

The Buccaneer

Issue 2

December 2011

101 Ridge Road Little Silver, NJ 07739

RBR gives back to the community

This holiday season, RBR clubs are busy with community service.

At the Thanksgiving football game, the National Honor Society collected a dump truck full of food for the Salvation Army. The NHS will continue to run food drives throughout the year.

The Class of 2015 is collecting soda can tabs for the Ronald McDonald House in West Long Branch, a charity close to advisor Ms. Finck's heart. Ronald McDonald House cashes in the tabs and is given money based on the weight that is collected.

The National English Honor Society is collecting books to benefit Bridge of Books, a charity for schools in need. Any K-12 appropriate book donations can be dropped off in Mr. Forrest's room (206).

Ms. Dorn organized a gift drive for Linkages, a housing program for single mothers and their children who are facing homelessness. Many donated gifts for Linkages residents.

The Gay-Straight Alliance recognized World AIDS Day on December 1 by distributing red ribbons. The GSA also held a toiletry drive to benefit The Center in Asbury Park, a social service program for people living with HIV/AIDS.

The History Club combined humor and community service with an ugly sweater contest. Students and staff shared pictures of themselves in their ugliest Christmas sweaters, and voters dropped money in the jar of the ugliest sweater. Half of the proceeds will be donated to charity and the "losers" will wear their ugly sweaters to school.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes sponsored a candy and deodorant drive for Holiday Express. Senior Kerry Lang led the group in organizing and collecting supplies and then students made goodie bags that will be distributed by Holiday Express as they tour nursing homes and soup kitchens.

The Culinary Club has been busy cooking at the Soul Kitchen and making holiday cookies for Lunch Break.

Earlier this year, they prepared and donated food for Jason's Dreams for Kids Turkey Bowl. They also held soup sales to raise money for the organic garden and The Buccaneer! Along with culinary students from Brookdale and the Monmouth County Culinary Program, the Culinary Club participated in the Chef's Showcase at Branches, which was a successful fundraiser for the Oceanport Sports Foundation. They also catered Day at the Races at Monmouth Park, a fundraiser for the RBR Education Foundation. The Culinary Club will continue their community service in February, when they man an omelet station at the Polar Bear Plunge in Seaside Heights, a benefit for the Special Olympics of New Jersey.

A new club, Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America baked cookies for the Red Bank Senior Center, which were served at their holiday party.

Mu Alpha Theta, the math honor society, will also be running a Jersey Mike's fundraiser for prostate cancer. Every Friday in January, 15% of Jersey Mike's proceeds will go to prostate cancer research.

Senior Theresa Soya created Better Bucs, a group devoted to improving school spirit and boosting morale. The students have created terrariums for the media center, created and sold Buc Pride t-shirts, collected picture frames to display photos around the school in an upcoming project, made banners and posters displayed at the winter pep rally, and thrown around ideas for a fight song and middle school outreach efforts.

This month, the National Art Honor Society held its annual Kaleidoscope Art Festival and 100% of the proceeds went to the "Make Some Noise Foundation," a non-profit that raises funds for pediatric cancer research. This student-run, fun-filled interactive art event raised \$549.50 while audience members had fun making their own art.

Great job, Bucs!



Photo by Ms. Krug

Ms. Dorn poses with just a few of the many gifts donated to Linkages this year



Photo courtesy of Alpha Chi Omega

Colleges like to see well-rounded applicants

Best extracurriculars for college apps

The top 10 activities colleges want

By Brooke Willemstyn

College admissions boards look for a student's involvement in school, yet they also advise against joining every club just to show involvement. The right way to impress the college of your choice is to join the clubs you think you'd truly enjoy, and show leadership. Shoot for a position you can brag about in a resume. Nonetheless, there are certain activities that stand out over others when filling out college applications:

10) Key Club: Key Club shows community involvement, which makes the student appear charitable to colleges.

9) Music: Playing an instrument or singing is very promising to universities interested in getting their students to sign contracts or perform in competitions.

8) Volunteer: This shows that the student

has independently sought out a way to help his/her community.

7) Creative Arts: Hundreds of colleges seek out applicants who have a talent for writing, theatre, art, etc. Scholarships are often given for these categories.

6) Newspaper/Yearbook: These stand out, especially if you are going to a college for media or communications. It is even better to hold a leadership position in the club, like editor.

