

PANTHER PAWS



WINTER 2008

Mr. McDow: A Man Who Has Found His True Calling

By Gillian Nigro

Mr. McDow is the Director of Finance for Sweet Home Central Schools. He deals with building and grounds, food service and transportation. He has a very important job, especially now with the New York State budget crisis. Mr. McDow does not deny what is happening and the negative effects it will have on our school. "It's unfortunate, but expected," he said. "We have to find a way to minimize the impact to our district." The results at the present time look grim.

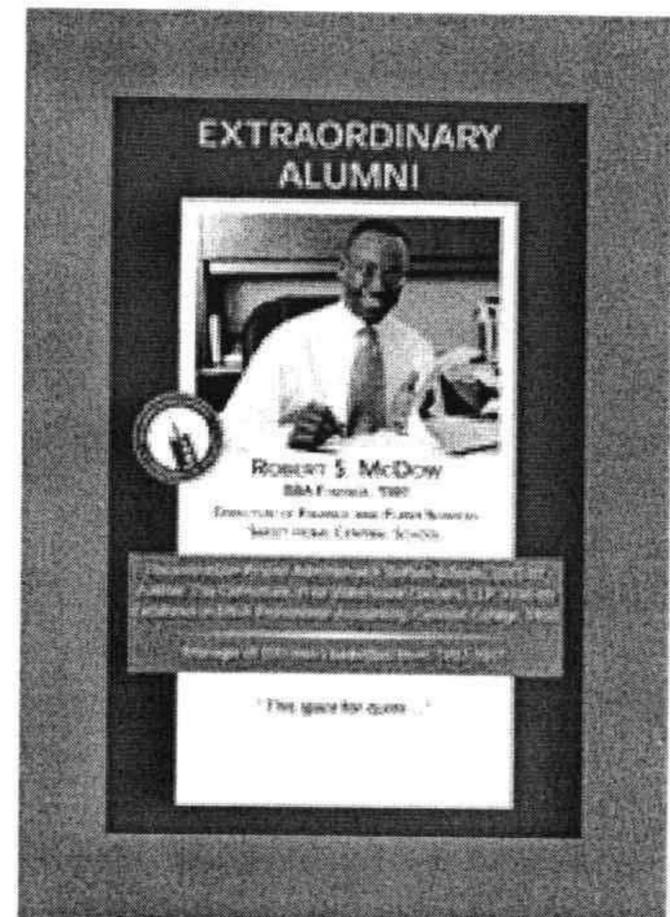
This all began with the Wall Street meltdown earlier in September. Working men and women did not create it, but they are now forced to endure the brunt of New York State's budget crisis. Our school administrators are dreading Governor David A. Paterson's proposed plan to deal with the crumbling economy. If the state's legislative body approves it, our school could lose five to ten percent of its already budgeted state aid in mid-year. This will force school districts to make reductions in presently offered services and staffing.

The state receives a great deal of its revenues from Wall Street. If the governor's plan is approved, this will trickle down to individual school districts. This plan represents a series of tough choices necessary to address the record four-year \$47 billion budget deficit. Governor Paterson proposed a comprehensive, two-year \$5.2 billion deficit reduction plan that will entirely eliminate the state's \$1.5 billion current-year shortfall, protect against further declines in revenue in such a volatile economic climate, and make a substantial down payment on next year's deficit.

Reductions will be spread across virtually every area of spending, including education, health care, human services, the state workforce, and others. It will produce \$2 billion of savings in 2008-09 and \$3.2 billion in 2009-10. Mr. McDow has no answers about how our school district is going to deal with this. No one will know until we find out if the governor's plan is approved or not. "All we can do is try our best to protect our school and the its students."

Mr. McDow is extremely modest; he attempts to stay under the radar most of the time. His goal is to put more things into classrooms for us. "I work for you guys and I love it," he said. When commenting on his previous careers he said, "Work was work." Now he loves what he does and knows well the rewards that come with being an educator. Education is nothing new to him, however.

Mr. McDow has three masters degrees: one in finance, one in accounting, and one in school administration. Obviously, he is highly qualified for his current occupation. A graduate of St. Bonaventure



University, he attended Hutch Tech in Buffalo for his high school studies. Additionally, Mr. McDow recently won St Bonaventure's Distinguished Alumni's Award. "I'm honored," he said, adding that his mentor who nominated him is like his second mother.

For students applying to college, he advises to explore every option. There are programs tailored to fit every situation. He recommends, "Push the envelope if possible." Also, he says to talk to your counselors for advice because they will help you through the stressful process. Growing up on the East Side of Buffalo, Mr. McDow knows the dire consequences of poverty, violence, lack of education and job opportunities, and how they contribute to the overall fabric of the community. He is here to help students succeed in life after high school. "If we give you the tools you need, you'll be better than us one day."

International Night Combines Food, Fitness and Fun

By Leyla Mamedova

Sweet Home has the ability to brag about being an incredibly diverse school district, as it educates children of families with colorful cultural backgrounds and places of origin. I, being a foreigner myself, can relate. Once I heard about International Night from my English teacher, I was curious as to how many families would actually be brave enough to showcase their cultures through foods and talents.

