



An Interview with the Mayor of Quincy

By Kellie Newman and Meghan Peterson

In January 2008, Mayor Koch was inaugurated as the 33rd mayor of Quincy. What has ensued is a term of changes--some small, some big--but all contributing to a different Quincy. We recently sat down with the mayor who kindly answered a few of our questions about his future plans for the city.

When asked about improvements to the city since his term began, he cited the operations that often go unrecognized in Quincy's political scene. He noted that, "A lot of the improvements and changes we've made are the aspects that people can't see. These aren't things that the public sees--the exciting things--but they make things work a lot smoother." Mayor Koch went on to acknowledge that, with the state facing massive budget cuts and a plummeting economy, many of the future changes in the city will be less than positive.

Still uncertain how the budget cuts will affect Quincy's school system, the mayor recognized that other aspects of the city must be examined with

equal weight. "You have to look at the big picture,"



Quincy Mayor, Tom Koch

he stated in reference to the possible financial cuts. He then remarked, "Everyone has their own little group that they're concerned about, so it's going to be very emotional."

Mayor Koch stated that he had never anticipated such a career, although he had "always had an interest in public service." When asked if he had advice for students interested in politics, he said that hard work and involvement in the community is essential. "Work hard," he said. "There's no perfect road map to send someone that's going to end up in public service."

Mr. Green: Broadcasting Teacher

By Flavia Mori

Along with writing screenplays and guiding students to make movies, advising the students who broadcast the morning announcements is one of Mr. Green's favorite activities. Mr. Green, who graduated from Fitchburg State College, is

the broadcasting teacher here at Quincy High School. He was inspired to study broadcasting because of his interest and work at a TV station while teaching English. He has been working in

Continued on Page 5

School News

Oliver!

By Jacqueline Gore

Lights...camera...action! The Quincy High drama club is taking performing arts to a new level. It has already presented two spectacular shows, *Noises Off*, and *Decade of Love*. Now, the drama club is preparing for *Oliver*, its third show of the year, which should not disappoint.

The performance of *Noises Off*, directed by Mr. Conroy, had an excellent cast on stage, including upper classmen, Lillian Gomes, Michelle Rizza, Sarah Dougenik, Zach Dwyer, and Kayla Pendleton. Under classmen included Dan Hennessey, Starry Dau, Joshua Kaplan, Devan Carson, and Daniel Linik. The show also had great behind the scenes work with a tech. crew able to flip a two-story set in 15 minutes, twice throughout the show.



From Left: Emily Hajjar, Zach Dwyer, Dan Hennessey, Michelle Rizza, Emily Gaffney, Amy Walsh

In between the performance of *Noises Off* and the upcoming performance of *Oliver*, was *Decade of Love*, directed again by Mr. Conroy as well as Mr. Nickelson.

Decade of Love was a musical review of the 60s. This show was comprised of only six people: Michelle Rizza, Zach Dwyer, Emily Hajjar, Amy Walsh, Emily Gaffney, and Dan Hennessey. It included hit songs from the 60s such as "This is Dedicated to the One I Love," by the Mamas and the Papas, "Brown Eyed Girl," by Van Morrison, and "Can't Buy Me Love," by The Beatles. Both the performances of *Noises Off* and *Decade of Love* were hits and the performance of *Oliver* should be no different.

Oliver is a musical based on the novel *Oliver Twist*, by Charles Dickens. The play is about an orphan boy named Oliver who escapes from the workhouse where he lives and is taken in by a gang of pickpockets. Directed by Mrs. Spencer, Quincy High's

rendition of *Oliver* should be a hit with songs such as, "Food Glorious Food," and "Oom Pah Pah." Children from Quincy elementary and middle schools will be joining Quincy High performers as orphans in the show. The role of Oliver will be played by Joseph Scott, a 5th grader at Beechwood Knoll. Many of Quincy High's students will appear in this show. Some of the main roles will be played by: Zach Dwyer, Daniel Linik, Michaela Walker, and Gerald McCarthy. The Drama Club will be presenting *Oliver* on March 27th and 28th at 8:00 p.m. and March 28th and 29th at 3:00 p.m. Tickets will be sold at the door on show nights for \$10 general admission and \$5 for Quincy High students with their IDs. See you there!

