

Patriot Football Makes History

By: Bobby Henderson

Wow, what an impressive year from the John Jay football team! Not only did we win the majority of our games, but we also made program history. After clinching a league championship, we stormed through the playoffs and made it to the Section Championship Game. It is the furthest that any John Jay football team has ever reached in postseason play. Unfortunately we lost the game in a dramatic fashion, losing by a touchdown on the last play of overtime. It was a heartbreaking loss for most

members of the team, but we were able to keep our heads held high, knowing everything that we had accomplished over the course of the season.

Being that it was my senior year, I gave my full effort every time I stepped on the football field. I know that every other senior felt the same way

I did, and it was our leadership that ensured the team would be successful. This season had plenty of hard fought wins including going on the road and

beating New Rochelle, dominating our rival Ketcham on homecoming, and prevailing over Arlington in frigid, snowy conditions in the playoffs. There were many unforgettable memories in the 2011 football season, from the laughs at practice to the highlight reel plays during the games. This season will always have a special place in my heart, and I will never forget my days of playing as a Patriot. Expect to see much more from the John Jay football team in the next several years. WE WON'T BE BEAT! WE WILL SUCEED! WE WILL WIN!



Photo by: Bobby Henderson



Cheerleaders Gone Wild

By: Gennaro Nardelli

So far this year the varsity cheerleading team has done an outstanding job. These beautiful and dedicated girls spend the majority of their time perfecting their routines in order to achieve the ultimate goal: That is, beating Ketcham's varsity cheer. In the past three competitions they have done just that. Before their first competition of the year at Ketcham, where they placed first and were the grand champions, these ladies were extremely nervous. All of them knew the difficulty of their task, but still accomplished their goals. After coming out on top, they gained confidence in themselves and the team. It was clear to their peers that the team morale had improved. The goal was

the same in the second competition. John Jay again beat Ketcham by placing second. At this point it was evident that this team could do well if they focused their concentration and energy as a team. By the time they participated in their third competition (which Ketcham did not compete in), the ladies placed first again! When they competed for the grand champions title, however, they settled for third. Still, their coaches, parents, and fellow classmates were extremely proud of the team. Each time the team places, it makes them more motivated to prove to Ketcham and other teams that they are a true threat. It also proves to us that cheerleading is indeed a sport that displays the fierce competitive nature of schools.

CHRIS: Community. Hope. Resource. Initiative. Service

By: Jessica Williams

On Tuesday, November 29th at 7:00 pm, the Spanish Honor Society (Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica), led by Señora Beiner, welcomed the community to John Jay High School in order to address parents about teen driver safety. They also listened to the parents of former John Jay patriot, Christopher Ulanmo, speak about their loss and how what happened to their son can be prevented from happening again. All Sociedad members were dressed uniformly in black polos. They were standing at the front door of the school, ready to greet any community members that were willing to learn more about ways to acquire safer driving habits. Once the meeting began, Marissa Legnini, the membership secretary of the Sociedad,

spoke to welcome everyone. She let them know that by becoming more aware, the community could decrease the incidence of car accidents. A few of the guest speakers were Mrs. Leah Gindes and Mr. and Mrs. Ulanmo. Audience members were shown short video clips. One clip illustrated how dangerous a daily activity, such as texting, can be when combined with driving. Another video pointed out that the leading factors contributing to teen car accidents are inexperience and overconfidence. When the Ulanmo's spoke about how a car accident took their youngest child, the entire audience was brought to tears. The Sociedad members created a forum to be able to ask the parents and students questions about how they felt after watching and listening to stories of tragic loss. This forum developed an open space for

parents to talk about how anxious they felt when their children drove for the first time. At the end of the forum, the Sociedad members made personal pledges. These pledges dealt with changing any bad driving habits they might have had. Some pledges included turning off cell phones or not adjusting the radio while driving. The members then gave the audience the opportunity to say their own personal pledges to make good choices for themselves and their children while driving. Thanks to the generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Ulanmo, the Spanish Honor Society members were able to facilitate the prevention of an epidemic that takes nearly 3,000 adolescent lives in the U.S. every year. If everyone were to take a personal pledge to change their bad driving habits, we could decrease the number of accidents in our community.

BREAKFAST AT JOHN JAY

If you are not aware, John Jay offers a Breakfast in the Cafeteria every morning from 7:00am to 9:15 am. Options for meals include but are not limited to: Egg sandwiches, French toast sticks, bacon, sausages, bagels, cereal, granola, hash browns, etc. Assorted snacks and other beverages are also available for purchase. The "Grab and Go" breakfast plan for \$1.15 consists of a Bagel (half or whole) with butter or cream cheese, and either apple juice or milk.

