

The Patroon

Congratulations
to the
Class of 2003

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AHS bids farewell to staff

by Garielle Bollin

As the school year comes to a close, so do the last days at AHS for some of our faculty. This year five members of our faculty are retiring: **Mr. Randy McLean** (South House Attendance), **Mr. Joseph Hoffman** (North House Attendance), **Mr. Donald Lutzy** (Music), **Mr. Michael Glover** (Music) and **Mr. James Hicks** (Technology).

Mr. McLean has been

working at Albany High for 29 years, first as a hall monitor for 12 years and then as the South House Attendance officer for the last 17. He has worked hard to help students understand that good attendance and success go hand in hand. He will miss his colleagues, especially those in the South House. "They're like family," he said. His plans for retirement are working on his house and playing golf while

enjoying the summer.

Mr. Hoffman from the North House Attendance is retiring after an impressive 39 years at Albany High. He hopes that he has helped to students to understand that if "you miss school, you miss out." One reason that influenced his decision for leaving is that his daughter, a major in the Air Force, has recently had a child and he plans on spending more time with his new grandchild. He also wants to travel more, especially to the national parks.

Starting his career in 1974, **Mr. Lutzy** is retiring after 29 years as a music teacher. He is pleased that he had the opportunity to make an impression on students in the area of music, especially jazz. He will miss his students and his fellow teachers, as picks up playing professionally again and vacationing in Naples, Florida. When asked why he was retiring, he said, "It's time for change."

The longest tenured



James Hicks smiles as he is headed off to retirement.



Randy McLean, South House Attendance, is retiring after years of making sure you show up for school every day.

teacher that is leaving us, **Mr. Glover**, also from the Music Department, started working in the district in 1959 and feels it is now time to do otherwise after 44 years. He will miss working with his students while enjoying his retirement. His plans are to travel, to continue playing in the Albany Symphony, to work as a church organist and to spend more time with his family.

Last but not least is **Mr. Hicks**, who is retiring after 35 years as a Technology teacher.

Highlights of his career include having former students come back to show him their success in the areas he instructed them. Even though it is time to move on, Mr. Hicks will miss teaching students and working with his fellow teachers. He will be spending his retirement rehabbing old houses, which will be challenging, but he's up for it.

With outstanding careers behind them, we wish all our retiring staff the best of luck. They will be missed.

'Ragtime' to hit the road

by Khalilah Ramdene

They have done it again. The AHS Drama club has once again put together a spectacular show in this season's performance of *Ragtime*.

The best part is that this time they're bringing it to Europe. The Drama Club will be traveling to Edinburgh, Scotland this August. They have been chosen to represent New York State in the world's largest celebration of the arts, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe. "The Fringe" is a massive explosion of cultural and artistic expression.

They couldn't have chosen a better play. It has a great message to bring to Europe—the reality of the "American Dream" and its justice.

If you have seen an Albany High play before, you know that the job the club does on the scenery is amazing. The first thing I noticed about the play was the more simplistic scenery, necessary since they will be bringing it with them

to "The Fringe."

The lighting in this show particularly complemented the aforementioned scenery—once again the tech team did a wonderful job in conveying the mood created in each scene.

The veterans of the Drama Club couldn't have performed better for their final performance here at Albany High. A great deal of Drama Club is made up of se-

niors graduating this year. But no worries, a group of talented underclassmen will be able to keep their legacy of success going with stunning performances from a collection of juniors, sophomores and freshman.

The show ran for two weekends during May, along with a matinee performance for grammar school children in the district.



Concerned citizens band together at the Empire State Plaza to protest budget cuts in public education.



Having spent 39 years at AHS, Joseph Hoffman will now have more time to travel and to spend with his family.

Protestors march on Plaza in Albany

Combined sources

On Saturday, May 3, educators and concerned parents and students converged on the Empire State Plaza in Albany to protest education cuts in the governor's proposed budget for 2003.

Protestors maintained that these cuts are detrimental to the future of every student involved in public education; a lack of funding prevents students from receiving a well-rounded (and extremely nec-

essary) education.

A strong contingent from the City School District of Albany amassed at Hackett Middle School prior to the event and marched to the Plaza in a show of unity.

While attendance reports given by police and organizers differed greatly in amount, it was readily evident that the crowd was both large and enthusiastic.

See related stories on page 2 of this edition.

Editorial

Last May, I asked Mr. Keegan if I could serve as editor this year because I wanted to make the paper better. I thought it had greater potential. I thought I had the potential to do a pretty good job. The changes that ended up occurring, thanks to the work of the staff and especially the other editors, were small but positive. While there were no big scandals for us to cover (as I had hoped there would be), and we never got around to doing any Dateline-style in-depth reports.

I guess that's what's good about life—we can try to change something if we want to. Of course, a lot of the time, we can't, as has been evident both in the great amount of displeasure with recent U.S. actions and stifling of contrary opinions. But I suppose that, more than in most other places, we have the freedom to fulfill our potential - either for good or for bad.

But there are so many reasons for us not to fulfill our potential—it is, after all, hard work to go as far as you can. Who wants to, when there's so many easier routes? Why spend your life working in clubs, training, auditioning, and pounding the pavement, in your effort to become a singer when you can go on *American Idol* before you're old enough to vote and beat a bunch of untalented schleps for a recording contract (or, if not, at least become famous nationwide)? Why put the effort into doing what you think is right when it does not appear that the people around you care, or even notice? What's the point of fighting for other peoples' rights to their opinions, when you do not agree with them?

Those who can think what they want can do what they want and be what they want. The freedom to be able to recognize opposing ideas without having to be afraid of them or extinguish them is something we must cling to. We must remember that something not worth all our effort is not worth anything. It's really easy to say that stuff happens to us, to blame others for the outcomes of our own situations, but we make our lives what they are. Everyone has obstacles, but it is those who attempt to overcome them who are the achievers and who have succeeded.

We are being thrust out into life and will soon have no teachers to blame for our poor performance, classmates to beat or gym classes to skip. We will be responsible for ourselves and—even more frighteningly—for our success in making our lives matter.

