

Mustang Men

Sadie Porter
Photographer

It's Raining Men... Again!

09



The top five Mustang Men candidates (pictured left to right: Owen Kelly, Trevor Solon, Cory Hanes, Anthony Ayrado, and Nick Panzarella) step forward to be recognized at the pageant. "Dude, it was really cool to be up there in the top five," senior Nick Panzarella said. "I felt like a total boss." Photo courtesy of Amy Madden

Every year the Mustang Men crew of junior and senior boys shows their spirit and puts on a beauty pageant. On April 17th the Mustang Men of 2009 battled for the number one spot on KHS's stage!

They began the ceremony by forming a V shaped line and having the person mirroring each candidate meet up to do a silly move off the stage in groups of twos. Some chose to tango, cartwheel, or do other goofy moves off the stage.

After that, the individual group dances occurred. "Dancing Queen" by ABBA, "Toxic" by Britney Spears, and "Gonna Make You Sweat" were some songs used.

For the swim wear competition, an interesting variety of suits were utilized. Hamza Quaid modeled a burka veil to accompany his theme "Arab Money", Trevor Hogoboom sported a bikini top, Nick Panzarella showed off his swim suit and skimboard, and Cameron Jones paraded in a bold animal tube with a snorkel and pair of goggles.

The formal wear came next in the show. Mikey Lerman modeled a suave

tan suit with a John Travolta pose. Owen Kelly came out in an outfit of golf attire. Jon Werlang modeled his suit with a fedora hat to keep it classy.

There was a group dance to "Charleston" with all the mustang men candidates, then half of them proceeded to dance to "Twist".

The top ten men were voted in by the judges as: Hamza Quaid, Cory Hanes, Nick Panzarella, Trevor Solon, Kyle Sorge, Cameron Purghan, Owen Kelle, Stepen Wagner, Anthony Ayrado, and Jon Werlang. Then they were questioned by Mr. Pollard to narrow down the choices.

Later, the top five were chosen. The lucky five were: Trevor Solon, Cory Hanes, Owen Kelly, Nick Panzarella, and Anthony Ayrado.

After the questions, individual talents were performed. Trevor Solon danced to "Single Ladies" by Beyonce, and had guest appearances from Cory Hanes and Chris Reece. Owen Kelley ate a pint of ice cream in an astonishing one minute and thirteen seconds. Cory Hanes danced to a mix of music. Nick Panzarella performed a stand up comic routine.

"My favorite joke was when he asked

'What do you call a nosy pepper' and said 'Jalapeno business'," junior Emily Shultz said.

Anthony Ayrado sang a duet with Olivia Applegate accompanying him in the song "Lucky" by Jason Mraz.

Everyone did their best and in the end judges made their choices. In fifth place was Trevor Solon, fourth was Owen Kelly, in third place was Cory Hanes, placing second was Nick Panzarella, and in first place was senior Anthony Ayrado as the Mustang Man of 2009.



UIL Academics take on region

Kelsey Spinnato
Copy Editor

Over 20 students attended the UIL academics regional meet at Stratford High School on April 25 to compete in events ranging from informative speaking to calculator applications to poetry recitation.

All of these students placed first, second, or third at the district meet two weeks ago to qualify for the regional meet.

"UIL academics is a great way to express the academic talent that is so prevalent in our school," senior Abhinav Iyer said. "It is a great way to show team and individual talent in all fields, be it science or current events."

After spending 12 hours in a school cafeteria and taking multiple tests, four students placed in their events and won medals. Three of those students placed high enough to qualify for state.

"The trips are always really exciting," senior Derrick Kane said. "A majority of people are in UIL just to go on road trips."

The three state qualifiers are senior Kelsey Spinnato for Feature Writing, freshman Jason Dayvault and sophomore Phillip Hensley for Computer Applications, will be traveling to Austin on May 7 to compete again.

To join a UIL academic team for next year, contact one of the following coaches for more information: Michelle Palmer (Journalism), Susan Kizer (Current Issues and Social Studies), Beckie Parish (Accounting), Alice Herrin (Literary Criticism and Ready Writing), Rhian Webb and Janet Dickinson (Science, Mathematics, Calculator Applications, and Number Sense), Emma Weaver (Spelling and Vocabulary), Donna Ebeling (Computer Science), and Audra Langston (Cross Examination Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Persuasive Speaking, Informative Speaking, Poetry, and Prose).



Senior Patrick Snodgrass and sophomore Chris Hsu prepare for the mathematics test at regionals. Photo by Kristen Webb

MS 150: Biking for multiple sclerosis

Brooke Ley
Reporter

When thinking of a bike ride, most imagine a leisurely ride around the block or through the Livable Forest's scenic greenbelts. Some people, however, think otherwise. The participants of the MS 150 Houston to Austin have a different perception of bike riding and have taken it to a whole new level. Consisting of precisely 186 miles of trails, a dirt road terrain and a large portion of Texas' hills, this annual ride usually takes place in the middle of April.

The purpose of this two day bike ride is not only to raise money, but awareness as well. Proceeds from donations, marketing and sponsorships, are all raised for additional Multiple Sclerosis research and programs for Texans with MS. Presently, MS has no predictability or specific symptoms. More women than men are diagnosed with MS and usually between the age of 20 and 50. It

not only breaks the flow of information from the brain to the body, but it also impairs the person's ability to move. From numbness to going blind or ending up paralyzed, the National MS Society hosts several events in order to promote awareness and in hopes of achieving a world with no MS. The MS 150 from Houston to Austin has been taking place for over 25 years.

In last year's race alone, the National MS Society raised over \$15 million in comparison to 1985's earnings of \$117,000. Since 1991, the benefit has raised over a million dollars each year. The MS 150's biggest sponsor, British Petroleum, has raised over \$5 million since 2001, making them the largest fundraising team affiliated with the ride.

