

# Le Temps Retrouvé

depuis 1973

Volume 30, Number 5

Special Day, 2009



*Forked*

cover by EVA HEAPS

# Le Temps Retrouvé

is the journal of the *Waring School*.  
It is published *monthly* during the school year.

It contains the *writings* and *drawings* of  
*Waring students, teachers,*  
*alumni, parents, and friends.*

It is the hope of the *editors* of this journal  
that students (and others) keep *journals* and  
*sketchbooks*, that they *write* and *draw* on a  
regular basis, and that when they have

THINGS TO SAY,  
STORIES TO TELL,  
POEMS TO RECITE,  
DRAWINGS TO SHOW,

they submit these to the editors for  
*publication.*

—P. & J. WARING



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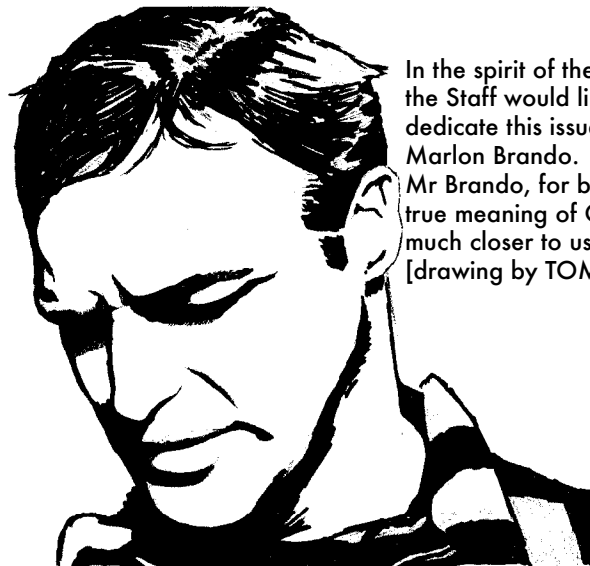
## A READERS GUIDE TO SPECIAL DAY

by EMILY GLAENZER

As all Waring students can attest, our school is filled with unique events and traditions that can seem quite strange. From endterm to camping trip, there are many things that we take for granted that give our school that truly special, ‘Waring’ feel. A good example of this is Special Day; a day where we come to school in our pajamas and Peter reads us “How the Grinch Stole Christmas.” We make hot chocolate and gossip by the fire, play games in the gym, or even make a movie. Whatever strikes you as fun will most likely be in the Special Day list of events. And on top of this, we all get gifts!

One particular time honored tradition for this “Christmas at Waring” is the Special Day gifts. Each sophomore and senior is assigned a group to make a personalized homemade present for them. This started back when the school was really small, and everyone was assigned to both make and receive a present—sort of like a “Secret Santa.” When the school reached the size of about 65 students, it took *all day* to give and receive gifts. After taking a few years off from gift-making, it was restarted with the current system, limited to just two grades. However, like all Waring events it still takes a couple hours. During the years when gift-making was suspended, the other traditions of special day—senior activities, the Grinch, pajamas—had a chance to develop.

But as we all know, Waring doesn’t like to leave people out, so every student and teacher also receives a “gift” in this holiday issue of *Le Temps Retrouvé*. These gifts are hypothetical presents for everyone in the school. They are meant to recognize each member of the community around the holiday season, and have been around as far back as the early 1990’s. Often the gifts can include puns on the persons name or their significant others. Some particularly memorable gifts have included Mrs. Cahill’s dreadlocks or pom-poms, one couple got Atomic and Ionic bonds and there have many more. To see the most recent gifts, go to page 10. And Happy Special Day!



In the spirit of the holidays, the Staff would like to dedicate this issue to the late Marlon Brando. Thank you Mr Brando, for bringing the true meaning of Christmas so much closer to us all.  
[drawing by TOM PERKINS]

# news briefs

## WINTER CONCERT IMPRESSES, THRILLS, AND PROVOKES

by NATE DIMAURO

Walker Staples is a senior who has played huge roles in winter concerts past—taking the stage with such acts as the jazz ensemble, madrigals, boys' chorus, and All-school chorus. When asked about his expectations for the concert Walker said, "You know, it could really go either way. I sort of get more and more cynical every year. Not that I don't love it, but I see more and more faults with it." He then quickly added, "If everyone puts their hearts into the performance, things will definitely go well."

It turns out, hearts were put into performances. And well things went.

The evening's performance began, as always, with the String Ensemble. Like every year, Steve Smith conducted the ensemble, baton in hand, dressed to the nines. Steve looked spectacular. He wore an eye-grabbing red blazer with a white shirt, and black bowtie. He never ceases to impress.

The string set started off with the 'Winter' Concerto from Vivaldi's The Four Seasons. This piece was a great start of the show. It was a familiar song that quickly caught everyone's undivided attention. The two songs performed by the String Ensemble showcased Waring's superb individual musical talent. Christine Binzel, Kristina Lewis, Colleen O'Brien, and Lily Fitzgerald traded violin solos throughout the performance making the String Ensemble a true highlight. Peter Howes said, "breath-taking, kristina lewis rocked the party".

Core Chorus and Core Madrigals were also just as cute as always. Kristina Lewis's Core performers perked up the audience's attention. There were many Kodak moments being captured. As the brave Core students took the big stage for the first or only third time in their Waring careers, many a camera flash alighted their visages. 'I'm a Believer' was a hit, as songs from the

60s are always among the hip-swingin' Waring parents. Henry Mitchell also showcased his astoundingly pure bass voice. As soon as he opened his mouth, the whole student section of the audience turned to each other and uttered, "woooooah."

Girls Ensemble last night was one of the best I've seen. Their repertoire included a perfect blend of touching, funny, and blood-boilin' anthems. 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' took the cake. Choreographed by Martha Snow and Amanda Lewis, 'Ain't No Mountain High Enough' was a show-stopper. As another selection that everyone knows and loves, it tied together the girls' whole performance. Capturing and grasping my attention, I found myself singing along.

*continued on page 19*

## OXFAM HUNGER BANQUET REVIVED

by CAROLINE GLAENZER

On Friday, December 11th, Waring played host to Oxfam's Hunger Banquet. It has been a long time since the last hunger banquet, but our school has decided to bring back this tradition due to the interest of the Current Event elective and others. For fifty minutes students became part of a simulation for the world's most basic economic divides: those regarding food. Group One, led by Josh Webb and Joshua Scott-Fishburn, were responsible for entertaining the invitees and for preparing all the food necessary.

Guests to the Banquet drew a random ticket, which assigned them to either a low, middle, or high-income tier. Whichever class they were placed in designated what kind of meal they would enjoy.

The 15% of guests who were lucky enough to be in the Upper Class were given salad, lasagna, sparkling cider, and cookies. They enjoyed their sumptuous meal with silverware, tables, and attention from Group 1's waiters and waitresses. Another 35% sat in chairs, and enjoyed beans and rice. The UN considers this as a nutritionally complete meal due to the fact that it contains carbohydrates, plenty of protein, and a good sample of the vitamins and minerals, which are needed for a healthy body.

The largest group, which handled 50% of guests, was Low Income. These students and teachers sat on the floor, right in be-

tween Upper and Middle classes – making it all the easier to see how much less they were getting. They received a handful of rice, placed in a paper napkin, and a cup of water.

The statistics, based on the World Bank Development Indicators 2007, show that few will walk away from the Banquet with a full stomach, but, according to an Oxfam America statement, all will "possess a greater understanding of the problems of hunger and poverty, and will hopefully be motivated to do something about them."

All evidence indicates that it worked. In the meeting that followed, which was organized by Oxfam worker and Waring Alumnus Sammy Stewart, many shared thoughts, which were written down on notecards. These included realizations that being in the Upper Class sector was not terribly foreign, while others expressed excitement for banquets in the future.

Group Three-er Will MacEwan, who was placed in the Middle Class, said after the meeting, "It made me realize that people had to eat like that everyday and how fortunate we are."

Another great success of the Banquet, of course, was the money raised for those in need. With so many making the suggested donation of \$5, we raised over \$600, which will be donated to Oxfam.

## LE TEMPS RETROUVE STARTS OWN WEBSITE

WEBMASTER GREINER TO PRESENT CURRENT, PREVIOUS ISSUES & WEB-ONLY CONTENT

by AARON GREINER staff

After years of existing as everyone's favorite newsletter and school journal, LTR is finally taking its own place on the web. This monthly publication will be available at "[http://www.arolax.org/Le\\_Temps\\_Retrouve\\_online/Home.html](http://www.arolax.org/Le_Temps_Retrouve_online/Home.html)."

"So what will be on the website—besides the current issue, of course," questioned Group Oner Alex Mitchell. Well, Alex do we have a treat for you: there will be quizzes for you to take, LTR archives, and weekly pop charts and sports updates. There may even be articles that are not in the newspaper. More will be added as the website matures, and more content is available.

To help with the growing of this new online resource, please send in your writing pieces, poems, art, or anything really to [arolax.org@gmail.com](mailto:arolax.org@gmail.com), and we will put some of them up on the site as a special online exclusive. The idea behind the website is to let people read LTR even when they don't have a copy of the paper handy. With luck also we can cut down on the issues printed, and save paper. "I don't envision a future without a paper LE TEMPS," says adviser Tony Boisvert. "But I would like to see fewer wasted LTRs lying around on the floor and in the recycling bins. Going online allows us to cut back on production and waste but still be sure that the paper is available to everyone." The website is public now, so go to [arolax.org](http://arolax.org), and check it out!

# Video Games: a New Form of Storytelling

by PAUL HEMBERGER

Video games often get a bad rap from parents and Those Who Know Better. Games are often characterized from being wastes of time, to being mind-numbing brain-rotting sinkholes that tear and corrupt the very moral fiber of our society (à la Grand Theft Auto). This assertion is partially justified, as there is a plethora of truly terrible games out there, but it neglects that there are some games that push the boundaries of their medium and explore all of its opportunities. Video games offer an immersive experience unlike any before.

Recently for my dad's birthday, my family decided to buy him a PlayStation 3 to play Blu-Ray movies. The fact that the PS3 also serves as a video game console didn't factor into the purchase. A few weeks later, my brother and I stumbled upon the game Metal Gear Solid 4 for an irresistibly low price, and of course we bought it. This was the first game we had played together in years, and we were absolutely blown away. The graphics were surreal and straight-up ridiculous, the soundtrack was tense, the gameplay was tight, the story was both compelling and complex (perhaps too complex), and the storytelling! Oh my the storytelling! There were a few times when I asked brother if he would like to go watch some more Metal Gear Solid, because I had trouble discerning whether I was playing

a game or watching a movie. The game was filled with well-done cutscenes that were just as essential as the moments when you were playing. For the average gamer, a normal run-through of MGS4 takes about 15 hours, and about 7 of those hours are cutscenes. Yet none of them felt out of place, and each one advanced the plot and developed the characters. When given back control, I felt like I really was just helping the main character along his journey, and that without me, he would have done just fine.

Metal Gear Solid 4 isn't the only game able to captivate its audience with its story. I remember when Chris and I played through Final Fantasy X back in the day, and my brother teared up at its end. With a story that was compelling enough to get us to play through its 50 hours, it was hard not to be attached to the characters and the bittersweet ending. Games now are coming out all the time that present stories that could be rendered in a movie: BioShock, Uncharted, Final Fantasy (we'll just pretend the Final Fantasy movie of 2001 never happened, it was awful).

For the longest time, the technical limitation of graphics and sounds made them inseparable from being mere games. It would be hard to confuse the blocky images of older games and their blippy 8-bit tunes with Hollywood-level production. As the

technical prowess of games improved, the still-experimental nature of voice acting and actually telling a story was still developing and immature--most games still revolved around solid gameplay and gameplay alone to be good, and in most cases, to make up for their terrible, one-dimensional plots. But now, we have consoles that can churn out HD video, voice actors that don't sound like poor starving thespian-wannabes, and producers who genuinely want to share their story. Games have become increasingly massive productions. The recent blockbuster, Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 2 from Activision had its soundtrack composed by movie-soundtrack-extraordinaire Hans Zimmer, and it grossed over \$550 million worldwide in its first five days. Five hundred and fifty million dollars. In five days. That's more than any movie has ever grossed in its opening weekend worldwide. With such a massive market and capable technology, it is no wonder that developers are seizing this medium as a new way of telling their tales.