Upon attending, I discovered that many students and parents united to bring a little bit of their home to Sweet Home. I paraded around the tables and tried a little bit of everything, not the least bit surprised that many of the displays featured desserts. Sugar is definitely the best way to attract teenage attention. Countries like China, Japan, Vietnam, Spain and Ireland made their way into the school cafeteria to be put on display. Even a little U.S. cuisine snuck its way into the mix, too.



Swamped with International Academy students carrying extended learning opportunity sheets and a newly kindled interest in all of the different food, International Night brought in a good 40 to 50 (or maybe more!) customers and a rich collection of very happy families. The food portion was only the beginning, of course. It just wouldn't be International Night without some entertainment to top it off.

Featuring singing and dancing talents from our own Mackenzie Lynch, Rina Kukhto, Nhung Nguyen, Danica Tibung, Leanne DiJames and even our very own Miss Duma, it was definitely a colorful, wonderful performance. It was heartwarming to see that the attendees were so open to other cultures and foods they've never tried before! That goes to say, of course, that the event reached its ultimate goal without hindrance. Congratulations to the Global Ambassadors for bringing something as wonderful as International Night to our school and pulling it through as a major success!



Saving Morris Island

By Solomon Karchefsky

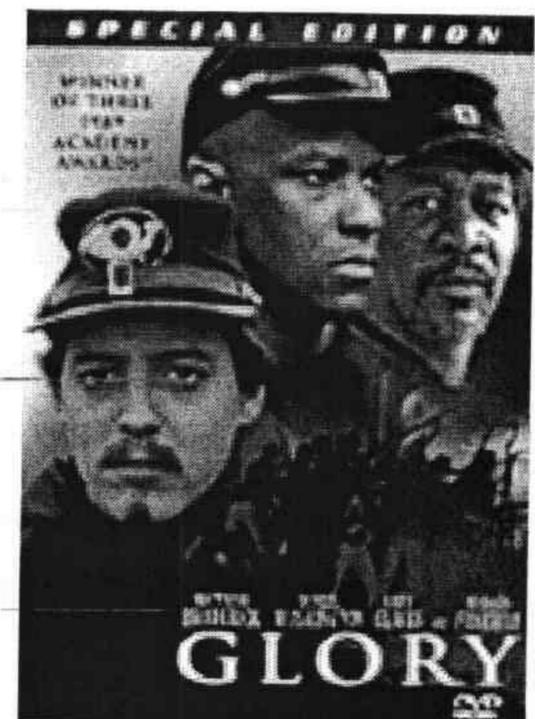
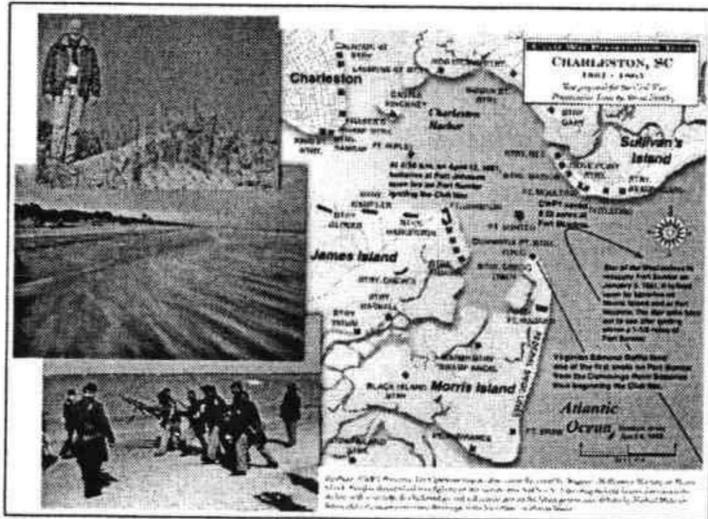
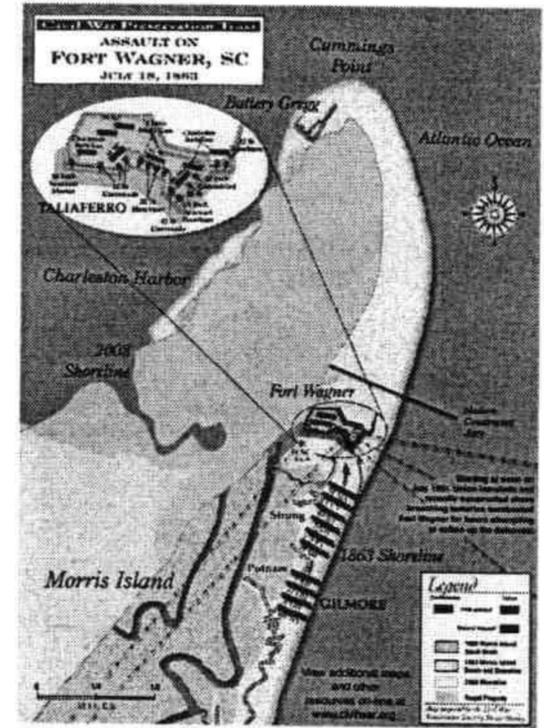
The Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) is a national organization dedicated to the preservation of American Civil War battlefields and landmarks. Whenever developers threaten these historical sites, the CWPT tries to get the money together to buy the sites (often times at a very high cost) in order to donate them to the National Parks System. Some of these purchases include 208 acres of land at Fredericksburg, Virginia, 406 acres of land at Champion Hill, Mississippi, and even land at Antietam and Gettysburg, which are among the most famous Civil War battle sites. Sweet Home High School's own Mr. Hornung is a member of the CWPT and very involved with this important organization. When developers threatened Morris Island, the CWPT sprang into action to raise the money to buy the land.