5) Starting Something New: Starting your own club tells colleges and universities that you will be open to new activities if they accept you.

4) Math Club: Though not everyone loves it, math is an incredibly useful skill to have.

3) Science Club: This is a necessity for

potential engineers. This club will be the first thing they hope to see on your high school resume.

2) Class Council: Joining student council is a good start, but leadership positions draw immediate interest.

1) Sports: They are by far the biggest source of scholarships and even if you don't receive a scholarship for your sport, admissions boards like to see that you were active in high school or recreational sports.

All in all, it's very important to participate in clubs and other activities, but having a minor role in many activities does not stand out. Having a key role in one or two clubs and showing leadership is what admissions boards truly look for.



Doc Wilkinson opens up about her new book, pg. 2



Winter concerts dazzle audiences, pg. 3



Drew Mendelson weighs in on holiday consumerism, pg. 6

Creative writing teacher "Opens the Drawer" in her new book

By Houston Migdon

After decades of teaching, Dr. Gretna Wilkinson, RBR's creative writing teacher who is also affectionately known as "Doc," recently published her first full-length book of poetry.

"Opening The Drawer" is a collection of poems that Doc first started to assemble this July. Grief is the reoccurring theme present in the collection of poems,

many of which were written when she was dealing with her son's tragic death three years ago. Doc revealed that she found it to be a constructive outlet for her strong emotions. "Writing is the only thing that keeps me sane," she says.

As her book progresses, the theme of the poems changes. It starts to go back in time to earlier years before her son's death. She describes its progression as a backwards arc, starting from the time of her grieving back in time to earlier years. Doc also discussed tips and techniques

to improve one's writing. "Losing fear," she says, "is the key ingredient for good writing." Doc says that a writer must not be afraid to experiment with his or her writing and language. An author needs to take risks and try things that may not work. And one can never be afraid of critics. Another tip is that a writer must "inhabit the landscape of the piece." In other words, a writer must feel the emotions that he or she is writing about. Otherwise, a piece of writing will not be as authentic. When writing a piece about joy, an author

should feel joy bubbling up inside of him or her.

Some of Doc's reoccurring themes include love or a lack thereof. No doubt that she experienced those emotions while writing "Opening the Drawer." Doc says that if you feel those emotions while writing, they will show in your work. And hopefully, your audience will experience those emotions themselves while reading your work.

A week of Madonna-look alike, twins, and sports jerseys

By Cassie Jain

The week of December 12 was yet another spirit week at RBR.

The last spirit week, which took place before the Homecoming Dance in October, included themed days such as "Tie Dye Tuesday" and "Hawaiian Vacation." Soon after the first spirit week, the notion of a second spirit week began to take shape.

The student council considered which days should be included in this spirit week. One day that was rumored to have been considered was a "Jersey Shore" day but, in the end, this day did not make it into the line-up. However, there were many fun days which were chosen for this sec-

ond spirit week.

Monday was a relaxing "Pajama Day" for students who were still tired from the weekend; everyone just rolled out of bed when the alarm went off, brushed their hair, and went to school. Tuesday was a thrilling "80s Day" with Cyndi Lauper, Madonna, and Michael Jackson look-alikes; old styles such as leg-warmers, big-hair, and neon colors made a one-day comeback! On Wednesday everyone was seeing double as friends wore matching outfits for "Twin Day." On Thursday students sported the jerseys of their favorite teams for "Sports Jersey Day". Finally, on Friday everyone showed their "Buc Pride" on another "Pride in the 'R' Day". This second spirit week really included everything from a trip back to three decades ago to a day for school spirit!



Photo by Cori McQuillan

One of the posters that could be found around the school advertizing "Spirit Week".

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Winter holiday concert brings joy to audience members

By Courtney Ravelo

The winter piano and harp concert on December 9 was directed by Camille Thompson, the harp and piano teacher at RBR. The stage was beautifully decorated with poinsettias and candles with four grand pianos, keyboards and harps set on stage.

The concert started out with all the piano majors performing "Waltzes" by Johann Strauss. It was in perfect time and obviously took a lot of rehearsing, considering how difficult a piece it is, especially to do in sync. The piano majors

consist of: freshmen Autumn Byrd and Adam Goldsmith, Level One; sophomore Raymond Reynolds, Level One; sophomores Christopher Bevacqua and Kacey Grieco, Level Two; juniors Simone D'Agostino and Abigail Gerth, Level Three; and seniors Ana Mastropiero and Gabriel Sanderson, Level Four.

