

PHOENIX

December 23, 2010

The Voice of Schenectady High

SCH'DY, NY

Trouble with Teenage Intoxication

Study: Number of young drinkers on the rise

by **GIANNA VITALE**

Phoenix writer

At an age when most toddlers are learning how to walk, Izaiah Wallis never will.

On Oct. 18, the 18-month-old was in a stroller on a walk with his grandfather in San Diego, Calif., when an SUV drove onto the sidewalk, plowing over Izaiah's stroller. Izaiah is now blind and could be paralyzed for life.

The driver who hit him was 17. And drunk.

Teenage intoxication is a growing problem in Schenectady and the rest of the country.

Statistics show that the percentage of

7th- to 11th-graders in Schenectady who consumed alcohol in the past 30 days has almost doubled in the past four years, said Princella Learry, the project director for the district's Safe Schools Healthy Students program. The numbers rose from nearly 19 percent in 2006 to roughly 37 percent in 2009.

Problems caused by teenage intoxication include alcoholism, drunk driving and alcohol poisoning. This endangers not only the drinkers but also potentially their friends and anyone around them.

To address this problem, the district cre-

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Anti-drinking group applauds 4 Loko ban

by **GIANNA VITALE**

Phoenix writer

The ban on the popular energy/alcohol drink Four Loko is being applauded by groups trying to stop teenage intoxication issues.

"Yes, I think the banning of Four Loko is necessary," said Princella Learry, the project director of the district's Safe Schools Healthy Students Project Director. "Mixing alcoholic and caffeine is a

health risk and has led to student hospitalization and/or death."

Four Loko is a caffeinated malt-liquor based drink. According to doctors, the caffeine in the drink masks the alcohol effect, leading drinkers to consume more than they normally would.

The drink was created in 2005 by three Ohio State students. The name was given to it based on the four main ingredients in the drink; alcohol, caffeine, taurine and guarana.

State names SHS 'low-achieving' school

by **CHELSEA DOYLE**

Phoenix news editor

Although it may come as little surprise that Schenectady High School was named by the state as a persistently low-achieving school, students here were quick to respond to the news.

"I don't like it cause I know that we have the potential of being so much better. We also have the IB (International Baccalaureate) program which shows how smart the students in the school are," said OKenya Hickson, a senior at Schenectady High.

Another senior, Jameka Priest, said, "I think that every school has their low point and everyone's to blame."

The state announced Schenectady's addition to the low-achieving schools list on Dec. 9. SHS joins Albany High School and more than 75 other schools. Students got a letter sent home from the school explaining why and how this happened.

There are four ways to get on this list: to be in a restructuring phase, have low performance in Math and English, fail to make appreciable gains in English and Math, and have a graduation rate below 60%.

Currently SHS is in the process of restructuring due to low Regents test scores over the past six years.

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"This announcement is not a surprise to us," said Superintendent John Yagielski. "We didn't make AYP (annual yearly progress goals) over the last six years and just began advanced restructuring so it was quite obvious that we would be identified."

Peter Parisi, principal of the GE Scholars School of Humanities and Culture, said he was disappointed by the news.

"The label does an injustice to all of the hard working and outstanding students in this school. You students should never lose confidence in who you are and what you might accomplish," Mr. Parisi said.

As part of the restructuring, the district established 9th grade academies, as well as a 10th grade preparation program. There are many other strategies and programs implemented into the new plan.

"We are putting a lot of energy and resources in to the freshmen and those students who aren't successful as 9th and 10th graders," Mr. Yagielski said.

Since Schenectady High has made this low achieving list there is one good thing that may come out of it. The district is now eligible for a School Improvement Grant that can range from \$500,000 to about \$2 million.

The district will be submitting an application, according to Yagielski.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Do you believe that SHS is a low achieving school? It is true that our school has some low points, but we have just as many positive ones. Send us your stories about you, someone you know, a class or a teacher who is working hard and helping SHS become a positive place. It could be community service, a project within the school, or anything else. The Phoenix wants to hear from you. Submit your stories or ideas to a Phoenix staffer or Mr. Gaboury.

Revolution Studios to put out film

by **MICHAEL FENNER**
Phoenix writer

There's been big wondering lately about what's being done in Revolution Studios. What exactly is Revolution Studios? It's a music and video production company located within the John Sayles School of Fine Arts. They have successfully released a school based CD and launched an album release party for it.