The Morris Island battlefield, which is a large piece of land that stretches around Charleston Harbor in South Carolina, is infamous for being where the charge on Battery Wagner was led by the 54th Massachusetts infantry division. This is so significant because the 54th Massachusetts was the first African American military regiment involved in a major battle in the history of our country. This battle is also the focus of the movie *Glory*, released in 1989 starring Matthew Broderick and Denzel Washington.

This land carried a hefty price for developers, as it was in a prime real estate location and the CWPT needed to raise a large amount of money. Luckily, however, several organizations banded together and agreed to donate \$2.9 million if the public could raise \$100,000. This meant that for each dollar the public raised, these organizations would donate \$30! As a member of the CWPT, Mr. Hornung decided to get Sweet Home involved. Initially, his Civil War club took an interest in this project. In fact, it was the first project the club really got involved in to try and save a real

Civil War battlefield. Mr. Hornung further appealed to the Social Studies department to help out. As a result, all the Social Studies classes across the school agreed to participate and try to raise money for the preservation of Morris Island. Since Sweet Home is one of the few area schools with a Civil War class or club, this was a very unique cause in which to take part.

When the donations were counted after a short while, Sweet Home had raised approximately \$380. This is substantial because when multiplied by 30 it equates to nearly \$10,000 being put towards saving Morris Island. The donations from the Civil War club and the rest of Sweet Home helped the public reach that \$100,000 goal, and the organizations backed up their word and pitched in the money to buy Morris Island. Thanks to the generosity of Sweet Home, the rest of the public, and the Civil War Preservation Trust, another historical landmark that played a key role in the development of our country has been saved to be remembered.

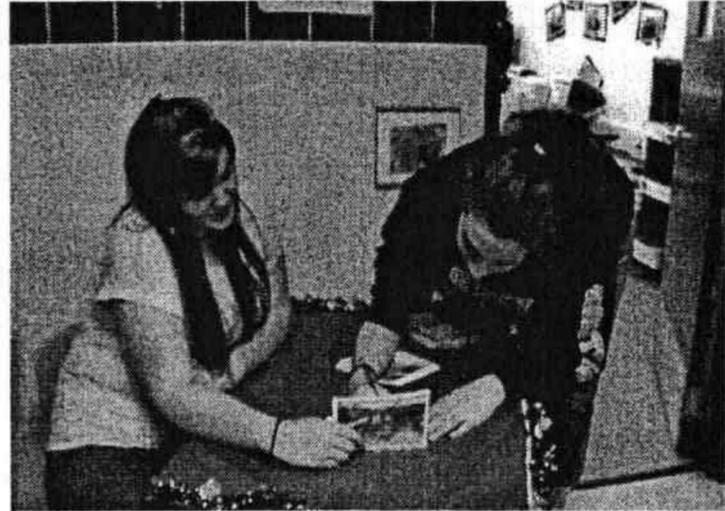


Soldier Christmas Cards Sent across the World

By Marie Reyes

Have you realized how many American troops get called to serve in the military each year? It is thousands, and these men and women leave their families for long periods of time without knowing when they will return. When the troops leave they do not get to bring much with them or keep anything to remind them of their families back at home. Since many soldiers do not receive mail or packages from friends or family very often, teachers and students of Sweet Home High School decided to ask students to write Christmas cards to our soldiers.

Mrs. Mehlretter, a teaching aide who works in the Alternative Education Program with Mrs. Lehman, has two sons and a daughter-in-law currently serving in the military. In fact, one of her sons was recently deployed to Afghanistan. As a result, Mrs. Mehlretter originated the idea of sending Christmas cards to soldiers. The goal was to collect a minimum of 50 cards written in at least two languages. In all, 144 cards were collected, nearly tripling the original goal.



Many students were involved in this project and handled special duties. For example, Corra Semanski, Jasmine Jones, Michael Frears, and Corey Orlando decorated the desk, which was in the 200 hallway in front of Mrs. Lehman's classroom, made posters, and manned the mail desk before homeroom each period. They also reviewed and sorted the cards for mailings.

The soldier Christmas cards were collected between November 16th and the 26th, and then were sent out to parts of Iraq and Afghanistan. When Mrs. Mehlretter thought about the idea of sending the cards to our American soldiers, she was not worried about where she would get the funds. It turned out that teachers and our principal, Mrs. Reinholz, donated most of the cards while Mrs. Lehman covered the cost of postage.

We, the students and teachers of Sweet Home High School, hope that the soldiers will appreciate their cards and realize even though they are far away from us, they are still thought about and cared for back at home. We're hoping all it takes is a few Christmas cards to brighten their day.



