

ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

MARCH 2005

Student launches his own business

By Jessica

In passing, appears to be an average high school student. Many of his fellow classmates are most likely oblivious to the Arlington High School junior's atypical extracurricular activity. is the proud owner and sole employee of East Coast Custom Rides.

conception of East Coast Custom Rides grew from simplistic roots as he was underwhelmed and discontented with the limited array and availability of local bicycle retailers. He soon conceived the idea of a store in which the customer would be permitted to control all aspects of his or her bike's construction. Friends thought that idea would be a "cool" idea and that it had potential.

"The sky's the limit," he said. With Custom Rides, the consumer can choose everything from

a day-glo magenta low rider to a metallic silver mountain bike. Matt will construct each bicycle himself from scratch and can work within any price range. When asked how he plans to compete with larger wholesalers, stated that although a custom bike may be more time consuming to build, he believes that it is a more price-efficient way in which to satisfy clients.

grew up riding bikes around his neighborhood, as many young boys did. He had a few friends employed at a local bicycle shop who educated him on the fundamentals of bicycle construction. He also educated himself through books he checked out of the library. He enjoys working with his hands and feels a sense of accomplishment through building a bike.

What appears a lofty aspiration was not manifested overnight,



Junior Matt (above) plans to launch East Coast Custom Rides, a bike customization business, this spring.

but rather over the past two years. After conceiving the idea for East Coast Custom Rides, Matt spent his time researching the necessary costs and accumulating the basic tools and permits.

Currently, acquires his parts over the Internet and

has no direct affiliation to any particular retailers. He has taken out no loans — he has raised all of the money to begin operations. operates East Coast Custom Rides from his parent's garage and hopes the store will open in early spring.

Select Jason for Town board

By Noah

, Arlington High School senior, is running for town selectmen in the current election on April 2.

Jason is the next generation politician. He has had many experiences in helping fellow citizens in both the local community and in foreign nations.

Jason hopes to continue giving back to Arlington by becoming a town selectmen to bring about new programs and ideas that will help to unite and invigorate the community.

Jason is taking many vigorous courses to help him in his political future. These courses include Advanced Placement Physics, U.S. and European history and Calculus. He is also taking honors Vietnam and Holocaust to learn about



Continued on page 2

Garballey runs for School Committee

By David



"It's something I want to do; it's something I feel I need to do."

This was Sean Garballey's response when he was asked about his decision to run for the Arlington School Committee. A recent graduate of Arlington High School, Garballey is campaigning for town committee. If elected, Garballey would be the youngest member.

Currently he is a sophomore at UMass Lowell.

Although Garballey may become the youngest member on the committee, he has much experience with politics. While still at AHS, Garballey was a student representative for two years, and he

Continued on page 3

Donate your blood today

By Jeremy

Everyday people around the United States and other countries require blood to stay alive. Millions of pints of blood are needed on a regular basis.

One may wonder, why should I give my blood? Donating makes you feel good about yourself. The Red Cross is especially looking for those with rare blood types.

Before donating blood, people have to be eligible. There are some restrictions. A donor must be eighteen years of age, free from the HIV/AIDS disease, and free from mono for at least a year. Other re-

strictions can be found at www.redcross.org.

In the past, those with a new tattoo could not donate blood. Today, this is not the case. Because of this new rule, more people should be eligible. Donating blood can help almost anyone in the world. It does not take up much personal time. The whole process is no longer than thirty minutes, and it can save someone's life.

To donate blood, call the Red Cross Blood Services office or call 1-800-GIVE-LIFE. People are counting on your help and generosity.

The annual AHS blood drive is March 30.

Dealing with audition anxiety

By Tierrah

My stomach begins to tighten as I sit at the audition waiting for my turn. My palms are sweaty from wanting to know what's going to happen. "When are they going to call my name?"

As I wait I begin to look around at everyone else in the room and start comparing myself to them. Also, I start to critique my appearance.

A man comes in the room with a stern voice, points to me and says, "You're next."

All of these thoughts

(Continued on page 3)



Stem cell research begins

By Christina

The stem cell is the main source of all tissues in the human body. Growth and development in vitro is controlled by these cells, which can also replicate themselves and make any type of cell required to build organisms. Everything from a bone cell to a skin cell in the human body is a derivative of the stem cell. They have the ability to both make repairs throughout a human's life and potentially combat diseases and health problems.

A stem cell originates with the process of sperm fertilizing an ovum. Once created, the embryo has the potential to create an entire organism. Early human development is dependent upon the stem cell.

According to scientists, the potential for the further use of stem cells is extraordinary. The cells can operate as a repair system for the body and ideally they can divide indefinitely to replenish other cells. With each division, the new cells can become another type of

cell or remain a stem cell. Stem cell lines are necessary for the exploration of stem cells. A stem cell line is a colony of stem cells that replicate themselves in a culture, or nutrient rich environment and are an essentially limitless supply of research material.

The study of embryonic stem cells can yield insight regarding the early stages of human development. Cell-based gene therapy, drug testing, and generation of organs for transplant are three of the many possible benefits of the use of stem cells.

It is predicted that a disease such as diabetes could be cured through use of the stem cell. This would be incorporating insulin-producing cells into the body using gene therapy for patients. Many fatal afflictions could be cured by the benefits of stem cell research.

With a great number of possible benefits from the study of the stem cells, are there any harms? According to some, the negative aspects are plentiful and significant.

MCAS passing score may rise

By Liane

For many students at Arlington High, the MCAS testing is finally over. However, for the sophomores with the upcoming test in May, and the freshman that will have to take it next year, the state Board of Education may be changing the passing score. Luckily for the sophomores, nothing has really changed yet. For the future MCAS test takers, students are unsure what to expect.

Changing the passing score will require students to practically be fully knowledgeable of each section. There is a fear that if this is done, three times as many students could be at risk to fail. Although it is said the state is worried about minorities and students with learning disabilities, there are numerous amounts of students who are just incapable of taking standardized tests. The Board of Education is not trying to do this in order to cause more people to fail,

but to encourage students to do well.

"The real question we're wrestling with is how to encourage the system to reach higher," said board chairman James A. Peysner. As it appears to be, the scores of students in Massachusetts taking the test are not as impressive as the majority of the other states whose standardized tests are more difficult to pass and passing scores are higher.

There is hope that by 2014 the passing score will have to be at least proficient. For right now, the state has agreed, that the Needs Improvement score is where the line is drawn and is a major indicator that the students who score at this level may need some extra help. Using the current passing score, more than 95 percent of students pass the MCAS. When the bar is raised, there should be no shock that there are some students who just might not pass.

Teens gamble

By Megan

Poker nights and betting on sporting events are now some of the most popular activities for teens. Instead of having the regular weekend party, teens are now having poker nights or occasionally casino nights.

Gambling can be dangerous. Sometimes gambling isn't what it seems to be. It can turn into an addiction that can be financially devastating. Sometimes a person can lose all he or she has. Some teens are paying their way to college and not having the money can be the worst that could

happen. Right? Wrong. Some teens are also paying for their own cars, clothes, shoes, and cell phone bills. This means a teen may need to get a job to pay off debt. Playing poker and attending casino nights can be fun. Many bets were placed on the Super Bowl and the World Series. It is a gamble whether one's wallet ends up empty.



