

Mrs. Valetutto –  
the New Chemistry  
Teacher  
By YINUO WANG

**Describe your early life.**  
I was born in Louisville,  
KY and grew up in Hous-  
ton, TX, and surrounding  
suburbs. I attended Wil-  
liam P. Clements High  
School in Sugar Land, TX  
(a suburb of Houston).  
I attended The University  
of St. Thomas, and George  
Washington University. In  
college I majored in chem-  
istry, with a triple minor.  
**What about your prior  
career?**

After leaving graduate  
*Continued on Page 2*

Mr. Brown - the  
New Humanities  
Teacher  
By YINUO WANG

**Where are you from?**  
Born and raised at the Jer-  
sey Shore. Grew up going  
to the beach, playing vol-  
leyball, and working at our  
family business in Ocean  
Grove. I graduated from  
Wall High School, and  
then went to the Univer-  
sity of Richmond. I also  
recently earned a Masters  
degree from Villanova.  
**What about your job  
experience?**

I worked in business, until  
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## TSA Nationals



The TSA Logo, Technology Student Association

By ANTHONY CHEN

The 2007 TSA  
National conference was  
a first for some and a re-  
cap for others, but an ex-  
perience for all. This year  
High Tech High sent 11  
students and one advisor to  
Nashville, Tennessee, for  
6 days. The students were  
Liza Yermakova, Michael  
Maffei, Megan  
Cusack, Glenn  
Stroz, Franz  
Sauer, Craig Ste-  
venson, Praveen  
Ranganath, Jonathan Lui,  
Robert Karol, Shawna Ha-  
gen, and Anthony Chen.  
They competed in a to-  
tal of fifteen events and  
placed in seventh, once  
again making High Tech  
High the top award winner  
in all of New Jersey. The  
finalists are as follows:  
Imaging Technology –  
2nd place: Megan Cusack;  
Technology Bowl-Written

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– 2nd place: Glenn Stroz;  
Transportation Modeling  
– 2nd Place, Franz Sauer;  
Career Comparisons – 4th  
Place: Shawna Hagen;  
SciVIZ – 4th Place: Mike  
Maffei, Glenn Stroz and  
Shawna Hagen; Radio  
Controlled Transporta-  
tion – 6th Place: Jon Lui,  
Robert Karol; Technology  
Bowl-Oral – 9th Place:  
Liza Yermakova,  
Glenn Stroz and  
Craig Stevenson.  
This event was  
held at the Gay-  
lord Opryland Resort &  
Convention Center, which  
is the largest non-casino  
hotel in the world. For  
the students, the combina-  
tion of the schedules and  
the hour-long morning  
sessions kept them busy,  
but in their free time the  
students entertained them-  
selves by roaming freely  
around the hotel and trav-

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LOCKERS  
LOCKED  
By MATTHEW  
WARSHAUER

On August 8th,  
2007, Mr. Simon called  
a meeting of the Student  
Government Association  
and the various Class  
Council Presidents to dis-  
cuss the implementation  
of new school policy. The  
main points of these rule  
changes deal with the open  
locker policy, hall passes,  
and a calendar of meetings.

Mr. Simon defend-  
ed High Tech's open locker  
policy in the face of con-  
cerns that it posed a major  
security risk to the school,  
especially because of the  
growing number of outsid-  
ers who utilize school fa-  
cilities on a nightly basis.  
In his words, "Mandating  
constantly closed lockers  
would cause damage to the  
school's unique culture."

### **“Concerns That It Posed a Major Security Risk”**

A compromise  
was necessary, however.  
So from now on, lockers  
must be closed and locked  
at the end of each school  
day. Essentially, as stu-  
dents arrive in the morn-

*Continued on Page 2*

Valetutto (Cont.) school, I started working as a chemist in R&D at a flavor and fragrance company in NJ. I enjoyed seeing the application of chemistry to a tangible real world situation. Learning chemistry is one thing and applying it is quite another thing.

**What is your first impression of High Tech?**  
My first impression of High Tech is...what a great place to be! Students seem very hard working and extremely bright and quick. All faculty members were very kind to me the few days I visited. And when I saw everyone's locker door open...I knew High Tech had a very open and trusting atmosphere. I am very proud to join the High Tech community.

***“High Tech has a very open and trusting atmosphere.”***

**What is your approach to teaching?**  
I believe all students have the ability to learn in their own way, and my job as a teacher is to find the best way to introduce and explain topics to enhance absorption. Also, I plan to emphasize learning concepts rather than memorizing formulas and theories.

\*.txt would like to apologize to the Mrs. Orozco for not including that interview. It will appear in the next issue!

**Lockers (Cont.)**  
ing, they may open their lockers and leave them open till they head home.

Also on the agenda at this meeting was a unified calendar that will minimize the problem of conflicting club meetings on any given day. This calendar will be coordinated by the SGA, and will also include the scheduling of additional activity lunch days. The new activity lunch schedule will follow

**“Hall Passes”**

a three week rotation. In this manner, the even distribution of lunches will be maintained, while still increasing their frequency.