With that, I bid good-bye to the *Patroon* and to Albany High School.

Tribute established for beloved student

by Joshua Schwartz

On June 3, at 2:45, in the courtyard, a tree planting and plaque dedication ceremony will make tangible the memory of Shonye Hall (class of 2002), daughter of Sharon Hall. She was only eighteen years old when she passed.

Shonye was interested in medicine and planned to go into the medical profession. Her mother and guidance counselor, Mrs. Moorby, are establishing a scholarship fund in Shonye's memory, to be awarded to a student of exemplary potential who plans to pursue studies in the nursing profession. The scholarship is a way of remembering Shonye's passion for medicine, and also to communicate a meaningful thank you to all the nurses who helped Shonye through her terrible ordeal.

Mrs. Dwyer, a health teacher, has been spearheading the drive to create a memorial ceremony for Shonye. She states, "Shonye was a very loving person...she was always smiling...a very positive student."

The *Patroon* staff (and the entire school) expresses their sincere sympathies for all those who knew and loved Shonye Hall. She will be sorely missed.

HEOP program worth exploring

by Meredith Traver

Earlier this month I had a chance to talk with Douglas Mercado, the former Bureau Chief of HEOP, which stands for the Higher Education Opportunity Program. It is a college scholarship program for students who meet certain academic and economic criteria.

Academically, students must be disadvantaged and most likely would not be admitted as a regular student.

Economically they must be unable to contribute their income to college. Although the program is 70% African-American and Hispanic, it is available to all students.

HEOP is a program that

is in its thirty-fourth year. Approximately 28,000 students have graduated from the program, roughly 55-56% of the students having participated. It is the most successful program of its type.

If you are interested in the HEOP program you should first see what colleges offer it. While HEOP is only in independent colleges, there are similar programs in state colleges.

Every college has different eligibility requirements, so it is a good idea to apply while you are in your senior year of high school. Often there is some pre-freshmen coursework to fulfill.

Mr. Mercado worked in the State Education Department for twenty-five years. He was always concerned with poverty programs and felt that it was an area with which he wanted to get involved. After graduating from Columbia University, he got involved with HEOP and found his niche.

The HEOP program is constantly in danger of not achieving funds from the state budget. Mr. Mercado and many others are fighting every year to make sure it survives. HEOP is a great program and is certainly something from which Albany High kids can benefit.

State should keep TAP and EOP

by Nicoy Pusey

In my last article, I wrote about the cutting of funding for high school extracurricular programs. The governor's budget plan to reduce education spending is also potentially harmful to higher education.

Tuition costs at most SUNY colleges have increased by 6 percent over the past year. The governor wants to cut TAP and EOP funding from all schools in the state of New York. These programs give many students who cannot afford a college education the chance to receive one. I

know many parents are now asking how they going to pay for their children's education.

On Saturday the May 3, 2003, thousands gathered at various locations and marched on the Empire State Plaza to protest the governor's massive education cuts. There were various schools and colleges throughout the state along with representative from TAP, EOP and other opportunity programs.

When I receive my estimated tuition bill for a particular college, it was very surprising. If the governor terminates these programs from all

colleges, our opportunities for education will be greatly diminished.

Our parents are taxpayers. Why raise property taxes when they cannot get any government assistance when their children are ready for college? When I spoke with a few taxpayers they all have the same responses; we have seen a three to five percent increase in the last six months.

When election time comes around, should look for a candidate to support education. I hope the governor makes the right decision for the good of all.

'Patroon' staff now on the move

If you see students wandering the halls carrying filing cabinets, broken mouses, and really slow computers, just wave to them: they're the editors of the *Patroon*.

The *Patroon* office (located on the south house side of the third floor, next to the men's room) is now the home

of a new security office. The newspaper's items had to be removed to make room for the security office, designed to provide security for the students.

The *Patroon* will now be stationed in a classroom where advisor Mr. Keegan teaches for part of the day. Un-

fortunately, because of the fact that classes are conducted in this classroom, working on the paper during the day will prove difficult, but solutions are being discussed.

In the meantime, if you find any typos in this issue, please excuse them. Thanks abnuch!

The Patroon

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The *Patroon* is a member of the Columbia Scholastic Press and the Empire State School Press Association. It recognizes its role as your student newspaper and subscribes to the principles of good journalism, accuracy, fair play and objectivity. The *Patroon* welcomes contributions from any sincere student, faculty, staff member or administrator.

The Hollywood Review

by Joe Bonilla

X2 : X-Men United

Starring: Patrick Stewart, Alan Cumming, Ian McKellan, Hugh Jackman

Star Rating (out of five): Five out of Five

Back in the grand ol' year of 2000, where Clinton was still in the White House and the economy was still healthy, the first *X-Men* movie was released. However, many criticized the motion picture for not being true to the Marvel series as well as also not pleasing die-head fans.

X2 is the complete opposite. An excellent storyline, stunning new characters, and mind-blowing graphics make this big screen comic flick worth the \$9 at Crossgates.

With that \$85.8 million dollar opening weekend, X2 continues to set the bar for comic book features for the future as did *Spider-Man* did in 2002. If you've seen X2 already, then you know X3 in 2005 is going to be something to anticipate greatly.

Bottom Line: If you want to see the biggest movie of the summer that doesn't begin with the phrase "The Matrix," go see this.

Summer Movies

The summer of 2003 will be filled with more blockbusters than 2001 or 2002. It might be hard to comprehend how that is possible without Star Wars, Spider-Man, or The Mummy. However, there is no doubt that it will happen this year.

Major motion pictures for this summer are:

The Hulk—Starring Eric Bana; based on the Marvel comic "The Incredible Hulk."

The Matrix : Reloaded—Starring Keanu Reeves; the first of two sequels in 2003 for 1999's "The Matrix."

Bruce Almighty—Starring Jim Carrey; one man possesses all the power of the Man Upstairs.