New Era at Quincy High School

By Kellie Newman

The following article originally appeared in the Quincy Sun.

Quincy High School has officially begun a new era, after nearly a decade of planning the new high school. With the opening of the new Science/Math/Technology Academy, located right behind the main building of the high school, life at Quincy High has gotten a lot easier; at least with



getting from one part of the school to the other. With the East building, students had to endure the bridge, the only connection to get from the main building to there, which with over a hundred kids trying to get through at the same time in opposite directions, made it next to impossible to make it to class on time.

"The way the new building is connected, it makes it easier to go from one building to the other.

Continued on Page 3

From Page 2

No more traffic jams on the bridge, which is nice," sophomore Lisa Lam says of the new layout of the school, adding that in addition to more ways to pass between the Academy and the main building, the design itself is much improved. Each floor of the Academy connects right to the main building where the elevators use to be located. Students just go up a short flight of stairs and find themselves in spacious hallways, lined with brand new lockers.

"It's really big and really nice compared to the Votech; it's a better learning environment. I actually wanted to come to school, I was all pumped. I couldn't go to sleep," Lisa continued with a big smile on her face. Conor Curran-Cross, a fellow sophomore, shared Lisa's enthusiasm about the new school. "We actually have windows we can look out of." To which Lisa added, "Finally."

With the Academy complete, students now look to the future, to when the final building is due to be complete in the fall of 2010. For now, everyone is adjusting to the change, and most are glad that they got to see the first building of the new Quincy High School.

Quincy Sun Publisher Visits Quincy High

By Kellie Newman and Meghan Peterson

After over 40 years of experience, Henry Bosworth, publisher and founder of the Quincy Sun, certainly knows something about journalism. On December 11th, Mr. Bosworth came to visit Quincy High School's journalism class to share his expertise. Students were intrigued by his tales of unique reporting experiences and perspective on the forever changing world of journalism.

A graduate of Quincy High himself, he encouraged students to ask questions and observe the news. He reflected on the importance of obtaining a journalism degree in order to break into the career and achieve success in a highly competitive field. Mr. Bosworth began his career in journalism in high school as the sport's writer and editor of The Q-High News, also working for the Patriot Ledger. After serving the country in the navy during World War II he founded The Quincy Sun, the

city newspaper that 40 years later still provides the people of Quincy with their daily news.

He elaborated on stories he had covered during his writing career. One particular anecdote regarded a little boy he referred to as Francis X. Francis was parentless; his father was in jail in connection to his father's death. He also suffered from the disease Multiple Sclerosis. Consequently, he never received gifts for his birthday nor other holidays, and when his birthday approached he requested merely a few cards. Mr. Bosworth first reported the story and dubbed him "little boy blue," a name that became famous across the nation when radios picked up the article. Jerry Lewis became aware of his story and decided to help by planning a variety show dedicated to Francis X. The story was only one example of Mr. Bosworth's endless vault of journalistic tales.

The Quincy Sun is an instrumental source of news in our city, sometimes even featuring students at Quincy High School. Mr. Bosworth's visit was valuable in that it provided students with an opportunity to both understand how news is reported and how it affects our daily life.

Serving Up a Storm

By Tony Nguyen and Eddie Sholes

Ever feel empty inside or incomplete? Well the noble sport of ping-pong can fill that void! If you happen to be bored after school on Tuesday, the ping-pong club is available and free to all students in the lower cafeteria. It was founded three years ago by Mr. Bretsch and Mr. Swanson, who donated some tables and paddles to the organization. Every two years, the club has a new advisor; this year the advisor is one of QHS's guidance counselors, Mrs. Law.



The club began meeting in November and convenes every week from 2:45 to 4:00. Since the club is a relatively new organization, the students who participate vary every week. Depending on the date,

Continued on Page 4

From Page 3

there could be up to 30 students in attendance or fewer due to homework or other clubs, such as Badminton Club. Still not interested? Then maybe a tournament will convince you to join the competitive spirit of ping-pong. See Mrs. Law in guidance if you would like to participate and be a part of the cerebral sport of ping-pong.