Jason

Continued from front page

mistakes made in history so he can help to prevent them in the future.

Over the past two summers, has gone on two major trips with humanitarian and workers rights' groups. The summer before junior year, Jason went to Nicaragua with a human rights watch group. He visited sweat shops, talked to government and union officials, stayed with local families, and visited the U.S. Embassy. Jason went on another human rights watch trip last summer, which brought him to Japan, Mexico and the island of Cuba.

In Mexico, he again stayed with local families and talked to activist groups. An indigenous community he visited had a very rough history; it was attacked 10 years prior by government-supported militia. In the attack, a large amount of the town population was killed, because they were supposed sympathizers of a terrorist rebel group.

He also had the chance to visit Cuba where he visited a cooperative farming community and went to an AIDS rehabilitation hospital.

"I have a lot of life experience and I have new ideas," he said.

Jason strongly believes that his

experience s will help him in his pursuit to become a town selectmen. He is looking forward to supporting public film screenings at Robbins Farm Park, free community dinners, and academic forums.

He will fight for a free teen center in the town and encourage young and older citizens to take part in community service. He hopes anyone who wants to volunteer for the town will join in any of the activities.

There are many new issues plans to address if he becomes selectman. He will always fight for more money for the town schools and community housing. To do this, he wants to encourage more commercial businesses to take the tax burden off of the residents of Arlington and to look into a better way to tax citizens.

He also supports the Lahey clinic at Symmes Hospital and believes Arlington needs to attract more medical facilities to fill in the services Lahey cannot provide.

Jason promises to fight vigorously for additional money for schooling. To this end, he supports an override to keep fire, police and school departments intact.

"I have the ability to think outside the box and outside [of] the traditional government," he said.

Korean vets receive AHS diplomas

By Katie

Superintendent of Arlington Public Schools Kathleen Donovan, and Arlington High School principal Charles Skidmore recently awarded diplomas to veterans who left Arlington High School to fight in the Korean War in the 50s.

The Honorees included James F. Tierney, Albert M. Farr, Donald L. Podgur, Robert J. Bowler, Joseph S. Amorin, Richard P. Murphy, and John P. Mahoney.

"It's just unbelievable," Albert Farr said about his diploma. "It's something you thought about for the last 53 years. It's a dream come true," he said in an *Arlington Advocate* article.

After receiving his diploma, Richard Murphy said, "It's heartwarming. It's nice to be home," according to the article.

"It showed me how valued and valuable a diploma is," said Skidmore in an interview.

"These men did not want a diploma



Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan presents Korean war veteran Joseph Amorin with his high school diploma. Photo courtesy of *The Arlington Advocate*.

to get into college, but rather to show that they had met a certain milestone in their lives and had completed (not necessarily in high school) the requirements that indicate that they 'officially' belonged to their graduating class," Skidmore said.

"From the look on their faces, it seemed that the veterans felt enormously proud. It's a wonderful way of thanking the men and women who left school early to defend democracy and our country," he said.

Weightlifter perfects belt

By Jeremy

Inside the gym in Somerville, hides an everyday man that most people don't even know about. His name is Steve Cardillo, and he makes custom workout belts for many famous athletes.

In 1988, Cardillo wanted a workout belt that fit him and did not cut into his side. After searching through many different belts, he decided to make one. The belt is made out of pure leather that can last for a very long time and is a custom fit.

According to *The Boston Globe*, one day Cardillo was working out in the Somerville World Gym, and Hulk Hogan walked over and asked for one of his belts. Hulk Hogan kept coming back and asking for new belts and different designs.

Along with Hulk Hogan, many Boston athletes and other famous athletes wanted his workout belts. Michael Jordan, Emmett Smith and Roger Clemens are all just a few of the people that Cardillo sells his belts to.

Soon after his belts were being sold to famous people, Reebok came to Cardillo. The Boston Globe reported that the quality of the belts is what caught Reebok's attention. Reebok signed a deal with Cardillo that only lasted for few years.

The only place someone can purchase these belts now is directly from Cardillo. Even though his deal with Reebok ended in 1993 his company sells each belt for approximately \$200 to his famous clients requesting them.

Garballey

Continued from front page

was the youngest person to be elected as Town Meeting member for Precinct 9 three years ago. Garballey also worked for Senator John Kerry's presidential campaign for two years visiting Iowa, New Hampshire, Indiana, and Illinois.

Garballey's experience in politics has even sparked rumors that he wants to run for President of the United States someday. However, he denied that he is going to run for President, saying, "I'm running for School Committee."

Garballey certainly knows what students and teachers want in the Arlington School System. He believes that he will be a valuable asset for the School Committee because he recently completed his education in the school system.

"You really have to love education to run for the School Committee," said Garballey.

Although the average age on the committee is roughly between 40- and 50-years old according to Garballey, he believes that he can bring a fresh perspective to the table.

"It's always a risk you take," said Garballey, "My biggest fear is not being elected."

So what does the School Committee do, anyway?

"Everything that has to do with the school community," according to Garballey. The committee deals with school policies, programs, budgets and class sizes, to name a few topics. When asked why the citizens of Arlington should vote for him, Garballey replied that he will bring knowledge and experience in the school community to the School Committee. He also said that he will be at the State House in Boston fighting for more local aid for Arlington schools.

One major concern that Garballey has with the Arlington School System is the school budget. When the town voted on the override in 2003, Garballey had concerns about it. Although he voted for the override, he was concerned that senior citizens would suffer, but he also didn't want the school community to suffer if the override didn't pass. Garballey also says that there wasn't a big outpouring of support for the override, although the override failed by around 400 votes.

"They didn't reach out as much as they could have," Garballey said of the town's effort to make nonresidents who were affected by the override aware of the issues at hand.

The town is scheduling a date on which the town will vote on another override. Garballey urges more people to come out and vote. He also says that there could be a question on the ballot that asks if property taxes should be raised in an effort to help the community as a whole. Before this question is on the ballot, Garballey says, the town will make sure that residents will have all of the information needed to decide.

So what does Garballey think about AHS? In a recent interview with him, he was asked what he liked about the school in his time

there.

"There's so much...one-on-one time with teachers, and being able to excel were good things at AHS."

Garballey was also asked what he disliked about AHS. He said he didn't like the large amount of studies and Old Halls. He agrees with many students at AHS that it's a disappointment that schedules are filled with studies instead of classes.

If Garballey is elected, the first thing he would change is "class sizes, especially at AHS and at the elementary schools." He expressed his concern for elementary school classes where there aren't enough desks for students, and kids are forced to stand in the back of a classroom.

Garballey would also want to hire teachers and keep them in the schools. He stressed the problem of teachers leaving Arlington for other towns that "pay the better buck." It's one of Garballey's goals to retain teachers in the Arlington School System. He also said that if he's elected, he will work closely with the new superintendent to improve the appearance of Arlington's schools.

Even though many administrative positions are vacant or being filled, Garballey has a positive outlook for the future of Arlington's schools.

"It's a great way to move the school system forward," he said.

Although it would be great for teachers to stay in the school system, how do we convince them to stay when we can't compete financially with other school systems? One proposal Garballey will look at if he's elected to the School Committee is the possibility to allow a fast-food place to set up shop in Arlington to bring in revenue. Many surrounding towns have larger budgets because of the amount of revenue fast-food restaurants bring in these towns.

