

The West Wind

May/June 2009

Cranston High School West

Vol. XLV No. 7

Check out *The West Wind* and *West Watch* online at <http://cpsed.net/chsw/studentcenter/westwind.htm>

At the top of the class



By: Tess Povar
Staff Reporter

Each year the valedictorian and salutatorian proudly stand up on stage at Providence Performing Arts Center and give their speeches to their fellow classmates. This year, valedictorian Ashley Rimay with a grade point average of 4.991 and salutatorian, Rebecca Dinerman with a grade point average of 4.955 hold their titles of the number one and two class ranks out of 410 students.

The valedictorian and salutatorian are two people who have not only the highest grade point averages, but also have a variety of extracurricular activities, as well as prestigious awards and societies in which they belong.

Rimay, who has entered West as a freshman, has not only done well academically, but has also participated in a number of activities including football and basketball cheerleading, *The West*



Photo from West Wind Archives
Former West Wind senior editor, Ashley Rimay, shown delivering her speech at graduation, worked hard and stayed involved throughout her entire high school career and has achieved the title of valedictorian.

Wind, and freshmen mentors. She will be attending the University of Rhode Island Pharmacy School in the fall with a centennial scholarship.

Dinerman has also achieved many things while here at West as well. She has been involved in the yearbook as an executive staff member, freshman mentors, student council, and also has been part of the band for four years while being the West drum major as well. She will be attending Stonehill College in the fall majoring in Psychology and Elementary Education.

Even though Rimay and Dinerman have been highly successful at Cranston West during their four years, they have gone through challenges as well to get them where they are today. Rimay stated, "I still went out with my friends and went to games; I never let my school work interfere with my social life." She mentioned even though her school work took up a lot of her time, she managed it and created an equal balance between her school and social life.

VALEDICTORIAN, continued on page 9

Senior art on Federal Hill



By: Mike Rosa
News Editor

Federal Hill is the "Heartbeat of Providence." From shopping to dining to nightlife, Federal Hill has it all. On the evening of March 15, "the hill" hosted an exhibition at the Royal Gallery which displayed Cranston West seniors Legacy pieces.

The Royal Gallery is known as a prestigious gallery that is on Federal Hill in Providence. "It's a wonderful exposure for the kids and it gets them in a professional setting so obviously I said yes," said Voccola.

This long standing "Legacy" tradition was established specifically for the seniors who are enrolled in the Studio

Class. The "Legacy" project was developed to provide an ongoing opportunity to allow students to enrich the cultural awareness of the school and community while celebrating their individual achievements in the arts.

The seniors' work was displayed throughout the gallery as parents, teachers, and curious visitors marveled at what the students had done.

Later in the evening, Mayor Fung also visited the gallery to support the city's children in what they had done. "I think a lot of the works are a reflection of the vision and talent of a lot of our students at Cranston and I'm glad Mr. Rahini and the gallery are providing this for them to share their vision and their works with a lot of the people in the public," expressed Fung.

ART, continued on page 5



Photo by Ryan Welsh
The Royal Gallery in Providence was the setting for the Cranston West "Legacy" art gallery.

What's Inside



The double page spread lets you know where the members of the senior class plan on going to college in the fall.
Pgs. 6-7

The 2008-2009 sports season was full of memorable moments. The sports section has a visual review of some of them.
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A group of Falcon athletes will be attending their respective colleges in the fall for their superiority on the field.
Pg. 11

Ashley Squared performed at Follies 2009 along with many of their classmates.
Pg. 8

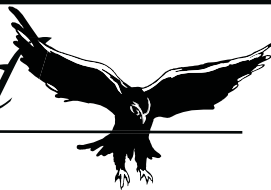


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The West Wind



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Falcon



FREEZE FRAME



Photo by Nick Sczerbinski

The senior class of 2009 throws their graduation caps in celebration at the end of the graduation ceremony at PPAC on Saturday, June 13.

Senior Editorial

By: **Rachel Palmisciano**

It seems as though everyone was always saying that high school would fly by, that it would be over in the blink of an eye. I am not sure if I concur with this. But with my final year coming to a close I feel it is appropriate to pay a final tribute to West, to point out the positives and negatives.

High school is strange. It involves waking up terribly early, speeding to a parking lot filled with crazy, new drivers, and obnoxious parents driving in haste so they don't miss the second hour of the Today Show. The pot-holes are a killer, and there have been multiple times when I've had to park on the small plot of grass, under a tree.

My morning workout includes sprinting to advisory before I get locked out, and then sprinting to my locker so I'm not too late to the first class. Luckily, the Arctic chill of the classrooms cools me down.

