

Give the holiday gift of life at blood drive

Since the new *Twilight* series has become a worldwide phenomenon, girls across the globe swear they would give any amount of blood to be with the vampire Edward Cullen. Therefore, giving only a pint in a far less painful and much more beneficial way should seem like a walk in the park.

This year's first blood drive is on Wednesday, December 23 and is being co-hosted by Student Senate and the FBLA. There is hope that around 125-130 students will sign up for the event to account for those who will not be able to donate due to body weight, anemia, age, or sickness.

In order to donate you must be over 110 pounds if you're 5'3" and over 125 pounds if

you're 5'6" or taller. Weights lower than and between these numbers respond accordingly. This rule is to help prevent people from fainting. Also, you have to be sixteen years of age and have parent consent in order to donate. You can't be on any drugs, anemic, or have the flu or any other sickness.

These technicalities are made for the safety of you and those who need blood. Don't be disappointed if you fall under one of these categories, you can do your part by influencing your fellow students to do what you cannot.

The fact that this event is the day before Christmas vacation should not deter anyone from signing up, but instead push them further. What is a better gift to someone than sav-

ing his or her life? You would be able to enjoy your holidays with the satisfaction of knowing that your actions made a difference. Not to mention that fact that you would be able to get out of a class for that day!

The blood donated from students and high schools accounts for over 30% of the blood received by the American Red Cross. This number proves the impact you could contribute to.

There is no such thing as a "good blood type," so do not think that because yours is not rare that it is not needed. No, donating blood will not make you any more of a vampire, but it will credit you with saving the lives of others.

By Brenna Merry

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National Honor Society to induct 30 members

By Brenna Merry

National Honor Society is a group of students who are leaders, academically successful and contribute to the school and community. To be recognized as a member of this club is to be

recognized among the top of the school. National Honor Society members are role models to those who surround them and strive to make a difference.

On Monday, December 6, over thirty new members will be inducted into the school's most prestigious club. As the names of the inductees are read and they walk across the stage to receive their candle, they will have no idea how much National Honor Society will change their high school experience. To be a part of N.H.S opens many doors, other than just the one to the library, a place where members can go whenever they please. Members of the club are nearly always accepted into the colleges they wish to go to because it proves their intelligence, motivation and lets you work in the community.

Being a part of this program also gives a student an uncountable number of chances to complete community service. With a mandatory four hours a month needed to remain in the club, each member is ensured to spend time

in the community. However, after seeing what community service is like, most students crave more. It gives these students a sense of self-satisfaction that all their hard work is benefiting someone else.

Last year a record number of students were inducted into the club with over fifty students. Although the number has slimmed down, there is no doubt that this year's inductees will do great things. Be sure to congratulate your fel-

low school mates on their hard work that has gotten them recognized as, "The best of the best."

For the underclassman, make getting into National Honor Society one of your high school goals. Take note of the club's activities and the difference student's are truly making. This club not only changes the school and community but also changes it's members themselves.



Sophomores had their morning of VIP treatment on Thursday including Alexis Pawlewicz, Jocelyn Ravesi, Christia Pensabene and Sara Campolietta. The week-long reward for academics, attendance and good behavior concludes today when members of the freshman class will be treated to breakfast by the Bodley Price Committee. (Brett Williams photo)

Opinion

Why so many government secrets?

By Jennifer Woodruff



As American citizens, we are expected to look to our government for protection and peace of mind. It's rather difficult to do so during times such as these when no one trusts each other. It seems as though all our government does is lie to us, or just "fudge the truth," even when they know we understand that the Intel they possess may be integral in order for our country's survival. Whether we inquire about UFOs, extraterrestrials, urban legends, nuclear weaponry, or things of the paranormal, our supreme overlords hide it all from us.

I have often wondered if what this country's people of importance actually report about their sightings of un-normal things is real, or just made up so they can relate to everyday citizens a.k.a. "the wackos." When they are the ones noticing something that is not quite right, there

investigation a month after Nixon's re-election," according to a documentary entitled "The US vs. John Lennon."