I had a chance to sit down with the head Producer in the studio/teacher Prince Sprauve to find out what's in store for this year.

A group of about 20 students are currently working with Mr. Sprauve on a full length movie starring Schenectady High student Jahmier Anderson about real life struggles faced by teenagers.

If you think this is a simple project, you thought wrong. The actors meet on a regular basis after school to shoot footage. They

also have shot footage all over Schenectady like Hamilton Hill and Vale Cemetery.

Mr. Sprauve also plans to release a soundtrack/album made entirely by the students.

The movie's main song "Fast Life" was recorded by an SHS graduate with two current students.

But Sprauve's horizons haven't stopped there as he plans to work with English teacher Patricia Harman to get some of the talent in the studio to perform in the annual talent show.

"Plenty of talent has been discovered in revolution studios," Sprauve said.

The studio serves as a getaway from the drama and negativity that surrounds a lot of kids that come to the program.

Revolution Studio's motto is a positive one, with Sprauve telling students, "You don't have to go down the path expected of you, it's up to you to choose your own destiny."

TROUBLE from page 1

ated the Safe Schools Healthy Students program in 1999, Leary said. The program comes from a \$5.9 million federal grant given in 2007 to address violence and substance abuse pation in these things.

Carol Siracusa, the substance abuse counselor at Schenectady High, and the SADD student group have designed a prevention campaign in collaboration with the Schenectady County STOP-DWI and Traffic Safety Coordinator to sponsor an educational exhibit at the high school.

They are trying to get the exhibit, "One Second Everything Changes," here at SHS but no date has been confirmed at this date.

The DWI crash exhibit explores the stories of crash victims and the tragic consequences of risky behavior. The exhibit brings personal items including photographs, clothes, newspaper coverings of the crashes,

and the aftermath of the crashes including trials in courts, etc.

Drunk driving is one of the more publicized problems with teenage intoxication.

Another is addiction. Alcoholism is one of many negative possibilities that comes from alcohol consumption. This is a disease that is defined as a physical dependence on alcohol to the extent that stopping alcohol use will bring on withdrawal symptoms, according to Medicinenet.com. Alcohol can have effects on the way a brain and liver work which in turn could lead to sickness or death.

Alcohol poisoning may cause a person to become disoriented, unconscious or unresponsive with shallow breathing.

These are just a few of the side effects that come along with intake of alcoholic beverages.

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

Is competitive eating the new lacrosse? (Probably not)

College sports addition raises question

Just when you were getting used to Quidditch teams on college campuses, there's a new "sport" popping up at institutions of higher learning -- competitive eating.

A team has been started at the University of Maryland. It's brand new, but is already 30 members strong.

Behind it all is Terrapin junior Keith Solomon, an environmental engineering major from Marlboro, NJ. Solomon, the team's

founder and president, came up with the idea back when he was

SPORTS VIEW

by James Paukstela

a freshman and had to burn some extra dining points before he lost them.

"One day me and my friends bought a ton of pizzas and chicken fingers and just demolished it all. That's when this idea was born," he said. "But I was just a stupid freshman with hopes and dreams. Those dreams were finally realized this year when I brought the idea back, found people who were interested, and made this dream a reality."

The mission of the Maryland Competitive Eating Club is to manage, serve and promote the sport of competitive eating in the collegiate community; to assist to participants in their various forms of involvement within the sport; to adhere to the laws of competitive eating; and to encourage and facilitate the involvement of as many people as possible in competitive eating-related activities.

Some colleges eliminated science, math and sporting programs to cut costs so they could get other more important programs in. And the University of Michigan is adding competitive eating? This "sport" has little importance or relevance.

I think that the point of sports is to get people active, fit and physical to help maintain a healthy exercise schedule to avoid obesity and heart disease. Competitive



Competitive eating champ Joey Chestnut shows off a day's work in the annual Nathan's Hot Dog Eating Contest

See EATING, page 7

Lady Patriots run to 6-1 record

by DIANA HARRYNARINE
Phoenix writer

The Schenectady High School girls varsity basketball team is 6-1 to open the new season.