Video games, despite their early shortcomings and diluted market have evolved into a new way to tell stories. They give their audience moments to sit back and watch, moments to interact and make critical choices. The experience of a great game is immersive, compelling and emotional. And that is all we could ever ask from a story.

## Bootstraps Shopping Night!

by MAGGIE CHANDLER

Come to the Bootstraps shopping night on Friday, December 18th, "for an evening of delicious foods, wine and desserts at Sub-Marininos plus a wonderful night of shopping right next store." Waring volunteers Lauren McInnes, Skye McIvor, Maggie Chan-

andler and Molly Colehower are constantly impressed with the friendly energy from the fellow volunteers and customers at the Bootstraps Store. The store receives clothing donations from community members, often receiving high-quality pieces. Each week Waring volunteers swoon over plaid skirts, bejeweled cardigans, silk blouses, fur hats, and printed scarves found at the Bootstraps Store. Hip 80's posters and framed pictures of Jesus fill the Bric-a-Brac section of the store. Lauren McInnes, a Waring fashion-queen, tells LT that Bootstraps is one of her favorite stores. Come to the Shopping Night, and find your own something to swoon over!

Admission is \$5.00 to benefit the Bootstraps Food Pantry, buy your tickets at Sub-Marininos Café on Rantoul Street.

## WELLSPRING HOUSE

by DEVIN SULLIVAN

Wellspring House is an organization open year round in Gloucester, Massachusetts. They help improve family dynamics by doing tasks ranging from helping feed families to helping pay for housing for families. They have a community garden, mentoring classes and more. During the holiday season, Wellspring helps the dignity of parents who are trying to provide for their children but may not have the money to buy them nice, new presents. People living in the North Shore help their community by donating gifts they bought to Wellspring so parents with a low income can hold onto their pride. Donated gifts aren't hand-me-downs, they're store bought and brand new. Their prices range from \$.25 to one dollar per gift. Many tutorials at Waring have participated by going shopping to buy presents. On December 11th,

*WELLSPRING continued from prev.*



# Those Who Aren't So Lucky

by IZZI HUGHES

## THE MAN...

A baseball cap is pulled low over his dark, sad eyes and numerous tattoos line his arms, from dragons to Chinese symbols to portraits and hearts. He sticks out a rough hand to shake mine, saying "Hi, I'm Mike." I smile and we sit at a small table in the community room of The Salem Mission, formerly the Crombie Street Shelter and Soup Kitchen. I've come here to talk to the residents of the shelter and hear their stories; I want to know what life is like for people who don't have the family I have to celebrate with around the holidays. I want to know how they cope, being surrounded by people who are probably in similar situations to them, yet are still strangers. What is it like for them around the holidays?

Mike and I begin talking hesitantly and he tells me his full name is Michael Arroyo and he's lived here for three months. He used to work here at the Mission and he loved the residents, but then a series of bad incidents hit, driving him back to drinking. Mike is a recovering alcoholic; he started drinking at thirteen with his friends—everyone around him was doing it and "before you knew it, [he] was dependent." There was no one there to stop his drinking—everyone around him became enablers. It just hit him a little differently from the rest. He made it through high school and three years of college with an alcohol problem, became

an intern working at the Salem Mission, and was three credits away from graduating college. And then the bottle won out. He was kicked out of school and moved in with relatives, going from place to place, between houses and houses. It was hard for him to find real work, for he had a criminal record: "Stupid stuff," he says.

In 1979, he was arrested in a stolen car with friends, drunk at two in the afternoon. He spent eight months in jail. After that, he was picked up for smaller things like drinking in public and "disturbing the peace." He continued on this road for years until he met a woman, whom he started dating. After a year he moved into her apartment and lived there for five years until one day, three months ago, he couldn't do it anymore. His relationship with this woman had slowly deteriorated to the point where he was drunk at all hours of the day and was never seen sober. His girlfriend brought him farther and farther down into the black hole that his life had become, and he began to be verbally abusive. They would fight at all hours of the night, and he couldn't take it anymore. He had to get out of there.

Three months later here he sits, describing the Thanksgiving he celebrated just a few weeks ago at the shelter with his fellow residents. "Oh, it was awesome," he says, as a smile spreads across his cheeks. In just over a week, he will still be at the shelter, celebrating Christmas with everyone he spent Thanksgiving with; the shelter has become a home to him. With the help of everyone, he is saving money and trying starting out fresh to create a new life, this one completely free of alcohol. His optimistic spirit rings through the holiday season, shooting down any wishes to turn back to a time when life was easier with a bottle in his hand. "I just think of [Christmas] as another day," he says, thankful for what he has, rather than what other people have.

...AND THE WOMAN

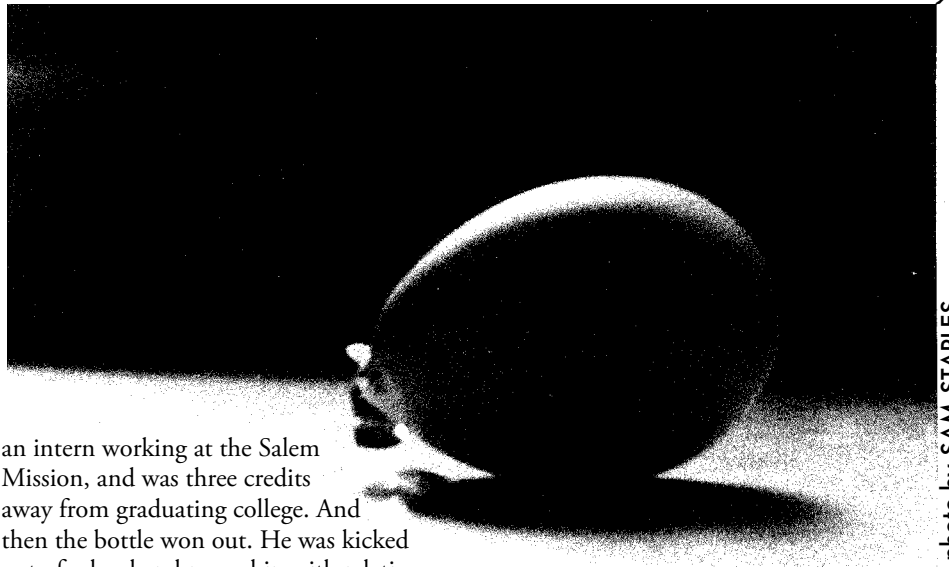


photo by SAM STAPLES

A 60-year-old woman sits at the table directly behind Mike and me, a front tooth missing. She is my next interviewee; I've heard Mike's story and now I want to hear hers.

Her name is Diana DeNapoli, a one-month resident of the shelter. A series of unfortunate events brought her to the Mission, but not without protest from her children.

Years ago, Diana was a teacher's aide in the Lawrence school system. She had never gone to college and so had no degree, but worked with Special Ed kids and was able to get by. "[The teachers] always seemed to give me the problem kids," Diana says with a sigh, contempt ringing in her voice. Launching into a story, she tells me how she was assaulted three times in four days by a young, autistic third grader whom she mentored. They were working on the ground floor of the school by an elevator, where their classroom was set up. One day, the little boy got frustrated and began hitting her—punching and slapping. She got him under control, and there were no more incidents the rest of the day.

The next day when she came in, the little boy was already in a bad mood. Things progressively got worse as the day wore on, and towards the end of class he got up, walked straight over to her, and kicked her flat in the chest, knocking the wind out of her. The next day she didn't go to work; a bruise in the shape of a boot was heavily imprinted on her chest and black and blue marks as bright as paint dominated her front.

After a day she came back to work, determined not to have any more incidents with this boy. And he was fine, until the end of the day came around, when he got angry and ran out of the room. Thinking that he would come right back, she didn't follow, until she heard the elevator doors open. She raced out of the room just as the doors

the Community Service winter sport will go to Gloucester to help set up the gifts. They're displayed in a large room on tables, unwrapped and categorized so parents can come in and get something off the boy's table for their son and a CD off the electronic table, etc. This is a great fund helping parents maintain their dignity by not being a charity where a gift is simply given to them, instead they can go out and buy presents for their children.



page.

closed, and turned to the nearest stairwell. Up she went, somehow managing to reach the third floor before the elevator did. As soon as it opened, however, the boy jumped out and ran down the stairs until he got to their room, where he locked himself in. Relieved, she waited until the door opened, then turned to walk through when her head was crushed in the door—this little third grader had closed her head in the door! That was it for her—she quit her job and was told by teachers and the superintendent that they were sorry for what had happened, but they could do nothing. That was the start of her bad luck.

Her husband of six years divorced her, leaving her on her own. She made it a few years with the money she had made from the school, but needed a job desperately. Luckily for her, a position at McDonalds had just opened, and she grabbed the chance. She worked there for many years, visiting her daughter and sons every now and then, but lived a small life. Then she was laid off, and soon she was completely out of money and living with her 27-year-old daughter. They moved to New Hampshire, where Diana moved in with one of

her daughter's friends: life with her daughter just wasn't working out. The friend then moved away, and Diana was left with the possibility of either moving back in with her daughter or her living with her 26-year-old son. He was married and had a child, though, so she didn't want to intrude on him. She and her ex-husband had remained good friends, but he was dying of AIDS—there was no option there.

So, down on her luck, she turned to the Salem Mission for a place to stay, to make a better life for herself. Her kids live nearby, but she is doing this on her own. "They don't think I can, but they're gonna be surprised," she says smiling, knowing she will succeed. Although she's only been here a month, already she has saved up a bit of money, and she's hoping to collect disability, which will also help her get back on her feet. She's happy, though—grateful for the support of her family through these tough times. Although she lives here, she has reason to be thankful, something that many people forget around the holiday season but that should always be in the back of our minds.

## A TALE OF TWO SISTERS

by MALCOM BOOMER

If you are a compassionate soul who wants to help someone out in the holidays, please read this. If you are not a compassionate person who doesn't want to help, become one and read this article. A woman from Salem, Keri Ellis Cahill, is a personal friend of many at Waring. She is the leader of Rebel Shakespeare and a lover of all things Shakespeare. She adopted her teenage daughter Nastia, four years ago, from an orphanage in Siberian Russia. Shortly before Nastia would leave for America she received a letter from a sister she never knew she had. Keri has been working tirelessly to bring that sister, Anya, here to America to be reunited with her only family. Eighteen years old, jobless, and homeless, Anya is alone in Russia, too old for the orphanage. She was recently refused an American visa for schooling in Boston, on the grounds that since she didn't have any reason to return to Russia she would presumably try to stay in America. Research proves they have let hundreds of Russian orphans into America. Nastia and Anya are heartbroken and Keri is furious. She says that this is just a whim of the Consul. She is pleading for all of us to help get Anya to America. A few days ago Anya returned to Siberia. She doesn't have a cell phone and once she leaves the Moscow area they cannot contact her. This may look like a step back but Keri and her daughters are begging us not to forget Anya. Anya personally sent a

letter to the group on Facebook telling us not to lose hope and that she will not either. Most people including me, would ask what could I possibly do?

Things YOU can do to help:

Contact your local media or newspaper and ask if they will use this story as their cover story. Send donations to Keri Cahill. This process had been expensive and exhausting. Keri's Email: [kericahill@aol.com](mailto:kericahill@aol.com) or Address: "Bring Anya Home" Fund c/o the National Grand Bank in Marblehead.

Write senator Kerry and Congressman Tierney urging them to continue to fight for the sisters and thanking them for their work already. If you have an account join the Facebook group, then stay informed. It's gotten a lot of publicity. Don't ignore the numerous notifications saying that 16 of your friends have joined this group.