Terminator 3 : Rise of Machines—Starring Arnold Schwarznegger; the Terminator is back after 12 years—coming in July.

Books

The Sigma Protocol

by Robert Ludlum

Review by Joel Leibo

Like many other novels, *The Sigma Protocol* by Robert Ludlum is covered in praise snipped from reviews. Yet one wonders how effective this praise actually is. Is anyone actually more likely to buy a book just because the *Roanoke Times* called it "superior?" (To what?) Its also worth wondering why the people that write this praise always feel the need to list adjectives before writing a real sentence. "Gripping... Compelling... Hooks Readers... And Keeps [them] on the edge of their seats" - *Charleston Post & Courier*. Do they think that when one sees something like this on the back of the book they will instantly be so overcome by this magnificent... phenomenal... amazing... list of adjectives that they will immediately lose all free will and run to buy the book? Doesn't work, but you have to admit it would be pretty funny if it did. They never print the bad reviews, but one wonders if they are written the same way. Something like: "Horrible... Repulsive... Bores Readers... And Keeps [them] from reading past the first nauseating page." Now if they printed "praise" like that I might read some of it!

Well in any case *The Sigma Protocol* is very good, read it! Just keep in mind the advice of the *Chicago Sun-Times*. "Don't ever begin a Ludlum novel if you have to go to work the next day." I wish I had.



Albany City School District teachers Jim Grove, Carmella Parente, Jennifer Worden and Molly Mullen relax a moment during the May 3 protest of state education cuts.

Classic movie review: *Reservoir Dogs*

by Dan Tress

Reservoir Dogs is a brilliant film written and directed by Quentin Tarantino in 1990. In this film, Tarantino manages to keep the audience enthralled by the action, while at the same time conveying a powerful message.

The opening scene is typical of a Tarantino film. It begins in a diner where a group of men in suits are chatting. This opening scene does a few significant things for the film. First although the topic of their conversation has no impact on the plot of the film, it gives texture to it. The scene also begins to develop some characters and give the audience a feel for this group of men. Good script writing by Tarantino and excellent acting by Harvey Keitel, Mike Madsen, Tim Roth, Steve Buscemi and Tarantino himself tells us that these men aren't wearing suits because they're on their way to the office. At the end of the opening scene we don't know ex-

actly what these men are involved in, but we can get the idea that it's something shady.

We soon learn that this group of men is involved a jewelry store robbery gone terribly wrong later that day. One of the men goes nuts and begins killing customers when they sound the alarms. There is a shoot-out with the police and a few of them escape, separately making their way back to the meeting place in a warehouse. The surviving men are convinced they were set up by the police. They spend the remainder of the movie trying to figure out which one of them is a rat. While they are doing this, the rest of us are meeting the main characters more in depth. This is very important because the movie is very character driven. The extreme violence and gore of the movie is limited to a few scenes.

Tarantino brilliantly intertwines each surviving character's history with their actions in their current situation.

He cuts back and forth between the past and present, showing how the gang met and planned the heist. We also get to see the police infiltrate the gang, so the audience knows long before the characters who the rat is. Most of the characters in the movie are static characters, such as tough guys played by Steve Buscemi and Mike Madsen, but Harvey Keitel plays a very strong dynamic character. We see him change from a typical tough guy like Madsen and Buscemi to a slightly softened (although not much), more caring man. The cause for this his concern for Tim Roth's character, who has been shot in the gut.

The movie comes to a very climactic, violent conclusion. It is a very powerful movie about the dark side of humanity. Tarantino makes a very powerful point. A group of cold, violent men unite to make some money and end up killing each other. Even money, the root of all evil, fails to bring these men together.

'They have sold the clouds'

by Katelyn Prinzo

An interesting point was brought to my attention while watching an ethnographic film in Mr. Petersen's Anthropology class. What if the entire world's existence was created through a female's perspective? For example, many people assume that God is a man. Why? Because the Bible was written from a male perspective.

In the Sierra, there is a civilization where women are considered to be of a higher rank than men. They are called the Kogi and believe that it is women who teach right and wrong. The Kogi actually feel that they've been secretly taking care of the world for us and see the white race as a younger brother. They refer to the world as mother earth. When we cut down trees, they say we are cutting her organs out.

When a Kogi male turns

eighteen, he becomes a man. He is given a poporo (a hollowed out gourd), which is thought to resemble a woman's womb. Inside the poporo are ground seashells which they eat with a moistened stick coated with lime. While they are eating the shells, they chew on coca leaves. The coca leaves and lime react causing a euphoric feeling. In this society, women are the only ones allowed to grow coca leaves. This ritual represents power and respect for women. They are held in incredibly high esteem and are considered the creators of the earth.

The Kogi were a peaceful people and treated each other well. But, in 1514, ships came, invading the Kogi's homeland. Ironically, because the Kogi wouldn't convert to Christianity, they were killed.

Now, the Kogi live in a

little corner of the world where power plants surround them causing health and environmental concerns. In addition to this, certain entities are moving to take their land for more big power plants.

I think it is interesting how a civilization which held women in the highest regard survived in peace for so many years and our male dominated society could ruin it in so little time.

I wonder what it would be like if women ran the world. Or if they were given the same initial opportunities to go to school, speak up, vote and hold a job. Maybe we would have accomplished more by not basing all of our lives on the views of men. They are killing the world according to the Kogi and, when they cut the trees that help the world breathe, have sold the clouds.

We, the Class of 2003,

I, **Jameesha Adams**, leave to my favorite classmate Nina Lifite, all of my originality, sexy looks, my crown and most of all my hate.

I, **Natisha Alexander**, leave behind my intelligence, beauty and popularity to my little sister, LaQuetta, my cousins, Qua, Kiera, Quiesha, and Shaldaya. Keep your head up and remember. Haters only hate you because they envy you.

I, **Akuba Arthurton**, aka GT Queen, leave my wigs and all my fashion and my jokes to my brother. Also my favorite word "Hey Boo" And much respect to the GT crew. Hold it down.

