



## Late surge decides NHS Scrabble tournament

By Ashlynn Palmitesso

The action was fast, and although not quite furious, it all came down to one final turn last Friday when the National Honor Society held its first annual Scrabble tournament. Sixteen slots were opened to the students and faculty. The contestants were only guaranteed one day of play. Referees and time consultants were stationed at each table to control the Scrabble board.

At the end of each day half of the competitors moved on to the next round. The second day concluded with the advancement of Brian Garret, Pat Fink, Alex Bawarksi and Mr. Perry. Alex was unable to attend the final round, so Mrs. Burnham filled his slot.

Three days of intense thought provoked these intellectual minds to create high-scoring words. Brian Garret, a senior, led the scoreboard for four rounds until Mr. Perry created key words to surpass him. Brian bounced back into the lead with a 31 point play and glided through the rest of the game with confidence.

He thought the game was over when Mr. Perry played his last word, but didn't realize Mr. Perry also ended the game. The three players together had nine points of leftover tiles, four of which were Brians. The addition of these deductibles to Mr. Perry's score crowned him the 2012 National Honor Society Scrabble Champion. Mr. Perry finished

with 147 points, while Brian finished at 143. Mrs. Burnham completed the game with 103 and Pat Fink was conquered by the vowels, scoring 92 points.

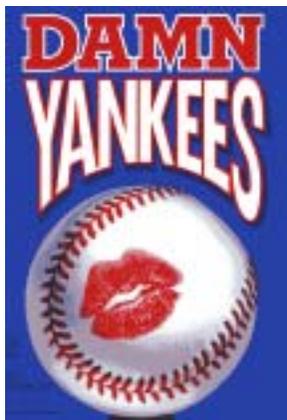
Each player received a certificate of participation and NHS co-advisor Mrs. Ryan generously awarded the first and second place finalist with a prize. Not only did Mrs.

Ryan put together a successful tournament, she organized a fun event for students to participate in.

Underclassmen are encouraged to get those Scrabble boards and computer applications ready, as Mrs. Ryan and to the National Honor Society students are hoping to make this an annual event.



Friday's final four gathering of Scrabble champions featured (top right clockwise) Mrs. Burnham, Mr. Perry, Brian Garrett and Sean Fink. The game came right down to the final turn before Mr. Perry surged to victory. For more pictures from the tournament, see page 4. (Ashlynn Palmitesso photo)



# 2

days away!

Thurs-Fri-Sat March 8-10

\$8 adults  
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(at the door)

7:30 pm each night  
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Saturday

## Opinion

# Graduation day deserves to be really special

By Ashlynn Palmitesso

Graduation is a day that students look forward to from the day they enter the educational realm to the day when they leave their final class of high school. This day will be embedded in their memories forever.

Devoted community members have organized a proposal to relocate Fulton's graduation ceremony from the Fulton Ice Arena to the Campus Center Arena at SUNY Oswego. Before you develop your opinion, I would like to discuss several aspects of this idea.

We are fortunate enough to have the Fulton Ice Arena in our community. This arena was built to facilitate athletic events and food vending services during the Memorial Day Salute. But is it appropriate for such a formal event as graduation? The present condi-



Parents and family members who do not arrive early enough to claim their seat are forced to stand behind the dasher board glass, which is an undignified manner to view this prestigious event. At the new location, patrons would be seated with no sight obstruction and have the luxury of air conditioning. The stage is clearly visible from every seat. Also, parking is at a premium; while at SUNY Oswego several parking lots for the general public and disabled are located within close proximity of the arena. It is an overall convenience for the amount of people that will attend this event.

The graduation stage should be seen as a bridge to the next step in your life. To cross the threshold and receive your diploma is to leave behind your adolescent years of education and enter a new world where we are fully responsible for our actions and decisions. The current stage is nothing more than platforms put together with a single layered carpet covering the damage beneath.

The opposing viewpoint would suggest the Fultonian tradition.

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**"The Campus Center Arena at SUNY Oswego holds approximately 2500 people. Past attendees of the GRB graduation ceremony have complained about the lack of seating, which would no longer be a factor as now there is double the seating capacity."**

tions of the arena are deemed to be unsuitable for this prestigious occasion. Foul odor, poor lighting, poor sound quality, damaged walls and ceilings with chipped paint and lack of ventilation causing humid temperatures are just a few conditions that cause this venue to fall short of the proper decorum that this annual ritual demands.

