



THE WITCHES BREW

FEBRUARY 2006

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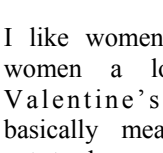
I think that Valentine's Day is materialistic and I don't think that people should pick just one day in which to express love –*Sara Gardephe*



It's a nice idea but it has become too materialistic –
Kyle Watters



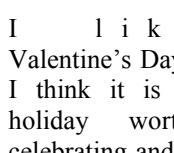
I think it is a cute idea to have a valentine, but it is not always necessary. –*Sara Cutie*



I like women. I like women a lot, and Valentine's Day basically means you get to hang out with women –*Luke Anderson*



I just think that everyday should be Valentine's Day when you love someone –
Lauren Anuszewski



I like Valentine's Day. I think it is a holiday worth celebrating and I think everyone should enjoy it. –*Lauren Hall*



I think Valentine's Day is a great time to show your love and concern for someone. –
Mr. Middlebrook



I don't like Valentine's Day because it's a reincarnation of the materialism that is inherent in our society and I think it needs to stop.
–*Keith Pendergrass*



I think Valentine's Day is very cute because you get to buy presents for your love, and you get to send little cards to people. It is a day of love, and I think it is wonderful. –
Kyle Bartlett



Valentine's Day is like anything else in life--it is what you make of it. If you don't have a Valentine you shouldn't be down, but instead you should focus on those you do care about. Celebrate it with your friends and family. –
Ms. Lee

WEARING O' THE GREEN...IS IT ST. PATRICK'S DAY? BY BETH KIRTLEY

I'm sure that many of you have noticed a lot of the teachers wearing certain green shirts on Fridays and every so often, sticky name tags with numbers on them. I myself have wondered what this is all about. Thanks to Ms. Zurbrugg and a few other teachers, I now know.

The teachers are having what I like to call a "silent protest," but more so, presenting "visual information." The fact is that it has been almost a year since our teachers have had a contract. Since early spring the Board of Education along with the Superintendent have been attempting to negotiate a contract with the GTA (Greenwich Teachers Association) and a representative from NYSUT (New York State United Teachers).

Some major issues include salary, health benefits, "continuous improvement days," and more planning time for the elementary and middle school teachers.

If the teachers do not receive a new contract, then the last year of the old contract stays in effect. What many do not know is that this is not the first time the teachers have been without a contract for so long. They once went six years without a negotiated contract. However, then they did not start "pushing" for one until later. That is why now they are speaking up sooner. The teachers want their contract. They want things to be negotiated. So next time you see your teachers wearing those green shirts and/or numbered name tags, you'll know why.

"The teachers are having what I like to call a 'silent protest,' but more so, presenting 'visual information.'"

SPORTS BY CAROLYN WILLIAMS

BOYS' BASKETBALL

The Varsity team seems to get ahead and outplay the opposing team most of the game but towards the end of the 4th quarter or OT their lead starts slipping away, bringing them to a loss.

This year, the Varsity boys' team has many talented and skilled players. This statement is not displayed in their current record of 3-9. Their wins were over Granville, Hadley Luzerne and Salem. High scorers for the varsity team are Timothy Morris and Michael Schreiner. The JV boys hold a record of 8-3 at the moment; they've lost to New Hartford, Tamarac and Schuylerville. JV's high scorers are Dylan stout and Ethan Bain.



Varsity are Carrie Smith and Ellie Fitzgerald. JV high scorers are Brittanie and Bianka Nolan.

The Varsity team can play with anyone in their league. They just need more confidence. The Witches have a good shot of making it through numerous rounds in the upcoming sectionals.

The Varsity girls' club is a very skillful group of players which, again, doesn't show in their league record of 2-3. Over all they are 6-4. They've beaten Cambridge and Granville in the league and recently became the first Varsity Girls' team to win the home Christmas tournament, with wins over Salem and Hudson Falls. The JV teams' record is currently 5-5. The JV girls came in 2nd in the Christmas Tournament. High scorers for the JV are Carrie Smith and Ellie Fitzgerald. JV high scorers are Brittanie and Bianka Nolan.

FOOTBAG: HOBBY SPORT LIFESTYLE—The Inspiring Story of Pat Tallon and Willy Digges

BY KATE CERRONE

Footbag. Not to be mistaken with Hackey-Sack (snooze), rugby (snoozier) or football (snooziest). Footbag is quite possibly the coolest alternative sport out there. While I myself am partial to curling, I cannot help but be impressed by the 'mad Footbag skills' my fellow gymgoers, Pat Tallon and Willy Digges, routinely display.

