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November 18, 2008



*the*

# THOMAS

Happy Thanksgiving!

Volume 43, Edition 6

## Kristallnacht Memorial

Faculty and Students Remember a Heartwrenching Night in History

Rob Garilli  
Staff Writer

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, the Loughheed Library's study area was packed with a crowd of students and faculty, present to see the 70<sup>th</sup> commemoration of Kristallnacht. On the night of November 9<sup>th</sup> 1938, the Nazi government of Germany began its organized persecution of Jews – within twenty-four hours, one thousand synagogues had been burned down, numerous storefronts had been destroyed, and 30,000 Jews had been arrested. Kristallnacht is considered by many to have been the beginning of the Holocaust, an event that occurred over the course of four years (1941-1945), when over six million Jews were systematically murdered by the Nazis, along with political prisoners, homosexuals, “anti-socials”, the mentally and physically handicapped, gypsies, Catholics, Jehovah's Witnesses, and many others.

In a presentation organized by Dr. Carl Rattner, a group of seventeen narrators read from a script that commemorated the history of the Holocaust. The readings spanned an era from the time of Hitler's five-year incarceration for high treason up until the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. While it was certainly a powerful experience to simply hear sound bites from Hitler's speeches and the memories of those who were sent to the camps, no speakers could convey the raw emotion set forth by Ilse Korke and Bernard Storch. Mrs. Korke, Dr. Marell's mother, recounted the day when her mother sent her to London, an attempt to keep her safe from the growing prosecution against Jews.

*“Today we are sadly reminded of the human capacity for evil as well as for goodness.”*

“Let me tell you what led up to my mother's decision to send me to England. My mother was a very smart lady who, right after the Nazi invasion of Vienna, had the courageous foresight to realize that life was no longer safe for Jews living there... my mother made arrangements for me to leave for London on a Kindertransport, not knowing when, if ever, she would ever see me again.” She arrived safely, later met by both her mother and grandmother. Bernard Storch, a Polish soldier who worked in Russia to liberate the concentration camps, related stories of his experiences at the Sobibor, Maidanek, and Sachsenhausen concentration camps. The most upsetting fact that Storch made known was how close these camps were to cities and towns – Sachsenhausen, for example, was only fifty kilometers from Berlin – and still, nothing was done about them, or even known about them, until after over ten million people had been killed.

As the program for the event read, “Today we are sadly reminded of the human capacity for evil as well as for goodness.” After hearing personal memories shared, and of the general persecution so many went through, listeners were forced to contemplate this fact. However, a quote by Anne Frank, a famous victim of the camps, inspires hope in all people – “It's really a wonder that I haven't dropped all my ideals, because they seem so absurd and impossible to carry out. Yet I keep them because in spite of everything, I still feel that people are really good at heart.” After the presentation, Sean Mundy '06, one of the narrators, shared his feelings on the presentation: “I thought it was an amazing experience, and something that is so necessary to ensure that people never replicate such a tragic event in history.” It's often said that history repeats itself, however, armed with the knowledge of this tragic event that occurred only seventy years ago, one can only have that same hope in humanity that Anne Frank had – the hope that our human brotherhood will prevent something so tragic from ever happening again.

## The New York Times.



## Human Trafficking: The Modern day form of slavery

Candace Rivera  
Staff Writer

What is one of your wildest dreams? For many young women worldwide, that dream is to become a high fashion model. A world filled with glamour, glitz, beautiful people, and high profile events. It is a highly attractive career and in some cases, their drive to achieve this dream leads them into the hands of human traffickers. They can disguise themselves as agents, or someone of promise that can give them their “big break.” Once in the hands of their traffickers, they are forced to become slaves that are required to do sexual acts, and /or forced into different types of labor. A high percentage of them are exchanged and sold into different countries all over the world.

This problem is a global epidemic, a wide variety of countries have human trafficking. Slavery is internationally banned but it still goes on underground. It is most prominent in

Cambodia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, South Korea, and even here on our own soil. Human trafficking is not only limited to women. It includes both men and children. Men are usually forced into hard labor like construction, agriculture, and even fishing whereas children are usually sexually exploited or forced into harsh labor. The U.S. Department of State says: “Annually, about 600,000 to 800,000 people -- mostly women and children -- are trafficked across national borders, which does not count millions trafficked within their own countries.”

It all starts with a good intention. The person has genuine and whole hearted intentions to make their life better. It could be so they can send money back home and that there are better opportunities out there than in their own country. They put their trust in people who seem to be trustworthy and legitimate. It is when they are finally in their captors hands that they are trapped.

(continued on page 5)

As I sit here thinking of the next words of wisdom to throw your way, this is all I can come up with. Time goes by so quickly, as the leaves change and fall we have already made it through the first semester of this year. Halloween has already come and gone, the election which has been long awaited was over and done with in one day with one flip of a switch or a press of a button.

It's funny how time can fly by us and we don't even realize where it has all gone. We will be leaving for Thanksgiving break in a few short days and before you know it, Christmas break is just around the corner. For freshmen, you don't realize how fast next semester will come and go. There are times when we feel we have all the time in the world, but by the time you blink, there are only a handful of days left before you move onto the next year.

Seeing as Thanksgiving is just a few days away, I guess I should focus more on that aspect, and think of something witty to throw your way. As Thanksgiving approaches, as we sit at our table to give thanks to our family, the wonderful food our family has provided and slaved all day making, the sensational friends we have made throughout our lifetime, let us not forget those who may not be so lucky. Let us be grateful for what we have and not take for granted all of the amazing gifts we have been given. Have a happy and healthy Thanksgiving everyone!



Gobble Gobble!!!

*Kaitlyn Giroux*



## Library Hours for Holidays and Exams

### Thanksgiving Week

Sunday, Nov. 23	1 p.m. - 9 p.m.
Monday, Nov. 24	8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Tuesday, Nov. 25	8 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Wednesday, Nov. 26 - Sunday, Nov. 30	Closed

### Week Before Exams

Monday, Dec. 1 - Thursday, Dec. 4	8 a.m. - 12 midnight
Friday, Dec. 5	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 6	10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

### Exam Week

Sunday, Dec. 7	1 p.m. - 12 midnight
Monday, Dec. 8 - Wednesday, Dec. 10	8 a.m. - 12 midnight
Thursday, Dec. 11	8 a.m. - 11 p.m.
Friday, Dec. 12	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 13 - Sunday, Dec. 14	Closed

### After Exams

Monday, Dec. 15 - Friday, Dec. 19	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Saturday, Dec. 20 - Sunday, Dec 21	Closed
Monday, Dec. 22 - Tuesday, Dec. 23	8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

### Winter Holidays

Wednesday, Dec. 24, 2008 - Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009	Closed
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*Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Joyous New Year!*

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Dear Rob:

## Advice and Editorials from a Guy Who Won't Mince Words

Rob Garilli  
Staff Writer



*In the last edition from the Thoma, an editorial about gay marriage was printed. Following are two responses from readers:*

Rob,

I am a senior at STAC and I participated in the October 30th student debate. I was offended by the words you chose to use in your article. Describing those who posed difficult questions to the Obama representatives as "hecklers" is false and ignorant. There was one individual who spoke out of line. I do not see how this qualifies you to write about a group of hecklers that launched verbal attacks on the Obama representatives.

– Brandon Ricci, '09

Dear Rob,

I was very encouraged to read your editorial in 11/5/08 edition of *The Thoma* supporting gay marriage. Half measures such as "civil unions" violate the constitutional guarantee of equal protection. They are the fall-back position of politicians worried more about their careers than civil rights protections for all citizens. The questions at the core of the matter are these: (1) What are people who resist the right of *all* consenting adults to marry the person of their choice afraid of? and (2) Why are religious perspectives allowed to interfere with the state's ability to issue a legal contract to all citizens in a nation whose constitution mandates the separation of church and state?

– Christian Churchill, Associate Professor of Sociology

## The Oatmeal Cookie

Rachel Chester  
Staff Writer

Cookies have always been a treat during Thanksgiving at my Grandma's house; however, did you know the first cookies were actually created by accident? When preparing a cake, bakers in the past would use a small amount of cake batter to test their oven temperatures before baking a larger cake. These little test cakes, called "Koekje" or "little cake," are often made with sweet dough or batter, and baked in single-sized servings that are often hand sized. Since they are perfect for snacking on or as desserts, cookies are consumed in 96% of United States households. The country alone consumes over two billion cookies a year or 300 cookies per person.

Nominated as the people's choice when it comes to their favorite treat, The Oatmeal cookie beat Chocolate chip cookies by only one percent; on the *Top 10 Texas Bakers build boards*. "Oatmeal cookies have always been a favorite in my house." Lauren Matza, student at Ithaca University says, "I remember being a little girl and watching my Grandma scoop out the oatmeal in its tub and dump it out into the mixing bowl." With its chewy texture, and warm taste, it is safe to say that the oatmeal is a favorite in most families. With new ways to bake oatmeal everyday, the old fashioned Oatmeal Cookie is becoming more modern than ever before.

Starting out in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, people began making the cookie because oatmeal was a constant presence in the household. Traditionally made with raisins and the occasional chocolate chips, the oatmeal cookie has come a long way from what it was. Being introduced to foods such as bananas, apricots, cranberries, and an assortment of different chocolate, this cookie is molding its way into a very versatile treat. Tara Tatulli a senior at St. Thomas Aquinas College says, "I love oatmeal raisin cookies because of the taste, the sweetness of the raisins, and it's a cookie that does not fall apart in milk."

