



The Northern Bark

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A Look Through the Lens:

Mock Trial Not Cool? I OBJECT!

By Olivia Bennett

This year there are actually two mock trial teams competing for NHS. Featured are some pictures of the NHS Gold team in action. The season is slowly coming to an end, but the Blue and Gold teams both have a couple more trials left, including one against each other. That could get interesting. Good Luck!! (Left: Angelo Ruggerio and Cassidy Murphy), (Right: Stefan Hoffman, Ava Roberts, and Hailey Yommer)

Made Perfect:

LifeProof iPhone Case

By Megan Smith

I have always had trouble taking care of my phone. I'm always dropping it, getting it dirty, spilling drinks on it, there's not much that I haven't done to my phone. I cracked my screen protector to the point where I had to take it off. After trying to find something to protect my phone, I came across LifeProof phone cases. I purchased one because it stated that it was waterproof and could protect my phone from getting damaged. I ordered mine from the website www.lifeproof.com for \$79.99.

The case is very protective and very secure. I got mine in the color pink and green but you can get them in many different colors! It has a cover over the screen with no openings and even the back camera has a cover. There is a little clip that covers where the charger goes and a screw where the headphones go, assuring no water will get in. While having this case on my phone, no damage has been done to my phone.

I would recommend it to anyone who has the same problems that I do when it comes to taking care of your phone. A (continued on page 5)

Science Now: **Have Scientists Found a Cure for Cancer?**

By Nathan Ashley

C&en Magazine has discussed a new treatment method being developed by scientists for rare diseases and terminal cancers like sickle cell disease, pancreatic cancer, and HIV in their latest issue. The treatment is called CRISPR, which stands for "Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats," and is a DNA-editing compound that can be easily modified to remove mutations from genetic diseases, train the body's cells to ignore diseased cells, and

destroy pathogens more efficiently than the body's immune system. It is as of yet unfinished, as scientists are struggling to find ways to get it into the body, though its potential is unequalled among medicines and treatments. C&en Magazine states, "...CRISPR has radically changed the face and pace of biological research." The gene-editing compound uses a guide enzyme called Cas9 to show it where to go in the DNA, and then will cut the double helix at the precise spot, so as to remove the unwanted DNA. Scientists in California working with CRISPR in preclinical trials have (continued on page 2)

In Sports:

Sport Enhancing Drugs: Home run or Strikeout?

By Alanna Kinney

Should drugs be allowed in the sports industry? Are they helping or regressing athletes ability of performance proficiency? With any topic like this, there are pros and cons that can either support or reject the use. The top ten reasons are health risks, "unfair" advantages, drugs vs technology, coercion, effectiveness of drug testing, legalizing sports enhancing drugs, sportsmanship, athletes as a role model, sports fans, and the Hall of Fame induction. With this being said, here are a few of the main the reasons to support or diss the use of them. You can read about all ten at <http://sportsanddrugs.procon.org/>. For health, steroids have a negative effect on athletes long term health. (continued on page 6)

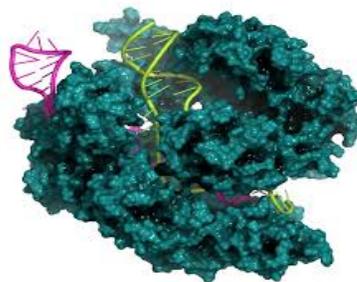
Science Now

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already successfully altered some people's genes to be what they believe is HIV resistant. However, as mentioned before, the delivery system is faulty. The scientists had to do the procedure surgically, by removing a sequence of DNA from a stem cell (which is a kind of cell that can morph into any kind of body cell when needed), altering it, and replacing it in the body. As cells reproduce to replace dead ones, they will reproduce this altered DNA until there is none of the old remaining. The problem with the delivery system is its size. The CRISPR compound is a very large, bulky molecule that will need to get past all of the body's defenses, past cell walls, and into the nucleus of a cell that is well protected. How will the scientists do this? There are several theories that have arisen: they could make the cell smaller, although this would lower the efficiency and increase its chances of getting caught before it gets to its destination; they could make it "invisible" to the body's defenses in some way; or they could come up with a system to maneuver the compound past the defenses more quickly. Yourgenome.org comments on the subject, "It [CRISPR] is faster, cheaper and more accurate than previous techniques of editing DNA and has a wide range of potential applications." Once

