

KHS Theatre Presents *Peter Pan: The Musical*

Cali Apodaca
InDepth Editor

Brittany Milam
Reporter

With late night rehearsals, exciting flying experiments, and a little fairy dust, Kingwood Theater prepared for last night's premiere of *Peter Pan*.

"So much hard work has gone into this production," senior Andi Schrock, who plays the leading role of Peter Pan, said. "I was so excited for the first performance."

Already, more than 940 tickets were sold online. The first performance was last night, November 20 at 7:30pm in the auditorium.

Additional performances will be held tonight, November 21 and November 24 at 7:30pm in the auditorium, and a Saturday matinee on November 22 at 2:00 pm.

Theater director Frank Chuter chose Andi Schrock for the role of Peter Pan.

"She won that part," Chuter said. "She's a talented actress and has been in every musical the school has had since she started attending Kingwood High."

Rehearsals began on September 24 and took place after school Monday-Thursday from 4:30-6:30 and Friday from 4:30-10:00.

"Rehearsals are always fun because the people in the performance make such a big difference," Schrock said. "Everyone is so close with each other. It's like we are all one big family. I still talk to some of the seniors I was in plays with when I was a freshman."

The entire production crew consists of 60-80 people. There are many areas that have to be covered in order to perfect any production.

Beyond dress rehearsals and memorizing lines, the relationship between the teachers and the students involved is an all together different story.

"If I had to shoot to be like anyone it would be Mr. Chuter, Mrs. Webber or Mrs. Macdonald," Schrock said. "They put so much time and effort into this, we all truly appreciate it a lot."

Along with full time jobs as theatre teachers, Mr. Chuter, Mrs. Webber and Mrs. Macdonald still choose to go above and beyond the call of duty. Despite the need to spend time with family and friends, it seems as if their determination is the driving force that pushes them.

"We are very fortunate to have such dedicated and passionate theatre teachers who spend so much extra time helping us with every aspect of the play," Schrock said.



Photos by Kristen Webb

On October 25, the cast members of *Peter Pan* went to the Barnes and Noble at Deerbrook Mall to perform selections from their upcoming musical and to read to the children. Part of the proceeds from book sales during this time were donated to the Kingwood Theater department.



Senior Nicole Surratt reads the Peter Pan picture book to listeners at Barnes and Noble.



Senior Andi Schrock sings a song from the musical to children at Barnes and Noble.

I AM HUMAN JUST LIKE YOU

Sadie Porter
Photographer

Many students would love to make a change in the community and help people in need, but do not know where to start. There are multiple clubs supporting other topics, but none solely for helping the general public. Some believe that homeless individuals are at their own fault for not pursuing a career.

One student here at KHS disagrees with that theory. Senior Hillary Shurtleff decided to create a nonschool-related organization, a club called "I am human".

"The main point of the club is to spread a word of respect, because you could be in the same situation as any of those people on the streets," Shurtleff said, explaining what inspired her to create the organization.

When the club meets, they collaborate ideas for what needs to be done on their "down town trips". The group goes

downtown to different Houston areas and gives out tote bags with the saying "I am human". The bags are filled with common hygiene products such as toothbrushes, hairbrushes, and soap and lunches to the homeless.

Their first downtown trip was the week before school started. They plan to make another trip in the beginning of December. In order to fund I am human, the organization is selling t-shirts for \$12, however, if people pay more the extra money goes toward a shirt for a homeless person.



Senior Hillary Shurtleff founded the non-profit organization *I am Human, like you.*
Photo by Brittney Martin

NHS Officers Attend National Conference

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

The nine NHS officers traveled to Orlando, Florida, on November 5 for the weekend to meet with other NHS members from all over the country and to share ideas for their local chapters.

"We spent Thursday at Hollywood Studios," senior and First Vice President, Nick Panzarella said. "Friday and Saturday were actual conference days where we attended sessions to hear different speakers."

Friday morning, the officers participated in practices for the National Scholar's Bowl competition, a competition similar to a college bowl, where academic questions are asked of four team members who then have to buzz in to respond. The practices help the officers to familiarize themselves with the buzzer system and the types of questions. The four Scholar's Bowl team competitors were Nick Panzarella, Kelsey Spinnato, Emily Zinsitz, and Kristen Webb.

"I took the science test to qualify

for Scholar's Bowl," senior Leadership Vice President Emily Zinsitz said. "It was extremely hard. All the questions were about earth science and astronomy. I haven't taken those



All nine NHS officers pose for a quick photo as they return to Houston from the conference.

classes since eighth grade."

In addition to the science test that Zinsitz took, there were english, history, and math tests, which were taken by Spinnato, Panzarella, and Lucy Webb respectively.

"We split up into small discussion groups with students from other schools and talked about everything from services and fundraising ideas to the running of induction and point re-

quirements," Nick Panzarella said.

They learned many new strategies for fundraising that have been successful at other schools, such as the "Who's the biggest turkey?" competition going on right now.

"It was awesome being able to dance with and use Spanish with NHS kids from across the continent, especially those from Puerto Rico," Panzarella said.

Although the officers learned better ways to run the school's chapter, they also had fun bonding and meeting new people.