Email/call shows that will spread the word: Ellen, Oprah, The Today Show, etc.

Please don't give up on these two sisters and join up if you are just learning for the first time. Anya needs this Visa to survive. Nastia is devastated not to see her sister for the holidays and to know that she has a home and her sister doesn't. Do whatever you can.

For more information go to <http://bringanyahome.org> and find out what more you can do to help.

## "I AM STRONG IF YOU ARE STRONG"

by DEVIN SULLIVAN

The Elias fund is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to "EMPOWER local Zimbabwean communities through strategic partnership and resource allocation. And provide HOPE and OPPORTUNITY to Zimbabwe through the development of a vibrant social sector."

A song written by Chad Urmston of the indie band "Dispatch" inspires the name of this organization. Urmston wrote "Elias" about his experience teaching and living in Chiredzi, Zimbabwe. The Elias Fund is striving not only towards providing hope and opportunity to Zimbabwean youth but also to convince the youth of America to embrace their global roles.

Even with all the publicity around the name Elias, the man himself, is simply a Zimbabwean gardener. Elias Sithole labors under the hot African sun for hours each day. Although his income barely is enough for survival, what he does is his passion. "Elias is the rightful man to inspire a movement because his joy transcends the entrapments of poverty, oppression and prejudice. And in all of this, Elias remains a simple man from Zimbabwe." says Scott Byington, confounder of Elias Fund (along with his brother Eric Byington)

The supporters of the Elias Fund believe that life is more than each own personal pursuit. If you care for something, it will care for you right back. The motto for this organization comes from an expression used in Zimbabwe, "I am strong if YOU are strong." This is the principle The Elias Fund was established on. Even in this impoverished community that has next to nothing you will still find people dedicated to the caring of other's needs as well as tending to their community. "We are not just a humanitarian organization supporting local Zimbabwean communities; we are advocates for a lifestyle characterized by the idea that I am strong if you are strong," says Urmston. Members of this fund aren't encouraged to support this organization and this organization alone. All people, especially youth, whether a member or not should make an effort to be a part of your community whether that entails volunteering in a soup kitchen or help a little sibling with their homework.

If you would like more information on The Elias Fund, visit their website at <http://www.eliasfund.org/the-elias-fund-exists-to>

# The LTR Interview:

# HANNAH NEWMAN

LE TEMPS RETROUVÉ: *Waring school is once again lucky to have you, Hannah. We have seen you walking the halls, and heard you at meeting, but many students have not had you as a teacher. Could you explain what you are doing at Waring now that you're back, and why you are back at all?*

HANNAH NEWMAN: I teach a 2/3 writing class, and on Mondays, I teach Group 1 Science: we're doing a mini-astronomy course within the larger Earth Science course. When *The Crucible* was going on, I was assistant directing, and I substitute for one of Allegra's Core French classes on a vaguely regular basis. I'm part of the Jugband elective and part of Dorothy's tutorial, and when I'm not doing any of that, I work in the Development Office.

Why am I back at Waring? Because I love it here. Simplistic answer, but maybe the best one I can give you. One of the main reasons I decided to take time off from college was that learning stopped feeling magical, the way it had in high school. It stopped being a constant discovery and just started to feel like work. I didn't want that. And I decided I had to put myself back in an environment that would get me excited about learning again. Plus, I felt like Waring needed a Newman.

LTR: *We certainly did. As for your many roles now that you've returned, many of your colleagues are your former teachers. Has this affected your work? How does it feel to be a teacher and not a student? For instance, you are a special guest in Dorothy's tutorial. Do you feel more like the senior of the group or like a teacher?*

HN: It's less weird than I feel like it should be. I think there's already less of a distance between faculty and students at Waring than at other schools, both because we're on a first-name basis with everyone and because there's such an emphasis here on life-long learning and mutual discovery. I have felt absolutely welcomed by the faculty, and I'm very grateful to them for that.

In Dorothy's tutorial specifically, though, I'm definitely not a teacher. But you know, her tutorial feels more like a family than anything else. Dorothy's such a mom that I think when I'm forty I'm still going to feel like her child.

LTR: *I know that feeling! Have you found it difficult being fully engaged in Waring life when you are just present for one semester? And*

*when this semester closes, what are your plans for the rest of the year?*

HN: No, I'm fully engaged. I don't know another way to be at Waring! It's the kind of place you have to throw yourself into or it's just not worth it. I'm sad about not being here second semester, though. I'll miss it, and I really wanted to sing the Requiem...but I'm glad I was here for these few months.

For the rest of the year, my plans are probably a lot less defined than they should be. The basic idea is that I'm going to get in my car and start driving, and see as much of the USA as I can. I didn't grow up in this country, and I've seen a pathetic amount of it. I want to really find out what America is like outside of New England. We live in a giant, giant country and I want to finish this year feeling like I understand it in some real way. I want to hit every state—I'm especially excited about the southwest, the New Mexico area. That and Alaska. I think I want to go live up there. Not this year, because I have to go back to college in the fall...but someday.

LTR: *Sounds like an ambitious but exciting plan. Speaking of traveling Newman's, have you spoken to your parents recently? How are they?*

HN: They're doing well! It was obviously a huge transition for both of them, I think more in terms of the kind of school they're teaching at than the country. Country transitions they can handle at this point. The school itself is very bureaucratic and there's lots of official stuff to be done that Waring doesn't deal with on the whole, so that was something to get used to. But they're definitely getting adjusted. And they'll be back for Christmas really soon, so I'm excited.

LTR: *Do you plan on taking time off touring the US to go visit them in Moscow? Have you been yet?*

HN: I haven't been. I'd love to, but I think I'm going to wait until the summer to do it. Wintertime in Moscow doesn't sound like something I want to do. We're thinking maybe August.

LTR: *Good idea. Now that you're back at Waring, what are you doing with yourself outside of school? Do you see other Waring alums or college friends on the weekends? Do you have another job?*

HN: I work at Waring full-time, so I don't have another job. I used to work at

A & J King—it's a bakery in Salem, and I highly, highly suggest checking it out—on the weekends, and I thought about keeping that job through the school year, but I'm incredibly glad I didn't. It would have been insane. I do see college friends sometimes—I drove to Yale in a blizzard last weekend, which probably wasn't a great idea, but I'm not dead, so I guess it worked out. My best friend from Israel, actually (that's where I was last year) lives in Burlington, MA, so I see her a lot. And I'm finishing up on recording an album to sell by the side of the road and pay for gas and food on my trip. That takes up a lot of time!


LTR: *Wow, you must be incredibly busy. I also heard that you were working in an ambulance the other day. It sounds like you are exploring a lot of different spheres, both in and outside of Waring. Are you doing this just out of curiosity? And aren't you feeling overwhelmed?*

HN: I want to do so many things! It can be a problem, but it's really so much fun if you go with it. I always feel like there's more useful time in a day than we give it credit for. You have time to do more than you think you do, I promise. So yeah, I was in an ambulance the other day—it was just a ride-along this time; I was observing. I have a friend who works for Boston EMS and I got to sit in on one of his shifts in Mattapan. And it was kind of crazy. Not a fantastic neighborhood. I worked on ambulances for about two months in Israel, and I think I saw more blood last Friday than I did in Jerusalem altogether. But it was a really great experience, and I want to go to med school, so the more I see now, the better.

LTR: *You are a woman with a plan. Thank you, Hannah.*

HN: Man, it feels strange to be called a woman. Thanks so much for your time, Maggie. I enjoyed it. I'll miss you, Waring!

# Having a **GREENER** Christmas

*Tips and how-tos on making the Holidays gentler on the earth (and easier on the wallet), from DIANA BECKWITH  COCO YOUNG.*

*tips by DIANA BECKWITH*

This holiday a lot of people are endeavoring to cut down on the holiday expenses and have a greener holiday. Whether it be for saving cash on energy cost or for recycling your tree. With the economy the way it is, families are altering their holiday traditions to cut down on costs. Here are some tips:

## TREE TIPS

\*Although a fake Christmas tree might sound like it is good for the environment in actuality, fake Christmas trees are made from petroleum-based materials and are not biodegradable. Buying a real Christmas tree is a lot better for the environment as long as you recycle it. To recycle your tree after the holiday, bring it to a local tree company and they will shred it into wood chips. Another alternative is a potted tree, which can be brought inside and then planted in the garden to use for next year.

\*Buying LED strings of lights, which use less energy than normal lights. Don't leave the lights on for too long. Turn them off when you are away; a good idea is to set them on a timer for two hours after dusk.

\*To set the holiday mood, soy, beeswax, and vegetable-oil candles are an environmentally healthy way to share the light. They are clean burning and they smell great.



## MAKING RECYCLED CHRISTMAS ORNAMENTS

*how-to by COCO YOUNG*

Everybody wants to go green these days. The steps we're taking are usually sacrifices; biking to school, going the extra few feet to the recycling bin, and taking shorter showers. But what if you could do something green, and fun? These recycled ornaments might not end global warming, but they are. All you need to do is raid your recycling bins, and take out some arts-and-crafts supplies and decorative items (pompoms are a must.)

Here are a few easy ornaments you can make using recycled materials.



Lightbulb ornaments! From chubby penguins to Santa's hat-covered head, these ornaments are sure to light up your Christmas tree. First step is to cover the lightbulb with paper mâché

## DECORATING TIPS:

\*Holiday decorating can be expensive. To cut down on costs, build some crafts out of paper that can be recycled. Make paper snowflakes and paste them in your windows, make a garland of old Christmas cards, and wrap gifts in old wrapping paper, old cards, and fabric. Use old clothes and make custom stockings. Also taking traditional paper bags and stamping them with holiday colors or drawing on them, can be used for specialty wrapping paper.

\*Cheap crafts with hot glue and Popsicle sticks are a way a making your home cheery. Also use lots of glitter for snowflakes. Lots of crafts with red, green, gold, and other festive colors can create a lovely holiday landscape. Coffee filters cut into snowflakes are quick to make and look great.

\*Another way to spread the holiday spirit for cheep is to do small things that make it feel like the holidays. Put on some holiday music, decorate around the house, and cook some holiday treats.



## TRAVELING TIPS

\*For people who are traveling by car, if you have a large family, use your biggest car to travel. This saves gas and is spending time with your family. If there is one house that the whole family travels to, pick up some of your family members who live close by or (safety!) Then, it's really up to you. Paint it in whichever way you'd want. My favorite is the penguin.

Paint your lightbulb black, and then a white stomach on the bigger end.

Then attach felt legs and a beak, or paint them on in orange.

Then paint or add on googly eyes.

The easiest way to cover up the ugly neck of the lightbulb is to give your penguin a little hat. Attach some wire, hang it on your tree, and it'll brighten up your day.

Clothespins might not be used for their actual purpose much anymore, but the best little people are made from them! You can always put some fabric over them, draw a face on the little knobby top, and you



have a full-blown, tiny, armless person. If you really want to go all-out, thread or yarn makes some really good hair. Attach some wings and

en route. This also saves gas because you're only using one car, not two. If your family is pretty small and you aren't going to pick up anyone on the way, use the most fuel-efficient car.



## GIFT GIVING TIPS

\*Giving gifts can be cheap and easy, as well as green. If your person likes cooking, buy some foods such as pasta, canned jelly, or any nicely wrapped food. Also buy a cookbook or some utensils they can use. Put these presents in a basket and wrap nicely. If your person needs to relax, buy them some bath salts or some bubble bath. Buy a loofah and some pretty jar candles. Depending on what your person likes, make a basket that would suit their likes, and then wrap it with a pretty bow.

\*A good idea for kids who you don't know what they like or what they want, make a box o' stuff or bag o' stuff. This is a bag or box or some container you can use to fill with goodies, such as candy, small trinkets, and small little gifts. Wrap each one individually so the kids will spend a long time unwrapping. This will keep them busy.

