



The Stinger

February 2010
The Stinger

Special 'Mini' Edition

From 9&10 to Punxsutawney Phil!

Editor in Chief Kellie Harris

February 2nd: the groundhog appears from his cozy little knot, sniffing curiously at the grass upon the ground, peering at the people around him. With a monstrous smile he then screams, "I have seen my shadow!" He proceeds to take one last sniff, popping back into his knot as fast as he came.

Given the situation above, can we consider Punxsutawney Phil as accurate of a forecaster as the weathermen of America? Can we really depend on a groundhog to guess six weeks into the future, something no other forecaster would ever dare to do? The answer to these questions is that no, we cannot. If the six week extension of winter depends on the sight of merely a shadow, I would rather come outside each year on February 2nd and predict the weather myself.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to see the flaws inside Groundhog Day. According to the history books and Stormfax Almanac, Punxsutawney Phil has spotted his shadow 99 out of 114 times and has only been correct 39 percent of the time. This would classify as a failing grade by classroom terms and doesn't exactly place the odds with our furry friend Phil. Along with the issue of accuracy there comes the issue of lifespan and communication. According to folklore, the furry oracle was born in 1887, making him 123 years old. The average groundhog lives less than 10 years, making Phil practically the only immortal groundhog ever to exist! Die hard fans of the animal insist a magical "elixir of life" keeps Phil looking youthful. How realistic, am I right?

So, is the groundhog of Gobbler's knob as accurate of a meteorologist as the humans around him, or is he a publicity stunt that's continued far too long? Is he an immortal rodent destined to predict the weather for the rest of his life? While contemplating these things, I wonder if any of us ever stopped to think about one fact: if the weather was nice enough to see a shadow, wouldn't winter be close to over anyway?



Your Name, Teacher's Name...BIRTHDATE!

Editor in Chief Kate Nicefield

For all the students out there that are compromised against getting a driver's license, or a State ID, this article is for you. I hope most students know that you can get state issued IDs at the Secretary of State; however,

most of those people that need one can't drive to go get it, or their parents won't take them. So, what do you do when you're 18 and can't get into a rated R movie because you have no identification? I propose that the student body approaches the administration to put birthdates on our student IDs. If this were to happen we would have an adequate form of information to do the things we want; and, if need be, we can identify ourselves to the police. If the school administration were to find our student IDs with birthdates conflicting with student safety, we could even consider going the extra mile and contacting our state representatives about applying for State IDs online.



I hope I'll be getting some letters on this topic, seeing as this hits most of my fellow students hard. Most parents can't afford Driver's Education, or they can't spare the gas to drive to Clare to the Secretary of State to get their child proper identification. So, let's put those ID cards we get to good use and actually employ them to our advantage when it counts the most.

The Terror of Valentine's Day!

Staff Writer Khayla Bell

February 14th, Valentine's Day: hearts, pink, red, and love affairs that fill the air. How disgusting is that? Why promote Valentine's Day? It is just one day of the year that you can show public displays of affection and not repulse the people around you. People do this everyday, all of the time, so why have a holiday for it? It's not like you're breaking the law doing it any other day.

I dread the arrival of Valentine's Day, but all of my friends get excited with the hope that they will receive something from a secret admirer this Valentine's Day. I remember in elementary school having Valentine's Day parties, and always wondered why teachers would dedicate time to such a terrible holiday. Sure it teaches them how to share, but why waste an entire day on it? It never made any sense to me, it is just a day wasted on giving others little cards with candy attached. Kids tend to buy special things for their friends in their class, I've seen this many times before in my years, and all it leads to is fights. I hate fights more than I hate Valentine's Day itself. All of the cards in the box or the string of suckers are all the same, does this make it unthoughtful? Shopping on Valentine's Day is not unique, and never will be. You can predict what every person will buy: flowers, cards, or chocolate, how cliché!



So this Valentine's mom, I'll sign it, then that's it, disgusts me is that you see heart shaped boxes filled with kids. This isn't for just a few Day closer to the border line nonsense holiday? Get real!