So what's the problem?

There's a lack of empty and accessible space to put a McDonald's or Wendy's in Arlington, Garballey reports. McDonald's originally wanted to put a store in Arlington Heights, but the town rejected the request because the traffic resulting in a fast-food place in the Heights would turn the area into the old Central Artery of Boston. However, Garballey is not against putting a fast-food joint in Arlington.

"I'm all for it, but the issue is where to put it."

Another issue that Garballey shares with students and parents alike is the possibility of the state raising the MCAS passing standard. Garballey does not want students to fail the MCAS, even if students have several chances to pass the test. Garballey is also against prerequisites for courses at AHS. Any student can take any class at any level he or she desires, no matter what their grades were in lower-level classes. The problem with this is that many of these students disrupt classes and prevent other students from learning. It concerns Garballey that students who disrupt high-level classes are allowed to even be in the high-level classes. The problem, Garballey says, is that these students cannot be pushed down to lower-level classes, because they deserve

an education as well. He hopes to work with the School Committee to iron out a way to prevent these students from disrupting classes but not to take away from their own education.

Sean Garballey seems to know most, if not all of the issues in the Arlington School System, and he will most likely represent the school community very well. Garballey says that he will be campaigning door-to-door before the School Committee election.

Voting for the School Committee positions will be held April 2 in 21 precincts around Arlington.

Audition Anxiety

Continued from front page

go through my head as I am in the waiting room waiting for an audition.

To prepare myself for my first audition I concentrated on what I was doing and stopped worrying about what anyone else was doing.

When my name was finally called I took a deep breath and just cleared my mind.

I was not able to pick whom I wanted to audition for because the writer looked at me and chose a character.

As soon as I received the script I began to study it and memorize it. I had at least three minutes to read the script before I performed it for the writer and the producer on the camera.

When I saw the producer take out the video camera my heart dropped into my left boot, but once the producer said action I got right into character and got real confident.

When I started to read the script I messed the lines up a little bit and then all of a sudden the producer called "cut". Nervousness came over my body, then the producer told me to redo the scene, but in my own words.

At first I was afraid I wasn't going to remember the script; as I began it all came back to me and I practically remembered the whole script word for word.

Once I finished that the producer just sat there for a second thinking. My head began to sweat waiting for him to tell me how I did. He continued to look at me and then asked me if I would be able to commit. After I answered with excitement he then told me I did a good job and told me I could remember lines well. He told me before I left that he would call me if I got the part.

I grabbed my coat, said thank you, and walked out the room wanting to scream at the top of my lungs. I was so proud of how well I did on my first audition.

Poetry welcome

In the next issue of *The Ponder* Report, we want to include original, student-written poetry.

We will print 25 lines or less. The poetry must be appropriate to print in our newspaper. This section of the paper is going to be focused on "Students by Students".

The paper would be more interesting if all students' voices were heard. We accept all news stories also. If you want to submit any poetry or an article, see Ms. Eudenbach in room 406 or Shalaya West.

Did you know...

Mr. Vautour, Science Teacher, owned a miniature golf course in Everett, lived on a boat for five summers, teaches biology and has a Masters Degree in American History and is currently writing a book on the colonial history of Nantucket?

Mrs. Dunn, Science Teacher, lives on a boat in the summer in Woods Hole, did not speak English when she arrived in America from the Dominican Republic, collects orchids, watches birds, and hopes to visit every continent in the world?

Mr. Dever, Guidance Counselor, coaches hockey in Winchester and is a certified bartender who has served the Red Sox in many places on Cape Cod?

Mr. Foisy, House Dean, began his career at Arlington High as a sub and was planning to attend law school...35 years ago. He was offered a full time position here on his first day... Law School?

Be the 'Belle of The Ball'

By Tierrah

Any juniors or seniors in need of a dress for the prom, Anton's Cleaners has one for you.

This year Anton's has decided to sponsor a gown drive called "Belle of the Ball". Since many girls do not get to go to prom because of the expense of buying a dress, Anton's decided to help these girls.

Boys are able to go and rent tuxedos for one night with little to no cost so the company wanted to make girls' lives easier as well.

To donate a dress to Anton's, drop off the dress(es) to any one of Anton's 43 locations: Arlington, Newton, Braintree, Wellesley, Brockton, Brookline, Back Bay, South End, and more.

If you are in need of a dress, you must contact a youth services agency. The agency must approve your request to participate in the program. An agency representation needs to fill out a form that includes his/her name, position, organization, address, and phone number, fax, and email. Your name, school, school address, home address, phone number, and dress size must also be included on the form. This information then must be faxed to Anton's. Anton's will send back a confirmation with a set up time to meet with seamstress and pick out your dress and to have a fitting. For more information log onto: www.antonss.com.

After you have chosen and worn the dress for your high school event, you do not have to return the dress unless you would like to.

"This is Anton's way to give back to the community and they are aware that there is a need to make sure that each young person has adequate opportunity to attend their prom," said Hal Phillips, a worker at Youth Opportunity Boston (a participant in the Belle of The Ball).

Editorials

C.A.S.S.H. will protect you

By Jamie

On Valentine's Day, a group of students handed out free condoms in the lobby after school. The condoms were in what seemed like a Valentine's Day card. The card included instructions on how to use a condom and also some statistics of STDs and teen pregnancies.

Health education has been at AHS for years and taken by most who take gym. In health class, the teacher briefly discusses sex and condoms, yet does not thoroughly cover the topic as much as some would like. A new group called C.A.S.S.H. is currently working to get condoms available to students.

C.A.S.S.H. is a non-school club, and is run by a group of students who feel as though condoms should be available for students and that more in depth sex education should be provided. C.A.S.S.H.'s condom distribution was not an impulsive idea; it was a well-thought out plan. The members of this group had meetings and wrote a letter to Mr. Skidmore and the school committee informing them of their goals. They also informed Mr. Skidmore that they would be

handing out condoms to the student body. He requested that they don't cause any disruptions.

Although many students would probably love the idea of free condoms available and would most likely take advantage of this, some people, such as the administration and parents, may not love this idea.

Condoms in school is a very controversial issue. On one hand, it's protecting students from unwanted pregnancy and STDs. On the other hand, it's almost like condoning sexual activities among students. And if a student feels as though he/she is mature enough and ready to have sex, shouldn't they be able to buy his/her own condoms?

Although I still don't really have solid opinion on this, I can partially agree with both sides. I think C.A.S.S.H. is making a good point and feel as though they are making a bold statement. C.A.S.S.H. strongly believes that condoms should be available for us, and they are doing something about it. Most people would just say they want something and not stand up for what they believe in.

Amanda, a junior at our school, started the group C.A.S.S.H., which stands for Community Advocating Student Safety and Health. She said she was frustrated after sitting in health class during her freshman year. She thought it was "stupid" that contraceptives could be discussed but not shown to students.

As far as condoms being available in the nurse's office, don't plan on walking in there anytime soon for a big night. This is just a rumor and most likely will not happen, as said by Mr. Skidmore. C.A.S.S.H. wants condoms to be available, but they are unsure how they want to make them obtainable as of right now. The group and the administration are currently discussing ways for a more detailed sex education, with demonstrations of how to use condoms, and also ways of supplying condoms for students.