Change Can Come to America If We Eliminate Stereotypes

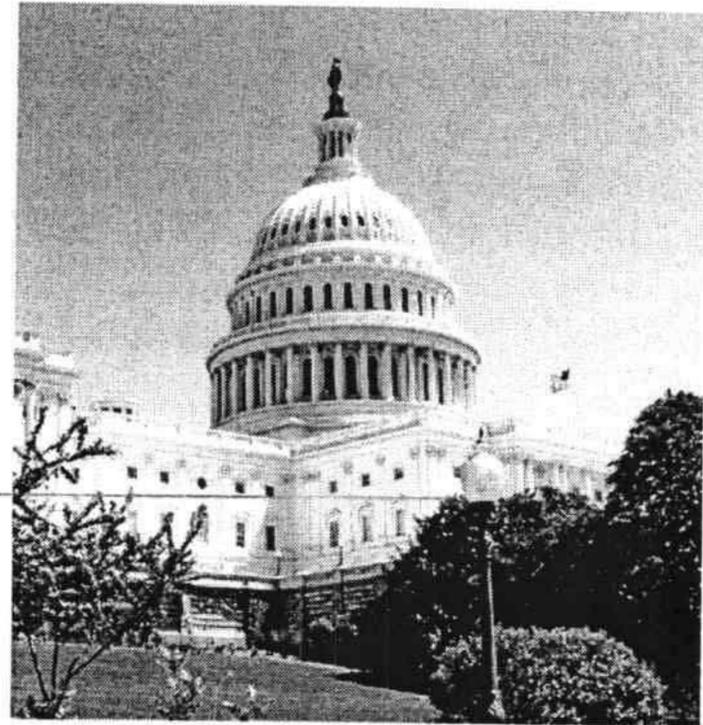
By Marijke Van Leeuwen

Recently in the United States, there was a great turning point. It was an event that will change how we, as Americans, will be viewed by other nations and even how we view ourselves. I feel many people in our country did a lot of questioning on who we've been, who we are, and who we want to be. For example, where is this country heading? And is it going in the direction we want it to be? Not only did the citizens of the United States have these questions in mind, but so did the politicians who ran for office. In many cases, these political races opened the eyes of many to where American culture stands, especially when the topics of racism, sexism, and just plain ignorance were brought up.

Everything that has happened points out that within our society many stereotypes and judgments are made without facts to back them up. People will do anything to get ahead of others without a care for anyone else, even going as far as lying and cheating. And when we Americans, see and hear this in the media, it automatically causes us to form some sort of opinion. As I read the book The Cynic's Dictionary by Rick Bayan, I realized how these ideas and judgments are around us every day, whether we realize it or not. We see them in television when news reports include the race of the person who committed the crime. We see it in cities, when women constantly watch their backs or clutch their bags when a suspicious man passes by or if someone homeless is sitting on the sidewalk. Why is it that the definition given in The Cynic's Dictionary is such an ugly truth? "Homeless, The: unsightly blemishes on the face of the city, easily ignored by averting one's glance." Are we Americans really ignorant enough to allow so many people to live in poverty and simply change the direction we are looking rather than attempt to do something to help? Yes, there is always the chance the person to whom you give a little spare change will use it for something other to attempt to fix his/her life, like drugs. But there you go, another stereotype we have had ingrained in our minds. If a person lives on the streets, he must be using all his money for cocaine or alcohol.

Why is this so? Why is it human nature to assume? This often occurs when it comes to electing someone to government office. Most people don't know the person for whom they are voting; they can only go by what others say and what is shown in the media about the prospective leader. There is the

stereotypical conservative as stated in the book, "In the U.S. a decent fellow who counsels the poor to earn pennies for their daily bread, while he and his family dine on filet mignon." Many people felt if they elected another Republican into the White House, nothing was going to change and America's debt would continue to increase. But then again, there is also the stereotypical idea of a liberal, "one who tolerates all beliefs and opinions except those with which he disagrees." This scares people, because though liberals may want change, they want everything their way or no way and that's not going to get America anywhere.



Also, voters were faced with the fact that the more liberal of the two candidates is half African American. With such a short history in our country, racism was and is a major part of the United States' formation as a nation. There has always been a racial tension within the American borders. Blacks feel whites owe them for how they were treated during the times of slavery, and whites disrespect blacks due to the disrespect shown toward them. In other words, it's a circle of racism that could be ended if we all just put color aside and looked toward the future rather than living in the past.

As an American, I feel we all need to disregard stereotypes. Forget what we have been conditioned to think by our elders and the media. We're not going to be able to change anything about this nation until we learn to accept everyone around us. Our differences are what make us Americans. And even though The Cynic's Dictionary by Rick Bayan was something I picked up as more or less of a joke, trying to get a good giggle during crazy times, it really made me think. I am a part of my nation's future. By realizing what needs to change, I can help the nation take that step forward. I can take the time to get the facts and think for myself rather than relying upon others' opinions. We are all born with brains and the ability to make decisions. Forget about color, forget about stereotypes, forget about what you heard from your friend who heard from their friend who heard from their friend. Forget about all that and learn the details and who the person truly is and from where they came. If everyone takes the time to do this, the change we all desire can happen, but everyone must come together as one, as Americans.