\*Cooking for friends or family, such as pies, cakes, or cookies are also easy gifts to give. Wrapping is the key; also give the recipe so they can make them too.

you have an angel. If you have the time, you can make a bunch of them, and then you'll have a whole host of angels on your Christmas tree, descending upon your home.

Say you have an old blank CD that's scratched, doesn't work, or you just would rather listen to your ipod. You don't need to keep a drawer of useless music format. The bottom sides of CDs are shiny, and serve as a great background panel to anything you'd like to put there. Glue on a felt reindeer, or some paper saying "Merry Christmas!" Shiny things are always good, especially if there are small children coming to your Christmas celebrations, and it'll probably clear out some storage space in your room.



NOTE: Christmas ornaments may also be put on menorahs for festive and fashionable decorations. Just not if they're Santa.

# My Secular Christmastime

by RILEY HUNT

Most families around this time of year come together and celebrate the holidays in their own individual traditions. A large percentage of these families follow a Christian tradition, but there are many other celebrations, including Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa. A much smaller percentage do not celebrate anything at all, including the Hunt/Marro Clan. Technically we *do* celebrate Christmas in the commercial, traditional and social sense, just not the birth of Jesus or all that other stuff. Instead we celebrate the solstice, which is the celebration of the return of the sun, (although we do not usually do this on the date itself). It sounds sort like what some sort of druidic cult ritual, except instead of sacrificing a goat, we gather in the cupola of our house before the sun rises and greet the coming of a new season. It's a small celebration; only the resident family attends, and frankly, no one else could fit in the small eight by eight circular room. Once the sun rises we put out the candle symbolizing the darkness of winter and we sing yuletide songs. We each get presents for each other in customary Western tradition. It's basically a mini-Christmas but with everything cut out but family, presents and goodwill. We also have an extended family Christmas, just because it's an excuse for presents and family. Our clan may not agree with the spiritual and "supernatural" aspect of Christmas, we prefer the older Christmas celebration. Christmas used to be a holiday simply to demonstrate that we are still alive in the season where most of the world appears dead. I guess we're not radical, we're just old-school.



by HANNAH UNDERWOOD

## SURVIVING CHRISTMAS: OVERCOMING THE TRIALS AND AWKWARD TRIBULATIONS OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON

Endured and Written by ALEX KYLLINGSTAD

Christmas is one of my favorite times of the year. Not only because of the presents but also because of the giddy anticipation and overall joy. From drawing Christmas trees all over your resource notebook to the actual day, Christmas is just plain old amazing.

However, every year, someone finds a way to make things awkward. For example, someone you think you don't know that well presents you with a gift. This person clearly did not put much time or effort into the selection of your assorted soaps or customizable picture frame, but they still got you something. Now the thing is, whenever I am the recipient of this kind of gift, I never have anything for them. One simple solution to Hairy Holiday Situation #1 is to have a re-gift box. Around the Christmas season, try and collect gifts like this, and save them for these types of moments. When you're presented with your impersonal scented candle, you can say, "Oh thank you! Yours is back at the house!" Then you can proudly present them with their own candle or craft set.

Or, you're at the mall, leaving the movies, and suddenly you are cornered by someone in a Santa suit, who is hysterically ringing a bell in your face and asking for money. How do you handle this? If you refuse to give him your dollar, it will appear like you are not in

the Christmas spirit! If this sits well on your conscience, then politely decline and push your way past the Santa Claus impersonator. If not, save a dollar and give it to Santa then promptly run away. Or there is also the solution where you promise a donation later...whether or not you follow through is entirely up to you. However, it would be in good Christmas cheer to help those less privileged.

And the final situation is this: the unsatisfied recipient. Every Christmas, there are a few presents you pick out or make specifically for the person you're giving it to. But everyone has been in the situation where, for example, you proudly hand over a hand-knit scarf to your uncle and he opens it, all excited, and then his face falls when he sees it. So you can either stand there sweating and feeling pretty stupid, or you can resolve this situation! Smile and say, "I know it's not much but I made it all by myself!" This where you insert your best puppy-dog eyes and smile, then say "I really, really, hope you like it!" This will, of course, guilt them into a second thought and maybe they will actually like it!

So don't let the awkward parts of the holidays get in your way. With these tips you can breeze your way through the season, revel in yuletide celebrations, and let the hard parts fall by the wayside.

### ALL WHO TRULY BELIEVE

[Inspired by *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg]

poem by REBECCA PATEY

Listening for a sound,  
Told I'd never hear.  
Late that night I did hear sounds,  
Not the ringing of bells.  
Sounds of hissing steam and squeaking metal:  
A train.

Wrapped in an apron of steam,  
A conductor, at the open door.  
"All Aboard the Polar Express".

The train, filled with children,  
All in their pajamas and nightgowns.  
The Polar Express raced northward.

Through the cold, dark forests,  
Where lean wolves roamed,  
We thundered through the wilderness.  
We climbed mountains,

It seemed we would scrape the moon.  
"There," said the conductor "is the North Pole".

# the ltr annual gift list

*One of these years we will remember, in a timely way, to delve into the LE TEMPS RETROUVÉ vault of past issues and figure out exactly how long we have been doing this, but it is safe to say that it is definitely longer than most Waring Students have been alive.*

NOTA BENE: the LTR staff compiles this list from suggestions gathered from the entire school. We try hard to make sure that gifts we actually print are kind and clever (not to mention making sense to someone, hopefully the recipient at the very least); however we cannot be absolutely certain that something mean or stupid (or both!) has not crept in. Also, although we make every effort to be current, LTR cannot take responsibility for crushes, romances, and other romantic or semi-romantic affiliations that have expired since the list was finalized. Unwanted gifts may be exchanged for a full refund of all monies paid to LE TEMPS RETROUVÉ or associated sweettakes entities.

Allegra Smick: A Waring in California  
 Meg A: a step dancing, rock climbing emo dude to break up with  
 Molly C: A Tyra Hug  
 Peter Howes: Salvador Dali Moustache  
 Lauren Jappe: A Smiley Cyrus  
 Eleanor Lustig: A sacrificial ram  
 Will McEwan: A day as the big spoon  
 Bobby: A story with a happy ending  
 Isaac: A girl to lust over and a hair net  
 Kim: Treatment at the Leahy clinic  
 Max: Noisufid 3.0, Uniball Vision Elite  
 John Ferrick: some legs to break (toe jam)  
 Ron Savage: Djamming with Obama  
 Steve Smith: The next bull I kill will be for you...

Dorothy: A week of Lunches from Paul  
 Casey: STEAK  
 Maggie C: An arts and crafts day with Martha Stewart  
 Maddie C: A box of tissues  
 Caroline: The Caroline Glaenger workout video  
 Lauren M: A petit Bam-Bam  
 Alex M: A brook outside his window  
 Marguerite: Vitamin water bubbler  
 Rebecca Patey: A time and a place  
 Sam Sh: Futbol Mamacita  
 Benjamin: Crossing the Finnish Line  
 Jake V: A chill pill  
 Mark Bacon: A skillet  
 Page: Her own parking spot at the house  
 Hannah Newman: A closer Promised Land  
 Robine: C8H10N4O2

Steve B: Tom Waits Karaoke  
 Izzie Davies: A Gingersnap Cookie  
 Mary Ellis: A Scottish Brother-in-law  
 Grace F: Monsieur Bison  
 Emily G: Caroline's keys  
 Mike J: More weight  
 Sarah K: Early admission to Varsity Soccer  
 Henry Mac: 'N cheese  
 Colleen: A recipe for cannibal stew  
 Tom P: A cup of Coldchowder  
 Miles: Happy Mollidays!  
 Isabelle Skillen: Tuscan Sun  
 Mrs. Cahill: her own motorcycle

Sieglinde: Rock Band Two: BOYFRIEND VERSION  
 Jan Lindsay: A flying pig. More Blood.  
 Matt Taylor: is rich  
 Megan Clasby: A Waring gum-chewing pass  
 Isabelle Cookson: Her own dark room  
 Alex K: Another girl in geometry  
 Chris M: A Dog named Snowy  
 Skye: The 7th President  
 Matt Patey: "The Kits"  
 Brendon: The Joy of Love  
 Izzy Rabin: A restraining order against James  
 Aoife: Spell Check  
 Hannah U: Her wish granted in the woods  
 Ethan Wheeler: Spinners  
 K.B.: Alphabet Soup  
 Pavel: Spot on America's got talent  
 Diane: More Minions

Josh Webb: Spider Babies  
 Emma B: Mighty-Metamorphing Kafka Rangers  
 Grace Berntson: People that can pronounce her last name  
 Elizabeth Cameron: An entourage of skiing kittens  
 Andrew Ganem: Aides  
 Galen: Ants, pants, and Iceland  
 Reeve: Devonshire Cream  
 Katharine Pfeffer: a pfiefdom  
 Maggie Sheetz: Christmas dinner with the JoBros  
 Peter Thomsen: Grizzly babies  
 Zak Vaneck: Hypoallergenic furniture  
 Ellie Wright: You're Adorable

Rich S: an earth bed in the greenhouse  
 Tim A: A quieter ringtone  
 Christine B: A violin bow wow  
 Parker: Going gaga  
 Elias: A "skateboard anywhere" pass  
 Aaron Greiner: a Waring hockey team  
 Izzy Hughes: A Willie good Christmas  
 Tom Kelly: A lower age limit for World Quest  
 Amanda Lewis: A Pyramid tattoo  
 David Lovejoy: Twilight for Gameboy

Christianna: Lead role in a new Broadway production of Rapunzel  
 Gus Mosse: a spindle  
 Grace Panetta: cheese and a cinnamon cake  
 Kajsa: a Gossip Circle  
 Jaita: A spot on America's Next Top Model  
 Devin: A new hair-do (maybe a weave...)  
 Reggie Brown: a protected parking space  
 Ambrose Devaney: His own office free of groupie-creatures.  
 Andrea LeBlanc: a Magic Flute  
 Erick Slack: His own party in the USA.

Yasmine: Her own YFF airport  
 Alex Combs: An armadillo to be tamed.  
 Ellie Currie: a lifetime supply of English history books  
 Nate D: a Jerkin' party with Henry Balf  
 Susannah Ellis: Hope for a presidential Canada-cy  
 Riley: ....um, what?  
 Nat Lyman: His Cousin burrito  
 Frankie: A get well soon card  
 Ayla: a modeling contract <3, Brooke  
 Anita: A ticket to Narnia  
 Audrey Sheetz: A Jar of pickles  
 Martha: the first man of all time  
 Phil Colarusso: A pirate tie for the championship game  
 Audrey: Another chance to teach the Charleston  
 Kristina Martin: Don Jose  
 Peter Smick: Another chance at laser quest.

Edith Fouser: An organ workshop a-jason-t to her office  
 Malcolm Boomer: Glasses more X-treme than her dad's  
 Gillie Carlson: a seven-year Mitch  
 Anders Erickson: A fruit basket of wisdom  
 Juliet Exter: Jungen  
 Lily Fitzgerald: Someone's call-Lin  
 Emily Friend: A babysitting bag of tricks. (TICKLE FIGHT!)  
 Adrian Gedney: The other orange shoelace  
 Adrienne Ogle: She woke up in a field and drew again  
 Sam Staples: His own Clare-inet closet  
 Evan Supple: Kanye on a T-Rex

Todd Balf: Unfit flabby children  
 Neil Glickstein: A hotel room in San Francisco  
 Jim Watras: Pre-Core for Dylenn  
 Stéphanie Williams: A baby bee suit for Camille

Francis: Cameo in a movie with Keanu Reeves, Val Kilmer and Tom Cruise about really really fast particles  
 Kathleen: A full varsity math league every Tuesday  
 Thomas Adam: A remix with Diddy  
 Diana: A Preamble Medley  
 Theo: Severed foot in her stocking  
 John Cameron: Cameo in Grease  
 Ally C: An Italian Basketball Player  
 Tom E: A Pfiery girl  
 Charlotte: A turtleneck  
 James L: A Pfiesty woman  
 Adam: a white Christmas (dreamy)  
 Cam: Bag of Tricks  
 Charlie M: Arm candy for a triple date  
 Sarah Pfeiffer: Beat the Story Drum. Tom, Tom.  
 Rebecca Pickering: A lifetime membership to Costco  
 Georgia: A scating monkey  
 Ian Smith: An Ian Smith book series  
 Tony Boisvert: A cameo entry in the 1911 Britannica

John Wiggs: The Knot Show- on TV  
 Celia: Jerkin' soccer  
 Liza: A can of organic pesticides  
 Kate: Darker Lipstick  
 Tristan: Isolde  
 Gus E: Chance to see Led Zeppelin in concert  
 Isabella Ellis: More classes with Bobby  
 Julia: Guest appearance with Emeril Walker: A she-gnome  
 Luke: An air soft gun that shoots Rainbows  
 Joey: a Hug  
 Coco: A lizard for a cousin  
 Westy Adams: Catchem  
 Maureen Gedney: If we gave her a gift then we'd give her unconditional love.