So when Thanksgiving comes around, pop on your apron, take out the baking tools, preheat the oven, and surprise your family with your favorite type of oatmeal inspired cookie and celebrate what was passed along all these generations.

Tired of the same old Oatmeal cookie? Then try this new recipe with a Thanksgiving inspired twist:

### PUMPKIN OATMEAL COOKIES:

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup canned pumpkin
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1 cup flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/4 teaspoon table salt
- 1-1/2 cups oatmeal (old-fashioned or quick, not instant)
- 1 bag chocolate chips
- Preheat oven to 350F.

Bring butter to room temperature. Add sugar, pumpkin, egg, and vanilla in a large mixing bowl and beat with an electric mixer until smooth. Add flour, baking powder, baking soda, and salt with the butter. Stir in oatmeal. Add chocolate chips. Drop dough by tablespoons onto a baking sheet. Bake 11-14 minutes until golden. Cool slightly before removing to a wire rack.



# Dowling Gardens: Who's Helping Whom?

Emily Hough  
Staff Writer

Saint Thomas Aquinas College's Spartan Volunteers often walk the road to Dowling Gardens, ready to lend a helping hand to the elderly people living within the walls of this assisted living facility. The walk proves short and easy on a blustering fall day, just down the road and past the convent, crunching through fallen leaves on the concrete. Within the walls of Dowling Gardens however, holds much more than a bunch of elderly people. It holds a group of wonderful retired citizens eager and awaiting the bright faces of today's youth, and tomorrow's future.

Of those that have traveled the path, many have been nervous before entering the doors. However, once taking the steps inside, they realize that they have not entered a nursing home, but instead a bustling center of activity. Such as on October 31<sup>st</sup>, as two students of STAC entered to participate in the Halloween/Birthday party. The volunteers were greeted by the exuberant Ms. Sybil Flynn, the activity director, dressed in a witch's costume, and were given hugs as they were ushered inside. Upon Sister Madeline making introductions, the students began to talk to several women in 'a clan of witches.' The students joked with the witches as they put on their masks, ready to parade into the common room with their lovely costumes.

With smiles on everybody's face, a guitar started playing as a band of witches, a pumpkin, a ghoulish man, and Dorothy with Toto in tow entered the hall. Marching, each of the participants gained a lottery ticket, and took their seats with resounding applause from the staff and those not dressed in costume.

The work started then for the volunteers, as they filled and served glasses of punch to everyone in the room, chatting with the residents about topics ranging from Halloween, to politics and history. After announcements of the five birthdays of October, the cake was cut, and the volunteers ran around the room, handing out the delicious treat, and soon after, asking who wished to have coffee with their dessert.

*"I have seen beautiful relationships happen at Dowling Gardens through learning, and laughter."* -Sister Madeleine

With their work finished, the volunteers were awarded with applause from the residents as Sybil Flynn announced them. As they began to clean up, one lady called them over, a smile on her face. "You know how to use a camera, don't you?" She asked, thrusting a disposable camera into one of the girl's hands. Assuring her that she knew how to take a picture, the

woman replied, "Can you please take a picture of my boyfriend and me?" As the tiny woman in the Pumpkin Suit and her ghostly boyfriend stood side-by-side, the flash went off. "Thanks hunny." She said, as she grabbed the camera and left the room, holding the man's hand. The situation tickled the volunteer's heart as she smiled and finished up cleaning.

Jen Brown, one of the volunteer's said, "You may not think that you're doing a lot but every little bit counts." Even though she had only spent two hours serving drinks and food, and folding table clothes after the people had left, her and her partner had gained a great experience in the short time they had been with the elderly. The residents of Dowling Gardens were grateful for the two students taking time out of their hectic lives to help. Both the young and the old deeply appreciated the other, closing the generation gap.

Sister Madeline put it best as she said, "One of the things that studies show and my experience of working with college students is that intergenerational activities are extremely beneficial to the young and old. I have seen beautiful relationships happen at Dowling Gardens through learning, and laughter."

**Want to get active? Talk to Sister Madeline, or call (845) 359-0679, and ask for Sybil Flynn. What may you be doing? Well, Sybil is open for suggestions! There is a Christmas Party on December 17<sup>th</sup>, and they need a Santa Claus. However, they love when people do workshops, like teaching about computers, or doing crafts, or even making a bingo night.**



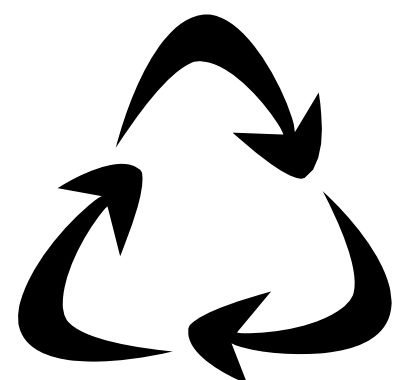
## Environmental Lecture

Matt Conroy  
Staff Writer

On November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:55 pm, students and guests were offered a chance to hear Doctor Michael Bess give a very informative lecture on the environmental movement of France, and how we can learn from the way they think about nature. The French people, in general, have a much better mindset about nature to begin with. The general public considers nature to be gardens or groves, or even forests or other areas that are relatively untouched by man. In the U.S, we have very little regard for nature. We consider nature to be something that is far away, not in our backyard or on our sidewalks.

The way that the French people think allows them to be more cautious towards their environment, and thus they have a greater system than we do already. On top of all of this, the French people are looking for different ways to lessen global warming. They have converted close to all of their power sources to Nuclear energy, which is actually a lot safer than it sounds. It does indeed, create a waste that we have not yet found a way to dispose of, but it does not contribute to the global warming problem.

While France is a little farther ahead of us on the path to being a green nation, we are also looking for a technology to help us advance and help out our planet as well. While it may seem like France is far ahead, we have a lot in common as well. We both share the same goals in our Green communities and learn a great deal from each other. We have learned from experience that our consumerist attitudes are not healthy for us or this planet, and in order for us to survive effectively, we must stop consuming and destroying the planet around us. Doctor Bess even stated himself that "No place on Earth is ecologically sustainable," but that does not mean that we can ravage our planet's resources to a point of global destruction. Doctor Bess left his audience a little less than an hour later, but everyone in the room felt a lot smarter, and perhaps a little more aware of our current situation. Everyone can do their part for the environment, even STAC students. STAC is already a very well taken care of campus, and it is very clean at all times. We can contribute to our global status just by picking up a piece of garbage, or throwing our own garbage out. We really have no excuse to not lend a helping hand to our planet's situation.



## Determining Needs Over Wants and Why it's Important For You

Matt Conroy  
Staff Writer

As the winter season draws ever closer we are reminded of a set of holidays in which families of students exchange "presents." These holidays are different, but for the most part, the basic exchanges remain. Most people tend to shop at the last minute for things that they think people would want. This is a problem in our society however, because people focus on wants, rather than needs on a daily basis.

A random survey was taken on several students, and they were all asked the same set of simple questions. It began with, "If you could buy any one item, what would it be?" This question seems irrelevant to any college student's life, but still, it made a lot of people think for a second. The most common answer I had received from these students was an expensive car. Some other answers were a mansion, or a beach house or even a cruise boat. Needless to say, these things to this extent are wants, not needs.

A fancy car or a mansion would be something that others would argue against this logic with. "Why is a mansion not a need? We all need a place we can live in!" A home is defined as a comfortable and affordable living space, not as an overpriced living space, which in reality could house several families. A car is another debatable item. Transportation is a growing concern for college students, but how can anyone justify spending a larger amount of money than what is necessary? People don't really think about things the way that they should, and that is why the needs are oftentimes a lot harder to pick out than our wants.

(Continued from page 1)

## Human Trafficking: The Modern day form of slavery

Candace Rivera  
Staff Writer

Victims suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death. If that person survives their ordeal, their emotional scars will last a lifetime.

According to  
humantrafficking.org:

**-Australia** is one of the major countries that have modern day slavery taking place. Slaves from East Asia, South East Asia, and Eastern Europe are brought there. Their prostitution rate is so high due to many reasons. One of these reasons is the lack of Australian women prepared to be in prostitution. Another reason is that there is such a high demand for Asian female prostitutes.

**-Cambodia** is also another place where human trafficking is unfortunately very high. The slaves come from Vietnam and China. The types of people who sell these victims can range from crime groups, parents, spouses, friends, and even neighbors. Men, women, and children are exploited here. The children there are both sexually exploited, and forced to work in labor like street vending and even selling flowers.

**-Japan** is a "transit and destination country for human trafficking." Primarily women and children human trafficking victims come from China, Southeast Asia, Eastern Europe, and even Latin America. The slaves are forced to work in strip clubs, sex shops, hostess bars, private video rooms, escort services, and mail-order video services. Many women are held there because they need to pay off a debt that can range from \$26,000 to \$42,000. These expenses come from everyday necessities from food to health care.

*"...people focus on wants, rather than needs on a daily basis ..."*

Determining wants over needs is something that can ultimately save a



lot of money on various different things.

A simple way to think about this is to ask yourself before you buy anything, "Do I really need this?" If this question is asked consistently, one can save a realistic amount of money. Whether you are buying clothing, or food for yourself, or even personal entertainment; asking this question can help students figure out what they really want, and what they really need.