Day will probably be the same as it always is. My dad will buy a card for my the same re-run played every year. Another big reason that Valentine's Day the colors red and pink plastered on every surface of store shelves, like big chocolate, and other little trinkets people tend to buy for their days either, it's for weeks on end! This just pushes Valentine's of overkill. Why would someone want to take part in such a



The Joy of Valentine's Day

Staff Writer Jasmine Case DeLaCruz

February 14th, Valentine's Day: hearts, pink, red, and love affairs fill the air. I love the feeling of Valentines Day! The butterflies you get when someone brings you flowers and candy is something that cannot be replaced. The feeling you get when you give this joy is pure bliss. When you see someone's eyes light up and their face glows like a candle, you know you have made a spark in that love. Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to do this!

I anticipate the arrival of Valentine's Day every year. I love the feeling that someone in this wide world is grateful for all that I have brought to their life. To me, spending the day valuing the connection between me and my loved one is not a waste of time at all. On Valentine's Day something happens, Cupid's heart swells a complete contradiction to the Grinch's heart. This is why Valentine's Day is amazing because



aisles of people's hearts will open up. My heart grows and widens so that every year I have more space for love to fill it. The colors red, pink, and purple fill windows and stores! They serve as a kaleidoscope that hypnotize you into a state of love and affection. For some the thrill of the shop lures them to Valentine's Day. They love to look for that certain item they will give to their significant other. Me? Well I adore the process of thought and pondering about something unoriginal to give on this day!

With some thought from the heart Valentine's Day can be something remembered, something special, something treasured for the rest of your life. This Valentine's Day do something thoughtful, move past the original gifts, and maybe you can make a believer out of a skeptic. Be great and participate!





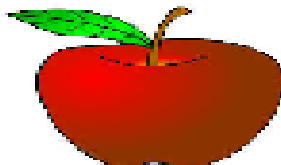
Random Facts

Staff Writer Alex Swierkosz

- If you are right handed, you will tend to chew your food on your right side. If you are left handed, you will tend to chew your food on your left side.
- Your tongue is germ free only if it is pink. If it is white there is a thin film of bacteria on it.
- The pupil of the eye expands as much as 45 percent when a person looks at something pleasing.
- Laughing lowers levels of stress hormones and strengthens the immune system. Six-year-olds laugh an average of 300 times a day. Adults only laugh 15 to 100 times a day.
- Men's shirts have the buttons on the right, but women's shirts have the buttons on the left.
- Roosters cannot crow if they cannot extend their necks.
- The attachment of the human skin to muscles is what causes dimples.
- There are 1,792 steps to the top of the Eiffel Tower.
- The plastic things on the end of shoelaces are called aglets.
- Intelligent people have more zinc and copper in their hair.
- German Shepherds bite humans more than any other breed of dog.

<http://www.hemmy.net/2006/04/30/50-interesting-facts/>

Is there anything you would like to see in the next school newspaper? If there is, please drop this form in the letter to the editor box located in Mrs. Dancer-Humphres area!





Need Something Sweet for your Sweetie?

Staff Writer Jesse Walraven

Everyone loves chocolate, especially on Valentine's Day. Wouldn't personalized chocolate be even better? M & M's can now be personalized with your own words and even photos. The easiest way to order is by going to mymms.com. On the website you can click on the personalize link to get started, you can also click on the Get Inspired link to get some Valentines ideas. M & M's gives you many options as to how you want your candies to be personalized. You can choose your own colors, or from a pre-made color scheme. Next you create your message, or upload a photo to be put on the M & M's, but the website asks that you keep them positive and appropriate. Prices differ depending on the amount of colors and content different messages and photos, offering various package options for every budget.



Personalized M & M's not your thing? Go to worldsfinestchocolate.com and choose from many great Valentine's Day gift ideas. Some can even be personalized, like the heart shaped container filled with chocolate covered almonds or raisins. You can upload a photo and message for your sweetie on the lid of the container. This product is \$11.50 with free personalization, and contains one pound of candy.

Valentine's Day is a day to show your love to those who mean the most to you; these sweet candies are the perfect way to express your feelings. Whether or not you have a significant other, these personalized gift ideas are great for everyone: parents, siblings, or best friends.

Anyone can go to the store grab some

pink and red heart shaped candies or a nice box of chocolate; but does that mean as much as something personalized just for that special someone? These fun and inexpensive gifts help you show your love this Valentine's Day.



Blast from the Past

Staff Writer Val Bondie III

Have you ever wondered what the newspaper was like long ago? Well, now the day for wondering is over as this article is from the newspaper way back from 1990.