I, **Vayama Barcelo**, leave Briana Brown and Teasia Johnson, my hallways and lockers, the haters and very few homies. Keep your head up. Can't forget my reputation.

I, **Dara Benno**, leave jokes like whoa to Lyd Byd and the Lister, Arr...ness and cool hair to Zach B, expressive dance moves to Donell, Henrietta Jr. & Study Hall to Angelica, Katie & Nick, great hubby...ility to Zafir, my snowboarding skills to John B. "WERDS" to Paul C. Rocking the speech world to Emily Paul and Brendan, West Lawrence and a new tennis racket to Brendan.

I, **India Byrd**, leave all my hallways to young ones and my pimpjuice.

I, **Michael Campbell**, leave the practice room to Brendan, my humor to Sarah (since she enjoys laughing), my motivation to Sam and the Halfro-American legacy to Paul.

I, **Angela Caputo**, leave Bugs and storytime to Val and Ashely, Café Bake to next year's seniors, our pottery corner to Ben and Ester.

I, **Breanna Carr**, leave my knowledge, my kindness and my lovely scent of playerism and pimperation to da lil' ones-holla.

I, **Shameeka Chaney-Artis**, leave my locker to K-Slug-continue to hold and ya cousin got cha back through it all. To my little brother Snacks I leave my knowledge-hopefully you will see its not a game and I'll always love you. To Maribel aka Moddy I'ma leave you my favorite movie *Ferris Bueller's Day Off*. This should be a hint to stop skipping school. I'll see you around.



I, **Christine D. Cruz**, leave my attitude, realness, and uniqueness to all the coming freshmen. Keep your heads up and don't let anyone make you bring it down.

I, **Mike Cusey**, leave The Force, Star Power, My Mast Debating Skills and The Queen of Spades.

I, **Julie DeRossi**, leave Geoff: a new hat; Brendan: a backup prom date; Brigid/Ashley: the couch at Starbucks; Abbey: the best room in our house.

I, **Meg Doody**, leave the pottery corner to Esther and Ben, thug landing to everyone who stands in front of it anyway, café Bake to the new seniors.

I, **Leaisha E. M.**, leave Deasia A., Shazziah H., Marshay H. and Teasia J: my many different styles in fashion, and also stay strong ladies and don't let anything or anybody hold you down. Stay sweet and pretty. Love, Le-Le.

I, **Dwayne Fenner**, leave my nickname D-way to my boy Clyde A.K.A. Muse 187 and my book on how to pimp in my locker 1323.

I, **Queyanna Fernandez**, leave my locker to Efua Assua.

I, **Shah-ni-jah Fields**, leave my speed and leadership to my track team especially Sade McKenzie and Jah-Ray Glause.

I, **Jasmine Fitzgerald**, leave my smart mouth to my girl Vanessa and my good looks to my incoming family members.



I, **Lauren Fludd**, can't leave this crazy school without leaving my favorite cousin Celestine Dinkins my lovely personality, my crazy ways and my sense of humor. I love you girl. Keep focused and don't let the haters get you! Good luck especially goes to LaShana, Patrina and Preet!

I, **Luis Garcia**, leave all the knowledge and wisdom I gathered from my 4 years here in Albany High. Wisdom that I gained on my own and not from any teachers! Except for Mr. Lang and Mr. Sawyer.

I, **David Gordon Jr.**, leave all my musical talent anintelligent skills to all those who need! Big up to all the girls (who look good) left behind.

I, **Jared Grant**, leave behind all my kickz and clothes to all the young up n' comers. And letting all the dark skinned cats know ya'll can do the damn thing too!

I, **Josh Green**, leave my good looks to any one who needs them. Word to mutha son!

I, **Monika Hysenallari**, leave library to anyone who wants to study during their study hall + lunches! Peace!

I, **Jamel Jackson**, leave all my Jordans to a few juniors and all other young youths.

I, **Darrin Johnson**, leave Mel, DL & Chris all the cuties and DL my locker cause he needs one: 3091.

I, **Monica Jones**, leave my beautiful smile and diligence to the graduating class of 2004. Much love! One.

I, **Sophia Jones**, leave My Albany High School locker to my cousin Dayquish and Michael. I want them to keep it clean and use it for 4 years and pass they classes and move up to the next grade.

I, **Nick Kallner**, leave Fowler (Not Brady) the bowling team. Katie days off from gym, and Erin Lynn Kennedy a red pen in her room.

I, **James Patrick Keenan**, leave Mr. Weltz and the auditorium to Brendan, Ad shopping to Emily, the extemp boxes to Kuhne, memories of fruit flies to Sarah, and the baritone section to Lydia.

do hereby bequeath...

I, **Greg Kuzia-Carmel**, leave Mike: the secret spots. The crew: fun box. The teachers: the aroma of food. Everyone: proof the goofy can succeed.

I, **George Lewis**, leave my watch to tell kids to take your time.

I, **Lashana Lewis**, leave my intelligence, loving ways and popularity to my cousin Celes Dinkins & my senior parking spot to Akeem Arthurton. Love ya'll, to the rest I leave the best. I'M OUT!

I, **Melssia Lewis**, leave high-pitched giggles to Guy Flagg.

I, **N'cola Lewis**, leave my love of words, and poetry to *Inkblot*. I leave my charm and smile to Y.E.T. I leave my love & understanding to Albany High.

I, **Arameisha Logan**, leave my brother Marsheen, my locker and love because he has influenced me to be more of a big sister than a big bully.

I, **Patrick Maggio**, leave three more years of fun to my brother, enjoy it while it lasts Ben, all the Bezzos to a Gizzl, cuz she is one herself, and my heart to Rel, love you.

I, **Riccardo Maioriello**, leave my underclassmen friends my "will" to get ahead and my hard work I put into for you for sports at Albany High which are memories for you.

I, **Maja Malczewki**, leave Olivia Malczewski my table, FUA and P.C.