Bottled Water

By Jeff Pereira and Morgan Tucker



QHS students and staff all crave a refreshing bottle of water every now and then. Thankfully, Mr. Swanson, head of the science department, is here

to satisfy our need. We recently sat down with Mr. Swanson to get the facts on the bottled water sales that he says, “bring in a couple thousand a year.” He discussed everything from the reasons behind the security camera at the bottled water booth, to his hunt for the best prices, and then, of course, he talked a little tennis.

Water sales are now in Mr. Imhoff's Classroom

The story behind the sales is more complicated than you might think. Mr. Swanson explained that the school was selling candy and soda to students, which made kids hyper during class. “It drove me nuts! Kids can’t sit in class after drinking

that stuff,” he said. As a result, he developed the idea of selling water. “No one believed we could make something just by selling water,” Swanson explained. When the temperature rises, Mr. Swanson sells anywhere from 50 to 100 bottles of water a day. Money that is raised from the sale goes back into the school to buy supplies such as microscopes, test tubes, and hot plates for the science labs.

At the conclusion of our interview, we asked Mr. Swanson what the punishment was for stealing bottled water. He replied, “Deans have enough work as it is. If I catch someone, then I just say you can’t buy water again,” which is a significant punishment, especially on a steamy hot day. Having the opportunity to walk into school during a sweltering day and buy bottled water “builds honor, not mistrust,” says Mr. Swanson. He believes that “these kids want a better school,” and that selling bottled water will help purchase new supplies. More importantly, he believes this will help instill good ethical qualities in QHS students, while quenching their thirst at the same time.

Student Editors: Katherine Marchand and Vivian Pham

Staff: Rachel Cadogan, Caylie Gibson, Jacqueline Gore, Kevin Mei, Flavia Mori, Kellie Newman, Tony Nguyen, Jeff Pereira, Meghan Peterson, Eddie Sholes, Morgan Tucker

Advisors: Ms. McNeice and Mr. Natalzia

Poetry Contributors: Amber Duran, Caylie Gibson, Cassandra Koscenski

Banner Design: Trang Vo

The articles presented on this website represent the findings and opinions of the Pony Express staff. Anyone who wishes to respond in any way to an expressed opinion should contact the paper’s advisors. It is the policy of the Quincy Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, or national origin in its education activities or employment practices as required by Title IX of the 1972 Federal Education Amendment and to provide equal opportunities for all students of the Quincy Public Schools as required by Chapter 622 of the Massachusetts Equal Education Opportunity Act.

Faculty Profiles

From Page 1

the broadcasting field for 20 years. Compared to his earlier years in broadcasting at QHS, the room and equipment have changed dramatically. Broadcasting classes used to be housed in a little room in the basement of the East building. Now, the broadcasting room is located on the 3rd floor in the East building. To learn more about broadcasting with Mr. Green, come check it out.

Moving on Up

By Caylie Gibson and Rachel Cadogan

Three words every worker strives to hear are “moving on up”. The new Vice Principal, Mrs. Murray, is proof that, with hard work, the top spot could be yours. After starting at Quincy High just three years ago as the new department head of the World Language department, Mrs. Murray has now stepped into a higher ranked role as Vice Principal here at QHS.

Mrs. Murray was more than happy to answer several questions about her new position at Quincy High. When we asked if one of her original goals was to become Vice Principal, she said that she honestly

had not been planning on it. “I love Quincy High,” she said when we asked her what made her apply for the position. “Why not give it a shot? I never thought I’d get the job, but I’m glad I did.”

Mrs. Murray was the World Language department head for two years before she became Vice Principal. When asked which position she preferred, she told us that it was too soon to tell because the positions were so different from each other.

Mrs. Murray, who just had a daughter last year, says she balances her work and responsibilities at home “with a lot of help and support from my husband.”

“Do you see Quincy High’s student body differently now that you interact with them as the Vice Principal?” we asked. “I see them in so many different venues now, not just as students. I like getting to know more students,” she told us.

The last question we asked Mrs. Murray was whether she had spent a lot of time in the principal’s office when she was in high school. “No,” she told us, and laughed. It will be exciting to see how well she does in her new position. We wish her the best of luck in her new assignment.