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Have you heard about John Jay's latest club?

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Is text lingo taking over everyday speech?

LIFE
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Can school actually make you sick?

SPORTS
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Justin Verlander - Baseball's new MVP!

LIFE
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Mac Miller releases his first album!

Quotes

- The world is full of suffering, it is also full of overcoming it. ~HELEN KELLER
- The longer we dwell on our misfortunes, the greater is their power to harm us. ~VOLTAIRE
- Opportunity follows struggle. It follows effort. It follows hard work. It doesn't come before. ~SHELBY STEELE
- You gotta try your luck at least once a day, because you could be going around lucky all day and not even know it. ~JIMMY DEAN

“The Thirteenth Tale”

By: Christina Akrosh

Do people tell the truth all the time? In a single word, no. Certain people have their reasons for lying, or hiding the facts. But, how far - and equally important, how long - do these said people keep it up for? Well, that all depends on the person and the situation they are in. For Vida Winter, famous novelist of fifty-six published works, her time has finally come to reveal her secretive past to all whom have been so desperately craving it. Winter has been known to, as she says, "...inch them in the direction [she wants] to take [them]... towards a prettier story than the one they had their eye on." Over the years she has succeeded in doing just that. However, due to illness and a certain interviewer who flat out said "Tell me the truth," Winter's will to contain her past is near its breaking point. Requesting the assistance of amateur biographer

Margaret Lea -who happens to be suffering from her own past - these two women reveal the history that has been kept in the dark and was originally intended to stay there. Diane Setterfield tells a story within a story. Vida Winter's storytelling capabilities draw readers into a whole other world. Vida lives up to her reputation with detailed and out-of-the-ordinary endings. Setterfield's gift of writing was unlike any other I've encountered in a while. She describes the characters with such detail, you can envision them very clearly in your mind. The character's dialogue reflects their personality and feelings spot on. Even though while reading this book the characters actions made me a little apprehensive to continue (especially in the beginning), I'm glad I did. This book is a suspenseful love story in many ways. It identifies the meaning and bond of family, and the truth (which as we know is of most importance).

Best selling Teen Books

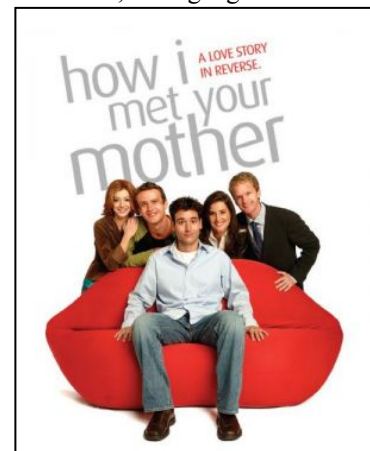
1. The Hunger Games Suzanne Collins
2. Catching Fire Suzanne Collins
3. Mockingjay Suzanne Collins
4. Longitude Dava Sobel
5. Flowers for Algernon Daniel Keyes

Source: amazon.com

How I Met Your Mother

By: Pawan Angara

This winter break, I donned my slippers, put on my house robe, pulled out my pipe (Just kidding kids, tobacco is bad for you), and sat down with one of my best friends: That is, Netflix. Lo and behold, How I Met Your Mother had finally been made available on Instant Play. It was as if this meeting were fated to happen. I began watching with anticipation -I'd heard that the show was funny, but I couldn't judge it before seeing it.



Moviepostersdb.com

A few minutes into the first episode, I was already cracking up. The entire show cleverly plays with traditional sitcom style. Ted Mosby (Josh Radnor) tells his children about his epic romance quest that ultimately led to him marrying their mother. Somehow, he recounts minute details as he jumps from one failed romance story to another -chronicling not only his hilarious mis-

adventures, but also (thanks to his unusually sharp memory) those of his best friends. Aside from getting themselves into hilarious situations, the gang themselves have an innate chemistry that has surely contributed to the show's massive success. Barney (Neil Patrick Harris) is a womanizing rich man who never reveals his real occupation; Marshall (Jason Segel) and Lily (Aly-

son Hannigan) are a long-time couple with hilarious pet names; Robin (Cobie Smulders) is the attractive, career-driven friend. Together, the gang makes one of the weirdest, most outlandish sitcom teams that I've ever seen.

Although How I Met Your Mother is really funny, it isn't for people who don't like sex jokes, risqué situations, and mature themes. I would recommend that if you have a kid in the room, you cover their ears. Or better yet, just make them leave (Why would you want to cover a kid's ears for twenty-two minutes?). If you don't like crude humor, then Barney will probably make you vomit.