The concert then went on to solo piano majors doing various songs and showing off their talent. There were accompanists to the pianists, such as junior Alex LaRocca on bass, senior Joe Mozino on vibes, and renowned singer and senior Evangeline Athanasiou singing in one of the songs. There was even a piece where one of the piano majors played with a harp major.

There was also a song that consisted of a jazz ensemble with the piano. The jazz ensemble consisted of sophomore Halle Butler and freshmen Chrissy Decker, Morgan Brunson, Brooke Migdon on flute; sophomore Dan Cardaci on drums; and LaRocca on bass.

After the pianists were finished with their solos, the harp ensemble came out, which consisted of freshmen Anya Garipoli, Cassie Jain, Alexandra Kaye, and Luke Laffey; sophomore Aaron Varela; and juniors Alex LaRocca, Alex Morris, and Sierra Tippets.

After the harp ensemble, the pianists came back out and performed a winter sing-a-long to the holiday carols "White Christmas," "My

Dreidel," "Jingle Bells," "Let It Snow!" and "Winter Wonderland." The concert was concluded with all of the piano and harp majors coming on for a winter finale of "Have Yourself A Merry Little Christmas," "Ding Dong Merrily On High," "Silent Night," "Joy To The World," and "O Holy Night."

The concert was absolutely magnificent and so well put together. Some pieces even brought the audience to tears. Every single piece was so moving and so inspiring. The amount of talent in the room that night was astounding. No one could have expected a better concert.

A Midsummer's Night in autumn

By Ariel Balaban

The lights flicker. The curtains sweep back. The actors take center stage, and the action begins.

A Midsummer Night's Dream, a popular comedy by William Shakespeare, was the choice for this fall's production at RBR. The cast excitedly performed for five consecutive days, from November 17th to November 22. They presented it in modern costume with an original score composed by music major and senior Joe Mozino.

The leading actors included junior Nolan Mendoza as Lysander, senior Chris Dubrow as Demetrius, senior Dan Rosen as Bottom, freshman Justin Giegerich as Oberon, and senior Ari

Beller as Puck. Seniors Katie Steinberg and Isabel Magnus shared the role of Hermia. Sophomore Sheri Denucci and freshman Autumn Byrd both portrayed Titania. Junior Ava Portman and sophomore Alicia Moeller each starred as Helena.

The play was delightfully classic, with a modern twist and tons of laughs. It included pop music, intense fight scenes, and some surprising gymnastics moves. The production was directed by Joe Russo, who is in charge of RBR's drama production. Most of his freshman students were a part of the cast, portraying fairies and parts of the forest. Overall, it was an amazing play and a great experience for the cast and crew. It certainly leaves the rest of RBR eager for the students' next performance.



Photo by Ariel Balaban

Characters look on as Liam McMahon and Dan Rosen share a moment of camaraderie on center stage

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Culinary Corner



Board of Education President John Garofalo poses with Chef Roskowsinski before the Thanksgiving football game

Photo courtesy of digitalPHZ LifeStyle Photography

Community members “gobble” up Thanksgiving brunch

By Erin Sacharanski

Most students at Red Bank Regional are aware of the Thanksgiving football game, but they often forget the RBR Culinary Club's pregame brunch. On the morning of the football game, Culinary Club members prepared delicious food for hungry community members, teachers, students, and alumni. Student chefs presented a feast including an absolutely fabulous fresh fruit salad pouring out from a carved seedless watermelon, a deluxe omelet station, a smoked salmon platter with all the trimmings, stratas, apple smoked ham, Jones sausage, slab bacon, potatoes O'Brien, freshly baked breakfast breads and muffins, Buc Brew breakfast blend coffee, and the best bagels

around from The Bagel Oven in Red Bank.

The event allowed Buccaneer football fans to socialize with one another in a Thanksgiving ambiance, but all participants had a rewarding experience. Culinary Club members began their Thanksgiving morning in the culinary room, where they prepared their station based on where they feel most comfortable preparing and cooking.

Chef Roskowsinski, RBR's culinary teacher, hosts this amazing event every two years. He oversees the students and guides them to become successful in mastering their cooking skills. RBR's Thanksgiving brunch continues to provide a delicious meal for its patrons and an educational experience for the students behind the feast.