There are a lot of rules. I know it is important to keep order, but man there are a lot of rules. My biggest annoyance is hallway passes. I am technically an adult and if I did not want to stay in school I would not be here. Without this piece of paper, I cannot walk to the bathroom or to my locker, or anywhere else. But I go to school with kids who

would meander the halls all day and never go to class once, so passes became necessary.

I cannot go outside without being yelled at. Once me and my friend Tess went to sit outside, just for a minute to warm up. We were interrogated by four different teachers, who thought it was so weird that we would be outside on a beautiful day. Going to my car is always a project. I've been chased down twice.

But I should switch gears and talk about what I have gained from high school. West has given me what I needed to be accepted into all the colleges I liked, and I will be able to attend the college I've always wanted to go to.

Then there are fun, spirited events, like Pep Rally, Way Out Games, and dances. It is likely that years down the line these are what I will remember about high school. There is an excitement in the air, and a feeling of festivity that I might not get to feel again once I enter the "real world."

I've had some good teachers and there have been classes I've actually enjoyed going to. Although I've never managed to memorize the daily schedule, I will probably always remember the classes and most of all the people in them, my classmates whose faces will always be intertwined with Cranston High School West.

"Go Falcons"

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Roving Reporter

How do you feel about the shortened summer due to the extra days off?

Lindsay Burrows, junior- I think it stinks because it's the summer going into senior year and it's short.



Johnny Habchi, sophomore- The days that we have to make up is a dumb idea because it cuts out of your summer time.



Xavier Ferland, freshman- The extra days of school mean that I have less days to go to the beach.



Jack Restivo, junior- I believe that we should only celebrate the important holidays and have a longer summer.



Teacher Talk



Do you have any last words for the 2009 senior class?



Ms. Urban, foreign language- Find something you love to do and do it with passion. Stay healthy in mind and in body. Stay positive and optimistic.



Mr. Cartwright, math- Live long and prosper. Good luck in whatever you may do. Come back and visit. Enjoy life to the fullest.



Mrs. Byrd, history- Luck is transitory. Possibilities are endless. Recognize them and make your own success. May happiness surround you in all you do.



Coach Stoehr, physical education- Good riddance. Just kidding, work ethic is more important than anything else.

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Congratulations Math Team Seniors

Kevin Borrelli
Linh Dang
Jess David
Richard Dennen
Lauren Dulieu

Michelle Hersey
Jiyeang Hwang
Nupur Jain
Steve Peltier
Joe Saccoccia

Good Luck

--Coach Capuano and Coach Lannon

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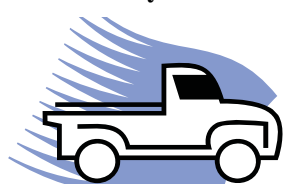
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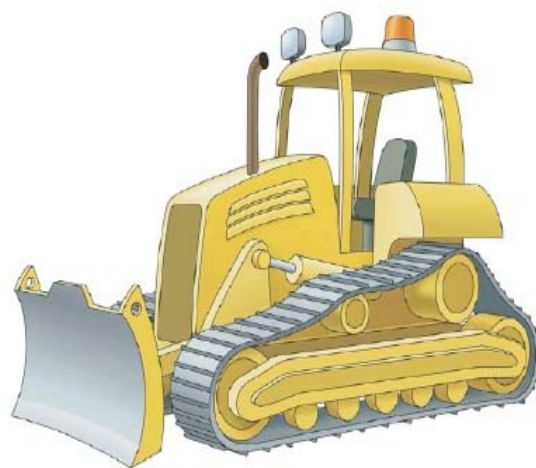
Photo by Ryan Welsh

Senior Art Night:

Cranston West senior, and artist, Tim Mitsmenn takes the time to thank the owner of the Royal Gallery, Mr. Munir Rahini.

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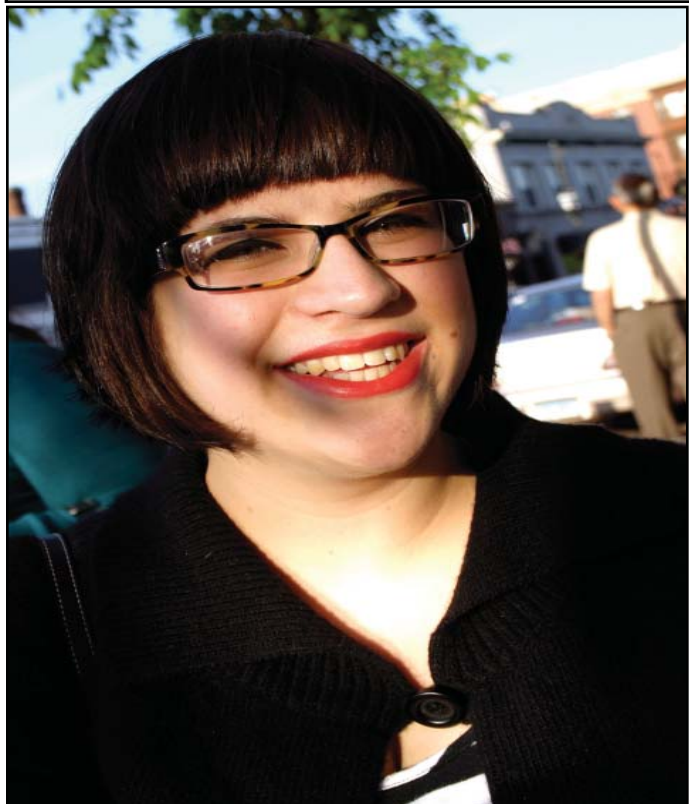
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Senior Falcons recognized for all-star artwork