This is a little more important than it may seem, when we all grow up and ultimately decide whether or not we will raise a family, we will be the ones making the choices. As small and abstract as they may seem now, they will be important in our future. We can practice for this responsibility every day just by asking ourselves a simple question. Consider it a



I saw online that *Good Morning America* (NBC) had done an interview with a human trafficking survivor. Katya is a 20 year old survivor and was a university student from Ukraine. She told GMC that she herself and her friend took a flight to the United States with the expectation of starting waitressing jobs that were set up for them. At the airport, however, they were met by two men and were brought to live in different apartments around Detroit. The men routinely raped them along with 15 other women. They were required to give in \$1,000 a day by working at a strip club. Katya says in the interview: "We couldn't keep any money in our apartment because the guys have keys. They have, I believe, there was listen us in the apartment. And we could not hide nothing. They're say, if they find at least a dollar, it will be something bad happen to us."

The bottom line is that human trafficking can happen to anyone. It doesn't limit itself to women because it also exploits men and children. No one is safe from this form of modern day slavery. It doesn't matter where you come from or your social status. Plus, it is not just a foreign issue, it is happening right now on US soil.

### The Early December

Damien Miller  
Contributing Writer

The leaves have fallen  
The cold has risen  
Forcing away the heat  
Orange is gold  
Other colors revealed bold  
As the holiday get's closer  
The stress and relief go untold  
Don't ask why or how  
No one can tell you the cause  
As you drink through your straws  
And no, not yet Santa Claus

Pumpkins sit in the bloom  
The apples and squash  
But before you eat them  
Parents said to wash off  
There's a slim chance of snow  
But there is such a chance  
But enjoy the November  
It will be gone  
Like a summer romance

# Biology Club:

## Brewing Up A Trip for STACers

Kristy Herman  
Staff Writer



For all those who ever wondered about the distillation process of alcohol, or how barley hops are magically transformed into one of America's most popular beverages, the biology club provided STAC students with the opportunity to experience the process live at the Brooklyn Brewery. This field trip, a unique way to bond as a group and learn about the application of science in our daily lives, is being open to other curious students who would like to participate in the excursion and make memories that will last a lifetime. It is set to take place on Saturday, November 22. The buses are scheduled to leave the campus at 11:30 am and return at approximately 3pm.

According to its website, the Brooklyn Brewery has been in existence since 1988 when Steve Hindy and Tom Potter quit their day jobs to live out their dreams as owners of a successful brewery. In 1996 the brewery was relocated to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, where it stands to this day. Since then, it has been the first successful brewery since Schaefer and Rheingold closed down in 1976. It is currently listed among America's top 40 breweries.

This will be the biology club's first fieldtrip of the year. Members are looking forward to the outing, especially since it enables them to have access to the city and see how science can fit into life on a visual level that makes sense without studying for hours on end. Next semester, members are looking forward to visiting either the Museum of Natural History or seeing the Bodies Exhibit.

# Body Image:

## The Destruction of Today's Youth

Krystal Spanopoulos  
Contributing Writer

Young girls are more afraid of becoming fat than they are of nuclear war, cancer, or losing their parents. Scary isn't it? In society today, body image has become a major obsession and a growing epidemic. Whether it is extreme diet and exercise, steroid usage, diet supplements, or eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, young people will do almost anything to achieve the perfect body. But how far are we willing to take this obsession?

The South Carolina Department of Mental health has done studies that have shown "eating disorders have the highest mortality rate of any mental illness."

Body image has become something that Americans take very seriously. But the question that we need to ask ourselves is why. Why has body image become such a growing issue? The answer lies in the media. The media portrays the perfect body for women to be like that of supermodels such as Heidi Klum and Cindy Crawford, and for men, a rock-hard, chiseled body is ideal. Studies done by the Colorado State University have shown that "after viewing images of female fashion models, seven out of ten women felt more depressed and angry than prior to viewing the images." It is unfortunate to hear that most people are not happy with who they are and how they look. But how can we be happy when we are taught that we are supposed to look a certain way, wear certain clothes, and do our hair a certain way to be considered perfect? It is easily understood why people go to such extremes such as eating disorders to lose weight, or use steroids to get the huge, perfect body they desire, and that reason is because no one can be happy with who they are now a days. The media has brainwashed everyone into thinking that looking beautiful and having the perfect body are the only things that matter anymore. It is not based on how intelligent someone is anymore, but rather, it is based on having a flat stomach and flawless facial features. If you take the time to think about it, it gives a whole other meaning to the statement "beauty is in the eye of the beholder".

*"It is unfortunate to hear that most people are not happy with who they are and how they look."*

In the short story "The Body of the Beholder" by Michele Ingrassia, the author takes a look at a study that shows why white females are unhappy with their bodies, but black females are proud of theirs. The story explains the difference in the definition of the perfect size

between white teens and black teens. White teens describe the perfect size as "5 feet 7, and one hundred to one hundred and ten pounds-supermodel Kate Moss' stats." But when the African American teen females answered they described the perfect size as "full hips, thick thighs,

the sort of proportions about which Hammer and Sir Mix-A lot rap poetic." The white females and black females also have different definitions of the term beauty. White females based beauty on the way that you look, where as black females based it as "the right attitude". Obviously, there is a difference in opinion of the definition of perfection between African American women, and white women.

Men also have body image issues. A lot of men want to look like body builders and have that extra bit of strength, but feel that working out just isn't enough. An Example of this would be Jose Canseco. Jose Canseco's career, life and body were destroyed due to his avid steroid usage. He strived to perform better in baseball, and although he accomplished his goal he also ruined his career and many other players' careers as well. He also wrote a book entitled Juiced which exposed many baseball players who were using steroids as well. These were once his fellow teammates, and friends in which he turned his back on and gave them up. Canseco ruined his life because of the steroids. He lost all the things he used to love. His body is withering away from over twenty years of steroid usage, and he is left with no one. Although now he realizes what he has done and all the things he has sacrificed for revenge are gone, Canseco is paying the price for his consequences.

Whether it is extreme dieting, steroid usage, eating disorders, or taking diet supplements, we need to be aware of the consequences that come from these actions. But are the risks worth the perfect body? How far are you willing to go to make that happen? That is something we need to think about.



## They Took Home Who?!?: Date Auction was a Huge Success on November 12th

Cam Kelly  
Staff Writer

The Annual Date Auction held by the Campus Activities Board took place Wednesday night November 12th at the Sullivan Theater. The event was to raise money for the Hurricane Ike relief efforts in Haiti. A Crowd was gathered ready to bid on fellow students such as Sabrina Hogan (freshman), Jaclyn Dolan (freshman), Sean Mundy (Junior), Allison Reeg (Junior), Rob Garilli (freshman), Jessica Pabon (freshman), Jordan Aquile (freshman) and myself. The theater was filled with laughter and excitement as each participant entered the theater from members of various clubs around campus including Chuck Prior. The dates, the bidders, or participants could choose between winning a group date to the Mountain House restaurant taking place on Monday November 17th, or a group date to the Winter Semi Formal taking place December 5th. The colorful emcee of the event, who also won me in the auction, Natasha Townsend, filled the night with jokes and hilarious cracks at the participants.



*"It was awesome to see how many freshmen came out of their shell..."*

-Jasmine Cintron



Some couples were put to the test when other people started to bid on their loved ones, but in the end it was Ryan Maher who outbid his opponent and won his girlfriend Alison. Other bidders who won dates were Susan McPartland (freshman), Keith Leonard (freshman), and Aryanis Almonte (freshman). The event raised more than \$180 for the relief efforts from both bidders and the people who donated to the cause!!! President of CAB and the always hard working Jasmine Cintron said, "It was awesome to see how many freshmen came out of their shell by participating and helping make this year's auction the success that it was!!" The auction really brought everyone together for a night of laughter, jokes, and possible love in the future? You'll have to ask the bidders and their prizes themselves.

There was never a moment of silence all night. To me I feel it's safe to say the students and faculty who attended the auction had a great time and raised money for a good cause.

## Rockland Sunrise Toastmasters



Become the Speaker & Leader you want to be!

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

<http://rocklandsunrise.freetoasthost.ws> or

Contact: Sally Borgman

Phone: 845-623-2137

Email: [sallyborg@aol.com](mailto:sallyborg@aol.com)

### MEETING LOCATION

St. Thomas Aquinas College

125 Route 340, Sparkill, New York

Room: President's Dining Room, in the McNelis Commons Dining Hall.

### DIRECTIONS

From the North on the Palisades Parkway, take Exit 6 East, continue down the street which is Orangeburg Road, go to the end which is 303.

Make a right on Route 303 and a left at the next light which is Route 340.

Go about 1/4 mile and at the college you will come to a light make a right into where the dorms are.

Park and walk to the middle of the dorms, you will see the Dining Room in the middle the door will be open we will meet in the President's Dining Room.

- ◇ Increase your self confidence
- ◇ Become a better Listener
- ◇ Learn to communicate more efficiently
- ◇ Increase your leadership potential
- ◇ Improve your presentation skills

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

*The early bird catches the worm.  
- Common Proverb*

## STAC Students: Eager for Twilight

Rachel Chester  
Staff Writer

"I can't wait for this movie, even my mom is excited," Nicole Diaz, sophomore at STAC says when asked about the upcoming *Twilight* movie. *Twilight*, based on the book by Stephanie Meyers, sold more than 17 million copies worldwide in 37 countries, and over eight million copies in the U.S alone, finally opens in theaters November 21<sup>st</sup>, where fans can watch the book come to life. Local college student, Michelle Mendicino states, "I can't stop watching the previews, it just looks amazing!" When it comes to *Twilight*, fans are anxiously awaiting for the movie. Catherine Favre, Senior at STAC, and active fan ever since the book first came out, answers some questions for those wondering what to expect in *Twilight*.