Future goals of C.A.S.S.H. include condoms being available and pamphlets about AIDS, STDs and abstinence also being made available. Another goal of C.A.S.S.H. is to get as many members as possible, including students and parents involved.

Course offerings lack student input

By Robert

Each year, a course catalogue is given to students to choose courses, but they have no input as to what courses and levels are being offered. Students choose their classes with little factual information as to the requirements and appropriateness of the course.

As a senior, I was forced to drop math because the math classes offered were not appropriate for me to be successful. AHS did not offer basic level math classes or other acceptable choices that would have benefited me or other students. Information provided stated that there are teacher shortages, a need for honors and advanced classes, and that levels offered were determined based on the previous year's student population. What about this year's students population, who must meet specific college requirements but presently need classes that are at a proper level?

Students and/or parents need to have input in course offerings to avoid an inequity in curriculum and levels being offered next year. I want to attend college and believe that it will be harder for me to get into the school I have chosen as my first choice. The school may decide that since I did not take a fourth year of math, I must have chosen an easy path during my senior year. Colleges will not be alerted to the fact that I had no real choices offered to me at my levels.

Course offerings and selections should be handled during the spring and over the summer, as students should not be faced with these issues at the beginning of a new school year.

vessel in his brain.

Dr. Carey Kimmelsteil, a cardiologist at Tufts-New England Medical Center, told *The Boston Globe* that holes in hearts "are in many cases tiny and can in fact be quite common. In many cases, they are just 'potential' holes, or weakening in the walls of the heart."

After someone has a stroke, it is more likely that he/she will experience another stroke in the future. In Bruschi's case, he has an even greater chance of suffering a stroke since his job is to tackle other players with great force. A heart condition doesn't help his chances of returning to the Patriots, but heart specialists say that Bruschi could still play for the Pats even if he's both a heart patient and a stroke victim, according to the article.

No prerequisites do more harm than good

By Josh

In the spring of 2003, the Arlington School Committee made a choice that left much of AHS agape. It announced that classes would no longer have prerequisites for potential students. The two-year-old decision has proven to be one of the Sixth Floor's worst of the past few years.

The point of having prerequisites is that high-level classes, by definition, require more work than easier ones do. Students need to prove they're ready for the challenge and workload of an Honors or AP course by earning the grade required to enroll in it. Removing standards teaches students that they don't have to work hard to be in a top class; their academic history becomes irrelevant because they can take anything they want next year, regardless of their qualifications.

Not having prerequisites benefits no one except those students who take advantage of it to sign up for courses that will look impressive on their transcript, whether the students are prepared for the classes or not.

The policy certainly doesn't help teachers, who don't appreciate the fact that any student can be in any class. Having varying levels of difficulty in a subject, such as Advanced and Honors, used to mean that teachers could predict the general academic ability of a class, and adjust the curriculum accordingly. Now, however, classes have a range of students, which forces teachers to water down the material so that everyone

can understand it. The pace of classes has to be slowed as well to make sure no one is left behind, which wouldn't be a problem if students were required to meet academic standards in the first place.

"I've had more and more students who have been misplaced this year because [the School Committee] threw out the prerequisites," said Kathleen Doyle, AHS teacher for over 30 years. "It makes it harder for the other students and harder for the teacher."

"I think that some students are in over their head, and are lost and are also perhaps holding back others in the same class who are much more prepared for the course level," said Mary Ann Orlando, another 30-year teacher. "The prerequisites that were required in the past did not allow this to happen...I wish we had them back"

The effects of free enrollment also reach beyond the walls of AHS, however. When transcripts are sent out to colleges, they are accompanied by a school report that explains the class levels at AHS. Since there are no limits on which classes students can take, the school reports should include a disclaimer saying something such as:

"ATTENTION! AHS does not believe our students should be hampered by nitpicking annoyances such as required entry grades for courses. To support this belief, we have chosen to let our students take any classes they wish. Please be forewarned that the grades you are about to see have been skewed by our postmodern approach to

education; whatever works for our students works for us. We trust you will handle any difficulties that may arise when trying to interpret this student's academic performance in the context of our flawed school system."

According to the AHS Program of Studies, "The Arlington Public Schools encourages all students to meet their maximum potential." The School Committee seems to believe that coddling students though high school is the best way to accomplish this. It's going to be quite a shock for the AHS students who arrive in the working world to discover that they now have to work to land a job or get a promotion. If the School Committee really wants students to stretch themselves, they should reinstate prerequisites and force students to earn their way into the classes they want to take.

Bruschi tackles medical issues

By David

Tedy Bruschi, one of the most popular players on the New England Patriots, is experiencing more health problems. Doctors found a hole in his heart, requiring that the Pro Bowl linebacker undergo surgery to repair it, according to a March 17 *Boston Globe* article.

Bruschi is already recovering from a mild stroke he suffered three days after he played in the Pro Bowl in February this past season. Doctors said that he might have had a leaking blood

Reviews

MVP 2005: a homerun

By Joshua

Electronic Arts has released MVP 2005 for this baseball season. With more features than last year's version, this is the only baseball game one needs to buy this season. This game should be a hit with Red Sox fans.

The cover is a collectible with World Series MVP Manny Ramirez on the cover. The intro movie is also about the Red Sox as well. This is a game to get even if one is a fan and not a gamer. As a fan of MVP or just starting out to play baseball games, this is the game to purchase.

Some new features in MVP includes owner mode, which is when one controls every aspect of the team, to players contracts to

creating a stadium. Another new feature is hitter's eye, which tells what type of pitch is thrown.

Online mode is also upgraded; one can play friends online or set up tournaments and much more.

There is also a spring training mode that is also fun to do and helps polish skills. There is also enhanced big defensive play control. This allows the player to jump, dive or jump a wall for a ball. Players can also slide in any direction to a base outside or inside of the base or even derail the catcher.

This is the baseball game to get for 2005. It's a lot of fun and a great game to play in every aspect.

☆☆☆out of ☆☆☆☆.

Juiced squeezes players

By Andrew

Chances are that recently you have heard of Jose Canseco's new book *Juiced* and the stir it has created in the world of baseball. Canseco admits in the book to using various different types of steroids and human growth hormones. Canseco also says that he introduced as well as injected Rafael Palermo, Mark McGwire, Jason Giambi, Juan Gonzalez, and Ivan Rodriguez.

However, this book is not just a confession about the number of professional baseball players using steroids, it is mainly a human-interest story. This is an autobiography, and the author's life happens to be involved with steroids.

The book starts with Canseco talking about his parents fleeing from Cuba and how his father would scream at him when he would make a mistake in little league. Canseco says this made him shy and soft spoken, but that has obviously worn off.

One of the most interesting pieces of the book is the already well-known chapter about Madonna. Although nothing happens between the two of them, it makes for interesting reading. It also shows the lifestyle of a major

league baseball player.

Canseco talks about racism in baseball, and he claims that players of Latino descent are treated unfairly and that the "white media" is unfair to them and they print lies only about minorities. He says the white players get away with anything, and no one would talk about them. He uses specific examples of Cal Ripken Jr. and as Canseco calls him "baseball's golden boy" Mark McGwire. Although Canseco admits to not being savvy enough to befriend the media, he does say that they were out to get him, and they were looking for an interesting story about the "bad boy of baseball".