"After that first night when we led a dance party before the first general session, all of the other students referred to us as 'one of those who



Senior Lucy Webb and junior Cameron Purgahn participate in a team building activity with other NHS students.

danced the other night', which was really cool because everyone recognized who we were," Zinsitz said. "Everyone felt comfortable around us right away. It all helped to break the ice."

Unfortunately, this year's National NHS Conference will be the last of its kind. The National Association of Secondary School Principals no longer has the funds to continue hosting the conference because they are not generating the attendance that they need in order to keep the cost down.



Officers Kelsey Spinnato, Kristen Webb, Nick Panzarella, and Emily Zinsitz get pumped before the first round of their Scholar's Bowl competition.

KHS Honors french culture

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

During November 3-7, it was National French Week at Kingwood High School; however, it extended until November 11 for special guest speakers.

"National French Week is designed to promote French culture," French teacher Madame Corres said.

All of the French classes participated in the events. They designed posters, played games, and ate French delicacies. They even attended a French opera called Beatrice and Benedict on November 5th.

Along with these events, Madame Corres introduced to her classes a new game called Boules, which is similar to the game Croquet.

On November 6, two French students handed out pamphlets describing French life and culture.

On November 7, a foreign exchange student from France, named Lauriane Mouly visited with the students of Madame Corres's second period, describing her life in France.

On Tuesday, November 11, French members of the community came and informed students about the French educational system and culture.

"Everyone could not wait for National French Week, including me," senior Victoria Lupton said. "I really enjoyed all of the events and fun we had during the week."

Several students expressed interest in French culture and life after the events.

"I appreciate my French class now that I have learned more about the culture of the French people," senior Lauren Cox said.

For those who took an interest in French after this week, French Club is open to all Kingwood High School students. French Club meets once every month on a Thursday morning in room 2406.

Senior Victoria Lupton hangs posters of French culture for National French Week.



President Elect: OBAMA

Brittany Milam
Reporter

As it got closer to November fourth, there was an abundance of racist slurs being passed by text messages and e-mails about having an African American for a president. Insults and harsh jokes were also abundant along with the constant question of "Who are you voting for?!" The clock was counting down for November fourth, awaiting the answer that would bring a new president to the White House.

The polls started changing around seven P.M., on November fourth. At first the two runners (Obama and McCain) were fairly equal, with Obama slightly in the lead. That all changed around nine thirty, when the voting scale read Obama- 204 and McCain- 78.

By ten o'clock Tuesday night, the United States had their new presi-

dent's name. Obama had won, bringing in Biden for vice president.

With Obama announced as President, McCain made his speech earnest and heartfelt. He wished Obama an excellent term and thanked his fellow Republicans for their support throughout the election.

Along with representing the Democratic Party, Obama is one of the youngest presidents we have had in office (President Kennedy was 42 when inaugurated). On top of being one of the youngest men to control our country, Obama is the United States' first African American President.

With the economy in its current state, this election was by far a bigger deal than usual.

As elections have proved, many believe that Obama has the solution to America's problems. Over the next four years, America is hoping to see a difference in several areas that citizens believe should be changed. Everyone is in high hopes of Barack Obama making change that is both necessary and preferred.



Photo courtesy of www.depauw.edu

Click

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

FreeRice.com

Every day, 25,000 people die from starvation or hunger-related causes, the majority of them being children. Free Rice is a website that donates rice while helping to improve vocabulary skills. It combats starvation and malnutrition in third world countries affected by natural disasters, war, and poverty. To help these starving people, you can take a multiple choice "quiz" that slowly increases in difficulty. Every time you get an answer right, twenty grains of rice are donated. These quizzes are over a variety of topics in art, chemistry, English, geography, languages, and math.

HairForecast.com

When you use Hair Forecast and put in a zip code, you get three numbers for morning, afternoon, and evening. These numbers are on a scale from one to ten and factor in the area's humidity, wind, rain chance, and temperature. A "ten" can mean a perfect hair day, while a "one" probably indicates a ponytail would be the safest hairstyle. In addition to knowing in advance if you will have a bad hair day or not, you will donate one day's worth of clean water to an African.

Ripple.org

Ripple is a search engine with four colored buttons at the top of its homepage. Click "Water" to give six days of access to clean water, "Food" to help a village become self-sufficient in food production, "Education" to donate two days of schooling for children and teenagers, and "Money" to finance a \$100 loan for a day. Every time you click a button, 100% of the profits, ranging from one to twenty cents per click, are donated to charity.

Artist Profile: Emily Mouser

Kimberly Kurtz
Op/Ed Editor



Going into high school, most of us do not know what we want to become when we grow up and we have not yet discovered all of our talents and abilities. However, there are a select few who realize that they are especially gifted and talented at an early age.

Senior Emily Mouser is one who has discovered her talent for art and embraced it. Mouser is an artist who is deeply inspired and truly talented. She spends a lot of her time drawing and working hard on what she does. This year, she is taking the AP art class.

"When I'm not drawing things for my art class, I really like to draw my little brother," Mouser said. "He's someone who I really care about, and when I finish a piece of him, he's so excited to know that he's part of something I love to do."

Her favorite art to do is expressive color. Expressive color involves taking an ordinary object, like a couch or a light bulb, and illustrating it using colors that are out of the ordinary. For example, a couch that is ordinarily

brown with gray pinstripes, would be drawn using vibrant pinks, greens, and oranges, contrasted with darker hues like blues and purples.