At their request, I devised a list of questions and took the liberty of interviewing them about their months-long love affair with Footbag.

How long have you been footbagging?

PAT: About one and a half years...

WILLY: About the same...

How many competitions have the both of you been in?

PAT: About two... but I haven't competed.

WILLY: I've been to like, 11.

And have you competed?

WILLY: Yeah.

Have you won anything?

WILLY: Um... I won 1st place in intermediate twice, and I placed 2nd in the pro division.

What's the coolest thing about Footbag?

PAT: Meeting other footbaggers.

WILLY: Definitely. And meeting [missing] Jordan...

Who?

WILLY: The best-

PAT: Sickest-

WILLY: Footbagger ever. He did green eggs and ham-

PAT: It's like this impossible trick- like-[demonstrates].

What's the longest you've kept a Footbag moving?

PAT: For about 54 tricks...one minute.

WILLY: About the same.

What's the history behind Footbag?

PAT: It was created in the 80's... they originally called it Hackey-Sack, but [the toy company] Wham-O trademarked it, so an alternative, non-profit group, the International Footbag Players Association, came up. Kenny Shultz invented many tricks.

What kinds of competitions do they have?

WILLY: Well, it's broken up into categories- One where a player choreographs some tricks to music... The Shred30, which is when you try to do the biggest tricks in 30 seconds, and the Sick3, where you have to do three consecutive tricks as fast as possible.

Describe the Footbag culture.

WILLY, PAT: *laughing*

PAT: Really relaxed...

Like hippie without the suck?

WILLY: Yeah, hippie without the hippie.

NIKKI (Who has been hanging about): There's a lot of respect, no real competition- everyone cheers everyone on.

PAT: And it's a pretty small community, so you know everyone.

Describe some of your Footbag paraphernalia.

WILLIE: Well, we've got a 32 panel bag-

PAT: Small bean or sand [filled] are the best ones.

WILLIE: And you've gotta get a picture of our modified shoes (The tongues of some tennis shoes are clipped at the seams to create a more flexible toe).

PAT: Yeah, our shoes!

Anything in closing?

PAT: Footbag is awesome.

WILLIE: Yeah, play Footbag.

And there you have it. The coolest sport ever, aside from curling. A sport so awesome that if it was a light bulb it would cast so much light people would be vaporized. Willie and Pat: two 'sick' footbaggers living the 'sketchy' life- but not so sketchy that they can't agree to an interview stealthily conducted behind Mr. McGuirk in gym class.-

PLAY FOOTBAG!

Features

TV REVIEW BY CHRISTINE FAULER



There seems to be no end to the criminal thriller TV shows that are currently so popular. More and more are airing all the time. One of the shows that has been going for awhile, and as of yet has shown no signs of running out of steam, is NCIS. NCIS is short for Naval Criminal Investigative Service, which is what the characters on the TV show

work in. They solve crimes that have an attachment to Navy or Marine Corps personnel, using interesting forensic evidence and fast-paced, exciting interrogations. Make no mistake though, this is not just another solve the crime, get the bad guy, move on to the next thing, monotonous and repetitive series. This show features a collection of captivating characters, each with their own unique, detailed and believable history and personality quirks. Every mystery they solve is realistic and intriguing. The plot twists and cunningly crafted stories keep you on the edge of your seat and guessing until the end. The show is one hour long and currently airs on CBS every Tuesday at 8:00 pm.

FEATURED TEACHER BY KATIE OSWALD

Math is no ordinary subject with Mr. Jensen as your teacher. He began his work at Greenwich in 1983 and since then Mr. Jensen has taught many levels of mathematics to the high school students. From “nose picking” rules to “our guy other guy” formulas, his unique ways tend to stay with us as we make advances in math.

Mr. Jensen’s charisma and distinct perspective keep the class interesting and the students involved. “Hanging out with teenagers” is his favorite part of the job. The downfall of teaching, well, Mr. Jensen isn’t too fond of paper work, but his assistants help with that.

When attending Mr. Jensen’s class one can be sure that it will never be repetitive. The range of conversation topics are so wide that when the bell rings students walk out knowing much more than just simple math skills. His laid back manner makes him likable and yet his way of encouraging students to think makes him respected. Mr. Jensen isn’t your everyday teacher, but he is a teacher that one doesn’t mind learning from everyday.