I, **Mariel**, leave Sarah Hogan the 2nd seat in French, Nerissa Environmental Club, Paul K. another ride home and liberal politics, Olga musica con abrazos y besos (no follas demasiado!), Kelly (my minion) sssatan and speeching, and Cia a big hug.

I, **Keion McKenzie**, leave my Gangsta to all my little homies and my popularity to my little sister Sade (fulfill the name little sis)!



I, **Leasha Miller**, leave my knowledge to my younger sister Chanel, my cousins Mary and Robby, who will be here next year. And BEST WISHES to the class of 2003. We made it.

I, **David Harrison Minehan**, leave all my Love to all the DWB, you know who you are.

I, **Paul Moncrieffe**, leave my legacy and wisdom with my brother,

keeper glove to Jake, my swimming pool to Brent, my whip to my brother and my heart to Deshanna.

I, **Julian Moore**, leave big up to the crew and all the girls who don't front on ya problems we are coming to a block near you.

I, **Myeasha**, leave my loud mouth to my cousin Dionna Young, also I will leave my teachers and lockers to Krystal Murray (sorry you'll be all by yourself). To the freshmen coming don't let anything get in your way and pursue all of your dreams. I will miss you Whitney Eatman, Melissa Permaul, Tashim Stratton and Shereen Moore as well as the others.

I, **Kevin O'Brien**, leave Mr.Pete the opportunity to shape young, impressionable minds, and all the young bucks trying to spit a model of how it's supposed to be done.

I, **Jaala Palmer**, leave my most precious items in my life currently and forever, my money and my rhyme book. The recipient of these items shall be my children, in which they deserve.



I, **Tameka Parker**, leave my locker (cleanest in the school) to Jeslie, my personality and cheezy smile to Larissa and Jamie and all my love to all whom loved me.

I, **Preet Pillai**, leave behind my jersey's, my kicks, and my basket ball skills to the underclassmen. To all my boys, Ralph, Fred, Khalid, Jared, and Josh. To my girls, Diona, Maribel, Lauren, Celestine, and Sha-ni-jah, Good Luck!

I, **Bill Przlucki**, bequeath most everything to Erin, the girls' softball team to Meg, the Drama Club to B.C., my ego to Collin Watkins, my extra crdeits to the super seniors, Ski Club to the juniors, the Albanettes to Josh Schwartz.

I, **Nicoy Pusey**, leave my good behavior to all the upcoming seniors and to all the Jamaicans "Don't let no problem get uh down, lively up yourself."

I, **Quinta aka AC Ashley**, leave the "table" to Livia and Donell, FUA to Livia (keep it alive girl), my chest to Greg, old skool to Quifa, big mouth to Nate, attitude to Jen (stick up for yourself!) and I give my happiness, beauty and confidence to VW-without you I wouldn't have any of it.

I, **Clifton Riggins**, leave my locker to anyone who wants it and the smells that come from it and the writing from 1982 that's still in it. I will leave all of my gym shorts and shirts in my gym locker so that the school can wash them and lend them out to students who come unprepared to gym. In closing just remember that "practice makes perfect but nobody's perfect so why practice."

I, **Pat Riley**, leave the upcoming tennis stars my Big Ten championship and my captainship.

I, **Jessica M. Rivera**, leave my bandanas to my friend Jessica Hatch...Rock 'em like you mean it girl!

I, **Akira Rowell**, leave a little knowledge, love and confidence for my brother Lashad, my cousin Kahleem, and for a lot of my family who will be here soon. I wish them all the best in life and wish them to succeed, have fun and don't let anything bring them down. On behalf of my fam, Rena, Feesha, Meka, Cuiara and Toya (love y'all). I also leave the lunch table we used to gossip, laugh, sing and bug out at.

I, **Justmery Sabater**, leave my orange Gap sweater and my royal blue scrubs to my sister Joanne (Tita).

2003 Senior Wills continued

I, **Rocco Sainato**, leave Erin Kennedy one Baywatch Barbie doll.

I, **Frankie Santiago**, leave my pain suffering and misery that I've endured through my high school years. I'll also leave my CD player for anyone who can find it.

I, **Marceline Santiago**, leave my eagerness to get out of this school as soon as they can and some words of advice "do not slack off" to all of the upcoming freshmen.

I, **Ben Schuman**, leave Magnolia Terrace to Paul Kuhne, the legend of the Schumonster to PC and a Crowne Plaza cake to Sarah Hogan.

I, **Delian A. Shannon-DiPietro**, leave Brent: My mom's basement, Mo: A bocci set, VSswimming, and Sectionals; Sarah: my real senior message; Mike Panetta, the Pool; "The Big K": my one good test.

I, **Marci Simon**, leave Thomas: [a*@head](#) and betty, the car, Mr. Bryan's office; Livia: the stash under the bed; Donell: imaginacion!; Nick: a little piece of the folksinger; Rony: inappropriate hugs.

I, **Patrina Smith**, leave to my cousins Nathalia, Jamika, Stephanie, Conroy, Lisa, Donovan and Tracey-Ann my strength, knowledge and encouragement. Try hard and don't give up. Celes, its been real, so stay strong. Remember never let the haters bring you down.

I, **Craig Staufenberg**, leave BC-wow AC-marry me? SC-my libido; MC-nothing; BD-the fro; KM-"kiss me;" EM-apologies; JP-the Pastel's cheese and waffles; SR-poetry books; MS-don't tell Kevin; ZB-Boogie Knights.

I, **Justin Stoddard**, leave all my girls to the guys.

I, **Shanita Thomas**, leave my luminous personality, comedy, humor and gossip for my mini-me'z Keonna, Shira and Mona aka Bona Parte and wish for them to stay focused. With me I take my best friends Leasha, Shah-ni-jah and Ralph on a journey to adulthood. Like Jada said, "We gone make it." (tear) I will miss AHS. (another tear) Class of 2003 leaves their love for the youngsters.

I, **Gabriel Tick**, leave my last name to my sister Sappho; the title of most artistic male to Eric Foster.

