

PHOENIX

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The Voice of Schenectady High

SCH'DY, NY

Want a drink? Try 'A' wing

The Phoenix ranks SHS's best, worst water fountains

by **TAYLOR CLUM**
Phoenix Writer

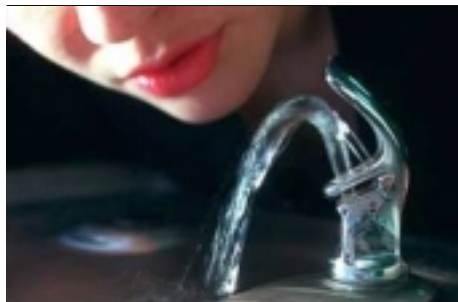
You're in class and you raise your hand and ask to go get a drink from the water fountain. They say yes and you're on your way, but outside in the hallway you pause. Where are you going to get a drink where it actually tastes good?

I used to ask the same thing. So I went on a journey around the school and its 25 fountains in search of the best tasting water.

B Wing & Main Hallway

I first started out testing the water in the B wing. The B wing contains a total of three water fountains. All three tasted slightly like iron except for the one fountain next to Room B17, which I ranked as the worst tasting water in the whole school.

After that I headed down the main hallway. I tried the newest fountain in the building, next to the Guidance Office. The water



"Avoid E wing at all costs," Phoenix writer Taylor Clum advises.

was good and tasted clean, but it was not the coldest I had tasted.

As I kept heading down the hallway I came across the fountain by the Commons. On a scale of 1 to 10, 1 being the best and 10 being the worst, I rated it an 8. After that I came to the fountains outside the ISS room,

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New water fountain among changes at SHS

by **BRIANA TEAL**
Phoenix Writer

Schenectady High School added a new water fountain outside the guidance office this summer as an ongoing effort to make the school look better.

They did some more things down there

where they took out the lockers and painted the wall.

The news came as part of a press conference the Journalism class held with Associate Superintendent Gregory Fields.

Responding to a question on whether the

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No costumes allowed for Halloween

by **FRANCIA RAHIMAN**
Phoenix writer

Halloween is here and students of Schenectady High School would like to know what they can or cannot wear when they come to school on that day.

During Spirit Week, students came to school with their whole faces painted for Red, White and Blue Day and were told that their face paintings were distracting and inappropriate because their whole faces were covered in bright red and blue. Call it extreme school pride? Also, on Superhero Day of Spirit Week, students were told not to wear masks, beforehand.

Unfortunately, school officials did not announce a final decision for Halloween before the *Phoenix* went to print.

"Normally we go by the dress code and there are no masks allowed," said Joanne Wolcott, principal of the School of Business and International Studies.

According to the school's Code of Conduct, the Dress Code Policy states that "a student's dress and grooming must be safe and appropriate and must not disrupt the educational process."

It is assumed that means no costumes, costume weapons, masks or full-face paintings will be allowed. Also prohibited is clothing that masks a student's identity.

If students plan to wear costumes anyway, they should try to stay away from anything extreme.

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COLLEGE: What to do and when

The student's guide to being ready

by **ALEXANDRIA TREMANTE**
Phoenix Writer

Have you heard a million different things you should be doing to get ready for college? Are you getting told all different things by teachers, parents, guidance counselors and guides of all different sorts? Is it hard to decipher which is true and which isn't?

Take it from someone actually going through the process, this is what you should be doing and when:

FRESHMAN YEAR

Some may wonder if your first year in high school even counts. Well, it does. All of your high school years matter, not just junior and senior. Your GPA is calculated from the first class you take in high school to the last class. GPA's are what college admissions counselors look at as one of the most important aspects of an application. The one other thing you should be doing is **GETTING INVOLVED**. Join a sports team, club or two. Volunteer and get involved in the community. Pick things you like to do, do them because you want to, not forced to. When it comes to your senior year and you need to put together all of your activities, it looks better to have them started freshman year and continued all the way through high school because it displays commitment.

SOPHOMORE YEAR

Remember two things: GPA counts so keep your grades up and stay involved, maybe

even join another club, or start up a volunteer project and get others involved.