The last major topic of the meeting concerned hall passes. Every classroom will now have its own standard hall pass that will allow the carrier to travel to either the bathroom or the locker. However, students and teachers will still need to fill out written forms in order to travel anywhere else.

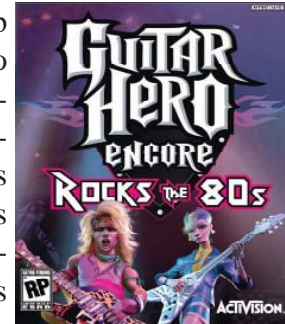
Class Presidents Kelly Roache and Amanda Ng (Senior), Vera DeFilippo (Junior), and Matthew Warshauer (Sophomore) attended this meeting. Also in attendance were SGA members Kirk Snyder and Joe Meyer, accompanied by their advisor Mr. Borchardt. Mr. Simon led the meeting, which took place in Room 110.

# Reviews

## Guitar Hero

By RON BROWN

“So, ready to rock out in tight leather with enough hair spray to fry what’s left of the ozone layer.” It’s the 80’s, as RedOctane and Harmonix attempt to grab more fans into their hit Guitar Hero franchise. 1980’s rock was revolutionary, but this *Guitar Hero*



*Encore* is about to get booted off the stage.

Unfortunately, this *Guitar Hero* sequel proves that it is easy to ruin great-

ness. While the game does have some of the best 80’s rock, it doesn’t measure up.

Aside from the lackluster set list, the game is fairly easy, even on the highest difficulty setting. The game includes 30 songs from the 80’s, but is not worth the \$50 price. The best advice is to avoid

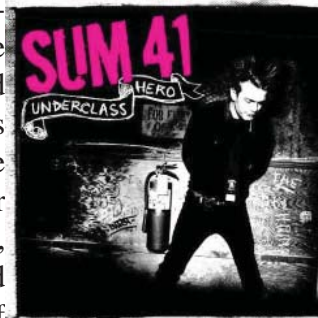
this game, unless you’re a die-hard 80’s rock fan.

Wait until *Guitar Hero 3*, because this game only receives a 2 out of 5.

## Underclass Hero

By ANTHONY CHEN

One part Green Day, two parts Blink-182, add a pinch of Yellowcard and that’s *Underclass Hero*. That may be harsh, but the power-trio from Ontario certainly took one step forward and two steps back. After the release of their album *Chuck*, which matured the sound of



the Canadian pop-punks, they announced that their new album would have an “old school” feel. Many fans were worried that the new album would lack the “Sum 41 feel”.

That’s partially false. *Underclass Hero* sounds like Sum 41, but the songs are similar to all pop-punk groups these days.

However, not all is negative about the album. The lyrics are just a bit more anti-establishment.

Everybody knows musicians age and their music changes with them. Sum 41 is six years and one man short, so they should have stayed with the mature feeling of *Chuck*.

*Underclass Hero* is not a bad album; the songs are fairly catchy, but it isn’t what long-time fans were anticipating.

## Bourne Ultimatum

By CAITLIN MAZIARZ

In a summer overflowing with disappointing movie sequels, the only thing to say is: thankfully Jason Bourne couldn't find all his answers in the first two Bourne films! *The Bourne Ultimatum*, third installment in the Robert Ludlum action trilogy, follows former covert agent Jason Bourne (Matt Damon) as he struggles to fill in gaps in his past.

Once more, he hunts for answers based on leads from suppressed memories while being hunted down by US government assassins. Time and anonymity are crucial to Bourne, who must cross international borders and access top secret information without being caught a difficult job for a man who has escaped the clutches of the United States government one time too many.

Overall, *The Bourne Ultimatum* is just as exceptional as its predecessors, *The Bourne Identity* and *The Bourne Supremacy*. While moviegoers new to the series may be somewhat lost at quick unexplained references to the past two flicks, the intense action packed chase scenes are worth seeing. Suspense carries viewers up until the final minute, making the two hour movie both entertaining and fulfilling.

By KERRY CLOSE

*Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* marks the final volume of J.K. Rowling's prolific Harry Potter series, as well as the last showdown between Harry and Lord Voldemort, the infamous Dark Wizard who is the antagonist in the series. *Deathly Hallows* lives up to all its pre-release hype; it is suspenseful and exciting, deep, and at times, dark. Though the plot can be sluggish, the book is all that fans had hoped for in the conclusion of Harry's saga. The death toll of *Deathly Hallows* is higher than that of any of Rowling's other books; about

## Movie

By YINUO WANG

*Order of the Phoenix*, the fifth Harry Potter Movie, was released on July 11th.

