Charlotte Sandy
Staff writer

"There are so many standardized tests," laments Caroline Burnett, a junior who has just concluded another session of the MEAP.

For Seaholm upperclassmen, the MEAP is just the beginning of a long string of standardized tests yet to come. Birmingham Public School students have been taking the MEAP since elementary school, but at this level, the tests come with the possibility of a $1500 scholarship for college in-state, and $1000 out-of-state. With this promising reward, many juniors and seniors came in at 7:25 for four consecutive Tuesday and Thursdays.

Is it worth it?

"The MEAP is not representative of our general curriculum," notes junior Elise Shepard. Elizabeth Beck, a junior, says, "They don't give enough money to students interested in attending college out of state." She decided to take it anyway because she wanted to see "where I stand in the state of Michigan, and the scholarship is always a nice prospect."

The MEAP is an important test for evaluation by the state of Michigan and for scholarships, but more standardized tests loom ahead in the future of our upperclassmen. The SAT, for example, is a distant worry in Seaholm students' minds, but starting this following year (in 2005), this classic test is appearing with a whole new twist.

It is a fact that the holiday season starts two months before it actually starts, the holiday season has been revamped because the state of California refused to administer the SAT unless it changed drastically. Not wanting to lose the support of California, the College Board has completely rewritten the SAT. So, what exactly are these new changes? First of all, the SAT has added a 25-minute-long essay, which will eliminate the need for the SAT II: Writing test. This essay will be scored out of 800, thus making the new SAT out of 2400, instead of 1600. There will also be a 35-minute-long grammar section, similar to that of the English part of the ACT. The math section has gotten rid of quantitative comparisons, but it has added Algebra II. The verbal section has been renamed the "critical reading" section, which will consist of sentence completions, and short and long reading passages, followed by comprehension passages. Also, everyone's "favorite", analogies, has been removed. Phew!

But don't worry, seniors: colleges won't expect you to take the new SAT, unless you would so desire. As for juniors, it might be better to take the old and new SAT because some schools, such as Columbia and Harvard, will accept either. Other colleges, however, such as NYU and Northwestern, will only take the new SAT. Current sophomores and freshmen will be required to take the new SAT.

"The new SAT seems harder, and I don't think it's fair that they're adding an essay and harder math section," states freshman Ryan Smith. Seaholm students, however, have been known to do generally better on the more curriculum-based ACT, and perhaps the more curriculum-based SAT will better cater to those needs.

So whatever your opinion, get ready to sharpen those #2 pencils!

A look at the holidays better than Bad Santa

Eric Lequenne
Feature Editor

It's now the holiday season. Well actually, the holiday season appears to have started before Halloween. They planned it so that those who buy their tree before Halloween will have a wilted tree by the time Christmas actually rolls around.

But worse than the fact that the holiday season starts two months before it actually starts, the holiday season is now overrun with commercial ideals and has lost the original point that the holidays were to represent.

No matter what religion you affiliate yourself with, be it Judaism, Christianity, Buddhism, Confucianism, Daoism, Taoism, Hinduism, Jainism, Muslim, Shintoism, or Sikhism, the holiday season has always been centered around giving and spiritualization.

But, as said so eloquently by the Charlie Brown Christmas Special, "Christmas has become too commercialized." And indeed it has.

According to senior Matt Jolisaint, "the holidays are controlled by corporations who are willing to molest the true meanings of holidays just to make money."

Senior Cyrus Ghaniemi agrees, saying, "I do not know what you mean by 'holiday season'. Are there still such things as holidays? But if you mean that wondrous time of year when stores open their doors and draw people to the shelves and shelves of useless, gaudy, and sometimes horrendously vile merchandise on which people will empty great sums of money from their wallets, purses, piggy banks, socks, and organs.

But being blissful is wrong. Personally, although the holiday music is uplifting, the fact that so many song artists have gained off of re-makes of classic holiday songs such as "Let it Snow" and stores make so much money off of items like snow-in-a-can and the like is deplorable.

For many, this commercialization has become a depressing sight, as with senior Lisa Lombardi who commented last year, around 10 o'clock pm, I found myself standing in line at the Best Buy at John R; and as I was wedged between a man with far too many purchases in his cart and a woman who obviously did not mind divulging her personal life to the world, I realized that at that moment my holiday spirit had been crushed."

But all in all, I implore, beg, and beseech you all to embrace the good tidings and joy that comes only now once a year around this time.

Take this chance to at least be happy once a year, especially if you are as opinionated and unhappy with current events as I am and choose to ignore this like Adrienne Chann.

