

Witches Brew

Edition 1, 2008

Angeramo Looks Ahead To Another School Year

By Joe Smith

For the past 3 years Principal David Angeramo has been at the helm of Salem High's proverbial ship. Every new year brings new challenges, goals and additions. Just like students, even principals need to adjust, adapt, and grow with each passing school year.

The first day of school can be different for everyone. Angeramo believes that the first day of school this year went off without a problem, and he spent the first day walking around the classrooms, greeting students and staff, and observing opening day procedures.

Angeramo believes being the principal has been an educational experience. With each year he said he is gaining confidence and school awareness. "There is a learning curve that had to be overcome when getting used to the responsibilities and rules," he said.

A goal that Angeramo would like to achieve this year is to be the standard that other schools will look to. He would also like to keep incorporating the new technology

like the projectors, smart boards, and the new computer labs, into the classroom. Angeramo wanted to stress to the staff and students that the new technology are "tools to help out and not the only tool."

With the school renovation moving forward, the art wing, which still needs updating, will not be addressed this year. Each year the city keeps submitting what is called a phase two proposal for SHS to the state. The state's response has been that other schools have higher priority over Salem High. "The State pays for a bulk of the renovation," Angeramo explained. The original plan was to do the whole school at once, but due to previous financial issues the renovations were divided into phase one and two. Phase one was aesthetic and academic updating, while phase two will handle the art wing/tech ed areas.

For seniors it is their last year at Salem High and Angeramo has the following message for them: "It is a very important year and potentially their most important one. Appreciate it."



One goal Mr. Angeramo has for the school this year to make good use of the new technology in the classrooms

Connolly: "Student First, Athlete Second"

By Jimmy Towey

From coach to Athletic Director, Mr. Scott Connolly has been a thriving member of the SHS community for 5 years. A physical education teacher, a Head Varsity football coach, he has now reached the top of the athletic department as the new director.

Connolly has received a bachelor's degree from Ithaca College in P.E. and Health and a master's degree from Springfield College in Athletic Administration. After school, Connolly taught P.E. at Loomis Chaffe School and was the assistant football coach and track coach but more specifically the throwing coach for two years. From there he taught in Fieldston, New York as a P.E. teacher. He became the assistant athletic director and taught four sports teams in his six year run there. Following his years at Fieldston, he came here to Salem High and is now in his fifth year here.

When asked why he took the A.D. position, he said he was intrigued and wanted to do what he could to help student athletes get into college. Connolly is also very

concerned with a student athlete's grades "You're a student first and an athlete second," he said. This point was emphasized with the student doing his work in the back of the office. "One of the biggest things is managing your time," he continued.

Connolly has had many joys in having this position. He loves hearing about all the advances the sports teams have made in the past year, such as the volleyball team becoming a varsity sport and the field hockey, girls' soccer, and boys' soccer and golf teams making the tournament.

Connolly came into this position following Ms. Kim Kochanek, SHS's past athletic director. "I am trying to just build off of what she started," he stated. When Kochanek was the athletic director, Connolly was one of her faculty managers, going to the games that she couldn't make it to and acting as her eyes and ears. When asked if he had any advice to students, he said, "Come get involved and join a team. Being a part of a team is an experience you can't get back."

In The Brew



Newly elected Senior Class Secretary Jimmy Towey helps run the concession stand during a recent football game. For a list of all new class officers and Senior Prom information, see page 4

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Election 2008 *Who Has Your Support?*

By Erin Burke

It's safe to say that most high school students don't know more than names and a general perception of the major candidates running for president. Just because most students can't vote doesn't mean that they should allow themselves to be in the dark about their campaign platforms. Just what do the two main candidates, nominees Senator Barack Obama (D) and Senator John McCain (R), stand for, and better yet just who are these two men who claim that they can make the best decision for us?