"It takes a lot of endurance to participate in the MS 150, I volunteered with my mom last year at La Grange and watching the cyclists was very inspiring," junior Sara Lochore said.

Over 13,000 avid cyclists attend this event and train year round in order to endure the nearly two hundred mile ride.

Local resident Royce Carrigan is among the many Kingwood citizens participating this year.

"I watched my best



After a day's delay due to bad weather, bikers prepare to race to Austin from La Grange. Photos courtesy of Ted Ley

friend suffer from MS, and the least I could do is raise money and hopefully awareness by cycling to Austin," Carrigan said.

Just after sunrise, the cyclists leave Houston from three different starting points and stay the night in La Grange. Hotels in La Grange for the MS 150 weekend are booked almost a year in advance. Most riders have to camp throughout the city. The second day of the ride consists of almost ninety miles throughout Hill Country. The ride comes to a close near the capitol.

"My dad has done the ride nine times, this year being his tenth," sophomore Sam Jones said. "My family is driving up to Austin to watch him finish."

Due to the thunderstorms and street floods on April 18, the race began the day after. The cyclists began at the half-way point in La Grange, and finished in about six hours. Spots for the MS 150 are very limited, for safety is the biggest concern during the ride. Sign-ups for next year's ride will open during the fall of 2009.



Battle of the Bands 2009

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

The second annual Battle of the Bands is being held May 9 in the auditorium. One of these bands may just be the next Aerosmith, The Who, or The Beatles. Here is a list of a few of the bands performing at this concert.

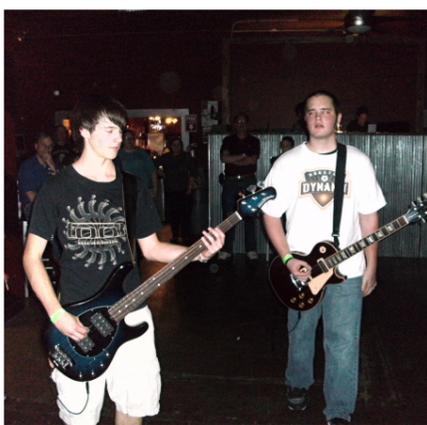
Contagious Symptom - Juniors Alan Bouzek, Cameron McDonnell, Michael Collier, and Evan Rowan mix lyrics and music to concoct their own unique style. The band creates its own sound, which resembles the 90's grunge band Nirvana. This band often has gigs at Fuel Cyber Cafe in Humble along with other local talents.

Joe 'n' His Brothers - After many names, this band finally decided on this creative name. They claim to emulate White Chapel but want to keep their new sound a secret until the battle. Seniors Joe Piacenti and Owen Kelly, juniors Marcus Gill, Taylor Powell, and Alan Bouzek, and sophomore Jase Skarbovig enjoy feeding peanut butter and honey sandwiches to Joe's dog.

Nitch - At the talent show, this band covered many songs, including Weezer's "Pork and Beans." The Keeler brothers, senior Alex and freshman Van, along with sophomore Andrew Surratt play a wide variety of music. Join their facebook group or look them up on YouTube for their performance during this year's talent show.

David Stevenson - You know this self-described "lone ranger" junior from playing his guitar around the school and singing acoustic versions of rap songs like Usher's "Yeah." This Mustang Men contestant knows how to put on a good performance and prefers to write his own songs. These songs are "an odd fusion of folk, pop, and rap," Stevenson said.

Most of these bands were featured at the talent show this past year and can also be found at Fuel Cyber Cafe in Humble. Show your support for these local talents and catch them at the Battle of the Bands. Rock on.



Contagious Symptom band members Cameron McDonnell and Michael Collier rock out at a show at Fuel. Photo by Chelsea Williams

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Summertime... and Just keep swimming

Cali Apodaca
Indepth Editor

Kids are always complaining that there is absolutely nothing to do in Kingwood. They are right. This summer, instead of spending time in the Randall's parking lot trying to figure out what to do for the night or just driving around aimlessly in your car wasting gas, why not drive and actually have a destination outside of the Kingwood city limits and go somewhere to do something interesting.

"In Kingwood, there is just nothing to do, it gets so boring," junior Ryan Artavia said.

In Houston there are so many things that a high school student could do, and enjoy themselves and not have to pay lots of money.

The Children's Museum in Houston is a great place to have fun with friends. The Museum has history, cultures, fine and performing arts, technology, science, and geography galleries for your viewing pleasure. It is decked out with a cool gift shop where you can find tons of interesting things, snack bars to grab a bite to eat, and play areas to chill outside and enjoy the day. To top it all off, the cost of admittance is only \$7 for a wonderful fun filled day.

Another great Houston attraction that is taken for granted is the Water Wall near the Galleria. You have probably seen the Water Wall many times before while driving past it, but never really took the time to get out of the car and enjoy how beautiful it is. You could take a trip down there with a group of your friends, bring along the cameras, and make a day of it. After visiting the Water Wall you could walk around the area and soak up the atmosphere and maybe grab a bite to eat and go to a close by park. All of this for absolutely nothing!

Folk music, Grand Opera concerts, Shakespeare, comedy show, and Broadway Musicals can be found at the Miller

Outdoor Theater. Bring some blankets or lawn chairs and pack a cooler full of snacks and drinks to set up on the hillside or sit underneath the canopy. The Miller Outdoor Theater hosts a variety of different shows in the spring through the fall, and admission is free!

"Its so nice to get out o Kingwood and enjoy a day in a totally different atmosphere," junior Adam Kang said.

Another classic is going to visit the Houston Zoo, In Herman Park , which is a lovely place to visit in itself. The zoo houses over 4500 animals, including lions, Komodo Dragons, flamingos, tigers, bears, bats, and so many more.