the delivery is perfected, the procedure would be cheap and efficient, as the only thing that would need to be altered is the Cas9 enzyme so that it can know where to guide the cutting tool. If and when scientists figure out the few small snags, this amazing new treatment could be used to make people resistant to terminal diseases of all varieties or even to remove the diseases after the person is infected.

Want to learn more? Check out the February 13th edition of C&en Magazine!



(pictured above, the CRISPR compound)

Strange Happenings: Shamrock Shakes Shaking Up the Fast Food Game

By Bailey Brewer

St. Patrick's Day is an exciting day of the year, in theory. The most significance that this holiday bears on a teenager is the fact that if a person does not wear green, he or she will be pinched, no 'buts'. Sure there's the history aspect of this Irish holiday, but who really knows the reasoning behind why exactly we celebrate this day? (Some guy

named Saint Patrick died approximately one thousand, five-hundred and fifty-six years ago. Who knew?)

Nevertheless, the question forms, why should a teenager care about St. Patrick's Day? If a teenager can't go to a pub and doesn't even like green, what good comes from this day? Well the answer to that is simple: St. Patrick's Day themed fast food beverages! And not just the same old ones you have seen for years on end, this year McDonald's decided to bring a whole new line into the fast food game.

Introducing not one, not two, but five Shamrock flavored drinks, McDonald's has rolled out new menu choices for March. Fans of the original Shamrock Shake were more than enthused for the new selections to choose from. Hailey Yommer, a local student from NHS, states, "I love mochas; I love Shamrock Shakes. The Shamrock Mocha is perfect for me, and it tastes amazing."

The Shamrock Mocha is one of the four brand new additions, along with the Shamrock Frappe, Chocolate Shamrock Shake, and Shamrock Hot Chocolate (*NY Post*). These mint flavored dreams can be found only at select McDonald's, but luckily for NHS students, the McDonald's only miles away from NHS features all of these amazing flavors. Employee at the Keyser's Ridge McDonald's, Corey Durst, states, "I've been working at this McDonald's for a while,

and I have seen a lot of new promotions added, but I can honestly say the promotion I look forward to most every year is the Shamrock Shake. I was so excited to hear that there would be an entire line of drinks in honor of the shake." Corey added, "The Chocolate Shamrock Shake is even better than the original."

So in honor of St. Patrick's Day this year, why not try something other than pinching your friend for not wearing green? A whole world full of new St. Patrick's Day promotions awaits just 4.3 miles from Northern High School! Are you going to embrace new traditions or drink something of nutritional value? The choice is up to you.



Life Hacks... Sharpie Shortcuts

By Madison Dolchan

Have you ever been writing with a Sharpie marker and ended up getting it on something it should not have been on? Well, you're not alone. Personally, I am a very messy person when it comes to markers so, like all Americans, I took to the internet to search for some solutions for permanent marker mishaps. Luckily I was able to come up with some easy hacks to help one get Sharpie off of a multitude of objects. The first of which is clothing. The easiest way to remove Sharpie ink from your clothes if you cannot get to bleach ASAP would be hand sanitizer.

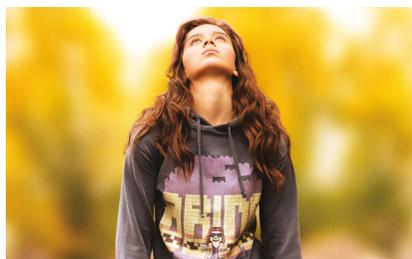
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Entertainment **Funny, Heart- Breaking, and So Relatable**

