

## Opinions differ on plan to eliminate Regents exams

By Crystal Kimball & Raquel Vescio

New York State is known for its high educational standards, and throughout the last several years there have been some great advances. But in the wake of the current budget deficit, it seems as though nothing is sacred. Recently, the State Board of Regents looked at how much money it would save if many of the regents exams were cut. This would include two of the five Regents exams students are required to pass in order to graduate from high school. If passed, this will most likely come into effect in the budget cuts next fiscal year. Regents representative Anthony Bottar stated, "I'm reasonably sure the board would look everywhere it could to save the money that needs to be saved to run the assessment program before it did anything in respect to the five Regents system." The Regents face a projected \$11.5 million in cuts from the roughly \$120 million budget for the state Education Department's Office. The Regents would save \$1.6 million if they cut just the global and U.S History high school exams. Also, if they eliminate the eighth grade language proficiency test it would save about \$2 million. Cutting three of the four high

school Regents science exams would save another \$1.2 million, and getting rid of two of the three math exams would save another 0.4 million. Overall, the state could save 13.7 million dollars by cutting the regents. Principal Paul Gasparini of Jamesville-DeWitt does not expect many Regents exams to be eliminated and he stated, "It would be a real paradigm shift, and there would be too much pushback on it from everyone." If too many of the re-

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gents' get cut, it will change the learning in many classrooms and students will not be tested to see if they are learning the material that is to be met.

Regents examinations are the oldest educational testing service in the US, predating the College Board, the Educational Testing Ser-

vice, and the American College Testing Program. The NYSED has been giving entrance exams since 1865 and exit exams since 1878. Initially these exams were generalized essay questions. The first high school regent's exams were administered in 1878. The first exam given was on Algebra, American History, Elementary Latin, Natural Philosophy and Physical Geography. In the early twentieth century the exit exams began to focus more on subject matter areas and confirming special knowledge that students acquired during high school. These exams, now known as the Regents, became the basis for the curriculum in high school. Less fortunate school districts did not have the resources to teach the full range of academic subjects, especially science, so these students graduated with a local diploma. This unfairness led NYSED to require Regents diplomas for all students in an attempt to end the two-track system.

G. Ray Bodley High School senior Lindsay Navagh is in favor of the cuts, saying, "I think it is a good thing because it will not put as much pressure on the students." But Science teacher Mr. Beckwith had a different take on it, noting, "I am disappointed because I think it is one of the few things that sets educational standards of New York higher than the rest of the country."

Math teacher Mr. Dutelle declared, "I think cutting the regents in January and in August is a good idea, and not producing the regents in other languages is a good idea. But, cutting the regents in June is a bad decision."

Bodley Assistant Principal Mr. Green is also against the idea, stating, "I think it is a poor decision on their part for the amount of money they are going to save overall." As one might expect, the students and teachers have different opinions about cutting the regents exams. Most students would agree and they would say it is a good idea, while teachers would disagree.



Math Club advisor Mrs. Ryan checks over answers from Team Disco Inferno plus McAce of Taylor Harvey, Elyse Cianfarano and James McKay during their Pi Day competition on Tuesday. The trio won first-place honors. (Sarah Allee photo)

**RaiderNet Daily**  
returns on Monday, March 22  
due to the superintendent's day on  
Friday

## Opinion

## Slacking off in senior year is a BAD idea

By Ben Davis

With the weather starting to get warmer and the snow melting away, spring is just around the corner. This warm weather is usually a signal that the end of the school year is almost here and summer is quickly approaching. The idea that school is beginning to draw to a close causes many seniors to start to slack off. Most feel that now that college applications are out of the way they deserve a break and have the right to take the year easy before heading off to college. This is also known as senioritis, and will end up having more of a negative effect than a positive one.

Seniors have worked diligently for three years, taking big tests, completing projects on time, studying for finals and preparing for college. There is no point to throw away three years of hard work just because you don't feel like working for one more year. Senioritis can jeopardize your acceptance to colleges. Many students feel that once junior year is knocked out of the way the college prepping process ends. This, however, is not the case; many colleges take a particular interest in senior year. Several college applications require a list of your senior courses along with information about these courses. If this section is lacking from the usual workload you take on, admission officers will know if you decided to take the year off. In addition to this some colleges include a form called the mid-grade year report in the application. Your counselor completes this form and sends the grades from your first semester to the college. This then becomes a decisive section of your application. If your grades or workload have dropped signifi-



cantly this could hurt your chances of being accepted to your schools.