Film

Good. Bad. He’s The Guy With The Gun. A Review of Gran Torino

By Kevin Mei



In Gran Torino, Clint Eastwood plays Walt Kowalski, a racist, growling widower, who has become estranged from his greedy, self-centered, and uncaring family. He lives in section of Detroit populated by Hmong people. Hmong are a group of people who live in the

mountainous regions of China, Vietnam, Laos, and Thailand. Although Walt does not particularly like his Hmong neighbors, he really hates the gang that is troubling the neighborhood. In the story, Walt has to learn to accept and respect the people around him while fighting off the gang members. He then takes in his Hmong neighbor named Thao (played by newcomer Bee Vang) and teaches him how to be a man.

While the movie may disappoint some people expecting explosive action scenes, Gran Torino still hits pretty hard when it comes to the characters.

Continued on Page 6

From Page 5

Even as a gun-toting, racist, old guy in the middle of a generational and cultural clash, Clint Eastwood's character still comes off as charming, funny, and likeable. Seriously, everything he says has a racial slur lodged into it and he likes to aim his gun at people just because he doesn't like them. Yet, somehow, he's still endearing. Despite almost all of the actors having this film as their first acting experience, most of the actors manage to give decent performances. Viewers must commend Eastwood for being as good a director as he is an actor.

What I find interesting is the slow, yet effective development of the characters. The scenes where Walt is teaching Thao how to use tools feel like a "passing the torch" moment in the film. The shaman scene is relatively interesting. The scenes with the gangs, and especially the climax, are kind of tough to watch. However, the priest scenes feel a little unnecessary to the plot. The priest himself is a little bit of a useless character. He serves as a way for Walt to loosen up, but there are already two other characters doing that. Still, the other characters are pretty good in their roles. So, all in all, it was a pretty good film.

Rating: 8/10

Life: The High Cost Of Dying A Review of The Curious Case of Benjamin Button

By Kevin Mei



Loosely based on a 1921 short story by F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Curious Case Of Benjamin Button* is about a man named Benjamin (played by Brad Pitt) who is born as a really old baby. Imagine if Gollum and Gerard Butler had kids, and that's pretty much what baby Ben looks like. As the years pass, he gradually becomes younger and younger. During his "childhood," he meets a girl named Daisy (played by Cate Blanchett.) Eventually, however, his de-aging becomes a major conflict between Ben and Daisy. Over the course of

the film Ben does many things, such as working on a tugboat, getting involved in World War II, and finding out the value of life. Also, lots of people die.

The movie was heartwarming, funny, moving, and depressing. The story about an impaired man going through war, love, and death is intriguing and viewers get to see Ben develop from a scrawny little man into much more. The film also does an excellent job interweaving present (2004) scenes that show Daisy, now an old woman minutes away from the sound of Death's wings, talking with her daughter about the past. Although you might expect this to be morbidly depressing and saddening, it ends up being more life affirming. With the similar characters and situations, this film is basically the spiritual successor of *Forrest Gump*. In fact, both movies actually share a screenwriter.

The characterization was well done. For example, there's a captain with a bunch of tattoos, a guy who got struck by lightning seven times (with old film footage accompanying his appearances), and a businessman who's revealed to be Ben's estranged father.

My only actual complaint is that the movie was really long. Some scenes feel a little too padded. Some characters felt unnecessary to the plot, like Tilda Swinton's character. Otherwise, it was a rather good film. It is certainly a great sendoff for the films of 2008. So, go watch this movie. You probably will not regret it.

Rating: 7/10

Who Knew That Impending Armageddon Could Be So Boring?

A Review of *The Day the Earth Stood Still*
By Kevin Mei

The Day the Earth Stood Still is a remake of a 1951 film about an alien named Klaatu (played by Keanu Reeves) sent to warn Earth about the environmental damage that is being done to the planet. Of course, the humans don't listen. They think that Klaatu is a threat, so they capture and interrogate him. Only a woman named Helen (played by Jennifer Connelly) shows any compassion for him. Oh, and there's

Continued on Page 7



something about a giant robot named Gort threatening to destroy the world.