Photo by Chelsea Williams

Also, at the Natural Encounter Area you are able to get up close to otters and meerkats. With the admission fee being \$10, the money is well worth it.

"Going to the zoo would be a lot of fun, I will definitely consider going this summer," junior Chis Chapman said.

Whenever you get bored this summer and you are hanging out with your friends complaining about how there is nothing to do, just remember that there is always something you can do. You just have to get out there!

Cole Gratz
Reporter

When the temperatures and humidity start to rise, kids are left in the streets sweating. May third will be the opening of pools all around Kingwood. Applications for life-guarding have been sent out, and the life-guards have been hired for Crystal Pool Service's lifeguard positions.

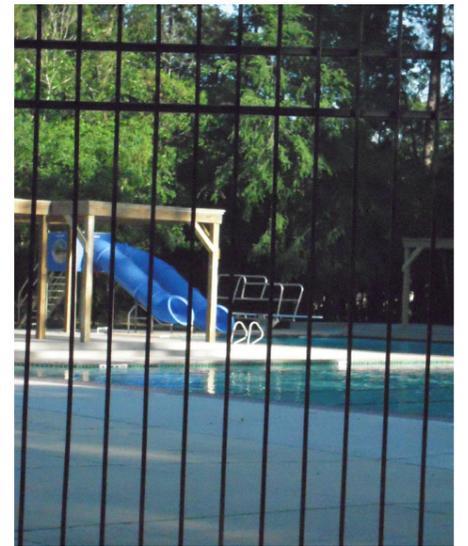
"I will be a third year guard this year, and I am expecting the rush," said junior Slade Solcher. "Temperatures are supposedly going to sky rocket right when the season of summer comes around."

Pools are the center of attention around Kingwood. With no school to occupy time, kids are left in the sun to sit in puddles of sweat. There is nothing more enjoyable than working up a sweat and jumping in a fun pool.

"When the pools start to open, the pool rats start coming," said junior Daniel Stephens.

"Pools rats" are kids that spend all day every day at the pool.

"I have been noticing that alot of pools



around Kingwood are replacing their diving boards for silly little girl slides," said freshman Hannah Stephens. "And I am disappointed that the skill of flips and can openers are being forgotten."

The diving board is one of the favorite things to participate in at the pools of Kingwood. Since the beginning of pools, the diving board has been loved and favored, but lately over-protective parents have been complaining about their children's safety on the board. Most of the pools now have restrictions on the boards, telling people what tricks they can and can not do.



Behind the scenes at Pop Show

Sam Mendez
Reporter

The choir's Pop Show is on Thursday May 14 and Friday May 15. The Pop Show is kind of like a talent show.

"The style is way different than last year's pop show at K-Park," sophomore Christian Weiss said.

Students tryout for solos during class. Small groups that have been put together tryout after school. All solos and small groups must be no more than 2 minutes. Duets normally have about up to three minutes.

Pop Show is set up in a rather unique matter. Choir directors Mr. Dixon and Mr. Watt split the students in classes up into groups of about six. These students then choose a theme to abide their songs by, like a guideline. The students pick

their own music and put it together mainly themselves.

"We are split into two sections of balanced teams picked by Mr. Watt and we get to choose our theme, music, choreography, and leaders," Senior Jon Teverbaugh said.

"I walk around and see a bunch of creative work from all the groups. We have a variety of themes from broadway to something like a school day or animals," said choir director Mr. Watt.

In the end it is a competition between

all the groups. On the last night of Pop Show the best group wins a special prize. There are great soloists and live music in band-like sets so come to Second Baptist Church May 14 and 15.



Photo by Sam Mendez

Tommy Tunes

Sadie Porter
Photographer

The Tommy Tune Award is an honors high school theater program. Its sponsored by Theater Under The Stars also known as TUTS. It's education outreach honors area is musical theater. KHS was chosen to be a nominee for seven of the Tommy Tunes Awards for the production of Peter Pan including:
Best scenic design and construction
Best lighting design, best costume design
Best featured performer-indians
Best direction
Best technical crew and executive
Best musical

Shattered Glass

Based on A True Story

Kimberly Kurtz
Op/Ed Editor

One summer day when I was 11, after my 17 year old brother and I finished a game of Monopoly, he was asleep on the couch and I was picking up the pieces. I was laying on my stomach picking up all the little red and green houses and hotels when I spotted something under his recliner chair. It was a sunglasses bag, and I picked it up to try on the sunglasses to see how they would look on me. When I opened it up to grab the sunglasses, I felt something else instead, something that felt smooth and glassy. As I pulled it out, I was stunned. It was his pipe that he had been using to smoke crystal meth. I emptied the bag, in tears, to reveal a cut in half blue Sonic straw, three small empty plastic bags, and a torch lighter. I slowly walked into the living room where my cousin was, and standing next to me he said "Oh my God." I called my parents.

Crystal meth is a very serious drug that can easily take someone's life. It is sweeping across the country, and most parents and school systems are not educating their students about the seriousness of drug use. I believe that, among all, crystal meth is one of the most dangerous drugs. There is no detox method for crystal meth, and more often than not it only takes a few tries to become addicted. It takes over your life, altering

your thought process, and because most of the chemicals used to manufacture meth are lethal, it ravishes your body. It is proven that even short-term use of crystal meth chemically alters the brain, causing delusions, schizophrenia, depression, suicidal impulses, and anxiety. Even after years of being clean, many meth users cannot function normally as they did before use.