Even once students are accepted it is important to stay on task and keep your grades up. With a lot of acceptance letters coming in for students, some may have noticed the warnings such as, "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." In other words colleges reserve the right to deny your admission should your grades drop considerably. This shows that it is important to stay on task even after acceptance letters have come in.

Senior year is crucial for most students and requires just as much work, if not more, than any other year. This year is an opportunity to strengthen your skills and gain more experience in and out of school.

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The best way to stay focused is to stay active and involved in many different sports, clubs, and activities. Students can also consider AP courses, which will give them a jump on their college work and may even earn them some credits. A successful senior year can better prepare you for the rigors of college and help launch you on a path to a successful future.

## No school on Friday, time to check out a movie



It's Thursday and there is no school tomorrow. Maybe you should check out one of the five new movies in theaters this week. These movies include *The Bounty Hunter*, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *The Runaways*, *Repo Man*, and *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*. This is going to be a big weekend at the box office with these six movies.

*The Bounty Hunter* is romantic comedy starring Jennifer Aniston and Gerard Butler. A bounty hunter, a person who hunts or looks for a criminal or fugitive for a reward, learns that his next target is his ex-wife who jumped out on her bail. The bounty hunter, played by Butler, thinks it's going to be an easy payday, but then he realizes that nothing ever goes smoothly with his ex-wife. They each always try to one-up each other, but then they are on the run for their lives. They thought their promise to love each other was tough, but now staying alive is going to be even harder.

*Dairy of a Wimpy Kid* is comedy about a student in the seventh grade. He writes about all the events and adventures of his everyday life in a diary that his mother forces him to keep. This movie is based on a series of books written by Jeff Kinney.

The stars of this movie are Zachary Gordon, Robert Capron and Rachael Harris.

*The Runaways* is a musical drama about the 70's teenage band the Runaways. The band was formed in 1975 and teenagers Joan Jett and Cherie Currie were the leaders of it. Dakota Fanning, Twilight's Kristen Stewart, and Michael Shannon star. This movie is limited and will not be playing in all theaters.

*Repo Man* is an action/thriller movie starring Jude Law, Forest Whitaker, and Alice Braga. This movie takes place in a world where artificial organs are readily available for purchase and centers around a man whose job it is to repossess people's organs who fail to make their payments on time. This repo man has an artificial heart of his own and he finds himself running because he is facing hard financial times.

*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is a mystery/thriller that stars Michael Nyqvist and Noomi Rapace. This movie is about a journalist and a computer hacker who are both hired to investigate the disappearance of a young Harriet Vanger. This search connects them to a series of murders that are decades old. Then this begins to unravel the deep dark secrets of the Vanger Family. This movie is limited and will only be playing in certain theaters.

It's going to be a good weekend at the movies, so gather some friends and check out a new movie. As always check your local listings for times and locations of these movies because they are not playing in all theaters.

# Fulton hosts state hockey tourney this weekend

Even though the high school varsity hockey season has come to an end, many members of the team have continued their way to states, not in high school, but for the Fulton city travel league. This years states will take place at the Fulton War Memorial ice arena this weekend, giving the Raiders home ice advantage in a major tournament. The team is made up of almost all Raider varsity players with a few exceptions with players from neighboring school districts such as CBA and Central Square.

The NYS Tier 3 Midget State Tournament will bring in crowds from all over New York competing for the Tier 3 state title in Fulton NY. Team competing are Canandaigua, Cicero, Northern Chautauqua, Valley, Louisville, Jamestown, Bear Mountain, and Fulton. The teams will be split into two divisions, Division 1 and Division 2, and each team will play a series of three games. The top two teams from each division will than play a crossover game against one another's division, and the winners of that go on to play in the state title game. Fulton has made the state tournament for the last three years but yet to claim a state title. This year the Raiders take the ice in their own building, allowing for a hometown crowd and atmosphere in their favor.