All photos by Ryan Welsh

Senior art students mingled with Mayor Allan Fung and school administrators at the senior art show. Mrs. Voccola received the 2009 RISD Teacher of the Year award. Below Left, Sara Pollard received a scholarship to attend RISD in the fall.



ART from page 1

Standing by their works were the proud seniors including: Sara Davis, Christine Dennen, Chelsea Durante, Andrea Gemma, Shane Milan, Sara Pollard, Brooke Ricci, Tiffany Sammartino, Tim Mitsmenn, Rachel Snead, and Tanya Wang. "It's like a real honor, it's nothing like you're used to because usually you're used to doing things in class for a grade but to end up in a place like this it's just, wow," said senior art student Mitsmenn.

Rahini was overjoyed to have a hand in creating something where kids would have a chance to display their work in a public setting. "My kids graduated from Cranston West and I thought it was the least I could do for the school that educated my kids," said Rahini.

Each student chose four pieces from their senior portfolio to hang in the gallery for the evening as well as present their framed work to the school. Rahini offered his services of his on-staff graphic designer, which created a postcard invitation welcoming friends, family and guests to observe the pieces. With little money in the school's budget, art teacher Barbara Voccola set out to find a sponsor to frame the pieces. "I was looking for a new sponsor for the Legacy pieces because there is no money," expressed

Voccola.

Voccola contacted Jerry's Artarama who specializes in framing and spoke with General Manager, Ida Liberatore about the sponsorship. "I asked Ida Liberatore if they could sponsor us and she got back to me and said it wasn't possible that they could sponsor me, but she would see what she could do about giving me the best possible price for framing," expressed Voccola.

With the budgets sweltering deficit, the generous price from Jerry's Artarama still exceeded what Voccola could afford. "When she came back with a price, it was an awesome price, but the only unfortunate thing was I couldn't afford it," said Voccola. "Even if she said a dollar for twelve pieces to be framed, I couldn't afford that."

Trying to look for another way to frame the artwork, Voccola asked Liberatore if she had any other ideas. Liberatore responded with knowing the owner of the Royal Art Gallery. "She had asked me to wait a day or two and she would see what the Royal Gallery could do for me and I really didn't have any expectations and really didn't know what she meant by see what they could do for me".

The next day Liberatore arrived in Voccola's classroom and relayed the news that Mr. Munir Rahini (owner of the Royal Gallery) is willing to frame

all of the pieces for free with only one catch. "He is asking that the kids come to the gallery and actually have an opening which is so awesome and a no brainer for me," Voccola said excitedly.

"It was an iffy cost of everything, so Jerry's Artarama donated some of the cost and Mr. Rahini donated the rest of the cost and we were able to put the show together," said Liberatore.

Former graduate of Cranston West, Liberatore was happy that she was able to take part in helping to coordinate such an event for the students. "I graduated from West and that's pretty much why I wanted to do it and I had participated in the show myself and the children are ahead of their artistic ability at this point," expressed Liberatore.

Toward the end of the night Barbara Voccola had been recognized by the Rhode Island School of Design as the recipient of the 2009 Teacher of Excellence Award. She was selected by Program Coordinators and Continuing Education Administrators at RISD for her teaching in RISD's Young Artists Program for the past 15 years.

"It feels wonderful to be recognized by the administration, by faculty members, and by parents. It's really a rewarding thing because I've been here 15 years. I've had a lot of positive feedback, a lot of wonderful parents and a lot of wonderful talented kids," smiled Voccola.