Although most high school students probably do not use crystal meth, many use or have used some sort of drug. Whether or not it is a serious and continuous use, users need to know what could happen. Drug awareness programs and educators warn against gateway drugs such as marijuana. Many students ignore the threat, convincing themselves that something so terrible could never happen to them, that they would have enough will power to say no. Though that may be true for some, it is not that way for all. Once you try one thing and it is not that bad, you will want to try more of it, or even try something else because you think that it will not be that bad as well...

As we pulled into the parking lot, I barely recognized my now 20 year old brother. He had been missing for almost a week, and my parents and I had been endlessly searching for him, call-



Only some of the chemicals used to manufacture crystal meth. Courtesy of dawningspeaks.com

ing all his friends, talking to the police, and even going into pawn shops and showing them his picture. We had even sent out K-9 units. He was standing by his car, obviously under the influence of four long days of smoking crystal meth. He did not even look like the same person. His usually stocky build had deteriorated, his cheek bones were jutting from his jaw, his arms and legs were thin, and his eyes were wild. He could not stand still for even a second. He looked around as if he had been born that morning, squinting his eyes into the sun and distorting his face into chilling and unnerving expressions. He was screaming at somebody, though no one was around. He was trying to hold a conversation, though he was alone. He swung his arms and kicked the air as if to defend himself against someone or something that was not there. He was hallucinating. Three hours later in the car, he was passed out in the back seat. My mom and I were taking him home, while my dad and my cousin were towing his car away because he claimed that someone had stolen his keys. He was grabbing at himself and doubling over as if in great agony, and he was taking in short, tormenting breaths. He did not wake up until three days later, and his keys had been in his jeans.

Crystal meth users usually smoke for three or four days straight, never eating, never sleeping. When they run out, they literally start to crash. They hallucinate and are driven into anguish. They sleep for about three days, and then the process begins again. This roller coaster that they force their body to ride usually ends in death. When meth users attempt to quit, they become deeply depressed, and do not care if they live or die. The result of their attempt at being sober ends in paranoia; they become fearful and have a sense of impending doom. Their sanity is lost and their potential is destroyed. Most end up committing suicide. Thankfully, my brother turns 25 this July, and is one of the lucky ones who were able to persevere, and survive.

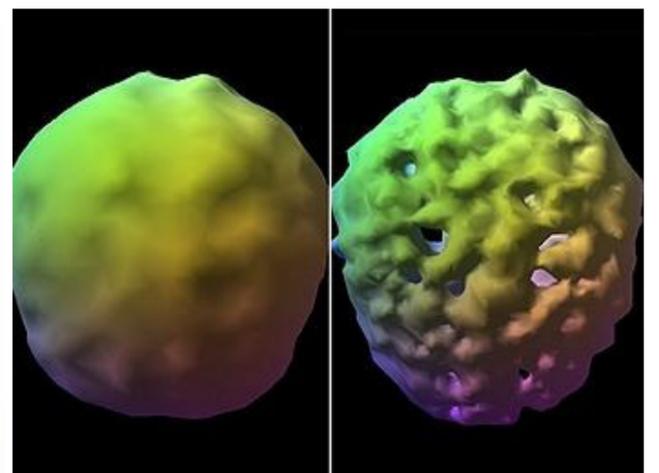
Had he never decided to take that next step, to try another drug, or even to take another puff because he believed that it "wasn't that bad", he would have been saved of all the pain and destruction that was caused due to his one decision to ignore the warnings. Schools, as well as parents, should recognize that many young people do not take their warnings seriously, and continue to educate on the importance of saying no.



Courtesy of www.heroindrugaddiction.com



www.lockedup.com



Left to right: The human brain before crystal meth use, and the human brain after crystal meth use. Courtesy of www.lockedup.com

Keep Prom rated PG

Monica Castellanos
Feature Editor

With prom coming up, many students are making plans for before and after-parties. At some of these parties, people are pressured to drink, do drugs, smoke, have sex, and do illegal things. Those who would normally abstain from doing these things especially feel the need to "let loose" and do something out of character because prom is the highlight of their high school experience. When girls are wearing their \$400 dresses and guys have on \$100 suits, students feel

like they need to take advantage of their last days at Kingwood High School. Unfortunately, even though prom should be "a night to remember," many people end up forgetting a lot about this night because of the amount of alcohol drank or drugs used.

A major problem on prom night is alcohol consumption. People sometimes even try to sneak in drinks to prom through water bottles or other containers. Unfortunately, high schoolers who drink are seven times more likely to have sex and are less likely use condoms, which increases their risk of unplanned

pregnancy and STDs. It is important to refrain from drinking alcohol until you are twenty-one. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration estimated that the laws have spared over eighteen thousand lives from 1975 to 1999.

Another important problem on prom night is the rise in car accidents. The NHSA found that seventy percent of teenagers killed on prom weekends were found not wearing seat belts. Whether these teens were not wearing them from being under the influence of alcohol, drugs, or simply not wanting to wear them, doing so was a crucial factor in

increasing the gravity of their injuries.

Yet another unhealthy thing teens tend to do on their prom night is smoking. Some people think smoking cigarettes is a mature or cool thing to do, but this habit significantly increases the user's risk of cancer and other serious illnesses since so many poisons are found in a cigarette. Other people prefer to smoke, inject, or use other types of drugs. This is very dangerous, especially considering that the Rape Protection Program found that 39% of male high school students believe that a boy forcing sex on a girl that is high is OK.

Driving Dangerously

Marieke Harrell
Photographer

At the end of the school year it seems as though it is not only seniors that are partying hard, but that it is every class. Because of this, many teens are driving drunk and doing who knows what else. Drinking and driving not only makes it dangerous for the driver but for everyone the driver is around.

"I believe that by encouraging even one friend who is considering drinking and driving to have a designated driver you are already saving at least one life," senior Stephanie Sano said.

