The man who took the stage after Mr. Tiernan’s introduction did not look like one of the world’s premier psychologists. But there is a brilliant mind underneath Dr. Steven Pinker’s wild Van Halen-esque hair. On December 4th, this renowned psychologist, writer, and Harvard University professor commenced the second year of the Corcoran Living Library Lecture Series with a presentation explaining the inner workings of the human mind. Dr. Pinker began his talk with the idea that the mind is an extraordinary and unique engineering masterpiece, specially designed to solve the complex problems of everyday life. He explained this through three points, computation, evolution, and specialization. The brain is like a computer, he said, in that it processes information, and different parts of the mind have evolved throughout the ages to specialize in certain aspects of knowing. Philosophers have pursued the nature of the mind for centuries, but Dr. Pinker claims to have found it: “Brain cells fire in patterns.”

Most people view the eye as a miniature video recorder connected to the brain. However, Dr. Pinker explained otherwise, saying that it collects information as in a spreadsheet for the brain to process. So seeing is number-crunching. And thinking is predicting and manipulating the world around us. We attempt to understand our environment through an expectation of natural law, function, and beliefs and desires.

Dr. Pinker’s discourse on the human mind soon turned inevitably to passion and love. In a move that probably dampened the entire audiences’ views on romance, he explained love as a strategic tool, in which you settle for the best possible option at a point in time. This idea of love as merely a question of value versus time may disappoint some, but it is by no means solely rational. A good relationship is held together by irrationality, as any rational person would avoid commitment at all costs. Seeking only reasonable passion also serves a calculated function. Pursuing vengeance at all costs can actually be a rational action. Following through with threats establishes a person as one to fear. Your credibility, attained at great cost to yourself, becomes a deterrent to would-be troublemakers, and you may then live unchallenged by others, a rational end achieved through irrational means.

Although his ideas can be seen as cynical and somewhat disillusioning, Dr. Pinker asserted that they can enable one to more fully appreciate the mind and its complexities. The brain is not simply a computer you could pick up at Best Buy, but an ingenious and irreparable device. It is specially designed to outsmart our environment and evolves with the progression of our human experience. If we inherit our ancestors’ ugly nature, they are passed down along with their beautiful qualities. Our minds are complex and strange, capable of greed and altruism, friendship and hate. With those final thoughts, Dr. Pinker then turned to the audience for questions.

When asked about gender differences in the brain, Dr. Pinker attempted to tread carefully, aware that his own theories on the matter brought about the downfall of former Harvard president Larry Summers. However, he offered that men are more violent, take more risks, and are more concerned about status than women, who are more adapted at verbal fluency and calculation. On the topic of spirituality, Dr. Pinker explained that religious belief involves several components within the brain; there is no one “Faith Cortex”. But despite the complexities of studying religion and the mind, he mentioned temporal lobe epilepsy. Those afflicted with this condition often profess intense spiritual experiences directly linked to a caretaker, seemingly caused by high activity in the temporal lobe. God cannot be put under the microscope, but psychologists and thinkers like Dr. Pinker can help us to understand ourselves and the nature of our spirituality.

Before he ended, Steven Pinker told the audience “It’s expensive to have a brain.” But as evidenced though his work and ideas, one can only gain from exploring it.
The Eagle

Dancing the Night Away

As all B.C. High students know, you always leave room for the Holy Spirit.

James Lewek '11 Assistant News Editor

On Friday December 5, Student Council held its annual freshmen-sophomore dance. Upon entering, students were split up into boys and girls. The boys were sent to one table, where they had to show their BC High I.D. and pay $5.00. The girls were sent to a table opposite the boys, where they would need a school I.D., a voucher, and $5.00 in order to be allowed in. After admitted, students could place their jackets, backpacks, purses, etc. outside the bookstore where they could be picked up when up leaving.

Arriving half an hour ahead of time, the sophomore members of Student Council played a big role in the set up and efficiency of the dance. As of students arrived Student Council reps collected money from the students entering the dance. Once everyone was admitted into the dance, members of Student Council switched off selling drinks, usually two at a time. Finally, once the dance ended, the sophomores on student council provided aid in the clean up.

All in all, the dance was a success. Though there was talk of a disaster, since the Notre Dame Academy Sophomore Soirée also fell on Friday night, the dance proved itself to be a fun time. All. Mr. Gailius did a great job as DJ, taking requests from the student body while maintaining a constant flow of good "dance" music. Other teachers like Ms. Smith, Ms. Kogan, and Mr. Dowling, among many others, helped keep order throughout the three hours of the dance, even though the majority of students were well-behaved.

The atmosphere in the dance helped it to be a success. Everyone seemed comfortable and related, while still having a good time. The dance ended on a high note, with Mr. Gailius finally playing the highly requested "Sanstorm." Every person in the Hunter-Fahy Commons was out on the floor to end the night the right way.

As most senior English classes were treated to a performance of Shakespeare's Othello, by the New Repertory Theatre. Othello tells the tale of, who would have guessed it, Othello. The play reenacts Othello's downfall at the hands of a lagoon, a cunning and manipulaciel villain, Iago's hatred for Othello, founded on lies and rumors, causes him to manipulate Othello into murdering his wife Desdemona. The death does not end there, the story continues until almost all of the major characters are dead. Due to a limited cast the performers elected not to rearrange the full play. The senior class had to wait until after the play, during question time, to learn that Iago is tortured and then murdered with justice having been served. This great opportunity for the senior class was timed perfectly to correlate with the English Department's senior curriculum.