JUNIOR YEAR

Junior year gets a little busier. Keep up everything you've been doing the past two years, just add a few more things. Researching colleges is essential. Go on Google, and type in your area of interest. Just start looking! This will make senior year a lot easier when you actually need to start applying because you will already have an idea of where you want to apply to.

SENIOR YEAR

Senior year begins the summer before the actual year starts. During the summer, it is vital to get a start on your college essay. Write a few drafts on different topics. It will make it a lot easier when it becomes an actual assignment during the fall and you become stressed because you have nothing done and too much other work. Along with this, write a résumé. This displays all the activities you've been doing, any work experience, notable classes and more. Just find a résumé template on Google or Microsoft. Then towards the end of summer, and start of the year, go visit a few colleges. See which college just feels right to you; what campus can you see yourself on for the next four years? Finally, towards the middle of fall, begin applying!

As long as you can stay on track with this process, it's a pretty simple one that is worth it. Stay focused and good luck!

FOUNTAIN

from page 1

hall was redone for the movie "The Place Beyond the Pines," he said that it was not.

As they were redoing the hallway, they put the new fountain in a hallway that was recently redone, and this completed the renovation, Mr. Fields said. Previously, there was a pipe sticking out of the wall.

Mr. Fields said he had a hard decision to make with the water fountain, because he did not know if putting a water fountain in

the hallway would slow people down or not, as they walked to their classes. He chose to put the water fountain in.

When asked if they were going to do any more work, Mr. Fields said he would like to replace the other fountains. He said that the problem that we have with the E wing water fountain is due to the construction that took place last year.

When we told Mr. Fields about the B wing water fountains and how they do not taste like water should taste, he said that he would look into those fountains.

RANKINGS

from page 1

I ranked them both a 2.

FA Wing

The FA wing is known for the coldest water, and it's true. The downstairs fountains both got my top score with 1's. Upstairs there are four more. The two by FA26 and the two by FA20 are all ranked as 1's, but overall the upstairs FA water fountains are the coldest in the building.

Heading over to the gym I went to the only two I knew of outside the gym by the doors that you can leave out of during lunch. Both of the water fountains tasted good but they weren't that cold. But I do know, from experience, that those water fountains are sometimes cold and sometimes they aren't.

E Wing & A Wing

The E wing is exactly what I had expected. They are the fountains that are sort of new, but the piping is bad, thus it tastes of rust. This whole entire wing is bad, steer clear of it. If I had to rank it, the whole wing would get a 9; officially naming it the worst wing to drink water from.

Seriously if you're dying for a drink, **DON'T GO HERE**.

In the middle hallway of D wing, there are two fountains both rated at a 5, so they're safe to drink, just not the best. Problems include the presence of garbage in these and they don't have good water pressure, but they are still good to drink from.

The A wing has two fountains rated as 4's. They are both safe to drink and surprisingly cold. The one by A2 was actually colder than the other at A14.

So which wings are the ones to avoid getting water from? That would be the B and the E wings. Both tasted of iron and left a horrible after taste in your mouth. The best fountains to get water from are by the ISS Room, down by FA, the Gym water fountains, the 2 in the A wing and all 6 in the FA wing.

See the *Phoenix* online
and in color on the district website:
www.schenectady.k12.ny.us

Tips for your Halloween costume

by **SARALEAVITT**

Phoenix writer

It's that time of year again, Halloween! The one day of the year where people get to be another person or thing and get to go door to door and ask people for candy. But there is always that puzzling question everyone asks themselves every October: "What am I going to be this year?"

Well I decided to see what was really popular this year for costumes and add my own experiences from working in a Halloween costume store for the second year in a row to see if it matched up to the nationwide opinion.

Earlier this month the *National Retail Federation* took a survey throughout retail stores across America for the top trends to see what the popular costumes were for the 2011 Halloween season for adults and children. And let's just say the results this year were a little odd since there was not too much influence by pop culture with these cos-

tumes.

The top 5 costumes for adults were (in order): witch, pirate, vampire, zombie, Batman. The top 5 for kids were: princess, witch, Spiderman, pirate and pumpkin.

Now don't get me wrong, they are very nice things to be for Halloween, but in my personal opinion they are just not original at



all. I mean, come on America! Did you suddenly run out of ideas?

