus, and Advanced Social Studies. Bryon is also involved in several extracurricular activities such as National Honor Society, band, President of German Club, and Vice President of Delta Epsilon Phi. He has been employed at Bottom Dollar Food in Aliquippa for over a year. Bryon's Grade Point Average is 4.67. He is planning on attending Penn State Beaver next year for Petroleum and Natural Gas Engineering.

Voices

Mental Health Care Not America's Strongest Suit

BY: STEFANIE JOHNDROW

After recent events concerning firearm control in America, mental health care has also been under revision. For those citizens who feel mentally unstable and want help, or know somebody that needs help, the proper steps for progress seem blurry. The need for proper mental health care is high.

The Society for Human Resource Management reported that in 2012, 85 percent of employers offered some form of mental health benefits. However, restrictions have been made as from 2009 to 2012, states have cut \$4.35 billion in public mental health spending. The National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors comment that this trend is most likely to continue. Problems will arise as in the same timeframe that the \$4.35 billion was cut, a 10 percent increase in usage of mental health facilities occurred. With cuts continuing to be made, and the necessity for mental health assistance increasing, the only option for some parents to receive help for their children seems the utmost unfair. Kaiser Health News as reported that in many states, the only option for parents is to get their children to either commit a crime so they are detained, or to hurt another person. Coincidentally, gaps in America's mental health care are extremely, and dangerously, evident. President Barack Obama



has commented that in order to prevent recent violence-related tragedies from happening again, changes to gun control laws will be made.

Now, the individuals behind these incidents are seen as infamous monsters. Interactions are made with people like them every single day. Firearm control laws are not necessarily the answer to end violence. Mental health in America is immensely disregarded and without the proper awareness and information, warning signs are overlooked and chances are missed to help those who need it the most. According to Mike Samek, psychology teacher, over half of the population has a serious mental illness; thus, no matter how many guns remain in America, mental health issues will always be here, and will continue to grow.

"This Class is Going to Drive Me Crazy ."

BY REBECCA HADDIX

Most of the time, students don't literally mean that the workload will lead to insanity, but occasionally, psychologists find a rare occurrence of stress-related suicide. While number of hours and amount worked are linked to stress. No case has been made to prove that they actually cause stress-related incidents.

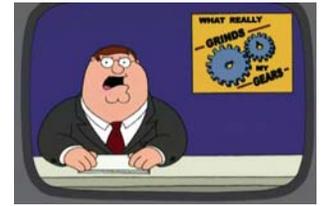
According to C. Tenant's article in The Journal of Psychosomatic Research, stress-based psychological disorders are rarely ever the result of too much work. To summarize his findings, Tenant argues that the "spill-over effect" of extreme stress from home interfering with a student's routine, and the student's devotion to their work is much more of a factor than having too many things to handle.

Dr. Charles Lattarulo, a workplace therapist, has also noticed the spill-over effect in his patients: "A couple of years ago, employees would call about one issue," he said. "Maybe they were stressed at work or they were depressed. Now they're calling about a complexity of issues: debt, stress, marital problems, their children acting out." The so-called cases of suicide, while it is unlikely that Algebra will actually kill you, the additional stress isn't healthy. Your teacher won't assign you less homework, but there are ways to avoid work-overload depression. Take your busy, overworked schedule and write it down in order of importance. Organizing and reprioritizing your schedule means that you'll have more time to do the things that are important to you. Then spend that extra time doing something you enjoy, like watching movies with friends. That way, you'll become stress-free and have fun doing



"Grinds My Gears"

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON
Overpaid Athletes...



Have you ever questioned why men in helmets defending our country make less than men in helmets defending a football? The fact that football players make more really grinds my gears, Hopewell!



This question disturbingly lingers in my mind during this current football season. Men and women who are risking their well-beings to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens are being cheated when it comes to income. According to Goarmy.com, basic pay for an active duty private is a mere \$17, 892 a year. One of the higher positions such as a major, even with six years of experience, makes a small sum of \$68,137 a year. Men and women in the service have a few chances to get a pay increase based on special location jobs or things such as language abilities, but still they are not exactly raking in the dough. Also, they are eligible for non-cash benefits such as health care, child care, education, and so on. But if you really think about it, the amount of money a soldier will make in his or her career will not amount to the abundance of money footballers frivolously

Voices



throw around. Now why are these brave people who sacrifice themselves for others being dealt the lesser hand? Meanwhile, football players, no matter what their skill level, amount of play time, or even how well their team performs, are making hundreds of thousands of dollars more than active duty soldiers.