As most senior English classes are now reading Hamlet, the performance of Othello has given us a new hope of understanding the thick and leavened language of Shakespeare. The language in some cases is the problem. Even though he is indeed a work of art, the language often makes it difficult to decipher the tone of Shakespeare's characters. One way this issue can be addressed is hearing and seeing a Shakespearean play performed. Shakespeare does not necessarily have to be seen to be fully understood, but it certainly does help to listen to the way words are said and how each character reacts. Mrs. Winter of the English Department commented saying, "Seeing Shakespeare is helpful because it allows you to see and listen to the emotions of each character, but the beauty of Shakespeare's language is most restricted to reading the actual text." Unfortunately, seeing Othello, and learning more about its characters has shed no light on the characters of Hamlet, leaving seniors Patrick O'Donnovan and Sean Naughton, along with many others distraught over upcoming analytical essays and tests. Yet it does give us hope that Shakespeare is not the enigma many see it to be. In spite of this inconvenient predicament, it should not prevent seniors from appreciating how lucky they were to have seen such a well performed play. The play was "exceptionally good," said Mr. Hernandez "they've been very good for a very long time."
The Eagle

The Eagle staff would like to openly acknowledge the various instances of giving as displayed by both past and present faculty and students of B.C. High. The following is a brief summary of what our school community has achieved thus far this year, as well as a number of future opportunities for giving.

### The Top Contributing Arrupe Homeroom:

- W104- Mr. Gartside and Mr. Terrill

### The Top Contributing High School Homerooms:

1. Mr. Logan and M313
2. Mr. Whelan and M300
3. Mr. Rogers and M308

### Total Amount Raised to Date:

$16,216.32

#### Decking the Halls a little too early?

**Patrick O’Donovan ‘09**

_Contributor_

Is it just me, or is the Christmas season starting earlier and earlier every year? Don’t get me wrong: I love Christmas, but when I see Christmas decorations for sale when picking up my Halloween costume, I think things are starting to get out of hand.

Perhaps the early arrival of Christmas in stores this year was the shooting of “Mall Cop,” starring Kevin James, in the South Shore Plaza and Burlington Mall. The Christmas decorations for the movie set seemed a little out of place when you consider that it was mid-summer when the movie was shot there.

As much as I love Christmas decorations, seeing them in early July really baffled me.

Advertising is what really gets Christmas started. Between September and Christmas, the advertisements for toys really start to kick in on TV. Toys ‘R’ Us released their “Biggest Toy Book Ever” (a claim that they make every year) in early October, yet I’m pretty sure the book would be half its original size if it didn’t include the huge pictures of kids playing with Hot Wheels.

Mr. Logan’s freshman celebrate their status as the most generous homeroom in the school.

**Total Amount Raised to Date:**

$16,216.32

### Future Chances to Give

#### The Year is far from over, and it is important to remember that there are still plenty of opportunities to give. Keep in mind that while the spirit of giving is seen as something we do around Christmas, it should also be an important part of our day to day lives.

Until 12/15- Clothing Drive for St. Francis House

12/18- Elf in the Commons

- This April vacation, a number of BC High students and faculty members will be traveling to the Dominican Republic to offer aid to those who are in dire need.

- As the trip requires a great deal of fundraising, this movie night is a perfect opportunity for the BC High community to join together and support their cause.

- Make sure to get a voucher for your guests in student affairs.

### Until 12/19- Giving Tree

- This holiday season, BC High students are asked to bring in unused toys for the children who will be attending Christmas in the City, a nonprofit organization which offers families who struggle financially during the Christmas season to enjoy the spirit of giving.

### Until 12/19- Prayer Tree

- This Christmas season, BC High introduces the first ever Prayer Tree. In the hopes of fostering a greater community between faculty and students, faculty are invited to pray for the intentions of those on their cards.

### Until 12/19- Mite Box towards fundraising for B.C. High’s Dominican Republic Service Trip

- From September 3rd to December 19th, you can help fund the trip by dropping off Mite Boxes in the mailbox of the person who posted it.

- Just before break, place the card in the mailbox of the person who you spent the week praying for. Be sure to pick up your card and put it on the Prayer Tree today!

### 1/8- Mite Box towards fundraising for B.C. High’s Dominican Republic Service Trip

- From 9/25 to 12/19, you can help fund the trip by dropping off Mite Boxes in the mailbox of the person who posted it.

- Just before break, place the card in the mailbox of the person who you spent the week praying for. Be sure to pick up your card and put it on the Prayer Tree today!

### Until 1/20- Mite Box towards fundraising for B.C. High’s Dominican Republic Service Trip

- From 9/25 to 12/19, you can help fund the trip by dropping off Mite Boxes in the mailbox of the person who posted it.

- Just before break, place the card in the mailbox of the person who you spent the week praying for. Be sure to pick up your card and put it on the Prayer Tree today!