She has been able to look past the commercializing of the holidays declaring that she "thinks it's fine how it is. I personally love the home stuff, the glowing tree hiding presents, the Christmas music, all the snow, the Christmassy scents, but I don't mind the commercialized stuff at all."

Disgusting. The fact that she can be completely ignorant of what is going on and be completely optimistic is ridiculous.

But to paraphrase John Milton, to be ignorant is to be blissful.

As an aside, if I were taking a different stand in another article about nothing, this is probably the healthier viewpoint to take and good job to Adrienne for being so honest.

In this christmas special, A Charlie Brown Christmas, the holidays are glorified to the point where this is now a classic holiday event in many homes.
The honor code: it isn’t so honorable

John Burchett
Graphics Editor

Since I was young I have constantly asked questions of myself. Usually after getting the answers I also decide to better myself. As I get older, like anyone who evaluates her or his personal philosophy, I also developed a drive to evaluate the world around me, which has such a profound impact on us all. I learned to discriminate. Not discriminate in the racist meaning of the word, but discriminate in the contemplative meaning of the word. In essence I learned to look at my school and school system as a person. And like a person, this school, Ernest W. Seaholm, has its own unique set of intrinsically deep problems. Like a person Seaholm has its own parallels of joy, sadness, anger, and its good and bad parts. So when I ask myself questions like the one I have been asking myself most recently, “When I graduate, will I view my time here having been wasted or gained?” I often ponder my final answer. It helps to think of perhaps one thing which describes this place completely. It is honestly very difficult, but right when I can think of nothing, something called the Honor Code falls into my (and everyone’s) lap.

Again more questions come to my mind. What is the Honor Code? Our school’s administration defines it as “a physical representation of the values that Seaholm embraces.” When I read that excerpt from the Honor Code my doubts and observations about Seaholm are proven correct. I know that there are many wonderful parts to this school. Such as parts that I call my respected teachers, my best friends, and the portion of this school that I hope to take away when I leave. However for the time being it appears the horror of this school for outweighs the beauty. I believe that the Honor Code and the mindset of its administrators (those not faced to administer it) are a source of the racism, elitism, and anger, which permeates throughout this school, built into the very foundation under our feet. To tell you the blatant truth, this school has no values which are not destructive to the people within it. With every fiber in my constitution I believe this to be true. Is this view extreme? Yes; however, our school is extreme in its refusal to open its mind and begin to formulate a solution.

The Honor Code is an act of a naive administration, which runs our school by marking all of our imperfections with “initiatives” comprised of lies, while the learning is cast aside. Of all the people in this school who have problems with the Honor Code (most of whom are either too afraid to speak or would be punished for doing so), they and I see our complaints as mainly two fold.

The first grievance is the precarious definition of the Honor Code as “a physical representation of the values that Seaholm High School embraces.” By precarious I mean a patent lie as definite as can be told. Actually, it would be an ideal definition had the word “embraces” replaced “shame.” Ideally the Honor Code is a crusade against cheating as well as a definition of our values (which we will hear more about in months to come), which by all means is not a negative thing, but to hand out a listing of ideals accompanied with ramifications for violating them and claim they are “the values Seaholm High School embraces” is to spit in the face of what is supposedly the ultimate scholarly ideal: truth. In my complete and honest opinion I do not think there is one teacher or student in this entire building who has not cheated at one point or another in their life (with the possible exception of Mr. Braus). However, while the aforementioned teacher may be installed with an inherent pure-qualities, most people are not and never have been able always to stand up against their desperation. In fact cheating has been looked upon by our general culture as something of a humorous quick, a temptation that someone falls into now and again like a child might find her or his way into a cookie jar. And as for the argument that as one teacher calls “someone making a lifestyle” of cheating I would agree that is a serious problem, but by no means will any Honor Code counter it. In fact it will most likely give the cheater more incentive to cheat efficiently and make an art and a class of it, while we refuse to examine the underlying problem.

The administration fails to see that the Honor Code merely attempts to strike at the epidermis of the problem and doesn’t even attempt to look into or even acknowledge its administrators (those not supposed to administer it) are a source of the racism, elitism, and anger, which permeates throughout this school, built into the very foundation under our feet. To tell you the blatant truth, this school has no values which are not destructive to the people within it. With every fiber in my constitution I believe this to be true. Is this view extreme? Yes; however, our school is extreme in its refusal to open its mind and begin to formulate a solution. The administration fails to see that the Honor Code merely attempts to strike at the epidermis of the problem and doesn’t even attempt to look into or even acknowledge the core. This is continued on page 3.
A teacher’s perspective on ‘The honor code’
Mrs. Hall
Guest writer

I want to applaud John Burchett’s fine article voicing his opinion of the newly published and instituted honor code for Seaholm High School. His thoughtful examination of the creation and implementation of a document, and his reflection on its effectiveness (or lack thereof) are worth reading for students and staff alike. In fact, John and I have had discussion on this topic, and I even sympathize with what he sees as the infernal hypocrisy inherent in this “initiative” as he calls the honor code. But (and certainly you knew that a "but" was coming, my careful readers) I must admit that I hold some different views.