Friday, April 3, former KHS student, Philip Brandon Green, 19, of Kingwood died. On Brandon's way home late that night a cop tried to pull him

over for swerving. Brandon decided to try and run from the cop and he ended up side swiping a car. Soon after that he drifted into the wrong lane into oncoming traffic. Two cars hit his. He flew out the window and was pronounced dead at the scene.

This could all have been avoided if only he had a designated driver, his friends did not let him drive, or even if he had not taken a drink at all.

"19% of teenagers who have gotten in a car accident between the ages of sixteen and twenty have died in a car accident because of drunk driving," abovetheinfluence.com said.

Many teenagers have already lost a

friend. Preventing drunk driving is one of the easiest ways to make sure no one goes home in a body bag. It is silly to let anyone drive home drunk because you are not only putting your life in danger but the lives of others too.

Teenagers tend to believe they are invincible and that they are perfectly fine to drive, even if they have been drinking or are under the influence. Letting them know that they are not invincible and that they should get someone who has not had anything to drink to drive, even if this means taking their car keys away from them.

A lot of people are afraid to voice their opinion and let it be known that it

is not okay to drink and drive.

"I feel like no one would listen to me," freshman Macee Starkey said. "I guess because I am so young, or I feel like they might get mad at me if I were to try to take their keys away or something."

Its better to have a friend be mad at you for a small fraction of time than to let them drive drunk and maybe hurt themselves or others.

Think twice before you let anyone drive drunk. Most know that opting not to drink is the safest option because it is illegal.

Safe Rides Re-establishment

Make A Difference

Brooke Ley
Reporter

Besides Mike Rosenberg's love for tennis and his position on the varsity team, he was an optimistic sophomore and was filled with school spirit, innocence and headed for a successful future. In 1992, he sat at the same desk that students today do and wore the Mustang blue. Mike worked diligently, as he had plans to attend Pepperdine University in Santa Barbara, California. Pepperdine was thousands of miles away from home, but his parents and brother supported his collegiate decisions. However, Mike always explained his positive reasonings for his love of Pepperdine; tennis, the costal location, and the well-known California girls.

On August 4 he experienced the freedom of getting his drivers license, and a month later he went to his first rock concert to see Guns and Roses and Metallica. A few Friday's later, the rival football game of Kingwood and Humble was taking place, but Mike was disappointed in his performance of his earlier tennis match and was not planning on going. His father urged him not to mope around. He thought perhaps rounding up his friends and going to Turner after dinner at Bennigan's would cheer him up.

After the game, Mike and his friends Johan-Eric, Lauren and Scott drove to Sonic and socialized over vanilla cokes. Following the drive around Humble and Kingwood, Mike and his friends had stopped by his house in order to switch drivers. Mike grabbed his keys and asked for permission to drop off his friends at home, as well as stop by to wish their friend Rebecca a "Happy Birthday." Arriving at Rebecca's house, no one answered the front door so they figured her birthday party was over. Mike decided to just go on and take his friends home, little did they know that the celebration was held in the back yard.

On the other side of Kingwood, se-

niors and those recently graduated scattered from a busted keg party. Two of these intoxicated teens decided to move the party to the bridge under Highway 59 along the San Jacinto.

Approaching Kingwood Drive on Shady Run, the two drunk teens were at a speed exceeding 70 miles per hour. Seconds later the car full of innocent teens was t-boned and thrown into the trees.

Mike's curfew had passed, so his dad started calling the parents of Mike's friends to see if they had made it home yet, and they had not. Sirens wailed continuously so he ventured out in hopes of locating his son and in fear of him being the prime reason of the chaos. Approaching the scene, Mr. Rosenberg sprinted through masses of worried teens to see Mike's demolished car surrounded by paramedics. In order to seek information, Mr. Rosenberg had to describe Mike and his friends to the best of his ability. He was notified that three of the six teens involved in the crash were life flighted, one of them being Mike. The passenger of the drunken teens car and Mike's best friend, Johan-Eric, were also life flighted in critical condition.

Meanwhile, Mrs. Rosenberg was notified of the accident through Rebecca's father, the accident having occurred just houses away from her birthday party. Mike's parents arrived at Herman Hospital after midnight, having very vague memories of the suspenseful drive.

After a series of security checks, and descriptions of Mike, they learned that

he was already in surgery, which lasted until 10:00am that Saturday morning. Along with head trauma, Mike suffered several injuries, including a broken clavicle, broken ribs and pelvis, a collapsed lung, and a severed spleen.

In a coma, Johan-Eric was in the ICU and was diagnosed with short term memory loss. Lauren was pulled out of the car by the jaws of life, and rushed to Kingwood Hospital to treat her leg injuries.

Scott, riding behind the passenger seat, suffered the worst of it all.

"He saw it all, and remained conscious," Mr. Rosenberg said. "He saw the lights of the truck coming towards them and Mike being ripped out of his seat belt and thrown against the car".

He tried countless attempts to save his friends and has had to live with those memories everyday.

The doctor performing Mike's surgery explained to his parents about his critical injuries and how he tried relieving pressure near his brain. On October 4 Mike was pronounced brain-dead, and the next day he was taken off life support.

About a year earlier in 1991, Mike and his family had conversed about being organ donors. In conclusion, Mr. and Mrs. Rosenberg made the decision to donate Mike's internal organs because it was what Mike really wanted.

Four lucky people of a variety of ages and races were saved by Mike's organs that same day.

School was let out early the day of Mike's funeral, this tragedy impacted nearly everyone in Kingwood. Over one thousand people paid their respects to Mike, all of whom were either classmates, teammates, friends or family.

"My wife, my son, and I are in a club," Mr. Rosenberg said, "A club we don't want anyone else to be a part of."

Mr. Rosenberg explained the unnatural feelings of losing a child, and how he wants no one else to go through such pain. Mike's family does not want anyone else to experience the loss of a brother or son.