The past papers are a history of the school and should be looked at frequently to better understand Harrison High School today. Now be warned, there may be a few grammar and spelling mistakes; however, we cannot edit this article as this wouldn't be what was actually written by the writer.

This article will hopefully let the students know about the issues the school faced long ago compared to the issues today. This article will show how the school and the newspaper have changed over the years and may possibly even make the school a better place. Enjoy this blast from the past!!!

What to Wear (from the Harrison Tribune, Vol. 16, Issue 12, 1/30/1990)

Staff Writer Beth Lipovsky

Hudsons is having a fur sale. In fact many stores are having fur sales. Purchase a Raccoon, Beaver, or Coyote fur coat for \$1,788.00. But do you wear this natural fabric, whose production does not, pollute the environment?

The Animal-Rights groups will probably have something to say about it. They question the death of some 70 million helpless creatures killed each year (about 50 minks for each coat). They want to embarrass, with shouts of "shame!" Fur is obscene, cruel and a "sadist symbol" instead of a "status symbol."

Even T.V. series have gotten into the picture. L.A. Law, and Designing Women have shown both sides to the story. Bob Barker resigned last year from the Miss Universe pageant because contestants wore furs. In Aspen, Colorado, they are trying to ban all fur sales in the resort town. "As a community we don't want to earn our sales-tax dollars from cruelty to animals," says Mayor Bill Sterling.

The fur industry maintains that mink are treated humanely and killed painlessly. Furs are a natural fabric, where as acrylic fibers, pollute the environment by fossil fuels.

Many women are turning to fake furs, wearing buttons on them that proclaim NO FUR or REAL PEOPLE WEAR FAKE FUR. Others are stubborn and refuse to be intimidated by anti-fur groups. The choice is ours-fake furs, leather, wool, or real fur. The choice is left to the consumer.





Pistons: Back on Track!

Staff Writer Kayla Wyzlic

After overcoming their thirteen game losing streak, the Detroit Pistons have managed to pull through with a win over the Boston Celtics: Celtics 82 and Pistons 92.

The pistons have managed to pull through with their win over the Celtics even after the loss of former player Rasheed Wallace, who made a return to the Pistons' stadium as a Boston Celtic. With their new player, the Boston Celtics were confident that they would have an easy win over the Pistons, although that was not the case. The Detroit team dominated Boston, putting an end to their losing streak.



With the past behind them, the Pistons are looking forward and focusing on improving their momentum, as well as their ground in their standings. Contributing to their losses, they have had many misfortunes, with a few of their best players sitting the bench due to injuries. Pistons guard Richard Hamilton was out with an ankle injury, while forward Tayshaun Prince, was also sitting the bench due to a severe back injury.

The Detroit Pistons now have a new outlook for the rest of the season. It's now time to keep pushing through to be competitive, whether losing or winning. With this new outlook, the Pistons season is going to be very competitive and full of new energy. Good luck with the rest of the season.

http://www.nba.com/pistons/index_main.html

Olympians Assembly

Staff Writer Daniel Hill

Racing through the snow, cutting into the ice, running distances - this is the winter Olympian's dream. Skiing, hockey, bobsledding, speed skating, and cross-country, are just a few of the Winter Olympic sports. The Olympics are back! This time it's winter sports.

Many are looking forward to this year's Winter Olympics, especially after the amazing Summer Olympics of 2008 in Beijing. The ceremonies start Feb. 12, followed by 16 days of gold medal events, but nobody is certain if they can match the Chinese opening ceremonies of 2008.

At these games there will be 216 American athletes supporting our country and fighting for the gold in about 15 games. The Olympics will give out 183 medals, split among gold, silver, and bronze. Out of the 2,701 athletes, only about 6% of them will get a medal.

The Olympics started in ancient Greece, when they competed to test strength and push their bodies to the limits. According to the ancient people, the gods would often watch to entertain themselves. From when the first games were played to now, the Olympics have changed many of the events. Events are added or changed according to the popularity of the sport, such as the recent addition of beach volleyball to the summer Olympics.



Although it's not the same games as the summer, it is still entertaining. So expect some buzz from February 12th to February 28th, and why not tune in to the games for yourself?

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/>

Valentine's Day Dance!

February 12th (This Friday!)

\$3.00

(After the basketball game to 11 pm)



Neon Dance

February 26th

\$4.00

(After the basketball game to 11 pm)

*Dance in the Black Light!

*Glow sticks will be sold!