"Can't Wait"

Dedicated to Jarret

I can't wait until you and I are together as one
But we must wait because our journey together has only just begun
I can't wait to feel your strong arms around me
But let me warn you cause I'll get weak in the knees
I can't wait to feel the touch of your sweet and soft lips
The feel on my back from your fingertips
I can't wait until your hands are entwined with mine.
This is the feeling I love and yet can't define

— Elizabeth Rappleeye



THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Cultural Collision

Traditional Japanese theater came to Sweet Home High School

By Bethany Wolf

Imagine a serene rural Japanese village full of life and beauty. On the surface, the town appears out of the ordinary, an average dwelling to a small population. However, hundreds of years later, this once customary village has vanished completely, and a small grove now dwells in its place. Why did the town become deserted? To where did its inhabitants disappear? What dark secrets did the village possess? *In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories*, written by Eric Coble explores both how the Japanese village of Kogisu became desolate and the supernatural mystery that led to its demise.

In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories, which was presented the first weekend of December by the Drama Club, consisted of four different tales of mystical proportion, ranging from three humorous bickering demons to a snow witch, to a bone-crushing monster. Obosan, the narrator and former religious official in the village of Kogisu told all the legends. *In a Grove* was especially unique because it portrayed the ghost stories and demonic figures via masks and puppets. The actors manipulated the puppets and used special lighting to create haunting scenes, as well as masks to symbolize the unearthly creatures. Jordan Steward, one of the cast members of the production said prior to the show's performances, that the audience needed to be "prepared to be frightened."

In a Grove was an entertaining show, but its cultural significance also was overwhelming. In the past, drama productions ranged from *Charlotte's Web* to *Don't Drink the Water*. Yet this year, those attended left the program with both a feeling of entertainment and with newfound knowledge of a distant culture. The presence of *In a Grove* at Sweet Home High School proves that we embrace global traditions and welcome diversity.

Although the Drama Club's most publicized event is the fall production, the club also has several other events in which anyone can participate. Drama club members partake in various theatrical workshops and occasionally experience local theater productions. When Steward was asked why others should join Drama Club, he replied, "You can meet new people, make new friends, and be the center of attention." Anyone is welcome to join the drama club regardless of skill level or if he/she participates in the annual drama production.

In a Grove: Four Japanese Ghost Stories was a riveting experience for all who attended. The audience definitely experienced a sheer cultural collision: *In a Grove* portrayed not only the distinct culture of Japan, but also how eastern and western cultures share similar values and have the same human tendencies.



***Twilight*, from Book to Movie**

By Angelina Bruno

I have been a dedicated fan of the *Twilight* series ever since I read the first two books when I was in eighth grade. I'll admit I regularly checked the fan webpage, created by author Stephanie Meyer herself, for information about the third and fourth installments in the series. It was on this webpage that speculations of a little movie called *Twilight* were discussed on message boards. It is funny now amid all the *Twilight* mania to remember all the discussion boards about whether or not a movie would be made. There were also many strong opinions on which actors and actresses could pull off portraying fans favorite characters. Summit Entertainment officially signed onto the project on August 31, 2007 appointing director Catherine Hardwicke and writer Melissa Rosenberg. It was an exciting time for fans, but I don't think anyone realized how popular the movie would become.

On opening day, November 21, 2008, I was dismayed to find I couldn't even get into the movie because all of the reasonable show times were sold out. When I finally got to see the movie over the holiday weekend, two friends who had already seen the film accompanied me. They both liked it so much they came to see it again. I was a little nervous at first the movie wouldn't do the book justice, like many projects in the past, but I was pleasantly surprised. The movie obviously wasn't exactly like the book, but I felt it complemented it extremely well.

The basic plot of the book is about Bella Swan, a somewhat awkward teenage girl from Arizona who moves to a small rainy town called Forks to live with her father. Her world is turned upside down when she finds herself smitten with the handsome vampire Edward Cullen who has many difficulties to overcome in order to keep their romance and Bella alive. The movie picked up the pace of the plot by adding, subtracting, and switching around a few scenes. The director and writer also added some flavor to the plot by including humor, amazing scenery and steamy love scenes showcasing Robert Pattinson (Edward Cullen) and Kristen Stewart's (Bella Swan) talents. In addition, the soundtrack is filled with songs by popular bands such as Paramore, and it even includes a song sung by Robert Pattinson.



What I was most impressed with after seeing the movie was how the filmmakers were able to make a movie that satisfied audience members who had and hadn't read the books. If you haven't read the book I encourage you to see the movie because it is a great romance thriller full of good-looking vampires! Also if you plan on reading the books, the film gives you a good heads up as to what you will read, but it also leaves a few surprises in store. If you have read the book and haven't seen the movie, I encourage you to do so, because although there are some differences, the basic ideas and themes are carried through and filled with emotion and visuals hard to create in your head. Overall I'm happy to say that Summit Entertainment worked extremely well with Stephanie Meyer to create a movie that will delight audiences for years to come, as well as inspire its viewers to read the amazing series that started it all.