The senior class of 1993 felt as if they needed to make a difference, and make sure a drunk driving incident never happened again in Kingwood. A meeting of the All Club Consul was held, and a new idea was proposed. Safe Rides, a student-run program, was started in order to prevent potential drunk driving accidents. Not only if a student was intoxicated, but if a date went wrong or someone was ditched by their friends, one would have a safe ride home. The group of trained high schoolers would bring students straight home, no questions asked and no parents told. This club was a huge hit at Kingwood High School for nearly eight years, but it slowly diminished because the tragedy was years in the past. Operating on Friday and Saturday, only five students and an adult sponsor were needed a night.

Safe Rides being re-established to Kingwood would continue to make a difference and prevent future accidents. There needs to be renewed interest in this program. If anyone would like to join or help, please e-mail Brooke Ley, at brookekley@yahoo.com.

Safe Rides for Teens

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Safe Rides Logo. Call phone number if interested

Nick Doremus
 Entertainment Editor



sites.google.com

Title: *Haunting in Connecticut*

Synopsis:

Based on true events, the Haunting in Connecticut takes place in a small, quaint town in a little, inexpensive home. Sara Campbell (Virginia Madsen) recently moved into this house after Matt Campell (Kyle Garner) was selected for an experimental cancer treatment, which would be administered near their new home. After moving in, Matt begins to notice strange things, such as a dark figure in the reflection of his television and a bloody mop. However, he is the only one who can see these manifestations, and the rest of his family begin to believe that he is having hallucinations. What he eventually discovers is that the evil spirits are not only coming after him, but the rest of the family as well.

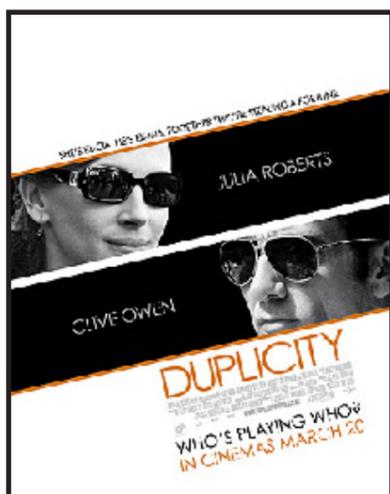
Review:

The movie got off to a slow start. It took at least 20 minutes into the movie for any frightening images to appear. Plus, the scary images were nothing new, but rather repeated and general. They did pull off their generic tricks, for I was scared throughout the majority of the movie. The actors in the movie were decent, but at some parts it seemed like they had just rehearsed for their scene in the movie. In other words, a majority of the actors did not seem confident in their lines and scenes. The overall premise of the movie was rather interesting.

Cut to the chase:

Confusing at parts, but definitely a movie to see. Rent this movie on DVD, because it may be beneficial to rewind some of the parts.

Rating: B-



www.reviewsstuff.com

Title: *Duplicity*

Synopsis:

Ray Koval (Clive Owen) and Claire Stenwick (Julia Roberts) are assigned to work as double secret agents for two opposing companies. When one of the companies reveals that they have developed a secret project, the other company must have it. This is where Koval and Stenwick come in. While both of the companies think that these two agents are aiding them in their goals, one to figure out the secret project and the other to protect it, they have their own secret agenda: themselves. They will use deception and trickery to accomplish their monumental task.

Review:

This movie was intriguing, but completely confusing. It was difficult to piece together the clues, because they revealed them at awkward and unnecessary moments. However, the acting in the movie was phenomenal, especially on the part of Owen. The cinematography was decent for the budget they were assigned, but the actual plot made up for the lack of decisive and interesting film angles. The music was definitely appropriate for the premise of the movie, as it was mysterious yet upbeat. This movie has several elements involved: romance, mystery, comedy, and drama. There were almost too many elements, for it made it difficult to pinpoint the central aspect of the movie. The ending of the movie was the best part, for it was definitely surprising.

Cut to the chase:

The movie is unoriginal, but it still succeeds in pulling off its tricks. It is worth watching on DVD, but not in theaters.

Rating: C

Summer Concert

At the Sam Houston Racetrack

Hannah Babich
 Reporter

Every summer Sam Houston Race Park offers both free races and concert events. A free, live horse race will take place every Friday and Saturday during June, July, and August. Fall Out Boy with 50 Cent played at the Park April 18, and the 93Q: A Day in the Country Festival took place on April 25. On May 2, Joan Jett and the Blackhearts along with the Smithereens and the Crisis will play following the live horse race scheduled for that day. Ghostland Observatory will play May 9, Jason Aldean will play with Ryan Beaver on May 16, The Point will hold a Birthday Bash featuring Flock of Seagulls on May 23, and Kevin Fowler plays with Mark McKinney on May 30.

"I think it would be cool to see Flock of Seagulls," senior Nick Panzarella said. "I never knew the Race Park had concerts. Sounds like a cool way to hang in the summer."

The Park gates open at 11:30 AM and the first race of the day begins at 1:00 PM. The Concert gates open 30 minutes after the last race of the day takes place. General Admission tickets are \$15, and fun packs may be purchased for four, six, or nine person groups.

"I didn't know that the Race Park had



Photo courtesy of www.weeklynotes.com

live horse races, let alone concerts," senior Briana Sessions said. "I'm definitely going to check it out as soon as school gets out."

The Park offers a plethora of dining options, including restaurants and carnival style dining. Indoor and outdoor seating is available as well as carnival rides and games, and of course, gambling for those of age.

"It's really cool that I'll be able to bet on the race," senior Mandy Chapman said. "It's definitely a perk to the experience."

Overall, The Sam Houston Race Park is an excellent way to enjoy Summer fun at a low price!