I, **Meredith Traver**, leave my battery operated locker lights to Meghan McKay, Kelly McKay and Nicole Kuchera..

I, **Dan Tress**, leave Geoff, Terrel, Swiz-the center circle; Andre-the fireman's carry; A. Gizzle-all the beezos; Abby-ham, egg and cheese; Nick-a D-lineman in your face; Eric-OE 40.

I, **Mivari Tsuaygenbaum**, leave the crazy life at Albany High to my sister Raisa and all her freshman friends.

I, **Monofer Usman**, leave a standard that every Indian should fulfill to fit in at Albany High.

I, **Emma V-C**, leave the V-C connection and family rep to Anny and Erin, JRO to Mike and Joe, the Fab 4 to Ash and Brigid, Barnet St. to Zach, all the lockers and best snowboarder to Abby, hugs for KT Whyte.

I, **Rachelle Veasley**, leave Andrew "minion" Hettesheimer my Debate book, Katie Worden my section in band and Paul Kuhne my lucky fork.

I, **Harrison Watkins**, leave the soccer team to Mike, Endri and Matt; hot chocolate and poetry to Sarah Read: Troubadors to Brendan; general excellence to Ann Cosgrove; and everything else to Colin.

I, **Diana Whitmore**, leave my sarcastic sense of humor to those in serious need.

I, **Kahdijah Wimbush**, leave my locker to my little cousin Adnan. I leave my wisdom and hall passes to my lil fizz Keonna. Shoutouts to Leasia, Shontaya and all the underclassmen -keep ya heads in them books. Peace.

I, **Tiffany Winfrey**, leave my dirty locker to my stankin brother soon to come; my Jamaican flag to those still going to the Caribbean parties and my notes to those not graduating.

We, **the Patroon staff**, wish our graduates all the best!

Prom provides lasting memories

by Jeannelle Ramirez

It's unnecessary to point out that the senior prom is one of the most important moments in a high school student's life. It was no different for the class of 2003, who got the chance to look its best for the reception at Birch Hill.

This year, the couples decided not to match the decorations in the banquet hall (white and silver). Instead, the colors of choice were red dresses for the ladies and white tuxedos for the gentlemen, with the usual canes, hats and fur coats. The biggest winners of the night, the prom king and queen, were Jameesha Adams and Ralph Burton, who accepted his crown with tears in his eyes.

Despite the special night, many seniors opted not to go to the prom, citing that it was held too early in the year.

...the best part of the night was the last slow dance...

"If it was in May, I would've did it up and looked better than anyone else," explained Akuba Arthurton, but the April 12th date, she says, didn't give her enough time to prepare for the occasion. Indeed, many students would agree that with more than two months of school left and chilly weather, it wasn't the best night to have the prom.

Those who did attend, however, seemed to enjoy themselves despite several drawbacks. One senior complained that the waiters kept taking his plates before he had finished eating, while many more stated the food and music were outright bad. Jared Grant had a good time and admitted dreamily that "the best part of the night was the last slow dance," even with the crowded dance floor.

In the end the best part of the prom for everyone was being able to party with their friends for one of the last times. It was a night to look back on the good times, but more than that, the prom is a rite of passage into the world beyond high school.

Physical Education Department to renovate weight room

by Joshua Schwartz

In a story demonstrating the power and effectiveness of self-advocacy, two junior Albany High girls are spearheading the initiative to renovate the school's weight rooms, finally bringing the equipment up to modern standards.

Beginning as the final project for her first semester health class, Maureen Stutzman, 17, decided that the school's training facilities were severely inadequate. She then designed a plan outlining exactly what the school needed to do to become more up to date and how to do it. Now, a plan exists that the school will have a totally new weight room by the beginning of the 2003-2004 school year. A press conference is scheduled for Tuesday May 27th, at 6:30 PM, in the dance studio.

"I had been trying to get a membership to the JCC, but it was too expensive," says

Stutzman, a varsity swimmer, "Every other school I had been to in the area had a really good weight room, and I wondered why didn't we?"

Enlisting the help of classmate and fellow athlete Marissa Mazzei, Maureen, with help from her teacher Mrs. Sue Dwyer, began to take steps to see that her goal could be realized.

The equipment needed for the school costs an estimated \$60,000, most of which was donated by the school board. A significant amount of the cost, an amount totaling in the thousands was raised by the impressive efforts of the two student-athletes.

It turns out that the physical education faculty of the school has been requesting a new facility for a long time. The equipment presently used is the same that was installed when the school was constructed, in 1974.

Mr. Owens, an administrator of health facilities and programs in the school asserts that the new weight room will benefit everyone in the school, not just the sports teams. Presently, the average fitness level of American youth is dropping constantly, and obesity stands poised to become the next full-on epidemic.

The physical education faculty hopes that the new facilities will encourage the student body to undertake a life-long commitment to mental and physical health. The weight room would also include equipment designed for use by the special education students.

After the two girls proposed the plan to the school board, and it was approved, the board sent out a "Request for Proposal" (RFP) to all companies interested in taking up the job. The goal is to have the new facility up and run-

ning by the end of the summer recess. All construction will be performed by a team of the contracted company and the school maintenance staff.

The program includes a cardio fitness center (which includes equipment like treadmills, bikes, and step machines), fixed weights (perhaps supplied by the Cybex Co.), and free weights. The wall presently in place dividing the two sections of the weight room would be reduced to create more of an open area between the two rooms. All the old equipment will be donated to Hackett, Livingston, and Harriet Gibbons schools.

Mrs. Dwyer wants this story to be a lesson that self-advocacy is one of the most powerful forces available to the student body. She is very proud of the work of both Ms. Stutzman and Ms. Mazzei, as is the staff of the *Patroon*.

Film depicts Wilco at its finest

by Robert L. Franchini

A documentary is an unlimited behind-the-scenes look at an evolving situation through the impartial eyes of the director and film crew. In director Sam Jones' *I Am Trying To Break Your Heart*, he goes into the studio to explore the music making process with Wilco, one of the few bands who value the creation of great music over all else.