Advisor's Note: Want to create a feast of your own? Pick up Buc Brew coffee at the Buc Stop, stop by The Bagel Oven at 72 Monmouth Street in Red Bank, and purchase Jones sausage products at Foodtown! Make it even more memorable with a simple breakfast strata recipe from Incredible Edible Egg:

Ingredients

- 4 slices dense white OR whole grain bread
- 4 eggs
- ½ cup milk
- ½ tsp. dried thyme OR oregano leaves
- 6 slices Canadian-style bacon, chopped
- ½ cup shredded Cheddar cheese (2 oz.)

Total Time: 40 minutes

Yields: 4 to 6 servings

Level: Easy

Directions:

Place bread in single layer in greased 8-inch square baking dish.

Beat eggs, milk and thyme in medium bowl until blended; pour over bread.

Sprinkle with bacon.

Refrigerate, covered, at least 30 minutes or as long as overnight.

Heat oven to 350°F.

Remove strata from refrigerator; uncover and let stand while oven heats.

Bake in center of 350°F oven 30 minutes.

Sprinkle with cheese.

Bake until puffed, golden and firm in center, about 5 minutes longer.

Culinary Club prepares a Thanksgiving feast

By Will Noglows

Preparation for Thanksgiving began early in Chef Roskowsinski's class. Chef had his students prepare many scrumptious breakfast foods for the popular Thanksgiving breakfast before the football game at Red Bank Regional.

The breakfast allowed RBR alumni and current students to converse with each other over a delicious Thanksgiving themed breakfast. The breakfast was made possible by the students in Foods 1 class and the Culinary Club. They prepared muffins, bacon, hash browns, and pumpkin bread.

mented on the week of preparation, stating, “I enjoyed learning the new recipes. I especially enjoyed making bacon, as it is my specialty.” Students worked in teams of two to three while preparing the food.

A main goal of Chef Roskowsinski's is that he hopes that his students take the recipes he teaches and uses them to make food for their families at home. Chef Roskowsinski teaches his students many recipes that are used by families across the world. His students prepared potatoes O'Brien, which was very similar to what history teacher Mrs. Katie Blackwell prepared for her family on Thanksgiving. She also made potato stuffing for all to enjoy.

All in all, preparing food for the Thanksgiv-

ing Alumni Breakfast helped the students learn about many foods involved in Thanksgiving, and gave them the ability to recreate these food masterpieces at home on their own.

Advisor's Note: Interested in making potatoes O'Brien at home? Here is a recipe from the Food Network for you to enjoy.

Ingredients

- 2/3 cup minced onion
- 1/3 cup minced green bell pepper
- 1/3 cup drained and minced bottled pimiento
- 1/3 to 1/2 cup olive or canola oil
- 4 Idaho potatoes, peeled and diced
- Salt and freshly ground pepper

Total Time: 30 min

Yield: 4 servings

Level: Easy

Directions:

In a large skillet, cook the onion, green pepper and pimiento in 2 tablespoons of the oil over moderate heat, stirring occasionally, until vegetables are softened.

Transfer vegetables to a bowl.

In the skillet heat the remaining oil over moderately high heat until hot and add the potatoes. Saute, stirring occasionally, for 15 to 20 minutes, or until tender and crisp.

Stir in the vegetable mixture and correct seasoning.

Heat over moderately low heat until hot and serve.

Foods 1 student and junior Carey Neff com-

Celebrate four decades of gaming

By Siobhan Hansen, Cori McQuillan, and Cassie Jain

Do you like Pac-man? What about Galaga or Super Mario Brothers? Well, YESTERcades offers all of these exciting games plus many more.

Founder Ken Kalada has brought a retro arcade to Red Bank, offering walls of pinball machines, rows of classic arcade gaming systems, and several 55" high-definition flat screen televisions upon which more recent game consoles like Microsoft Xbox, Nintendo Wii, and Sony Playstation are attached.

Kalada told the Two River Times, "It took, steadily, a good two years [to amass the arcade collection]. A lot of them [games] you need to fly out the door to get. Like Pac-Man, if that came up for sale, I'm literally on my way to pick it up now because otherwise you won't get it. It started off with Galaxia and before I knew it I had Afterburner, Bad Dudes, and Lethal Enforcers and I was like, 'Oh crap, I think I just made a life changing decision.' It's been a long road... but it's very surreal."