John compares Seaholm High School to a person, with its “own unique set of intrinsically deep problems.” Such an analogy can be made. Our school is an institution, but one comprised of, created for and administered by human beings. By nature, human beings are flawed (one only needs to read one of the novels our English department so desperately wants our students to read to be aware of this sad fact). So it follows that our institution shares some of its human flaws. Pettiness, bitterness, laziness, dishonesty, even hypocrisy—these qualities—human qualities—permeate our system here at Seaholm (and the larger American society for that matter) as well as our own individual lives. The math student frantically copying today’s homework, the biology student sharing data, the English student using Sparks instead of reading Moby Dick—these activities cheat students from real learning. Perhaps a teacher slams a student for being late, but is chronically tardy himself or shows more movies than really warrant viewing, or doesn’t read the entire student essay before putting the grade on it—these activities too demonstrate a form of human weakness. We can all rationalize our “dishonorable” behaviors.

Thus we come to the question: “So how do we deal with dishonorable behavior?” As a school we have a choice, either leave the topic of honor alone or raise the topic to be examined in full. And yet, once raised, I argue we must confront the current state of honor in the building. John cynically suggests the very topic should be hounded out of the school because we fall so woefully short of any attempt at truth. I assert that no topic, however painful, should be disallowed voice in the building. I absolutely agree that to suggest we have no problem or that we “embrace” honor is rather a stretch. I would argue that perhaps we are dragged kicking and screaming to behave honorably, or maybe it is better worded that we excuse and rationalize our way out of honorable behavior. So given this truth, do we just raise our hands in surrender? Do we say, “Let’s not discuss honor because we have none.”

This is a high school, not a potting studio in which we mold clay into pretty shapes and discard those pots with imperfections. Where else are students safe to make errors, and yet still have the opportunity to begin anew? Should we emblazon “Abandon Hope, All Ye Who Enter Here,” upon our digital sign out front, consigning students to one form of Dante’s Inferno? Here’s a rung in hell between the opportunists and the panderers, which will do for cheating on, say a quiz, but those caught cheating on a test are consigned to eternity in rung nine, encased in ice up to their neck, forever solving for a variable for x? I am not making light of cheating, but I do want to examine how we may promote it inadvertently. We demand that a student take seven classes, several of which honors or AP, participate in several sports, often with practice at 5:30 AM, play classical piano with weekly private lessons, debate with ferocity at weekend tournaments, serve soup at the homeless shelter, teach the third graders at Sunday school and solve the odd problems on page 196, numbers 1-45.

I sincerely believe that part of the problem in our schools is the pretense that each child needs to fit our version of the ideal student, fired to perfection in the kilns of the classrooms from Kindergarten to 12th grade. Our students soon reflect the layers of glaze they receive each year, until dirt and grime—and joy and learning, can slide from them without leaving a stain. The sin is not that we have a problem with honor, but that we pretend we don’t play a part in causing it.

Learning has become passe in our high school culture. Instead, the almighty transcript, that holiest of holy relics, shines brightly at the end of four years worth of instruction. This holy grail suggests achievement, even if that achievement is hollow. Grades are inflated; that’s a given. But perhaps attempting to introduce the idea of honor is a step toward that endeavor. Perhaps attempting to introduce the idea of honor is a step toward that endeavor. Perhaps attempting to introduce the idea of honor is a step toward that endeavor.

We need to tap into that strength to find the common purpose. Genuinely honest discussion among students and among staff would be the first step, to my way of thinking. It is not impossible to change the climate of this school, merely difficult. Such a change would take conviction, fortitude, and resolve led by a visionary. Is this too much to ask of each and every one of us?
A reformed classic sure to impress its players

Dan Priestly
Staff writer

TRANSMISSION: Start

For any gamer, November 9 was a beginning, a dawn, a birth of the most highly anticipated game ever—Halo 2. The successor to the "game of the million." Oh, by the way, Halo 2 grossed $125 million. Oh, by the way, 1.5 million hours of sales, from 26 countries pre-ordered their copy of Halo 2 and thousands waited in line at midnight on that epic Tuesday to obtain their copy. In just the first 24 hours of sales, Halo 2 grossed $125 million. Oh, by the way, The Incredible, the new Disney/Pixar Animation hit, grossed a mere $70.6 million.