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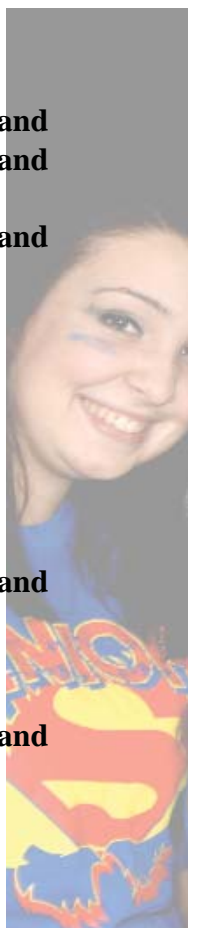


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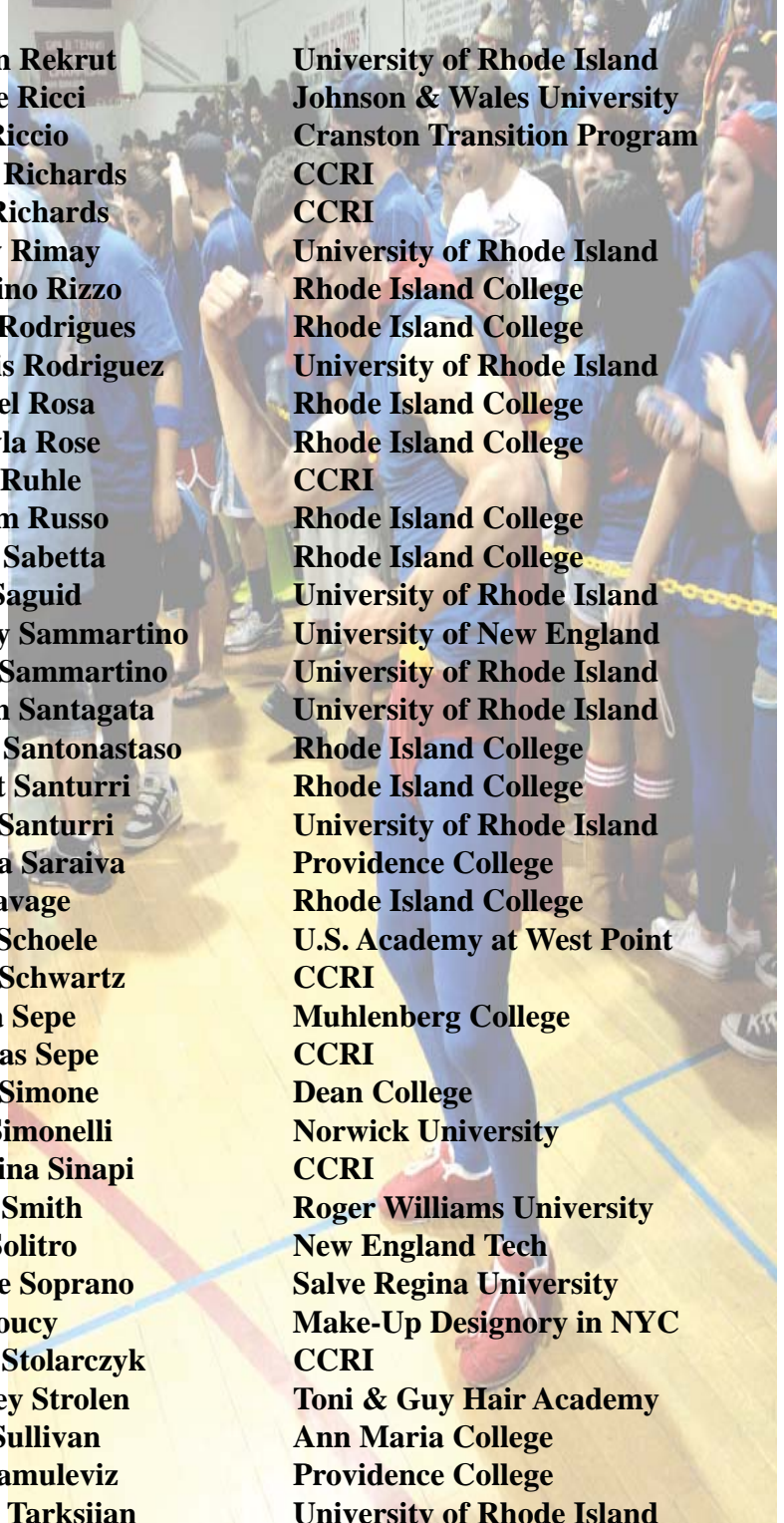
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Follies 2009



Freshman Giovanna Boscia impressed the audience at Follies 2009 with an incredible performance of "Home Sweet Home." The Westernettes performed in their bright attire. Tara DeCosta performed "A Whole New World" from *Aladdin*.

Photo by Natalie Patalano



By: Andrew DeCataldo
Staff Reporter

The end of every school year brings prom, graduation, exams, but many talented students look forward to Follies. This year's Follies took place on Friday May 22, and Saturday May 23. Brendan Macera, Justin Paige, and Kyle Boulay all hosted the annual talent showcase.

The theme of this year's Follies was "Movies", which in my opinion worked very well for the show. Each skit and introduction had a movie relation.