By Olivia Bennett

The 2016 drama-comedy film, *The Edge of Seventeen*, is a new coming of age movie that scored a solid 95% on the *Rotten Tomatoes* critics website. *The Edge of Seventeen* is about a seventeen year old girl named Nadine, and she is at the peak of her awkward stage of being a teenager girl in high school. What makes things worse is Nadine's best and only good friend, Krista, started dating her older, more popular brother, Darian. Nadine never had a strong relationship with her mother, and her dad is the only good thing in her life, besides Krista, until Nadine's dad has a heart attack and dies when she was thirteen. Nadine's mom always relied on Darian and referred to him as the "perfect child". Paul Byrnes, a movie reviewer, states, "It's an astonishing high-wire act, one of the most sustained and perceptive and complete performances I've seen in years". When the movie progresses, and Krista and Darian spend more time together Nadine feels more than lonely, until one day a boy named Erwin sparked interest in her in one of her classes. Nadine is interested a little bit, but is also still dwelling over a jock who has no interest in her besides his sexual desirability. Nadine finds that out the hard way. "*The Edge of Seventeen* is so relatable. It really captured a teenagers life in a film" says Abigail Burdock, a senior at

NHS. The problem with the movie being so accurate is preteens can stress about their futures as an older teenager. The movie shows several real life events that some people are not looking forward to or are experiencing right now. *The Edge of Seventeen* was produced by Academy Award winner James L. Brooks, and readers should try checking the film out!



(pictured above, Hailee Steinfeld, star of "The Edge of Seventeen")

Travel On: **Quebec City: History, Sightseeing, and New Adventures**

By Alanna Kinney

If you want a vacation spot that has as many things to do in the winter as in the summer, then beautiful Quebec City, Canada should be your next destination. This second largest city in the whole country is known for its breathtaking views, rich heritage and history, delicious food, and French culture. There are plenty of activities to participate in and sights to see. Quebec also has many historic trademarks that will keep you wanting to explore more. One of the most famous buildings is the Fairmont Le Chateau Frontenac which is a gorgeous hotel that has been

around since the 17th century. It has a grand total of 18 floors and consists of 600 rooms to stay in. "The Chateau Frontenac was named after Louis de Buade, Count of Frontenac, who was governor of the colony of New France from 1672 to 1682 and 1689 to 1698. The Chateau was built near the historic Citadelle, the construction of which Frontenac had begun at the end of the 17th century. The Quebec Conference of 1943, at which Winston Churchill, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and William Lyon Mackenzie King discussed strategy for World War II, was held at the Chateau Frontenac while much of the staff stayed nearby at the Citadel. Although several of Quebec City's buildings are taller, the landmark hotel is perched on top of a tall cape overlooking the Saint Lawrence River, affording a spectacular view for several kilometers. The building is the most prominent feature of the Quebec City skyline seen from across the Saint Lawrence."

Along with your hotel, places to eat are essential while on vacation. After reading up on *nationalgeographic.com*, I found the top ten places in Quebec City that are the best restaurants you should experience. Here are a few that stood out to me the most. Le Saint-Amour is a fine dining place that has great French food and a room which creates a greenhouse atmosphere with hanging plants, trees, and vibrant paintings. Paillard is a comforting bakery that makes you feel as if you are at home. One visitor said "I returned again and again to tune in to the rhythm of locals and visitors going about their days. From a coffee and croissant to a light

dinner of fresh salads and sandwiches, Paillard's homemade offerings rival the best boulangeries in France. Try the feta-and-olive bread or an abricotier, a croissant filled with apricot preserves." Lastly, Restaurant Legende, which was recently established in 2014 is dedicated to its local produce and farm fresh meats. It has an extremely diverse menu and should definitely be a place to visit.

In addition, there are still other places you can visit and enjoy during your stay. The top eleven attractions consist of parks, museums, and chapels. If you're into history and exploring nature, then these are the attractions you shouldn't miss. Battlefield Park and Montgomery Park are two great places to go hiking and explore gardens. They take between two to six hours to traverse during the summer, depending on which path you choose. Exploring these trails are a great way to get outdoors and get involved with nature. Morrin Centre, Museum of Civilization, Terrasse Dufferin, and The Citadel are all historical sites and museums where you can learn more about Quebec's revolution. Finally, two religious sanctuaries are Basilica of Sainte-Anne-De-Beaupre and Notre-Dame-de-Quebec-Basilica. To get more detail about these destinations visit, <http://travel.usnews.com/>. So pack your bags and travel to North America's France for a vacation of a lifetime!