In my opinion, the racy topics are really what gives How I Met Your Mother a lot of its character and humor. While it's no Friends (Cobie Smulders could NEVER reach Jennifer Aniston levels of hotness) or Seinfeld, How I Met Your Mother is an interesting show with an engaging, comical plot.

TOP TEN MOST POPULAR TV SHOWS

1. the BIG BANG THEORY
2. GAME OF THRONES
3. how i met your mother
4. AMERICAN HORROR STORY
5. DEXTER
6. THE WALKING DEAD
7. Breaking Bad
8. the Vampire Diaries
9. ONCE UPON A TIME
10. DOWNTON ABBEY

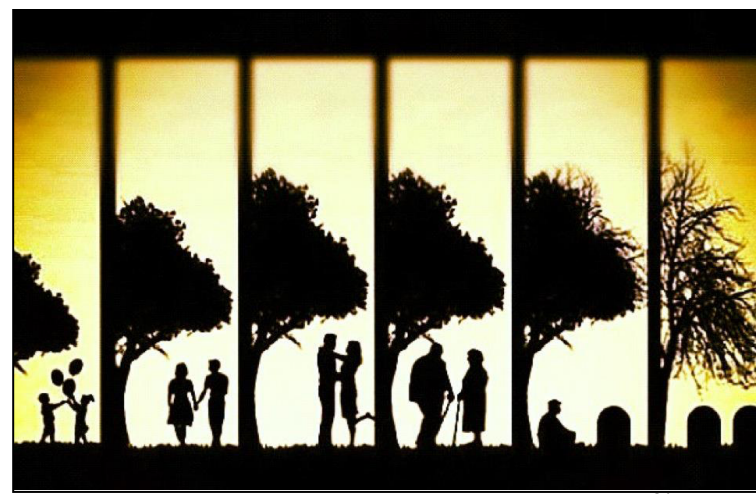
Source: imdb.com



Things To Remember

By:Shannon McClintock

- The first day of kindergarten, as sweet as that was.
- To the first boy you kissed, underneath the jungle-gym
- The time it got awkward, when you got "The Talk".
- But life doesn't always work out, How you think it should.
- To the first day of middle school, as the mean girls laughed.
- To getting wedgies, from the insecure boys.
- to the first heart break, that even made your body ache.
- The lie you told your mom about, where you were that unforgettable night.
- The first time of falling in love, with the boy of your dreams.
- To the first time of having, your "first time".
- To that magical moment, of saying "I do".
- Your first born, Oh how he cried.
- All of these sweet memories, Our one and only.



flickr.com

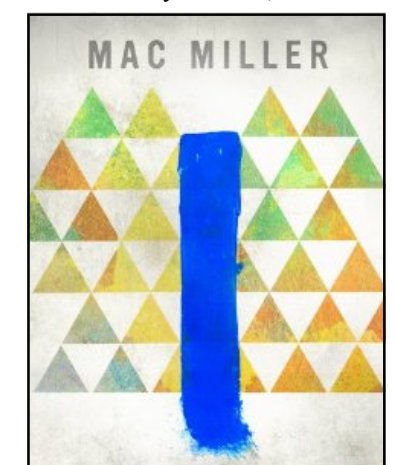
This is Blue Slide Park

By: Mike Aurricchio

Rap fans rejoice; Mac Miller fans celebrate. The time is now. Alas, the wait is over. Young rapper Mac Miller has released his first ever CD entitled, Blue Slide Park. The 19-year old rapper released his debut album on November 8, 2011. "Mac Miller is the future of music," said one Pro-Bowl football cornerback. Did I happen to mention that the Pro-Bowler was Darrelle Revis of the New York Jets? One famous celebrity said, "So in one way, I'm proud of him. I haven't actually seen the language - it's a little hard to understand on the song itself. Probably, it's not the cleanest language you've ever heard, but this kid is the new Eminem." This was THE Donald Trump regarding Mac Miller after his song "Donald Trump" hit the 20 mil-

lion viewed mark on YouTube. This Mac Miller isn't just the average rapper: He is one of the most regarded artists in the game.

XXL Magazine had this to say about the album, "According to Hits Daily Double, the XXL



Rostrum Records

Freshman's recently released Blue Slide Park is expected to land on top of the Billboard 200

with sales estimated between \$175,000 and \$185,000." They predict this amount of money will be earned in just one week. Currently, Blue Slide Park is sitting on the number 60 spot on iTunes, but expect Mac Miller's album to be on the rise as the week goes on. On the debut day, Blue Slide Park was the top album sold on iTunes, and the day before it was out in stores, it was number three. Blue Slide Park was ahead of albums from artists such as Adele, Coldplay, and Justin Bieber.