Not only do football players get money for being on the field, but they make additional money off the field with endorsements. Celebritynetworth.com reports that our very own Ben Roethlisberger makes a whopping \$12.8 million a year, even when he throws away the Steeler's season. The average base pay for a rookie player, who may or may not actually play, is about \$375,000 a year, and of course their income will increase with experience. Salaries vary when it comes to experience, play time, and things such as additional signings. But it is simply outrageous that a man protecting a football is making more than the people who are protecting our families. Yes, people may find football highly entertaining and the players are at a risk when in action, but an active soldier is constantly in danger and travels all over the world, not to mention being away from his or her loved ones, all for our country. To me this issue is absolutely absurd.

Money should be given to the men and women who truly deserve it. I mean just think about a soldier's family. While that person is gone they could probably really benefit from making a little more cash annually. True

Bravery and dedication should be rewarded more than men who can score touchdowns or block their opponents the hardest. I completely understand that military men and women did not sign up to make money; they purely dedicated themselves to serve their country. But, they deserve more than what the government is able to give them.

Dear Dr. Stef



Dear Dr. Stef,

I'm a junior in high school, and I've had this best friend ever since the beginning of middle school. About a month ago, my "best friend" broke up with her boyfriend. Both parties were equally upset, and I'm friends with ex-boyfriend, so naturally I wanted to be there for him to talk to. However, my "best friend" didn't like that. She asked me why I was trying to "steal" him after they had just broken up. She wouldn't even listen to me explain that I'm not just her friend; I'm his friend, too. I was honestly in no way trying to take him from her; I was just trying to be a good friend to both people. Anyway, she hasn't spoken to me for about two months, and I don't know how to initiate reconciliation. I've

apologized in text and in person, but she makes it as though she won't give me the time of day. How can I get my best friend back?

Sincerely,

Monkey in the Middle

Dear In the Middle,

First off, I am incredibly sorry about your broken friendship. It's unfortunate that your friend's insecurity has led her to uproot you from her life. Just remember, that is exactly what this situation is about; insecurity. The break up between your two friends obviously didn't end on the best note, therefore, when your friend learned you were consoling her ex boyfriend, it probably hurt her feelings. It's apparent that she feels insecure about her relations with her now ex-boyfriend, as well as your friendship with her. If she were a true friend, she would trust you when you say that you are just being a friend to her ex.

I see these past two months of the cold shoulder as being her form of retaliation. She's retaliating against you because she feels she wasn't good enough for the boyfriend (hence the break-up) and now here's her best friend being the one the ex-boyfriend wants to talk to about all of this drama. She wants you to feel bad for her, so you need to STOP APOLOGIZING. Furthermore, her acts show she intended for you to take her side.

This is where immaturity comes into play. Had she been adult enough to realize she wasn't your only friend in this predicament, she would have been mature and respectful enough for you to be there for both herself and the ex-boyfriend. Instead, it seems as though your middle school BFF is still stuck in middle school.

But you know what they say, Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.

In regards to your wanting to initiate reconciliation, you've already tried. It's quite apparent your friend just wants you to gravel at her feet for her forgiveness, and you're better than that. Let her have her own little pity party, and if she stays mad you, then just move on. It'll be hard, but it'll be better than being put through the torture chamber when you've done nothing wrong. Don't waste your time with petty people when there are other, more gracious friends out there. Best of luck, and thanks for writing!

Sincerely,

Dr. Stef

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Dogs Eating Dogs



BY: TY RICHARDSON

Fans of Blink-182 were very happy to see that they would release a brand new EP just before Christmas. Pop-Punk fans were ready for this ever since the release of their last CD "Neighborhoods" which was released in 2011. Every song on this EP is different and they show every side of Blink-182. Both faster punk songs and more acoustic songs are featured on this EP. "Boxing Day", the first single released from the EP, is also the main acoustic song, sung by Tom. The opening song, "When I Was Young", starts off with a nice little keyboard section but picks up the pace quick with some nice drumming from Travis Barker. Like every Blink cd, Tom and Mark switch between singing songs, however, the low key song "Disaster" features both Tom and Mark. This seems like the start of a comeback for Blink more so than "Neighborhoods" was. This EP really shows how much they have matured since the beginning of their career. This is a must have for any Blink-182 fan. I give it 5 out of 5 stars.