"I love to draw in expressive color because it takes something ordinary and makes it beautiful. Last year, I drew a vacuum and I made it orange, dark blue, and red, instead of just black. It was really cool," Mouser said. "Besides expressive color, I like to draw in black and white. I love doing the extremes. I love doing the contrasts with the darks and the lights."

Artists that are an inspiration to her are Salvador Dali, who is most famous for his contribution to surrealism, and her grandmother. Her grandmother inspired her to keep drawing and do what she loves no matter what.

"My grandmother is really amazing," Mouser said. "She is now handicapped, but I still love listening to her opinion. Her vision inspires me. Art is



something that everyone should be a part of. It helps you express emotions that you didn't even know you had."

Lets Get Brady

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

Families can be annoying and drive you crazy at times, especially when little brothers and sisters are running around and screaming when you are trying to get your chemistry homework done. Even parents tend to misunderstand when they claim that they went through the same problem when they were young.

All of this can be very frustrating, but studies have shown that teenagers who spend time with their family, even if it is just at the dinner table, are less likely to do drugs and go to parties. High school students tend to relieve their stress with drinking and drugs, but if they would vent their feelings to their parents, they would feel much more relieved than if they were to get

drunk or high.

"My mom and I always have different perspectives, but I always listen to her," junior Leah Springate said. "Sometimes she comes up with something I didn't think of before. She always helps me with my drama problems."

Spending quality time with the family is not the easiest thing for most students. With all the extra curricular clubs and activities that teenagers are engaged in, finding the time to actually eat, let alone sit down and talk to Mom and

Dad is tough.

Although it does not seem like it, talking to the parents can be very helpful.

So, between after school practices and study group meetings, call your parents just to say "Hey, how was your day?" It does not have to be an hour long conversation, just a short chat to check in with the family. Parents really appreciate this small gesture of compassion and making your parents happy can help with problems at home.



"I talk to my parents about everything from my day at school to the drama going on in my life," junior Aurelie Collee said. "It really helps me relieve my stress. I enjoy talking to my parents mainly for that reason."

Parents are not the only family members that are willing to sit down and listen to your problems. Siblings can be hard to get along with, but they tend to be good listeners. Telling your sister about boyfriend problems or about how stressed you are about an English project can help get some problems off your shoulders. Brothers and sisters are not necessarily going to be your best friend, but they can be your therapist for a day.

In-Depth ^{Online} 08-09

Don't get caught

As winter approaches, many common illnesses do as well. Viruses attack the body when placed in abnormal circumstances. The cold weather and the holiday season brings friends and family together more often than any other time of the year. With breaks from school and work and the parties to attend, few people are able to maintain regular sleeping patterns. This, as well as increased physical contact, can suppress the body's natural ability to fight off common illnesses including mono, the flu, and the common cold.

pneumonia

Brooke Ley
Reporter

Pneumonia is usually caused by viruses, fungi, and bacteria infecting one or both lungs. Before antibiotics were created, one-third of all people who suffered from pneumonia died.

Half a million people are treated for pneumonia each year, and out of that half, 5% die.

"Pneumonia is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States," medical author George Schiffman said.

Pneumonia is spread simply by a sneeze or cough from someone who is already infected with it.

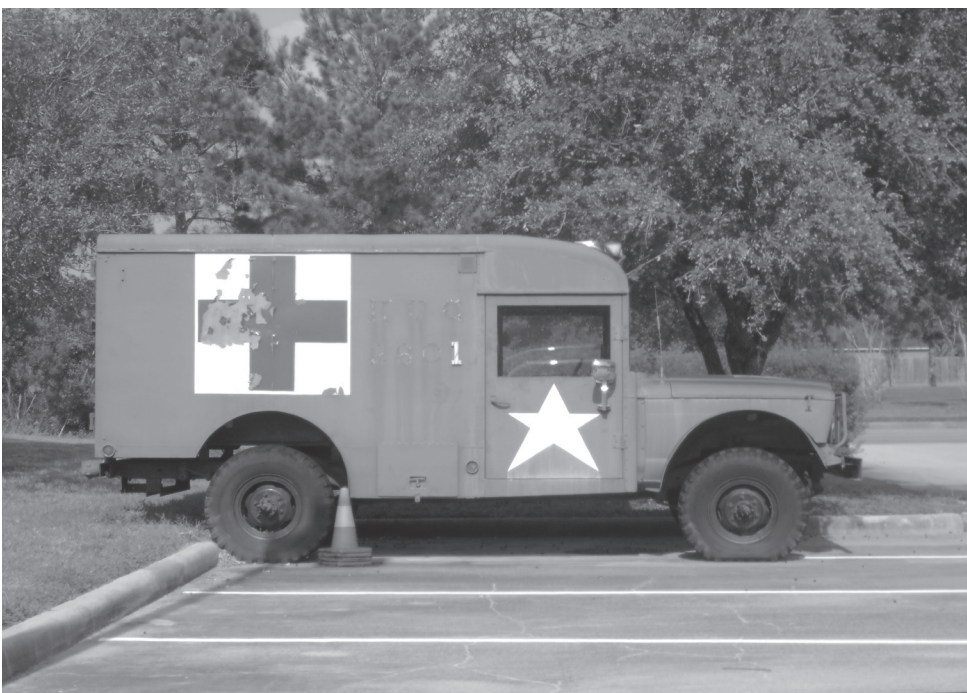
People that suffer from lung disease, strokes, seizures, drug addictions, alcoholism, heart disease, or a weak immune system are more prone to catching pneumonia.