Obama, the current Illinois state senator, was born on August 4th, in 1962. He grew up with his father, originally from Kenya, and his mother from small town Kansas, in Hawaii. His father eventually returned to Kenya and he lived with his mother in Hawaii as well as a few years in Indonesia. He then moved to New York where he graduated from Columbia University in 1983. He currently lives in Chicago, Illinois with his wife and two daughters. His running mate is Senator Joseph Biden.

McCain on the other hand, the current senator from Arizona, was born on the 29th of August in 1936. He attended the U.S. Naval

Academy and after graduation he started his 22 year career as a naval aviator following his father and grandfather. He was called to action during the Vietnam War and during his 23rd bombing mission his plane was struck down and he was taken prisoner of war. For about five years he was tortured and held captive along with other P.O.W.'s. When released he returned to the navy but retired in 1981. He is honored with the silver star, the bronze star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart and the Distinguished Flying Cross. He now has 7 children, 4 grandchildren and lives with his wife in Phoenix, Arizona. He has chosen Alaska Governor Sarah Palin as his vice presidential pick.

Now that we know who they are and where they are from, what do they stand for? The following is a list of their general stances on some issues that may be important to students as provided by their official campaign websites, www.johnmccain.com and www.barackobama.com.

On Education

Obama

- Pay more attention to early edu.
- Get rid of low performing charter schools.

- Support bi-lingual education
- Support college outreach programs

McCain

- Equal opportunity
- Options to go to other schools if closest schools are inadequate
- Get parents and teachers empowered
- Provide bonus for teachers in lower ranked schools
- Enhancing education by use of technology

On Abortion

Obama

- Pro-choice
- Believes it needs to be decided at the state level however...

McCain

- John McCain has publicly noted, "At its core, abortion is a human tragedy. To effect meaningful change, we must engage the debate at a human level."

On Healthcare

Obama

- Make health insurance benefit the people not just benefit the insurance and drug companies
- Reduce costs

McCain

- Families have more control

- Easier to obtain insurance
- Choices beyond employer

On Immigration

Obama

- Create secure borders
- Fix system of bureaucracy and increase the number of legal immigrants to keep families together

- Remove incentives for immigrating illegally

McCain

- Secure Borders
- Improve and extend the check points of entering the country making it more difficult to enter

Whichever side you are looking at, history is going to be made. Weather you have the first woman vice president or you have the first African American president the country will have to deal with new faces and new races, whether we like it or not. Another factor the candidates are playing with is the young voters and whether or not they will turn up at the polls. With the economy accelerating downwards, it all depends on what the people are feeling when the day comes. A recent mock election at SHS showed an Obama win by a vote of 802-129. We'll see if SHS students voted the same as the public on November 4

Student State Their Support

Compiled by India Cobb

"Which candidate do you support?" was the question asked by Witches Brew to seniors of Salem High.

Andri Shehu is a supporter of Democrat Barack Obama :
"I support Obama because he's going to bring change and I don't like McCain because I'm afraid of Sarah Palin leading."

Isabel Patrowicz is a supporter of Obama:
"He is a good speaker."

Danielle Pegnato is a supporter of Republican John McCain:
"I'm not supporting Obama because he's going to raise taxes and has voted present in congress numerous times meaning he doesn't have strong opinions."

Vanessa Marshall is a supporter of Obama:
"Because he is going to close corporate tax loop holes. Big corporations who make a lot of money should pay taxes and not struggling middle class."

Jeff Iwanicki is a supporter of Obama:
"Not because of him but because of his Vice President."

Shannon's Salem-Scopes

What's In The Stars For You?

By Shannon Ferguson

Aries (March 21 - April 19): You may be late for your class on the first floor due to the fact that you have to stop by your assigned locker on the third floor.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): No, you have not crossed into the Salem High of the past. You've stepped into the Art Wing.

Gemini (May 21 - June 20): Today, the Smart Board will probably make you feel not-so-smart.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): You may find yourself longing to do a good deed. Make sure the projectors are all turned off, chances are we cant pay to have the bulbs replaced.