And the Golden Globe Goes to...

BY: TAYLOR SKELTON & TY RICHARDSON

The seventieth annual Golden Globes awards were held on Sunday, January 13 in Los Angeles. Ratings reached an all time high this year while Amy Poehler and Tina Fey hosted with multitudes of side-splitting remarks. An astounding amount of praise goes towards this year's red carpet fashion, stars arrived dressed to impress. It was a night of laughs, trophies, surprise guests, and intriguing confessions.

The first award given on Sunday night was to Christopher Waltz for best supporting actor in "Django Unchained", while Quentin Tarantino took home best screenplay for the same movie. Adele made one of her first public appearances since giving birth to her son to accept the Golden Globe for best original song, Skyfall. For best original score, "Life of Pi" took the award. The movie "Brave" scooped up the award for best animated feature. Later, in one of the biggest surprises of the night, Ben Affleck took the prize for best director, even though he was left out of the nominees in the same category for the Academy Awards. "Les Miserables"

was the top winner with three awards, followed by "Argo" and "Django Unchained" both with two awards.



Bioshock: Infinite is Delayed Again

BY: BRIE MILLER

The highly anticipated game is set back another month from its original release date of February 26, to March 26 of this year.

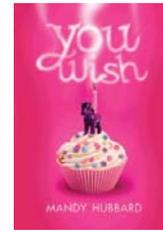
The Vice President of development Rod Fergusson had said "Frankly, I think you could really benefit from another three or four more weeks for polish and bug-fixing. I knew I'd probably get beat up in the press a little bit about it, but at the end of the day, if it's going to make a better game, we'll do it."

Hopefully, the extra month will end up being worth it in the long run. Gamers have wanted this long, so really what's another month? There is nothing to worry about because BioShock is more than likely not going to stretch into Duke Nukem Forever delay territory.

But with other exciting titles such as Dead Space 3 and Metal Gear Rising: Revengeance February is still expected to an exciting gaming month.



You Wish



Mandy Hubbard

5/5 stars

BY: ZOE CARR

What would you do if for your sixteenth birthday your mom threw you an unwanted, frilly, pink party. Well, that's what happened to Kayla McHenry in the book **You Wish**. By the time that she got to blow her candles out, Kayla was so fed up with everything, that she wishes that all of her other birthday wished came true.

Thinking nothing of it, Kayla goes to bed with a frown, and wakes up with one too. As the morning goes on, Kayla notices a bright, pink pony running around in her yard. After meeting the pony, and then Raggedy Ann the next morning, Kayla realizes that all of her past birthday wishes are coming true; which is a problem because the year before she wished Ben Mackenzie would kiss her, which is a problem because Ben is her best friend's boyfriend. As the story goes on, the wishes get crazier, but it doesn't compare to the love story that plays out.

I quite enjoyed reading this book. The plot line was cute and funny, and the characters found their way into my heart. Mandy Hubbard really brought the book to life through her writing, which added to its likeliness. I would definitely recommend this book to people, because I think that they will enjoy just as much as I did!



Best and Worst Trends of 2012

BY: LAUREN ZAWATSKI

With the past year coming and going quicker than you can say "Gangnam Style," some fashion trends have evolved and others will (hopefully) stay in the past. Below is a brief list of some of the best and worst trends of 2012.

THE BEST

- **Peplum** : While most people have absolutely no idea what peplum is, it is a noteworthy trend from 2012. The most popular use is in collaboration with skirts; when wearing a peplum skirt in the correct fashion, it adds just the right amount of volume around the waistline.
- **Collars**: Wearing collars may seem old school, but they resurfaced this year, and usually look the best when layered under a sweater.
- **Fishtail braids**: This hairstyle seemed to become increasingly popular this year, and rightfully so. Whether it is a messy braid, or a clean and polished one, adding a fishtail



braid to an otherwise normal outfit can give it a particular flair.