From “nose picking” rules to “our guy other guy” formulas, his unique ways tend to stay with us as we make advances in math.

LUKE ANDERSON: ARTIST OF THE MONTH BY NIKKI DOWLING

Luke Anderson, a student in Ms. Meyer’s Advanced Studio in Art class, says he has been doing art his whole life. “Everything else gets boring,” says Luke, “So I draw.” Luke’s favorite piece of art is his Willard Mountain Huckers tee shirt that he made using a silk screening set. This yellow tee shirt has the Willard Mountain Huckers logo on it and in the corner, a silhouette of a city with someone skiing. Luke has made a number of these shirts for himself as well as for his friends.

Luke has created a variety of unique and interesting pieces in his Advanced Studio in Art class. Among them is entitled “The Ballad of Big Nothing.” “It is the story of a rural house being turned into a suburban landscape,” says Luke. Luke’s sketchbook is filled with a variety of bizarre and random images including a cement wall, some

paper bags and a door. These sketches were mostly done using pen and ink. Luke prefers pen and ink to painting, which, he feels, is aggravating and never turns out right.

Next fall Luke will be attending college for graphic arts. Ultimately, Luke wants to work for a ski company, designing skis. He is currently entering a contest in which he must design the graphics for twin tip skis. Luke would also like to design tee shirts, posters, advertisements and movie covers.

Unlike many artists Luke does not feel confined to the traditional methods of making art, such as drawing and painting. Using various materials, Luke creatively expresses himself whether it is by silk screening a tee shirt or entering in a ski designing contest.

THE OPINIONATOR BY ANDY AMODIO

I was going to write this article about President Bush's State of the Union address, but then I remembered that pretty much everything he says in speeches is the same thing over and over again. So instead of critiquing his speech, I'm going to talk about the real State of the Union. In reality, our country is in bad shape (that is, not in President Bush's fantasy world that he lives in).

The War in Iraq still hasn't shown any signs of going anywhere. Kidnappings have once again picked up. We still lose soldiers on a daily basis. The entire country is now on the brink of Civil War. I'll admit that the elections definitely showed progress, but nothing too amazing. Also I'm just wondering, what ever happened to trying to find Bin Laden? I mean, the guy releases a new tape every now and then and we still can't find him.

In the US, people have to deal with a lot of issues too. The price of gas is hovering

around \$3. Even the cost of gas in Iraq has gone up. People are losing their jobs in large numbers. Ford announced that they are cutting some 25,000 jobs. Besides all of that, we have a very corrupt government. The Former House Majority Leader, Tom DeLay, just stepped down from the job completely and later this year the CIA leak case will begin. Also, there is the Jack Abramoff scandal. Yes, some Democrats got stuff from him, but it was largely Republicans who received things from him. So we can just cancel that one out. But still, they are very corrupt none the less.

In conclusion, we are a nation that is struggling. We are still the most powerful nation in the world, but many experts say that China is catching up. I think that a lot of things will change with the elections that will happen this year. I strongly believe that the Democrats will gain control of at least a part of Congress. But hey that is just my opinion.

What ever
happened to
trying to find Bin
Laden?



PROM 2006 BY NIKKI DOWLING

While tremendously overdone, ridiculously expensive and incredibly tacky, prom is something that most people secretly look forward to. Although some begin figuring out whom they are going to go with in 8th grade, spend \$400 on a designer dress and get the biggest limousine they possibly can, others are content with second hand outfits and their parent's beat up old car. Even though I think it seems rather early to be thinking about prom, but hardly a day goes by when I do not walk down the hall and hear someone talking about it. I am not sure what the excitement is all about. Everyone who I have ever talked to who has gone to prom says it is just like a regular dance except everyone looks a little better. The music is still a combination of obnoxious rap and meaningless pop, and everyone still dances like a turkey with one leg. The location and the clothing are the only things that have changed. With this said, I do think prom, as Ellie Fitzgerald put it, is good in that it brings the entire junior class together in one room for a night of fun, laughter and dancing.