The Lady Patriots won a tight 57-55 home game against Big 10 rival Troy on Dec. 17. Monique Pucci led the Patriots with 24 points.

The win ran the team's record to a perfect 3-0 in the Big 10.

Since the beginning of the season, the team has posted wins against Guilderland, Saratoga Springs, Kingston, Catholic Central and Amsterdam.

Their only loss was a road game against Bethlehem, 50-33.

Their next game is Dec. 29 at home against Guilderland.

Boys varsity stake 3-1 record

The Schenectady boys varsity basketball team suffered a close loss after a perfect start to the new season.

The Pats lost to Big 10 rival Troy, 61-58, for its first loss. Kumar Araujo, Shariff Frasier and Eddie Stanley each scored 12 points in the game.

The squad opened the season with wins over LaSalle (62-39), Amsterdam (64-39) and Catholic Central (77-54).

Their next games were scheduled for Dec. 21 at home against CBA and Jan. 4 at Bishop Maginn.

NFL right to crack down on illegal hits

NOTE: The following sports column by James Paukstela was published incompletely in the November issue of the Phoenix. The column is run here in this issue in its entirety.

I think the NFL crackdown on helmet to helmet contact is a good decision to prevent further injury and lower the rate of concussions and brain injury in the NFL.

On Oct. 28, the NFL said it would immediately begin suspending players for dangerous or flagrant hits, especially those involv-

ing helmets. The NFL is trying to get their players not to initiate contact on defenseless players, including receivers, in the head and neck area.

There is absolutely no reason excessive violence must be present at every game and players must risk paralysis, comas and even death.

Baltimore Ravens linebacker Ray Lewis said he is worried about what's happening to this sport. "My opinion is play the game like that game is supposed to be played,

and whatever happens, happens!" he said.

I completely disagree. The game was not meant to be played by "torpedoing" into the opposing team, full force, helmet on helmet, which could easily cause concussions or head damage. Lewis's statement is that of a person who does not care about the welfare of other people. Lewis and other hard hitters in the NFL fear that the league is stripping away the inherent violence and the game will be diluted very quickly.

Violence has always been part of the NFL, bringing soaring TV ratings and high atten-

See NFL, page 7

Hall sweeps a waste of time

For the past few weeks our school has been holding hall sweeps every day, three times a day.

Administrators wait for students to come pouring into the cafeteria as they write them a pass stating that they were "swept" and would have to serve after school detention.

At first you were able

EDITORIAL

by **Karina Bermeo**

to serve detention that day or the next day if it was too short notice. Now the consequence is if you don't serve it the day you are caught then you must serve in-school suspension the next day.

Many, if not all, would probably agree that the whole hall sweep idea isn't the greatest. Administration would probably disagree with this. Many students have classes that are in directly opposite locations of the school, and with the number of students' in our school versus the amount of time that we have to get to each class, it is sometimes impossible to get to those classes on time.

There are two problems to this. One is the fact that some students just don't care if they are late. Another problem is that so many students just stand in the way communicating with their peers, making it harder for other students to make it to class on time.

Many teachers have their own late policy. For example, one of my teachers gives you three chances per quarter. The first two times you are late is a slide and the third time she sends a discipline referral down to your house principal. Every time after the third late is a referral. With a new quarter comes three new chances start over. Each teacher should have their own policy in regards to students being late.

Students that are academically on point and are hardly ever late may once in a while get caught in a hall sweep because of the reasons already stated. This isn't fair to them

See SWEEPS, page 5



Local Grinches ruin the spirit of the holidays

The holiday season is just around the corner, kids are getting excited, and parents are starting to shop. But what happens if in theory, the Christmas classic of "How The Grinch Stole Christmas" came to be reality in the Capital Region?

STUDENT VIEW

by **Joceyln Heermance**

The lights that were stolen were brought back safely.

To me, these guys are Grinches.

And they're not the only ones. People go to graveyards and knock over gravestones like it's nothing. Losing a loved one is one of the hardest things life throws at you and by giving someone a gravestone, it feels and makes it less likely to disappear spiritually.

Gravestones are the same as Christmas light displays. A long, long time ago there was a man named Chris Cringle who brought gifts to the poor children, and then he died. After Chris Cringle's death his spirit lived on by celebrating Christmas with a man named "Santa" to keep the Christmas spirit alive.