"I knew someone with double lunged pneumonia that drowned in his own fluids," freshman Shelby Hojnacki said.

When someone first gets pneumonia, they usually have the symptoms of a cold, or flu. A very high fever, shaking chills, and shortness of breath are the first signs of having pneumonia. When the symptoms increase to a worse cough, muscle and headaches, the infection gets more serious.

"At first when I caught pneumonia I thought it was just an ordinary winter cold, but we later found out what I really had!" junior Sara Lochore, one of the unlucky ones that caught pneumonia last year, said.

In general, pneumonia is more likely to occur in babies and in the elderly but it is possible for anyone to come down with it. Make sure to wash your hands and stay healthy, so you do not become part of the half a million people that will get pneumonia this winter



Common signs of illness include fever, fatigue, loss of appetite, coughing, sore throat, stomach-ache, sneezing and headache.

mononucleosis

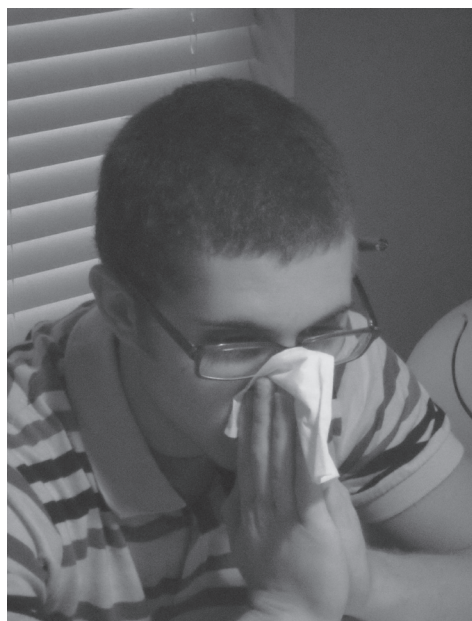
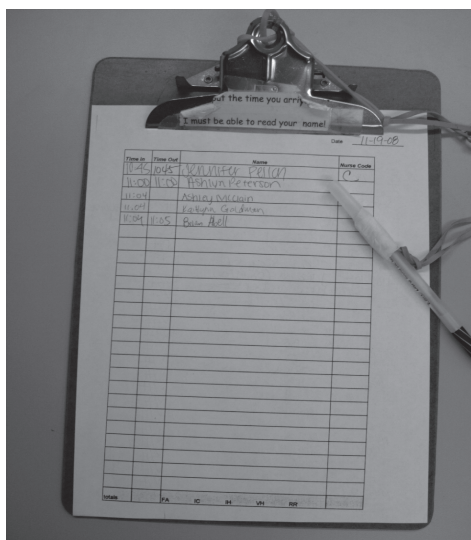
Veronica Martinez
Reporter

Mononucleosis (most commonly known as "mono") is an infection caused by the Epstein-Barr virus. Signs are fever, sore throat, swollen glands in your neck, feeling tired and not very hungry. Mono is not spread as easily as some other viruses, such as the common cold.

Mono is found in saliva and mucus. It is usually passed from one person to another through kissing. It is rarely passed through coughing. The signs of mono usually develop four to six weeks after you are exposed to the virus.

Most people only get mono once. It is most common among people 15 to 35 years of age. Mono cannot be

cured; it will go away on its own. Symptoms usually last about four weeks. Mono is treated by rest, and drinking plenty of water.



the flu

Sadie Porter
Photographer

Every season has its downfall. Winter, because of the temperature changes, is famous for the influx of sicknesses. One of the most common winter sicknesses is influenza.

Influenza is most frequently referred to as "the flu", and can be considered serious in some cases and minor in others.

"Influenza is an infection that causes fever chills, coughing, body aches, headaches and sometimes earaches," junior Sarah Cipriani said.

The flu is a small virus, and it can be cured in as little as a few weeks. The people most likely to catch influenza are babies under five years old, people older than 50, and people who suffer from health problems such as asthma and diabetes.

"Senior citizens are the most likely to get a flu shot with 74 percent of those age 65 and older planning to be vaccinated, compared to 58 percent of those age 55-64 and 43% of adults younger than 55," a CVS Pharmacy survey said.

People who are poorly informed may not think of this shot as an important asset to their health, but it can greatly affect the chances of the vaccinated catching a bad strain of the flu.

"Of those who normally get a flu shot, fewer than half (45 percent) get vaccinated when flu shots are available, while the remainder (55 percent) wait until a normally scheduled visit to the doctor or health care provider, or until flu season begins and they fear they will be exposed to other people who get sick," the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) said.

As winter approaches, there are going to be a few more sicknesses than what is common for other seasons. The best way to assure a fun and enjoyable winter is to receive vaccinations for common viruses and to be aware of sources for these sicknesses.

common cold

Cole Gratz
Reporter

The common cold is recorded as one of the most common sicknesses during the winter season. The colder months bring this contagious viral disease, which infects the soft lining (mucous membrane) of the nose, causing sneezing and a running nose.