Now I work at The Costumer and yes I

See COSTUMES, page 6

When is too old to Trick or Treat?

by **BRIANA TEAL**

Phoenix writer

There are some places that think at certain ages kids are too old to trick or treat. Why is it such a big deal if high school kids go trick or treating? Shouldn't we have a right to go if we still want to? Why should people be scared of us if we are only trying to have some fun?

Places that have banned kids over age 12 from trick or treating are Belleville, Ill, Meridian, Miss, Bishopville, S.C., and Boonsboro, Md.

Some people say that when you are in your teens you are too old for trick or treating. People feel that if you can get a job and buy your own candy then you are too old. Some adults in some places will not give the older kids any candy; they will make them leave.

But some high school kids may still find trick or treating to be fun. If you are in high school and you want to go trick or treating, it should be fine since you are just looking for some fun on a holiday. But if you are in college you should not be trick or treating, because you are just too old for it.

Some people think that it should not be a problem that kids in high school still do it. It's free candy, so why wouldn't teens and younger kids want to go trick or treating. Kids who are around 15, 16 and 17 feel that they should be able to go trick or treating if they want too. If teens take the time to dress up, then why can't they go out and have some fun trick or treating?

The reason that they ban trick or treating for kids over 12 because they get calls from people like single mothers and senior citizens that are frightened by the kids who want candy. Parents do not want their child who is too old to be going door to door getting candy they want them to save that for the little kids.

We dress up on Halloween because some people like to have fun. They like to dress up in the scary costumes and scare people. It's the one time a year that we can dress up in a costume and not be criticized about what we are doing. It is an essential thing to do on Halloween for anyone of any age.

Watch out for the little boys and ghouls this Halloween

by **JUSTIN CONRAD**

Phoenix Writer

As Halloween rapidly approaches, children are getting ready for a night of candy, costumes and fun.

But they don't seem to think about the dangers that come with it. Dangers like sharp, pointy objects in the candy, and cars not seeing them in the dark and hitting them.

And there's another danger that children never expect, strangers abducting them while they're trick-or-treating. Ever since the recent attempted abduction of a middle school girl in Schenectady, parents want to make sure that their children are safe while traveling outside alone.

So it's up to parents and us, as older

brothers and sisters, to watch out for them.

In order for children to avoid these dangers, they need to follow these safety tips while trick-or-treating:

- always travel in a group with one or two adults supervising,
- carry a flashlight at all times,
- don't eat any candy that's been opened, and
- **NEVER** go into a stranger's house even if they invite you in.

So if parents and children follow these tips, which are featured in many on safety websites, parenting manual, they will have a fun and safe Halloween Night. The last thing anybody wants is for children to get hurt while trick-or-treating.

Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

Kids growing up WAY too fast today

Snookie, 'Teen Mom' and Tiara-wearing Toddlers blamed

Is the media making kids grow up too fast?

With startling rates in the number of teen pregnancies and the marriage statistic for teens at an all time high, it makes us in America and those in other countries wonder why our youth seem to be growing up too fast.

Pre-teens always think they're more grown up than they are, but the age when

EDITORIAL

by **DARLENE SENAT**

mature has gone down further and further. The media seems to put such a spotlight on one thing and that's all young people see. Older kids can better decide for themselves what they agree with and don't agree with. But very young children need to be monitored in what they're allowed to see since their easier to convince.

Popular TV shows like "Toddlers and Tiaras," "Jersey Shore" and "Teen Mom" have been the subject of controversy. Some feel these shows are harmless fun and shouldn't be taken as seriously as they are. Others say they are damaging to young viewers and need to be handled differently.

People who defend these shows say they highlight important issues and show true reality.

But really, a young girl wearing loads of make-up, a grown up outfit and strolling around a stage like a piece of meat to be judged on how "pretty" she is, is considered "cute" these days? A group of idiots

getting drunk, fighting and hooking up is called "entertainment"? And young girls getting on TV because they got pregnant is just "highlighting the struggles they get themselves into?" Wow.

People opposed to these shows say they're sending the wrong message and glamorizing negative things. A 5 year old girl



dressed like Julia Roberts did when she was a prostitute in "Pretty Woman" is completely inappropriate and sexualizes children.

Young people receiving messages that all their good for is getting drunk, acting like an idiot and having people laugh AT them (not with them) is just pitiful. A girl thinking that all she has to do to be famous is get pregnant in high school is pathetic. Extremely pathetic.