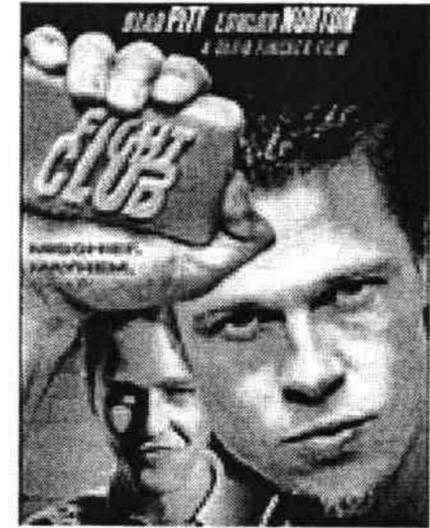
Twilight fans will be interested to know that on November 22, 2008 Summit Entertainment announced it will begin filming the sequel to *Twilight*, *New Moon*. To find out more information regarding the books and movies visit the website <http://www.stepheniemeyer.com>

Check Out this Winter Movie Watchlist

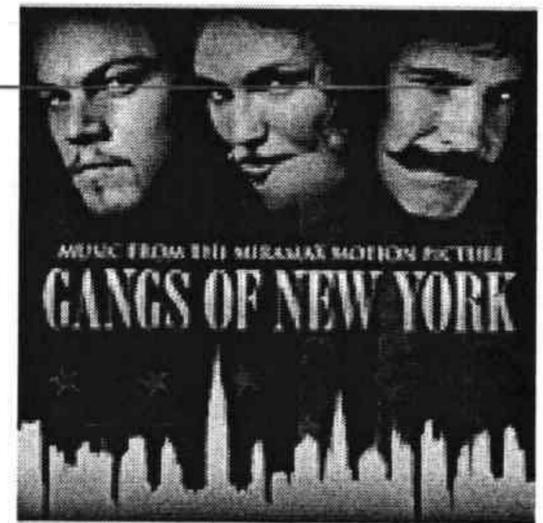
By Rich Polley

I've chosen five movies you may want to watch over winter break when you are bored or maybe cold or snowed in. Sit around a nice heater or fireplace and watch a movie. If you watch one of these, I know you'll enjoy it.

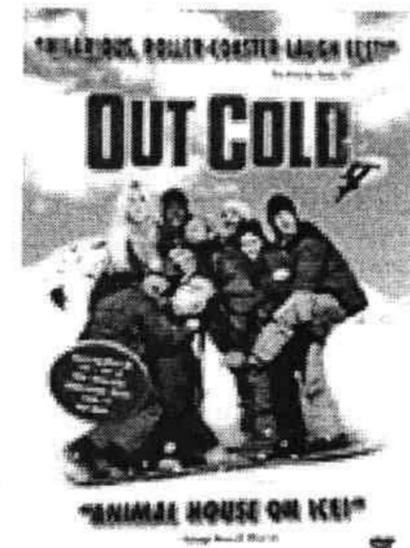
#1 *Fight Club* is about a guy who has insomnia. Edward Norton plays this man whose name is never revealed throughout the whole movie. Brad Pitt plays the other main character, Tyler Durden. One of the most famous quotes, more than half of the movie is based around, is: "How much can you know about yourself if you've never been in a fight?" The movie shifts from an average working man, with a sleeping disorder, to a man with a doomsday plan. A unique movie, *Fight Club*, has an incredible plot and action that keeps you in your seat waiting and wanting more. Edward Norton and Brad Pitt play amazing roles and with a combined effort make this movie one of a kind. I rate this movie a 5 out of 5.



#2 *Gangs of New York* is about a man named Amsterdam Vallon, who is played by Leonardo DiCaprio. Bill The Butcher, a gang leader played by Daniel Day-Lewis, killed Vallon's father, so now Vallon is trying to kill him. Vallon also reorganizes his father's old gang. This story takes place during the Irish potato famine when Irish immigrants were pouring into New York City. This movie has a strong plot and amazing action. When there is a fight, you will wish it kept going until the last man is down. Leonardo DiCaprio and Daniel Day-Lewis both play excellent roles. I especially felt that Daniel Day-Lewis really got into his character. This movie was very good and I rate it a 4.9 out of 5.



#3 *Out Cold* is about a bunch of friends who grew up on a skiing mountain in Alaska. The son of the owner sells that mountain to a resort man who tries to change the place quite a bit. The group of friends try to stop them. This movie is hilarious; your chest will hurt from laughing so hard. *Out Cold* also will make you think, "I should do that to my friend sometime." The main character Rick Rambis, played by Jason London, is endearing, but Rick Rambis's best friend is my favorite character. His name is Luke and he is played by Zach Galifianakis. He is one of the main reasons why this movie is so funny—all his friends play jokes on him and he tries his best to get them back. One of the funniest quotes from this movie: "Can you get an STD from a polar bear?" I give this movie 4.7 out of 5.

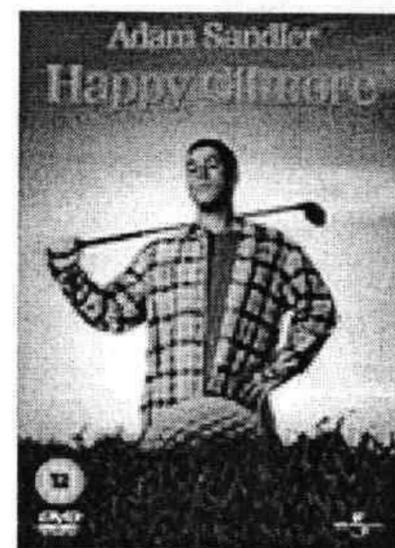


#4 *Joyeux Noel* is an amazing movie about a historical event. This movie is about World War I during Christmas 1914. The French, the Scottish, and the Germans have an armistice so they may bury their dead and celebrate the holiday in peace; they even play a game of football. This movie is action packed, romantic and good-natured. The people who play the major roles are Diane Kruger



and Benno Furmann. These characters are singers who make music and peace amid the long hard war. In the end, the German Lieutenant Audebert, played by Guillaume Canet, with Scottish Officer Gordon (Alex Ferns,) and French Officer Jonathan (Steven Robertson), make the greatest difference in the outcome of the war. I give this movie a 5 out of 5 because after you watch it, your heart will be filled with warmth.