This book makes for a very interesting read but you will find yourself wondering once you are finished how much of it is true? I don't think we will ever know. Canseco says he wrote this book so the fans could know the truth about baseball. For those of you who are saying he is doing it for the money, Canseco says he has plenty.

This book has sparked much controversy. Recently baseball players met with Congress to discuss steroid use in baseball; Canseco did not admit to using steroids or any human growth hormones.

Perfection found in Finding Neverland

By Christian

In the independent film *Finding Neverland*, Johnny Depp and Kate Winslet electrify the biopic about *Peter Pan* author James Matthew Barrie's experiences in creating the popular children's play. This may seem like an average film, but it's much more than that and Oscar nominations for Depp and the film itself prove that perception wrong. The film follows the story of Barrie and how he was inspired to write *Peter Pan*.

Winslet plays Sylvia Davies, mother to the four boys who inspired Barrie to write the novel after he met the children walking his dog in a park. He eventually befriends the family and grows accustomed to their company and ends up like family to them, something his wife Mary (Radha Mitchell) doesn't like.

Before Barrie meets the Davies' family, the movie opens on opening night of his latest play. A bored audience and a not pleased investor of the theater Charles Frohman (Dustin Hoffman), let Barrie know he needs a much needed hit with his next play. After the opening play flops is when he begins to brainstorm on what his next play could be. Now enters the Davies' family who gives him all the inspiration he needs.

Winslet's children Peter (Freddie Highmore), Jack (Joe Prospero), George (Nick Roud), and Michael (Luke Spill) all have characters based on them in Barrie's *Peter Pan*. Barrie finds that each one of the children is unique and has a child-like innocence. Though the only names he uses in his play are Peter and Michael out of the children, each character in the play have a piece of the family in them.

What is probably the most interesting thing is that the character of Peter Pan is a boy who never wants to grow up. This is a lot like Barrie himself. Barrie is a man who is still a child at heart. But Peter Pan is not based on Barrie, but on Sylvia's child Peter who is the complete opposite of Peter Pan.

Peter wants to grow up. Barrie finds him the most interesting and as the film unravels, he child inside Peter is out in full force. He helps Peter become the child he is.

Winslet and Depp's performances in the film are more than exceptional. Winslet portrays a widower who though has lost her husband, still has her children who still make her smile. Winslet really brings Sylvia to life. There is not a single line delivery or scene that Winslet disappoints the audience.

Depp brings a lot of character and love to this character. Depp is an actor who can morph themselves into these characters and are believable. Depp and Winslet also make an amazing screen duo. Their chemistry is some of the best on screen. They are known to play more interesting, unique, and off-beat roles (a la *Edward Scissorhands* for Depp and *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* for Winslet).

Filmmaker Marc Forester chose to reveal Barrie's story, by showing how *Peter Pan* came together not just on paper but in Barrie's personal life as well. *Peter Pan* may have started out as a play to the public, but in Barrie's mind and heart, it's much more than words. It holds a personal love and admiration for the family. He connected with this family on a whole new level by seeing the innocence and love that surrounded them. It was something he longer for and wanted.

Overall, *Finding Neverland* was an amazing film. The performances were incredible as was the story and plot. This film is nominated for an Oscar, and there is no doubt it has the advantage over a lot of the other films in the category. Anyone who views this film will immediately connect with it. It's emotional and sad at points, but it's a beautifully told story. It's the kind of film that can make you laugh, cry, and feel for the characters at the same time. There should be more films like this. *Finding Neverland* is playing in select cities and soon nationwide.

☆☆☆☆out of ☆☆☆☆.

Will Smith's Hitch is a hit

By Christian

In the new comedy *Hitch*, "Date Doctor" Alex "Hitch" Hitchens (Will Smith) helps Albert (Kevin James) a loveless but high-class banker try to spark a relationship with Alegria Cole (Amber Valletta), a wealthy heir. While Hitch may be able to help other men and usually himself, he tries his movies on the beautiful gossip columnist Sara Melas (Eva Mendes) and doesn't exactly come out a winner.

All his suave behavior and demur attitude towards his luck with women goes out the window after trying to win Sara over. Hitch isn't one to be shy or clumsy when it comes to relationships, but Sara is a whole different story.

Hitch's casting and chemistry with all the actors was perfectly done. Smith was a perfect fit to play Hitch, showing he could be a comedian and a romantic lead while appealing to both men and woman young and old without being overbearing. It's no surprise that his comedic

skills were perfect, but Smith isn't too familiar with the romantic aspect of acting and the fact that he did a great job makes him even more appealing as an actor.

Co-star Mendes also did an amazing job as the savvy gossip columnist Sara. Mendes was a perfect fit to play the character because while being sophisticated and business-like, she still had a youthful outlook on the character that made her even that more likable. Though Mendes is a somewhat up-and-comer (She had already made a name for herself in big budget movies like *2 Fast 2*

Furious and *Stuck on You*) Hitch shows she can be funny without being annoying and still loveable.

The on-screen chemistry was a perfect fit between Mendes and Smith. Before production, there was a lot of speculation about who would star opposite Smith until arriving upon Mendes. Filmmakers wanted to pair to be natural but not too perfect at the same time, almost so flawed that they are perfect for one another. They got exactly what they asked for.

Other supporting characters like Valetta

Continued on page 6

Does Messing get her *Wedding Date*?

By Christian

In *The Wedding Date*, originally titled *Something Borrowed*, Debra Messing plays Kat Ellis, a single New York girl who needs a date to her little sister's (Amy Adams) wedding in London. When Kat can't find a date, she decides to look in the yellow pages for a "male escort". The reason for desperately needing a date is to make her ex fiancé (Jeremy Sheffield) and best man of the wedding jealous.

When Kat meets her date on the flight to London, she is expecting someone who isn't going to make good and will end up revealing they are not really dating. What she obtains is every woman's perfect cliché date; smart, slick and sophisticated. Kat gets exactly what she asks for, but the only catch is that her date Nick Mercer (Dermot Mulroney) is still an escort and she falls in love with him. Though *The Wedding Date* is targeted for Valentines Day and is advertised as a "chick flick", it really isn't.

The Wedding Date has the makings of an unconventional love story, but it's not told in a sappy way that will make a girl's date roll his eyes. The movie was filmed on location in New York and in London last summer and is semi-independent, which is the reason why it took so long to get to theaters.

Something that is unique about the film and could be seen as off-beat is that it's not a fast paced film like most big budget romantic

comedies.

Though I can appreciate why the filmmakers chose to have the film a bit slow paced, it's one of the film's faults, because it could lose the audience. The movie is well written and the acting is good. Other than the slowness of it, the lack of character development is



Universal Pictures Photo

the only other dilemma. The main development can be seen through the character of Kat. Messing and Mulroney have amazing on screen chemistry. Mulroney could have chosen to play Nick as a common hooker, but he chose to do it in a smooth way that wouldn't make women audiences hate him for being smug. His character isn't the most innocent kind so the fact that he didn't make him sleazy was a big plus to his character.

Kat is the farthest thing from Messing's TV alter ego Grace Adler on *Will and Grace*. Even though Messing is amazing on her sitcom, she showed that she can do a different kind of comedy. She made neurosis sexy and elegant at the same time in this film. She brought something fun and interesting to the role.