Joshua: An amoeba eating a muffin  
 Ione: Turkey Stuffing  
 Hannah B: Lunch in Moscow with Charles  
 Kristina: A Waring improvisational gospel-singing group  
 Teddy: Another secret hidden talent  
 Emma M: A glee club elective  
 Dylan: A deck boarding sponsorship  
 Rowena: Skank n Lusty: The Ultimate Band Experience  
 Jack: More Ladies

George: A house in the computer lab.  
 Gabe: A slow motion button  
 Rosie: The book from D.C. – Chapter 9, Love Malcolm  
 Pam Basso: Waring teachers who turn in their forms on time  
 Christiane: A laser to instantly vaporize mice

Mike: Jerseys with homing beacons  
 Vicki: Some beautiful hand carved bowls; in case you don't have any. Oh...wait...  
 Timmy: a 5-point play  
 Michelle: A travel suture kit. And a banana  
 Henry Balf: The mantle of Jack Lindsay  
 Quinn: A donut cushion  
 Liam: A pot of gold at the end of his rainbow  
 Zoe F: Messy. Stinky monkeys  
 Charlie: Funny Red mirrors. And a unicorn  
 Eva H: World domination  
 Allie H: Nothing to do with skateboarding or twilight. A varsity Hide and Seek team.  
 Adrian Hupin: 1-800-54-GIANT  
 Danielle Lovejoy: Her own Pick of vampires  
 Tess Matthews: An all school field trip to Exchange city  
 Alice T: A visit from ghost face killa  
 Nick Wiggs: an official fan club of girls  
 Sophie Wilson: Pandas and horses  
 Sarah Carlson-Lier: Good parent-tutor conferences in 12 years  
 Shaylor: Locks on the soiree room

Tim B: Pre Fontaine  
 Brooke: A Mitchellin Man  
 Leah Breen: Living in a Howes on Mt. Washington cooking beef Stew(art)  
 Evan Hawkes: Ride on crazy train  
 Paul: Paul's Dad  
 Henry Mitchell: A plot of Carlson Real Estate  
 Drew Rosen: Pants  
 Clare: A gift card to Staples  
 Emma Taylor: A Carpool  
 Caitlin Towers: A Helmet  
 Jake Wortman: Revenge on Noah  
 Isabella Zink: A clone of Snape  
 Jade Doolan: Boys that dance  
 Holly Little: Another sexy pen-pal  
 Michelle Mann: The Gann Donor

## CHRISTMAS MOVIES THAT REEK LIKE GRANDMA'S FRUIT CAKE

with your host PARKER BRUCE

❄️ *The Polar Express* (2004) - Tom Hanks plays six roles in this film version of the classic book. Staff member Emily Glaenger says this wasn't as good as the book. Others suggest that it is downright creepy, like a Christmas movie about zombies. Skip it.

❄️ *Christmas with the Kranks* (2004) - Jamie Lee Curtis and Tim Allen star as a couple who want to ditch Christmas because their daughter isn't coming home. Then she decides to journey home for the holidays at the last minute. Oh my! I saw this in theaters because I thought it would be funny. It really wasn't.

❄️ *The Santa Clause 2* (2002) - Yes, Hilary Duff was featured on the soundtrack, but that can only make a movie so good. The first one was a clever, funny gem; the second, not so effective. We refuse to dignify the third movie with a response.

❄️ *Fred Claus* (2007) - Star Vince Vaughn's Christmas flick is not very funny, but tries hard to be. Vince Vaughn's method of comedy is to talk until something funny comes out. The cast is great though: I mean rapper Ludacris as an elf, and Paul Giamatti (who played John Adams in a miniseries) as Santa Claus. That's terrific! Shame about the movie, though.

❄️ *Four Christmases* (2008) - This movie ends with the baby girl Reese Witherspoon and Vince Vaughn have just had throwing up on her daddy. Why you would end a movie with upchuck is beyond me. The scene pretty much sums up the general quality of the rest of the movie. Vaughn and Witherspoon are a couple travelling to each of their divorced parents' homes (4 parents, 4 Christmases) for Christmas after their flight to a sunny locale is cancelled. It wastes the lovely Reese Witherspoon, and every character is mean to each other. There's one funny scene involving a "How Well do you know your husband/wife game." The movie was a hit last year, and I don't understand why.

❄️ *The Family Stone* (2005) - Not that good, not that bad. It's the story of a man who takes his high-strung, straight-laced fiancée home for Christmas. His family doesn't like her. Just super sappy. Rachel McAdams (Mean Girls) and Diane Keaton (Annie Hall) play mother and daughter and slightly redeem the movie, but they deserve much better material.

❄️ *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* (2000) - Starring comedian Jim Carrey as the Grinch, this movie splits opinion. I like it,

but senior Amanda Lewis gives it thumbs down.

\**The Christmas Shoes* (2002) - Based on the classic piece of Velveeta cheese Christmas song, "The Christmas Shoes", about a boy trying to buy shoes for his dying mother, this Lifetime movie stars Rob Lowe (The West Wing, Brothers and Sisters). I haven't seen it, (word about bad Christmas movies gets around fast) but based on the song, I'm guessing it is not very good. Here's quote from this piece of genius:

MOTHER: Honey, what's the matter?

SON: Your heart. I just wanted to see if it was still beating.

Quotes and information from *IMDB.com* and *Wikipedia*.

## MUSIC REVIEW



**WALE**

### ATTENTION DEFICIT

review by ALEX MITCHELL

The album under review has a parental advisory sticker on the front.

Critically acclaimed debut albums from hip hop artists in their early twenties are abundant. 2009 has been led by KiD CuDi's *Man On The Moon* and Asher Roth's *Asleep In The Bread Aisle* thus far. But it's time to add another to the list. Many underground rappers crossing over to the world of record labels seem to disappoint, but Wale's debut, *Attention: Deficit* more than lives up to expectations.

Wale (derived from his real name, Olubowale Folarin, pronounced "wall-AY") is a Washington, D.C., native of Nigerian parents. Surprisingly, this makes him one of the only hip hop artists from the area. While cruising through high school and college in the D.C./Maryland area (source: wikipedia) Wale has released five stellar mixtapes since 2006, all of which failed to get a great deal of exposure outside of Washington.

After signing with Interscope Records in 2008, he released his album November 10th. He is now on the road, touring with Jay-Z, J. Cole and N\*E\*R\*D.

While the record almost certainly won't reach the radio, as Wale will be the first to tell you, ("I have a lot of fans, but I'm not

'Foot of the ball'

You'd think that a man with early onset Alzheimer's would have every reason to stop writing brilliant pieces of literature filled with strong characters and cutting satire. But Terry Pratchett just won't quit. In his newest masterpiece *Unseen Academicals* he goes A and B the C of D (above and beyond the call of duty wot wot.) The book is a part of the wizard (from the old: wys arse) series that exists within the Discworld universe, which is usually mostly dominated by secondary characters, leaving the group of wizards to act as almost one character. This usually leaves much to be desired. *Academicals*, for the first time, separates many of the wizards, making them subtly different personages. But this, as is normal with his 'wizard' stories, isn't really about the wizards. It's really about the sprawling, expanding, monstrous, very real city of Ankh Morpork. More specifically the rise of an official league of 'foot-of-the-ball.' In 'The Push,' (the crowd following the pick

necessarily a big mainstream artist," - Peace Magazine) the album is barely short of an instant classic among active hip hop fans.

It doesn't hurt that the album features many established artists, among them J. Cole, K'Naan, Melanie Fiona, Pharrell Williams, Gucci Mane and Lady Gaga; enough to make it interesting but not too much to steal the spotlight from Wale.

The record is no doubt a hip hop album, but it does experiment with elements from other genres. As he mentioned at a recent interview, "Once you understand the person that I am, you understand that I have a very broad interpretation of music." (metallungies.com)

The lead single, "Chillin'", featuring Lady Gaga, was in essence a pop song. It was an instant success among casual listeners but received so-so reviews from the hardcore fans. This lukewarm reception was because of its pop sound, but it was mostly enjoyed.

Lyricaly, the album deals with many different things that are important to Wale. He raps about his hometown ("Chillin'"), clearly feeling like the D.C. area is grossly underrepresented on the hip-hop scene. He frequently talks about his disdain towards the radio, pointing out (with large support from hip hop fan bases) that rap played on the air isn't true hip hop. He even speaks his mind on racial prejudice from the perspective of a first-generation Nigerian-American on a track that barely made the album, "Shades. "

me up game in the streets, obviously the most important part of the culture) we find the real characters. Mr. Nutt (not Nutts as he reminds many) a goblin who might be an orc, Miss Glenda, the wizards' night cook, Juliet, a beautiful servant turned dwarf fashion model, (trust me it makes sense) and Trevor Likely, the heir of a glorious football career. The story is definitely carried by these deep and varied characters. The plot is a little jumpy, which sacrifices distinct flow for really really good satire. The parody of football, from rambunctious homicidal crowds, to strategic fouls is spot on, even to me, who doesn't obsess over the European phenomenon. The characters are easy to love, and in some cases hate with a furious passion. Pratchett even satisfies our thirst for blood with some wonderful poetic justice. This story was wonderfully written, and beautifully characterized, and held me enraptured through the bumpy plot from start to finish.

One of the best songs on the album is "Beautiful Bliss," featuring J. Cole an up-and-coming rapper who recently signed to Roc Nation, and Melanie Fiona on the hook. Another standout track is his nod to A Tribe Called Quest's "Award Tour" with "World Tour" featuring Jazmine Sullivan. The high-energy tracks "Pretty Girls" and "Mama Told Me" are also recommended from the record.

"[I want to] keep the spirit of hip hop in general." Wale said in an interview on the album. "I know that sounds a bit clichéd, but what I mean is, a lot of people think the only albums that you get - only the single's hot. That's completely the opposite from what I want to do. I feel like the whole album is a body of work."