#5 *Happy Gilmore* is about a man named Happy Gilmore who is played by Adam Sandler. This man was rejected from hockey and he puts his skills to the test at golf in order to save his grandma's house. This movie is very funny. It will make you laugh so hard you won't be able to breathe. Adam Sandler makes this movie. If it weren't for him, this movie would not make this list. Almost every movie about Adam Sandler is funny. I score this movie 4 out of 5.

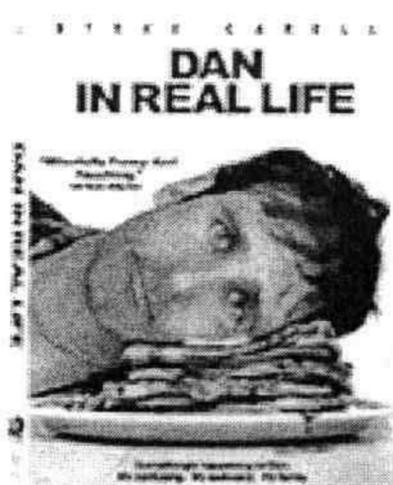


A Double Dose of Laughs this Holiday Season

By Bethany Wolf

With the holiday season fast approaching, everyone is on the lookout for the perfect gift for that special someone or a beloved family member. While another mug that says "#1 DAD" on it for your father is thoughtful, a DVD is a safe bet for anyone on your shopping list. This year, the gift of laughter can be easily given in the form of funnyman Steve Carell's *Get Smart* and *Dan in Real Life*.

Get Smart chronicles the hilarious misadventures of Maxwell Smart (Carell) as he goes from a top-rate analyst at "Control", a government-run security organization, to a field agent faced with the threat of a world terror association, "KAOS". Maxwell Smart takes up the alias Agent 86 to protect his identity. Although Agent 86 is an amateur operative and very accident-prone, he successfully battles the threat of a nuclear attack, the speculation of being a double agent, and romance, with the help of his attractive and more experienced partner, Agent 99 (Anne Hathaway). *Get Smart* is full of laughs, yet can be a bit immature in the way it produces them. The plot also can be underdeveloped at times, but the film is overall an entertaining comedy suitable for the whole family. Parents also will be intrigued by the movie because it is a modern take on the 1960's spy sitcom "Get Smart" that ran from 1965-1970. All in all, *Get Smart* is sure to please almost anyone on your list.



Steve Carell makes an excellent transition from resourceful Agent 86 in *Get Smart* to a humbled and awkward single father in the film *Dan in Real Life*. *Dan in Real Life* came out on DVD in March last year and was mostly unnoticed by movie audiences. Very few people have experienced this delightful, charming and witty comedy about the struggles of love and the quirky aspects of family life. In *Dan in Real Life*, Steve Carell portrays Dan Burns, an advice columnist who finds that he, himself, is struggling with life more than those who seek his help. Dan, who has been a widower for four years, has three dramatic daughters who have all become angry with him for various reasons. His problems come to a peak when he visits his family over Thanksgiving and falls in love with a amiable

woman named Marie, who he eventually discovers is his brother's girlfriend. Dan attempts to contain his emotions for Marie throughout the movie, but eventually he discovers that no matter how much you resist love, it comes to you. *Dan in Real Life* is full of memorable and comedic scenes that will leave your sides sore from laughing and your heart swelling with empathy. This film displays a rarely shown side of Steve Carell, one that goes beyond immature jokes. Steve Carell is perfect in the role of Dan, and easily sways the audience to believe his actions and empathize with his emotions. *Dan in Real Life* is another perfect gift for the family, but will be especially cherished by those who enjoy quirky romances.

Get Smart and *Dan in Real Life* are two excellent movies that will guarantee a smile when received this holiday season. Laughter is one of the best presents anyone can be given; not only does it do the soul good, but it brightens even a dreary winter day. In the words of Victor Hugo, "Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face."

Blame It on Bad Luck T-shirts

By Ally Balcerzak

Walk down any hallway in the high school and chances are you'll spot quite a few people with blue bracelets on their wrists. Turn a corner and it's likely you'll find someone wearing a neon yellow t-shirt. Both the bracelets and t-shirts have become everyday attire for Sweet Home students, but why?

When the senior class found out one of its own had cancer, many wanted to do something to show their support. A group of seniors quickly got together to start brainstorming, and thus began the new apparel. The "blame it on bad luck" bracelets and t-shirts came to be a way to show support for Matt Leffler. Senior Taylor Heald has been one of the major players in designing and selling the t-shirts.

One day he got the idea for the t-shirts while sitting in study hall. After talking to other students, Taylor decided he'd come up with a t-shirt design. He drew two — a peace sign and the hand — then showed Matt the drawings and had him pick. From there, Taylor got help from Zack Kindron, John Valkwitch and other seniors to take orders for the shirts. All the money raised is going toward paying for Matt's medical bills. So far over \$1,300 has been raised from the t-shirts alone.