YESTERcades creates a comfortable environment where people of all ages can come together and play video games from the 70s, 80s, 90s, and today. Parents can get nostalgic and relive the golden age of gaming while their kids run amok and try out games from the past. Along with providing games for sport, the arcade plays 80s music videos on a projector



Photo courtesy of meetup.com

YESTERcades opened on November 12, much to the delight of local gaming enthusiasts

screen and sometimes even 80s movies.

The back room of YESTERcades features a pool table and a jukebox chock-full of recent and vintage music, once again bringing together the old and the new.

To make the deal even sweeter, YESTERcades also accepts old video games and video game consoles for cash, credit, or free-play time on the arcade floor. They even

host parties and private events featuring pizza from local favorites New Corner Italian Restaurant and Pizza and cakes from Sugarush.

YESTERcades is located at 80 Broad Street in downtown Red Bank, right next to Broadway Grille. Their hours are: Monday-Thursday 11:30 AM-9:00 PM, Friday 11:30 AM-2:00 AM, Saturday 10:00 AM- 2:00 AM, and Sunday 11:00 AM- 10:00 PM. Prices start at \$8.75 per hour, with reduced rates from 12

PM to 2 PM, so don't worry about lugging around rolls of quarters or searching under the couch cushions for loose change. Weekly and monthly passes will be offered in the future.

For more information, check out www.yestercades.com or call 732-383-7873. Tell them The Buccaneer sent you!

Breaking Dawn: Part One

By Courtney Ravelo

Breaking Dawn: Part One (PG-13) is the fourth installment of the Twilight Saga. The movie released in theatres on November 18 and it is based on the last book in the saga. Breaking Dawn: Part Two is slated for a fall 2012 release.

Breaking Dawn: Part One was an amazing experience to watch. I was utterly enthralled with the story the entire two-hours of the movie, and it remained very accurate to the book. The movie started out with the ritual sky-shot and Bella voicing a famous quote. The movie was filmed with a red tint, to make it more ominous and give it a literal dawn-type feeling. The first scene was of Jacob, the werewolf love interest of Bella, morphing into a werewolf because of his anger at receiving Bella and Edward's wedding invitation.

Yes, Bella and Edward are getting married. It is a huge wedding with a marvelous reception and one of the most extravagant scenes in the whole movie. The other most beautiful shots of the movie were when Edward and Bella went to Isle Esme for their honeymoon. They are having a grand time when suddenly, Bella becomes sick. As she is trying to figure out what is wrong with her, Bella feels something kick inside her. She is astounded because it was believed impossible for a vampire to impregnate a human. Nevertheless, Bella is pregnant with a half-human/half-vampire baby, and it grows much faster than a regular human baby. That ended their honeymoon.

The rest of the film circles around the dilemma of the baby potentially killing Bella from the inside. No one knows anything about a vampire-human pregnancy, and the baby drains the life

out of Bella day by day. Despite her illness, Bella refuses to let anyone touch it since she has grown a motherly affection towards the deadly fetus.

[WARNING: SPOILER ALERT!]

As the movie starts taking a darker and darker toll, far away from the bliss of the wedding and honeymoon, the characters keep trying to think of solutions to save Bella. The baby is starving and so is she. Her body keeps rejecting normal food. Finally, Jacob has an idea. He figures if the baby really is half-vampire, he or she would want blood. When they try it, it works! Bella starts becoming a little healthier again, which makes Carlisle and some of the other vampires feel safe to go and hunt since they are starving too. Unfortunately, the wolves have been plotting to destroy the Cullen clan since they heard of Bella's vampire baby.

While Carlisle, Esme, and Emmett are out hunting, something terrible occurs. Bella falls accidentally, causing herself to go into labor. Edward ends up doing it himself, and the birthing scene is so gory I had to turn away. Bella dies when baby Renesmee is born, and Edward has to eject his venom into her heart so she can turn into a vampire and live. Jacob sees the baby and imprints her, making it impossible for the other wolves to attack. A werewolf's most absolute law is that another werewolf's imprints cannot be harmed. Renesmee is safe for now, and the wolves are angry but leave her alone.

I thought it was fantastically made, and the director Bill Condon did a wonderful job. The transitions between scenes were very smooth and creative. I would definitely recommend this movie for anyone who likes sci-fi, romance, or adventure.