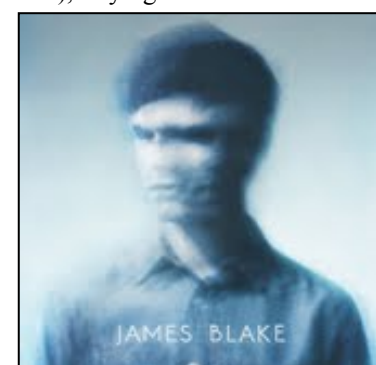
The sixteen song LP includes tracks like "Frick Park Market," "Smile Back," and the song that inspired the album, "Blue Slide Park." The Pittsburgh native is slowly but surely making his way up the musical ladder. It's only a matter of time until Mac Miller hits number one. Good luck to Mac.

Music With James

By: James Greene

James Blake- James Blake Electronic, Soul, Minimal

I've had this album for a while since a friend sent it to me and I thoroughly enjoyed it. A couple weeks later, I was in an awful mood and I went with my friend up to New Paltz, where he bought it for me on vinyl. The vinyl has two bonus tracks, which I won't talk about, since they won't apply to most of you. Anyway, I'm just now deciding to write about it, since I think it deserves a review. Blake is a producer, pianist, and singer (a very good singer at that), relying on his own voice in



A&M Records

the sparse arrangement of the first track, "Unluck," chugs along in syncopated triplet time, and then at almost one minute in, a wobbly metallic synch enters the mix. Another obvious example is in "Limit To Your Love," a Feist cover. After the first section, there is a brief calm-before-the-storm before a massive deep bass rumble strikes with no warning at all. Later in the song, a very dubstep bass melody takes over. I recommend listening to this album with headphones or good speakers, as I wasn't even aware of any of this bass until I listened to it in my friend's car. Blake clearly knows his fair share of music theory, and this shines through in his inversion-laden chord progressions and complex vocal harmonies - especially those of "I Never Learnt To Share" and "Measurements." The former presents a vocal melody, then places another on top of it, changing its apparent tonality as quickly as it was established in the first place; The latter is essentially an exercise in layering vocal lines, that also shows off his impressive range, both high and low. James Blake is a great debut album, and I'm excited to see what the UK producer and musician will do next. Standout tracks include "Unluck," "I Never Learnt To Share," and "Limit To Your Love."

James Blake gets 8 surprisingly soulful white kids out of 10.

Battles - Gloss Drop Post Rock, Experimental, Electronic

When I saw first Battles play on Later...with Jools Holland, I sat there mesmerized for all 7 minutes of their song Atlas. I had never heard anything quite like it. It was tribal, robotic, and really good. Back then, Battles owed a lot of their creative output to front-man Tyondai Braxton, who had about as big an image as any instrumental post rock band front-man could have, with his wild

hair easily likened to that of Omar Rodriguez-Lopez of The Mars Volta. So, after listening through Mirrored a fair amount of times,



Warp Records

it came as a great disappointment that Braxton was leaving the band to pursue his solo career. He was such an integral part of the band, how could they carry on without him? Well, from the moment I heard their first single from Gloss Drop, "Ice Cream," featuring Chilean techno producer Matias Aguayo (who works so well with the band that if he were to become the permanent front-man of the band it would be a welcome addition), I had high hopes for the album. In short, Gloss Drop did not disappoint. Battles still has their distinctively stiff robotic sound, taking queues from minimal techno, and owing largely to drummer John Staniers unfaltering precision, and infrequent use of the ride cymbal, which he keeps high above the rest of his set. Oddly, they may sound even more full on this record than Mirrored, despite being 3/4ths of the band they were. For an experimental band, Battles grooves surprisingly hard - evident on tracks like "Futura," "Inchworm," and "My Machines". The guest vocal tracks on this album are surely a highlight, such as the impossibly catchy, funky aforementioned "Ice Cream" with its cartoony guitar riffs and oddball Chilean accented singing. "Sweetie and Shag" is a more laid back track with crooning indie pop vocals by Kazu Makino. Outro's song "Sundome" has probably the

most prolific guest, Yamantaka Eye of Japanese weirdo noise band Boredoms, who shouts out what is either Japanese, or total gibberish to a grooving rhythm. The last ~2 minutes of the song, and especially the riff that comes in at about ~6:43 are what I imagine playing in a movie as people in a convertible drive down a long stretch of road lined with palm trees next to the ocean on a tropical island. Battles have really outdone themselves with Gloss Drop, proving that they can function as a powerful and unique band even without Tyondai. Standout tracks are "Ice Cream," "Futura," and "Sundome." Gloss Drop gets 8 loop pedals out of 10.