Each act was either introduced by the hosts, or by an announcer not seen but only heard. This announcer was the voice of Michael Chase. Chase sounded very similar to that voice heard on movie previews. This added a great effect to the show and theme.

Between most acts were skits performed by the three hosts. Each skit was inspired by a famous movie, or America Idol. Some of the skits performed were funny and entertaining, but most were just dragged on.

My favorite skit was a parody on the movie Titanic. It was witty, and creative, and didn't leave me bored or annoyed.

One skit that left me more than



Follies hosts Brendan Macera (Left), Kyle Boulay (Right), and Justin Paige (not shown), used a combination of skits, jokes, and random dance sessions to win over the crowd in the Cranston West auditorium.

Photo by Natalie Patalano

bored and annoyed was the host's impression of an infomercial. It was way too long and not funny at all. I give the hosts a lot of credit for coming up with such creative ideas, but some of them didn't work at all.

The acts, which were the most important aspect of the show, were also underwhelming. Some acts were outstanding and great, like Giovanna Boscia's

rendition of "Home Sweet Home", but others just flopped. In my opinion there should be a harder audition process that would make it more difficult for people to make the show.

Overall, there was nothing to amazing about this year Follies. The lighting and stage setup were remarkable, but the sound and microphone work was yet again a disaster. Act after act partici-

pants had trouble with their microphones, and during some acts, the sound was way too distorted and not balanced at all.

I give the hosts an A for effort, but an overall C for the final product.

Follies this year had a great theme, and was very creative, but in my opinion wasn't all that it was hyped up to be.

Scholarship foundation for former Falcon



Photo provided by Ronald Gill Sr.

Former Cranston West student Ronald Gill Jr. was killed in Coast Guard duty in 2007 and a scholarship foundation was created in his name.

By: Kelsey DeJesus
Feature Editor

On March 25, 2007 Ronald Gill Jr. was killed in the line of duty off the coast of Seattle, Washington. Ronnie was a Cranston West graduate from the class of 1998 and was a member of the CACTC program specializing in culinary arts. Ron and Rosemary Gill, Ronnie's parents knew they wanted to do something to keep their sons memory alive.

They decided to create a scholarship fund in their son's name that would benefit kids at Cranston West, Cranston East, and Johnson and Wales. "Ronnie was a port security officer and a federal law enforcement officer. He was a typical kid. Loved sports and always had a ton of friends," said Ron Gill Sr.

After the loss of their son, Ronald Sr. and his wife Rosemary knew they wanted to do something to keep their son's memory alive. "We did this to keep his memory alive and for people to always speak his name. Also so that something good could come out of such a tragedy," continued Gill.

In order to raise funds for the

scholarship foundation, the board of directors has run numerous events. Most recently they held a motorcycle run which began here at Cranston West, and from here, continued to the cemetery where Ronnie is buried and then proceeded to Point Judith where there is a bench dedicated to Ronnie. "We've done a spaghetti dinner, a car wash, the motorcycle run, and this year we will be having our third annual golf tournament at Cranston Country Club," said Gill.

Gill was approached by student council advisor, Deana Barlow who wanted to get the council involved in the fundraising process for the foundation. The council did a pampered chef fundraiser to benefit the scholarship fund. "Cranston West reached out to us. Deana Barlow and the student council helped with the car wash and volunteered at the golf tournament," said Gill.

The Ronald Gill Jr. Foundation has donated \$21,000 to Cranston West students in the form of scholarships between 2008 and 2009. Johnson and Wales has received \$17,500 and Cranston East has received \$1,000.

Chalk Talk: Mr. Edd Spidell

By: Amanda Mizzoni
Contributing Reporter

Q. What is your name and what is your title?

A. I am Mr. Edd Spidell and I am a pre-engineering and robotics teacher for the Cranston area career technical center.

Q. Please describe your position as a robotic teacher here, what is your program like and how might kids benefit from it.

A. I prepare young men and women for the field of engineering, what their going to need to do to be able to accomplish 4 years at least in college to become engineers. Engineers are people that design, build and invent new products, new things for all of us.

Q. What has been your most valuable experience here?

A. Dealing with hundreds of high school kids making sure that they make wise and good choices.

Q. What is your background or qualifications for teaching robotics?

A. I am a degreed electrical and mechanical engineer. I hold advanced degrees in engineering.

Q. What are some of the challenges you face in the career and technical program?

A. To be able to maintain the current technology level of equipment and that can be very expensive with regards to

funding because all this equipment is really, really expensive.