### The Spirit of Giving

### Alive at B.C. High

#### In the spirit of the Christmas season, the Eagle staff would like to openly acknowledge the various instances of giving as displayed by both past and present faculty and students of B.C. High. The following is a brief summary of what our school community has achieved thus far this year, as well as a number of future opportunities for giving.

It is important to remember that the culture of service which we are emulating should emulate, keep in mind that soon enough we will all be alumni.

The faculty and alumni of BC High are among the most generous members of our school community; a fact which largely goes unnoticed. Thanks to the generosity of our teachers and administrators, such organizations as the Marguerite Thompson Scholarship, as well as the Jim Cotter Scholarship are able to continue to provide the opportunity for talented young men to attend BC High. Many teachers choose to set aside a portion of their salaries towards such funds, ranging from contributions of as little as five dollars to amounts we were asked not to publish. The continued support of our alumni allows for large scale projects as the Renaissance campaign as well as the renovation of Walsh Hall. They also contribute to a number of scholarships, among various other organizations set up to benefit our school as a whole.

As it is men and women for others that we as BC High students should emulate, keep in mind that goodwill will be returned to you. It is important to remember that the culture of service which we are so accustomed to began here at BC High, and that, as the saying goes, “to those to whom much is given, much is expected.” In the coming months and years, keep in mind that charity needs to start at home, and it is up to us as students to continue this spirit of giving long after we graduate.
B.C. High goes Acoustic: Unplugged and Un-Believable

Keegan Flynn ’10
Features Editor

Monday, November 24th marked the first bi-annual Unplugged concert of the year. I do not intend to be disingenuous or misleading with the name; the guitars were in fact plugged in (it’s a more of a metaphor), but that’s beside the point. With a small entry fee of three dollars and a packed Bulger Theater, Strummer’s Lounge was able to raise hundreds of dollars to put toward book scholarships for B.C. High students. This would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Aumiller, Andrew Davey, and Tom Walsh, each of whom helped run both the club and the concert. Scott Thomas and Dan Breslin hosted the event, and although far fewer people laughed at Scott’s jokes, they both did a great job.

In the beginning of the show, sophomore Liam McCaig impressed everyone with his amazing guitar skills in his performance that combined Led Zeppelin’s “Black Mountain Side” and Chet Atkins’ “Dizzy Fingers.” After that, Eddie Adams and Pat O’Connor performed an excellent cover of “Layla” by Eric Clapton. Soon following was Dave Cottone and Pete Skipper’s bold rendition of Beyoncé’s “Irreplaceable,” performed impeccably. Afterwards Andrew Davey joined the two to finish off the first half of the concert with a great cover of John Mayer’s “Free Fallin.” This rising young star was then joined by Tom Walsh, Pat O’Connor, and Denis O’Connell to perform a few classic O.A.R. songs: “About and Hour Ago” and “Hey Girl.” Following these performances, Tom laid down the vocals for “Crush” by DMB while Pat and Andy took care of the intricate guitar parts.

The highlight of the show, however, was the last performance of the night. Pat gave a ten-minute introduction to the song he wrote, called “Whatever You Like,” that included an on-stage call to the absent Dan Madden (who has requested that I mention his “deep, sexy voice”). He started out with Loucks on the ivory (that’s the piano, folks) and Denis O’Connell on the drums, but Dan Breslin, who had left the auditorium earlier in the night, made a surprise appearance at the end of the song. Besides Scott Thomas’ mediocre dance moves and a few lyrical slip-ups, the performance went smoothly. Breslin even got to make use of his hummingbird joke and hummed when he didn’t know the words. It was a great way to end an even better night, and I encourage everyone to attend the next Unplugged concert in the spring.

The Cruelest Christmas Crossword Ever

Across
1. “Adeste laeti triumphantes”
2. “A Charlie Brown Christmas” character who explains what Christmas is all about.
3. This avian of the pheasant family does not naturally perch in pear trees.
4. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
5. The only response anyone ever has to nice style is hate. Constantly, the stylish among us are being bashed for our trousers or sweaters. I would like to respond by asking this to the Irish high community; haven’t you worn the same shirt the last three days?
6. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
7. Greek letter in X-Mas
8. The perfect kind of a Christmas preparation.
9. Advent liturgical color
10. French nativity scene
11. “Away in a manger”
12. Not even this creature would rather sport a flannel shirt from their grandfa ther’s cabin deep in the woods of Maine (Andy Clark) than a finely knitted sweater given to them by their grandmother last Christmas. It is a well-known fact that I look sadly, too many students would rather sport a flannel shirt borrowed from their grandfa ther’s cabin deep in the woods of Maine (Andy Clark) than a finely knitted sweater given to them by their grandmother last Christmas. It is a well-known fact that I look
13. Christmas celebration or carol.
14. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
15. “You look so fly today, Nick!” says senior Andrew Loucks, “you have some really great style.” That’s right, your choice of trousers today is tremendous. I respond. We really know how to dress. The fact of the matter is, I could choose my clothes for the day better with a blindfold on than the majority of students. To the person reading this, I’m talking to you.
17. Home of the Christmas tree.
18. Angels announced the Nativity to these people in the fields of Bethlehem.
20. “Crush” by Dave Matthews Band.
21. Cone-bearing trees
22. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
23. First of the Three Spirits
24. Decorated masterpiece of evergreen trees and a bow
25. “Crush” by Dave Matthews Band.
26. Mexican “Flower of the Holy Night”
27. “Whatever You Like”
28. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
29. Italian word for Christmas
30. Sweet crock
31. Jolly Old Saint Nick
32. Winter festival celebrated across
34. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
35. “Whatever You Like”
36. “Whatever You Like”
37. “Whatever You Like”
38. “Whatever You Like”
39. “Whatever You Like”
40. “Whatever You Like”
41. “Whatever You Like”
42. “Whatever You Like”
43. “Whatever You Like”
44. “Whatever You Like”
45. “Whatever You Like”
46. “Whatever You Like”