Upcoming Summer Movies

List courtesy of rottentomatoes.com

May 1

X-Men Origins: Wolverine
 Battle for Terra
 Ghosts of Girlfriends Past

May 8

Star Trek
 Next Day Air

May 15

Angels & Demons

May 21

Terminator Salvation

May 22

Night at the Museum II: Escape from the Smithsonian
 Dance Flick

May 29

Up
 The Brothers Bloom
 Drag Me to Hell

June 5

Land of the Lost
 My Life in Ruins
 The Hangover

June 12

The Taking of Pelham 1 2 3
 Imagine That

June 19

Year One
 The Proposal

June 24

Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen

June 26

My Sister's Keeper

July 1

Public Enemies
 Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs

July 10

Bruno
 I Love You Beth Cooper

July 15

Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince

July 24

All Good Things
 G-Force

July 31

The Orphan
 The Ugly Truth

July 31

Funny People
 They Came from Upstairs

August 7

G.I. Joe: The Rise of Cobra
 Julie & Julia

August 14

Shorts
 When in Rome

August 14

District 9
 Bandslam

August 21

The Goods: The Don Ready Story
 The Time Traveler's Wife

August 21

A Perfect Getaway
 Post Grad

August 21

Goose on the Loose!
 Inglourious Basterds

August 28

Halloween 2
 Final Destination: Death Trip 3D
 The Boat That Rocked

Advanced pain of Advanced Placement tests

Chelsea Williams
Sports Editor

As the end of the school year draws nearer, so do the AP tests. AP, or Advanced Placement, tests are for juniors and seniors who wish to get early college credits in English, History, and Math classes, among others. In order to receive their credits, AP students have to pass the AP exam. This sounds very simple, but these tests are seemingly meant to make teenager's brain explode from exhaustion and expanding beyond max capacity.

AP teachers have been preparing their students for this test since school began in September. Just a recap, that would mean these students have been working on college questions and essays for eight months now, but the torture does not end until May. Many students are taking more than one AP test, which means they are now cramming even more information into their brains. The question is at what point will these students either lose what is left of their lives or completely lose their mind.

It seems like tests are made to push these students' minds to the point of a breakdown, and, honestly, they are do-



Juniors Sarah Rennalls, Qarat Khan, and Jorge Cotte study intensely for the English AP test during class. "These AP tests are ridiculous," Cotte said. "Preparing for them is so stressful. They're definitely going to kill me."
Photo by Chelsea Williams

ing an excellent job of it. Kingwood students are some of the brightest in the country, but we are still teenagers. There is a life outside of school work and AP testing, but apparently the makers of these exams believe that the world consists of equations, ancient history, and analyzing useless passages in less than

forty-five minutes. The tests are both tricky and extremely difficult.

The rewards for passing the Advanced Placement test are pretty nice though. twenty-seven point five percent of Texas public school students in the Class of 2008 took at least one AP exam while in high school, compared to

25 percent for the nation. That is not a very large amount, which gets colleges' attention. Not to mention that only 14.5 percent of Texas students earned a score of 3 or higher, compared to 15.2 percent for students nationally. So, although the AP test is evil, it might bring better opportunities to those who take it.

Primping, planning, "prama":

Is prom drama too much to handle?

Hannah Babich
Reporter

As prom draws near, senior students are experiencing prom drama, affectionately named "prama."

Girls attempt to woo their chosen beau, boys creatively plan the perfect askout and everyone seems wrapped up in dress colors and after prom party plans. The frenzy calls to mind the idea that perhaps prom has gotten slightly out of hand.

The pressure of obtaining a date along with coordinating an entire weekend of fun can be a little much for the apathetic mind of a second semester senior. Girls without dates question whether a solo prom is worth attending. Boys who choose not to take a date face awkward group situations-often being forced to tag along with a group of pairs. Such a situation leads not to third wheel syndrome, but a bit of the perpetually more

embarrassing fifteenth wheel Freddie.

Prom is meant to be an exciting senior tradition, a right of passage so to speak. With all the drama surrounding the revered dance, prom has developed into somewhat of a nuisance. Furthermore, the cost is astronomical, even impossible for some students to afford. Girls inevitably get the short end of the stick, purchasing the "perfect" prom dresses for up to \$500. Additionally, groups almost always pitch in to rent a bus or limo as well as an after prom party house. Boutineers and corsages are not a cheap investment, corsages often costing close to \$30. Seniors constantly find themselves questioning whether the investment is not better spent on college in the fall, or another, more rewarding endeavor.

Prom was also originally meant to be a fancy, special occasion. Because the senior classes have continued to grow and the school budget has continued

to decrease, the prom has been held at the Humble Civic Center for the past few years. The new location, although practical, does indeed lessen the excitement of the evening. Even dressed up, the Civic Center is still the Civic Center, the same place every other school dance has been held. The lack of variation and fanciful wonder inevitably lower Prom into the ranks of the common school dance.

An event that was intended to be a senior evening to remember has developed into a stressful month full of primping, planning, and prama. Perhaps we should refocus when it comes to prom, remembering what really matters. Fun is possible without the prama, and as seniors, we ought to enjoy one of our final high school privileges. As a true second semester senior should, we ought to sit back and let what happens happen. Go with the flow and enjoy the end of our high school days.

What's with the weather?

Brittany Milam
Reporter

While some people argue that Houston's weather is "Bipolar" and "unpredictable," I believe that it keeps everyone on their toes and gives everyone a reason to watch the weather channel in the mornings.

However, it can make things a little hectic in the morning in some homes due to the weather changes from previous days. Many students in the Houston

area have to change their outfits, sometimes multiple times in a week because they were not informed of the tremendous weather change that is awaiting them outside their doors. Still as mentioned earlier, that is what the weather channel is for.