Avid fans can't get enough of the new game. Gamers like Dan Brock and Nic Ruiz are amazed by the new single player campaign. "Bungie (the makers of Halo and Halo 2) focused so much on the single player in the first Halo, but it was the multi-player action that caught everyone's attention. This time, Bungie incorporated some of the tactics of multi-player in the single player campaign, making it unbelievable," says Brock. And it's true. The missions are incredible. We won't spoil all the fun as you venture through Halo 2's new levels, but we will reveal some of the game's high points:

The single player game has been radically changed. For one, instead of playing as the master chief, you play as the Covenant for a few levels. Second, the AI (Artificial Intelligence) in the game is much better, making your enemies and fellow Marines more realistic. Third, dual wielding weapons rocks! Fourth, you can now interact with the actual environment (i.e. throw rocks). And finally, transitions between missions are seamless.

Now for the part that made Halo so popular: the multi-player gaming option. For one thing, weapon choices and game type customization accord limitless situations. The multiplayer also includes XBox Live capability, as well as new levels and some modified ones from Halo (Blood Gulch is back!).

New additions to weaponry are the Covenant sword (it destroys people), the vehicles take on damage, the rockets lock on people, you can jump on and throw the vehicle therefore taking over and commandeering vehicles, and there are now eight colors which yield more team possibilities.

Unfortunately, aside from all the improvements, there are negatives. First, when wielding dual weapons, the ability to whack the enemy is eliminated. There are no new human vehicles, and the creators got rid of the scope on the pistol, and also made the pistol less powerful than it was in Halo 2's predecessor, Halo.

All in all, Halo 2 beats out its predecessor in both single and multi-player. Lets just say that once I finish this review, I'm going back to camp in front of the TV for a while. If you have an XBox, Halo 2 is a must buy—no matter what type of games you like. With almost every aspect of the game enhanced from the original, it is impossible to resist. Good luck.

TRANSMISSION: End

Exploring the bowels of Birmingham

The truth about 15 Mile and Woodward

Lisa Choindar
Staff writer

When the bell rings at 2:50 every Friday afternoon, almost all students think "Finally, the weekend! A small break from homework to do what I want." And around 8:00 or so, everyone starts thinking, "Now what do I want to do?"

Boredom. Lack of variety. Sound familiar? Sometimes it seems like the only option is to see a movie, or, if nothing is good out, rent one. After all, underage drinking and wild high school parties often stem from the fact that there isn't really anything better to do. Or so it seems. Truth is, there are many opportunities for new and exciting weekend activities out there if you search for them and are willing to drive a little bit out of the Birmingham square mile. In October, Halloween brought about haunted houses and hayrides that were a blast. In fall, the opportunities for other milling and apple picking also presented themselves.

Now that fall is falling into winter, the first snow can bring chances for sledding, as well as day trips to Mount Holly. Lift tickets for a day on the weekend are around $30, and renting equipment for the day is $20. With winter and snow come the holiday season, and the special events that come with it. Radio City Christmas Spectacular is coming to the Fox Theater in December, with the least expensive tickets at $20 dollars a pop. So far, the weekend is looking a little pricey, but inexpensive options are available and just as exciting.

New concerts come to town all the time to the State Theater, the Masonic Temple, and the Palace. Also, at the Palace, are the Pistons, back for another great season and needing support from fans! Tickets often start at 10 dollars and move up from there, so you can catch a live show or game with all the excitement and adrenaline for less than a movie and popcorn.

Coming in December is the Barenaked Ladies, and in November, Jay-Z and Friends are performing at the Joe Louis Arena. Check Ticketmaster.com as sales for shows open up all the time.

Also available are live comedy acts: instead of watching Comedy Central Standup re-runs for the 3rd time, go out and catch the real thing. If you're up for it, there are 5 different comedy clubs in Ann Arbor that have new acts all the time. A little bit closer is Second City, which is famous for its comedy theater and recently moved from Detroit to Novi.

No one needs a special event every weekend to have a good time. Don't forget about the childhood favorites of bowling and laser tag—they don't just host 5th grade birthday parties. A game of Laser Quest, located on John R just north of 13 mile, is less than a movie ticket at the Palladium—around 7 dollars. Dress up in all black, grab a few friends and you have a night out of it. Bowling has really been revamped too, with Rock N' Bowl on Fridays after 10 p.m. at Thunderbird, and disco, glow in the dark, and special deals available at different lanes around this area.