My opinion is that shows like these do send the wrong message. People need to realize that a young person sees people on TV as one thing...PEOPLE ON TV! And if the standards of getting on TV get any lower

people won't take it seriously. Not like they don't already do.

If our generation sees that all they have to do to get on TV and be a star is get pregnant or act like drunken party people then that's what they're going to do. Children look up to these so called "role models" and even though they didn't ask to be role models, they are. Negatives ones. I'm talking about you, Snooki.

That doesn't mean they should be the only ones held accountable. The TV stations that show these low ball entertainment shows are also at fault. If what people view as role model is getting lower and lower on the social scale people will stop aspiring to bigger and better things.

The entertainment industry is getting easier and easier to break into with a bunch of no-talent wannabes getting their 15 minutes of fame. Instead of young people saying they want to grow up and be a movie star or a singer they can just take the easy way and say I want to be a reality star. It's sick!

Strolling around a stage in loads of make-up at 6 or 7 years old, getting drunk and acting like an idiot on camera or getting pregnant in high school gets people far these days and, honestly, that's a shame. Sure these shows are entertaining, but for those desperate fame seekers it's their dream come true. Things like getting a higher education, landing a good job, learning how to be successful and getting a good family should be shown more on television so our youth can aspire to, more than just the trash that is seen now.

I get people that want to see what's real, but we all know that reality TV is far from real. More real and positive things that can be achieved need to be shown more than real and negative things that can be achieved so that the youth won't feel pressured to grow up too fast.

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Want to learn more or sign up or get your first assignment? See a Phoenix staffer or see Mr. Gaboury in Room AB18 or email him at gabouryr@schenectady.k12.ny.us.

Have an opinion you'd like to share?

Share it with us. Submit your opinions to a Phoenix staffer or our staff adviser.

Maryland U's Football Uniforms

'Ugly'

by James Paukstela

The University of Maryland football uniforms look crazy. Maryland's new uniforms have other athletes and the news laughing and turning up their nose in disgust. The color schemes are clashing, resulting in a football phenomenon never seen before. And critics have a lot to say about this new development -- mostly negative.

To incorporate all these colors: red, black, white and gold, along with two helmets is unprecedented in college football. The uniforms, which prominently feature "Maryland" on the front, were designed by Under Armour.

No one ever said when you play a game you have to look good doing it and it seems the University of Maryland is following this philosophy strictly. I think the uniforms are a bright and flashy mix that doesn't blend together well at all. My first impression was distaste.

According to a news release from Under Armour, these new getups were inspired by certain traits of the Maryland state flag and the Maryland college itself.

Lebron James of the Miami Heat expressed shock and disgust at the uniforms debut. "OH GOSH Maryland uniforms Ewwwww!" tweeted King James. I completely agree with James.

The different shoulder pads make it ugly; one has zigzags with black and white while the other has a crazy red and white design. It also looks like there is a strange stocking is on their right arm. What's up with that?

The helmets follow the pattern of the ridiculous shoulder pads although I shouldn't say it follows a pattern because instead of zigzags there are stripes, which also makes no sense. This uniform is more like a suit of the worst uniforms put together as one. Even the cleats are ugly.



'Sweet'

by Michael McCall

The question is: are the Maryland Terrapins and their new uniforms sweet and revolutionary, or ugly and weird?

Well, if you're a young spunky athlete I'm pretty sure you would agree that these uniforms are the best uniforms in college football in years and the slogan gets you going, makes you hype "This isn't a uniform; this is your armour."

If you know anything about Maryland you would know that Maryland natives are very passionate about their state.

The Maryland football team introduced these revolutionary uniforms that were produced by Under Armour. They are like having the Under Armour that most athletes put under their uniforms as uniforms. They are tight fitting, more aerodynamic and make these players quicker, more efficient and allows them to save the energy that football players will need to make big plays.

The Maryland football team has also been put under wraps as a powerhouse, with not much publicity in the sports world. BUT, since they brought out the sweet

helmets, gloves, cleats, protective sleeves, now they're known.

What's so ugly about these uniforms: the color? the style? Or is it just personal likes vs. The Big Picture?