“Last year I got a cold and it first started with a sore throat and then led to pain when swallowing,” junior Jack Hunt said.

The symptoms of the cold include sneezing, a runny nose, pain when swallowing, a sore throat, a clogged feeling in the ears, headaches, coughing, and a high temperature.

“My freshman year I believe I caught the cold because I didn’t wash my hands well enough,” sophomore Rachel Frericks said.

There are certain measures to prevent catching the cold. If possible, stay away from people with colds, avoid crowded places when the risk of infection is greater, keep rooms well-aired, do not touch your nose or eyes after coming into contact with somebody that has a cold, and wash your hands thoroughly.

“Throw away paper tissues after use to prevent the spread of germs,” junior Ryan Shanks said.

When trying to get ride of the cold people try different measures, but later fail and ask why?

“When I went to my doctor to ask about any cure or diagnosis for this horrendous viral disease, he only told me that usually the common cold causes no serious problems or troubles, and the symptoms should clear up in one to two weeks,” junior Daniel Stephens said.

There are no real solutions to the common cold, only little things to ease the symptoms, such as sleeping with your head on a high pillow, drinking warm drinks, and taking nasal decongestants. Doing these things may only relieve you from the symptoms of the common cold, not cure you, however.



BRONCHITIS: AN INFLAMMATION OF THE LARGE BRONCHI IN THE LUNGS

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

As the winter months approach many common sicknesses invade the school. Bronchitis infects more than 29% of high school students annually.

“I first got bronchitis when I was three,” freshman, Shelby Hojnacki said. “It left me weak in the hospital for four days.”

Bronchitis is an inflammation of the large bronchi in the lungs. Acute bronchitis can progress to pneumonia in as little as a week. The virus is characterized by shortness of breath, increased phlegm production, and a long lasting cough.

“The cough was the worst part,” junior Raquel Gonzales said. “It stayed long after my bronchitis was treated and went away.”

Samples of phlegm are examined for diagnosis. Bronchitis can last up to three weeks, so bronchodilators (like an inhaler) are prescribed to alleviate wheezing and breathlessness.

“I got bronchitis from my older sister,” junior Courtney Saphier said. “She had it first and then about two weeks later I got it.”

Bronchitis is caused by contagious pathogens. Acute viral bronchitis can

follow the flu or a cold. Bronchitis can also be contracted by breathing in irritating fumes, such as polluted air.

“First, my nose started running, so I thought I had a cold,” Gonzales said. “But then I developed a cough, and my chest started to hurt.”

Symptoms of bronchitis include a persistent cough, chest pains, fever, fatigue, shortness of breath, and wheezing.

“When I went to my doctor, he listened to my cough,” Gonzales said. “He also took my blood and a swab of the inside of my mouth.”

The diagnosis of acute bronchitis includes the use of many tests. Doctors can perform any number of them in order to pinpoint the exact cause and type of bronchitis. A chest x-ray can also be used to reveal hyper-inflation, which can lead to pneumonia.

“My doctor told me to stay out of school for a few days because I was very contagious,” Saphier said.

The only vaccine for acute bronchitis was developed 23 years ago in Australia. It is taken orally. The best way to stay healthy this winter is to wash your hands, and do not share food or drinks.

strep throat

Spencer Williams
Reporter

Strep throat is one of the most common illnesses in school-aged kids and teenagers. When kids do not wash their hands after using the bathroom or cover their mouth when they are coughing or sneezing, it is very easy to catch strep when in school.

Strep throat tends to be a very contagious illness and it can spread through many different ways. Because these infections tend to hang out in the nose area, just sneezing or coughing can put these infectious germs in the air.

Since kids today are in such close quarters, such as school, they tend to get strep more easily than adults. As a result, more and more teachers and parents are teaching better hygiene in younger kids to prevent this type of illnesses.

There are many treatments for strep. With the right antibiotics, right amount of fluids and bed rest kids can be back on their feet in a matter of days.

On many occasions, people tend to see that they no longer have a fever or a sore throat, so they stop taking their medication. That is the wrong thing to do. Even though people feel better they need to finish their medication so they can make sure that it is completely gone.

There are many symptoms that can be associated with strep, such as headache, lower stomach pain, rash, loss of appetite and nausea, and difficulty swallowing.

Strep should not be taken for granted. Without the proper treatment, a person could get a very serious infection, it could also cause lung problems or very serious heart damage.

5 ways to stay healthy

1. wash hands frequently
2. avoid sharing objects
3. get enough sleep
4. reduce stress
5. eat right and exercise



Artist Unknown: Fresh bands to spice up any musical tastes

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

Born Ruffians

Genre: indie rock
Sounds like: Vampire Weekend meets Arcade Fire
Download now: Hummingbird, I'm One of Those Girls
This Canadian band is a true indie band. Every song incorporates background yelps and ohs, light and airy tunes, and cute and heartfelt



The Cool Kids, photo courtesy of saladaysmusic.net

lyrics. Their delightful tunes appeal to even those who are not indie rock fans. Their debut album, called "Red, Yellow & Blue," includes some of their best from past work and new songs.