**Question:** In your own words, can you summarize the book for those who haven't read it?

**Catherine Favre:** The book is about an ordinary girl named Bella who moves to a town called Forks; she falls for the perfect guy, who also happens to be a vampire. It's her first love, so the feelings are confusing, which I'm sure everyone can relate to. Hanging out with vampires can cause trouble, and the reader will find out just what the trouble is as they read on. They both know their love is impossible, but it doesn't stop them.

**Question:** In your opinion, how do you think the movie will turn out?

**CF:** I think it'll come out to be a great turnout. Rob Pattinson, who plays Edward [the vampire], is perfect for the part, and so is Kristen Stewart [Bella]. They have very good chemistry. And from what I see from the previews, it really follows the book.



**Question:** Do you have a favorite character?

**CF:** Yes, Alice Cullen, she's Edward's "sister." She's my favorite because she has the ability to see the future, which is something I've always wanted when I was young. Also her personality is bubbly and excited.

**Question:** Do you think they will portray the book well?

**CF:** I think they will do a great job [at portraying the book.] Not only was there a director for the movie, but Stephanie Meyer [Author of *Twilight*] was there guiding them as well. I am very excited to see the movie! So excited that I'm seeing the midnight show!

**Question:** Have you ever wished you were in the story?

**CF:** If I got a chance to be Bella, it would be so exciting. Edward is the sweetest guy and every moment with him would be one great adventure. Edward is the perfect guy and pretty soon every girl is going to want their own "Edward".

As November 21<sup>st</sup> rounds the corner, now is the perfect time to catch up on the books if you haven't already and purchase a ticket for *Twilight*.

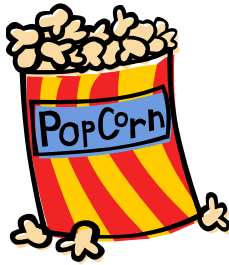
Gold and Silver tickets can be purchased in the upper level of the STAC Romano Center.

## SAW V: Scaring Audiences Everywhere

Kyle Maliski  
Staff Writer

Most sequels get worse as more are made; however, this is not the case with the *Saw* movies. *Saw V* includes all the exciting and frightening elements of the previous four *Saw* movies. *Saw V* involves the return of Jigsaw (Tobin Bell), the new killer, Detective Mark Hoffman (Costas Mandylor), and his flashbacks, cruel traps or "tests" inflicted on their victims, plenty of gore, and even a tracheotomy. *Saw V* picks up right where *Saw IV* left off. Agent Strahm (Scott Paterson) manages to escape a "Jigsaw" trap and begins to suspect that Detective Hoffman, who escaped *Saw IV*'s massacre, is Jigsaw's accomplice. It is revealed in flashbacks how Jigsaw took Hoffman as his apprentice, after a failed copy cat murder by Hoffman, and trained him.

Another storyline in this movie involves Hoffman's "test" of five random people in a basement. The five people have to pass a certain test in each room before a nail bomb explodes. A grisly survival of the fittest battle ensues as the victims begin killing each other off in order to advance through the rooms. So far, Hoffman seems to be a suitable replacement as killer and villain for Jigsaw. His traps and "tests" are more twisted and maniacal than Jigsaw's in my view. Hoffman's ability to survive might signal that there might be many more *Saw* movies in the future. I would definitely give this movie a thumbs up and recommend you see it if you don't mind some gory scenes. *Saw VI* is already set to be released next year.



## Death Magnetic: Metallica Returns

Kyle Maliski  
Staff Writer



Metallica's newest album *Death Magnetic*, is one of the best heavy metal/hard rock albums I have ever heard. It has already reached "#1" on the U.S. Billboard 200 chart and has achieved platinum status or 1 million albums sold, which is unusual for a heavy metal album. In this record, Metallica returns to its faster and heavier roots. This new album sounds more like Metallica's earlier thrash metal albums like *Master of Puppets* and the *Black Album*.

For those of you who like fast and dueling guitar riffs, longer songs, and James Hetfield's unique singing style, then *Death Magnetic* is for you. This is one of those albums where every song on it is great instead of just one or two of them. Three heavy singles are on this album including: "My Apocalypse", "Cyanide", and "The Judas Kiss". Other great heavy songs on the album are "That Was Just Your Life", "The End of the Line", and "All Nightmare Long". For fans of softer songs *Death Magnetic* also delivers with "The Day That Never Comes" and "The Unforgiven III". Most songs on this album start off with intense guitar riffs by Kirk Hammett and Robert Trujillo, which continues during the vocals. It also includes many great guitar solos and duos by Hammett, Hetfield, and Trujillo. Words cannot do justice to *Death Magnetic* though. You will have to hear it for yourself.



*Entertainment News continues on page 10.*

# The Author's Index: Christopher Paolini (November 17, 1983-Present)

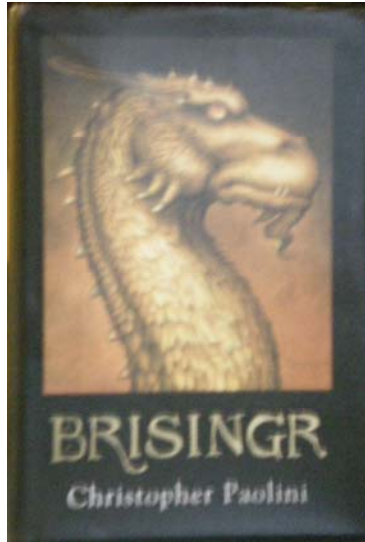
Emily Hough  
Staff Writer

**Major Works:** Eragon, Eldest, Brisingr

At the young age of 15, Christopher had done what many young writers accomplish only in their deepest dreams; he had graduated from high school and written his first novel. At sixteen, he had revised his first draft, and given it to his parents to read and comment upon. Working diligently alongside his parents, they edited, created a cover, and published his novel, *Eragon*, under their own publishing company, Paolini International LCC. Traveling to over 135 high schools, Christopher gave presentations dressed as a 'dragon rider,' to showcase his work and talent. Soon after, the stepson of a notable writer read his self-published work and Carl Hiaasen quickly brought it to the attention of Knopf publishing company. Immediately, the company offered Christopher to publish the rest of the *Inheritance Cycle*, which first had been a trilogy, but has now become a quartet.

By the age of nineteen, Christopher Paolini had become a best-selling author, with *Eragon*; entertaining millions of readers beginning on August 23, 2003. Two years later, *Eldest*, the sequel, became available to the public.

Although his work may not be as strong as fantasy author's such as J.K Rowling or Stephanie Meyer, Paolini's accomplishments do withstand some credit. At such a younger age, he performed a task of ten difficult for experienced writers, and did not fail. He created a fan base composed of teenagers and young adult readers, all whom eagerly awaited his third book of the series, *Brisingr*.



*Brisingr* played deeply into the hearts of those fans that have been with the author since his mere beginnings. However, though packed with action and suspense, a necessity for the author's success, it proves without an original storyline, comparable to other fantasy storylines such as *Star Wars*. Eragon, the main character, becomes boring and more one-dimensional, quickly swearing oaths, defeating the bad guys, traveling, seeing his cousin, discovering an important clue, and then repeating the cycle. Continuously, Eragon does exactly what the reader would expect him to accomplish, always winning his battles-but never without accomplishing some great task. Roran, Eragon's cousin and another main character in *Brisingr*, also maintains a cyclic storyline of fighting, and then returning to the Varden. Neither of the two main characters truly deviate from their well-worn paths, nor does anything truly unexpected and exciting. The two largest revelations of the novels let the readers down, because they are expected, and instead of adding to the character's personality, they take away interesting characteristics, accomplishing nothing for the plot to move forward.

Overall, the novel seemed as if Paolini did not wish to let go of his characters and instead decided to expand his series, possibly losing some of his fans in the process. But only time, and the release of the predicted final novel of the series, can tell whether the *Inheritance Cycle* is a going to be considered a flourishing success in the world of literature, or an epic failure.

## Fast Times At Barrington High By The Academy Is....

Felicia Buglione  
Staff Writer

There is something about **The Academy Is...**'s most recent album "**Fast Times at Barrington High**" that is incredibly fascinating, especially the music videos that the band has created. The group's last album, *Santi*, was criticized by *Spin Magazine* for having a career makeover that actually made them look worse, and an album that "ditches the band's instantly memorable hooks." So this record, the group changed a little more, to a more pop punk infused album, songs sounding much more optimistic than the last record's. For once in the videos, they look like they're actually having fun.

From the last album, the single "Everything We Had" sounded depressing; one line from it is "take the pain out of love and love won't exist." Meanwhile, "We've got a big mess on our hands" made the front man, William Beckett, seem down on his luck and cursed, as he says "I always put myself in destructive situations."

The saying 'to be young and in love' fits the description perfectly with this new album. Something has transformed in Beckett, and it can easily be seen from his facial glow, maybe because the group has matured. After all, Beckett is 23 years old. The album's title came from the high school where singer William Beckett and bassist Adam Siska attended, and the album reflects on those years of their lives.