Let's just say that he definitely completes his goal.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW: **DREAMKILLER** *[just plain nuts!]*

by RILEY HUNT

Of all the comics strips I read, possibly my favorite of all is Gary Larson's the Far Side. A particular strip comes to mind and it depicts a therapist's office, his patient resting on the couch and the angle is such that you can see right over the therapist's left shoulder on his clipboard. And in plain view are his notes which say: "Just plain nuts!". I feel like that therapist now because I recently received through some weird set of circumstances (digital distribution Christmas marketing?) a computer game I wouldn't have originally dreamed of buying. The game is called Dreamkiller, the title alone sounds strange enough, and it is only made stranger after you realize how concretely it has been named. The protagonist Alice Drake, is a woman who has the frightening ability to integrate herself into the dreams of her patients. She uses her ability to cure people of their fears by destroying them at the source. Basically it is what would happen if Neil Gaiman's Sandman and Duke Nukem had a baby who was raised by Sigmund Freud. In one level you cure a man's arachnophobia by destroying spiders in a dream world that first appears like a city full of cobwebs and then transitions into a fully fledged demon-spider colony. Another patient has severe Acrophobia or Vertigo, and his dream is

set on a huge metal tower that seems to go up forever and you must dodge enemy fire (sometimes literally) without losing your footing and falling to your death. Somewhere between burning Ent-like monsters with what appeared to be a pet dragon wrapped around my hand, and blowing up robot dogs with my minigun/rocket launcher in the mind of a man terrified of machines, I realized that Dreamkiller is my kind of crazy. The game doesn't come across as absurd because it's supposed to be insane. Each level could be the setting of it's own game, but it's the constantly changing settings that make the game so fun. It is somewhat like a series of related short stories. At times, it really does feel like you've stumbled into somebody's dream, which is fascinating in itself. Because of her position as a therapist, Alice Drake will sometimes take a break from breaking faces to psychoanalyze the environment she's in. For example, you go through a portal to find yourself in front of a dead tree in the center of a small floating island. Alice states the trees in dreams signify connectivity, and that (her patient) feels that he has been cut off from other people for a long time. But she also has moments of bravado and catcalling to counterbalance her intellectual insights. She also has "berserk mode" triggered by killing a

certain amount of enemies per second. This may seem sexist but I never expected a female psychiatrist to start seeing red, flipping out and dealing double damage. I suppose this speaks to Alice's personality. Throughout the narrative Alice become increasingly unstable when she is forced to confront her own fears, which gives her some depth and character development, even though it most noticeably is anger. Dreamkiller's narrative may be my favorite part (although the ironic phobia of insanity level and the shotgun/freeze ray have a special place in my heart). It not only gives me a perfectly reasonable and justifiable excuse to slaughter a seemingly endless amount of enemies, but it makes me genuinely excited to see what will come next. Every level has the thrill of discovery and is new and refreshing, it gives a breath of fresh air into a genre clogged with space marines or game that attempts "realism" but are entirely unrealistic. It does exactly what a narrative in a video game should do, it keeps the gameplay compelling without being convoluted by cut-scenes and useless information. Like a The Far Side, Dreamkiller occupies that space of fiction where reality and fantasy are mixed enough to make it believable but still allows for some good old-fashioned insanity.

## Waring Goes Giddy for Glee

by PARKER BRUCE

Fox's new fall show, Glee, has become a mini sensation here at the Waring School. In Waring's upper grades, many a lunchtime conversation revolves around the Glee Club at McKinley High. Freshman Alex Kyllingstad likes the show because it's not really like anything else on TV and thinks that even though its characters are one dimensional they are still super likable. Fellow freshman Eva Heaps enjoys Glee because of the good music it features and its identifiable characters. Isabelle Rabin, freshman, is a fan because Glee makes her feel happy. Senior Emma MacLean is addicted because: "the beauty of Glee is that it basically a cartoon. Like Family Guy or the Simpsons, everyone nearly returns to square zero by the end of the 45 minute episode... Also I have a not unexpected soft spot in my heart for Glee because I kinda wish I was on the show. Imagine a school where others also break into song and dance. Feel like singing 'No Air' while walking down the hallway turns out so does the dreamy quarterback for the high school team," Charlotte Greenbaum tunes in every Wednesday because even

though: "it's a pretty tired idea, 'rejects suddenly have a life blah teen drama blah crushes blah'... it works! The unique mixture of kitsch and seriousness gives it a real kick. The music too gives it spark and pizzazz (the fact that they're playing a lot of songs people don't know that well is GREAT)."

The show centers on a Spanish teacher named Will (played by senior Emma MacLean's husband, Matthew Morrison) who tries to breathe new life into the school's glee club that he was a part of in his younger days. The club includes a group of lovable misfits including male diva, Kurt, sassy girl, Mercedes, mean girl who maybe has a heart, Quinn, Broadway wannabe Rachel, ladies man with a Mohawk, Puck, and wheelchair bound, Wheels.

The show is easily one of the best new shows of the fall season. It is bright, exuberant, funny, and over the top. As senior and Student Government Representative, Nate DiMauro says: "It's unashamed and unapologetic. It's hilarious," Big parts of the show are the musical numbers, which usually involve choir-esque interpretations

of modern hits (Kanye's "Gold Digger", Rihanna's "Take A Bow", Duffy's "Mercy", and Amy Winehouse's "Rehab") and fun takes on old classics (Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'", Queen's "Somebody to Love", Neil Diamond's "Sweet Caroline", and a killer version of "Proud Mary" from the Nov. 11 episode. There is also an evil cheer-leading coach trying to sabotage the club played by the hilarious Jane Lynch (Best in Show, Role Models, Julie and Julia and tons of other roles). More drama to throw into the mix involves glee club coach, Will, and has a crush on a fellow teacher (adorably and lovably played by Jayma Mays) and his insane and annoying wife who is faking a pregnancy (Jessalyn Gilsig). The best episode so far of this freshman series was Preggers, which centered on Kurt joining the football team to impress his Dad. Let's just say the episode involved a whole high school football team doing the Single Ladies dance during a game. Junior Hannah Underwood loved that touch: "Sure, a high school football team would never let a glee clubber choreograph a 'single ladies' dance for the players, but the scenes that are believable are

probably more believable than scenes in any other show on television.” This is enough of a reason to name it the best episode of the series so far. Other more recent episodes have centered on super cool mash-ups of songs such as the Glee club girls’ Halo/Walking on Sunshine mélange.

Recent episodes have featured a little too much drama and a few too many clichés. I mean how many times is Rachel going to quit and rejoin the team? Also, the impregnated wife plotline is so melodramatic and really sets the show’s tone off balance. Will’s relationship with fellow teacher Emma is much more convincing and sweet especially the scene where he helped her pick out her wedding dress, and they danced to a song from My Fair Lady. The cast of young-ins is overall good.

The standouts are Chris Colfer as Kurt, Amber Riley as the definition of sass, Mercedes (though I wish they would flesh her character out more because as it stands she is just the super sassy girl who can sing really well), and Mark Salling as Puck has really come into his own on the show and is getting more screen time. Cory Monteith is good as Finn, but sometimes the writers make him sporadically dumb. Lea Michele has a powerhouse voice as Rachel, but she comes off as a stereotypical overachiever. I really want to like Dianna Agron as ex-cheerleader Quinn (Nate DiMauro’s crush), but she’s too harsh in the moments when she should be likable. I’m still going to give her a chance though.

The crown jewel of Glee is Jane Lynch as World’s Strangest Cheerleading Coach, Sue Sylvester. She is dry and completely honest about everything. She’s offensive and completely ridiculous. In short, she’s irresistible. The episode where she fell for a newsman and he said he was going to take her swing dancing, which caused her to go and buy a man’s zoot suit and show up to the news station in it was hilarious and a moment of humanization for the otherwise stone fortress that is Sue Sylvester.

Glee is still finding its tone, but overall the show is completely refreshing and inspiring and filled with lovable, bizarre characters. Glee had its mid-season finale on Wednesday December 9 and will return in...April (it breaks my heart). The episode revolved around sectionals and was a moving, joyous wrap up to the first bit of the season. Rachel and Mercedes brought down the house with some Broadway standards and teachers Will and Emma had some interesting development. Next up: Regionals!

## Your Snowball Arsenal: Are You Prepared?

a tactical report by ANDERS ERICKSON

When Zeus first threw down the icicle from Olympus, it shattered into pieces as it came crashing towards the mortal Earth through the dark sky. The Greeks were busy sipping peppermint hot chocolate, conspiring over a cozy cabin fire their next tactical moves against the encroaching Persian armies. The icicle, now dissolved into a cloud of gravity bound snowflakes made contact with the Greek Earth and with the help of the Muse, their thoughts were inspired towards war. Such a perfect, malleable tool this new snow, divine humiliation wrought down upon the naïve Persians was remembered throughout history. Perfected by the most brilliant minds of the ages, the snowball is carried to now by the fiercest of warriors, in the finest of seasons. Strike drum, my boy, we are off to war.

1) The Classic. See figure 1. A quick-to-prepare snowball made from slightly moist snow to improve clustering. Used as an offensive tool to soak and abruptly freeze an individual target.

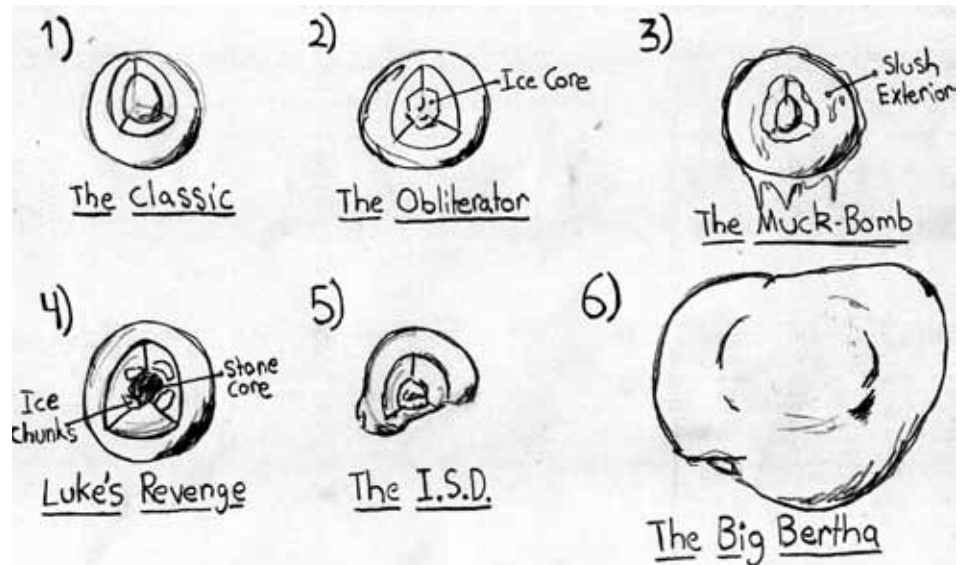
2) The Obliterator. See figure 2. Similar to the Classic, the Obliterator has an external snow layer, heavily compacted into a dense force of pain. However, the Obliterator features a proto-ice core, utilized in accelerated propulsion and magnification of the agony factor. An ice core can be developed from chunks of frozen sludge on the sidewalk or fragments of icicles. (For “A-grade” application of snow exterior, hold ice core in hands till slightly wet, allowing snow to freeze onto the ice for Annihilation Effect).

3) The Muck-Bomb. See figure 3. Featuring a compact-snow core, the Muck-Bomb will fly only slightly less efficiently than the classic and obliterator. However, the Muck-Bomb has a slushy, slightly melted snow exterior allowing for maximum splash radius and severe drenching of target.

4) Luke’s Revenge. See figure 4. Luke’s Revenge is one of the higher ranking snowballs out there today. Similar to the Obliterator it contains an entirely solid core, however, Luke’s Revenge has a multi-part core open to variation. A generic Luke’s Revenge features a stone, or rock as some call it, surrounded by chunks of ice. This is then covered by an exterior of compact snow to hold all the components together.

5) The I.S.D. see figure 5. A.K.A. Improvised – Snow – Device is recommended as a tool for emergency recuperation only. Used while evacuating a base, or for stockpiling an immediate barrage the I.S.D. is stronger in its quickness. Simply scoop together any kind of snow in your hands, don’t even bother compressing it, and let fly.

6) The Big Bertha. See figure 6. Used in advance preparation as a counter-fort-raiding measure, the Big Bertha is a close range 1-hit K.O. defense mechanism. Made from clustering multiple Classics together, or a swiftly trimmed snowman head, it can be hurled at a nearby offender to crush a few motives or ribs.



