



## NHS sponsors “Students helping soldiers”

By Brenna Merry

It is evident that society is reaching an age where the idea of doing things for the good of others is diminishing. People put themselves first and foremost on a day to day basis and do only what they feel is most convenient to them. This characteristic that is becoming astoundingly more prominent is one that will allow people to leave this world without making any mark on society. Although It is true that many more people are “doing their own thing,” there is one group that will always live their lives with the goal of helping others; the soldiers.

At a young age we are asked what we want to do with our lives, a question that continues on, until, and throughout college. As we begin to choose our paths there are a handful of brave people who come to the fork in the road and follow the sign that reads “armed forces.”

At this moment these people are choosing to dedicate their lives to helping others, an entire country of others in fact. In today’s day and age where there is no longer a draft, these people are very often looked upon as crazy. This goes to show the lack of a genuine giving society that we have come to.

Day by day we continue our lives waking up wondering, “What will I wear today?” or “What will I do after school?” While we consider such trivial questions, there are people overseas, away from their families and friends, risking their lives so that we have the privilege to use the word “I.”

In this year 2010, war has become nearly routine. Our country has been involved in a war since 2001 and many Americans are blissfully ignorant toward all that is happening to our soldiers overseas. It is time to stop saying “What can I do?” and start saying “What can we do.”

Students Helping Soliders is the first project of this years National Honor Society. The goal is to fill five boxes of various items to send to troops overseas so they can receive them during the holiday season. The list of these items is on the boxes which are located in Mr. Lescarbeau, Mr. Galek, Mr.Nami, Mrs. Ryan and Mr. Heindorf’s rooms. Some examples of items on this list are toiletries as well as luxury items that soldiers would appreciate. This

project is taking place from November 8 up until November 19.

Co-Advisor Mrs. Ryan has been heard screaming, “SHS for NHS!” It is true that students right here at G. Ray Bodley can indeed be the ones helping American’s finest. Being

a hero does not require a certain age or muscle size, it is about taking the time to think about someone other than yourself. Even heroes need heroes. Soldiers selflessly dedicated their lives to our entire country, remind them what they are fighting for.

**“Being a hero does not require a certain age or muscle size, it is about taking the time to think about someone other than yourself. Even heroes need heroes.”**

### Reader’s Circle underway at GRB

In addition to the many well-known sports teams and ithe wide-range of special-interest clubs, G. Ray Bodley High School also features the Reader’s Circle among its long list of extra-curriculars. The Reader’s Circle is a fun after-school option for students who have a particular passion for literature. Right now, it looks like the group will meet monthly for stimulating conversation and snacks.

Though, the date of the first official November meeting has yet to be set, those interested in participating can still get started. A webpage has been set up by LMC Specialist Mrs. Scalfaro, offering three possible assignments. Each choice focuses on Iroquois life in honor of November’s “Native American History” theme. Members of the Reader’s Circle can check up on the different theme and independent options every month, as well as keeping their eyes and ears open for the date for the next gathering.

By Danielle Gillett

### Science Club enjoys zoo excursion

The G. Ray Bodley High School Science Club went on their first trip of the year on Sunday, visiting the Rosamond Gifford Zoo in Syracuse. The students enjoyed the trip immensely, signing songs and joking around on the bus on the way to the zoo. The visit to the zoo ended up being about two hours long, plenty of time to see all of the animals. The weather was pleasant, cool and sunny, so most of the creatures were quite active.

Despite the construction on a section of the Zoo’s outdoor trail, the students got to see all of the animals. The boardwalk section was closed off, forcing students to backtrack in order to see everything. The club members were some of the only people at the zoo, making the slightly difficult trip along the outside trails more bearable.

There were no empty exhibits. In fact, some lucky students got to watch the lions play fighting, a rare occurrence as lions are mostly nocturnal. Even the small birds of prey, a kestrel

and a screech owl, got some fresh air, perched on the hands of a zoo employee. The club also got to see some of the Zoo’s elephants do a few tricks as their keepers cleaned the pen. The only disappointment was the spectacled bears, which seem to have chosen to hibernate early, lying in the middle of their exhibit on their backs. Before the club left the zoo, they had their picture taken in front of the elephant pen.