Down
2. None Ladies
3. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
4. Month scholars believe Jesus was actually born in.
5. The perfect kind of a Christmas preparation.
6. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
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13. Christmas celebration or carol.
14. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
15. “Away in a manger”
16. Santa’s favorite drink.
17. Home of the Christmas tree.
18. Angels announced the Nativity to these people in the fields of Bethlehem.
20. “Crush” by Dave Matthews Band.
21. Cone-bearing trees
22. My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?
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44. “Whatever You Like”
45. “Whatever You Like”
46. “Whatever You Like”

How to Stay Fly, No Lie

Nick Barrett ’10
Contributor

“You look so fly today, Nick!” says senior Andrew Loucks, “you have some really great style.” That’s right, your choice of trousers today is tremendous. I respond. We really know how to dress. The fact of the matter is, I could choose my clothes for the day better with a blindfold on than the majority of students. To the person reading this, I’m talking to you. To those among us who put on their kakhi’s and whichever long sleeve shirt their mom happened to iron for them that morning, might I suggest a new minor of students who actually choose their own clothes, or better yet, choose unique clothes. Personally, I feel free to toss a pair of Converse into any sweater-trouser combo. The less it matches the better. So what if I have whalers on my pink pants the late great Phil Galligan rocked pheasant adorned pants, with style I might add.

Now to be truly original, one has to start by not sending his mother out shopping for him, unless she has a nice sense of style (props to whoever’s mom fits that profile). The rookie mistake is turning down a shopping trip with your mother. “Yes mom. I would love to go to Marshalls to get a fresh new argyle or cashmere sweater to pair with my nice blue and white seer sunkers.” My rule on style is if Prep Unit features in any music video, it’s a go. If I want to rock top-siders with my whole pants and a yellow sweater, who is going to stop me?

Dress with style, don’t force the look at yourselves in the mirror. Don’t make use of your hummingbird joke and hummed when he didn’t know the words. It is a great way to end an even better night, and I encourage everyone to attend the next Unplugged concert in the spring.

The Eagle
The Eagle
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The Eagle
Question of the Week

What do you want for Christmas?

Scott Brownell ’09

“Good grades and Banjo-Toogie.”

DJ Figuerido ’09

“Taylor Lange...”

Mr. Huynh

“Lots of music...that’s it.”

Tariq Meyers ’10

“Affirmative Action/ NAACP president.”

Opinions

A Senior’s Suggestions for Surviving Application Season

Greg Paszko ’09

Contributor

Right now, seniors are facing one of the most stressful times in their high school experience: the college application process. For some who applied early and are banking on the fact that they’ll get in, or for those who have gotten a great head-start and have only one or two applications left, the stress is not as daunting. However, for most students, including myself, who has the college essay and six supplements left to write (I really hope my guidance counselor isn’t reading this), the clock is certainly ticking down and time is running out. If you expected to start your Senioritis early this year, college applications are there to give you a huge, slap-to-your-face wake-up call.

Because we already know the college process is atrocious, and that arguing about how the experience is like comparing a punch to the gut and a baseball bat to the head, I’ve decided to write about something a bit more practical. Here are some helpful “college application tips”, straight from yours truly, for all those juniors and underclassmen out there, so that hopefully you do not fall under the same procrastination spell that I did when your senior year arrives.

Tip Number #1: Use the summer between junior and senior year wisely. This is the one piece of advice that I definitely could have used this past summer. During the summer before senior year, students don’t realize how much free time they have for doing college stuff, and how those college applications really are. Though the Common Application and most others are not out until the beginning of the school year, there are still a lot of other things you can do: Look up college information to figure out what you’re interested in, visit colleges to get a feel for the campus and school life, decide and inform the teachers who you want to do your college recommendations, do some studying for those SAT I and II’s you’ll need to take once the summer ends, and select a good topic for your college essay. (The choices for the essays are extremely broad, so even if you haven’t seen the choices, it should fit within criteria). All this work during the summer will mean a lot less stress during the holiday season.

Tip Number #2: Collect all the important information as soon as possible. The worst thing that could happen is that you get denied to a college because something in your application was missing, be it a second teacher recommendation they asked for, an SAT if you didn’t have, or a supplement that you didn’t know existed. That’s why it’s important to get all the information together quickly, so you don’t get caught off guard at the eleventh hour. Be sure to know what each college wants: number of recommendations, what standardized tests to send, supplements, due date, etc., so that you’ll be able to send everything in properly and on time.