For the first time in three years the junior

class prom will be held on a boat in Lake George. Recently, I have heard some say that, because of the location, limos will be very expensive this year. I have a simple solution for this "problem," drive yourself. The colors for this year's prom, which, by the way, will be held on May 6th, are gold, white and red. In lieu of champagne and beer glasses which "promote alcohol," Annelise Kelly and Luke Anderson will be designing tee shirts. This is a very good idea as tee shirts are more functional and attractive than champagne and beer glasses. A theme song has not yet been decided on. Although suggestion lists were put up, most people just wrote the most ridiculous and stupid songs they could think of on them, resulting in a list that was virtually useless. The after prom party will be held at the Elk's Club.

This year's prom promises to be enjoyable and fun. The prom committee has done an excellent job picking the location, colors and favors. Although, some may feel it is necessary to spend \$500 on a dress and ride in a limo, I don't think they will have any more fun than those of us who don't.

It is just like a
regular dance
except everyone
looks a little
better.



AMANDA'S ASTROLOGY



PISCES (February 19 - March 21) **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!** You have been working longer and harder than you thought you could. Saturn is now moving through your house placing you at your desk. You seem to be in planning mode this month but keep them under wraps until the end of the month. This month you may get to see a chance to rest.



ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19) This month your eyes are open and you are full of energy. Any past conflicts can be solved positively this month. Toward the end of the month you will have to control yourself. It may be hard to settle down but its something you may have to do.



TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 21) In the beginning of the month enjoy the generosity and support that you have. However don't take on more than you can handle. Avoid intense situations and work steadily.



GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21) Stress may be high at the beginning of the month. Take a step back and evaluate the situation. Take things at an easy pace and don't miss any details. You will bounce into spring very nicely.



CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 22)) A recent communication may upset you. Get away from you usually routine and enjoy something different. You may consider a dream or plan. Value a friend's advice about it. When you come back you come back head on.



LEO (JULY 22 - AUGUST 23) At the beginning of the month you are restless. Just like Cancer you may too need a break. All the talk about plans and ideas around you sound really convincing. A friend may be costly if you get concerned with what they are doing.



VIRGO (AUGUST 23 - SEPTEMBER 23) Keep in touch with what's going on and keep your wits. Good conversation with friends will make an occasion better. Towards the middle of the month you have to stay on the ball. Be mindful of what can and can't be said and done.



LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23) Keep things simple and just ride the ups and downs of life. Get practical things done. Look back at what has been troubling you and you will realize how to solve it.



SCORPIO (OCTOBER 23 - NOVEMBER 22) Be sure to use your charm and diplomacy when dealing with new people. You can make new friends and get involved in new hobbies. Entertainment should include you whole family. Get everyone involved.



SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 22 - DECEMBER 21) Be careful to not confuse issues when dealing with matters at hand. Don't hesitate to voice your opinions. Set a limit or you will go over your budget.



CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 21- JANUARY 20) Extra cash will come in handy when an investment comes along. However, this is not the time to lend or borrow money. Don't let family get on your nerves.



AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - February 19) Lend an ear to children, it could help. You will not be happy with the demands that family give you because you just don't have the time. Don't let your anger consume you and keep concentrated on matters at hand.

PUZZLE by Kyle Watters

LLARDO _ [] _ [] [] _

TINSTEV _ _ _ _ [] _

DITREC DARC _ [] _ [] _ _ _ [] _ _ _

CSHKEC _ [] _ [] _ _ _

IDEPOTS [] _ _ _ _ _ _ _

NAGEHCEX _ _ _ [] [] _ _ _



Scared by electronic billing, the senior citizen wished to be paid in

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LETTERS FROM THE EDITORS



For this letter from the Editor, I just wanted to make some announcements and in a way give a State of *The Witches' Brew*. Right now, the newspaper is back on track. Last issue we got behind with the holidays and such. After a lot of hard work, we are back on track. I think it is great that a majority of our writers are juniors or younger, as it sets us up for a bright future. We are always open to new writers, and it doesn't take that much work to be a writer. I feel that over the past three years, *The Witches' Brew* has made great strides at becoming a better newspaper. This year we have managed to get the newspaper out monthly, instead of bi-monthly. I hope everyone has a good and safe vacation.



As you know, the school year has made it over the half way hump. I, as a senior, am becoming more anxious toward the arrival of graduation. However this doesn't mean it is a time to slack off or relax, school is just as important the second half of the year as it is in the first. So keep working hard and summer will be here before we know it. Happy Valentine's Day and have fun during winter break. - AJ Jones

Thanks to:

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