Leo (July 23 - Aug. 23): If you see one of your English teachers staring at the floor, fear not. They are simply looking for book funds.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): Don't drink the school water! It seems to be causing a mass

epidemic of pregnancies among the teachers in the building.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 23): Yellow buses and prom dresses are not far in your future.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22): Don't skip a class today. There is actually a small chance the attendance system is up and running, and you will get caught.

Sagittarius (Nov. 23 - Dec 21): Beware the bald man; the Wulf is on the hunt.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan.19): Good thing the teachers figured out how to work the telephones; now they can call each other for useless jokes. But hey, no cell phones, kids!

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 19): Make sure you look nice today- well, *every day* actually. You're on candid camera!

Pisces (Feb. 20 - March 20): Please excuse this- oops, nevermind!

Editorials and Columns - The Voice of the Students

New & Improved?

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

By Michaela Jordan

High School Musical? Not exactly, but that's what some students instantly thought when walking into the lobby for the first day of Salem High's 2008-2009 year. The school has, physically, been in for some changes (hence the class of 2008's senior theme "Got Change?"). It may not be Disney Channel Movie material, but there are a lot of new changes; some good, some bad, and some just plain ugly.

First, there's the floor levels. The staircase is no longer a blue-blob overtaking the front lobby. To replace it: a white stairwell with red lining at the bottom complimented by thin black lines; although, the stairwell itself is quite blinding and the paint has already been chipped off numerous times. The colors do represent the school's spirit

nicely, agreed? Still, many do not understand why the hallway levels are still marked as green, orange, and blue. Talk about a rainbow explosion; all seniors need to do is keep convincing freshmen that there is a purple floor and they'll be all set. There is one great relief. The huge white lobby wasn't painted orange. The administration probably felt the school would rather look like a big straight jacket rather than the halls of Beverly High.

Something students can be proud of now is some of the new technology. The projectors with three hour light bulbs, the magic smart boards in science rooms, and 'best of all', the few security cameras set up throughout the school (make sure you look up and smile when you walk through the front, automotive, or Black Cat doors). One change both students

and teachers can agree they like is the new iMacs and surround sound. This way teachers can softly play music to help students focus on work and it won't be coming from some static-filled radio. Now, it can be heard evenly in the room.

But what about the "good old days"? The Class of 2009 was the only grade here before the hardhats and caution tape took over the halls (way back in the 2005-2006 year, almost like prehistoric times). It feels like just yesterday in English 1 Honors, the first class of my freshman school year. One student I recall, Joe LeClerc, looked up and joked, "Wow, looks like a tile's gonna fall on my head" and the teacher replied, "No- but a rat might." (For the record- no rats have been found in the school this year, nor falling from the ceiling). Back to the days when the lockers were about 5-inches wide! Nobody

could ever forget the sight of 13 chairs pulled up to a lunch table fitted for 7. In fact, thinking back on the years, once upon a time at SHS there was, indeed, a courtyard.

But fear not, anyone who wants to reminisce about the Salem High School of the past can always walk through the art/music/drama wing, which has yet to be renovated. Don't worry though, soon enough of this part of the school will look new at some point. Also, for those worried about the gym being ready by November for Spirit Week and Pep Rally, principal Mr. David Angeramo confirmed that the floor and bleachers should be ready in time.

Now, if we can prevent students from breaking the new technology or vandalizing the new paintwork, maybe we can enjoy the new look of Salem High, whether we like it or not, for a while.

Village Idiot Returns!

Buses To Prom? Bring It On!

By Shannon Ferguson

Prom dresses and school buses: two words students from Salem High School should get used to seeing in close contact. This year, the school administration is going to make the decision on whether or not to make it mandatory for all students to take rented coach buses not only to after-prom, but to prom itself, both the junior and senior proms. Come on, guys, why not go all the way? Why not just stick us in one of those beautiful yellow Twinkies on wheels? What more could a kid ask for?