In History: A Lethal Misunderstanding

By Nathan Ashley

On March 5, 1770, six years before the British are repelled out of North America, eight British patrol soldiers and their captain, John Preston, shoot into a crowd of not-so-innocent civilians, killing five. The crowd was believed to be heckling, throwing snowballs at, and teasing the soldiers, which provoked the soldiers to fire. While this does not excuse their actions, it definitely provides a motive. The trials occurred eight months after the shooting happened, and the soldiers were defended by esteemed lawyer and eventual second president, John Adams. The majority of the soldiers, including captain Preston were acquitted, but two convictions of manslaughter were dealt. Because of John Adams' lawyer skills, and his ability to prove that the crowd instigated the shooting by yelling "Fire!" at the soldiers and caused them to shoot, thinking it was an order from the captain, the soldiers were merely branded on the hand and released. This did not stop them from keeping their heads down before and after the trial though.

For the duration of the months between the shooting and the trial, the soldiers holed up on a small island in the Boston Bay. There, they were treated as prisoners and were banished from entering the mainland until their trial. After the trial, the soldiers were still oppressed with a deep

hatred from the majority of the population, which helped give rise to the Patriot Movement and eventually the Revolutionary War. As History.com puts it, "The Boston Massacre is remembered as a key event in helping to galvanize the colonial public to the Patriot cause." Shortly after the trial, propaganda began to spring up, depicting the British soldiers as having committed many immoral "atrocities".

Handed down from the many horror stories told by townsfolk of that time, a variety of myths have arisen about the Massacre, despite the compelling evidence for the actual story.

According to bostonmassacre.net, "One of the most interesting myths is that the scuffle on King's street started from the accusations thrown at one of the British officers that he did not pay the wigmaker's bill. This makes an interesting story and many of us may speculate that perhaps the most famous protest would not have occurred if the bill had been paid on time. But on the contrary to the popular myth, the British officer Captain John Goldfinch in fact settled his bill the day earlier."

Others say that the soldiers merely wanted to antagonize the civilians in an abuse of power. Still others say that they chose to attack in self defense from a civilian who assaulted them and ended up accidentally shooting bystanders.

Although the Massacre had a great impact on the Revolutionary Movement, the Boston Tea Party, the Townshend Acts, and the Stamp Act were actually the events that pushed it over the

edge. Today, a memorial stands in the spot in Boston where the shooting happened, as seen in the picture below.

Want to learn more? Check out bostonmassacre.net.



Got Advice: By Phil Checks

I'm having a lot of difficulties in my life right now currently... How can I bounce back? What can I control? How do I become the boss I once was and overcome these obstacles?

-Anonymous

You can't control what's happening, you can control your reaction to what's happening. If you're spending all of your time draining yourself thinking about a situation you can't control, you won't feel any better. Thankfully, it's fully within your control to not do that. You don't have to spend time dwelling on things you can't control. Accept it, move on.

I mean, that's the big issue; you're trying to control things you can't. You're holding onto baggage you don't have to hold and that serves no purpose to hold. What you went through may be painful and that's fine, that's a part of life but it isn't a part of life to resist it and suffer. You can feel down about something but at the end of the day you have to let it go and move on from it. The more you resist accepting, the more you're trying to answer questions you

can't answer and the more problems you're creating for yourself which can't be solved. You have to do yourself a favor and not try to overcome an obstacle that isn't yours. Your obstacle is to face and let go of the emotions involved instead of fighting feeling a certain way. Life isn't about feeling good all of the time, you aren't entitled to that. Although, you don't have to suffer either. You go through the experience, you feel down, you let it go, you move on. Again, resisting it, not wanting to go through the experience, avoiding reality isn't the way it is to make you feel good, using all of your energy to cling onto the side of the cliff isn't helping you. You can't help falling down. You can always make the effort to climb up but again, you're spending all of your time and energy trying to not fall instead. Again, you have to accept, embrace, move on, climb up and take control of your life moving forwards.