Q. You have been dealing with some personal challenges lately, please describe, and how do you feel now?

A. I'm alive and still kicking.

Q. What are some of the hobbies and interests you like to do outside of school?

A. Oh I love flying both full size planes and remote control planes, one of the other hobbies I have is skiing.

Q. What is your greatest life accomplishment?

A. Raising two great sons and having great students.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I went to Pilgrim High School, my undergrad is from Roger Williams University and my graduate degree is from the University of Connecticut, and I have additional advanced course work at the University of Wisconsin and also University of California in lasers and systems.

Q. Where is the coolest place you have traveled?

A. In 1973, I took an embassy flight from Thailand to Katmandu, Nepal.

Q. Who is your idol or role model growing up?

A. Albert Einstein for his abilities with math and science and Jimmy Hendrix because he cleared my head, I call it Xlax for the mind.

mas before their peers.

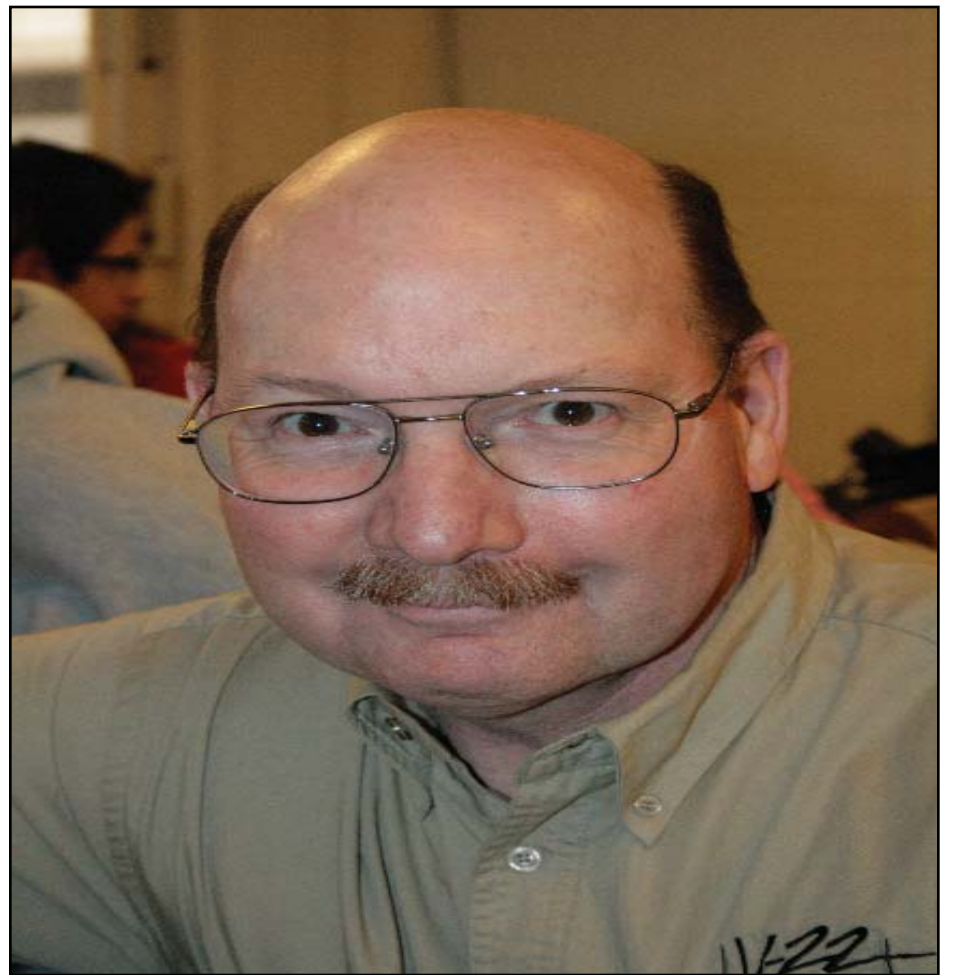


Photo from West Wind archives

Mr. Edd Spidell is the Robotics teacher at Cranston High School West. He plans on teaching for many more years.

VALEDICTORIAN

continued from page 1

Same goes for Dinerman as well. She explained, "I sometimes became too stressed out, but I still went out on the weekends and made sure I had fun."

Rimay and Dinerman are starting to compose their speeches for graduation day on June 13th. Rimay explained, "I am very nervous; I'm not a big fan of public speaking." They will each present their two speeches and accept their diplo-

In conclusion, Rimay and Dinerman both stated their deep appreciation and grateful view on what Cranston West provided and did for both of them.

Rimay stated they she is very proud of herself and owes it to the Cranston West teachers and education for the impact they made on her.

Dinerman also explained that it has been a cool experience for her and it will be something she will never forget.