Rustie - Glass Swords Electronic, 2-Step, Funk

In recent years, electronic music has been emerging in more and more ambiguous forms, partly spurred on by Dubstep's acceptance into the mainstream. The effect of this seems to be that a vast amount of electronic music - even with only very loose ties to Dubstep - is getting labeled (often primarily) as Dubstep. So, even though Rustie leans closer to the Dubstep side of things, to simply call him that would be misleading and not fully representative of his sound.

Rustie, a Glaswegian electronic music producer, is fairly new on the scene of the infamous party city, but is already receiving a lot of hype. With this debut album on Warp Records, he brings like "Futura," "Inchworm," and "My Machines". The guest vocal tracks on this album are surely a highlight, such as the impossibly catchy, funky aforementioned "Ice Cream" with its cartoony guitar riffs and oddball Chilean accented singing. "Sweetie and Shag" is a more laid back track with crooning indie pop vocals by Kazu Makino. Outro's song "Sundome" has probably the

Star," and on a few tracks (most prominently the title track), he explores the searing guitar leads of 80's hard rock. Rustie's sound is at times complex and layered, with subtle changes and additions being made to hooks with each repetition, but he also knows when to strip an idea down to its basic components to provide contrast. This, coupled with the hard hitting nature of his hooks in songs such as Ultra Thizz and After Light, ends up being a recipe for effectively energetic pump-up songs. In between hooks, we are treated to glistening layers of build up, and sometimes ambience. In fact, tracks like Glass Swords and Ice Tunnels, which serve as an introduction and interlude respectively, are good examples of his softer, sparkly sections. The album is, sonically, like being hit over the head with a bat - a glowing bat made of diamond that causes you to hallucinate.

Rustie relies on a similar structure for most of his songs, with sections building in intensity until they reach a breaking point, and unleash a torrent of sound. While effective, this can give his songs all a similar feeling, and one could wonder if he in fact uses the same formula for many of his



Warped Records

tracks. Another minor issue is that the last two songs, while not bad, lack the intensity of some others, and the album would have felt less anticlimactic were he to end it on a song like "Ultra Thizz." Though not perfect, the album has its fair share of high points and memorable hooks.

Glass Swords gets 8 crystals out of 10.

LOL CHAT ACRONYMS

By: Anonymous

Skimming through my phone's inbox, I sigh wistfully as I read "lol" or "omg" in nearly every text message. The use of chat acronyms in texts, facebook statuses, instant messages, and e-mails has become increasingly common in today's world. Although some view the use of chat acronyms as a harmless streamlining of conversation, the flood of chat acronyms into nearly every form of communication will have detrimental effects on human-to-human relations and the English language. Chat acronyms restrict emotional expression, convey almost no meaning, and will harm future generations' ability to think.

Chat acronyms limit the ability for one to articulately express something. There is a big difference between a message that says "That joke was hilarious!" and one that says "lol." The former insinuates laughter

and expresses appreciation for the humor. The latter, on the other hand, is a cheap expression that conveys neither the suggested laughter of the first



blog.lib.umn.edu

message, nor the physical act of laughing. When used in place of

phrases (even simple phrases), chat acronyms rob a message of its meaning and detract from the emotional connection between humans as they converse. With-

humans would revert back to a primitive communication style that would stymie progress.

While replacing phrases with chat acronyms is one problem, replacing silence with chat acronyms is another. Often, chat acronyms are "conversation placeholders" that convey nothing and create the illusion of meaningful conversation. A response like "lol nice," adds nothing to the conversation, and simply takes up space. In this way, chat acronyms partially engender meaningless conversation and emotional disconnection between humans.

Perhaps the greatest problem with chat acronyms is that the use of chat acronyms may cause humans to lose the ability to think. We think partially in words, and often, we can pinpoint our exact feelings with certain words. Impressionable children who are exposed to chat acronyms as a serious way to communicate will begin to think in terms of chat acronyms. They will be incapable of complex and deeply emotional

thought if their language is limited to cookie-cutter statements. In George Orwell's 1984, "newspeak" is imposed on the citizens of Oceania to control them. Newspeak, a shortened version of English, makes free thought impossible because humans don't have enough words to properly express themselves. As long as thought is contentious on vocabulary, an excessive use of chat acronyms will cage the human mind and limit communication.