Eye on Art Hard Work And Determination Shapes Young Artist By Bailey Brewer

On my quest to bring light to young artists at NHS, I sat down with Hailey Yommer to ask her a few questions about her work. It is important to realize that Hailey has always been an artist. Back when she was only in 3rd grade, her work was chosen to be featured in the Grantsville Museum. To this very day, her work can be found above the door in stain glass.

Hailey's story of one of having a true ability from birth, but embellishing it more everyday. Her first day in Mr. Paxton's class was a little disheartening for her, because she believed that she was not good enough. But through countless classes and some advice from Mr. Paxton, Hailey's ability has shined through. Hailey states, "Never give up on something because you think you're bad or not good at it. You can only get better."

Looking at Hailey's work, it is hard to deny the artistic talent. Hailey prefers painting to working in a sketchbook, and her paintings are truly something to admire. She states, "My favorite piece is my lighthouse painting. I have always like lighthouses and I think this is my best work." This piece in particular was sold to make a profit, paving the way for artistic career. In the future, Hailey hopes to spend her life surrounded by art.. She wants to help others learn the very same lessons she has learned about never giving up. She states, "I plan

on attending Frostburg State University to major in fine arts with a concentration in painting. I want to become an art teacher someday." I wish Hailey the best of luck along the way. If you want to see more of Hailey's work, just stop by Mr. Paxton's room and chances are Hailey will be there working on something new. Good luck Hailey!



Life Hacks

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Accidental stains on clothing is the most common accident, however I have hacks to aid in all circumstances.

- 1) Walls- use toothpaste or hairspray
- 2) Wood- use rubbing alcohol "Rubbing alcohol is one of the best home remedies to remove the stains of a permanent marker as it dissolves the ink effectively."
- 3) Carpet- use white vinegar
- 4) Furniture- use milk
- 5) White Board- use dry erase marker or a pencil's rubber eraser
- 6) Ceramic or Glass- use 1 part toothpaste with one part baking soda

Go ahead and try any of these marker hacks the next time you find yourself in a bit of an overdrawn situation, and don't let the fear of making a mess keep you from coloring outside the lines!

Student Spotlight: Putting Pep into the Paper

By Madison Dolchan

Olivia Bennett, a senior who joined Northern High's Cheerleading squad as a sophomore, is getting ready to graduate and say goodbye to high school activities. For three years Olivia has dedicated herself to her team, and to the task of bringing people joy and energy. That being said, it isn't exactly a walk in the park. This activity requires focus as well as dedication. "The hardest part is having a bunch of events going on in one week. Sometimes we have practice every day so we have to keep our schedules open." Olivia explained. Over the course of the academic year the Cheer squad, led by Olivia and her Co-Captain Megan Knox, performs at football games, basketball games, wrestling matches, and pep rallies. There is a great deal of time and practice that goes into perfecting these intricate routines. The practices usually consist of stretching, jumping (toe touches, etc.), practicing out cheers, practicing stunts, and lastly making new pyramids for games. Olivia and her squad practice and perform from early May, when tryouts take place, through the end of February.

With the end of Wrestling, comes the end of the cheer season for the seniors. After a long journey Olivia stated that, "My favorite part of my senior year has been getting to hang out with my friends all the time". As she says goodbye to another cheer season,



Olivia prepares to say goodbye to high school in general. Olivia Bennett has a very bright future, and as she arranges to take the next step in her life, she wants to impart some final words to her squad, "Thank you for making these last three years the best part of my high school career. Good luck to the upcoming freshman, as well as the upcoming classmen. I love you all!"

Pictured below, Olivia Bennett in action.