In "About a Girl," his attitude adjustment is clearly evident. For once, he looks...happy. There's even a point in the video, the first 15 seconds, where he's sitting in his car outside school, looking miserable and you think 'Oh, here we go again. Melancholy, Part II.' Then, one second later, he's throwing a winning smile, high fiving people and walking through the school hallway with the girl he thinks about the entire video. It's funny because as he looks in to the camera, from a female point of view, it is almost like he's talking to you, like you're the girl he's talking about and the one he wishes he had in high school. That's why so many YouTube comments left about the video were "This song and video never fails to make me smile," "Love the music video, love the band, love William, love the song" and "I really love this song. William has the loveliest smile." It does seem like a perfect world to him, but by the end, its sad underbelly still shows: he's the reject who doesn't get the girl, just like he knew he wouldn't.

"...he's the reject who doesn't get the girl, just like he knew he wouldn't."



Although, the sadness is no longer about being sad anymore; now it sounds like

Beckett is facing reality in his older age. For example, in one line he says "Everyone wants to be 'loved'/what more could you ask for?" He sends a message out there that in high school, he did not exactly know what the word "love" meant to him, and now through life experience, he understands it a little more.

Another single, "Summer Hair= Forever Young" has a similar message. It's rawer than "About a Girl;" the boys are 'rocking out' with their instruments, and it has more of that classic rock/alternative video vibe. Being "young" as the lyrics signify is about having a good time: throwing a house party and waking up on the couch to empty bottles all over the place and pictures scattered on the floor.

You can tell Beckett's reminiscing about what it was like when he was younger, in high school, living a *little* rock star life before he actually became a famous rock star.

Some say the band did not show the progress they have made as a group with this album as they did with the last, but I found it a little more "radio-friendly" and overall, entertaining.

The THOMA rates it: (3 and ½ stars)



Entertainment News Continued from page 9

## On the Mic:

Your One Stop Spot for Your Hip Hop News, CD Releases, Events and New Music

Jasmine Cintron  
Staff Writer



### CD releases:

\*Dates are subject to change\*

November 18th- Beyonce "I am...Sasha Fierce"

AZ "Anthology:B Sides and Unreleased"

### Events around the City:

Nov 18, 2008 [ALLHIPHOP.COM](http://ALLHIPHOP.COM) PRESENTS BREEDING GROUND featuring: Torae, The League, Mr. Mecca, Rain, Esso, St. Laz, Jon Hope, Blitz The Ambassador, Mr. Crisis Also featuring Grafh, Joell Ortiz, Charles Hamilton, Red Cafe

Location: Tuesday, 8:00 PM EST (7:00 PM Doors)  
at S.O.B.'s

### News:

Greatest Singer would have to be...

This has nothing to do with Hip Hop in general but I do enjoy all aspects of music. Who would you consider to be the greatest singer of all time? I came across an article on the *Rolling Stones* website which immediately grabbed my attention. In big, bold letters the headline reads "The 100 Greatest Singers of All of Time." It makes you wonder how they generate a list of the greatest singers throughout time, when there's so many to choose from even with today's rising stars.

The best attribute that a singer should have is a gifted voice that can touch the hearts of everyone from all parts of the world. I can't really pin-point my ultimate favorite singer because there are so many to choose from. My favorite singers of today would have to be Mary J. Blige and Keyshia Cole, but I grew up on the likes of Angela Bofill, Donna Summer, or even (one of my dad's favorites) Bessie Smith. Naturally what makes a song fly in the air and into the ears and minds of the people are these great singers of the past and of today. I noticed that by looking at this list of these great singers, has notably impacted many lives of our grandparents, our parents and even today's generation. It was because of those who came before us that we can appreciate our music today. They all have one thing in common, and that is, their voice. They all have been given a gift that can translate the notes onto a keyboard to words on page to a melody that touches the SOUL.

### Top 5 of "The Greatest Singers of All Time" are:

1. Aretha Franklin
2. Ray Charles
3. Elvis Presley
4. Sam Cooke
5. John Lennon

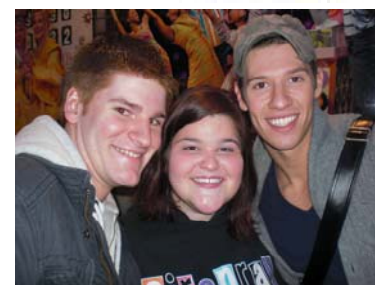
To see if your favorite artist made it to the *Rolling Stones* Greatest Singers of all time list. Check out [www.rollingstone.com](http://www.rollingstone.com) or pick up the magazine in a local store by you.



## HAIRSPRAY IS A HAIR HOPPIN' HIT!!!

Don't Miss Your Chance to See Hairspray Before it Closes on January 4<sup>th</sup>

Cam Kelly  
Staff Writer



I've seen *Hairspray* probably eight to ten times on Broadway. It's the show my mom and I always went to see if another show was sold out. We always know we're going to have a good time when we enter the Neil Simon Theater.

At the matinee I attended on October 26<sup>th</sup>, there were three substitutions in the cast. Annie Funke played Tracy, Daniel Robinson played Corny Collins, and Lauren Kling played Penny Pingleton.

Set in segregated Baltimore, Maryland, in 1962, was a pleasantly plump teenage girl named Tracy Turnblad (Funke) whose dream is to be on the local dance show, "The Corny Collins Show," featuring kids from her high school. Much to the dismay of her mother, portrayed hilariously by former star of *Cheers*, George Wendt, she drags her best friend Penny (Kling) out of school to go to the station and audition for the television show in front of the producer, Amber's mom Velma Von Tussle (Karen Mason) and council members. One being her arch nemesis Amber (Kate Loprest) and the heartthrob of the show, Tracy's dream guy, Link Larkin (Constantine Rousouli). She then finds out neither she nor a little African American girl named Inez (Melissa Van Pelt) didn't fit the show's image.

Tracy is then sent to detention where she meets my favorite character in the show, Seaweed (Tevin Campbell), who is a participant on "Negro Day," which is the last Tuesday of the month. "The Corny Collins Show" allow the African Americans on. Determined and inspired to integrate the show, Tracy then joins forces with Seaweed. At a dance, host Corny Collins (Robinson), discovers Tracy's dancing ability and puts her on the show. With one foot in the door, Tracy then catches the eye of Link (Rousouli) and he joins Tracy on the path to integrate the show much to the surprise of Amber and Velma.

Tracy then meets Motormouth Maybelle played remarkably by Charlotte Crossely, who is the emcee of *Negro Day* and Seaweed's mom. Together, Seaweed, Tracy, Motormouth, Edna, Link, Penny Mr. Turnblad (Ken Marks) and the rest of the kids on "Negro Day" crash the "Ms. Teenage Hairspray Pageant" and finally integrate the show.

It's hard to choose my favorite song in the show but I can do a top three. The three songs to look out for are "I Know Where I've Been" (the song sung by Motormouth right before the gang crashes the pageant), "Without Love" (a song where Link officially picks Tracy over Amber, and Seaweed professes his love for Penny) and "Welcome to the 60's" (Where Edna finally discovers her "sexiness" and is introduced to the 60's.)

After the many, if not all Broadway shows, young kids, teens, and adults do what is called "Stage Dooring" where you can meet the stars and they sign various items like playbills, t-shirts, and posters.

As mentioned above, *Hairspray* is closing its doors on January 4<sup>th</sup>. However, the original actor who portrayed Edna Turnblad, Harvey Fierstien, will be joining the show on November 11<sup>th</sup> for the last of its eight week run. The Neil Simon Theater is located at 250 West 52<sup>nd</sup> St. Show times are: Tuesdays at 7pm, Wednesdays at 2 and 8pm, Thursdays at 7pm, Fridays at 8pm, Saturdays at 2pm and 8pm and Sundays at 3pm.

# Beerno at the Movies

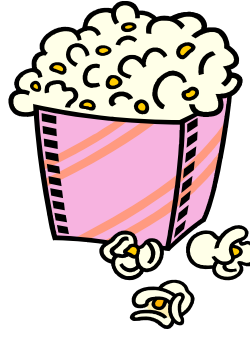
Steve Rubino  
Staff Writer

*Role Models*: (2.5/5 Stars)

I've seen Sean William Scott portray the same type of character, Stifler; that kicked off his career in 1999's hit *American Pie* enough to not go see this film because of him. But what did draw me to this movie was the humor of Paul Rudd. If you ask me, Paul Rudd has been amazing since the incredible job he took on as being the kid in the Super Nintendo commercials almost two decades ago. He has had hilarious roles in *Wet Hot American Summer*, *The Baxter*, *Knocked Up* and he might have been the only good part in the 1995 film *Clueless*. *Role Models* was no different. It was what you would expect from the preview. Humor that ranged from dirty to racist kept the audience roaring with laughter. Probably wouldn't reach my top comedies, but it's worth the eleven dollars that AMC theatre is going to make you spend.

*Pride and Glory* (3/5 Stars)

Typical good cop bad cop movie that has been made numerous times, recently including 'We Own the Night' and 'The Departed'. I've gained some respect for Colin Farrell's acting after seeing the film. Still, the man who obviously owned the spot light was future acting legend Edward Norton. He might be one of the few actors in mainstream films during this time that has the talent to become an Al Pacino or Robert DeNiro. Also thrown into the mix are Jon Voight and Noah Emmerich, each who can hold their own ground. The movie was suspenseful to the end, and if you're paying money to see a movie, that's key. As I said earlier, typical good cop bad cop film, so if you miss it you aren't missing much, but the fantastic acting from the majority of the cast should draw you to the theatre.