The tournament will kickoff this Friday March 19th through the 21st. Fulton opens action at 9 am with another game at 7 pm. On Saturday the Raiders play their final preliminary game at 2 pm. If they place among the top two in Division one they will head to the crossover games on Sunday that are to be announced. If you're looking for some local action this weekend come root on the Raiders as they look to take on some of the best teams the state has to offer. *By Ryan Kesterke*



The high school season may be over, but hockey continues on for many members of the Raider side this weekend when Fulton plays host to the Tier 3 State Championship Tournament.

# Irish eyes were smiling at GRB on Wednesday



St. Patrick's Day found many shades of green in the halls of G. Ray Bodley High School including RaiderNet Daily Sports Editor Eric Belair (middle, left photo), along with hall monitors Mr. Lyons and Mr. Fadden. In the right photo faculty members Mrs. Downing, Mr. Gillard, Mrs. Morse and Mrs. Barton were also dressed in the spirit of the day. (Taylor Harvey photos)

**Bodley's Got TALENT**

**Auditions are March 30-31!**

**Get your ACT together!**



# NCAA Hoops: how the West might be won

By Eric Belair

Welcome to the Wild Wild West! The West Region is the fourth and final bracket of the NCAA Tournament. This region ranges all the way from conference champions to bubble teams, with everything in between. It seems like a tough bracket, but not too tough. In many eyes there is no clear-cut favorite.

The #1 seed in the West Region are the Syracuse Orange, the fourth overall #1 seed. The Orange posted an impressive 28-4 record, and were 15-3 in the Big East Conference; which is arguably the toughest conference to compete in college basketball. Syracuse lost to Pittsburgh for their first loss, then twice to familiar foe Louisville. Their fourth loss came to Georgetown in the Big East Tournament.

The Orange has many different weapons in their arsenal as they have five players averaging in double figures for points. The only downfall for coach Jim Boeheim's squad is that center Arinze Onuaku may be out for this weekend with a knee injury. Whatever the case maybe, the Orange will need to step up their game in order to advance.

This was a tough region to pick from for the previewing categories because there are many teams that could fit in the respective groups. But after time spent looking and studying hard, the team to keep an eye on is Brigham Young University, (BYU). The Cougars are a #7 seed from the Mountain West Conference with a 13-3 record and 29-5 overall. They will take on the #10 seeded Florida Gators, which they should win and would advance to play the #2 Kansas State Wildcats. Kansas



State will be a favorite, but expect BYU to give the Wildcats a run or even come out victorious.

There are a few teams that can be considered as a sleeper team, but the Xavier Musketeers can be a threat for opponents. The Musketeers are a member of the Atlantic-10 Conference where they posted a 14-2 record, also being 24-8 overall. Xavier is a #6 seed and can make things happen and be able to upset a few teams because of their tournament experience.

The West Region has some outstanding scorers in the group, starting right out with Wesley Johnson from Syracuse. Johnson is averaging 16.0 ppg and grabbing 8.4 rpg. He is among the top players in the country. Jacob Pullen leads the Kansas State Wildcats with 18.9 ppg. Pullen is dangerous to guard for opposing teams.

Xavier is led by a great player in Jordan Crawford. Crawford is an impressive scorer who averages 19.7 ppg and 4.8 rpg. Jimmer Fredette leads BYU with an aggressive style of play while he scores 21.7 ppg, 3.1 rpg and 4.7 apg.

The most intriguing first round match-up is between the #5 seed, Butler Bulldogs and #12 seeded Miners from UTEP. One factor that makes this game interesting is that a #12 seed almost always upsets a #5 seed. Each team has great guard play, but the difference may be down low and UTEP has the size advantage. This will be a good game to watch and see who wins.

The West Region is tough and it will be a wild one. Any team can come out on top to be the squad in the Final Four. Have fun this weekend watching the dramatic finishes and the upsets. The NCAA Tournament is the greatest and most exciting sporting event. And now it has arrived, so let's start dancing.