Brainiac

Genre: synthpunk
Sounds like: Devo meets a nonpolitical Rage Against the Machine
Download now: Vincent Come on Down, I am a Cracked Machine
Brainiac has a very unique sound, like a blend of electronica and rock with voice synthesizers. This early 1990's band was influential in the punk scene with their album "Hissing Pigs in Static Couture."

The Cool Kids

Genre: hip hop
Sounds like: old school rap
Download now: Mikey Rocks,

Black Mags
A much-needed throwback to the glory days of rap in the 1980's and 1990's, The Cool Kids idolizes bicycles like Lupe Fiasco idolizes skateboards. They put out awesome songs that you can dance to or rap along with. They will soon release their debut album, "The Bake Sale."

Gogol Bordello

Genre: Gypsy punk
Sounds like: no other band
Download now: Start Wearing Purple, Wonderlust King
Gogol Bordello virtually invented this genre, which sounds exactly like its name. It is wild and fun punk that has been infused with many different European cultures' sounds. It has a mainly Ukrainian influence because founder, lead singer, and songwriter Eugene Hutz is Ukrainian. Since the other members are not permanent, Hutz is the center of the band and the

all-around frontman. Their song "Start Wearing Purple," from the album "Voi-la Intruder," is widely considered their best.



The Haunting of Molly Hartley

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

The Haunting of Molly Hartley begins when Molly (Haley Bennett) is stabbed by her mother and survives. However, her mother makes a deal with the devil to save her daughter. The price: Molly's soul. Now Molly is 18, and she slowly discovers that her soul belongs to the devil.

The movie was very confusing. I did not understand why Molly's mother stabbed her in the first place, if she wanted to save her in the end. Plus, the movie was not scary! It was rather comic in some aspects, including the part where she overreacted to a bloody nose.

The most confusing part, however, was the ending. I do not understand why she stabbed herself in the end.

Was it because she was already fated for hell, or because she was just taking a chance? These important questions need to be answered!

The graphics were okay but they did not stand out. There are some movies where the picture quality is superb, such as HD quality. However, the Haunting's quality was that of a regular television show. Therefore, it was obvious that this movie was a low-budget film.

The movie had a promising start. However, it lacked in creativity towards the middle, and especially at the end. Did they run out of money? I would not recommend seeing this movie.

RATING: D+

W. is a fictional story of how George Bush came to be President of the United States. Although he initially wanted to be a baseball manager, he was eventually persuaded to run for governor. He wins the election and later decides to run for the 2000 Presidential Election, winning the election.

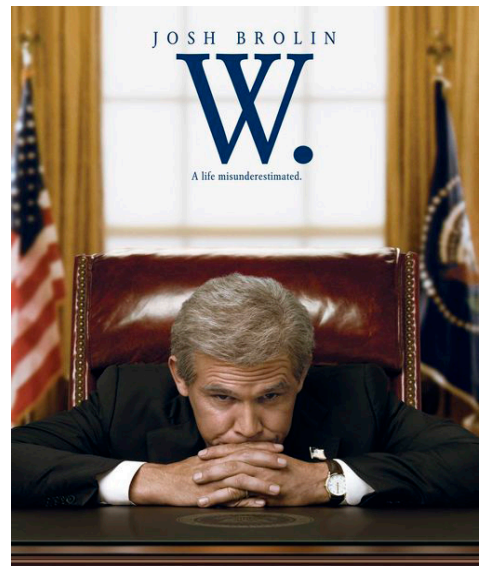
W. was a interesting movie. While there were offensive and controversial issues in the movie, they were downplayed through low and sometimes crude humor. The fact that Bush gets arrested and his father, who was president at the time, bails him out of jail without a record, comments on the governmental flaws and issues. This movie should be labeled as a political comedy.

Josh Brolin is a hilarious, yet interesting George Bush. The other characters, such as Saddam Hussein (Sayad Badreya), only complemented his performance. In a comic way,

he portrayed President Bush rather well.

The graphics were average, and the movie itself was understandably a low budget film. The actual film quality of the movie was not impressive. However, within the budget, the movie was well done. I would recommend going to see this movie!

RATING: B+



SAW V

Nick Doremus
Entertainment Editor

The masterful movie series, Saw, has finally lost its uniqueness and vigor. Usually the movies contain minimal plot and several traps which make the series even more intriguing. However, the fifth installment of Saw has proven to be much less interesting than its predecessors, containing an overdose of boring conversation and a sparse amount of entrapments.

The graphics of the movie were not impressive, for no visual effects stood out.

The plot of the movie was boring. Although it was necessary to explain how Lieutenant Hoffman (Costas Mandylor) became the next Jigsaw, the story was rather plain and predictable: Jigsaw injected him with a tranquilizer, placed him in a trap, and asked him to be his apprentice.

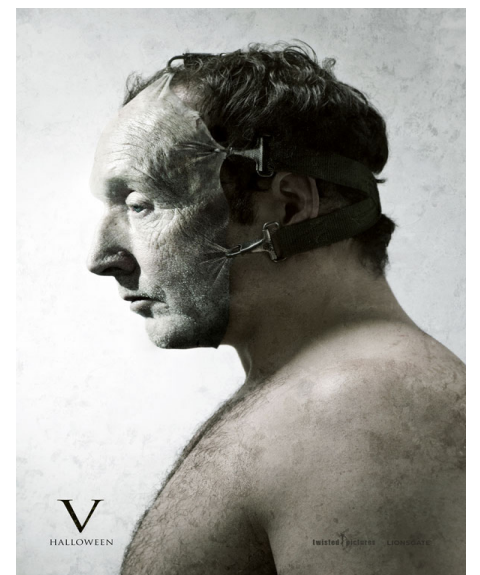
However, this was not the worst part of the movie. The scenes in which Agent Peter Strahm (Scott Patterson) attempted to uncover Jigsaw and his

legacy were nightmarish!