*Body of Lies* (4/5 Stars)

I must say, I have never seen a bad Russell Crowe or Leonardo DiCaprio film as long as I've been watching movies. These actors have brought us *Gladiator*, *Gangs of New York*, *The Departed*, *Cinderella Man* and many other fantastic movies. This movie might not have been as great as those, but still deserved four stars from me. The film is about a detective (DiCaprio) who is finding leads on a terrorist organization in Jordan. It reminded me of last year's film, "The Kingdom" but ten times better because DiCaprio destroyed Jamie Fox's acting in *The Kingdom*, and the situations in the film were much more believable.

*Zack and Miri Make a Porno* (3/5 Stars)

Out of the two comedies I saw for this article, this one and *Role Models*, this was the better film. The film's director Kevin Smith (AKA Silent Bob) (*Clerks*, *Chasing Amy*, *Mallrats*) brought mainstream actors Seth Rogan and Elizabeth Banks into his world of no limits, which includes two long time partners of his Jason Mewes and Jeff Anderson. Two long time friends who are having financial problems set out to do what everyone could do, but no one does because they have too much respect for themselves, which is make a porno. Kevin Smith making a movie about making a porno? How can this go wrong? This is probably his greatest work since the much underrated *Chasing Amy*.



# TRL Fulfills One Last Request:

*Saying farewell to a cultural staple*

Felicia Buglione  
Staff Writer

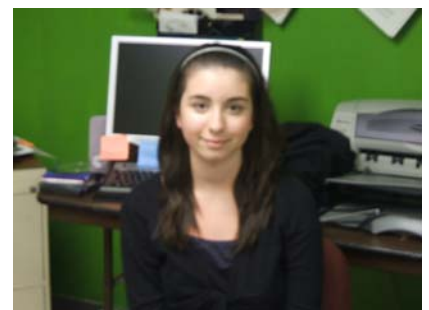
It's been ten years since the show **Total Request Live**, well known by its abbreviation, **TRL**, has been on the music television channel MTV, and the show is finally coming to a close. It all began on September 14, 1998, when Carson Daly opened the show, showcasing famed musical acts such as pop groups \*NSYNC and *The Backstreet Boys*, as well as *Eminem* and *Britney Spears*. At the end of the 90s era and on the brink of the millennium, hundreds of fans would be found screaming outside the MTV Times Square Studio, waiting to see their favorite superstar meet-and-greet, as well as talk about their upcoming album or latest movie.

Many people may not know that the TRL we know today was initially split up into two shows, MTV Live and Total Request. After much criticism about the channel's focus on reality shows, it was an attempt by MTV to launch more music directed shows into the network. Total Request, launching Carson Daly as an MTV VJ, was a music video countdown show that gained huge following in 1997 and was eventually added to the list of daytime programming during the summer. Meanwhile, MTV Live had regular news updates, as well as musical performances and celebrity interviews, but did not show many music videos. The two shows were eventually merged together and premiered as the Total Request Live we know today. Hosted by Dave Holmes and Carson Daly, the show's influence peaked in spring 2000, became well known in the pop culture world, and even had a so called "cult-like following," according to [TV.com](http://TV.com).

However, all good things must come to an end. On September 15, 2008, MTV announced that the show was cancelled, at least for now, according to Dave Sirulnick, executive producer of TRL. He also, according to [LiveLambo.com](http://LiveLambo.com), "stressed the show wasn't ending for good but felt now was the right time to give it a break after an unprecedented run on the cable music channel." Currently, the show doesn't have the 757, 000 viewers it had nine years ago, so he and the rest of the TRL team agreed to "have a little bit of rest for a minute."

The two hour and a half hour finale live, featured on November 16, had performances by artists *50 Cent*, *Fall Out Boy*, *The Backstreet Boys* and *Beyonce*, as well as celebrity guests *Snoop Dogg*, *Justin Timberlake*, *Taylor Swift*, *Korn's Jonathan Davis*, *Mariah Carey*, *Good Charlotte's Benji and Joel Madden*, *Ludacris*, *Limp Bizkit front man Fred Durst*, *Miley Cyrus*, *Diddy*, *Hilary Duff*, *Kid Rock* and *Nelly*. Plus, it also featured an array of hosts it has had over the years, including Vanessa Minnillo, Hilarie Burton, La La Vasquez, Jesse Camp, Lyndsey Rodrigues, Quddus and Dave Holmes, and its two most important VJs, Damien Fahey and Carson Daly.

Life will not be the same without a show that we all grew up with and learned to love for seeing our favorite stars on screen. From Carson Daly stepping down to do his own show, to its 1000<sup>th</sup> episode celebration, the show has had a major impact on the entertainment world. It's sad to see it go, but MTV's longest running live program will be remembered for years to come.



# Proposition 8: Passed

Emily Hough  
Staff Writer



After the cheers and the groans died down from the November 4<sup>th</sup> presidential election, the news began to cover a different story: the passing of Proposition 8. Passing with only fifty-two percent of the vote, this amendment to the Californian constitution overturned the Californian Supreme Court's decision to allow homosexual couples to marry, making the Californian constitution define the word marriage as a "union between a man and a woman."

Those people for the passing of Proposition 8 alleged that allowing a man to marry a man, or a woman to marry a woman denies heterosexual couples their rights. However, this does not prove the case as it does not affect heterosexual's right to marriage, but denies the LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender) community's rights to 'tie the knot' with a beloved.

The fundamental principles of Proposition 8 were based on lies, and half truths. Those for the passage claim that marriage between a man and a man, or a woman and a woman harms society and can destroy families. Citing Californian Family Code 297.5, which states that domestic partnerships have the same rights, protections, and benefits as heterosexual couples, those for the passing of the amendment to the constitution say it does not injure the rights of the homosexuals. However, if people are people, the question begs why they would not be allowed to marry.

The lies do not end at the so-called fact of Proposition 8 not discriminating. Many commercials cited that if proposition 8 did not pass; churches would be forced to perform same sex marriages. Also, they said that churches in which adoption centers were run, would be forced to arrange adoptions for single-sex couples, and if they were to refuse, would lose their tax-exempt status from the government.

## Spitzer Cleared of Federal Charges

Danielle Connolly  
Staff Writer

Former New York governor Eliot Spitzer was cleared of federal charges for his involvement in a prostitution ring earlier this year.

United States attorneys, in a statement last week said that Spitzer admitted he was a client of the prostitution business and arranged for prostitutes to meet him in different states. The real issue that Spitzer was facing federally was, if he used public money in arranging these meetings. Attorneys said that it didn't seem that public money was used.

Spitzer, a Democrat, resigned from office in March after the prostitution scandal broke. He took office in January of 2007 promising to clean up New York State government. Lieutenant Governor David Paterson took over Spitzer's term as governor on March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2008 and will finish out the term. The next election for New York State Governor will take place in November of 2010.

The Spitzer scandal made national headlines after the image of the squeaky clean Sheriff of Wall Street was tarnished and he became known as #9.

However, according to Californian law, no religion would be required to change its religious policy or practice with regard to same-sex couples, and no religious official would be required to solemnize a marriage in contradiction of his or her religious beliefs. Therefore, church's rights would not be denied in any form.

Another technique in which those for the passing of Proposition 8 utilized was commercials about schools teaching children about gay marriage, a problem which took place in Massachusetts a couple of years before. However, Californian state law says that no child can be taught anything about health or family issues in school, and parents have the right to remove or opt-out of all family or health classes taught.

Overall, falsehoods dominated the reason Proposition 8 passed in California, wiping out the rights for many good people. In Florida, The Florida Marriage Protection Amendment was added to their constitution with the same intent, also barring progress for the state's citizens. These two states took a step backward from progress. As Rob Garilli, President of Saint Thomas Aquinas College's Gay-Straight Alliance said, "I think it's sad that in the year 2008 they are still trying to limit the rights of American Citizens."

I also cannot understand how denying the right for two people in love to marry harms anybody's rights or society in anyway. With the divorce rate at fifty percent, the sanctity of marriage should not be based on a man marrying a man, but on the ability of the people to stay together, for better or for worse, in sickness or in health.

**Mark G. Maliski, Public Accountant**  
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# CARB LOVERS REJOICE!

Chelsea Suarez  
Staff Writer



In the morning, we can all use a fresh cup of coffee and a nice bagel sometimes. Have you ever seen how bagels are made? Have you ever had a bagel fresh right out of the oven? If so, it is a true delight and there is a place where you can get that experience every day, all day, only a few miles from STAC.

Before even entering The Rockland Bakery, you can smell the scent of fresh baked bread emanating through the air. Once inside, the scent accentuates as it fills your body with every breath. A cacophony of rustling paper bags fills your ears as this staple of Nanuet, NY is never lacking customers.

When you first walk in, you are surrounded by the main bakery. Pastel colors and quaint pastries small enough to fit in your palm to large cakes suitable for a wedding catch your eye. You get a sense of stepping into a time long forgotten when things were simpler and the local bakery was a daily stop. For many in Nanuet that is still the case. "I go here at least 3 times a week with my daughter to get our bread and some treats for the week," noted long time patron, Ryan Brogan. "My daughter especially likes the linzer tarts."

Some of the top sellers in the bakery include "canolis, tiramisu cake and the crumb bun [crumb cake with a heartier yeast based dough]," noted the manager for the past 10 years, Karen Mistrulli. Canolis come in different sizes ranging from petite to large and are definitely worth the try if you are in the mood for telling your diet to take a hike! All donuts are trans-fat free and much better (and fresher) than anything you would ever get at a Dunkin' Donuts.