Overall, *The Wedding Date* is a bit sluggish at points but witty acting by the film's leads and great dialogue make up for it. It's a good date movie and overall film. *The Wedding Date* is now playing nationwide and rated PG-13 for sexual contact including dialogue.

☆☆☆out of ☆☆☆☆☆

AHS grad is a star

By Kelsie

In June of 1990, Arlington High School seniors were having their graduation. Then Dane Cook was just a senior leaving high school and going into the real world. Now, he is one of the funniest comics in the country.

Born in Boston in 1972, Dane had a crowded childhood. He had one brother and five sisters. He grew up his whole life here in Boston going to Pierce School and then to Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High. After graduation, he decided what he really wanted to do. He wanted to be a comic.

Dane's first big break was on the T.V. show "Maybe This Time" playing Kyle in four episodes. Then his stand-up comedy break happened on August 28, 1995 on the David Letterman Show. After that appearance he got a stint on

Hitch

Continued from page 5

and James did a great job as well. The two don't have as great chemistry as Smith and Mendes do, they still get over the rough patches and keep on going. James is notorious for his role on the television show *King of Queens* so it's no surprise that it's a little awkward to see him

romancing with former model Valetta. The two are almost the poster couple for not basing a relationship on looks, as it should be more than skin deep. The only problem with this is that the two tried too hard to be the "anti-couple". Valetta could have pulled it off, but James awkward ways' throw the two off.

The movie's story and dialogue were hysterical. While Smith fumbles to impress Mendes, it

Arlington's entertainment secret

By Paul

The Regent Theatre is probably one of the best kept secrets in entertainment in Arlington, at least among high school students. There must be something special about The Regent when a world music legend decides to make his first U.S. appearance in the last forty years there, a famous cult-horror film director appears for a screening of what is one of his best-loved movies, and an American guitar legend chooses to stop by on one of the most highly acclaimed tours of his career. The Regent is an excellent place for out-of-the-ordinary entertainment, and high school students should know more about it.

This past November, Mulatu Astatke, the hero of Ethiopian popular music, made his first U.S. appearance since 1962. The last time Mulatu was in the states, he was performing at the White House for President John F. Kennedy. Mulatu Astatke is the Ethiopian equivalent of Duke Ellington, the king of American jazz. After returning to Ethiopia from studying all around the world, he recorded his own style of jazz, fused with Ethiopian and Latin motifs. Astatke remains the largest figure in Ethiopia's vibrant pop and jazz scene. Mulatu was also accompanied by the Either/ Orchestra, one of the most talented groups on the jazz scene.

Many serious film fans know George Romero, the director of such cult classics as "Night of The Living Dead" and "Dawn of the Dead". Last year, George Romero appeared at the Regent to show "Night of The Living Dead". He also gave a brief talk before the film, which was preceded by an incredible one and a half hours of fine head-banging music, provided by Boston area rockers The Bentmen. The Bentmen performed a zombie-themed show, clad in their trademark costumes, with children dressed as zombies wandering through the rows and aisles as they performed songs such as "Ice Cream Clown" and "Holy Man". The movie and music were great, but I also got to meet George Romero and get his autograph. It was exciting to stand next to a giant of the horror movie universe, right in Arlington.

Last year was not just the year of zombies and heavy metal; it was the year of the blues. The blues community had come together and decided to declare the year the "Year of The Blues". It seemed a good time for it, what with Martin Scorsese's "The Blues" appearing on PBS and the approximated 100th birthday of Delta blues legend Robert Johnson. The Regent was lucky enough to be included

on the tour stops of several well-known blues musicians who took to the road that year. The first to appear was "Honeyboy" Edwards, one of the last remaining original masters of the Delta blues, an acoustic blues style which originated in the deep South with the spirituals of the Negro slaves. Honeyboy is one of the only people living who can say that he had the honor of playing with the legendary bluesman Robert Johnson. It was such a treat to have not only a great musician, but a piece of living history here in Arlington. A few weeks after Honeyboy left the stage, British blues-rocker John Mayall, who greatly aided in starting the career of guitar legend Eric Clapton, filled his place. John Mayall, along with his band the Bluesbreakers, was a major part of the wave of British rock bands inspired by American blues music in the 1960's. Mayall rocked the house down with his guitar, harmonica, and Hammond B3 organ. Finishing the Year of the Blues at the Regent was American legend Johnny Winter, brother of Edgar Winter, both of whom thrilled audiences in the '60's and '70's with their rockin' music and long snow-white hair. Winter gained almost overnight success after appearing at the Woodstock Music Festival in 1969, as many artists did. With his hybrid picking style and Robert Johnson-inspired electric blues, Johnny Winter has captivated audiences around the world. He is truly a modern day master of the blues. His sold-out show at the Regent was nothing less than his high-energy performances of the 60's. His 2003 tour was one of the most highly praised of his career. The great sound and history of the blues certainly left its mark in Arlington.

One might think that there is not much to do in Arlington, but in terms of fine entertainment, one need not look far. As you can see, there is a diverse offering of shows at the Regent. The Regent offers great shows in a small and personal venue close to home, allowing you to get close to some of the greatest musicians of our time. There is something for everyone at the Regent, and I urge you to visit its website at www.regenttheatre.com, to see if there are any shows that might interest you. Show costs can run anywhere from free to \$50 a ticket, but there are usually student discounts. Some shows coming up in the next few months include Beatlejuice, a Beatles tribute band led by the legendary rock singer Brad Delp, comedian Paula Poundstone, The Count Basie Orchestra, and several concerts to benefit charities such as cancer research, featuring local artists.

On a whole, *Hitch* is refreshing and hilarious. It's a believable story letting viewers enjoy it without having them think it's far-fetched. It's refreshing to have a comedy that isn't over the top and can still be "Pee your pants funny." *Hitch* is now playing nationwide and is rated PG-13.

☆☆☆out of ☆☆☆☆☆

could have been done in a goofy or poorly done slapstick way but the two managed to do it perfectly. They balanced the love aspects of the story but didn't let it take away from the comedy that really drives the film. Dialogue was also very impressive. A lot of actors fail to deliver with witty dialogue but *Hitch* had just the right mixture of comedic timing and great line delivery.

ASTROLOGY SIGNS

Compiled by TierraH

Aries

(March 21-April 19)

Compatible Mates: Sagittarius, Leo, Gemini, and Aquarius.

Opposite sign: Libra

Type of sign: Fire

Positive traits: Passionate & Spontaneous

Negative traits: Selfish & Demanding

Ruling planet: Mars

Taurus

(April 20 - May 20)

Compatible Mates: Virgo, Capricorn, Cancer, and Pisces.

Opposite sign: Scorpio

Type of sign: Earth

Positive traits: Arduous & Confident

Negative traits: Stubborn

Ruling planet: Venus

Gemini

(May 21 - June 20)

Compatible Mates: Leo, Aries, Aquarius, and Libra.