By Bresnan and Delany stealing the light displays, it's destroying a great man's remembrance Chris Cringle. These young men are depriving joy from children in the area.

I think their punishment should be a great amount of time away. If they get parole, they should do community service at a local orphanage, and see what it's really like to be deprived of basic needs and a family. The smallest things can bring joy to the kids, and Bresnan and Delany took that joy away. A former UAlbany student, Eric Bergman, told reporters after the incident how important the Albany light show is. "It's an activity you can do with your family, and it's for charity to top it all off."

I thought to myself after reading this article: who would want to vandalize or steal any of the lights? It's entertainment for all ages, and to bring on the holiday spirit. People put lots of hard voluntary work into this event, and to see it be ruined by young adults who should know better is just heart-breaking.

On a good note, Christmas is coming, kids are getting ready for Santa Claus to come and bring gifts. And we're coming off of Hanukkah, which ran from Dec. 1 through Dec. 9. Regardless, it is holiday cheer everywhere. Before the holidays start to really get in full swing, why not bring you and your family and friends to the holiday light show? It's in Albany at Washington Park through Jan. 2.

Have a happy holiday season everyone!

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The Happy Meal Ban

PRO
by **Tori Calandra**

The Board of Supervisors in San Francisco has banned Happy Meals from all McDonald's restaurants in their city. They feel the advertising of toys with every meal draws little kids into McDonald's like moths to a bright light and is encouraging kids to eat unhealthy. The ban does not start until December of 2011.

I agree with this ban and I feel it should spread to all McDonald's around the world. McDonald's is luring little kids into eating their addicting processed foods with their cheap, brightly colored toys.

Though studies have shown Happy Meals are not a cause of childhood obesity, other studies have shown exactly what McDonald's foods are underneath their pretty wrapping paper and boxes -- one of the ugliest foods one can eat.

All McDonald's foods are just processed, chemical treated, grease-covered, deep fried, "meat" and I will never feed my future children such rubbish!

CON
by **Tarah Bernard**

San Francisco wants to ban Happy Meals due to the rising rate of obesity among children. I don't think they should ban Happy Meals because either way McDonald's will still be around. If there are no Happy Meals there are still plenty of other food selections at McDonald's.

It's not the Happy Meals that are causing obesity among children; an occasional Happy Meal would not cause that. If the child is constantly eating a Happy Meal, that is their parents' fault for allowing that.

I'm sure that the San Francisco population knows eating a Happy Meal every day is not healthy so it's really their choice whether they allow their children to eat at McDonald's more than twice a week. It would be pointless to just ban one thing when Happy Meals could easily be substituted.

If San Francisco is really trying to lower the obesity rate among children it would be smarter to ban McDonald's period.

Getting swept no fun

"Excuse me teachers please close and lock your doors we are now conducting a hall sweep." The sound that all Schenectady High School students dread hearing.

Every day there are at least three hall sweeps that occur, which some student take as a joke and others take very seriously.

I, being someone that gets caught in the hall sweeps very frequently, feel that it is necessary to get students in class on time.

I admit that it used to be fun to get caught because it was like a party in the cafeteria, everyone was in there. Now it is really a burden on my schedule and my record.

When you get caught in a hall sweep you get an after school detention in which you have two days to make up. If you fail to serve detention or get caught again you get a day of in-school suspension.

The long term consequences are being banned from basketball games and a mark on your permanent record.

I personally feel that hall sweeps shouldn't apply to anyone over a 3.0 GPA. It's hard to get through the hallways and if you're getting your work done you're most likely not hanging out in the halls.

If good grades excluded you from hall sweeps people would try harder to get good grades which would help improve Schenectady High's poor image.

Either way the school is going to con-

tinue doing sweeps and students are going to continue being late. I'm just trying to make it a little more fair.

Liniha Morton

Confusing the holidays

Christmas is coming, but it seems like it's been coming for weeks now.

It's weird to turn on the radio and hear and hear "Jingle Bell Rock" and "Santa Baby" on the 5th of November. It's even more bizarre to walk in the mall and find mistletoes, and ornaments, but no animated turkey decorations.

Those who find Thanksgiving their favorite holiday might see this as undermining Thanksgiving and have to ask is Christmas really that important.