I haven't seen the original film in its entirety, but I'm pretty sure that it's much better than this mess of a film. In this version, the characters are all unlikable. Some have no reason to be in the movie, like Professor Barnhardt

(played by John Cleese). And who brought Will Smith's son? I thought his "ALL ALIENS SHOULD DIE BECAUSE MY DEAD DADDY SAID SO!!!" attitude was annoying. The movie would have been much better if Jaden Smith's character was cut out, or if his character had not been written to act like a brat.

Additionally, Keanu Reeves' performance as Klaatu was uneven to say the least. Though, when it comes to an actor like Keanu Reeves, perhaps I should use the word tedious instead of uneven. Most of the time, Reeves was actually pretty good, while at other moments, he acted too stoic for my liking. Depending on the scene, stoicism can be either fitting or out-of-place.

I have to be honest. The plot was slow and uninteresting. There was over an hour of exposition and build-up with no big payoff at the end. There is nothing that keeps you hooked to the movie. In the climax, which decided whether or not the world would end, Klaatu just touches a giant orb to stop it. He doesn't do an incredibly daunting task. He doesn't have to sacrifice himself in order to save the world. He doesn't even say "Klaatu Barada Nikto." All he does is touch a giant ball of alien energy to stop the destruction of the world.

So, in short, this movie is just bad. If you want a good sci-fi movie, go rent *Aliens*, *Serenity*, *The Prestige*, *Terminator*, *Terminator 2*, *Blade Runner*, *The Matrix*, *Empire Strikes Back*, or basically anything else with a decent plot. Just don't watch this. It is dull and overly preachy. It is *Independence Day* with all the action taken out. It is *War of the Worlds* with none of the writing. It is *Godzilla* without *Godzilla*. In other words, imagine a mediocre sci-fi movie having its best element plucked out, and you have *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

Rating: 3/10

Best of Bond

By Kevin Mei

Before Ringo, George, Paul, and John made a band, before the Monty Python team came to revolutionize absurd, sketch comedy, before the Doctor and his TARDIS graced television screens for the first time, the United Kingdom had a spy by the name Bond, James Bond. He's been print for over 55 years and in the movies for over 46 years. He's crossed paths with mad scientists, corrupt businessmen, terrorists, guys with gold obsessions, femme fatales with fake accents, Judi Dench, and a bald guy with a white Persian cat. Bond's traveled all across the world. He's been with a ton of girls. He's fought bad guys of all shapes and sizes. And he drives around in an Aston Martin.

Of course, one Bond hasn't been able to do it all alone. So far, there have been six of them: Sean Connery, George Lazenby, Roger Moore, Timothy Dalton, Pierce Brosnan, and Daniel Craig. Now, most of you are probably familiar with Bond. Some of you learned about him through parodies such as Austin Powers. Others may have seen a few films when Brosnan was in the role. The rest of you probably watched *Casino Royale* a couple years back. If you're not familiar with him, then here's an explanation. In almost every film, Bond has to go on a mission to stop a bad guy from killing a ton of people, starting WWII, stealing a lot of money, and other, similarly nefarious plots. He gets some gadgets from an old guy named Q. His boss, named M, assigns him on a mission. Then, some girl falls in love with him (of course, Bond automatically forgets that girl in the next movie). He goes into the bad guy's lair. He stops his plans. Bond kills the bad guy. Then, he has to kill the bad guy's henchman. After that, Bond wins. And that's pretty much the plot for most of these films. Let's examine some of the best of them:

Continued on Page 8

From Page 7

Goldfinger

“He loves only gold, only gold, he loves GOOOOOOOOOOLD!!!”



While the first James Bond film is actually Dr. No, Goldfinger will be more appropriate to use to begin this piece. It's the most memorable of the Bond films. It has some pretty interesting villains. Besides, leaving Goldfinger off of an article about Bond just doesn't seem right. In the movie, James Bond tries to stop Auric Goldfinger from

bombing Fort Knox. The action scenes were pretty good. The plot is more intricate than viewers might expect. Of course, the movie is a bit of over-the-top. The first scene has Bond emerge from a body of water with a fake duck on his head. A woman dies because she is painted to death. There's a man named Oddjob whose gimmick is that he throws razor-sharp hats at people. An old lady takes a gun and tries to kill Bond. However, if you can handle the dated and ridiculous aspects of this film, then you'll definitely like it.