A great place for young and old alike, The Rockland Bakery also has a very unique way of getting you your breads. Go to the left of the main bakery and you will see a pile of paper bags and gloves on your left side, take one of each and then move on through to the sliding doors. It is okay, you are suppose to be back there as The Rockland Bakery allows you to pick your bagels and breads fresh off the conveyor belt! To your right you will see the bagels they are producing at that time (when I went they were making everything bagels), pick some up and put them in your bag, but be careful, they are piping hot!

*"The fact that a customer can walk into the heart of the assembly line and pluck hot bread products right off the conveyer is a real interesting experience,"*

-Matthew Jeffrey.

Proceed forward and you will see a variety of rolls and sandwich breads. This is the perfect place to load up before a B.B.Q. Go to your left and you will see a wide variety of fresh baked breads including walnut raisin, corn rye, sun-dried tomato veggie loaf, Irish soda bread and their top selling challah. This back area is really a bustling place as you watch men push huge stacks of breads over 7 feet high past you while the conveyer belts play a happy (but loud) tune. Other yummy snacks besides the loafs include scones, "salt sticks," and Italian bread, all fresh and waiting for you to chomp them down. "The fact that a customer can walk into the heart of the assembly line and pluck hot bread products right off the conveyer is a real interesting experience," noted patron Matthew Jeffrey.

The Rockland Bakery also has a small deli, which used to be a separate entity, but is now a place you can get fresh sliced meats and soda to go with your bread. Take a number and get a sandwich in this small café-style deli. Pay for all deli items within the deli, but pay for all bread/dessert purchases in the main bakery.

There will most likely be a line when you go to pay, but do not fret, there are five separate cash registers set up to help things move along. The cashier will inspect your bag to see what you put in (do not try to slip anything by them!) and ring you up quickly. Now is the time you can also buy desserts if you were in a rush to explore the back bread factory first.

The Rockland Bakery also ships out its delicious breads to Connecticut, New Jersey and other locations in New York and are apparently very vigilante about it. "My friend was watching the news one time when there was this big snow storm and there was no one on the road that night and she saw a Rockland Bakery truck drive past the reporter..." remembered Karen Mistrulli. Bread is this bakery's way of life and they make it clear.

**The Rockland Bakery can be reached at (845) 623-5800 or [www.rocklandbakery.com](http://www.rocklandbakery.com). It is located at 94 Demarest Mill Road in Nanuet, NY 10954, right off Route 304. Their hours are 6:00AM-10:30PM Sunday – Friday and 6:00AM – 12:00AM (midnight) Saturday.**



## The Night Life

Kristy Herman  
Staff Writer

How often do you get together with your friends, trying to plan out the weekend before you find yourself stuck with nowhere to go? After checking out a few popular clubs within half an hour of STAC, I've been able to compile a list of cool places to go to relax, kick back and unwind.

### Webster Hall:

This dance hall features several floors of music, including a VIP area for private parties. Typical music played is usually a combination of hiphop, pop, and techno. There is a stage on one side of the club where dancers can show off their moves while members of the crowd bounce to the beat. The bottom level features an area to refresh and rejuvenate one's self, including bathrooms that supply a wide range of hygienic products, candy, and other goodies.

**Address: 125 E 11<sup>th</sup> St, NY, NY**

### Pasha:

This club is well known by trendsetters worldwide. Like Webster Hall, it features several floors but each floor has its own genre of music, making it ideal for dancers who prefer a certain rhythm. Although the cover charge is a bit steep, plenty of people will tell you it's worth it.

**Address: 618 W 46<sup>th</sup> St, NY, NY Phone Number: 212-209-7500**

### Level:

This new dance club is located in Yonkers, where the suburbs of Westchester skirt the edge of the city. Level has a Ladies' Night on Thursday, allowing girls dressed up in their finest to enter free of charge. The atmosphere is energized and exciting, making it the perfect place to celebrate the end of finals!

**Address: 748 Yonkers Ave, Yonkers, NY  
Phone Number: 914-606-6753**

### Hiro:

This gem is hidden in Manhattan's meatpacking district. Its Asian themed atmosphere comes alive with Chinese lanterns and katakana written on the bamboo walls. Every couple of hours, two dancers costumed in sparkling black bodysuits perform un-choreographed dances in midair, using tapestries hanging from the ceiling as swings. Again, the cover charge is steep, but it's worth every penny.

**Address: 363 W 16<sup>th</sup> Street, NY, NY  
Phone Number: 212-242-4300**

## STAC Basketball at the Comfort of Your Home: STAC Introduces Internet Broadcasting of Men's and Women's Games

James Lizardi-McGee  
Staff Writer

Basketball is an extremely popular sport in terms of fan attendance at home games for our Spartans. Both the Men's and Women's teams are shown support by both our resident and commuter fans. Fans, looking to support their STAC Spartans a little bit more, can now enjoy internet broadcasting of the Men's and Women's games which will be hosted on the East Coast Conference's website ([www.eccsports.org](http://www.eccsports.org)) and our very own STAC athletics website ([www.stacathletics.com](http://www.stacathletics.com)). The games will not just be a basic broadcast of the action; they will be complimented by audio provided by a play-by-play commentator and a color commentator. The play-by-play commentator will provide the audio to what is going on during the game, and the color commentator will provide important stats and insight into the game action.

This is a new endeavor for STAC and the Spartans basketball teams who have never had this much exposure before. It allows a whole new breed of fan to enter the realm of Spartan basketball. Having trouble coming to the game because of a winter storm? Just load up the webpage and enjoy a true broadcast of the game. This is revolutionary for STAC as they are now on the cutting edge compared to the other schools in the conference.

Currently, the schedule has four road games and all of the home games will be broadcasted as well as any playoff game (should the Spartans make the playoffs on either the men's or women's sides). The broadcasting of the games will be based on a double header system. Either the men's or women's team will play first followed by the broadcast of the second team. Both teams get the full treatment of commentators.

*"...I'm excited about this new venture that we are entering..." - Brad Sarno*

STAC student Dan Behan seems to be happy about this, "It's cool that STAC is doing this because if you can't make it to all the games you can still follow both of the basketball teams." The fact that STAC students and fans can watch the games and not just rely on a write up of the games is something everyone can enjoy. STAC Alumni, WSTK Advisor, and Public Address

Announcer Brad Sarno is quoted as saying, "I'm excited about this new venture that we are entering, it not only provides an opportunity for alumni, parents, and friends to listen to some of the key ECC matchups for both the Spartans and Lady Spartans,

but it also allows our students here on campus to listen and watch when they cannot leave their dorms due to studying and class work." Students and alumni agree that this is a good situation for STAC to be in, with their mission to have the top teams in the East Coast Conference.

The season for STAC basketball's internet broadcasting is starting soon, the first game will be the women's game on November 22nd when they play Post at 1PM. So support your Spartans and Lady Spartans either at home or at your actual home, when you log online to enjoy the first internet broadcast of basketball this season.



## Johnson Eyes Third Sprint Cup Championship

James Lizardi-McGee  
Staff Writer

Sunday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, marks the day that Jimmie Johnson can possibly make history by winning his third consecutive Sprint Cup championship in a row. Thirty-five grueling races have been completed, and Jimmie Johnson currently has a 141 point lead on Carl Edwards in the championship points. In all accounts, Johnson is primed to win the championship as currently he only needs to finish 36th or better in order to win. If Johnson leads the most laps, he only has to finish in the top 39 spots out of only 43 drivers. Jimmie Johnson, driver of the Hendrick Motorsports #48 Lowe's Chevy, has had a season in which he struggled to get going for the first couple of races and then managed to turn it on for the remainder of the year. Johnson has 22 top ten finishes in a sport that rewards consistency and he also has seven wins, second most in the sport.

The NASCAR Sprint Cup Season started back in February with the 50th running of the Daytona 500, a race that many call the Super Bowl of Auto Racing. Ryan Newman won that race with his teammate Kurt Busch sticking with him, pushing him to the front and staying there. The entire season followed multiple trends, with the first being the struggle of Jeff Gordon, who did not seem like he could regain the form that made him second place in the standings in 2007. The first five races of the year also showed all three of the Michael Waltrip Racing cars qualify on speed and secure their place in the field. This was a milestone due to the 2007 season in which the MWR teams missed races on a regular basis including the #55 car missing 11 races in a row. Soon into the season, the dominance of Toyota would come into effect as they now had drivers like Kyle Busch, Tony Stewart, and Denny Hamlin into their stable. Busch got off to an amazing start, winning races here and there, and as of right now he amassed 8 wins for his team. If Busch was not winning earlier in the season he was wrecking trying to win.

Now starts the chase. The final ten races of the season are special in Sprint Cup racing. The top 12 drivers have their points equaled to 5000 and 10 bonus points are given for wins throughout the season. Kyle Busch started with 5,080 points and was far the favorite to win the championship. At the beginning of the chase for the championship, Busch had two mechanical problems in the first two races that knocked his hopes of winning the title away even after his great season. Greg Biffle won two races in a row after that, and assumed the lead and the momentum, but then Jimmie Johnson stepped up his game. Johnson won three of the nine chase races and always performed well even in the races he did not win. His performances have made him an almost lock for the championship even before the last race at Homestead.

By the time this is published there is an extremely good chance that Jimmie Johnson will be celebrating his third championship. As history has shown no driver has ever been able to overcome a lead so big, but Carl Edwards can still challenge Johnson because he will not give up in the chase for the NASCAR Sprint Cup Championship.