And with all this early celebrating, how will we feel when Christmas actually comes. All "Christmased out," or still full of Christmas cheer? It feels now more like a two-month-long celebration instead of a special day of year.

Another issue with "the most wonderful time of year" is the economy. The burden of knowing you have to buy things for people really makes things difficult. It makes this month a really stressful time causing a lot of really stressed people.

It is supposed to be a special time to cherish the ones closest to us, but because of circumstances that doesn't always happen.

And then there's the frustration because of all that has to be prepared: meals, Christmas cards, and decorations.

With Christmas right around the corner, for many people the stress is over and their errands are out of the way. For those that aren't done yet, time to shop!

Asia Williams

SWEEPS

from page 4

either because once you get caught in the hall sweep you receive a referral in the mail and that adds on to their record. Many of those students' don't have a record, so for them to receive one for being two minutes late isn't fair, unless they are making a habit out of it.

When you get caught for being late, you end up waiting in the cafeteria for extra time to get a pass. This defeats the point of being late two minutes because you are just wasting more time. Calculations show that if each student were late three times a day for two minutes every day of the school year that amounts to one whole school day missed. Now if you think about that, you can see how 10 to 15 minutes in the cafeteria versus two minutes to classes is way worse. That's far more time wasted than it should be.

Something different should be done about being late rather than hall sweeps. Though administrators probably wouldn't agree, it may be better to find an alternative.

Potter fans will love 'Deathly Hallows 1'

MOVIE REVIEW

by **NIKKIGRIESEMER**

Phoenix Editor-in-Chief

If you're a Harry Potter fan, the newest film is sure to make you cry. "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows Part 1" kicks off with three deaths within the first 20 minutes, and another character suffering from a major head wound.

Overall, "Deathly Hallows" is the most faithful to the book out of all the Potter films. The story of the movie is almost identical to that of the book, with some minor changes and some extra scenes thrown in for fun.

The book being split into two movies allowed director David Yates to add more details to this movie than any "Harry Potter" before it. Yates has directed all the Harry Potter movies since "The Order of the Phoenix," the fifth movie, up to "The Deathly Hallows Part 2."

Yates has also added a few details left out in the sixth movie, "Half Blood Prince," such as one of the characters being attacked by a werewolf.

The first weekend after its release, "Deathly Hallows" made \$125 million. Ac-



ording to a report from Box Office Mojo, a division of Amazon.com Inc.'s IMDB. "Deathly Hallows" was shown on approximately 9,400 screens at 4,125 theaters opening night.

The report also said that the Harry Potter series, with a total of \$1.84 billion so far, is the second highest grossing series of all time. "Star Wars" is at #1 with \$1.92 billion.

Box Office Mojo predicts that "Potter" will overtake "Star Wars" with the release of "Deathly Hallows Part 2."

DNA job test offers slippery slope

STUDENT VIEW by **ASHLEY BROWN**

How would you like to be able to know what your child's talents are, such as if they are musically talented or a genius in the making?

A Chinese firm has claimed to have figured out a way to predict a child's future talents through DNA testing by taking a cheek swab of a child between the ages of 3 and 11, and possibly newborns also.

The testing takes place at a summer camp. During the 5-day camp the children are tested for how well they can control their emotions and impulsiveness as well as their focus on certain things, their memory, willingness to take risks, how well they hear and their athletic and artistic abilities.

Though I believe it would be pretty cool for a child to know what they are good at, I also believe that DNA testing could lead a child down the path that the test has pointed them in. It reminds me of the book "The Giver" by Lois Lowry. It could make the government believe that they have the right to assign kids their jobs based on the testing.

But right now in China it's a new way for parents to start leading their kids down the path that the camp believes is right for them.

GAMES

from page 8

say, "the knife is only as strong as the person wielding it."

I have had a couple of friends who couldn't put down the GTA causing them to have to get their GED.

Kids can be influenced in ways they do not realize. Take tobacco, for example. Each year people start smoking, even though it is a habit known to be bad for your health. Why do they do it? I say guilty pleasure. Just like cookies, soda and, yes, video games.