Overall: 8/10

On Her Majesty's Secret Service

“We have all the time in the world...”



And now, we're at On Her Majesty's Secret Service. This is George Lazenby's first and only time as James Bond. The evil mastermind Blofeld (bald guy who likes cats) and Irma Bunt (generic German henchwoman) have a plot to unleash a virus using a bunch of allergic girls. Bond falls in love with a girl and gets married. And

they live happily ever after... for a few minutes. I consider it one of the most underrated Bond films. Unlike the other films during the 60s, it was more down-to-earth. The movie focused a little more on

developing its characters and a little less on action-for-the-sake-of-action. Had this been a Connery film, OHMSS would be considered a classic the same way Goldfinger is. However, because this is the first Bond film to have a change in the main actor, it does not have the reputation that it deserves. Still, this film is a must-watch for any Bond fan. It has a different style, but it works.

Overall: 8/10

The Spy Who Loved Me

“Bond! What do you think you're doing?”

“Keeping the British end up, sir.”

It's the **BIGGEST**. It's the **BEST**. It's **BOND**.
And **B-E-Y-O-N-D**.



While this isn't the first of Moore's films, it's arguably his best. The Spy Who Loved Me is about James Bond and a Soviet agent named Anya Amasova going on a mission to stop a fish-obsessed villain, named Stromberg, from starting WWII. Stromberg has a man with metal jaws, who is appropriately named Jaws, as a

henchman. The movie has an incredible opening which features a ski chase. There are a myriad of weird fight scenes that involve Jaws trying to bite people. Generally, there are some decent performances in the movie. Still, I don't really like Roger Moore. His movies feel too campy. He doesn't feel like Bond to me. However, even with Roger Moore, The Spy Who Loved Me is still a good entry in the franchise.

Overall: 7/10

The Living Daylights

“Whoever she was, I must have scared the living daylight out of her.”

Timothy Dalton is actually a pretty good Bond, but I can't really say the same for this movie. The Living Daylights was one of the first attempts to make the Bond franchise darker and edgier. It seems to have aged worse than its predecessors. First of all, the opening and the soundtrack don't feel as timeless as the other films. I can't watch this film without

Continued on Page 9



constantly being reminded of the 80s. Besides, there are boombox bazookas. I'm not even joking. That really appears in the movie. For some reason, Q decided to make boombox bazookas, which he calls a "Ghetto Blaster". To be quite honest, hearing a man in his 70s say the phrase "Ghetto Blaster" just doesn't sound right. Compounding viewers

frustration is the fact that the plot doesn't make sense. The film starts with a simple assassination plan. Then, Bond's traveling throughout Europe and the Middle East to find a guy who killed a few 00 agents. He ends up going to Afghanistan. Viewers, though, are going to sleep. All in all, it wasn't really that entertaining.

Overall: 5/10

GoldenEye

"James Bond, stiffy, stuffy Brit."



After a long hiatus, 007 came back with GoldenEye. It was an attempt to modernize Bond for the post-Cold War generation. In the movie, James has to stop a rogue agent and the "GoldenEye" satellite. This rogue agent is planning to use his satellite, which is equipped with a laser, to cripple the

British economy... while stealing millions of pounds. Of course, destroying the British economy would make the pounds worthless. Apparently though, the writers didn't think that through. Dspite this flaw in the villain's plan, the movie is still pretty good. The action scenes are intriguing. One notable scene has Bond riding a tank and destroying everything in sight. You'll probably like this one. It's Brosnan at his best.

Overall: 7/10

Casino Royale

"The name's Bond... James Bond."

In 2002, the movie Die Another Day was made. The general consensus was that it was terrible. Who



would have believed that adding Halle Berry would lower the quality of acting in the films? The Bond franchise had to rest for another four years. By then, the Bourne movies were becoming popular when it came to spy films. And with competition like that, people were thinking that Bond was

starting to look stale. That thought was quickly thrown out when Casino Royale arrived. It should be noted that Casino Royale is actually the first Bond story that was made by Ian Fleming, so the franchise is going full circle. Most of the gadgets and the campy material from the previous Bond films is now gone. Everything's been rebooted since Brosnan's days. It's the Bond franchise distilled into its purest form. The plot centers on Bond emergence as a 00 agent. He ends up fighting a villain named Le Chiffre. Also, he falls in love again. Daniel Craig makes a good Bond. While he's blonde, stiff, and not as sophisticated as his predecessors, his tenacity and grittiness add a new masculine panache to the character. And with this being a continuity reboot, Craig and the Bond franchise in general now have some new potential.