Type of sign: Air

Opposite sign: Sagittarius

Positive traits: Confident

Negative traits: Can be distracted at times

Ruling planet: Mercury

Cancer

(June 21 - July 22)

Compatible Mates: Pisces, Scorpio, Virgo, and Taurus

Type of sign: Water

Opposite sign: Capricorn

Positive traits: Emotional, Considerate

Negative traits: Hypersensitive

Ruling planet: Moon

Leo

(July 23- August 22)

Compatible Mates: Aries, Sagittarius, Gemini, and Aquarius

Type of sign: Fire

Opposite Sign: Aquarius

Positive traits: Conventional & Dramatic

Negative traits: Selfish & Aggressive

Ruling Planet: Sun

Virgo

(August 23- September 22)

Compatible Mates: Capricorn, Cancer, Pisces, and Taurus

Type of sign: Earth

Opposite sign: Pisces

Positive traits: Arduous & Methodical

Negative traits: Unimaginative & sometimes prudish

Ruling planet: Mercury

Libra

(September 23- October 22)

Compatible Mates: Gemini, Leo, Aries, and Aquarius

Type of sign: Air

Opposite sign: Aries

Positive traits: Confidant & Passionate

Negative traits: Moody & Distracted

Ruling planet: Venus

Scorpio

(October 23- November 21)

Compatible Mates: Cancer, Pisces, Virgo, and Taurus

Type of sign: Water

Opposite sign: Taurus

Positive traits: Passionate & Confident

Negative traits: Sadistic & Greedy

Ruling planet: Pluto

Sagittarius

(November 22 - December 21)

Compatible Mates: Aries, Leo, Gemini, and Aquarius

Type of sign: Fire

Opposite sign: Gemini

Positive traits: Methodical & Arduous

Negative traits: Inconsiderate & Sadistic

Ruling Planet: Jupiter

Capricorn

(December 22 - January 19)

Compatible Mates: Taurus, Virgo, cancer, and Pisces

Type of sign: Earth

Opposite sign: Cancer

Positive traits: Conventional & Arduous

Negative traits: Sadistic & Selfish

Ruling planet: Saturn

Aquarius

(January 20 - February 18)

Compatible Mates: Gemini, Leo, Aries, Aquarius, and Libra.

Type of sign: Air

Opposite sign: Leo

Positive trait: Unselfish & Confident

Negative trait: Unpredictable &

Perverse

Ruling planet: Uranus

Pisces

(February 19 - March 20)

Compatible Mates: Cancer, Scorpio, Virgo, and Taurus

Type of sign: Water

Opposite sign: Virgo

Positive trait: Passionate & Romantic

Negative trait: Maybe taken advantage of

Ruling planet: Neptune

Meaning of Signs:

Earth signs: You're down to earth, practical, cautious, grounded, and reliable.

Fire signs: Like the element of fire, you're unpredictable, feisty, aggressive, impulsive, and hard to control.

Water signs: In reality, people generally love to be close to lakes, rivers, oceans, and ponds. If you're a water sign, people love to be close to you because you're reassuring, emotional, intuitive, soothing, and non-threatening.

Air signs: If you're an air sign, you're independent, aloof, analytical, intriguing, and very hard to keep up with. You must have freedom. Like air itself, you cannot be contained, harnessed, or backed into a corner.

Karaoke Night Canceled

By Jessica

Karaoke Night, which is sponsored by the Volunteer Club annually, has been cancelled. The night was axed due to the lack of participants and student involvement, which seems to be a common theme among Arlington High School students.

The night, which was scheduled to take place on March 16, needed a minimum of eight acts. Only a disheartening two acts officially passed in their forms. All proceeds from the night were intended to go to The Healing Children Fund, an organization that provides financial assistance for children and teens in third world countries who are unable to afford operations themselves.

Many students are unaware of the preparation that went into organizing the night. Thirty flyers had been made and hung up in the cafeteria (the only place designated to hang up signs), announcements had been made for over two weeks prior to the evening, and a DJ had to be reserved months in advance.

The club is still held responsible to pay the three hundred dollars owed to the DJ. For the Volunteer Club, who gives all of their money away to various charities, there is no money left to pay this large sum.

Participating in school activities contributes to our high school memories.

Looks are deceiving

By Moses

Standing at 6'0" and weighing in at 265 lbs, Jay Jr. may not seem to be your average senior. Being much larger and stronger than mostly everyone at AHS, Jay carries his broad shoulders and fearless appearance throughout the halls. He intimidates most with his size and also his missing front tooth.

Most people assume that's all there is to Jay, just another jock roaming the halls. As a senior, he was elected captain for Varsity football. He plans to pursue football in his college years along with his goals to become a police officer and later have a family.

Not many people know the other side to him. He's a very sensitive and affable person. His hobbies include football, watching the Pats/Sox, and chasing around as many girls as possible.

He's the type of person to stick up for a friend even when it may not be the popular thing to do. Dependable and caring, Jay can always be counted on.

His parents split up early in his life and at such a young age, he didn't know how to handle it. Everything kept building up in him,

and he wasn't able to let his emotions out. Instead he wrote his feelings down on paper. Out of his writings, a poem evolved.

This poem touched his mother in ways she couldn't imagine. She

decided to enter it into a poetry contest. Out of thousands of poems, his was accepted. The winner has not yet been determined. Not caring if he wins, Jay is just excited that his poem was selected into the contest.

"Life consists not in holding good cards, but in playing those you hold well."

-Josh Billings



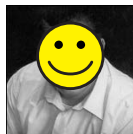
Josh owns a busy life

By Kevin

Josh is not an average high school senior. His interests vary. Josh played Varsity Football and was a lineman. As a hobby, he likes to lift weights to enhance his performance on the field. Other than high school football, he plays unorganized sports, such as basketball. Being a fan of professional sports, his favorite is football.

Music is another one of his interests; his tastes are heavy metal and some rap music. As another one of his hobbies, he likes to write music and stories. He has a large interest in video games of nearly all genres. He can name and tell you what he thinks of almost every game. Josh also loves playing poker, and thinks he is very good at it.

In his family, he has three other brothers: Mike, James and Matt. Mike, the oldest, had a tour of duty in Iraq and returned to work at Fort Knox. Like his brother, Josh wants a job as a public servant. His goal is to be a police officer.



Antoine makes big return

By Mike

On February 24, 2005, Antoine Walker returned to the Celtics from the Atlanta Hawks. In the trade, the Celtics got Antoine Walker for Gary Payton, Tom Gugliotta, and Michael Stewart.

In the first seven years of Antoine's career (1996-2003), he played for the Celtics. According to WEEI sports radio sixteen months ago, Celtics general manager Danny Ainge traded away Antoine. Some of the reasons why Ainge traded Walker were because Ainge thought that Antoine had a

poor shot selection, and he didn't like his game that much.

The Celtics are 9-1 since the return of Antoine. They are currently leading the Philadelphia 76ers in the Atlantic division by 4.5 games, with 18 games remaining on the schedule.

With the addition of Antoine, the entire Celtics team seems to be playing with a sense of urgency. They are beginning to run much harder and beginning to dive for balls that are on the ground.

With Antoine's returning, Gary Payton is back to play with Walker and Pierce. Payton is back because the Atlanta Hawks had bought out his contract.

Super Bowl champs lose several key players

By David

After winning their third Super Bowl in four years, the New England Patriots will be without some key players on their roster when the 2005-2006 season begins.