No, They're Not

There have also been numerous studies to support the opposite. Some of these even support video games helping the health of

the beholder. Vision was one of the many qualities said to improve, according to a study from the University of Rochester, where they played video games for a few hours a day for a month to notice each person's vision had improved on average by 20 percent. A study done with social skills by Dr. Mark Griffiths of Nottingham Trent University in the British Medical Journal concluded that videogames contributed to the social skills of players.

The Verdict

So the verdict? You decide as each effect does not overcome the other.

"I think video games are a good pastime," said SHS senior Chelsea Doyle. "I don't think you should play them that much because

staring at the screen that long is not good for your eyes."

Added senior Theo Winston, "Video games are good because it can help you gain very good hand and eye coordination and helps your reflexes."

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A book that is “It”

Dave Pelzer’s life stories popular with many teens today

by **TARAH BERNARD**
Phoenix writer

Many students agree that the books assigned in English classes are boring and don't keep their attention. But when it comes to “A Child Called It” by Dave Pelzer, it's a different story.

Not only being a quick read, this novel keeps your attention page by page. Based on a true story, Dave Pelzer explains in clear detail the mental, physical and psychological abuse he experienced as a child at the hands of his mother.

From getting beaten to tortured in a locked bathroom with bleach and ammonia for hours at a time, examples such as these keep you interested and wanting to figure out more of his story while feeling the agony that he went through at the same time.

As soon as you think Dave could not have experienced anything worse than beatings, his mother went as far as depriving him of food and water if he didn't finish his chores on time or even if she just felt like he didn't deserve it.

After years of abuse and being called “It,” Dave lost all hope but still remained loyal to his mother. Instead of giving up, while being locked down in the basement every night without blankets or a decent mattress, Dave managed to remain optimistic and believed one day this abuse would end.

Dave's mother had him so afraid of her he wouldn't tell other authorities what was going on when they asked. He didn't want to betray his mother and make her anger towards him worse than it already was. After one of the worst beatings Dave received, the school nurse did not believe the cover-up stories his mom would send him to school with. She contacted the police and immediately Dave was taken into protective cus-



tody and was no longer in harm's way.

Many students agreed that this book had them wanting to read more and know more about Pelzer's life.

“The Lost Boy” is a chronicle continuing Dave's life in his foster care years. In this novel, the courts determine whether or not his mom loses custody of him but there's more to it.

After the determination that Mother could no longer have custody of Dave, he felt free.

David was ready to live his life without being isolated but the unexpected happened. Instead of being in a steady home with a loving family like he expected,

he was constantly moved from home to home and had to make new friends each time. He couldn't grasp why his life was like this.

Ultimately, the abuse Dave went through had a huge toll on his teen years and also as an adult.

Instead of dwelling on the past he used his experiences as a message to other people in similar situations that there is always a way to get through it.

David Pelzer also wrote “A Man Named Dave,” a story about his older years and confronting Mother. Even 20 years later she still felt animosity towards “The Boy” who did nothing but continue to forgive her.

In “Help Yourself For Adults” (there is also an edition for teenagers), Dave gives inspiration for hard situations people experience.

SHS's school library has all four of these novels for students to read.

Dave also now has a website you can visit to learn more and see the other inspiring novels he wrote at www.davidpelzer.com.

EATING

from page 3

eating is a pointless sport that would decrease fitness rate in that area depending on how popular it is and how many people get involved in the sport. It could increase obesity and heart disease if this sport is also introduced to other colleges and teams get together from different schools to compete in eating contest championships.

NFL

from page 3

dance to games, but the most important thing is to support the rules that are in place to protect players. Bashing skulls full force may be entertaining to watch for some, but for the players injured and their families it is a disaster and could cut their career short.

Many head-to-head blows have left players unconscious on the field. Some were penalized as rough play and others were let go as being part of the inherently violent nature of the sport.

The crackdown has not been well received by all players because of the size of the fines being issued, such as the \$75,000 Pittsburgh Steelers linebacker James Harrison was fined for repeated rough play.

One of my fellow reporters argued that violent plays are why he watches football, that it's the best part of the game and he wants to see a lot more of it.

He's the type of guy that doesn't like safe sports like golf, badminton and tennis but wants to see people knocked out on the field. He wants to see hockey players fall through the ice and bone shattering collisions; he wants to see lacrosse players get whacked in the face with stick and basketball players slammed out of the way. He said he loves sports because of the violence and that's what makes them worth watching. He finds it comical.