Tip Number #3: Take advantage of any free time that you have. This is one you’ll hear from guidance counselors a lot, and it’s worth repeating. Whenever you have any extra time to yourself, like a free period with no homework or a day off from school, don’t waste it. Instead, use that time to fill out your college applications. These chunks of free time are perfect for filling out the basic information (name, address, family, activities, jobs, test scores, etc.), and can even be used to complete those pesky 50-100 word supplements as well. Please be sure to use this selection from my bank of infinite wisdom wisely, so that when your time arrives, you can have a pleasant college application experience.

President-elect Barack Obama focused his campaign on the amorphous idea of “change.” With many members of his administration already chosen, the American people are beginning to see “change” take shape. Unfortunately, instead of moving forward from the Bush era, Obama’s team harkens back to the Bill Clinton years. Many of Obama’s selections served under Clinton, or have direct connections to him. Most of Obama’s picks serve under Clinton, or have direct connections to him. Rather than a “team of rivals,” as some media pundits are calling Obama’s picks, the group consists of like-minded liberals cozy with the Clintons. Obama’s Attorney General Nominee Eric Holder is a prime example of the group’s Clinton ties. Holder served under Bill Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno, as Deputy Attorney General from 1997 to 2001. Holder was directly involved in the questionable Clinton pardon of fugitive (and Democratic contributor) Marc Rich. More recently, he displayed his liberal bend by joining in an amicus brief to the D.C. v. Heller case. Holder’s refusal to recognize individual gun ownership reveals a frightening ignorance of the Constitution.

Another Obama nominee with strong Clinton relations is Commerce Secretary hopeful Bill Richardson. Under Clinton, Richardson served as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations and later as Secretary of Energy. His time at the U.N. was relatively uneventful, but one incident marred his time as Energy Secretary. Richardson publicly declared Taiwanese-Ameri-
Nick Gardner '09
Contributor

Rousing you from your tryptophan-in-duced slumber, your clock-radio reads 3:45 AM. You drowsily get up, pull on whatever article of clothing smells the least, and shuffle out the door in search of the best deals around. Your weary mind draws you toward Wal-Mart, and as the orange glow of the parking lot begins to envelop you, you start to wonder if it was worth all the effort. You wait in line, behind one patron who seems to have put on his best Slayer t-shirt for this occasion. After checking several times to make sure your wallet is still in your back pocket, the doors open, and people begin to shuffle inside for what makes all this effort worth it: the deals, deals, deals.

At this time, you may start to notice that the sheer number of bargains around you may have whipped you into a frenzy akin to speaking in Pentecostal tongues. In-store shopping brings together people from all walks of life, and forces them to decide whether to compete or cooperate against big businesses. Often, the “mob,” as Black Friday shoppers are often collectively known as, choose to cooperate in a way that brings a tear to my eye. This feeling of camaraderie is exclusive to in-store shopping, as online shopping keeps people in their homes, separated from each other, competing and fighting in “bidding wars,” which are no fun at all.

But suppose you’re not an early riser, in-store shopping has more to offer than Black Friday deals. For instance, the internet still does not have an alternative to the seasonal staple Mall Santa. Speaking less of how thick the patty sandwiched by two over-sized buns, it’s time to cook the burgers, the kitchen staff usually starts this process somewhere around second period. After they have finished cooking, they keep the burgers warm by putting them in either a big food warmer, or over a small pool of hot water. The problem of serving burgers an hour or later is that they seem to lose flavor and juice regard-less of how thick they are. Speaking of burger thickness, the cafeteria’s burgers are at most half a centimeter thick. Accompanied with this thin piece of a big dry bun that is at least half an inch thick and is bigger than the patty in area. So paint this picture: an hour-old, dry patty which can be cooked an hour prior to being served; if they were, then students would get a pile of golden mush. The amount of time it takes to cook the fries is much longer than the amount of time it takes to run out of the cooked fries. Lunch lines come to a halt when the kitchen staff needs to cook more fries. When this happens, the fries progressively become worse. When the kitchen wants to trim down the lines, it seems to worry less about the quality of their food. Fries are supposed to be crisp and golden-browned. Instead, the fries come out as a pale yellow and damp. The kitchen staff is so concerned with serving the students quickly that it forgets the im-portance of quality. Knowing this, buying fries just does not seem worth it.

Don’t get me wrong, I am not here to criticize the kitchen staff. I appreciate every-thing they do for the student body. All I’m saying is that the kitchen staff should come out with a better method for serving burgers and fries. Burgers at the cafeteria cost $2.50, and the fries are $1.25, coming out with a better method for serving the students would greatly improve the quality of the food. Every year Americans are faced with the difficult task of buying holiday gifts for each other. Whether it is for their loved ones, friends, family, or maybe even that special teacher, the job must be done. How-ever, let’s be honest. In no way is this experience fun or pleasurable, except if you do it from the comfort of your own home.

There are two ways to get your holiday shopping done: you can go into the store or, better yet, use the magnificent fea-ture of online shopping – clearly one of the greatest things since sliced bread.

One might argue that by going to the stores the gift is more personal, and helps one get into the season. However, the cons of such shopping greatly outweigh its ben-efts.