It would be like a high-class fieldtrip! Who doesn't want to wave goodbye to their parents on one of the most important nights of their high school career from the window of a yellow bus that makes them feel like a second grader again? Personally, I can't wait to slide around on one of those nasty, seatbelt-less seats of one of the city's chariots; after all, its safety the school is trying to promote, isn't it? I think the highlight of my night, as a senior expected to be on that bus, would be the moment I exit the esteemed automobile wearing the newest fashion; bubble-gum stuck to the bum-bum.

Now, now children, don't poke fun. Safety is a very serious issue here. I mean, most of the senior class will be eighteen by

then, and, if you should so choose, you could pledge your life to your country, join any branch of the US military, but we really must make sure you can get yourself to your prom in a safe and timely manner.

With the breathalyzers already in place, it's only right to add the buses. I mean, it's only fair to infer that members of both classes will partake in less-than-admirable activities on prom night, and it simply won't be allowed at a school function! Hey, isn't that what the breathalyzers were for anyways? Last year, members of the senior class were breathalized before entering prom, and after-prom. It worked, didn't it? Instituting the same process would surely yield the same product, wouldn't it? Using buses is just an unnecessary precaution. Years ago, the school would put together a scene out front of the high school, of a car accident, and what could happen if drugs or alcohol were a part of your prom night. Now, we're just cutting privileges instead of working with the students to get the point across. This is what we call legislation before education, kids.

We, as a class, as two classes, as many classes to come, are being suspected before we even have a chance to think of committing a crime.

What happened to innocent until proven guilty?

Halloween For Salem Students:

Crazy But Fun

By Jessica Long

Halloween in Salem is a very big deal. Living in Salem during the month of October is like living in Halloween town. We can enjoy seeing all of the ghosts, clowns, and just about every other costume you could imagine. Some other things you might see would be haunted houses, witch museums, the wax museum, and scary old graveyards. During the Halloween season people in Salem go all out. People prepare their costumes all year round. Don't be shocked if you get chased down the street by a person in a costume or see an amusement park in the middle of downtown.

One of the funniest things to do in Salem is to watch all of the tourists go by and when they ask for directions you send them the opposite way. Some tourists come to Salem thinking they're going to see something crazy, but just end up seeing a couple of people practicing Wicca in front of the Wax Museum. And I hope they know that when they're downtown they should never buy a "soul in a jar" from one of those New Age Stores. It's simply

because they're too expensive.

Traffic in Salem is pretty crazy. If you're going somewhere that usually take 5 minutes, it's probably going to end up taking 20. It's not just because of all the cars and traffic going into the city, but also because tourists love to stop in the middle of the crosswalks to take pictures. They tend to slow motorists down.

But don't get me wrong. Salem is the best place to be during Halloween, because we go all out. Most of the time it does get a little chaotic. Fried dough, candy apples, hot chocolate, apple cider, witches' hat and just anything dealing with the holiday you could think of is available for purchase right outside your front door. If you're not dressed up on Halloween, then you might as well just stay home.

Halloween is definitely my favorite holiday and I think that goes for a lot of other people as well. I just love all of the excitement and getting all dressed up and planning out costumes weeks before. All of the little kids get candy, too! October is by far the best month to be in Salem.

New Teachers Bring Enthusiasm To SHS

By Madeleine Lutts

There are 25 new faculty members at Salem High School for the start of the 2008-2009 school year. Most of them are replacing teachers in various departments. Ms. Beth Factor, a new teacher in the social studies department, comes to Salem High from Newton South High School, where she taught World History and US History I and II.

"I really like it here. I love the students, and I love that they are all unique and so different from each other,"

said Factor. "The faculty also seems very, very nice." Factor is teaching two US History II classes, 2 psychology classes, and a street law class. She has a strong background in the elective classes she is teaching, and she hasn't had any problems adjusting to Salem High. "People have been very helpful. I'm also used to the long blocks, so it hasn't been a problem. I think it's kind of cool to have longer classes. It gives us more time, and a chance to do fun things."