That kind of mentality loves seeing a crash at a NASCAR race. If the Roman Coliseum was brought back to life then he would buy a ticket and watch a Christian get eaten by a lion. And he's not alone.

I believe he is wrong and that the most important thing is the safety of the athletes and it should not be our entertainment at another person's pain because then we are no better than terrorists.

Hunger Games the latest 'Big Thing'

by **NIKKIGRIESEMER**
Phoenix Editor-in-Chief

At the age of 16, Katniss Everdeen is fighting for her life. "The Hunger Games" is a publishing phenomenon that rivals Harry Potter and Twilight.

The trilogy of books by Suzanne Collins has sold over 2 million copies since its release in September of 2008, and has a movie version on the way.

So what's it all about? "The Hunger Games" is about a post-apocalyptic North America called Panem with 12 districts being run by the all powerful Capitol.

The Capitol hosts an annual event called the Hunger Games to remind the districts that they have no power in Panem. One boy and one girl from each district is chosen to compete, and all 24 tributes are thrown into a large arena to fight to the death. Winning the Hunger Games means fortune and fame for you and your family.

When Katniss hears that her 12-year-old sister Prim has been chosen as District 12's



female tribute, she steps up and volunteers without a thought. Now Katniss must face 23 other tributes, including District 12's male tribute who saved Katniss' life when she was young, and either kill everyone in the arena, or face her own death.

"The Hunger Games," the first book in the trilogy, has sold over 800,000 copies, and has been on USA Today's top seller list for 62 weeks.

The second book, "Catching Fire," has sold over 750,000 copies, and book 3, "Mockingjay" sold over 450,000 copies in the first week after its release on Aug. 24.

The SHS library has copies of all three books, said Alyssa Witcher, a school librarian.

"The Hunger Games" film adaptation is set to begin production in 2011. The film hasn't been cast yet but there are several rumors, including Jack Black as Katniss' mentor, Haymitch Abernathy, and Ian Holm, Bilbo from The Lord of the Rings movies, as President Snow, the story's main antagonist.

Are your video games hurting you?

by **ALEX CHIESA**
Phoenix writer

"Wow, a 35 kill streak."

Have you ever been playing "Call of Duty" and fathomed how much damage you are doing to your body with a continuous five hour play time?

Statistics show that a large percentage of the general population participates in video games for entertainment on a regular basis. Video games have become a large part of mainstream culture in various societies around the world, from Xbox 360 to PS3, since the 80s.

The question is: "Are your video games doing you harm?" I set out to find the positive and negative aspects of these virtual

games. What I found was that there were conflicting views on all fronts.

Yes, They Are Harmful

According to a study conducted by the APA, video games -- especially violent ones -- teach negative behavior and furthermore reinforce it. Many haters argue the same. Numerous other studies from the likes of Akio Mori, a professor at Tokyo's Nihon University's, the American Medical Association, and yours truly, say that if you learn from copying others, you must learn behavior as well. Right?

Wrong.

I guess it depends on the person. As they

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2 much 3-D

by **CHELSEA DOYLE**
Phoenix news editor

As I was going through the list of 3-D movies coming out, I came across "Hairspray 2." Seriously?

That sounds a little absurd to me. What's going to happen: hair accessories are going to be thrown at your face?

3-D movies are quickly becoming extremely popular. Every year there are more and more 3-D movies coming out. There were 25 3-D movies in 2010 and 33 more, give or take, in the year of 2011.

I did an informal poll on whether students liked these movies and why. The majority said they like it because of the motion, the feeling you get, it's cool, fun, different, in your face, graphic, and it comes to life. The rest said they did not like it because it's pointless, hurts your head after a long period of



time, annoying, causes motion sickness, boring, and just plain bad.

Although 3-D movies can be the right effect for many movies, that doesn't mean that it should be as popular as it is today. 3-D is typically meant for action, or horror or that kind of genre. But sad, comedy and romance movies? Not so much.

I don't think they should make every movie 3-D because there are still people who aren't fond of it. It also costs more money and takes up a lot more time.

The following 3-D movies are coming over for the remainder of the 2010 year: "The Chronicles of Narnia: The Voyage of the Dawn Treader," "TRON: Legacy" and "Yogi Bear."