Sometimes there is a little difficulty with what to wear on the days that are extremely cold or rainy but still the weather change is still nice. We do not get bored with the same weather as other

states, like Alaska. We just get to have a variety and a constant change in our weather. I look at the weather changes as a splendid start to a new day.

Because of the weather channel there is no excuse to think that Houston is "bipolar" by any means. I think we have the proper information to discover the weather outside our homes before we get there, such as the internet and daily newspapers.

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VICTORY LANE

Anna Hojnacki
Reporter



Every morning the swimming and diving team practices from 5:30 to 7:30 a.m. The long hours and intense practices have paid off. Both boys and girls finished first in district and region, and the boys claimed the state title. The swimming and diving teams have had a great season.

This year there were 40 swimmers on Varsity and 40 on Junior Varsity. Both teams were broken up into twenty boys and twenty girls. The diving team had 5 divers. "I've been coaching for thirty years," Coach Duin said. "Nineteen years here at Kingwood."

The victories of both the swimming and diving teams can be attributed to the dedication of Coach Duin and assistant coach Laura Ledlow.

"The girls set a state record in the 200 Medley Relay with a time of 1:43.25," Duin said. "The girls individual champions were Jillian Vitarius in 100 meter back stroke and Merritt Krawczyk in 100 meter breast stroke."

The diving team has also excelled. Loren Figueroa was a district and regional champ, and got second place at state. Gage Fugler and Charlie Slater were district and regional qualifiers.

"Diving is the best sport," senior Charlie Slater said. "I get to jump off a board into water and do awesome tricks." This year 19 seniors from the teams are graduating. Incoming freshmen will help bulk up the team again.

"Hopefully we'll have a good group to add to the mix of swimmers and divers," Duin said. "We have a solid tradition of excellence and a legacy that is the base of our foundation here at KHS."

Astro's season

Spencer Williams
Reporter

Over many seasons the Astro's have accomplished many feats. They are one of many teams that have certainly been through their share of ups and downs. This year, with a new Manager and a multitude of new players, the Astro's say that this year is their year.

Even though the Astros' have fallen to the bottom of the league standings, a bad start doesn't always add up to a doomed team. The Astros' are sure proof of that so far in their April season debut they have started off with one of the worst records in baseball with a (5-9). At this time last season it was pretty much the same and the team in the second half of the season had the best record in the entire league.

If the Astros' stay on the same pattern as they have the past couple of seasons, then you can expect them in the playoffs this season.

"I went to their opener and it was not pretty. They looked really rusty," Sophomore Tyler Harvey said.

In each season, players have their ups and downs their hot streaks and their cold streaks. However it's the players who produce runs or hits when it's really needed, the clutch moment, those are the players that team managers look for.

One of those players who is on the rise is first baseman Lance Berkman. In the past couple of seasons this man has been one of the few to carry the Astros' through hard times. Last season, he was accepted for the all-star team for the national league, and also was a contestant in the all-star home-run derby.

With the addition of many new players from their farm teams, the Astros have also signed veteran catcher Ivan Rodriguez who has a whole closet full of awards, He will help call the games from behind the plate to lead the Astros to victory.

"I don't think that he (Rodriguez) will make a difference, he is on his decline and the past couple seasons he has not been doing well," sophomore Caleb Willis said.

"We Really need Carlos he is the back bone of the line up he brings a certain pop to the line up that they will need to get through the season," freshman Trenton Stringer said.

With the return of many last season regulars comes the exciting and high hoped return of Carlos Lee who injured his finger late last season and had surgery over the off-season. His return has been long awaited and he has shown Astros fans what they have been waiting for. In the series with Cincinnati and the Los Angeles, he has hit the best out of any player on the roster and has hit two back to back home runs in two games.

This season, with so many new faces and so many new challenges, it will be a season to watch so come out and see your Houston Astros play at Minute Maid Park. Their next game will be on May 1st in Atlanta, against the Atlanta Braves.

Gymnastics State results

The girls team placed 2nd and the boys team placed 3rd!

Individual medal winners were:
Floor Exercise--Greg Lupton 2nd
Pommel Horse--Campbell Roper 6th
Rings--Matt Amodeo 5th
Vault--Greg Lupton 6th
Parallel Bars--Greg Lupton 6th
All Around Competition--Rachel Abrams 3rd
Floor Exercise--Rachel Abrams 5th,
Meagan Bradley 10th
Uneven Bars--Rachel Abrams 4th,
Lindsey Marler 6th
Balance Beam--Rachel Abrams 7th
Floor Exercise--Rachel Abrams 8th,
Lindsey Marler 10th

KHS had 4 seniors named to TEAM TEXAS which will compete in Chicago next month. They are Matt Amodeo, Meagan Bradley, Michelle Mandel, & Lindsey Marler. No other school had this many students named to the team.

Just dance

Veronica Martinez
Reporter

It's the end of the season for the Fillies. The Fillies just performed at Spring Show at KHS on , and they did an amazing performance with their dances.

"I loved the dances this year!" freshman Fillie Haley Kalass said. "I'm not sure how we could improve for next year, maybe work on our precision and timing more."

The Fillies competed at a national contest in San Antonio on

"We finished the season as National Champions in San Antonio!" Kalass said. "I don't know how we could have ended any better!"

The Fillies have a lot of competitions and they have to practice hours after school to get

the dance to be perfect to compete in the competitions. They work together and help each other out on the dances. When one of them makes a mistake.

"We practiced really hard before the competition so I felt really confident in the dances!" Kalass said.

The Fillies are doing an awesome job with all of their dances, and entertaining the audiences at games. Fillies did amazing ending their season as National Champions in San Antonio. The Spring Show was brilliant with all of the dances.



Photo courtesy of Hoofprints Yearbook