The Pats released cornerback Ty Law to reduce their payroll for next season, according to The Boston Globe. Although Law has made some huge plays in his career with the Patriots, most notably three interceptions against the Indianapolis Colts in the AFC Championship in the 2003-2004 season, he hurt his chances of returning to the Patriots when he suffered a season-ending injury against the Pittsburgh Steelers during the regular season. The broken foot he suffered forced the Patriots to use young, inexperienced rookies in his place the rest of the season.

Considered by many to be the best cornerback in the NFL, Law has spent his entire 10-year career with the New England Patriots.

The Patriots also cut loose veteran linebacker Roman Phifer. Phifer has 14 years of experience in the NFL and has spent the last four seasons with the Patriots. Before becoming a Patriot, Phifer played for the Rams and Jets, according to the NFL's website.

The release of Phifer is a little surprising, because if linebacker Tedy Bruschi is unable to play again, the Patriots will be without two linebackers. Without Bruschi able to play, Mike Vrabel, Ted Johnson, Roosevelt Colvin, Willie

McGinest, Matt Chatham, Don Davis, and Larry Izzo will be the remaining linebackers on the Patriots' roster, according to the Patriots' website.

One of the more shocking moves by the Patriots this off-season was declining the option on veteran wide-receiver Troy Brown. Brown has spent his entire 12-year career with the Patriots, beginning in 1993. Brown has had an excellent career and has become a favorite receiver for Patriots' quarterbacks. Last season he also was used as a nickelback in situations when the Patriots didn't have enough healthy defensive players. Brown filled in nicely, using his skill at catching the ball to record three interceptions during the season, as well as 14 tackles, according to NFL.com.

Joe Andruzzi, a guard for the Patriots since 2000, was a free agent this off-season and decided to join the Cleveland Browns for a four-year, \$9 million contract. Andruzzi began his career with the Green Bay Packers, and has been instrumental in the Patriots' three Super Bowl championship seasons. He started all 72 games he played for the Pats, according to a Boston Globe article.

The Washington Redskins also acquired former Patriot wide-receiver David Patten. He agreed to a five-year, \$13 million contract with the team. Patten started his NFL career with the New York Giants in 1997 and joined Cleveland for a year before he signed with the Patriots in 2001.

Tennis team looks forward to season

By Jeremy

As the snow starts to melt, the tennis courts slowly become occupied by the eagerly awaiting tennis team. The Arlington Spy Ponders tennis team has been looking forward to this time of year since last year.

The boys lost the GBL to Cambridge last year and the year before, but won in the 2002 season. With no seniors on the team last year, the Ponders will be back in full force this season.

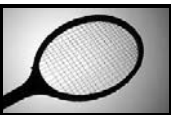
Jeremy Ma and Ben Schuler were the captains last year and both are looking forward to this

season to hopefully take the GBL title.

A few faces will not return this incoming year. Senior David Hattis will have surgery near the beginning of the season taking him out for a few weeks. Also John Hejzlar will not be returning along with Sophomore Aaron Wolf.

The team has a few new players that will be examined closely by coach Cody. Coach Cody has been with Arlington for decades. He will decide who makes the team in the early spring.

Every senior on the team is ready for action; this will be the last time they can fight for the right to be called GBL champs.



Cheaper alternatives to Boston Red Sox

By David

There isn't anything like going to Fenway Park to see the Boston Red Sox play the New York Yankees or any other team in Major League Baseball. Seeing the biggest rivalry in sports in person is an amazing experience.

But what if you can't afford to buy tickets to see the Sox at Fenway?

With ticket prices at Fenway skyrocketing, baseball fans thankfully have some alternatives to seeing the Red Sox. The Sox have six minor league affiliates, three of which are in New England, according to the Red Sox' website.

The Pawtucket Red Sox, Boston's Triple A affiliate, are located in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. Boston has brought up many excellent players from the PawSox, includ-

ing Nomar Garciaparra. Ticket prices range from \$4 to \$9, a considerable bargain to Fenway's tickets. The cheapest ticket you can purchase at Fenway is \$12, but these seats are quite a distance from home plate.

One of the Sox' Single A affiliates are the popular Lowell

Spinners. The Spinners have sold out their home games on a regular basis. Although the Spinners play a short season, fans flock to

LeLachur Park. Ticket prices range from \$3.50 to \$7.50. Premium seats, which are behind home plate and along the baselines, cost \$7.50 each.

Boston has several other minor league affiliates, and although they aren't as good as the Boston Red Sox, you will still enjoy a great baseball game.



AHS wrestlers advance to All-States

On February 26, 2005, Eric Avakov and Jose Bench competed at the All-State tournament in Salem, after placing 4th and 3rd at division 2 state tournaments in Marshfield a week earlier. Arlington had never had two wrestlers make it to All-States or even place. All States is made up of all the top four wrestlers from each division.

In the first round of wrestling, Eric Avakov was the first of the wrestlers to compete and lost his first match to Mike Betty of Lowell 11-6, with 20 seconds left in the 3rd period was taken down and gave up back points. Jose Bench also lost his first match, losing in double overtime 12-7, getting taken down and reversed for back points.

After losing their first matches of the tournament, Eric came out strong in the first round of consultations, wrestling Ben Mandelbrat of Sharon who Eric lost to for 3rd and 4th place at Division 2 States by the score of 6-4, this time winning 9-3, while Jose Bench lost to Fiorenza of Winchester by fall in the 3rd period ending his season.

In second round of consultations, Eric wrestled Brian Owen of

Pawtucket who beat Eric by a point earlier in the season at the Pawtucket Tournament. Eric dominated the match winning 5-3, only giving up 3 points, which he allowed Owen to escape from the bottom. In the consultations semis, Eric wrestled Mike Betty of Lowell again who beat Eric in the first round of the tournament, this time Eric took control of the match early and winning 7-3 and moved on to the consultations finals for 3rd and 4th place.

In the consultation finals for 3rd and 4th place, Eric wrestled Ryan Goddu from New Bedford who precisely beat Eric 6-5 in a quad meet earlier in the season. Eric came out very aggressive in his match, taking down his opponent with force, going into the 3rd and final period the score was 12-4. Eric ended up winning with the final score of 16-6 and won 3rd place overall and will move on to compete at the New England Tournament was held in North Andover on March 4th and 5th.

On March 4th, Eric traveled to North Andover High School to compete in the New England tournament. He won his first match and lost the next two.

Schilling won't start against Yankees

By David

Red Sox manager Terry Francona announced on March 19 that ace Curt Schilling will not start the season opener against the Yankees at Yankee Stadium on April 3.

Francona announced that lefty David Wells, a former Yankee, will take the mound against the Yankees in New York in Schilling's place. Not only will Schilling start the season on the bench, but he might also be placed on the 15-day disabled list. This would mean that Schilling won't be eligible to play until April 19.

According to the Sox' website, the Red Sox will start the season with a four-man starting rotation. Right-hander Matt Clement

will be the second starter in the rotation, followed by Tim Wakefield and either Bronson Arroyo or John Halama.

Schilling, who is still recovering from surgery to his ankle during the off-season, hasn't pitched a spring training game yet. He has pitched numerous times off a bullpen mound and has pitched batting-practice to several players. As part of rehab, he is scheduled to pitch two innings in a minor-league team, but won't face major-league batters for a while.

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