The point is, doing the same things over and over gets boring. There are a lot of opportunities of new and exciting things that the crew never thought to do. There is a whole world of restaurants out there that have yet to be discovered. So, before you run out to Blockbuster to rent yet another movie you probably already saw, think about better ways you could be spending that time and money, and go have some real fun.

Well kept secret of the winter:

The Secret Lives of Bees

Zena McMahon
Staff writer

Looking for a great book to keep you busy and out of the ice and snow? If you're the kind of person (like me) who is having trouble in the "weather now, imagine what it'll be like when where we're knee deep in snow. So, take advantage of the time you have before you find yourself barricaded inside by a raging snowstorm, and get to your local bookstore (or of course, the Seaholm Media Center), now!

A good book I recommend is The Secret Life of Bees, a fantastically written first novel by the much acclaimed Sue Monk Kidd. I don't mean to sound like a cliche, but this is the type of book that you'll have a hard time putting down. Lily Owens has lost her mother, and is stuck at home with her abusive father. Set in the very warm state of South Carolina, this story takes you on a journey through racism, love, death, female power, and the life of a very lonely girl in 1964. The Secret Life of Bees tells the story of Lily, who is determined to find the cause of her mother's death. In search of the truth about her mother, Lily meets a trio of beekeeping sisters in Tiburon, South Carolina, whom she feels may hold the secret to her mother's past.

As Lily lives and grows with these sisters, she matures and is gradually introduced to a new charming and safe world of bees and honey. As the years progress, Lily develops a few strong relationships, including the bees surrounding her. The bees provide a key symbol that is a surprising metaphor for Lily's much-needed motherly figure. However, it is up to you to discover if she ever learns the truth about the mystery surrounding her mother's past, or is forced to return "home" to her abusive father.
Seaholm joins in the season of giving

Marissa Dangovian
Staff writer

The holidays are coming sooner than we all think, and it is now more than ever that people need our help.

Giving back to the community and making a difference in someone else's life can be one of the most rewarding experiences in a students high school career.

Seaholm is known for its dedication to the community, especially during Christmas time when our clubs make an extra effort to be there for less fortunate people in our area. This year Seaholm is working with Sheriff Bouchard's "Coat for the Cold" drive.

Boxes will be placed in the front lobby from November 28 through December 10. Students can bring in coats to give to families that do not have enough money to buy their own and have no other way to keep warm and survive during the winter.

Every year student congress works with the program Headstart where they meet with children from a school in Detroit. Together our students and the children have a holiday party, the children are read stories and receive goody bags filled with holiday treats.

The Varsity Club plans to bring children from the Whittmer Elementary School in Pontiac to Seaholm. They also will be throwing a holiday party for the kids, with games and activities in the gym.

Our community service club will also be adopting two families from the same school for the holiday.

They will supply this unfortunate family with gifts, food, and clothing that they will need for the holiday and the upcoming winter. If you are not currently involved in any of these clubs and want to get involved in the community there are always opportunities. This season the Focus Hope organization needs volunteers to deliver meals to people who cannot afford food for themselves and their families.

Volunteer Impact is running a program called "Adopt-a-Shelter", where families, youth groups, worship groups or companies can participate in bringing holiday gifts to children and adults residing in area shelters. Lighthouse also gives families and groups an opportunity to adopt a family for the holiday, where one can also provide them with gifts, food and clothing.

Remembering that not everyone is as fortunate as the people in Birmingham and our community is important, and also that the gifts and goods we provide them with in these programs will be one of the only things they receive on their holiday.

Soup Kitchens and homeless shelters especially need help on Thanksgiving and Christmas Day, volunteers are scarce on these days so they are always looking for more people to help out.

More information can be obtained in the community service office at our school; contact Mrs. Shettel if you would like to get involved.

Students at Seaholm are now required 40 hours of community service in order to get scholarship money for the MEAP test.

Community service hours for NHS and health can also be obtained by volunteering.

This is the time when other less fortunate people need others the most, and we should make an effort to make the holidays a joyful time for everyone.

The gift you receive when you know you have made a difference could be the best present of all during your holiday season.

The act of fornication and how it's being taught

Mrs. Deboer
Guest writer

The Board of Education for the Birmingham Public Schools supports human sexuality instruction at the appropriate education level that includes reproductive health, family planning and sexually transmitted infectious diseases including HIV/AIDS.

The Board recognizes and respects the diversity of families in American society, promotes the value of commitment to marriage and family, and recognizes the need to teach concepts and information about ways to reduce teenage pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases with an emphasis on abstinence.