This Chicago based quintet has been gathering critical praise and respect while creating music that uniquely defines each member of the band. Sam Jones is able to capture the band in state of flux as they try to balance making a record completely on their own and dealing with pressure from a music industry only interested in profit.

How does a band tap its potential in an unrestricted manner to create a record that blends the influence of each critical member? That is the question Sam Jones attempts to answer as Wilco enters the studio to record their fifth album. Jones starts at the beginning of the process as the band

enters the studio to lay down tracks and arrange each song individually.

Singer/songwriter Jeff Tweedy is the clear leader, as shown from the beginning; his songs are transformed as the band records and overdubs his original work. The process of recording is shown in each aspect.

Jones is able to show the band as they progress through recording and the inter-workings of the personalities of each band member. *I Am Trying To Break Your Heart* also captures a classic example of something unexpectedly filmed, and that is creative differences. To see band member Jay Bennett insistently repeating "I just want you to understand me" as he and Tweedy wrangle over an insignificant musical moment is to understand how much these relationships develop into strife and bitterness and the association between band is headed toward unforgiving water.

Thimhere Jones captures something unexpected, but adds to genuinely and honestly of the documentary. At the

completion of the record the band delivers a record that truly captures their sound and direction but is only rejected by Reprise Records. This leads to months of limbo, as Wilco must stand by their record and fight to see it released in its original form. The pressure of this time period as well as various other factors leads to the dismal of multi-instrumentalist, songwriter and co-producer Jay Bennett from the band after four years.

I Am Trying To Break Your Heart accomplishes much more than Sam Jones originally set out to complete when he began filming Wilco. He was able to find a band that exhibited dedication and passion as they went into the studio to create *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*. The 2-disc DVD set contains the original movie with commentary, bonus footage, and a making of *I Am Trying To Break Your Heart*.

This documentary captures the energy and emotion of Wilco and reflects well on Sam Jones' filmmaking instinct.



On Wednesday, May 28, AHS seniors viewed a simulated drunk driving incident in the Washington Avenue parking lot. It was put on by the city's fire and police departments along with the District Attorney's office. Mayor Jennings spoke to the seniors and told them to "always have taxi fare in your pocket, take the cab if you are drinking."

'Debate'

Continued from page 8 including Columbia, Holy Cross, Harvard, Princeton and Yale.

At Princeton, sophomore Kelly McKay placed third in Humorous Interpretation. At the Bishop Healey Invitational, held annually at the University of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA, members of both the Speech and Debate team were ranked highly. In debate, freshman Andrew Hettesheimer and sophomore Josh Hancox both placed within the top 32. In Dramatic Performance, sophomore Kelly McKay competed in the quarter final round.

All of the year's tournaments culminated in the 2003

New York State Forensics League Championship Tournament at which our team had an unprecedented success. Throughout the year, members of our team worked diligently just to receive the chance to compete in this prestigious tournament. They spent many long afternoons examining theories, tweaking ideas and perfecting characters.

Through all of this hard work our team qualified a large number of students. In novice debate, freshman Andrew Hettesheimer competed in the octo-final round, which places him within the top sixteen. In varsity debate, members of the AHS team hold three of the top eight rankings

in the state, including two of the top four.

Junior Benjamin Colman competed in the quarter-final round, placing him within the top eight. Rachele Veasley, debate captain and senior, placed fourth in the state and junior Kenny Rudinger placed third.

In Humorous Interpretation, junior Brendan Cataldo competed in the semifinal round placing him within the top ten in the state. Sophomore Paul Kuhn competed in the semifinal round of junior varsity Extemporaneous Speaking, placing him within the top twelve.

This year has marked an incredible success for the AHS Speech and Debate team.



Beautiful tulips like these can be seen throughout the city of Albany as part of the celebration of its Dutch heritage.

Akuba's thoughts: The Tulip Festival

by Akuba Arthurton

The second day of the The Tulip Festival, May 11, began at 11 am and ended around 6 pm. The weather was clear and sunny with a high of 80 degrees. The perfect weather-better than Albany has seen for the Festival in years.

Being the great reporter I am, I made sure to get a well-rounded opinion from the various groups of people that attend "The Fest." The overall opinion of the music was negative. People didn't believe it appealed to all tastes. This is something the organizers will hopefully take into account next year.

The Tulip Festival is always know for their amazing fried dough-it is one of the things that people anticipate. The lines to buy drinks were

extremely long, service slow and some vendors even ran out. "The Fest" was so packed that the lines for the rides were equivalent to waiting in line at Disney World.

Dogs were not allowed and it almost seemed that the dog population was smuggled into "The Fest."

Parking was hard to find and people began parking in the Price Chopper parking lot. This led to people's cars getting towed.

Advice from Akuba: Don't forget your sunscreen and leave your dogs at home.

On a lighter note, the tulips were beautiful and made the event worthwhile. This is one of the events that the whole city of Albany comes out to see. It nice to see our city come together for some fun!

Artists display their work

Combined sources

Eight Albany High School artists participated in the 2003 Regional Art Exhibition, which included students from schools in Albany, Schenectady and Rensselaer counties.

Ellen Murray, Caitlin Purcell, Osei Tonto, Garielle Bollin, Ann Cosgrove, Eric Foster, Mariel Frank and Negia Gardner had their art-

work displayed in the Dietel Gallery of the Maguire Art Building on the campus of the Emma Willard School in Troy from February 17-March 2.

The event culminated in a reception on Sunday, March 2 from 1-3 pm with guest speaker David Brickman, Albany artist and critic, addressing the students. A Juror's Award ceremony was also included in the program.



Negia Gardner had her assemblage entitled "Tilted Egg," pictured with her, shown in the 2003 Regional Art Exhibition.

Sports and Clubs

Tennis team wins title

by Mark Singiser

The Albany High tennis team ended its season with a 9-1 record and captured the Big Ten championship.