The last t-shirt order was placed a couple weeks ago, but Taylor said that if enough students still want to order shirts he could place another order. Also, to raise more money, he may be designing a hat or something else for people to buy. So if you are still interested in ordering a t-shirt or would like to buy a hat, let Taylor know. In the meantime, keep showing your support for Matt by wearing your t-shirts and bracelets.

THE PANTHER'S LAIR

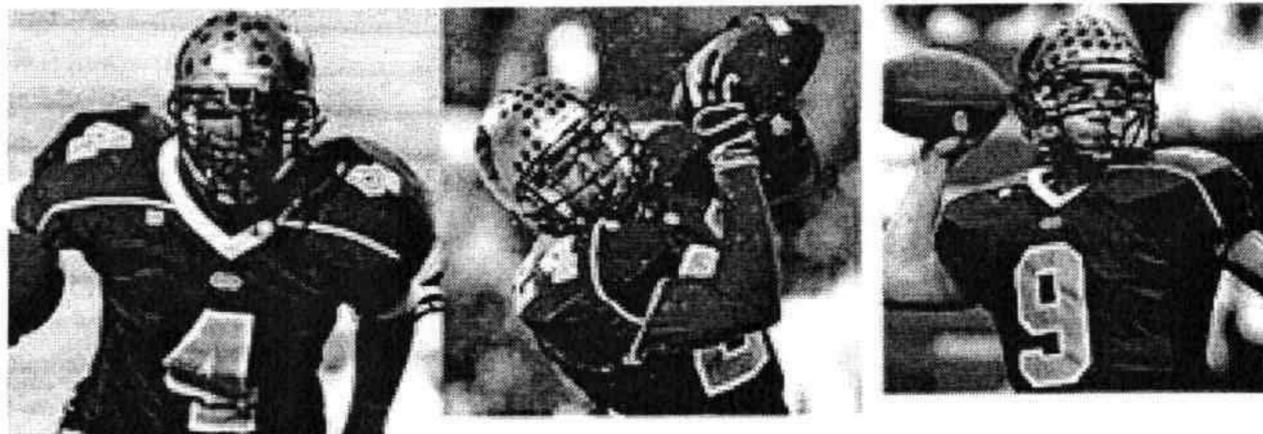
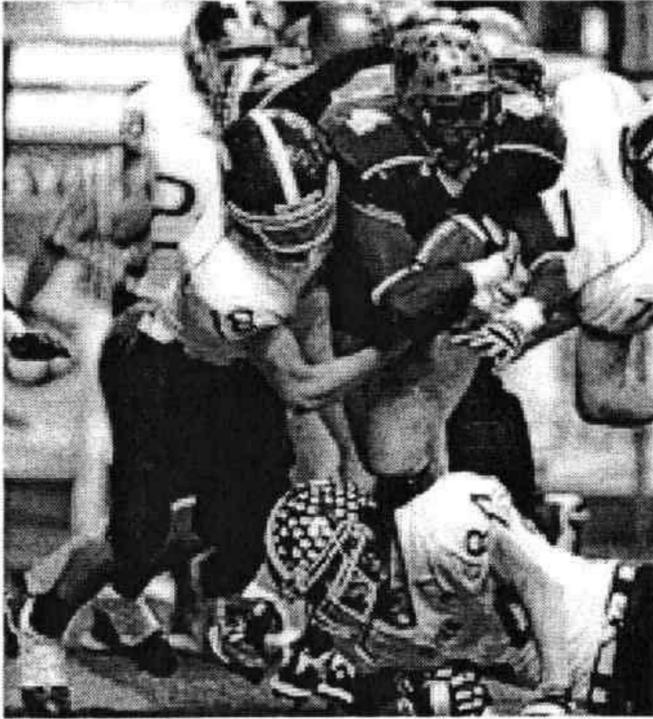
Varsity Football Wins State Championship

Over Thanksgiving weekend this year, the Sweet Home community discovered just how much it has to be thankful for when our Varsity Football team earned its first ever state championship title.

After maintaining a perfect record during regular season play, and annihilating Corning West in the Section VI semi-finals, the Panthers defeated Albany's Burnt Hills 35-28 on Saturday, November 29 in Syracuse's University's Carrier Dome.

Quarterback Senior Casey Katz was named the game's MVP. In addition, Senior Matt Zon and Juniors Deshanaro Morris and Steve Phillips received awards for their outstanding performances in the championship game.

More than 2,000 students, faculty, parents, administrators and alumni all celebrated the historic victory. Congratulations to Coach John Faller, all the assistant coaches, the athletic trainers and most importantly, the players on a stellar season.



Call for Articles

Newspaper advisors, Mrs. Manzella and Mrs. Feyes welcome all Sweet Home High School students to submit to *Panther Paws*. We are interested in your ideas, opinions, reviews, poems, cartoons, photos, comments, thoughts, advice and observations.

All pieces submitted must include the writer, photographer or artist's name and be in compliance with our district's policy on appropriate material for the school newspaper.

So, what do you think? Have any compliments to give? Have any complaints? Did you especially enjoy a school event, field trip or class discussion? Write about it! No matter who you are, we want to hear from you. After all, this is *your* newspaper!

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