Using the new state law guidelines, the Board has approved a revision to Reproductive Health and Family Planning policy. This policy addresses procedure for parent notification, the district's advisory committee, state mandated content, teacher preparation and not teaching abortion as a method of family planning.

The legislation that addresses sex education has been entitled Senate Bill 943. It primarily focuses on the Advisory, term limits for all members, the selection procedure for parent participation, an assessment on Board goals (due in 2 years), and a Board of Education approval of Advisory Board membership, process, and term limits (November 2, 2004).

This bill contains medically accurate information, laws pertaining to responsibility as parents to children born out of wedlock, teaches students how to say 'no' to sexual advances and other refusal skills, laws on safe delivery of newborns, adoption options and laws, and abstinence from sex before marriage and/or benefits of coxing sex.

As the teacher of Reproductive Health, I have to add that Birmingham has been addressing aspects of the new state law for as many years as I can remember. In a parent capacity, I used to sit on the Reproductive Health Advisory committee. It is almost as if the line has been blurring, with the influence of the Church affecting our legislation, and, thus, our schools' curriculums.

As opposed to teaching one side to a multifaceted topic, educators must make an attempt to put out all of the information, so as to let students make this decision based on real knowledge instead of religious teachings. It is time that we made an attempt to open the barriers of conversation in regards to sex as opposed to living with them closed, because over 60 years later, do we want to be drawing the lines and/ or benefits of ceasing sex.

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The-act of fornication and how it's being taught

Jessalyn Walker
Staff Writer

The holiday season always bears a plethora of new movies, but this year serves not a tale concerning a personal quest for love, an action-adventure narrative, or a magical story about the real winter spirit. Instead, we are presented a biography of the late sex researcher Alfred Kinsey in the film entitled Kinsey, who attempted to knock down the sexual taboos of the 1940s. He dedicated his life to educating about the pleasures of intercourse for both men and women, telling everyone who would listen that it was something that everyone did—something that was necessary for the human race to continue, so why not talk about it?

However, his later research was published during the Cold War, and fearful that he was undermining the morals of the United States, Kinsey was threatened with being labeled as a communist. Opposed to bearing the hateful name, he gave up further funding for his research and secluded himself for the last years of his life.

With the recent election it is interesting to observe the strides, or lack thereof, made in regards to sex as opposed to living with them dosed, instead of religious learnings. It is time that we made the separation of church and state, and in terms of technologies that prevent unwanted pregnancies and the medicines that treat sexually transmitted diseases. Middle and high school are times of decision making, but these are deeply personal choices, ones that students should be able to make based on the facts, not the moral leanings of those in powerful positions.

One of the United States' founding principles was the separation of church and state, and in terms of sex, the line has been blurred, with the influence of the Church affecting our legislation, and, thus, our schools' curriculums. As opposed to teaching one side to a multifaceted topic, educators must make an attempt to put out all of the information, so as to let students make this decision based on real knowledge instead of religious teachings. It is time that we made an attempt to open the barriers of conversation in regards to sex as opposed to living with them closed, because over 60 years later, do we want to be drawing comparisons to McCarthyism? Let's begin to move forward instead of falling further behind.

Sex or abstinence? McCarthyism is reborn under a new light...
Confessions of a hall monitor

Melany Roberts
Staff writer

You see them in the hall, they make sure you’re not doing anything wrong, but do you really know who they are or what they’re thinking? They are the hall monitors. Yes, we have two right here at Seaholm. Have you ever stopped to talk to them? Well I did, and you might be surprised by what they said.

Their names are Mrs. Debra Tocco and Mrs. Maria Hutzley. Many of you know these ladies too well from detention slips you may have received, but we’re not here to talk about you. I wanted to know what exactly goes on in the halls. The drama... the reality... the truth?

Well, I asked them some questions I thought would be worth reading. First I asked what exactly the hall rules were. In reply Tocco said, “No running, no eating or drinking, kids have to have a pass, no cell phones, etc.” Besides the cell phone rule, I thought those were the only rules.

The next question I asked was, “Do you ever listen to our conversations, gossip, or secrets?” They both actually said, “Yes”, and Hutzley once heard a kid threatened to kill another and had to report it. Yikes!

I also asked, “What do you think your main job is?” Tocco said, “To watch over students, help them, and deliver messages.” Hutzley said, “Maintain order through the school, and office work.”

Next I asked, “What exactly are your walkie talkies for anyway?” They commented, “To communicate to staff, to be able to talk to someone quickly.” Seems pretty obvious doesn’t it? One of the best questions I asked was, “What was the funniest thing you have ever seen in the halls?” Hutzley told me she had seen a girl walk in school with her skirt stuck in her underwear. Ha-ha! We all make mistakes; it’s ok.