First of all, you don’t even need to go anywhere! Simply turn on your computer, enter the wanted list, and you are virtually ready to shop. Better yet, you are doing it from the comfort of your own home! With in-store shopping you are required to drag yourself through below-freezing conditions just to get to your car.

Then you have to battle all of the backed-up traffic and crazy drivers that suddenly emerge during this season of giving. Not to mention that there is never an open park-ing space – which usually requires you to circle around the parking lot multiple times. Once desperate enough, you settle for “car-stalking.” This is the process in which you slowly drive behind someone coming out of the given store, in order to take their space as soon as they leave. Now, why would you put yourself through such a horrid process?

On top of that, once you are in the store it takes much longer to find the gift than you anticipated. Then you have to deal with the outrageous lines filled with people ready to check out. In such a congested environ-ment, it is almost inevitable that certain customers are coughing or sneezing, which just adds to the unpleasantness of going to the stores to shop. You might end up with not only your gifts, but a cold as well. No tax? Doesn’t that sound nice? But if you were to do in-store shopping such a thing doesn’t exist. However, if you were to shop online, most of the time there is no sales tax. Also, on most sites you don’t have to pay shipping either if you end up spending more than the given amount, which you always do.

In the event that someone doesn’t like a gift or it is simply not the right size, returns are a nightmare – except for online shop-pers! With in-store shopping you have to go all the way back to the mall and reen-gage yourself in such chaos. Even though the holidays are over, the stores are still jam-packed. However, with online shop-ping, many companies offer free shipping back on all return items. With that you don’t have to gear up for battle upon enter-ing some crowded store in hopes of return-ing a gift.

The reality is, online shopping is better in all ways. Plus, with online-shopping you don’t run the risk of getting trampled over - or even killed - by manicual crowds!

Above: Shopping carts lie abandoned while customers shop online
Right: The iconic UPS Trucks line up to make holiday deliveries.

Max Guilbert '10
Contributor

Every year Americans are faced with the difficult task of buying holiday gifts for each other. Whether it is for their loved ones, friends, family, or maybe even that special teacher, the job must be done. However, let’s be honest. In no way is this experience fun or pleasurable, except if you do it from the comfort of your own home.

There are two ways to get your holiday shopping done: you can go into the store or, better yet, use the magnificent feature of online shopping – clearly one of the greatest things since sliced bread.

One might argue that by going to the stores the gift is more personal, and helps one get into the season. However, the cons of such shopping greatly outweigh its benefits.

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Right: The iconic UPS Trucks line up to make holiday deliveries.

BC High Burgers BE GONE!

Kevin Lee ’09
Contributor

I was at Wendy’s the other day because they captured me with their advertising of a Double-Stack Burger. So I ordered my Double-Stack Burger, along with a side of large fries, and I sat down. I unwrapped the burger and looked at my meal: $2.28 of heaven. As I bit into my burger, I felt the burger and looked at my meal: $2.28 Double-Stack Burger, along with a side of fries. The price seems to lose flavor or later is that they seem to lose flavor and juice regard-less of how thick they are. Speaking of burger thickness, the cafeteria’s burgers are at most half a centimeter thick. Accompanied with this thin piece of a big dry bun that is at least half an inch thick and is bigger than the patty in area. So paint this picture: an hour-old, dry patty which can be cooked an hour prior to being served; if they were, then students would get a pile of golden mush. The amount of time it takes to cook the fries is much longer than the amount of time it takes to run out of the cooked fries. Lunch lines come to a halt when the kitchen staff needs to cook more fries. When this happens, the fries progressively become worse. When the kitchen wants to trim down the lines, it seems to worry less about the quality of their food. Fries are supposed to be crisp and golden-browned. Instead, the fries come out as a pale yellow and damp. The kitchen staff is so concerned with serving the students quickly that it forgets the importance of quality. Knowing this, buying fries just does not seem worth it.

Don’t get me wrong, I am not here to criticize the kitchen staff. I appreciate everything they do for the student body. All I’m saying is that the kitchen staff should come out with a better method for serving burgers and fries. Burgers at the cafeteria cost $2.50, and the fries are $1.25, coming out to a total of $3.75. Burgers and an order of value-sized fries are a total of $2.28 at Wendy’s; customers can get a better meal for less compared to our cafeteria. That is a difference of $1.47. A student can buy a bottle of milk or a soda from a vending machine with that saved money. Even-tually that $1.47 could accumulate over the course of a school year into a decent amount. If I want, though, are better burg-ers and better fries.
With the recent success of the fall athletic teams, the winter athletes sure have a lot to live up to. Two years ago, the fall was a disaster that knew no bound. Now, it seems as if fall might be. Will the winter teams be able to continue to bring high athletic excellence?

Basketball

Despite losing a strong group of athletes from last season, including Luke O’Brian and Ryan Sharry, the Varsity Basketball team hopes some of their key players will carry the team this season. The team has won the Catholic Conference and, in 2007, won the State Championship. Captains Colin Halpin and Mike Albanese will lead the squad, along with fellow Seniors Jannell Galloway and Char- lie Fowler. Their season opened up against a tough Brockton team last Friday, whom they lost to in the State Tournament last year. Also, Coach Bill Lough- name, in his fifth year as coach, will guide the team as they take on perennial powerhouse houses like Lowell and Catholic Memorial. The basketball team will also compete in the Brain- tree Tourney over Christmas break. Get ready for another exciting basketball season.