The development of language has taken generations. While a streamlined conversation laden with meaningless chat acronyms does ease one's fingers as one texts or types, it also slowly leaches language of its power. In order to have a free society where one truly express oneself through language, we must limit the use of chat acronyms in all forms of word-based materials. Language has allowed humans to advance to where we are now, and we cannot allow ourselves to destroy it with laziness.

AUTOCORRECT FAILS

Source: autocorrectfail.org



What's With All the Clothing Store Theatrical Extravaganza Commercials?

By: Matt McNamara

Cecil B. Demille would roll in his grave. Why do clothing stores like J.C. Penny and Kohl's think that holiday-themed musical numbers will make their clothes more appealing to wear? It's like they want you to think if you wear their clothes, you will be happy and glamorous like an actor or pop star. These lip-synched, over-the-top commercials don't appeal to me, they just annoy me. They're probably wasting more money on these commercials than they are making profit. What happened to clothing store commercials being simple and cheap? I guess America--a country whose media praises spectacle over substance--is okay with having a bunch of wannabe actors run around while singing a cheesy and poorly covered holiday classic. I'd rather



Youtube.com

watch mannequins talk to each other in meaningless dialogue to promote a product of clothing. Just film a celebrity wearing your clothes and saying how comfortable they are like every smart advertising company does. What we have learned from commercials lately is that Americans will watch funny commercials. How about a fake reindeer wearing your clothes? I would definitely

watch that if it talked. My point is that in commercials, bigger is not always better. Simplicity is key. Companies should just make their point in a concise, yet watchable way. No big musical numbers, no over the top ideas, just the product, and what it represents. Commercials don't have to be like a Michael Bay action flick, more like a Martin Scorsese movie, classic and enjoyable to watch.

Iowa Caucus Results

Source: AP

Name	Votes	Vote %
Romney, Mitt	30015	25%
Santorum, Rick	30007	25%
Paul, Ron	26219	21%
Gingrich, Newt	16251	13%
Perry, Rick	12604	10%
Bachmann, Michele	6073	5%
Huntsman, Jon	745	1%
No Preference	135	0%
Other	117	0%
Cain, Herman	58	0%
Roemer, Buddy	31	0%

TOP TEN NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS FOR TEENS

1. Get healthy
2. Get happier
3. Be a better person
4. Find love
5. Show more love to your family
6. Be a better friend
7. Get better in school
8. Learn something new
9. Be a role model
10. Make some money

Source: teenadvice.about.com

Sometimes, Taking Care of Yourself Can be Cool

By: Anonymous

I am by no means a neat freak: I eat in my room (sometimes, disgustingly, in my own bed), I leave dirty clothes all over the place, I keep things that I don't really need to keep, and I stave off cleaning until the last minute before company arrives. However, I'm not proud of my habits for more than just hygienic reasons, and I'm trying to change them. After many years of living in an almost constantly messy room, I've realized that I'm much more productive after the rare cleaning session. When my room is clean, I think in a much more organized way, I feel as though I deserve to get work done, and I actually want to get up and do things. Not only do I feel more capable, but I actually am more productive on days when my room is clean. As I drift off to sleep in a tidy space of my own, I can't help but recount the day's accomplishments. For this reason, I've been trying to keep my room clean and refrain from indulging in my dirty habits.

While a clean room takes me

a long way, I've also noticed that dressing well and grooming myself increases productivity. After getting a job, I've spent nearly a quarter of the money earned on new clothes. It's actually hard to look nice and not get something done. It also feels great to get a compliment on an outfit from a friend. Although it really is a bit superficial, dressing nice has increased my self-esteem and other people's ideas about who I am.

Lately, in addition to cleaning my room and dressing nice, I've been eating an assortment of healthy foods. Instead of eating the school lunch, I've been making myself a healthy lunch of vegetables or a sandwich each day. At home, I've refrained from eating too many cookies and I've taken to getting snacks from Nature's Pantry (a health food store near the Ocean State Job Lot). I've also been drinking a LOT of water. Believe it or not, eating right and drinking water gives you a good amount of energy during the day so that you can get more done and sleep well at night. That's not to say that I

don't eat an occasional mozzarella stick --but primarily, I've switched to healthier, more filling foods. To top it off, I recently got a gym membership (the thing that really started this whole change of lifestyle) and although I've been too busy to attend it daily, the few days a week that I can attend it are extremely satisfying. You don't need to be super buff or athletic to go to the gym--exercising is a healthy habit that clears your mind and gives you more stamina to get through the week.