- **Bold colors**: Coats, shirts, even lipstick: all are examples of elements used as a bold-colored statement. Royal blue, red, and gold appeared to be just a few of the preferred colors. Colorblocking (using a few different colors as a contrast against each other in a prominent way) was also a new trend introduced the past year.

THE WORST

- **"Meggings"**: The existence of this article of clothing never ceases to amaze me. For those unfamiliar with the term, meggings are leggings for men. Yes, you read that correctly, leggings for men! Please guys, do not allow this trend resurface this year... or ever again, for that matter.
- **Sheer fabrics**: See through fabrics by themselves can appear slightly unrefined, but if you are a fan of this trend and are not ready to leave it behind, layer a cardigan or a button down shirt over the fabric. Along with a modest cami or tank top underneath, your sheer top will be given a classier appearance

- **Excess Accessories**: If you look in the mirror and your "bling" blinds you, that should be a signal to take something off. Keep in mind that less is more, and as the great Coco Chanel once said, "Before leaving the house, a lady should look in the mirror and remove one accessory."



- **Mixing patterns**: At one time, if you put on stripes and polka dots you would be embarrassed for mismatching, but this past year designers sent models down the runway intentionally mismatching prints! This trend seems a little bizarre, who wants to intentionally not match?

In conclusion, please note that this compilation is in my humble opinion. A worst on my list may be a best on someone else's list, vice versa. The best part about fashion is its versatility. No one person's style is the same as another, so please view this list accordingly! Finally, always remember to not be intimidated by trends, simply use them as a guide to develop your own unique style!

Monsters Inc. 3D

BY: ZOE CARR

Five/Five Stars

.. It's baaaack. Monsters, Inc., which was originally released in 2001, is back and more lifelike than

ever. For those of you who have never seen *Monsters, Inc.*, or forget what it's about, here's a refresher. Sully, voiced by John Goodman, and Mike, voiced by Billy Crystal, are the two main characters in the movie. In the movie, the monsters scare children and the screams that they receive power the city. Although they are able to go into the child's room and scare them, there is one key rule: Do not let the kids, or their belongings, touch you. Well, that rule goes out the window when one night Sully goes back to the scare level and finds and abandon door still out. Quickly checking in the room, he notices that it is empty, so he simply shuts the door and leaves. Little does he know though, there is a kid on his back. After the initial panic of having the kid with him, and the entire city knowing that there is a kid loose, Sully realizes that the little girl isn't so bad. Taking her to work the next day, he seems completely calm, while Mike, his best friend and roommate, is completely freaking out. As the day goes on, the little girl is lost and abandon, but not intentionally. After having the little girl taken from them, banished through another door, and then reclaiming her, Mike and Sully finally get to put her back into her door. Once the door is closed, and Boo is safely put away, the door is shredded. As time goes on, laughter begins to power the city, and everything is okay. Mike, being the friend that he is, sees that Sully is still upset, so he gives him a surprise. After rebuilding Boo's door, Mike allows Sully to see her again, and all is right in the Monster world.

Monsters, Inc., a family fun movie, makes you feel so many things. You will laugh, you will get angry, and maybe you will even cry. It is a funny movie that will make you smile.

Hopewell's 1st annual winter Bash



SURPRISE, YOU'RE IN HI-LITES!



A Prank War To be Rembered Cont.

BY: EMILY SERETTI

Hundreds of Dixie cups covered every inch of the locker room floor. Unknowingly, the door had sent the carefully placed cups into a domino. The locker room appeared as if it were a ship that had just withheld a massive storm accompanied with raging waves. The true disasters of the prank, however, weren't apparent until the lights flickered on. The room sparkled with utmost glory due to the handfuls of glitter that gracefully attached to every crevice that the floor and walls contained. The boys stood with blank expressions at the disaster before them. Immediate anger and panic sunk in as thoughts of revenge rushed through each and every mind. Just then, Mr. Boxer trudged his way into his office where he took a moment to go over all of his options.

He knew he could prank the girls back, but he felt that if he did, then the pranking would never end. So, he pulled out a single sheet of paper and scribbled as much information as he could onto it. Once he had finished, he marched his way over to Mrs. Fued's office. He tossed the paper onto the table, and Mrs. Fued quickly reviewed it. If she decided to sign it, then the prank war would be over. As she scanned the content of the paper, however, she realized there was more to it than a simple signature.

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