## INVICTUS

by THOMAS ADAM

The time is 1995.  
 Bone crushing sounds  
 Surround the spiritual game of humanity.  
 He moves serenely around the room,  
 Beyond which youth, humor and warmth  
 lie.  
 He flirts with honor  
 And slows down the world.  
 He is undistinguished at best,  
 An athlete with the revolution around him.  
 He holds the shaky sense of reality  
 In his hands.  
 He lives in a state of grace,  
 Gaining the devotion of black fans and  
 white fans alike.  
 And as the crowd above him screams,  
 He thinks.  
 "Mandela"



Dear Waring Oracle  
 I feel like I've been bad this year, but I  
 still want presents from Santa.  
 I don't know what to do.  
 Help, please!  
 Iwantpresents

Dear Iwantpresents,  
 It may be too late, so be prepared. But  
 there's always next year! On the off chance  
 that Santa is in a good mood, you may get  
 some candy and maybe something special if  
 you clean up your act now.

Sincerely,  
 The Waring Oracle

Dear Oracle,  
 I hate Christmas. I burned my tree and  
 stockings for warmth. I plugged up my  
 chimney so Santa can't get in. I set up a  
 snare on the roof so I can have reindeer for  
 dinner. But I don't want to ruin the experi-  
 ence for my little brother! Is it too late to  
 change my ways?

-Tom "Hates Christmas" Perkins (this  
 may or may not be my real name)

Dear Tom "Hates Christmas" Perkins,  
 Oh wow. I am sorry you feel that way.  
 Don't ruin it for your brother, you're proba-  
 bly on the naughty list so don't tarnish your  
 record any more. Get a tree, stockings and  
 unplug the chimney. Take down the snare  
 and eat a real dinner. You're missing out.

Sincerely,  
 The Waring Oracle

Dear Waring Oracle,  
 I don't like wrapping presents-the tape  
 sticks to my hands! What are some easy  
 present wrapping methods?

Love,  
 Badwrapper

THE  
WARING  
ORACLE

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE GOOD PEOPLE AT

**Fou Jim's**  
DAY GOODS SUPERMARKET

OPEN MOST THURSDAYS FROM 11.45-12.30

Dear Badwrapper,  
 Use a cute Christmas bag! No wrapping  
 involved.  
 Sincerely,  
 The Waring Oracle

Waring Oracle-  
 Every Christmas I get presents from  
 people I didn't think I knew well enough  
 to get a presents from...what do I do when  
 they give me their awkward, impersonal,  
 gifts? What happens if they have a gift for  
 me, but I don't have one for them?

Confused,  
 Gawky giver

Dear gawky giver,  
 Common problem. Candy usually  
 works if you make little baggies and give  
 them to everyone. It's cheap too so no one  
 gets left out. If you don't have a gift for  
 someone and they have a gift for you act  
 surprised and accept it graciously. You can  
 even tell them the truth by saying, "I'm  
 sorry I didn't get you a gift but thank you  
 so much!" This usually breaks down the  
 awkward wall.

Sincerely,  
 The Waring Oracle

Dear Waring Oracle,  
 What can I do the day after Christmas to  
 make it a little less of a letdown?

Love,  
 Melancholy on the morrow

Dear Melancholy,  
 Eat Christmas cookies, watch movies and  
 take a cue from the English, celebrate Box-  
 ing Day! It's the day to compare and swap  
 presents with friends and family, it gets rid  
 of the weird presents too.

Sincerely,  
 The Waring Oracle



drawing by TOM PERKINS

# HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW WARING

A QUIZ BY COCO YOUNG

1. Which two Beverly Group 2 students live next door to each other?
  - a.) Anders and Cam
  - b.) Jack and Luke
  - c.) Coco and Alex
  - d.) Teddy and Alex
2. Which sibling pair had a dance-off at the Halloween dance?
  - a.) The McInnes'
  - b.) The Lovejoy's
  - c.) The Ogle's
  - d.) The MacLean's
3. How many Isabelles/Isabellas go to Waring?
  - a.) 5
  - b.) 8
  - c.) 9
  - d.) 7
4. Who coined the phrase "twofold announcement?"
  - a.) Eli Barrows
  - b.) Shea Alterio
  - c.) Zander Goepfert
  - d.) Dan Kessler
5. What was once where the Forum is now?
  - a.) Forest
  - b.) A Goat Pen
  - c.) A Barn
  - d.) A Meadow
6. Which teacher went to school with Anne Hathaway?
  - a.) Josh Webb
  - b.) Tim Bakland
  - c.) Francis
  - d.) Joshua
7. What is the name of the notorious boy who doesn't actually go here?
  - a.) John Brown
  - b.) Tom Black
  - c.) Alex Green
  - d.) Sam White
8. What poisonous element went missing during a science fair project?
  - a.) Lead
  - b.) Mercury
  - c.) Beryllium
  - d.) Arsenic

Answer Key:

1.) c 2.) b 3.) d 4.) a 5.) b 6.) a 7.) c 8.) d

## QUESTION OF LAST MONTH ANSWERED

If you had to survive some sort of apocalyptic event (perhaps a zombie epidemic, an android rebellion, or the aftermath of a mass human extinction) which three people would you choose as your companions? Feel free to chose people you may or may not have met, like celebrities.

Also, what five things would you want to have in order to survive? These things do not necessarily have to be known to this time era. If you want a super ray gun that causes people to have uncontrollable hiccups, then by all means, include it in your answer.

Well, apparently our readers have been preparing for some apocalypse or another for a long time. Kind of makes you wonder what kind of people read this publication, but we digress. Of the thousands of re-

sponses we received to last issue's Question of the Month, those people that would be in highest demand in the event of a zombie takeover or raptor attack would be, Master Chief, from the popular video game HALO, and Chuck Norris; from the popular country AMERICA. Other popular answers included Lara Croft, the well-known Tomb-Raider; Bear Grylls, the British Adventurer and super-scout; Spike, the stegosaurus from The Land Before Time, because of his history of fending off raptors; Walker Staples, for similar reasons, and Jesus, because of his food creating capabilities, morale-boosting parables, and laser eyes.

Items carried by these survivors would include: a Harley motorcycle with mounted rocket launchers, a Bowie Knife (but not a David Bowie knife), a laptop, a yacht, yacht fuel, lots and lots of rope, the Silmarillion, a jetpack, cats, some sort of semi-automatic

weapon, kittens, some sort of semi-automatic kitten, Nikes, and a good book. Thank you for all your responses.

Now, it goes without saying that these answers to the Question of the Month were wrong. It is irrelevant, whom you bring along (save Jesus, and perhaps Walker Staples) because everybody knows from Jurassic Park that no matter how strong, fast, or well-equipped only those of high moral character survive. (Yes, the gamekeeper is a likeable character, but he has been cooperating in an corrupt scheme and should die. Also the raptors are his natural enemies) We'll see who's right in the end.

*Owing to a faculty policy of giving only minimal homework over break, LTR is unable to provide a substantive question for the month of December. Instead we offer the following: WHAT COLOR IS YOUR HOUSE?*

DISCUSS.

# WARING POP CHARTS

19 OCTOBER-22 NOVEMBER, 2009



## Top Twenty-five Artists:

- 1 Lady GaGa (↑10)
  - 2 The Beatles (↓1)
  - 3 Red Hot Chili Peppers (↓1)
  - 4 Kanye West (↔)
  - 5 Weezer (↑14)
  - 6 Jay-Z (↑10)
  - 6 Shwayze (↑5)
  - 6 Modest Mouse (↓2)
  - 6 Grateful Dead (↓1)
  - 10 KiD CuDi (new)
  - 10 Blink-182 (new)
  - 10 Taylor Swift (new)
  - 10 Vampire Weekend (↓3)
  - 14 U2 (new)
  - 14 The Shins (↑2)
  - 14 Jack Johnson (↑2)
  - 14 MGMT (↓9)
  - 14 Jimi Hendrix (↓3)
  - 14 Bob Dylan (↓9)
  - 20 Devendra Barnhart (new)
  - 20 Cat Power (new)
  - 20 Noah and the Whale (new)
  - 20 The Rolling Stones (new)
  - 20 Kings of Leon (new)
  - 25 The Temptations (new)
  - 25 Sublime (new)
  - 25 Michael Jackson (new)
  - 25 Regina Spektor (new)
- other popular artists from the last four weeks include:

## Top Ten Albums:

- 1 Lady GaGa • *The Fame Monster*
- 2 Lady GaGa • *The Fame*
- 3 MGMT • *Oracular Spectacular*
- 4 Taylor Swift • *Fearless*
- 5 Kanye West • *Late Registration*
- 5 Weezer • *Weezer*
- 5 The Shins • *Wincing the Night Away*
- 5 Gorillaz • *Demon Days*
- 5 Vampire Weekend • *Vampire Weekend*
- 10 Owl City • *Ocean Eyes*
- 10 KiD CuDi • *Man On The Moon: The End Of Day*
- 10 Kanye West • *Graduation*

## Top Five Songs

- 1 Owl City • "Fireflies"
- 1 Iyaz • "Replay"
- 1 Taylor Swift • "You Belong with Me"
- 4 Lady GaGa • "Monster"
- 4 Lady GaGa • "Bad Romance"
- 5 Taylor Swift • "Love Story"

## **CHART ANALYSIS**

This month on the Waring charts, we can safely say that Lady Gaga has made the largest jump in our groups history. In November, she was 11th on our artists chart, 60th on the tracks chart, and the Bad Romance single was 80th in albums. This month, Lady Gaga is our #1 artist, has the top 2 albums, and "Monster," and "Bad Romance" are tied in fourth (or second, depending on how you choose to see it) place songs in our top five. This is most likely due to the recent release of her new album *The Fame Monster*. Parker Bruce says "New music from the lady meant an influx of plays and curiosity on the charts. Other reasons: she is amazing and insane and she met the Queen of England."



a

**ARIES**

You have full authority to grievously injure that one person who always takes up your Facebook minifeed. The Horoscope likes this. Happy Hannakuh.

b

**TAURUS**

Your life will become a living episode of Project Runway. Make it work..

C

**GEMINI**

But, in the spirit of the holidays, Stache gives you a choice. To avoid the doom he predicts for you, you must go on a quest. A QUEST!!!! Sweet! You must journey to the land of Yonder, to retrieve the fabled mix-tape of Yesteryear before the twelfth clock strikes Yore. Good luck, and godspeed. To be continued...

d

**CANCER**

Talk like Yoda, you shall. Annoying, it will become. Stop it. Just stop it.

Hip hop, rap, and pop are usually grossly under represented on our charts. In the past two months, we have seen a subtle but slowly increasing number of well known artists such as Kid Cudi, and Lady Gaga moving up on our charts. The Beatles, of course, are number two, and we predict that by next month they will have their #1 spot back after the Lady Gaga hype has died down a little. We suspect that Beatles displacement may also have something to do with Christmas music displacing the Fab Four as musical comfort food. We expect to see bands like Noah and the Whale and The Rolling Stones to make their way up as the year goes on. But the main question for all of us is: will the Temptations stay on the charts? We hope so.