But how are cleaning, dressing nice, eating healthy, and exercising related? It's simple --all have to do with your general physical wellness. When you take care of yourself, you feel like you can do anything...and with the right mindset, you probably can. I've only just begun my change of lifestyle, but it's dramatically changed my perception of who I am. I don't think that I can really sway anyone to change the way they live--the desire to do that has to come from within--but I can say that with a bit of time and effort, you really can change your life.

How to Live a Healthy Lifestyle

- Eat three meals a day that are low in saturated fat. Don't eat before bed to avoid weight gain and acid reflux.
- Exercise - it will boost your self-esteem and self-confidence as well as lowering your risk for heart disease, arthritis, and high blood pressure. Begin exercising in slow amounts and eventually increase to longer workouts.
- Try to get eight to nine hours of sleep.
- Take breaks while working to reduce stress levels.
- See your friends - having a strong support system is important.
- Avoid tobacco use as well as alcohol consumption.
- Stop reckless driving and speeding. Do not drive sleep deprived, either.

Source: medicinenet.com

My Complaints About the Holiday Season

By: Matthew Travagline

It's supposed to be the most wonderful time of the year. You know, the time from after Halloween to midway through January. It's that time for holiday cheer and happiness, toys and candy. People holding doors, strangers helping strangers just because, dogs traversing their snowy neighborhoods to give bones to a dog in need: That's what I want to see in the Holiday season. I really couldn't care for (and I'd like to speak to anyone who really enjoys) the millions of dollars worth of nonstop Santa Claus commercials because companies want to look festive. It's obviously not the real Santa --he doesn't show up in pictures (just like Chuck Norris). As you may have been

able to deduce by now, I loathe repetitive holiday commercials.

Lexus: Chances are, if anyone has the money in this economy to buy one of your cars, they won't need to see your commercial of a mom failing at Guitar Hero to decide. Also, I noticed that in all of those commercials it's always snowing in the background when they show the cars, but there's never any snow on the car. Food for thought indeed.

Any big chain store that wishes my family and I the best holidays is just blowing smoke. You honestly don't care if I have the millions of dollars worth of nonstop Santa Claus commercials because companies want to look festive. It's obviously not the real Santa --he doesn't show up in pictures (just like Chuck Norris). As you may have been

shopped at Walmart on December 26th had they not wished us a safe and happy holiday.

Just because Santa Claus is a jolly old man and makes people happy doesn't mean you have to plaster him all over your commercials. Santa doesn't get back aches because magic courses through his veins. The big man doesn't drive a luxury car (but rather, a simple sleigh) and he drinks Coke, not Pepsi. The only thing seeing Santa everywhere does is force me to despise a time that used to light my face.

If you really wanted to catch my attention, you would do something your competitors are not already doing. Don't think I'm a Scrooge. I love the holidays, just not the incessant holiday commercials. No one needs to be reminded that it's December. We all know.

Why NASA Says the World Won't End in 2012

Q: Are there any threats to the Earth in 2012?
A: Nothing bad will happen to the Earth in 2012. Our planet has been getting along just fine for more than 4 billion years, and credible scientists worldwide know of no threat associated with 2012.

Q: Does the Mayan calendar end in December 2012?
A: Just as the calendar you have on your kitchen wall does not cease to exist after December 31, the Mayan calendar does not cease to exist on December 21, 2012. This date is the end of the Mayan long-count period but then -- just as your calendar begins again on January 1 -- another long-count period begins for the Mayan calendar.

Q: What is the polar shift theory? Is it true that the earth's crust does a 180-degree rotation around the core in a matter of days if not hours?
A: A reversal in the rotation of Earth is impossible. There are slow movements of the continents (for example Antarctica was near the equator hundreds of millions of years ago), but that is irrelevant to claims of reversal of the rotational poles. As far as we know, such a magnetic reversal doesn't cause any harm to life on Earth. A magnetic reversal is very unlikely to happen in the next few millennia, anyway.