These Christmas classics are sure to keep you busy all winter break

10 movies for a happy holiday

By Jaci Gisondi, with Brooke Willemstyn

Now that the days are getting colder, there's nothing better to do than curl up with a Snuggie and a mug of hot chocolate, and ward off the bad weather. If you're looking for a great movie to watch this holiday season, check out Jaci Gisondi's list of top ten holiday films of all time!

1. Elf (2003)
2. The Polar Express (2004)
3. How the Grinch Stole Christmas (animated, 1966; live-action, 2000)
4. Home Alone (1990)
5. A Charlie Brown Christmas (1965)
6. A Christmas Story (1983)
7. The Santa Clause (1994, 2002, 2006)
8. A Christmas Carol (1938; re-envisioned in 2009)
9. Jingle All the Way (1996)
10. The Nightmare before Christmas (1993)

Merry shopping?: How money is ruining Christmas

By Drew Mendelson

It is that time of year again! I am sure all you savvy Christmas shoppers have already gone out and purchased gifts for your most beloved family and friends (It's ok, I haven't either). But really, when I am laying in bed at 11 AM on a chilly Saturday morning, do you think I would rather go on a date with my car (which has faulty right side heating) visiting high-end retail stores or bury my head under my 100% plush and comfortable pillows? Besides, I believe the Christmas spirit is being muddled in the name of the heartless, soul-eating monster society calls "consumerism."

We also all know that buying Christmas gifts is so last year (or rather, so last December 23). I know, some of you are thinking right now "Who are you trying to kid? Get your lazy behind out of bed and buy your parents the most expensive bed linens out on the market." And it is true; I mostly say this out of sheer laziness. But there is truth in the idea that Christmas has become a celebration of brand names and fancy gift wrap. It is almost as if gifts are now expected, rather than cherished, by a mounting number of Americans. Of course, when testing this theory on the American public, one will find that as you ask younger Americans, they are more likely to automatically expect extravagant gifts. Is this a reflection on the way today's generation is being raised, with exposure to breakthrough technology and the lifestyles of the rich and famous in the media from a very young age? I would say so.

Unfortunately, Christmas has become a product of the prevailing gaudy culture promoted by modern science and entertainment. What happened to the Christmases depicted by classic holiday movies like the adeptly ti-

tled A Christmas Story and Elf? And what happened to the ones where pine tree decorations and mulled apple cider took precedence over the number or cost of gifts under the tree? They have largely been replaced by busy bee parents who think the way to their children's hearts is through giving them gifts that they can use as bragging rights at the lunch table with fellow spoiled, entitled children who do not even have the decency to acknowledge their parents' effort to make the early winter a special time to celebrate.

Just five years ago, the houses in my neighborhood had more lights, more cleverly designed trees, and even some beautifully lit Menorahs lining the pavements of the driveways. Back then the PNC Bank Arts Center used to have its annual light show spectacular and fire trucks would be out all the time delivering Christmas cheer to the children. The worst of it all is the parents of low-income families are also expected to deliver high quality and expensive presents despite their unfortunate economic situations.

I am not suggesting that we abolish gift-giving entirely; the act itself demonstrates the thought, care, and compassion for loved ones that the character of Christmas encapsulates. However, I am suggesting that we as a society, and as individuals, need to readjust our priorities. This recent holiday phenomenon illustrates a deeper, broader, and more tragically poetic flaw of the world we live in today. So it is up to each and every one of us to revive the old spirit of Christmas (speaking as a seventeen year old, mind you), one which fosters an appreciation for the simple joys of love and holiday merriment.

The world may be at present flawed, but as Lao-Tzu once so brilliantly said, "Every journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." But before I save the world, I really do need to go shopping. Five Below, anyone?

"I do think people think about money and how they are going to budget their money more than anything when it comes to Christmas. And that's not what it's about."

- MS. KRUG



Photo courtesy of Platform Magazine

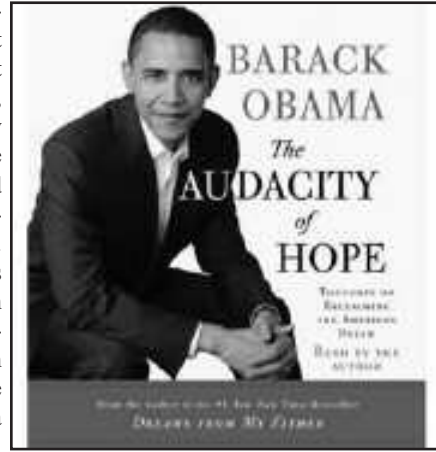
Is Christmas worth the money spent?