After the Zoo, the bus stopped at Quaker Steak and Lube for lunch. Students enjoyed watching each other try and eat as many of the restaurant’s famous “Atomic” hot wings as they could. Overall, the trip was a great success, the bus was full and everyone had fun.

Anyone who attended the trip and took pictures is asked to give them to Mr. Gillard so that he can use them for a slide show. Students will get their thumb drive back with everyone else’s pictures from the trip.

By Daniel Summerville

## Opinion

# Technology's great, but don't let it run your life

By Kirsten Francis

Technology has evolved tremendously throughout the decades. My grandparents were ecstatic when the black and white television came out, my parents couldn't believe that cassettes and 8-tracks granted them the luxury of portable music, and my older sister couldn't control herself when she finally got a cd-player.

However, the amount of technology available to teens today is mind-boggling.

Many teenagers let cell phones, Facebook, and i-pods dominate their day. Although technology has several advantages, there are many people who worry about what the vast amount of technology does to kids.

Students grumble about the no cell phone rule enforced in G. Ray Bodley High School. However, teachers support this regulation for



**"The fact that people's lives are out there for everyone to see can lead to gossip and confrontations. People are much braver on the internet than they are in real life."**

many reasons. "It drives me crazy that I have to watch students constantly to see if they are texting answers to fellow students," admits junior high school teacher Kathleen Francis. Another source students use to cheat is Google. Miss Westerbeck, a high school Spanish teacher, warns her students all of the time about using online translators. "I will know that you use them, they are not right and it is plagiarism," Miss. Westerbeck announces to the class regularly. Yet students still proceed to use the translators because it is easier than opening a dictionary.

Facebook, a phenomenon introduced to my generation, has changed teenager's way of life. Because of this social network, the lives of kids all over the world become public. Breakups, new relationships, arguments, what people are doing and more are merely a click away. The fact that people's lives are out there for everyone to see can lead to gossip and confrontations. People are much braver on the internet than they are in real life. Harsh words and hurtful accusations fly off teen's fingertips and are left for not only the victim to see, but for

everyone else as well.

One part of technology that I know most teenagers would not be able to live without is texting. "Kirsten, do you even remember a life where you could not just whip up a message and send it to someone with seconds? What would you do if the only way of writing messages to someone was with pen and paper?" asked my grandfather. This is a question that many kids could not fathom. Texting is a way of life and taking the time to write a letter to someone is long gone among teenagers today.

Although I would not want to trade the leisurely way of texting, I would like it if teenagers could limit their texting a bit. I can not count how many times I have been having a conversation with someone only to find out I have been talking to myself while my friend is busy having another conversation through their phone. It is rude and frustrating, as I immediately think that what they are texting about is more important to them than anything I have to say. I have been to movies, sleepovers and many other events where texting has seemed more important to someone than having fun where they are. If you spend all of your time texting, you miss out on the present.

I am not completely innocent and I often find myself absorbed in everything technology has to offer. However, I do see and understand the concerns others have about the issue. Technology has made many aspects of life easier, yet teenagers need to take a step back from technology from time to time and see what else is out there.

## Bizarre News of the Day

What is your dream wedding? Do you want to get married on the beach, or in a church? How about getting married in a McDonald's?

Starting in January of 2011, couples in Hong Kong can have their dream wedding in select McDonald's restaurants. The happy couples can buy a package of what the restaurant has to offer. Some packages reportedly include a baked apple pie wedding cake, an eye-catching dress made out of party balloons, party favors, and of course, catering by McDonald's. Sadly, there will be no champagne toast, because alcohol is banned.

The cost is a few thousand Hong Kong Dollars, depending on what the couples order. One Hong Kong Dollar is roughly \$0.13, so if you are interested, you had better get saving.

The company says it came up with the idea after a couple, who met and dated at McDonald's, held their wedding party at one. The parties will only be held at select locations, but if feedback is good, the company says it may expand to others.

*By Morgan Firenze*

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# Justin Bieber: superstar or spoiled brat?

By Patty Morrison

Love him or hate him, everyone knows the newest name in the hearts of young girls. Justin Bieber, the young Canadian native, is winning the hearts of girls fourteen and under with his catchy songs, and smooth yet squeaky and rather girlish sounding voice.