The team includes many of the region's best players such as Pat Riley and Phil Steinberg, winners of the Big Ten doubles tournament. Victories against many of the top rated schools in the area including Troy and LaSalle, as well as Amsterdam, CBA and Schenectady twice, highlighted the year.

After participating in the Big Ten Tournament, the team went on to do well in Sectionals, making it to the second round before being knocked out by Shenendehowa.

Much of the teams success this year was due to the

leadership of Coach Leung and captains Mark Singiser and Pat Riley. Seniors Jason Welsh and Vadim Livshits also provided leadership.

The tennis season started very late this year because of the snow and rain. The late start caused a backup in the matches and forced the team to play a match almost every day for 2 weeks. Those matches made it almost impossible to practice and caused many scheduling problems.

The weather also resulted in the team's inability to play the schools outside the Big Ten which they normally play. These schools include Bethlehem, Columbia and Shaker, all of which are in the Suburban Council and would have been very good practice for Sectionals.



Katie Worden, Rachelle Veasley (front l. to r.) and Kenny Rudinger, Ben Colman and Andrew Hetteshimer (back l. to r.), members of the AHS Speech and Debate team, are pictured at the NYS Forensics Tournament at Shenendehowa High School the weekend of April 25 & 26.

Speech and Debate ends successful year

by Benjamin Colman

The Albany High Speech and Debate team is the oldest in the nation. It was founded in 1869, originally as a group of students interested

in oration and literature and has only grown from there. The team competes in tournaments throughout the northeast, routinely dominating the regional circuit and excelling in state and national level tournaments.

Locally, the AHS Speech and Debate team was very successful, placing within the top three in six of eight local tournaments, with four first place finishes. Individually, many members of our team stood out. In varsity Lincoln Douglas Debate senior team captain Mike Cusey qualified to the state championship after competing in only two tournaments, placing first and second at those.

In Duo Interpretation, one of the many speech events that our team participates in, the team of seniors James Keenan, speech captain and Dara Benno placed first in every local tournament that they competed.

Through these local tournaments, Albany High qualified four varsity debaters, one junior varsity debater and two novice debaters to the state championship, as well as members of the speech team.

On the national level Albany High performed extremely well. Our team competed in tournaments at many of the nations top universities, **Continued on page 7**
Please see 'Debate'

Late starting clubs show early promise

by Juliet Tarantino

The Habitat for Humanity and Best Buddies programs came to Albany High several months into the school year. These two clubs did not begin at the opening of the year in September but were introduced during the course of the school year. Their success lies in their potential for next year.

Habitat for Humanity is a national organization that helps build homes for families who could not afford to purchase them otherwise. Companies donate some of the supplies and workers volunteer their labor. The Habitat for Humanity Club at Albany High is led by president Matt Simon, secretary Sophie Friedman and faculty advisor Mr. Gunther. Club members have already visited a site in Albany where they helped

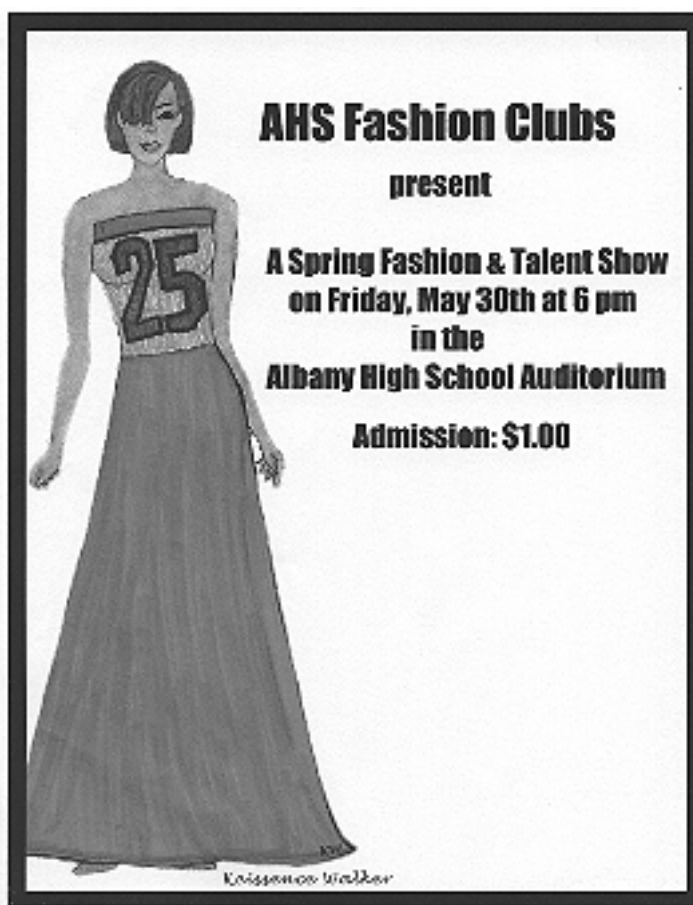
paint the interior of a home; student members play an active role in the on site construction. The club will also fundraise to donate to Habitat for Humanity. Meetings are held on Mondays.

The Best Buddies Program may be less familiar to AHS students. This club is also part of a larger outside organization and facilitates clubs on college campuses as well. The program pairs club members with students at Albany High in the Special Education program for a friendship. Meetings are on Wednesdays.

Habitat for Humanity and Best Buddies, two of the newest clubs at Albany High, seem like they'll be at AHS for a while. Their beginnings have been met with popularity and enthusiasm. Next year they'll return and welcome new members.

Students unveil latest designs

On Friday, May 30, the Albany High School Fashion Club hosted their annual Spring Fashion and Talent Show in the AHS auditorium. The audience was treated to a showcase of AHS students' talents in song, dance and fashion design. Both casual and formal wear were created by Fashion Club members. Proceeds benefitted the Fashion Club. An enjoyable time was had by all participants and spectators. *The original artwork advertising the extravaganza, by Keissance Walker, is pictured at right.*



The AHS Fashion Club also held a fundraiser at Boscov's on March 1. Club members modeled prom and sportswear from Boscov's junior department.