Overall: 9/10



Belle by Katherine Marchand

Poetry

Adolescence

By Amber Duran

Adolescence is the smell of salt in your hair, which is turning green
After a day of jumping off the pier on Bay Avenue East with your friends,
Fifteen feet down into the icy cold water of the bay,
Which looks murky and green when you open your eyes underwater,
Straining to see what mysterious things lay at the bottom.
You feel your toes touch the slimy rocks, covered in algae and seaweed
And occasionally the stray fish, who is scurrying away from your feet,
Pruning your fingers more and more after every exhilarating leap
And swimming to the boating dock next to the pier, that moves with the waves
Just to get back onto the pier and go in one more time before you go home.

It's being in the water down on Q street beach, fooling around with family
Right when the wind starts to pick up and the sky changes colors,
Causing you to hold tight to your boogie board while you paddle to the shore,
Trying to avoid the whipping sand from the coming storm
And leaving your flip flops behind in the dune, along with your towel.
You curse as your foot seems to step on every pebble on the hot tar
As you run the three hundred yard dash back to your green and white house
Where your grandmother is waiting to yell at you from inside the kitchen
For getting water all over the hallway carpet and losing more of her towels.

It's doing unforgettable things with your best friend the summer before she left,
Like stealing "For Sale" signs off of Nantasket Avenue late at night,
Eating brownie mix (even though you know that you will be regretting it later),
Going to Boston to just wander around all day, knowing that you'll never get lost
And see Shakespeare in the Commons on five occasions, loving it each time.
It's trying to watch old home movies in the attic where the other bed is -
You found them while getting her ready to move out of state -
And getting them stuck in the VCR, trying to take it apart and just breaking it.

It's just that sense that nothing will ever touch you, young with no responsibility,
Then finally realizing that it doesn't last, things are going to change quickly,
That people you love will go away while others stay for the long haul ahead,
Helping each other through the hard times and being there for the good ones too,
Figuring yourself out along the way, and liking that person too.

Bag
By Caylie Gibson

Pick me. Pick me. I'm what you want.
I follow you everywhere, ready to flaunt.
Your outfit is dull, I give it a punch,
But lately you treat me just like one of the bunch.
It hurts, you know, always being replaced.
I can't help but think that you are two faced.
I carried your books and never complained,
But I'm growing tired, my straps are strained.
You tossed me around like a dirty old rag,
But I'm more than that, I'm a D & G bag.
Oh, how I miss those days of being clean and neat.
Now I'm covered in muck dragged in by other people's feet.
When you have a chance, please take a look inside.
You'll be surprised with all the things that hide:
Your bracelet that you once used to wear,
The many elastics you use to tie back your hair.
Did you forget about them, like you did me?
It's shocking, sometimes, just how forgetful you can be.
People were always saying how much they loved my looks.
You had the pride in knowing that I was better than other pocketbooks.
Because, see, I saw you as more than an owner, more like a friend.
At the rate things were going, I never thought that it would end.
We were a team, like Pinky and the Brain,
But I guess it was one we could not sustain
There you left me, high and dry
Like a short, nerdy annoying guy.
That's ok, though, I won't hold a grudge.
After all, who am I to judge?
Like a lost puppy that you found,
I guess that I will always be around.
I'll forget about the way I was treated,
And wait and wait, until my presence is needed.

H
A
P
P
Y

S
P
R
I
N
G
!

Heartache
By Cassandra Koscenski

Her name is Misty
She's cute and cuddly
Fuzzy and sweet.
Soft.
She's gray and white
has bright green eyes
That sometimes turn gray.
She sit's there
Purring by the heat.
She's my love, my life.
I miss her
She has died
Well, "put to sleep"
Something that I call murder.
I miss her.
It's hard to know that she's gone
To know the only way to see her
Is in pictures or in my head.
But
I will see her again someday when I'm dead.



Brunette by Renee Murphy