President Obama: a failure or a success?

by Sean Hickey

I'll answer the question now: he is a success as president.

I am that blunt because he has been falsely depicted as a disappointment and he has not gotten nearly as much credit as he deserves. For most who antagonize Obama, the main argument they have is that while he promised hope and change in the 2008 election, he has not delivered. I would say that this just is not true. Based on Obama's book "The Audacity of Hope," which was often used as the handbook to the Obama presidential campaign, and the suggestions he made in it, he has been almost 100% successful in the three years that he has been president, especially in the area of economics. From creating wage insurance to expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit to broadening the accessibility of retirement insurance and almost everything in between,



from www.todayifeellike.com

Obama's book reflects the promises he has fulfilled while in office.

sound like failure to you?

(Continued on page 7; see "Prez")

The Buccaneer is...

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*** A special THANK YOU to Chef Roskowinski and the Culinary Club for their generous support! ***

*** Another THANK YOU to Mr. Kamin for helping us with his expertise in Journalism! ***

The Buccaneer meets on Thursdays in Room 334B.
Please send submissions to skrug@brhs.org



Seasons Greetings

Prez



Continued from page 6

The number one most important issue on the minds of Americans today is the economy. This is also the number one area in which people believe the President has failed. Again, this is just not true. When Obama got into office, the American economy was in a tailspin and was very near the edge of an economic distress not seen since the Great Depression. The quick acts of Obama stopped the crumbling of the economy in its tracks, saving the country from another depression. Although preventing millions of layoffs, wage reductions, and foreclosures is impressive in itself, President Obama acted further in order to create jobs, increase wages, and reduce the number of foreclosures. Has the economy fully recovered? No. Can that be expected? Not at all. Even Franklin Delano Roosevelt, who was president for four terms and had one of the biggest and most comprehensive economic recovery plans in history (the New Deal), could not fully restore the American economy to pre-depression standards. It took World War II and huge demand from the manufacturing sector to take the US where it needed to go economically. Barack Obama has only been president for three years, yet he has managed to not only stop the collapse of the economy and stimulated growth, but also has created standards and acts that will continually help the American economy grow for years to come.

In the end, I can only say that those who see Obama as a failed president either do not have the information about what he has actually done, have expectations which are unreachable in Washington today, or are so partisan that even ideas that they once believed in are now "wrong" simply because a Democrat supports them. It is unfortunate that these simple truths about Obama's presidency are not known or acknowledged by almost half of Americans. However, I suppose that is the reason why politics are the way they are and why articles like this are written.

-- Sean Hickey, editor-in-chief

Is the world going to end? RBR weighs in on the Mayan myth

By Brooke Willemstyn

For many years, regular people and scientists alike have marked December 21, 2012, otherwise known as the day the Mayan calendar ends, as the day we wish our world goodbye. Lucky for us, 2012 approaches, and the end of the world is budding from an amusing theory to a potentially gruesome reality.

The most recent supposed "End of the World," proclaimed by Harold Camping, fell on October 21, 2011. Seeing as we are all alive, it's clear this was not the true Doomsday. Many also feared the end was near on January 1, 2000, or "Y2K," the first day of the new millennium. Some built fortresses to protect themselves, and others went as far as to take their own lives.

From our history, we can see how rumors can lead people to do drastic, stupid things. However, December 21, 2012 has always been the event regarded as the Doomsday to top all others. Even though there is no phys-

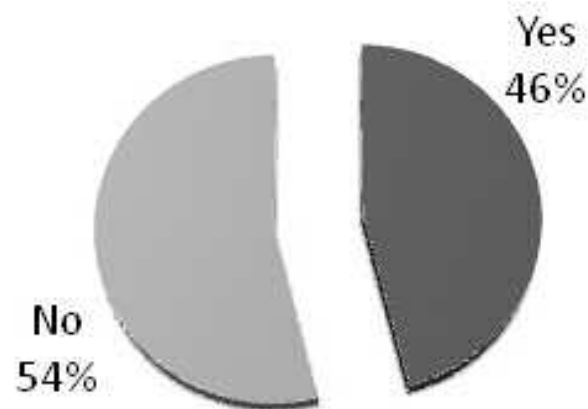
ical evidence proving that the Doomsday of 2012 will come true, we can only wait and see the outcome for ourselves.