*Get your face neon painted!





A Helping Hand

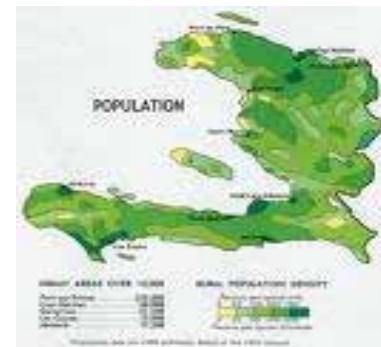
Staff Writers Alex Swierkosz, Jesse Walraven, and Ashley Terry

An earthquake occurs in your nation: buildings crash down, the ground opens up and your family runs for cover. The next thing you know, your house collapses and you're trapped. Some make it out to see their homes perish and a natural disaster happening all around them. This is what happened to Haiti on January 12th 2010.

A cloud of dust created by the fallen buildings swallowed the city. People were standing in the roads with no shelter and their family members are still missing or dead. Approximately 200,000 people have been pronounced dead and 100,000 are left homeless. Dead bodies were found lying in the road, some covered with sheets or cardboard, or exposed to the hot sun. Throughout the city people held masks over their faces to escape the smell of decay.

For the survivors, the earthquake didn't just take their loved ones; it took their ability to properly mourn the dead. Haiti's government instructed them to leave the dead bodies out in the open. A couple of times a day trucks come by to pick up the bodies and take them to mass graves. The Red Cross and Doctors without Borders are protesting this saying that it prevents people from claiming the bodies of their loved ones. They are telling the government that the bodies don't pose a health risk, and the people of Haiti have the right to bury their loved ones.

Many nations including the United States organized aid efforts for the people in need. The United States is helping Haiti, trying to rebuild the nation as the best as they can. It is said that Haiti will be rebuilt in a few years, depending on if more earthquakes hit in the future. People are being moved to a safe place where there is food, clothes, medical help, and shelter. America is aiding Haiti through efforts as well as fundraisers going on all around the United States. Our nation, including our troops, are doing their best to help the people of Haiti get their lives back.



The SaintS Dominate

Staff Writer Alex Swierkosz

Each year, for seven years now, the famous Madden NFL video game has made predictions of who will be the winner of the Super Bowl. Every year since 2004, their predictions have been correct. In 2004 the Patriots beat the Panthers in the game, as well as in the Super Bowl. In 2005 the Patriots took the Eagles and won the Super Bowl again. In 2006 the Steelers were predicted to stomp the Seahawks and they did. In 2007 the Colts took the victory over the Bears. In 2008 the Giants beat the Patriots. In 2009 the Steelers were predicted to beat the Cardinals and the prediction was correct. On February 7th of this year the Saints were predicted to be the winning team of the Super Bowl, and they took their first ever Super Bowl victory.

Sunday, January 24th the New Orleans Saints played the Minnesota Vikings for the Championship. This win put the Saints to the Super Bowl, at which they played the Indianapolis Colts. It was said that the Saints would be the favored team to win Super Bowl XLIV.

Getting to this point took a lot of hard work for the Saints. Although the Vikings had a great performance in the first quarter, it wasn't enough; the Saints' tight defense kept them from scoring in the second quarter. The Saints had the lead with 28-21. They could taste victory, but Peterson of the Vikings sent the team into overtime by running a 2-yard touchdown. In overtime, kicker Garrett Hartley made history when he kicked a 40-yard field goal that lifted New Orleans to a 31-28 win over Minnesota. This was the first Super Bowl for the Saints to ever attend.

Super Bowl XLIV was hosted in Miami, Florida this year at 6:00pm. The Saints took their first Super Bowl victory, defeating the Colts. Although they didn't start off too hot with the scoreboard reading 0-10, they soon came back and changed all of that. Garrett Hartley became the first kicker to make a the Super Bowl. His 47-yarder in the up to 17-16. With an incredible scoring and made their way to 31, leaving

For most football fans, Super of the New Year. Whether you're in it for the Super Bowl can always bring friends good time. This year the New Orleans Colts provided us with a great football on your 2010 Super Bowl win!



field goal of 40 yards or more at third quarter pulled the Saints interception, New Orleans kept Indianapolis at 17.

Bowl Sunday is the biggest day the commercials, or the teams, and family together to have a Saints and the Indianapolis game. Congratulations Saints