Made Perfect

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customer who purchased this product, commented, "Have had it for about half a year and it's been through everything and survived. GET ONE," giving this product a 5 star rating. I asked Lyndsay Fuller what she thought of her LifeProof case and she states, "This case has allowed my phone to survive many different occasions and is great for taking underwater pictures in the summer. I would give it a high rating." And I have to agree with both of these comments. This case is simply amazing!

Social Commentary: **Discrimination** **Against LGBT Youth** **in U.S. Schools**

By Megan Smith

Outside the home, schools are the primary vehicles for educating, socializing, and providing services to young people in the United States. Schools can be difficult environments for students, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity, but they are often especially unwelcoming for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) youth. A lack of policies and practices that affirm and support LGBT youth—and a failure to implement protections that do exist—means that LGBT students nationwide continue to face bullying, exclusion, and discrimination in school, putting them at physical and psychological risk and limiting their education. In 2001, Human Rights Watch published *Hatred in the Hallways: Violence and Discrimination against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Students in US Schools*. The report documented rampant bullying and discrimination against LGBT students in schools across the country, and urged policymakers and school officials to take concrete steps to respect and protect the rights of LGBT youth. Over the last 15 years, lawmakers and school administrators have increasingly recognized that LGBT youth are a vulnerable population in school settings, and many have implemented policies designed to ensure all students feel safe and welcome at school.

Yet progress is uneven. In many states and school districts, LGBT students and teachers lack protections from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. In others, protections that do exist are inadequate or unenforced. As transgender and gender non-conforming students have become more visible, too, many states and school districts have ignored their needs and failed to ensure they enjoy the same academic and extracurricular benefits as their non-transgender peers. This undermines a number of fundamental human rights, including LGBT students' rights to education, personal security, freedom from discrimination, access to information, free expression, association and privacy. Based on interviews seen online, with over 500 students, teachers, administrators, parents, service providers, and advocates in Alabama, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, and Utah, this focuses on four main issues that LGBT people continue to experience in school environments in the United States. Areas of concern include bullying and harassment, exclusion from school curricula and resources, restrictions on LGBT student groups, and other forms of discrimination and bigotry against students and staff based on sexual orientation and gender identity. While not exhaustive, these broad issues offer a starting point for policymakers and administrators to ensure that LGBT people's rights are respected and protected in schools.



In Sports

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Two PhD's argued two sides Simon stating, "If each of us ought to be free to assume risks that we think are worth taking, shouldn't athletes have the same freedom as anyone else? In particular, if athletes prefer the gains in performance allegedly provided by the use of steroids, along with the increased risk of harm to the alternative of less risk and worse performance, what gives anyone the right to interfere with their choice? After all, if we should not forbid smokers from risking their health by smoking, why should we prohibit track stars or weightlifters from taking risks with their health in pursuit of their goals?" Becker on the other hand feels the exact opposite saying, "Performance enhancers, like steroids and other forms of doping, have a negative effect on long-term health. For then users of these enhancers are hurting themselves in the long run without on the average improving their short-term rewards from athletic competition, as long as competitors also use harmful enhancers." They both addressed the negative affect, but the positive isn't really stated, just more of an opinion. Professional athletes are people that many fans look up to and want to be like when they're older. How is using steroids going to give a positive view on these celebrities that have millions of peers? Is it going to want to make others start using them? Is it going to prevent others from using them? Reason Magazine Senior editor said, "Survey data actually shows that teen steroid use has mirrored the use of other illicit drugs over the years. It went up mildly in the 1990's, and has since either dropped off slightly, or leveled off since 2000. It's likely that the same trends that govern cocaine or marijuana use govern teen steroid use far more than what's happening in the sports pages. In fact, a study released last year, and one of the few studies to actually attempt to find out what motivates teen boys to take steroids, found that the most reliable indicator of steroid use was a teen's own self, self esteem and body image. The suggestion, and I think we can all agree it's pretty intuitive, is that teenage boys who do take steroids do so not because they want to look like Barry Bonds or Mark McGwire, but because they want to look good for teenage girls." Schwab at a testimony for sport enhancement drugs disagrees saying "For many male high school athletes, pro athletes are major influences. They are the role models. They choose the jersey numbers of their favorite professional players. They emulate their training regimens. They emulate their style of play. And they are influenced by their drug use. When a professional athlete admits to using steroids, the message young athletes hear is not always the one that is intended. Young athletes often believe that steroid use

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In Sports

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by their role models gives them permission to use. That it is simply part of what one must do to become an elite athlete."