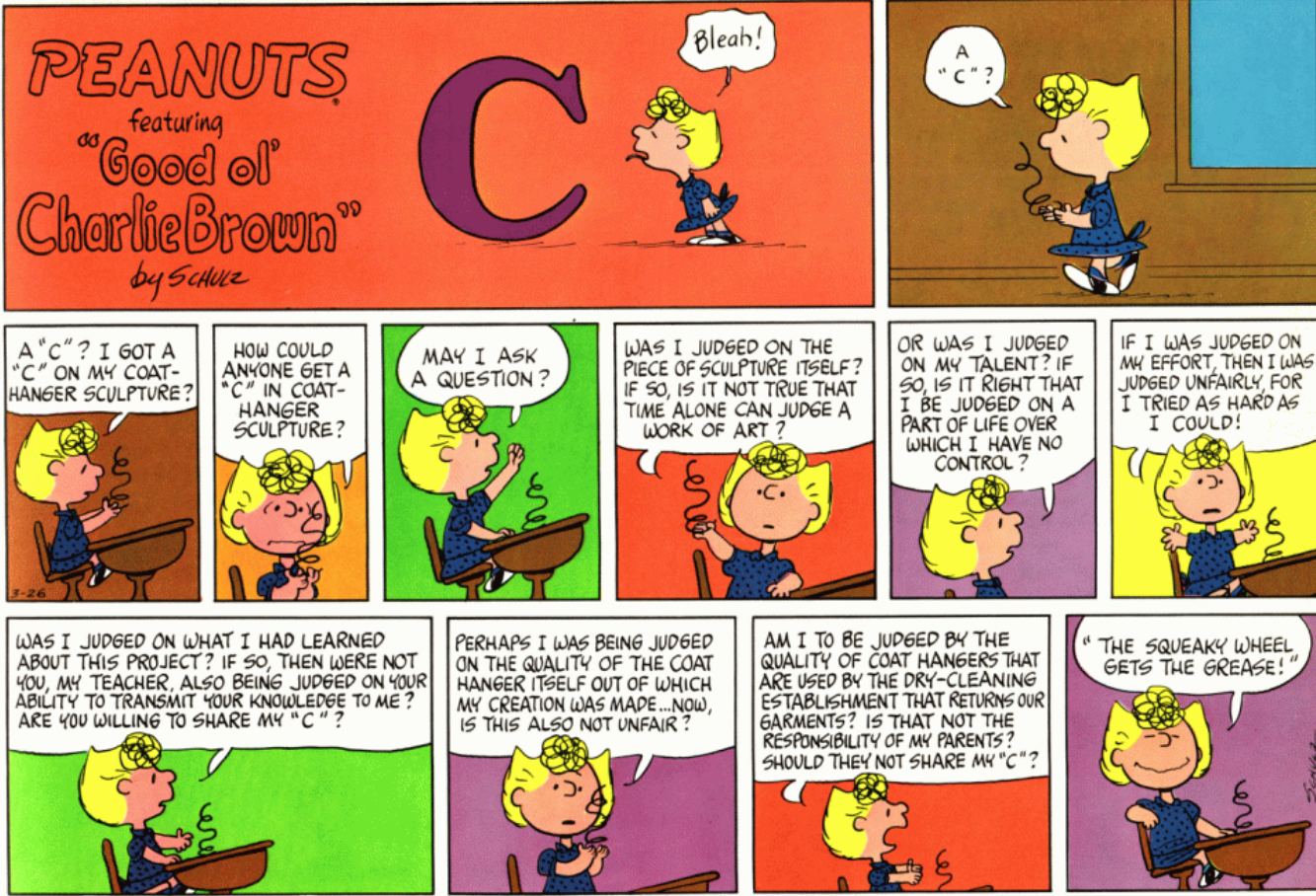
Q: Is the Earth in danger of being hit by a meteor in 2012?
A: The Earth has always been subject to impacts by comets and asteroids, although big hits are very rare. We have already determined that there are no threatening asteroids as large as the one that killed the dinosaurs.

Q: Is there a danger from giant solar storms predicted for 2012?
A: Solar activity has a regular cycle, with peaks approximately every 11 years. But there is no special risk associated with 2012. The next solar maximum will occur in the 2012-2014 time frame and is predicted to be an average solar cycle.

Source: nasa.gov

Peanuts

Charles M. Schulz



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Prepare for **PROM**

JUNIOR PROM

May 25th, 2012
6:30 PM - 11:30 PM
@ the Villa Borghese

SENIOR PROM

June 8th, 2012
7:00 PM - 12:00 PM
@ West Point's Eisenhower Hall

Source: wappingersschools.org

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9	1						



Answers

2	5	9	3	4	8	7	1	6
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8	4	7	5	1	6	3	9	2
4	8	3	2	5	9	1	6	7
6	2	7	6	3	1	4	8	5
1	6	5	8	7	4	9	2	3
7	1	6	4	8	3	2	5	9
4	5	4	8	7	9	2	6	1
3	6	1	9	5	8	7	4	8

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