There was hardly, if any, action involved, and the scenes as a whole were pointless. The audience knew all of the "secrets" that Strahm pointlessly tries to uncover (from the beginning of the movie).

Overall, the movie was shallow and boring. Please, Saw producers and directors, stop the madness now! Do NOT make a Saw 6!

RATING: F



Box Office Unoriginality

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

When Saw V, Iron Man II, Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince, and the third Batman movie are the only future releases that look somewhat interesting, there is obviously a problem with our movie industry.

The series thing is getting a little old, especially when movies like the new Pirates of the Caribbean are changing the whole cast by adding Disney Channel stars like Zac Efron to replace stars like Johnny Depp.

Not only can producers not get out of the series attitude, they are using Japanese thrillers to make up for their lack of creativity. We are not Japanese, so please stop giving us these strange movies about restless spirits killing people with video tapes. Give us some good American films like Nightmare on Elm Street or Psycho. Yes, a couple of good Japanese films are tolerable, but when every horror movie that comes out is Japanese, we are getting a little carried away.

Because of our lack of horror creativity, we have resorted to turning to Japan for new ideas, but if there is nothing interesting there, we turn to the classics. Amongst the many redone

horror classics is Halloween, The Hills Have Eyes, The House of Wax, and the new Jason movie. Yes, these are original American films, but come on. We all know how these movies end be-

cause we have already seen them. How about you surprise us with something we have not seen yet? Or, if the industry is going to remake a classic, it needs to give it justice. These movies are adored by thriller and shredder lovers everywhere, and

these fans do not appreciate it when the movie industry completely destroy the movie with its new effects and modern filming.

We all love going to the movies, whether it is to hang out with friends or is just a family outing, but it is getting harder and harder to find a movie that actually looks new and interesting. Comedies seem to be the only movies doing well in the box office. There is always a new

comedy coming out that has a new interesting plot. Now, if the film industry could just take this idea and come up with a new adventure or horror movie, we might actually have some good movies to watch at the theaters.



Photos courtesy of www.people.com and www.zimbardo.com

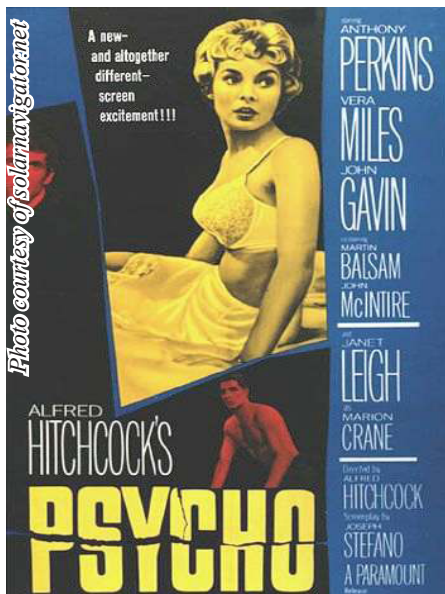


Photo courtesy of www.paramount.com

Woes of a Kingwood Bus Rider

Spencer Williams
Reporter

Those with buses in the second wave do not have a problem, but some students are not lucky. If the buses could just wait a few more minutes, it would make it a lot easier for the kids to get there on time.

Another pressing problem is the advertisements on the sides of some of the buses. The buses are not moving billboards, they are used to transport children. Not only is it absurd to put an advertisement on a bus, but it can also be very dangerous. These advertisements are and can be very distracting and should be removed from the sides of the buses.

Basically, the school should change the time allotted for students to get to the buses. That way it not only makes it easier on the students, but it eases parent's nerves, as well. They should also consider taking the advertisements off of the buses. Although it may bring in much needed revenue, it can be a safety hazard.



Photo by Spencer Williams

ClassOf10 Magazine Sales

Cole Gratz
Reporter

The junior class of 2010 just completed its fall 2008 magazine sale fundraiser. The student body and teachers are trying to get juniors all over campus motivated to sell magazines.

I know magazine sales are for our Prom, but I am not sold on selling the magazines themselves. There is nothing making me want to go out and sell these magazines besides the "chances" of winning money. I gave my share of time trying to sell. And I went door to door with half of the people not answering or not being home, and the others just saying "No thank you."

I tried for a good hour and only sold five magazines. I know there are other ways of selling magazines, but they just will not work for me.

"Let your parents go out and sell to their work, or call all of your relatives," the class officers said.

Some students believe that if they do not sell a magazine, it is okay, because someone else will. I am not excited about the "chance" of winning money. I want a sure thing. I want a guaranteed twenty dollars in my pocket.

"I sold five orders and got to draw from a money box and only got one dollar. And let me tell you that it is the last five magazines I am selling," junior Cameron Slote said.

I have only seen negativity towards magazine sales. But I know that there are some juniors out there selling hundreds and wanting that free parking spot.