The guidance department is also welcoming a new addition, Mr. Martin

Ammer. Ammer has been a guidance counselor since 1979. He's worked in Waltham, Andover, and most recently at Malden Catholic.

"Salem High is a very unique and interesting school to work in," says Ammer. "It certainly has a very diverse community and is very aggressive in trying to serve that community. I am impressed with the many opportunities and programs that are offered for success." Ammer has been quite pleased with the administration and faculty. "The students are great, too. I'm starting to understand

and learn the idiosyncrasies that are peculiar to Salem without any problems," he said enthusiastically.

As Ammer begins the college process with many seniors, he has been surprised to see high spirits among the students and faculty. "People here have positive attitudes. Considering all the budget cuts and big changes in Salem over the last year, I was impressed to see such positivity."

Overall, new teachers seem to have positive feedback from their first couple of months at Salem High. They are adapting to the new environment, and they will be bringing new ideas and energy to the new school year.

Peer Mentoring

by Katie Wilkins

A new leadership program has been developed at Salem High School! The peer mentors program is in the process of becoming extremely distinguished and involved in Salem High School and the Salem community. Freshman Dean Andy Wulf is in the process of electing teachers to become advisors and aid in leading the motivated students. Through this program a body of committed students will voice concerns appropriately.

Events such as

class meetings and freshman orientation are examples of some activities peer mentors help plan and organize. Students involved say that their experience with the program has helped develop their public speaking skills and gave them more confidence and principles. Wulf says that the program "will help teach students to solve problems" by addressing deep issues, creating skills that are not often developed in classes. He hopes that each participant gains that "entrepreneurial spirit!" To join, applications can be found on the first floor, in Wulf's office.

Officers Elected

Compiled by Sonny Cooper

Congratulations to the Class Officers of 2008-2009 school year!

Senior Class

President- Monique Gallant
Vice-President- Miguelina Mesa
Secretary- James Towey
Treasurer- Juan Carrasco
Advisors- Ms. Cunningham and Mrs. Kessariss

Junior Class

President- Zachary Broughton
Vice-President- Erin Burke
Secretary- Chrisanthe Theodorakakis
Treasurer- Adelaide Majeski
Advisors - Mr. Massey and Ms. Raymond

Sophomore Class

President- Janice Dominguez
Vice-President- Stephanie Giunta
Secretary- Kellie Sacco
Treasurer- Sandra Castillo and Benjamin Sax
Advisors- Mr. Marcoux and Ms. Coleman

Senior Prom, Breathalyzers & Buses

Prom Set for Memorial Day Weekend

By Paloma Sanabria

The Senior Prom is booked for the Class of 09. For starters, it will be held at the fabulous Ferncroft in Danvers, MA. It will be on the same Friday as the senior finals, May 22. This is a good thing since all the seniors dismiss themselves anyway the same day. The price will be approximately the same price as last year, although the price is yet to be determined. And, yes, there will be breathalyzers at the Prom and every dance held at SHS.

There has been some mentioning of bringing all the seniors to Prom on school buses, but the decision has not been officially made.

"Not heard definitely from Angeramo, but the bus does give us options, in terms of location," Senior Class Advisor and English teacher Ms. Megan Cunningham said. "The buses give us more freedom," she continued. "Right now, this is still in discussion."

Co-Advisor for the Senior class is English teacher Mrs. Pamela Kessariss.

Even though the decision has not yet been made on whether or not buses will be used, this year's prom will be a guaranteed good time and safe night for all the Seniors to enjoy!

Homecoming Court Takes Center Field

Congratulation to the Homecoming Court of 2008!

Freshman- Kaira Colman and Jabari Tovar
Sophomore- Janice Dominguez and Jeffrey Turben
Junior- Drew Hammond and Jenaya Marshall
Senior- Jennifer Sobotka
King and Queen- Patrick Swift and Ishrat Raji

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