Hutzley likes coming to watch gymnastics and football. She also told me she likes the hours and being able to work with kids.

You may not like these women watching over you, but they’re just trying to do their job, so give them a break, and maybe try to talk to them for once. You never know what you may find out. Most of the students at Seaholm probably walk right by them with out even a greeting.

I confess, “I’m a drama queen and may have gone too far...”

SHS students voyage across the seas

Ashley Hughland
Staff writer

From the Great Wall to Tiananmen Square to the Forbidden City, twenty-six lucky students will have the opportunity to see all of these interesting and breath-taking sites half way across the globe during spring break.

Does your spring break live up to traveling half way across the world with friends?

Do you have the opportunity to use your foreign language in its natural setting?

Plus, will you get to eat traditional cuisine, and of course, see and experience a completely new and different culture?

Probably not. However, some Chinese students will be able to experience all of these opportunities—and more—on their spring break.

The journey begins with a plane trip from Detroit to Taipei where the students are available to see the Chiang Kai-Shek Memorial Hall, the Lung Shan Temple, and get to taste some of that traditional Mongolian Barbeque—not the stuff that you can get in downtown Birmingham, but the real thing.

Then from Taipei they travel to Hualien where they get to visit the Taroko National Park.

The following day they head back to Taipei and from there take a plane to Hong Kong for the morning and then to China’s largest city, Shanghai.

There, they will see the famous YuGarden, and of course Shanghai’s commercial center. In Shanghai, the students will be able to see both modern China and some of the more traditional aspects, as well as seeing the new world with merge with a traditional China before their eyes.

From the largest city in China, the group takes a bus to a village called Zhourhuang where they get to see an example of a typical village in China within its natural beauty. Then, after their visit in Zhourhuang is complete, they will head back to Shanghai and on to the capital of China, Beijing. In Beijing, the group will be able to visit Tiananmen Square on an evening night tour, and, of course, there will be opportunities to shop in the Xishi Street Market. From Beijing, the group will head back to Birmingham, Michigan where they will have gained an experience that they will last a lifetime, and they won’t be able to wait to tell their friends and family about they’re adventures until after the jet lag wears off.

“We want the kids to know the Chinese people, and to know the culture, and know how to use the language, and most of all enjoy their trip,” remarks the organizer of the trip, Ms. Wang.

This trip has been in the planning stage for quite a while, and many teachers have wanted it to get off the ground in years past, but finally 2005 sees success. This year brings a lot of excitement and anticipation for all of those involved in this trip one way or another. As of right now, there are twenty-six students who are tentatively going and have placed deposits. The students consist of a mixture of sophomores, juniors, and seniors. All Chinese students were invited to go on this trip; however, no freshmen are attending.

These students will be touring important sites in Taiwan and China and will be seeing some of the largest temples not only in the eastern hemisphere but also in all of the world.

They will also be seeing some of the most beautiful natural terrain and animals known to man.

This trip hopes to be a successful adventure for all the students, and we all hope that they will come home with interesting stories and life-lasting memories.

Curse of the missing locks

Carl Dunker
Staff writer

Many locks from hall lockers were stolen since the beginning of this school year, from all parts of the building, according to several reliable sources. Oddly, nothing has been stolen.

From all parts of the school, since the beginning of the year, students have been coming into the Assistant Principal’s office to report missing locks. These thefts, which are widespread, are a nuisance to both students and administrators.

There has been no great administrative action, because there are so many possible suspects since several groups besides the high school students use the building during the evenings and weekends.

“Fortunately, nothing has been stolen from these lockers, only the locks have been missing,” said Assistant Principal Brian Sumner.

One has any answers, or the culprits, but Mr. Sumner had a couple helpful tips for students: always make sure that the lock is firmly shut, and the dial spun from the last number, otherwise someone could pull it off easily.

One of the main reasons locks are stolen is because of the lack of enforcement from hall monitors. They have the authority to get the students involved in other crimes to stay involved in the halls and get reports of the missing locks.

There may be fights and depressed students.

“Maintain order through the school, and office work.” Hutzley said, “What exactly are your walkie talkies for anyway?” They commented, “To communicate to staff, to be able to talk to someone quickly.” Seems pretty obvious doesn’t it? One of the best questions I asked was, “What was the funniest thing you have ever seen in the halls?” Hutzley told me she had seen a girl walk in school with her skirt stuck in her underwear. Ha-ha! We all make mistakes; it’s ok.