## The Past Week in Sports

# Tiger's back, Ovechkin's out in wild week

By Nick Millard

With the NFL out of commission, and the MLB right around the corner, we're left with basketball and hockey... well aside from Tiger Woods. Which leads to this week's weekly headline, Tiger Woods returns for Masters. Unless you have lived in confinement for the last three or four days, you must have heard about this, because evidently it falls under the category of some of the worlds most important news. It has been reported on CNN, NBC, CBS, ABC, and every other news cast with a three-letter acronym.

I mean honestly, lets forget about health care, earthquakes, and mass genocides across the world, Tiger Woods is back! Seriously though, it is his job, get over it.

In the world of basketball, fans and gambling junkies are getting their brackets ready for the NCAA tournament. People across the nation are defying absolutely impossible odds to achieve greatness, and stand alone as the world's luckiest man. The games kicked off Tuesday, with the much-anticipated play-in game between Arkansas-Pine Bluff, and Winthrop. In upsetting fashion, Arkansas Pine Bluff pulled off the stunner, 61-44. Congratulations APB, you just ticked your way into the first round of the tournament and a humiliating blowout against Duke.



In the proud world of hockey, a dark cloud loomed over the Capitals and NHL superstar Alexander Ovechkin. In a game against the Chicago Blackhawk's, Ovechkin took a cheap shot on Chicago's Brian Campbell from behind..Campbell was injured on the play. This is the second time this year the aggressive Ovechkin got in trouble for aggressive violence, and because of the NHL Collective Bargaining Agreement, Ovechkin was suspended two games, and will have to chalk up roughly \$232,000. Maybe I'm wrong, but I cannot really comprehend how a two game suspension right before the playoffs is a punishment. We in the normal world call that a vacation. I mean he is killing the league in the points department, and although I don't really know his base salary, I am positive he has more than enough to give.

It is the off-season in the NFL, and the MLB. In the NFL, many colleges have been hosting their pro days. What is a pro day you are asking? A pro day is basically the last and only chance, where all the college quarterbacks throw in front of NFL scouts, because every one of them refused to throw at the NFL combine. Tim Tebow got to show off his new throwing motion on Tuesday, after heavy criticism from NFL scouts on his old throwing style. The MLB is right around the corner, as spring training is in full throttle. Opening day is Sunday, April 4; when the Boston Red Sox will host the New York Yankees at Fenway Park.

That is your past week in important sporting news, and I will be back next week to report more on Tiger Woods!

**School of Thought** compiled by **Max Ambuske** and **Jake Tallents**

# How do you think SU will do this weekend?



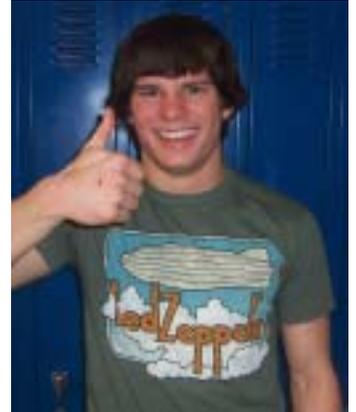
"They will win, at least by 50."  
**Chris Frontale**



"Good!"  
**Mack Wheeler**



"Good, they are going all the way."  
**Mr. Buchanan**



"Great, they will win by 12."  
**Colin Shannon**

## Morning announcements for Thursday, March 18

The next photo club meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 24 in room 118. Bring pictures and don't forget to be roving photojournalists.

The Photo Club would also like to invite any and all students and staff to submit two or three photos for the spring theme photo contest. Entries are due by May 7 and can be turned in to room 120.

Attention seniors: the Oswego Children's Board Scholarship deadline has been extended to March 29.

Hungry for a good read? Craving literary sustenance? Check out the book buffet in the library, where they are serving a variety of genres of fiction as well as non-fiction that appeals to all appetites. The book buffet is available from 7:15 to 3:30 this week in the library.

Buying lunch today? You'll have a choice between grilled chicken salad with salsa or turkey and cheese sub.

## Meteorology and you

by *Carson Metcalf*

**Today:** Sun and clouds. High in the mid-50s.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy skies. Low around 40.

**Tomorrow:** Sun and clouds. High near 60.

*GRB sophomore Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ [www.centralnewyorkweather.com](http://www.centralnewyorkweather.com) ...Look for his weather forecasts on RaiderNet Daily.*