Ironically enough, under President Richard Nixon's orders, the FBI was on Lennon's tail every second, trying to silence him and his anti-war rallies. As stated on Lennon's website: "Richard Nixon, his administration and other right-wing politicians (including ultraconservative ancient Senator Strom Thurmond, who personally memoed Attorney General John Mitchell on the matter) were fixated on what they saw as the "Lennon problem." To them, the politically outspoken singer-songwriter was an insidious subversive of the worst kind, the famous and beloved kind." "The government went all-out to deny Lennon his longed-for permanent U.S. residency, and more than that, to deport him altogether (that was the subject of Thurmond's memo)." That's pure non-sense...

Really, what was he plotting? Everyone better fear John Lennon and his angry gang of walruses... It was shocking to me when I saw on CNN.com that a supposed videotape of John Lennon's shooting was "lost." I suppose it correlates with the whole JFK shooting as well, with the odd photos revealing more than what is actually seen. Why are things like this hidden from us? Does our government fear an uprising of mass proportions if we know what's really going on behind their closed doors?

It's apparent that not a lot of people are rioting because of the obscurity of certain subjects in society. I wouldn't go as far as to say that the foundation of our country is based upon any sort of censorship, but that is becoming more of a possibility every day. In all honesty, why are we unable to know about some things and very little (if anything) about others?

I think that it's a bit unfair that the things that I want to know about are deemed as not suitable for the public to see. What? Is finding out the identities of the conspirators behind all of the violent acts a bad thing to do? If the government really wants to cease all of the "terrorist" activities, then why not inform the American public on what's occurring right in our own backyards?

Hey, if things are happening so close to home, why do we as citizens automatically blame another country? It's because that is what we have been told to do, blame someone else, even if what happened was the fault of a group in our country. For years we have feared the behavior of other minorities and different parts of the world when we don't even fully understand the behaviors of ourselves. It's not impossible for any one man to turn into a savage at the blink of an eye; we just see it as "unlikely."

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may be an issue. Sure, those things previously listed are of concern, but the government even sees it's own citizens as threats. Take for instance John Lennon; a well-known musician from England who is completely adored by the American public, but was not very well liked by the American leaders.

After The Beatles broke up, Lennon went on his merry way and made headlines everywhere he went. While the American public was caught up in a whirlpool of love and peace, our government officials had a target on Lennon's back. "During the 1972 presidential election, the FBI monitored Lennon's television appearances and concerts and even followed the activities of Yoko Ono's daughter from a previous marriage. Lennon didn't do anything suspicious, so the FBI closed its in-

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Forget shopping! Check out a new movie



Sure, you've got Christmas shopping to do. But while you're at the mall, why not take a few hours for yourself to go and see a new movie. Among the new releases this weekend, here are three that stand out.

The Kings Speech - Based on a true story of the Queen of England's father and his remarkable friendship with an Australian speech therapist Lionel Logue, "The Kings Speech" is a drama surrounding a king (Colin Firth), who unexpectedly

takes command after his brother Edward abdicates the throne. Academy Award winner Geoffrey Rush stars as Logue, the man who helps the King find a voice with which to lead a nation into war.

Night Catches Us - Marcus (Anthony Mackie) returns to Philadelphia neighborhood where he came of age during the Black Power movement, protecting a dangerous secret in a struggle against the revolution he once embraced and rediscovering a forbidden love.

I Love You Phillip Morris - An improbable but true story of a charismatic conman's journey from a small-businessman to white-collar criminal, who repeatedly finds himself in trouble with the law, and brilliantly escapes from the Texas prison system four times all in the name of love. Starring Jim Carrey and Ewan McGregor, Steven Russell (Jim Carrey) leads an average life, an organ player in the local church and happily married to Debbie (Leslie Mann), a member of the local police force. It isn't until a horrific car accident that leads to the ultimate epiphany, taking on the extravagant lifestyle, Steven turns to cons and fraud to make ends meet. This behavior will eventually lead him to the State Penitentiary where he meets the love of his love, a soft-spoken man named Phillip Morris (Ewan McGregor).