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Brown's book an *angel* in print

But a *demon* on the silver screen

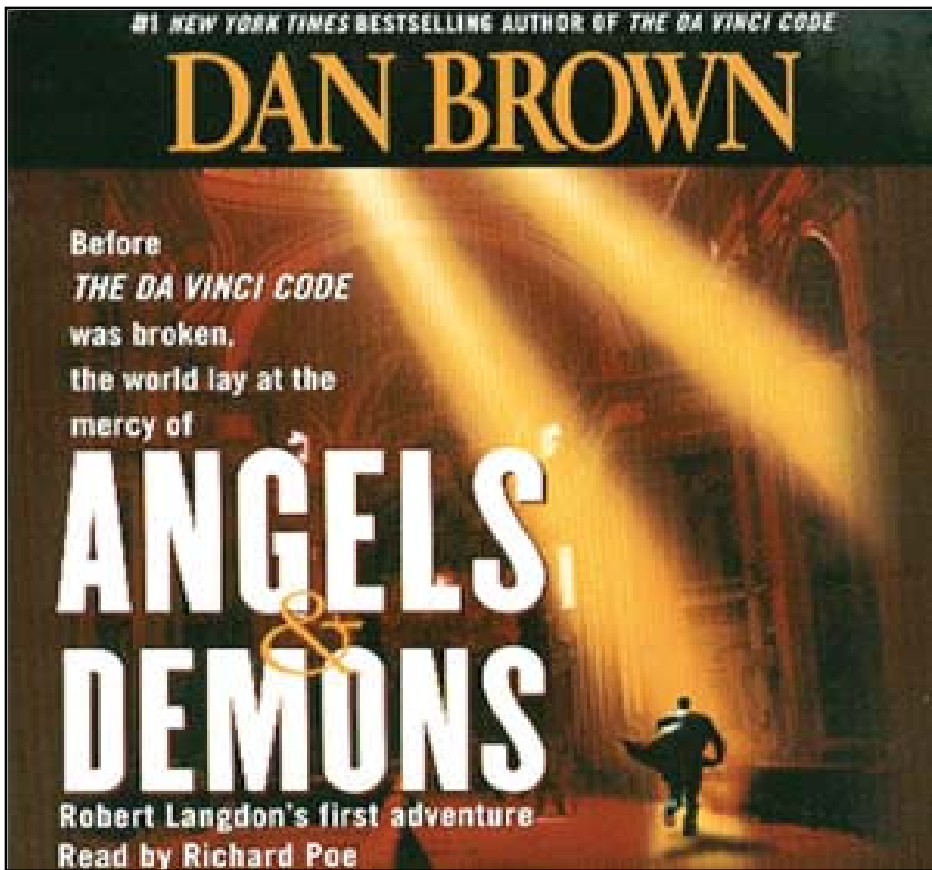


Photo provided by Google

Angels & Demons, the novel by Dan Brown, was adored by many readers, but when it was turned into a movie, many fans were turned off.



By: Tara DeCosta
Entertainment Editor

Everyone gets disappointed when a top selling book gets made into a film. Especially when the whole story line gets twisted around, it is always a huge let down to readers.

I first read the book *Angels and Demons* my junior year. I wasn't a big reader, but I fell in love with the book and just couldn't put it down. The novel was based on a quest by Robert Langdon to solve mysteries of a secret society called the Illuminati. Conflict of religion and science was the theme that the author Dan Brown intertwined into the plot, between the Roman Catholic Church and Illuminati. The plot follows Langdon as he tries to stop the Illuminati from destroying Vatican City, where the story takes place.

Maximilian Kohler, the CERN director, makes a huge discovery, and has a lead on the Illuminati. Kohler ends up teaming up together with Langdon, and

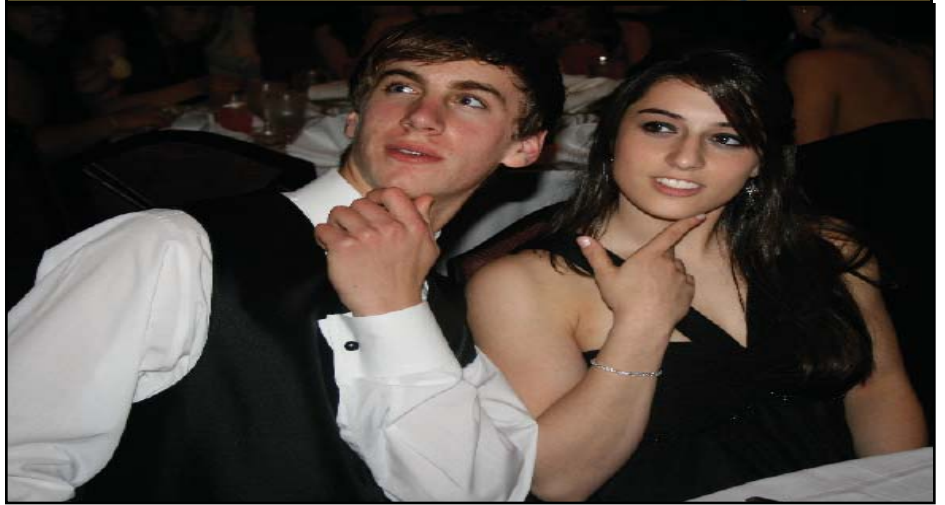
the dynamic duo go through hell and back. Throughout the book many twists are revealed, that I will not say. I do not plan on ruining the book for any you, just find out for yourselves!