Advisor's note: If the uncertainty leaves you feeling uneasy, here is a list of past failed Doomsday predictions, courtesy of www.abhota.info:

389 BC
Some Romans figured that the mystical number revealed to Romulus represented the number of days in a year, so they expected Rome to be destroyed around 365 AUC (389 BC).

Oct 19, 1533 Mathematician

Will the world end in 2012?



RBR poll data compiled by Brooke Willemstyn

Michael Stifel calculated that the Day of Judgement would begin at 8:00am on this day.

1658 In his The Book of Prophecies, Christopher Columbus claimed that the world was created in 5343BC, and would last 7000 years. Assuming no year zero, that means the end would come in 1658.

May 18, 1910
Many people believed the arrival of Halley's Comet would spell the end of the world.

1978 In his book The Doomsday Globe, John Strong drew on mysti-

cism to conclude that Doomsday would come in 1978.

Mar 26, 1997 The Heavens Gate cult suicides occurred between March 24 and March 26, during a window of time that the cultists had predicted a UFO trailing behind Comet Hale-Bopp would pick up their souls and save them from the imminent Apocalypse.

1999 Nostradamus predicted a "Great King of Terror" would cause the end of the world on Earth.

And don't worry...there are plenty of Doomsday predictions post-2012, so it's clear that no one is certain when the Earth will meet its demise.

"Seeing as we are all alive, it's clear this was not the true Doomsday."

ASK COURTNEY

By Courtney Ravelo

Dear Courtney,

I don't really have the best fashion sense in the world and I guess you're probably going to say that I should just be myself and people should like me for who I am. But, being a teenager isn't about being out there, it's about fitting in. I see my friends wearing good clothes, and mine are OK. It's not that I want to be like them, I just want to be in the same fashion zone. Any advice?

Dear Fashionista,

Have you ever tried reading fashion magazines? They are a HUGE help! I read Seventeen Magazine every month, and it helps me find clothes that are "in" for the season. I also really enjoy Teen Vogue's sense of color and artistic choices. Fashion magazines show a lot of different styles so that they can fit a lot of different people.

If you do not like fashion magazines, you can always browse the internet.

"People pay thousands for designer brands just to have the label. They don't realize they can get basically the same thing somewhere else for half as much money! "

Celebrities are always wearing the newest trend. If you do not want to be a copycat, then take styles and accessories from a bunch of different sources and put them all together! Let's say you like this pink hat you saw on a model in Seventeen, but you don't like the outfit she was wearing with it. Pick a blouse from Teen Vogue to match with it, and then find shoes that your fave celebrity wore the other day to go with it! There ya go - a brand new outfit totally put together by you.

Underneath pictures there are always captions saying where the model got each piece of clothing and where you can go to find it. If you are worried about prices, there are many fashionable clothes you can get that won't cost you a fortune. People pay thousands for designer brands just to have the label. They don't realize they can get basically the same thing somewhere else for half as much money! You just have to know where to shop.

You say you want to be in the same fashion zone as your friends, so why not ask them for hints and tips on what they like? You never know-you might be inspired to think outside the box and wear something you never dared trying before! Never be afraid to try new things. You might be surprised at how good cheetah print looks on you, even if you didn't like it before. And just so you know, everyone has their own fashion sense. That is what makes it fashion. Be confident in what you like to wear-if you like to wear sweatpants



Originally published in Teen Vogue, 2010

Fashion magazines are a great place for inspiration

every day, be proud of that! Rock your sweatpants! You don't need to wear fancy skirts every day to fit in.

Some stores I recommend that I think have a really cool selection are Joyce Leslie, Mandee, Urban Outfitters, American Eagle, H&M, Abercrombie and Fitch, Hollister, JCPenney, Nordstrom's, Macy's, Francesca's, and Dor La Dor. Hope I helped!!

Best of luck!
C.R.

Got a question for Courtney? E-mail ckrug@rbrhs.org and your question may be featured in the next issue of The Buccaneer!

Advisor's Note: "Ask Courtney" does not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Buccaneer staff

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