Maryland has the Maryland flag plastered on their uniforms because they have a pride in their state and in their school. I mean, did the new uniforms affect anything besides the hype players need by seeing their program on the tabloids news, online forums, etc.?

So I have a question to the haters of these revolutionary uniforms: what's considered a revolutionary uniform in your eyes? The same old boring white home uniforms and all secondary away uniforms? That's so original.

The Maryland Terps and Under Armour have just changed the college football season and will be remembered for what they have done, and what have they done besides try to recruit a great team? The answer is simple, NOTHING..

THE ISSUE:

Sports radio and blogs have been abuzz since the University of Maryland changed its football uniforms. Some say they're ugly, while others say they're an effective recruiting tool for young players who wouldn't otherwise think of a small program like Maryland.



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Morning Muse Schedule

All shows in the Morning Muse series are usually held on Fridays beginning at 7:05 a.m. in the SHS Library.

Oct. 28: **Raya Malcolm**,
Acoustic Guitar and Vocals

Nov. 4: **Emily Kaufmann**,
Original Songs and Guitar

Nov. 10 (Thurs!): **Madison Perretta**, a capela

Nov. 18: **Eddie Valentin & Justin Wethington**

Dec. 2: **Shelby Somelofske**

Dec. 16: JUMPING JAZZ JAM,
MC'ed by **Mr. Gleason & Mr. Servant**



BEHIND

from page 8

out to the lobby to greet people. Everyone earns 'good jobs' and after people start to pile out of the Fine Arts doors the actors have to take off their costumes, put them away and clean up the set. Cleaning up everything can take from 30 minutes to over 90 minutes with an elaborate production like "A Midsummer Nights Dream." With everyone working together everything gets picked up and put away pretty quickly. Your director allows you to leave once everything is done. The lights people call blackout and in 10 seconds the lights all go out and the Black Box is dark and dead of life.

After The Show

After the play is over you just feel so good. You feel like you achieved so much. People talk to you about the play in the hallways and during classes, congratulating you.

On the night of the last play everyone from the play, cast and crew, have a cast

party. Everyone brings food and hangs out and it's just for the cast and crew. The cast party is off school grounds at a fellow cast member's house, so there are no teachers or directors. Everyone is in an awesome mood and you all feel great because you're celebrating this all together. You all got through the long rehearsals, through the talks, through the agonizing moments of forgetting lines and all the other things that went wrong, but you all worked together and turned it all around.

That has to be the most rewarding thing about being in plays. When you're there for the very first rehearsal you don't know anyone and you feel out of place and scared, but after a couple months of spending hours with these people, they begin to grow on you. They become more than just people you see in the hallways or that kid in your English class. They become a part of



your life and you feel like they belong there. And the cool thing is that you all feel the same way. You all feel like you're family and inseparable.

That's another rewarding thing about the plays and that would probably surprise people--all of the plays are mostly student run. Students have an input in what's going on and the director will always take ideas in to consideration. The lights people are allowed to do the effects they want, and the ones they think will suit the scene best. The sound people get to pick out the sounds and figure out where they go and sometimes they even have to make the sound themselves. The actors are allowed to move around and try new things as they freely choose, but the director can always change things if he wants to.

It's been a long road, around 2-3 months of hard work, even longer for the stage managers. Three hours a day for 5 days a week, but in the end everything is so worth it and you've done a great job.

COSTUMES

from page 3

I get asked for all of the original stuff, but I get asked some odd stuff as well. I occasionally get asked for Angry Birds, Charlie Sheen, Star Wars, Babies, Flappers, Hippies, Family Guy characters, any of the Disney characters and Star Trek.

My personal favorite is when I get asked if we sell straight jackets. (Unfortunately we do not sell them)

One of the weirdest costumes I ever been asked for was a pregnant nun and it really

made me laugh.

And if you want to know what I think about costume choices I recommend to people whatever you feel comfortable and confident in, it is just like shopping for clothes. Now you can choose to go the very expensive route or you can be cheap with it. If you want to be cheap then you can simply buy some accessories from \$2-\$20 and simply use your own clothes or buy from the Salvation Army.

Or if you want to go all out you can get something like our full costume of Jigsaw from the movie *Saw* for \$150.

But whatever you do have fun with it.