**HOW WE MADE THESE**

The Waring music charts are based on the listening of members of Last.fm who

e

**LEO**

Your biological clock is ticking, and honey, I wouldn't count on daylight savings time.

f

**VIRGO**

You will be hit by the Geoff Blum Experience Train. I hope your health insurance covers overdoses of Awesome. Merry Christmas.

g

**LIBRA**

Don't worry, everything will work out alright...in bed. (Your lucky numbers are 16, 25, and 87. LEARN TO SPEAK CHINESE: *Ni-hao* = Hello)

h

**SCORPIO**

You're so vain, you probably think this horoscope is about you. But really it's about Mick Jagger .

i

**SAGITTARIUS**

For the holidays, you offer every member of your family a picture of yourself. Funnily enough, it's exactly what everyone wanted, because your beauty is a non-refundable, sugar-coated, tinsel-decked, snow-covered, kosher gift to the world. Don't forget a card.

j

**CAPRICORN**

Go directly to jail. Do not pass Go, do not collect \$200. Sorry, that's what you get for white collar crime.

k

**AQUARIUS**

Sorry. This sign is currently out of stock. Shall we contact you when this sign becomes available again?

l

**PISCES**

Lactose intolerance is a feisty wench. I wouldn't eat that ice cream if I were you...

belong to the "Waring" group. This group consists of approximately sixty current and former Waring students, who "scrobble" their computer/MP3 Player-based listening to Last.fm, which then produces weekly rankings of the group's top artists, albums, and tracks. We at LTR then compile the weekly results into the aggregate charts that we print here. Our charts are based on the average number of listeners per week over the period covering. Although the situation is improving, we would like to strongly encourage more participation in this process. Our current sample skews older than the school as a whole; right now, at least a third of the group members are either current seniors or former students/alumni. So join Last.fm and start Scrobbling today!



sketch by HANNAH UNDERWOOD

*WINTER CONCERT cont from p 3*

The Boys Ensemble had a tough act to follow but they satisfied. No, they achieved more than satisfaction, they satiated—NO! They did the opposite of satiated, they left me hungry for more! Yes, I wanted more. Their first piece, 'Riu Riu Chiu' was tight, absolutely flawless, a great rendition—or, at least this is what I'm told by a Waring parent who has the Spanish(?) Folk song on record. However, Boys Ensemble lifted my spirits with a wonderful version of 'Billie Jean' by Michael Jackson. They dance moves were pristine and Tom, Gus and Riley were impeccable MJ impersonators. I was laughing with them the whole way toward Winter Concert success.

As a participant in Waring Madrigal Singers, it is hard for me to look at the performance objectively, but I was more than satisfied. When talking to some Waring parents after the performance, they made a point of saying how "moved" and "blown away" they were by the Madrigals' second piece, 'O Magnum Mysterium'. Shaylor led the group through two more crowd pleasing songs which were very, very well executed if I do say so myself (which I do). Oh, and Kate Carlson is a beast. A woman at a Beverly nursing home at which Madrigals performed on Monday said it best, "young lady, you have a beautiful, beautiful voice. Absolutely beautiful. Please never stop sing-

ing."

Intermission was AAAAAAWW- WEEESOOOOOOME! I got a drink of water, and even got to stretch my legs!

Back to music, the Jazz Ensemble brought it once again, wowing the audience with three choice pieces of thick, spirited jazz. Mike Jappe really stepped up, courageously confronting his first concert as a drummer with the Jazz Ensemble. He did a great job. I don't know how many people noticed this, but Riley Hunt also performed a guitar solo with a salt-shaker as a guitar-slide. How freakin' awesome is that? Jake Wortman debuted his incredible bass chops for the whole school last night as the melodic backbone of the group and knocked quite a few socks off with his opened ended solo during 'Blue Bossa'. Hannah Underwood also belted a monumental trumpet solo on 'All Blues' which ended in a explosion of cheers from the audience. Gus, Sam (Skerrit) traded fours on 'Impressions', and it was jazz at its best. Finally, Walker Staples, renaissance man to the highest extent spoke elegantly on piano, not at all his first language. He is a guitarist and bass guitarist at heart, but he never ceases to impress. Wow.

And Finally, Tim Bakland's Waring Chorale was astounding. Seriously the best Chorale performance I've ever seen. When I was in Chorale as an 8th grader, I viewed the chorus as a waste-basket for the musi-

cally challenged at Waring. It was the huge chorus I was assigned to since I hadn't been selected for anything better. As I grew older, I realized more and more how this idea couldn't have been further from the truth. There is some real talent in Chorale, and this truly came through last night. 'Winter Song', however, stole the show. It was an emotional boost, and a great end to a full evening of quality music. 'Winter Song' was executed so well, I couldn't think of anything but love, and then I got an odd mixed feeling of deep sadness and extreme joy at the same time, and then I thought of all the mistakes in my life, and I was going to be a better man, then I remembered I was watching Waring Chorale and they had made me think critically about my life, and I was touched in all the right ways...? The point is, I was really impressed, one might say amazed by Waring Chorale. They delivered a performance to be remembered, without question.

Thank you Steve, Kristina, Shaylor, Dorothy, Kathleen, and Matt & Garth (the jazz conductors), and Waring parents for making this Winter Concert once again superb.

Oh, and Eleanor read 'The Shortest Day' to help us welcome Yule. Good job Eleanor, I know Yule didn't show up again this year. I've yet to figure out who he is, but maybe he'll show up next Winter Concert.

## BASKETBALL SEASON ROUND-UP

### WARING TEAMS MAKE SOLID DEBUTS FOR 09-10

by ALEX MITCHELL

The Boys Varsity basketball team has started out the season with good signs for the rest of the year. The team started the season out with a loss against BUA, with a victory against Gann following shortly thereafter. A close loss against Newman and losses to Gann and Commonwealth have been tough for the team, but they aren't letting it get their spirits down. "The scoreboard doesn't show how much we're improving," said eighth grader Alex Mitchell on the team so far. Led by a rookie coach and Seniors Nate DiMauro and Reeve Moir, the team will continue their season with games against Brimmer and May (Jan. 6) and Waldorf (Jan. 8).

After an overtime win against Landmark, Girls Varsity basketball has lost against CSW, Montrose and Chapel Hill Chauncey

Hall. But the losses haven't brought the team down. "I think we're getting in our rhythm," Commented Senior Skye McIvor, "I think we have a lot to work on, but the practices that we're planning on having over this winter break will help us about. I'm really excited about the season, and I think we all are." The team is led by Senior and Captain Clare Stanton, and they are coached by Phil Collaruso. Girls Varsity has games after the break against Woodward (Jan. 5) and CCA (Jan. 8). After being out-matched in a tough loss to Gann last week, Boys Junior Varsity basketball is staying optimistic. Led by the extensive offense of tenth grader Will McEwan and the defensive tenacity of seventh grader Tom Erickson, Boys JV is expecting to grab some wins this year. Coached by Todd Balf, the team is youthful and excited. "I'm looking forward

to a great season," commented eighth grader Aaron Greiner. The team has games after the break against Brookwood (Jan. 5) and CCA (Jan. 6).

The Girls Junior Varsity team started their year against CSW with a loss, but it didn't put a damper on the team. "For our first time playing together," remarked eighth grader Malcolm Boomer, "during the game, we did really well. Our defense was strong." Coached by Robine Vaneck, standouts include eighth graders Mary Ellis, Audrey Sheetz and Ayla Rauhala. For many of the players, it's their first year. But the team is, as pointed out by ninth grader Alex Kyllingstad, "Working really hard." After the break, they have games against Brookwood (Jan. 5) and Landmark (Jan. 12).

by WALKER STAPLES

*Bide The Witches Rede Ye Must  
In Perfect Love, and Perfect Trust.  
Eight words, the Rede, thou must fulfill;  
And it harm none, do as ye will.  
What you send forth returns to thee,  
So ever mind the rule of three.  
Follow this with mind and heart,  
And merry meet, and merry part.*

I am not ashamed I still remember all the words to The Witch's Rede. From seventh grade well into tenth grade, I was a self-identified Wiccan, Witch, and Pagan. This season, the first year since middle school truly I haven't identified as a Wiccan, I have finally stopped to give pause to why I might have adopted it as a faith. If you don't know the first thing about Wicca, here is what I can tell you for certain. First, The Rede (above), is more-or-less the only commonly held tenet of The Faith (as it's often called), and acts as sort of a stand in for the Judeo-Christian Ten Commandments—As long as you act only out of love, and as long as no one is hurt by it, you can do really whatever you please. The "Rule of Three," refers to a foggy principal that whatever emotions, intents, and actions, you present to the world, you can expect to have them returned threefold. This applies to (yes, of course), spells and magick as well, which, I am also not ashamed to say, I practiced (though infrequently), entirely without irony. And, now that I've stumbled upon the elephant in the room, I feel the need to say that there is absolutely nothing sinister about Wicca. "Magick," (the spelling of which ranges from the conventional "Magic" to versions as arcane as, "Magyick," and "Majik") to the best of my knowledge is the art of broadcasting one's intentions to the universe, in expectance of gratification. I believed then, as I do now, that gratification for positive intentions would be positive, and for negative, the effect would be reversed. In this way, I have convinced myself that "magick" is an art and very much real. Of course, I have also, at points, been convinced I can talk to trees. The truth remains subjective.

Technicalities dealt with, there was never a more powerful time of year for me as a Wiccan (save Samhain, or Halloween, as it's more commonly called), than Christmas. As far as humans go, I am one of the more accepting, but nothing boils my blood like the commercialization of Christmas. It's a topic that's been written upon at length—

We've lost the true meaning of Christmas. We've fallen prey to a great, overwhelming, all-consuming capitalist God who wants our souls and our children's souls. Him who we worship by trampling each-other and old women to death during the Black-Friday, "who-the-hell-is-this-Jesus-character-anyway?" rush at Wal-Mart. We all know for kids, Christmas is about getting the most presents, for teenagers, school vacation, and for parents, that great evanescent moment of excitement (if not real joy), in little Johnny's eyes when he opens his new Transformer-themed 25 mega-giga-hertz internet connectable gold-plated Play Station III. Well, I couldn't stand it anymore, and I think that's why I turned to Yule..

"So what is Yule?," you might ask. "Does Walker recommend it? Does it involve sacrifice? Can we eat the sacrifice? Do I still get presents?" Yes, no, sadly no, and yes. The funny thing about the Wicca I practiced is that, because of the lack of any unifying text or set of rules besides the Rede, you're really left to yourself to figure things out. Whatever historical significance the word "Yule," might carry with it meant zero to me. It was simply a well-needed breath of fresh air. By re-naming "Christmas," "Yule," I was easily able to connect with what I saw the true meaning of Christmas to be-- it's practically all written in to the poem at the start of this essay: Love each other. Feel no ill will. Meet people gladly, and depart in a similar manner. Simple.

At this point, you're probably thinking, "Gee, Walker, that's great! How do I celebrate Yule!?" Well, I'm sorry, friend. My self-derived my knowledge ends there. I tried lots of things, in search of the same sacrosanctity that surrounds sitting down with your family on Christmas morning. First, I burnt incense and tried to meditate (something I'd never actually been taught how to do). This is really the simplest way to feel holy. Unfortunately in a room as small as mine, during the snugness of winter, such a scent becomes stifling, and, when my mother came bursting in, all out of breath, convinced she'd smelled something on fire, I quickly disposed of the evidence, and tried a different tact. Always a fan of the intensely visceral, I took myself outside at midnight, stood barefoot in the snow, and tried to feel the pulse of the earth. It was certainly visceral, but there is little that is holy about numb feet, and besides, one of my dogs, on my way in, mistook me for a burglar, and probably woke half the neighborhood in her effort to warn my family I was out to steal

their Christmas presents.

My final year, I simply climbed onto the roof outside my window and sat and stared at the moon. I would like to say that it was during that experience of sitting and trying to be part of nature that I realized what I was after. I didn't want the true meaning of Christmas, and I sure as hell didn't want presents. I didn't want America to wake up and smell the mold on the fruit cake, I just wanted something holy. Santa Claus was a reality only in malls and hardware stores, I was just starting to realize that not everyone in my family actually enjoyed getting together for Christmas, and, lets face it, I never really believed in Jesus anyway. But the moon was real. The stars were real. The frozen shingles and my plump hands were real. I was out here doing something special and different, celebrating the reality that I was alive by letting the cold set my nerves on fire. It wasn't the Christmas I was looking for, just the confirmation that I was breathing and that was good. So to me, that's what Yule is-- a celebration of life and good. And even though I've forsaken spells, and no longer pray to a two-fold God, even though I haven't tried to hold down a conversation with a tree for at least a year, I'd like to declare here-and-now that I'll be celebrating Yule again when late December rolls around. So, as the Wiccan farewell goes, Merry meet, merry part, and merry meet again.

Next Month in  
**LE TEMPS  
RETROUVÉ**

The Year  
2010:  
*Will it be as  
good as the  
movie?*