I believe the selling of the magazines are just one way for the school to fund our Prom, because the school's salary will not allow us to get the Prom that we all want. I think that the school should have more things getting the student involved with the school. I would want the school to hold seasonal carnivals and collect money from the tickets, concession stands, and entertainment. This way there will be more buyers, than anyone interested in magazines.

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The Kingwood Courier is the student newspaper published by the advanced Journalism-Newspaper class at Kingwood High School. Letters or comments are welcome and encouraged, but they must be signed. The Kingwood Courier is a member of the University Interscholastic League and the American Scholastic Press Association.

The articles herein are the individual views of the authors. These views may not necessarily be shared by The Kingwood Courier staff and its advertisers, or the teachers, administrators and students of the Humble Independent School District. All advertisements are paid for by individual businesses in the surrounding community.

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MARSHALL CLAPP

Varsity Football

Cali Apodaca
Indepth Editor

Q: What made you want to start playing football and why?

Clapp: “Ever since I was a kid my parents took me to football games. I loved going because it was so exciting, and I really loved the game and always wanted to play it.”

Q: What has been the best moment of your career?

Clapp: “It would have to be last year. We were playing against North Shore. I made an interception. I was so pumped! It was such a good play.”

Q: What position do you play and what number are you?

Clapp: “Corner back. Number 23.”

Q: Have you ever been injured on the field?

Clapp: “Yes, I have had five concussions from being tackled or head to head collisions with other players.”

Q: Why do you play your position? Do you wish you could play another position?

Clapp: “Mainly because I have good speed to make sure that the receiver doesn’t get the ball. Yes, sometimes I do wish I could play another position because sometimes I feel disconnected from the team and I want some more action, but I am not very good at catching, so that is why I play my position.”

Q: Is there anything you like to do before a game?

Clapp: “Sometimes I listen to music like Linkin Park or Rise Against. I’ll think about plays before I’m about to do them and before a game the whole team gets into a huddle and chants.”



Lacrosse • An Unappreciated Phenomenon

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter

Lacrosse, which began in indian tribes over eight hundred years ago, is rarely recognized here at Kingwood High School. With a tournament and a few games under their belts, Fall Ball lacrosse is underway.

“Our sport is growing,” Coach Patton said. “When I played in high school there were only fourteen teams in the Houston area, now there are over forty.”

Kingwood High School Lacrosse is awaiting an invitation to be sanctioned by UIL.

“Generally we have about forty kids out here playing off-season lacrosse,” Patton said. “When other UIL sports finish their seasons, we get up to ninety football, track, and cross country boys joining us.”

Lacrosse is ranked right up with football in aggressiveness. Players

are allowed to body check and whack each other with their sticks. A strict knee to shoulder penalty is enforced, stating that players who hit an opponent out of the designated area will be penalized.

“We have a few minor injuries,” Patton said. “Just last week we had a boy break his arm out here.”

Lacrosse is unique in that it is one of the only team sports where when you score, you do not have to return the ball to the opposing team like in soccer or football.

Lacrosse is comparable to hockey in its setup,” Patton said. “We can play behind the goal, and we employ the ‘penalty box’, where we play with a man down. We also have a face-off, just like hockey.”

During off-season, the boys practice on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and generally have a game every Saturday. When the spring season starts,

they practice Monday through Friday.

“You can really see the improvement when we practice during the fall,” Patton said. “We just started it last year and now you can tell the boys are faster and stronger in the spring because of it.”

Kingwood Lacrosse divides up into three teams in the spring. There are no cuts to allow for new players to come in and try the sport out.

“We have a Varsity A and B team and a JV team,” Patton said. “We don’t have a freshman team because no one else does. It doesn’t work

out. We can’t play anybody.”

Lacrosse is a team sport that seems to be underappreciated here. With more participation, the sport may be sanctioned by UIL.



KUFA

“Come play with us... But only if you’re old enough”

Brittany Milam
Reporter

Every new school year brings new ideas. This year Kaitlin Moran, Adam Phillips and Laura Caldwell came up with a brand new idea that mixes soccer, fun, new friends, and hanging out all at the same time.

The name of this new club is KUFA, which stands for Kingwood Upperclassmen Futbol Association. KUFA was made for junior and senior students who may not necessarily have the time to be involved with the KHS soccer team because of hectic schedules, homework or work in general, but who still love to play the

game.

“It’s recreational and it gives people who like soccer a chance to play,” Moran said.

The creators’ main goal was to create a club that is easy going and laid back while still being extremely fun.

“We always have a lot of fun during practice,” Moran said, “It’s just a really relaxed environment. You do not even have to be a good player to be involved, it’s just about having fun while doing something that we all like doing.”

KUFA meets once a week for practice and their games are usually on

Fridays or Sundays. Practices usually consist of picking teams and just playing.

“I’m really glad we got it started. It’s so exciting and a lot of fun. Its been real,” Moran said.

KUFA made t-shirts and sold around 50 t-shirts for 15 dollars each. Its always an inspiration to see students making something themselves and involving other students.

Although it is not the biggest club in the school, it was made by students and is student run, which may make it one of the most exciting clubs in which to participate.



One of the KUFA teams celebrate their victory after a recent game.
Photos courtesy of Kaitlin Moran