Finally, sportsmanship. As an athlete myself, I feel that is the most important thing when participating in any at all. Saletan, journalist for the Washington Post says "How, exactly, does the spirit of sport forbid gene transfer but not carbo-loading? The [WADA] code doesn't say. It defines the spirit of sport as 'ethics,' 'fair play,' 'character' and a bunch of other words that clarify nothing. The definition includes 'courage' and 'dedication.' Doesn't it take more courage and dedication to alter your genes than to snarf a potato? Human growth hormone appears on WADA's 'Prohibited List' of substances and methods, even though the Food and Drug Administration, the National Institutes of Health, and the American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists have vouched, to varying degrees, for its safety. Evidently growth hormone violates the spirit of sport, but stuffing yourself with steaks doesn't." The World Anti-Doping Agency clearly makes valid points as to how steroids violate the rules of sportsmanship. "Anti-doping programs seek to preserve what is intrinsically valuable about sport. This intrinsic value is often referred to as 'the spirit of sport'; it is the essence of Olympism; it is how we play true. The spirit of sport is the celebration of the human spirit, body and mind, and is characterized by the following values:

Ethics, fair play and honesty.
Health.
Excellence in performance.
Character and education.

Fun and joy.
Teamwork.
Dedication and commitment.
Respect for rules and laws.
Respect for self and other participants.
Courage.
Community and solidarity.
Doping is fundamentally contrary to the spirit of sport."
This is a very biased topic, but it seems as if there are not enough facts to give a solid reason as to why sport performance enhancing drugs should be allowed in the professional world. I personally have to agree that there are more valid negative statements with justified reason and think they should continue to be banned. What do you think after reading this? Dope or nope?

The World According to Phil: How Necessary is a College Education?

By Phil Checkes

Being a senior in high school has its own quirks, but the biggest one is definitely what awaits you afterwards, and that would be a continuation of your education. Most teenagers start considering college at an earlier age, around the start of their high school career. While some believe college is a necessity to provide themselves with the proper knowledge and financial aid in their adult lives, others believe that college is a huge waste of time, and are better off without it. While both of these opinions are valid, it can make other teenagers steer off of their primary decision, either by peer-pressure or self-doubt. In my personal opinion, I believe that a college education is necessary. This is mostly due to the fact that education essentially is a "door-opener". The amount of opportunities that arise just from

having a college education compared to a high-school diploma is phenomenal. More opportunities equal more of a chance of finding the perfect job for you, and having a very successful life. This, however, is not the only thing a college education can do for you. A college education can also earn you a larger quantity of money, expand your own mind with your newfound knowledge that wasn't taught in high school, and earn yourself respect from others. A college education is a great opportunity, and should be sought after.

However, with an opportunity with a lot of benefits, there are also quite a few downfalls as to why I can see why not everyone is interested in it. Colleges require a lot of money in order to start your education experience, which isn't necessarily promised either. Most students have to take out loans, which take ages to pay back. Refunds are nonexistent, and the college dropout rate ranges to approximately 56% of all students enrolled. That's a lot of money lost in the gutter. We are also raised in a society where "everyone is expected to go to college" even though it is very possible to succeed in life without a college education. Some very successful people have done just fine, including Steve Jobs and Richard Branson. Regardless of the decision, you'll have tons of opportunities either way, so for all of the juniors and seniors struggling with college decisions, understand that you'll be fine regardless of your choice.

Your Northern Bark News Staff

[pictured below]

Megan Smith,
Alanna Kinney,
Olivia Bennett,
Phil Checkes,
Nathan Ashley,
Bailey Brewer,
Madison Dolchan
Staff Editors: (not pictured) Ms. Virts & Ms. Roller