OUR TOWN

from page 8

What was different this time? "I am 10 years older, I have a different perspective on the play and it means something different to me now than it meant 10 years ago," he said.

He feels students should come to see this play because "it gives students something important to think about, such as, how you're going to live, the choices ahead of you. What you want or don't want in life and many other thought provoking questions".

The main idea of the play, he said, is that "it's incredibly important to recognize what's truly beautiful and truly worthwhile in our everyday lives. Do not miss out on what truly important in your daily life".



'Need or Speed: The Run' a great new game

One of the new videogames coming out this fall is "Need for Speed: The Run," which is going to be released on Nov. 15 for the PS3, Xbox 360, Wii, Win and Nintendo 3DS. EA Black Box and Firebrand Games are developing the 18th installation of the Need for Speed series.

"The Run" is single player, multiplayer racing game, but this game allows the player to exit his/her car and continue on foot. "The Run" is the first Need for Speed game that features races in actual cities.

In the game, you play Jack, who is a high risk street racer who owes the mob a lot of money, and has to participate in a cross country street race



from San Francisco to New York with stops in Las Vegas, Denver, Detroit and many other nationwide locations to win \$25 million to pay his debts. Along the way, Jack has to evade attacks from the mob.

"The Run" has all the elements that the fans of the Need for Speed series love: racing, dramatic cop chases and a variety of fast and exotic cars.

--JUSTIN CONRAD

Call of Duty: Black Ops

Hello and welcome to another installment of ROFL reviews. With this review I'm taking a huge risk by going after a popular game, "Call of Duty: Black Ops."

I'm probably going to be chastised for it but really I have to say it:

Call of Duty is a running series of FPS games that hardly changes, and this one is no different. The games are usually the same with a different skin or wallpaper. All the guns feel the same and the levels also are generic: jungle, warehouse, military base.

The only good part was "Black Ops" zombie mode. But really, it's not worth a \$30 price tag.

You could complain that the graphics are amazing but then I could say this sandwich looks amazing too but it tastes bland. That's Call of Duty: a bland sandwich.

The story is usually the same thing. It's the government conspiracy of Russians using mind control in the Cold War to make sleeper agents. Its pretty forgettable. Other stories include Russia invading America or you playing as a Russian in some parts of the game. What is with Treyarch and Infinity Ward's obsession with fighting Russians?

I really tried to enjoy the game but there was so much bad I couldn't. One reason is the community mostly just shout, play music, scream, act hardcore, or talk smack because you didn't get the most kills. I ended up trading it in for some Microsoft points and a preorder of Skyrim.

The worst part is that Call of Duty will be getting a new release every year. Yay? More of the same thing on the store shelves.

On my ratings scale, I score the Graphics 7.5, Story 3, Gameplay 8, for an overall rating of 5 out of 10.

When the same game is repeated over and over with nothing new, it's not worth my time or money.

--JERRY DALTON

Upcoming Movie Previews

by RAVENA CECIL
Phoenix writer



"Immortals" is an action fantasy film about Theseus, a mortal man chosen by Zeus to lead the fight against the ruthless King Hyperion, who is on a rampage across Greece to obtain a weapon that can destroy humanity. This movie is action/adventure and will be shown in 3D.

From watching the trailers, the special effects incorporated into the film make it visually stunning. The film is based upon the Greek myth of Theseus.

I recommend this film because it has incorporated special effects that have never been done in movies before. In theaters Nov. 11.

"Melancholia" is a dramatic sci-fi film about two sisters who find their already strained relationship challenged as a mysterious new planet threatens to collide into the Earth. This movie stars Kirsten Dunst, also known as "Mary Jane" from the Spider Man films.

I don't recommend this film if you are an action/adventure junkie. This movie is rich in emotion and depth. Filming took place in Sweden. In theaters on Nov. 11.

"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn - Part 1" is another installment of the Twilight series. In this one, the Quileute and the Volturi close in on expecting parents Edward and Bella, whose unborn child poses different threats to the wolf pack and vampire coven. This one has more action and a more detailed script.

Even if you are not a Twilight fan, check this one out. In theaters Nov. 18.

"The Artist" is set in Hollywood, 1927: As silent movie star George Valentin wonders if the arrival of talking pictures will cause him to fade into oblivion, he sparks with Peppy Miller, a young dancer set for a big break.