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I confess, “I’m a drama queen and may have gone too far...”
**Political Cartoon**

Rochelle LaMacchio
Staff Cartoonist

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**Talented cast of Play On! couldn’t make up for poor plot**

Sam Padilla
Photo Editor

In my past three years at Seaholm, I, like the majority of our school, have been oblivious. I was oblivious to the acting splendor that I was surrounded by.

Little did I know that Seaholm, our Seaholm, gave a wicked performance every fall for those of us interested enough to simply stop and take note.

Of course, as an underclassman, I was ignorant of the talented performances shown yearly in Seaholm’s Little Theater. Then, suddenly, I was a junior. I could drive. I began to entertain thoughts of attending such a performance. All the while, I meant none of it.

So this year, my final year at Seaholm, I decided to observe, examine, and inspect the fall play——all in the name of student journalism.

This year’s cast was headlined by seniors Andrea D’Agostino, Jesse Einstein, and Whitney Lund, as well as juniors Jon Williams, Brooke Stinson, Hazen Cuyler, Jessalyn Walker, and Jim Appleby. Together, they performed Play On!, written by Rick Abbot.

Being neither a scholar nor an avid fan of the stage, I asked myself two questions after the show. Did I enjoy the performance? And, most importantly, was it worth my money?

Admittedly, I know nothing of plays or playwrights; yet, I have to imagine Mr. Abbot could have done much better with this.

In my experience with plays—which is limited to a touch of Greek drama experienced as a freshman in English team—there has generally been some sort of effective plot. Abbot presented a distinct lack of plot in his narrative, providing only a bare resemblance of a story.

Despite Abbot’s shortcomings, the cast and crew of Play On! still managed to put on a most enjoyable performance. The play was, for the most part, a slapstick comedy about a zany theatre group’s failure to put on the fictional play, Murder Most Fowl.

The group’s wisecracking, love trysts, and overall failure to learn their lines naturally lead to hilarity. Oddly enough, the hi-jinks are indeed funny, and the comedy alone saved the play from becoming completely unpleasant for viewers.

Junior Jon Williams deserves special recognition for his talent in playing the dual role of Henry Benish and Lord Dudley. Williams balanced the two aforementioned characters with a very outstanding display of physical slapstick.

Mr. Abbot’s shortcomings, however, cannot be ignored, and good acting can only take a poor story line so far. Though the actors did the best they could to bring the script to life, Abbot’s story was simply inadequate. It is for this reason that I found Play On! sadly lacking the excitement and enthusiasm its title so suggests.

Senior Andrea D’Agostino finishes off her senior theatre career with Junior Hazen Cuyler.
Across

3. The coolest game on ice that we have yet to see this season.
4. The Birmingham hockey team has Seaholm and Groves.
6. This season brings yet another installment of this artist's 'Great American Songbook' collection.
7. This spring's musical was incarnated in a film version starring everyone's favorite "stick of butte", Barbra Streisand.
10. Rap artist who recently died of unknown causes (abbreviation).
15. Every seven days, this magazine provides us with the buzz on everything and anything TV, music, film, and book-related.
16. The popular song by Wooden Egg Patrol: "Jason Keeler is made of ________".
18. First name of the world champion Detroit Pistons' point guard.
21. This risqué game is for those who are especially agile and have good balance.
23. The blue bracelets sold to benefit muscular dystrophy read ________.
24. Detroit rapper Eminem's new CD is titled ________.
25. Favored documentary narrator of Flex students.
26. This play, sans exclamation mark, was the production that Seaholm proudly presented this fall.
27. This book spent the most weeks at number one on the NY Times Bestseller list.

Down

1. This film follows the story of the author who wrote the original book Seaholm's musical from two years ago was based on.
2. This best-selling novel by Sue Monk Kidd is titled "The ________ of Bees".
3. The video game that has caused an epidemic of sleepless nights for many a Seaholm student. (spelled out)
5. The latest 'Greatest Hits' CD comes from Mrs. Federline herself.
8. This faux 'reality show' on MN explores the lives of a group of spoiled, superficial, California teenagers.
9. One of the lead actors in the wine-themed film, 'Sideways'.
11. This VH1 series is the preferred source of weekly snark for the Seaholm student.
12. The next installment of the ________ series takes place in San Andreas and allows players to engage in numerous illegal activities. Rated M for mature.
13. This classic set of interlocking toys that builds everything from pirate ships to castles is still a favorite for kids today.
14. The inventor of this classic toy was Arthur Granjean.
17. "Robots in disguise; more than meets the eye".
19. "Eye of the Tiger" as its theme song.