Hockey

After losing to Catholic Memorial 3-2 in OT last year, the Super 8 Tournament, the Varsity Hockey team is looking to recapture their 2007 State Champi- onship title. However, they will have to get through a difficult season including St. John’s Prep, and reigning state champs Reading High. Senior Billy Walsh and Associate Coach Brian Talbot will lead the team as Captains this year. Coach Joe McCabe will lead the team again this year. The ice men open their season against Springfield- field Catholic on Saturday, December 26th. Their first home game is not until Fri- day, December 26th against High School of Massachusetts. How will they do this sea- son, Coach McCabe hopes that, “as a team we can come together each and give a strong effort every day.”

Swimming

The Varsity Swimming team had a very successful season last year, and this year, the swimmers are re- freshed and ready to win. Captain Pete Skipper ’09 will lead the swimmers, who will be coached by Joe O’Leary and Mr. Skipper. Veteran swimmers Brian Kane ’09 and Ian Slawinski ’09, along with Sophomore Ryan Tafur, are sure to make major points to this team’s year. Their first meet took place on Friday against Brookline High. Close meets can also be expected against St. John’s Prep and Andover High.

Indoor Track

The quickly improving track program, despite con-

fusingly have yet another re- cord-breaking season with many up-and-comers. Coach Normant has done an incredible job at developing many runners, some of whom had never run competitively. Seniors Dan Bent, Mike Brokamp, Dan Madden, and Steven Cabral, will return to lead the sprinters. Also, experienced runners Eric Philpott ’09, Jon ’09, Jake Kenney ’10, and Drew Calagno ’11 bring some of their Cross Country expertise to the long-dis- tance area. With the success that Corey Torres ’09 has had in recent years, the field portion of the track team is sure to find much success as well. Last year, Thomas won the 55 hurdles and came in second at the All-State meet. The runners definitely have a lot to be optimistic about, especially with the strides (no pun intended) the track program has been making in recent years.

Basketball

One of the few bright spots through the trials and con-
injury report. Regardless, they are still mad at each other after the game and cleared it through the trials and continue their drive towards a playoff berth.

One of the few bright spots for the Patriots this season was the development of quarterback Matt Cassel. In his first ever NFL start, Cassel was thrust into the fire of an ever-growing rivalry between the Patriots and the New York Jets. Cassel threw for 165 yards and led the team to a 19-10 win. Since his first start, Cassel has transformed from a career benchwarmer to a young quarterback brim- ming with potential, drawing comparisons between him and one of the greatest quarterbacks of the modern era, teammate Tom Brady. However, Cassel’s contract does run out at the conclu- sion of the season, and his future in New England re- mains uncertain.

The New England de- fense has grown together after losing several key players to the NFL, and the defense is stronger and more free agency. With the departure of cornerbacks Asante Samuel and Randall Gay, the Patriots’ secondary was pre- dicted to be in disarray. Although they began the season 4-1, the team’s defense did not have a consistent look to the way it performed. Watching the defense play was compa- rable to watching an inflat- able raft held together by duct tape and chewing gum brave a hurricane. The flaws in the defense were exposed in a brutal fashion as the San Diego Chargers pummeled the Pats 30-10. Following the embarrassing loss, the def- ense finally began to per- form at a respectable level, averaging just less than thirteen points allowed per game in the four weeks after the San Diego game; losing safety Rodney Harrison and linebacker Junior Seau to injury. In the past week, the Patriots have signed free-agent tanks Alan Branch, Vin and Junior Seau, both players who have played for the team in the past. Even so, the defensive team is already an odd season in Fox- borough. As ESPN’s Tim Graham wrote, “...Like the Patriots, the New England” Python and the Holy Grail,” the Patriots’ keeping lossless record is on the line for one last hurrah before the end of their playing ca-

Hockey

As the crisp, clear air of autumn gives way to the biting, bitter cold of winter, College Football comes to its climax. One of the most exciting sports in America, College Football brings together the passion and vigor of competition like no other. It is one of the few sports in which every game matters. Who would have thought at the begin- ning of the year that USC vs. ORE St. or Texas Tech against Baylor would have National Championship implications?

The unpredictability of this sport is what makes it so special. One week Southern Cal can methodi- cally dismantle Ohio State, and another it throws away its chance to do something extraordinary. As the saying goes, “You never know what you’re going to get.”

As a result of this thinking change has even come from the highest office in America. Barack Obama, yes President-elect Barack Obama, has even called for the system to be implemented. When re- cently asked about the situa- tion, he replied, “I think it is about time that we had playoffs in college foot- ball. I’m fed up with these computer rankings and this and that and the other. Get eight teams – the top eight teams right at the end. You got a playoff. Decide on a national champion.” Al- though the BCS system is designed to select the best team, the bottom line is that without a playoff system there is going to be at least two great teams sitting on the outside of the National Championship picture.