This movie is aimed towards those into the fine arts. I love the look and feel of the movie. It's set in a time period that most of us are unfamiliar with but it does an amazing job of recreating it for viewers. In theaters Nov. 23.

If you'd like to write a review or other opinion article for the Phoenix, give your submission to a Phoenix staffer or to Mr. Gaboury in Room AB18, or email him at gabouryr@schenectady.k12.ny.us.

Going Behind The Black Box

Behind the scenes: the Making of a Blue Roses Play

by TAYLOR CLUM

Phoenix Writer

Most people know the Black Box to be a place where small plays are put on or where you go for a class, here and there. Over 50 plays have been put on overall in the school every since the 1998 debut of the John Sayles School of Fine Arts Blue Roses Theatre Company; also known as "BRTC." Everyone has seen the Black box, but few have really seen what goes on behind the plays.

So here, let me show you.

Opening Night

It's Opening Night and your excitement is eating you alive. You enter the dance studio; this is the place where you get ready, because we don't have a back stage in the Black Box. You sit in front of the huge mirrors, looking at your appearance. You check out your hair and fix it up. You put on some makeup, if needed. There are crew there to help you out, too, if you need it.

When you're finished you wait for your director to come in. Once he arrives you feel it in your gut, 'This is it.' All the days that you've put into this play are finally paying off. You sit down with your cast and crew and have an opening talk with your director. He talks about what we need to remember, what to do and sometimes even tells us a story to make us laugh and start off a good show. After he is done talking your stage managers start you off. The stage managers are usually well trusted and experienced people that have acted before or worked behind the set. They say encouraging words and then you start off the play.

The lights go down and then come back up when everyone is in place. The actors

start talking and the lights and sound people get to work. Over on the left wall, by the Scene Shop doors, you'll spy a table with a couple people. They work the lights and

watch for where and when they should be coming on. People who work on the lights have



to be super observant and pay attention to what's going on. Next to the lights table you'd see a stand with different types of equipment on it. All of that is for the sound people. The sound people also have to pay attention and always have to be on time with their sound cues. If one thing is off, everything is off.

If you could go back in the Scene Shop you would see the lights are out and only a few small lamps light up the room. This is where any actors that aren't on stage hang out until their next cue. Actors are rushing to get changed into new outfits and some other crew members are there to help them out. Some actors only have a few seconds to change, so sometimes things can get hectic.

At intermission, when half the play is over with, everyone is allowed to have a small snack or just rest. Then everyone heads back to their designated places.

After the show the cast and crew rush

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'Our Town' leads off Blue Roses play list

by RAVENACECIL

Phoenix writer

"Our Town" will be the 59th play the Blue Roses Theater Company will do at SHS since it was first done in 2001.

The play, written by Thornton Wilder, is directed by Mr. Ziskin. You can see it November 2-5 in the Black Box Theater at 7 pm. The price of a ticket is \$3 for students and \$8 for the public.

"Our Town" is character story about average town citizens in the early 20th century. Their everyday lives are depicted. The play is set in the fictional community of Groves Corner, NH. The narrator of the play is completely aware of his relationship with the audience. The play shows real life situations with no exaggeration, everyone can relate to this play because it is free of all religion, ethnic, gender and age boundaries.

The play is one of two that the Blue Roses has ever redone. Why?

"It is great writing that is still relevant and meaningful," Mr. Ziskin said. "It has a universal message that has a worldwide appeal. The play is about human experience and what it means."

What is special about this play, he said, is "there are no pretenses, no special costumes and nothing artificial."

The set for this production is, as indicated in Wilder's script, pretty minimalist. There are a couple of chairs and tables, but not indicative of the period and place in early 20th century New Hampshire. A soda counter is created with a few boards and some chairs.

Most of the setting is left for the actors and the audience to create together. "In the spirit of the play we tried to create everything we needed with whatever items happened to be sitting in our own Black Box," he said.

Mr. Ziskin worked on "Our Town" when it opened the Black Box Theater in 2001.

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See the Blue Roses Theatre Company present *Our Town* on Nov. 2, 3, 4 and 5 in the Black Box Theater at 7 p.m., with a 2 p.m. matinee on Nov. 5.