There are many negative comments and opinions about the star, and perhaps they are all well justified, as just recently, the star has been under investigation for punching a twelve year old boy in the face after a confrontation at a game of laser tag. There have also been reports of him drinking under-aged, and sneaking into "R" rated movies without being accompanied by an adult. There have also been reports of him acting very arrogant, and fitting the "spoiled rich kid" stereotype.

Yes, this is all normal teenage behavior. However, when you are living life in the spotlight, you need to learn to keep a low key image, so you don't get negative publicity. That way, people who are fans of you



will remain your fans, and you have a positive image around yourself, especially when he is building a fan base of girls who are younger than him.

"Personally, I think that it is just ridiculous that he is acting the way he is," stated one senior. "His fans are young kids, and he isn't being a good influence on them at all, I'm sorry, but sneaking into clubs under-aged, and punching twelve year olds is not an image that I would want my child to look up too. Yes, I understand that this is normal teenage stuff, but he needs to learn that he is not in Canada anymore. America keeps a higher profile on their celebrities, and if he keeps acting the way he is, he is going to be nothing before he even starts."

"How can you not be arrogant when you're thrown into that position at such a young age?" says Pat Morrison, a parent of a student here at GRB. "When you start out at a young age, and everyone thinks you're great, you almost have a right to be that way."

Most of the negativity has to do with his music, and the way his voice sounds. People say that he doesn't have talent, but apparently, he does. He was discovered on YouTube by Scooter Braun, who became his manager in 2008, and he was then signed to RBMG or Raymond Braun Media Group, a media agency owned by Scooter, and the famous R&B singer Usher.

"Why didn't he just stay in Canada?" junior Andrew Pitcher noted when asked his opinion of the young star. "If he didn't make it in Canada, he isn't going to make it here."

According to the charts, Bieber is going to stay around for a while.

The first part of his My World album was released on November 17, 2009, and it was registered as a platinum record, making him the first artist ever to have seven songs from a debut album to be charted on Billboard's Top 100 list. The record also debuted at number five on the Billboard Charts, selling over one hundred thousand copies in its first week. That made it the best opening release by a new artist in 2009, before being out-scaled by Susan Boyle.

Less than two months after it's initial release, it was certified platinum in the United States, and released in the United Kingdom. The album also debuted at number one on the Canadian Album Charts, and went platinum there within a month.

The critics gave generally positive reviews. Once critic, however gave the album a B-, stating that the, "sugary puppy-love ballads and dinky dance-pop confections were not surprising."

So, love them or hate them, Bieber and his fan group, the Beliebers, are here to stay. At least for a while.

### Upcoming College Visits

Wednesday, Nov. 10: Castleton State College (8 a.m.)  
Thursday, Nov. 18: Alfred State College (9 a.m.)

### Quote of the day:

"It's like High School and College had a baby, and it's Prep School."  
GRB English teacher, Mr. Heindorf

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School of Thought compiled by Brett Williams & Nick Mattice

# How do you think the SU Basketball team will do this season?



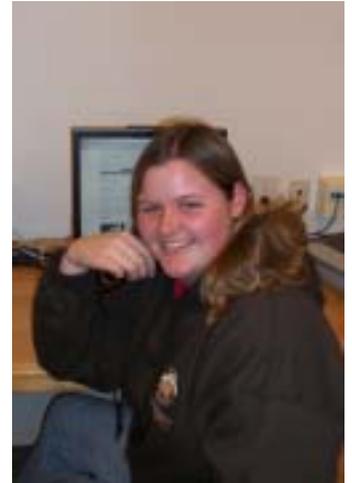
"They will definately be in the top 10."  
Mr. Thurlow



"Hold on to your seats."  
Mr. Greene



"Pretty Darn good."  
Will Sawtell



"They will dominate."  
Patty Morrison

## Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



Today:



Sun and clouds. High in the low-50s.  
Record high-71 (2009)  
Avg. high-50

Tonight:



Clear skies. Low in the low-30s.  
Record low-17 (1971)  
Avg. low-34

Tomorrow:



Sunny skies. High in the mid-50s.  
Record high-71 (1974)  
Avg. high-50

GRB junior 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 daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.