Without the current bowl system however, many teams would miss out on their opportunity to play for something special at the end of the season. Once a team earns its sixth win, it becomes bowl-eligible and is almost guaranteed an invite to a sponsored bowl game. There is currently a surplus of bowl games to be invited to. There are thirty-four bowls in all and they include such classics as the Pioneer Las Vegas Bowl, R-L Carriers New Orleans Bowl, and of course the San Diego County Credit Union Poinsettia Bowl. However, there are legiti- mate bowls out there. For example, the BCS bowls include the Rose Bowl, Fe- dix Orange, Allstate Sugar, Tostitos Fiesta, and the Fed Ex BCS National Championship. Getting to one of these “Big Time” games is the ultimate goal for any program. Because of their exclusiveness, a team’s re- sume must be nearly im- peccable. This pursuit of perfection is what provides the “every game matters” atmosphere to the college football season. “Now, who wants to go bowling?”

Basketball

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Sports

Football Wins Division I State Championship

Michael McGowan '09
Contributor

So, for those of you have been living under a rock for the last few weeks, the BC High Eagles football team just finished up another successful year. Last time we checked in with them, the team was flying high, 3-0 in the Catholic Conference, poised to lock up its second consecutive playoff berth with a win over the CM Knights. In previous years, the conference has been won before the annual Thanksgiving matchup, but this year the game would be the deciding factor. A win for Eagles would move them on to the postseason, a loss and it's time for basketball season.

So on Thanksgiving, the entire season came down to one game. During practice that week, head coach Jon Bartlett emphasized this to them. In a low-scoring game, BC High came out ahead of the Knights, 17-7. The Eagles' lead came early in the game, as Quarterback Bill Kiley ran for a 56-yard touchdown on the first offensive series of the game. A later drive that sputtered in the Knights' red-zone resulted in a Connor Flaherty field goal that gave the team a 10-0 lead going into halftime. This was a lead that they would not give up, despite the best efforts of the highly touted CM squad.

With their second Catholic Conference Championship in as many years, the Eagles looked forward to their playoff date with the Everett Crimson Tide, a one-sided rivalry lately, as Everett won the previous 3 meetings, including a tough first-round playoff loss last season. Everett's reign of dominance was about to end though, as the Eagles came into the game with something to prove. After a disappointing 26-0 loss earlier in the season, BC High looked to BC High stunned the football community when they shut out the mighty Crimson Tide, 9-0. Dominant offensive line play and outstanding special teams were keys to BC High's win. Turnovers were also a huge factor in the game, as senior defensive lineman Rob McCourt came up with 3 fumble recoveries and Bill Kiley provided 2 interceptions from the safety position.

The Eagles' offense was well-rounded. In the first quarter on a 35-yard Conor Flaherty field goal that bounced off the crossbar and senior Mike Dimatteo, who returned a huge factor in the game, as senior defensive lineman Rob McCourt came up with 3 fumble recoveries and Bill Kiley provided 2 interceptions from the safety position.

The Eagle's offense was well-rounded. In the first quarter on a 35-yard Conor Flaherty field goal that bounced off the crossbar. Later in the second, senior receiver Niall Murphy brought in a 19-yard pass from Kiley to give BC High a 9-0 lead that they would hold onto for the rest of the game. Outstanding defensive performances were turned in by junior Emanuel Riggins and senior Mike Dimatteo, who returned from an ankle injury suffered in the first game of the year to record 3 sacks against Everett.

With an emotional first round win under their belts, the Eagles turned their focus to their Super Bowl matchup with Brockton, who edged out the favored Dartmouth Indians 20-13. In the first game of the season, BC High dealt the Boxers a 28-7 loss. Brockton made a commendable rebound this season, after starting out 1-3, they finished 9-4, putting together an 8-game winning streak with the help of standout running back Khalil James-Offley.

In an Eagle exclusive pre-game interview with James-Offley, he told us that he had no actual plan for the game and that God would tell him where the holes would be. This interesting strategy paid off, as the Eagles came down to one game. During practice that week, head coach Jon Bartlett emphasized this to them. In a low-scoring game, BC High came out ahead of the Knights, 17-7. The Eagles' lead came early in the game, as Quarterback Bill Kiley ran for a 56-yard touchdown on the first offensive series of the game. A later drive that sputtered in the Knights' red-zone resulted in a Connor Flaherty field goal that gave the team a 10-0 lead going into halftime. This was a lead that they would not give up, despite the best efforts of the highly touted CM squad.

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From the Man Himself: Nnamdi Obukwelu

What were your concerns entering the season?
I knew that we had some great players on the team so I was not concerned about depth. Coach Bartlett is an amazing coach. When did you first think that this team could be Super Bowl Champions?
The first time I thought that this team could be Super Bowl Champions was during the summer during our work out sessions. I was astonished at how many players had made an effort to come and lift at BC High throughout the summer. By coming together, four times a week during the summer we were all able to build a common identity going into camp that August.

What was your favorite memory from the season?
Beating Everett was sweet given the history that we have with Everett; they eliminated us from the playoffs last year and embar-

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Our Motto All Year Has Been If You're Scared, Go to Church.
And you know, we had mass that day at 1:30 with Fr. White, so you know, we weren't scared. And we won.

- Patrick Moynahan '09