The Great Outdoors:

Deer hunting: the end is almost here

By Daniel Summerville

As December begins, the weather gets colder and the rain turns to snow. The nasty weather that we

have been having lately makes it hard for deer hunters to get outside. Wind, rain and snow are all hard to hunt in, as the deer tend to take shelter in harsh weather. Despite this, hunters are feeling the pressure as the end of hunting season approaches and trying to get as much time in the woods as they can. December 12 is the end of regular season, and December 22 marks the end of muzzleloading, the last open season of deer hunting.

The rut is over, which means that deer activity is now nearly back to normal. Other than the post rut, the breeding season is over. The deer are starting to calm down. With less deer activity and bad weather, hunters are becoming discouraged. But the colder weather may actually work to the advantage of the hunters. By now, the deer have their winter coats, which make them unlikely to be active in warmer weather. As long as it is not raining too hard, the deer should still be moving. Hunting pressure, wind, rain and snow are the only things that lower a hunter's chance of seeing a deer. The colder weather actually increases activity, making early December a perfect time to bag a deer.

While cold weather increases deer activity, it also decreases hunting

activity. With fewer hunters in the woods, the deer will not be as jumpy as they were in November. The cold weather causes fair-weather hunters to stay home, giving die-hards a better chance.

Obviously, the cold weather puts forth a new challenge; it can be difficult to stay warm while sitting still for hours on end. Hunters should make sure that they dress in layers, and have plenty of warm clothes. Remember, December may be cold, but if hunters take advantage of it, they may return home with a trophy.

DID YOU KNOW that an estimated 80 percent of American youth are immunized against contagious diseases, but less than 10 percent are properly restrained when riding in a motor vehicle? Be smart and wear your seatbelt!
 This message was brought to you by the SADD Club.

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The Teen Scene

Ashton Kutcher: an interesting road to fame

By Patty Morrison

Ashton Kutcher, an American actor most known for his appearances in comedic films, and producing the show *Punk'd*, was born in Iowa, and lives by the philosophy "I am only young once, who cares if I'm a goofball?"

And while he is easily recognized by most teens, there was a time when many probably wondered if he would survive, let alone become a household name.

Born Christopher Ashton Kutcher, Ashton grew up in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, with his parents, Larry and Diane Kutcher, with an older sister, and a fraternal twin, Michael. In his sophomore year of high school, his family moved to Homestead Iowa, and he finished high school there, playing football.

According to an interview on David Letterman, he was an all-state linebacker, but accordingly to his former coach, he played, sparingly, as a wide receiver on his football team. He was also in school plays, but his brother, having been born with a heart problem, made his home life stressful, so he "kept himself busy so he didn't have to feel." He also contemplated suicide, and tried to jump off of a hospital balcony, but his father intervened. In his senior year of high school, he was arrested for breaking into his school with his cousin to steal money. He was sentenced to three years probation, and 180 hours of community service.

He then enrolled at the University of Iowa, with an intended major of biochemical engineering, motivated by wanting to find a cure for his brother's heart problem. But he was kicked out of his apartment for being too wild and noisy, and he stated, "I thought I knew everything but I didn't have a clue. I was partying, and I woke up many mornings not know-

ing what I had done the night before. I played way too hard. I am amazed I am not dead."

Not such a good start for one of the most recognizable faces in Hollywood.

During his time in college, he was recruited to join the Fresh Faces Modeling competition, and after winning the competition, he dropped out of college and won a free trip to New York City, where he signed on in the International Modeling Talent Agency.