# To Write Love On Her Arms:

## A Desperate Attempt to Save a Friend and Start a Movement

Kelly Leonard  
Staff Writer

To Write Love On Her Arms (TWLOHA) is a story written by a young man who spent 5 days with his friends after one was deemed too high of a risk to be taken into a rehabilitation facility.

Renee Yohe was only 19 years old, had not slept in days and was under the influence of alcohol and drugs when her friends took her to a treatment center. She had spent her life battling depression and the memories of people who have abused her. Feeling scared, alone, and depressed, Renee locked herself in the bathroom at the facility with a razor blade. When the nurse saw her wounds the next morning, she told Renee that because there was no detox program there, she was too great of a risk to stay. So they sent her away.

Jamie Tworkowski and a few friends realized it was up to them to keep her safe. They had to be the treatment and the care that this center could not be to her. They took her to shows, bookstores, bought her everything she needed and kept her occupied with coffee and cigarettes for five days.

Jamie posted Renee's story on MySpace to give some purpose, to provide inspiration to her pain for others. After reading it, thousands of teens posted their own tales of pain, depression, and addiction on the page. MySpace users began asking for and giving advice, through this page, the group was able to connect their online friends to treatment centers. It wasn't long before they knew this would grow into something phenomenal. After seeing the impact Renee's story had on others, Jamie and his friends began creating t-shirts to try and raise money in order to get her treatment

Today, To Write Love On Her Arms, is a bigger team composed of both volunteers and staff members. "TWLOHA exists to encourage, inform, inspire and also to invest directly into treatment and recovery." The staff answers emails and phone calls for support. "That's the important piece, that interaction and being in a place to encourage people who are hurting," founder Jamie Tworkowski explains. TWLOHA works with a variety of other charities that are fighting for similar causes.

Music was very important for Renee and her friends. Listening to music and going to shows during those 5 days that the group waited for Renee to be accepted into a treatment facility, provided an escape and a release when they all needed it most. Today, many bands such as Paramore and Evanescence have supported their cause. This year, the group went along on Warped Tour 2008 setting up a tent for their cause in every city.

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, TWLOHA began its second annual tour. Jamie will be traveling along the east coast hosting public conversations, spreading Renee's story and encouraging others to tell their own.

### What YOU can do to help

- 1) Donate- mail checks/ money orders to : TWLOHA PO Box 206 Cocoa, FL 32903 or visit [www.TWLOHA.com](http://www.TWLOHA.com) and click on "Donate: Be the Movement"
- 2) Buy a t-shirt – most of the proceeds go towards treatment centers and recovery programs. The writing on these t-shirts are guaranteed conversation starters and another way of getting the word out.
- 3) Add TWLOHA to your friends on Facebook or MySpace
- 4) Join the Street Team- You will have the chance to share the story online, distribute promotional items, and report any progress back to TWLOHA
- 5) Join the Social Vibe- You pick a sponsor to donate money to any charity to chose
- 6) Intern- Work alongside of Jamie and the=2 0original team and help fight against depression, addiction, and self-abuse

If you would like to find more information on how to help, tour dates, or if you or someone you know is suffering from depression or addiction please visit;  
[www.TWLOHA.com](http://www.TWLOHA.com)

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## Yeah, It Wasn't Your Imagination

*Damien Miller*  
*Contributing Writer*

Today we rode the sky in limousines  
Took it down harder to the ground  
Landed in the rose petal garden  
You're so sweet  
My blood sugar rushes through my veins  
We've seen what's new with nothing  
We're taking the long road home  
To take more time for a tender hug  
Rake in the rolls  
So what if they say so  
It just matters what we say

## FAMILY TIES

# Born 1961

By: Anthony Pires

My father, Steven, was born October 11<sup>th</sup>, 1961. He is the first of three brothers. Growing up, my father's favorite band was The Beatles, and still is today. I think he knows more useless facts about that band and the people involved than anyone else on the face of this earth. My earliest memory of his obsession was when he took me home from the doctor in his 1990 s10 pickup (which he still has today) and we were listening to "Mr. Postman". He made the point that Beatles covers were better than the originals. He introduced me to music that everything is derived from, and made clear that the Rolling Stones were a cheap imitation. In some sense, he introduced me to music in general.

His youth was spent playing basketball and attending catholic school. He came from a very religious family, and his Sundays were spent as an altar boy. He was actually an altar boy during Paul Stanley's (of KISS) wedding. Skinny as a rail, and shorter than most of the kids his age, he earned the nick name "pee wee".

Eventually he started working at the local lawn mower shop, where he honed his mechanical skills fixing various pieces of yard equipment. He was an avid watcher of motor sports, mostly formula 1 and drag racing. He collected hot wheels and built dye cast models. Eventually, he bought his very first go kart, and began racing competitively, a hobby which he still participates in with me today. We go to the track racing karts from his era every Sunday. This means that I don't race modern karts, only vintage. They don't flex, they don't have Pods (bumpers), and they slide all over the place. They are way more sketchy and dangerous to drive than modern karts. The two hour drive to Pennsylvania gives us more than enough time to bond. We listen to the none other than Breakfast with The Beatles, until we drive out of range and the stations get fuzzy. Even then, we find topics to discuss to pass the time. After a full day of racing, we complete our day at Yoccos, "the hot dog king". The greasiest, most artery clogging food known to man, couldn't be a more fitting ending. My dad's the kind of guy who can appreciate a good hot dog over an expensive steak any day.

His school days were spent at all three Iona schools: prep, high school, and college. It was here that he made some lifelong friends and memories. When he wasn't in school he was working and racing. As he came of age, he bought his primary car, a "Pro Street" 71 Chevy Nova. It was raced every night, and all weekend long. I recently found a hand full of magazines featuring my father and his car. But he was modest about having a ridiculous race car as a daily driver. He never beat on it in public, he never raced with anyone in the car, and he didn't make bets he couldn't back up. He just let people talk, and then he'd race them, leaving with their money. These were his glory days, they were spent with close friends, cruising up and down central avenue looking for the next race. It really is a lost nostalgic era. He had a lot of good times, and won a lot of money, money which he saved, or put back into his car. He lost one race. That was his last. Shortly after, he sold his car and went into business.

I should mention that during the time where he was racing and working, he met my mother. Her father, would bring my father work. He took a liking to my father immediately and they shared a strong work ethic. I don't know how the story goes but he met my mom and they started dating. Everyone on my mom's side of the family loved my father, and he apparently set the bar to high for my mom's siblings. He's the only one that has been totally accepted into that side of the family. They married, and I am the result of whatever it was they felt the need to do in the 80's.

My father started his own business, S and J Service Center. They specialize in towing and repairs, but also dabbled in the art of petroleum dispensing. He has had the same customers for 25 years. Doing things the right way, and not ripping anyone off has kept people coming. That's how I was brought up, and it is reiterated every time I stop in. Do things right the first time. Lefty Loosey, righty tighty. Chrome don't get you home. A bad day of racing is better than a great day at work. These sorts of lessons stick in my mind. This business has always done well, but it's taken its toll. My dad often uses the

example, "I went to the dentist, got charged 3,500 dollars, and I didn't question it, a lady came in today and bitched to me about the price of a 35 dollar tire change." It's the kind of business where you can't win, and people just wear you out to no end. I can see how much he hates going to work in the morning, but

he does it because he knows he has too. He hides it well and never complains.

Aside from working, he coaches my brothers' basketball team, and helps me build my own hot rods. He spends his nights in the garage, working on anything that needs fixing. He enjoys the simple things like left overs, the history channel, and car magazines. He gets along well with my mother, and he does things for her that are just as monumental and important as the things he does for his kids. He will wear a winter coat inside before he turns on the heat, considers The Munsters to be the greatest TV show of all time, and even spend an entire evening outside, with a flashlight and measuring tape, cutting each individual blade of grass.

My father even supports the hobbies I've chosen. He's my toughest critic when it comes to my band. He says he won't come to the shows, but I always see him standing in the back. When I was 12 or 13, I had started saving for a "real" guitar. I'd say I was about half way towards achieving my eleven hundred dollar goal when I realized the money I'd been saving had gone missing. Out of fear, I never told my parents I lost all that money. But my birthday rolled around, and I came home to find that guitar sitting in my bedroom. My dad took the money, put it in a savings account and bought me that guitar. Over the years I've collected a lot of various guitars, and other instruments to add to my growing collection. But that particular axe, Donna, as I refer to her, stands out, plays the best, and has yet to fail me.

I honestly can't think of one characteristic I don't like about my father. He's just a stand up guy. He knows what he's talking about, and comes through. He takes care of me, teaches me right from wrong, influences me with values, and ideals I can live my life by. I have roots in gasoline and I'm proud of how hard my father works. I've been raised by a man with strong, yet beaten and battered hands. I wonder how I can repay a man like that for everything he's done for me. And the truth is I can't. That's a task so great it's unfathomable. But I do my best.

*"I've been raised by a man  
with strong, yet beaten  
and battered hands."*

### Submission Guides For Thoma Essay Series

The Thoma is excited to announce the start of a new essay series: Family Ties. The editors are accepting student essays of 750-1000 words (3 to 5 typed pages) about a family member who has had an impact on the student's life. The editors are looking for pieces that convey feelings through description and narrative. In other words, show us how you feel about your father, how difficult his life has been, how hard he's worked, how funny he is...don't tell us.

Submit to [thethoma@yahoo.com](mailto:thethoma@yahoo.com). We're accepting on-going submissions until further notice.