Now just shortly after reading the book, I found out that a movie was being made and of course I had to go see it. I was so excited to see it walking into the theatre, but so upset walking out. The film left out the character of Maximilian Kohler which completely changed the storyline. Along with that plot change, many other important scenes that made the book so interesting and suspenseful were left out, and it was very disappointing for me.

I particularly did not agree with character choice. Many of the characters from the book which I envisioned to be scary looking appeared like models in the movie. The film makers softened crucial details heavily between the Roman Catholic Church and the Illuminati, just to make it politically correct, which was a big downfall.

If *Angels and Demons* was made into a movie to its fullest potential, as the novel was, it would have made viewers who read the book fall in love with it.

2009 Picture Send-Off



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Falcons fly to the NCAA

With the fall and winter sports season already passed and the spring season coming to an end, Cranston West showed its true colors this year. By the time it was all said and done Cranston High School West had multiple state championships, a number of semi-final berth, and most of its teams participating in the playoffs. With most seniors athletic careers coming to an end, only a few are going to be playing their respective sports in college.



Jared DiBiase (Football) - Endicott College

John Coleman (Football) - Mass Maritime

Ethan Smith (Basketball) - Roger Williams

Shawn Giblin** (Wrestling) - Edinboro

Joe Portukalian (Baseball)- CCRI

Tyler Corsi (Baseball) - Hartford University

Shane O'Connell* (Baseball) - New Haven

Rachel Ferri* (Basketball) - Mercy College

Matt Simonelli (Football) – Norwich

*Seniors Rachel Ferri and Shane O'Connell signed Division II scholarships.

**Shawn Giblin named high school All-American. Nick O'Connell honorable mention.

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2009 High School All-American

SHAWN GIBLIN - 138
Cranston West High School, Rhode Island
Coach Matt Gleason
187-14 151 Falls GPA 3.5
State Champion 4x
New England Champion, MOW

RESISTANCE

(Top to bottom) Photo provided by Jay Jones and Natalie Patalano
Shawn Giblin was named a high school All-American, due to his N.E. championship. Senior Ethan Smith will attend Roger Williams in the fall.



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West sports: Year In Review

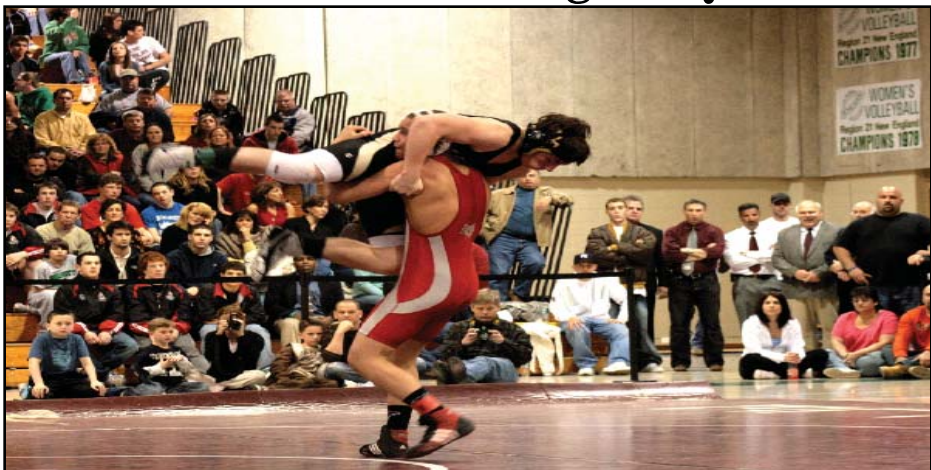
Leap of faith: James Strawderman captures state pole vault record



Photo by Ashley Ravo

(Top): West junior James Strawderman breaks the R.I. state record for pole vaulting at the Hendricken Invitational Track Meet by jumping a distance of 15'3".

Falcons athletics had a great year that was highlighted by some great moments



Photos by: (L to R) Kelsey DeJesus, Tara DeCosta, Natalie Patalano

(L to R) 4-time state champion Shawn Giblin lifts his competition. Junior Sam Nolte played a large role in the girls' soccer team's trip to the state finals. State championship series MVP Phil Doucette led the hockey team to a division-1 title. The boys' soccer team upset Cranston East in the City Cup.