Ashton began as a male model at the Next modeling agency in New York City, and appeared in ads for name brand designers, such as Calvin Klein, and he also did modeling work in Paris and Milan. After he became somewhat successful in modeling, he moved to Los Angeles to pursue a career in acting, and auditioned for Michael Kelso, a character in the television series, *That 70's Show* (1998-2006).

In 2003, Kutcher began to write, and star in his own show *Punk'd*, where he created and pranked celebrities with elaborate schemes with many hidden cameras around the scene. He is also an executive producer for the television shows *Beauty and the Geek*, *Adventures in Hollyhoo*d, and *The Real Wedding Crashers*. He is also an executive producer on the game show *Opportunity Knocks*. Recently he has produced and starred in the comedy film *Killers*.

He also has a Twitter following, where he actively tweets for charitable causes, and other things that he finds relevant to his life. On April 16, 2009, he became the first user to hit one million followers, beating CNN.

What's next for this thirty-two year old actor? A lead role in the romantic comedy *No Strings Attached*, set to be released in January.

Strong start for Raider bowling teams

The winter sports season got off to a strong start on Wednesday when the Fulton bowling teams charged past Solvay in convincing fashion. Both the boys and girls rolled their way to victory over Solvay as the Raider boys counted a 4-1 win while the girls prevailed by shutout in a 4-0 final.

For the boys Fulton recorded the top three scores on the day to begin defense of their Section 3 title in impressive fashion. Dan Wahl and Alex Stanski opened with 600 series as Wahl topped all bowlers with a 684 including a high game of 245 and Stanski scored a 203 high game en route to a 603 series. Also chipping in for the winners was freshman Brandon

Wallon, who had the high game of the day at 255 on his way to a 581 series.

The girls had three bowlers eclipse the 500 series mark led by Jamie Elen's 573 that featured a high game of 219. Mikayla Guernsey rolled a 192 high game and a 522 series with Kylie Clifford following close behind at 503 with a high game total of 177.



Watch out Wii, Kinect is here!

New to gaming, Kinect for Xbox 360 is a controllerless game in which the user themselves is the controller. This new technology makes Nintendo's revolutionary Wii platform look outdated due to amazing visuals and the lack of a need for a controller.

The Kinect uses facial and body detection technology to recognize the user and their every movement. With the swipe of a hand the user can control the menu of the Xbox and waving your hand at it gives you options to control movies. The user can also chat with a built in microphone and command the media to do something.

The Kinect sensor comes pre packaged with Kinect Adventures in which the user can raft, walk in space, and do other fun tasks. There are also sport games, fitness games, and dance game bundles. The Kinect also comes with most new Xbox's. The sensor and Kinect adventures sells for \$150 while the game bundles with the sensor sells for \$250 which is a good deal, considering most Xbox games sell for \$60 apiece. The Kinect is making an appearance on most gamers Christmas list.

By James Ireland

Quote of the day:

"Maybe who we are isn't so much about what we do, but rather what we're capable of when we least expect it."

Jodi Picoult

RaiderNet
Daily

School of Thought compiled by Don Wilmot & Hunter Gorton

What winter sport will do the best?



"Basketball."
Ben Hendry



"Hockey."
Monique Harrison



"Boys Swimming."
Mrs. Ruzekowicz



"Boys Basketball."
Kody Ravesi

Meteorology and you

by Carson Metcalf



Today:



Snow showers. High in the mid-30s.
Record high-65 (1982)
Avg. high-40

Tonight:



Cloudy with a few snow showers. Low in the mid-20s.
Record low-8 (1976)
Avg. low-26

Tomorrow:

Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the low-30, low in the upper-20s.
Record high/low-63/6 (1982/1966) Avg. 40/26

Sunday:

Cloudy with a few snow showers. High in the low-30s.
Record high/low: 69/6 (2001/1980) Avg. 40/25

GRB junior Carson Metcalf is an aspiring Meteorologist and the creator of the Central New York Weather Center @ www.centralnewyorkweather.com ...Look for his daily weather forecasts for Fulton on RaiderNet Daily.