The Campus Center Arena at SUNY Oswego holds approximately 2500 people. Past attendees of the GRB graduation ceremony have complained about the lack of seating, which would no longer be a factor as now there would be double the seating capacity. In addition, the elderly and disabled seating are at a premium in Fulton.



SUNY Oswego's Laker Hall has become a popular destination for several area high school graduation ceremonies. RND's Ashlynn Palmitesso would like to see Bodley's big day in this facility.



## Reflections

-THE- Salon & More

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Opinion

# The Adventures of 'lil Bodley

By Madeline Clark (this comic is drawn on reused paper!)



## Change is often difficult, but it can be good

(continued from page 2)

In a general aspect, the Fulton Ice Arena has been the only venue large enough to support such an event. Leaving the community can propose a problem to some. However, every school large enough in Onondaga County travels to their ceremony. Central Square and Oswego honor their students at this arena also. Central Square travelers have a maximum driving distance of 40 miles. This arena is only twelve miles away from the high school. Family members who live on the outskirts of the city have to travel that distance anyways.

The Campus Center at SUNY Oswego is a multipurpose venue with the highest level of decorum available to satisfy a graduation ceremony. It is my hope that this endeavor can be moved forward with your support by attending the next Board Of Education meet-

ing on Tuesday, March 13, 2012. Also, a parent information night will be forthcoming depending on permission from the administration.

Change is often difficult for anyone to consider. Otis Jennings, a motivational speaker, came to G.Ray Bodley High School as a request from the administration to inspire students to make their community a better place. After listening to the words of Otis Jennings, change becomes irrelevant when the end result portrays a positive aspect. In this case, the end result would certainly be positive. Communities are created from the people who reside in them. Being proud of your community and implementing positive changes makes the community grow stronger. The students of G. Ray Bodley High School are the future of this city. Let's be proud of being a Fulton Red Raider and make our last day together a truly special moment that we will cherish for the rest of our lives.

Quote of the day:

"Be thine own palace, or the world's thy jail."  
John Donne



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## Quirk's Players brighten the hall at Michaud

The members of Quirk's Players took their show on the road, literally, on Friday afternoon as not a single member of the Drama Club could be found in any of their regular classes during ninth bell. They were on their way, along with Director Mr. Briggs and Assistant Director Mr. Lescarbeau, to Michaud Nursing Home to preform select scenes from their show, *Damn Yankees*.

The group performed in front of an audience of about 20 Michaud residents and was received with great enthusiasm! The group performed the opening number, "Six Months of Every Year," "Shoeless Joe from Hannibal, MO," "A Little Brains a Little Talent," and "Those Were the Good old Days."

Director Mr. Briggs was very adamant about how much this means to the residents and for the cast to give it their all, talking about the experience later he expressed how much it means to them and how, "it is important for the group to give back to those who are dutiful patrons of Quirks Players," he hopes to make the field trip to Michaud the Friday before the show week a yearly tradition.

In the meantime, the cast and crew are hard at work this week, putting in long hours in preparation for the opening of *Damn Yankees* on Thursday at 7:30 pm. The group will also perform on Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30, with a 2pm Saturday matinee also being offered. *By Vanessa Langdon*



Members of the Quirk's Players cast of *Damn Yankees* took their show on the road on Friday to visit residents of the Michaud Nursing Home. (Vanessa Langdon photo)



Last week marked the first ever National Honor Society Scrabble Tournament, which provided three days of brain-teasing excitement for the participants and judges. Pictured from left to right are: Front-Carson Metcalf, Neil Devendorf. Middle-Madeline Clark and Nate Deavers. Back-Brandon Clark, Alex Bawarski, Dan Wahl, Brian Garrett, Sean Fink, Pat Fink, and Joe Sutton. (Nate Hawthorne photos)



Senior Neil Devendorf, who plays Mr. Applegate (AKA the devil) in *Damn Yankees*, performs the song "Those were the good old days" for residents at the Michaud Nursing Home. (Vanessa Langdon photo)



School of Thought compiled by Dallaslyn Lamb and Maddie Olon

## When is the best time to wear a striped sweater?



"March first."



"Today."



"Party Time."

Jesse Ives



"Wednesday because it's the middle of the week."

Lory Perez

# Meteorology and you

By Carson Metcalf



Today:



Sun and clouds.

**39°**

Average: 39°  
Record: 61° (1991)

Tonight:



Partly cloudy.

**27°**

Average: 22°  
Record: 10° (2007)

Tomorrow:



Partly cloudy  
and warmer.  
Chance rain.

**57°**

Average: 40°  
Record: 64° (1973)

GRB senior 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.