The movie was darker and more mature, and fans of the book will leave slightly disappointed. Indeed, the movie seems more artistically rich, with the absolutely dazzling Ministry of Magic and subtly gloomy overtones on all the familiar places. The actors are grown-up and display a wider range of acting talents, Dan Radcliffe in particular. However, the movie suffered from a bad plot. Steve Kloves had written the last four, but Michael Goldenberg

## Harry Potter Book

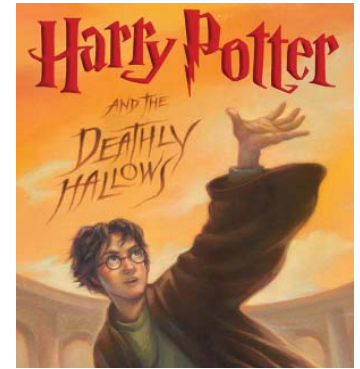
a half dozen of Harry's friends are killed in the fight against Voldemort.

The story is dominated by Harry's search for Horcruxes, on which he is of course joined by his comrades Ron and Hermione. Harry has been unofficially appointed as the leader of the resistance, a position he is frustrated with—he would rather be a normal teenager. Harry and his friends struggle with adolescence, loss, love, and the choice between good and evil—all feelings that even Muggles can relate to, and

took this hefty job. Parts of the movie dragged and other events were minimized. This contrasts to *Goblet of Fire*, which tightly packed almost the whole book into the 2.5 hours.

Regardless, a certain population will always go see the new Harry Potters no matter what. Each new viewing holds its charm—Luna was satisfyingly endearing and Umbridge, accurate and comical—but the movies build up a certain redundancy absent from the books. The rest of the Harry Potter books will eventually become movies, and perhaps the next will be more fulfilling.

one of the many reasons that the Potter series has become so popular and relatable. Rowling certainly has ended Harry's story on a high note, and the series will undoubtedly be remembered as a classic of fantasy literature.



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**Brown (Cont.)**  
2002. By that time, I decided to return to school to get my Masters. They say it's never too late! I have also taught as a history professor at Brookdale.

**What was your first impression of High Tech?**  
The halls were filled with energy, enthusiasm, and large mounds of learning materials which the lockers clearly could not restrain. Having met many members of the faculty and staff, I am thrilled by the graciousness and cooperation they have already shown.

**What will you be teaching?**  
I'm teaching US-II, Contemporary Global Issues, and English IV.

**What is your personal approach to teaching?**  
Students in my class will find a place that's challenging, and utilize a variety of methods to try to reach different students. I'm a huge proponent of active reading and thinking, so I tend to use the follow-up question "why?"

**Any tips for your new students?**  
Show up, pay attention, and be an active learner. Don't wait for ideas to sink in, reach out and grab them.

\*.txt would like to thank the the new teachers for answering our questions.

# Editorials

**The Power of Information**  
By MATTHEW WARSHAUER

In modern times, information is king, and the single greatest source of information lies on the Web. Currently, High Tech High locks student laptops out of the wireless network, and that goes against the essential principle of easy wireless access for everyone. Now, the fact that the wireless network covers the entire school is an improvement over previous years. However, that does not excuse the administration from opening up the Internet to those who might most benefit from it.

We live in an always-on, always-connected world. Between cell phones, PDAs, laptops, and GPS devices, everyone and everything is only one click away. However, if cut off from the instantaneous resources provided by Google, Yahoo!, and Wikipedia, a student is left without access to quick answers. Many times, at lunch and after school, I have asked a question that could be solved with a Google search, but lacking an Internet connection from my table, I let the question recede. Consequently, I and everyone around me suffer. We have just lost a little bit of knowledge and an oppor-

**Welcome to the New \*.txt**

We hope you are enjoying the new style of \*.txt. We will now publish a new issue during the first week of every month.

"Letters to the Editor" is a new feature we are adding. Please submit your letters to Yinuo Wang via the BBS with an appropriate subject line. These letters must be signed, in good taste, and up to 150 words. Inappropriate correspondence will not be published.

'Dear Abby' is another new section. Ask our resident guru for advice by BBSing Yinuo. Please follow the same rules as above, except we will accept pseudonyms.

\*.txt needs photographers, writers, tech reviewers, poets, and anyone who wants to lend a hand. All are invited to join. Meeting times will be posted on the BBS and on the morning announcements.

Thank you for reading.

tunity to learn something. It is shameful that High Tech does not open every possible avenue for learning to the students. Opening the network hurts no one, and the ability for anyone to access the internet is priceless. The school has been honored through No Child Left Behind; How about No Laptop Left Behind as well?

**TSA (Cont.)**  
eling to the nearby Opry Mills Mall. The diversity of the students attending the conference was astounding. During the conference, students from all across the country befriended each other. Forty-eight states plus Germany and Peru were represented at Nationals this year. The journey home, however, was yet to come.

Upon arriving at the airport, the High Tech and MAST teams (who traveled together) discovered that their flight had been delayed. After many hours, they were told that all New Jersey flights had been cancelled due to inclement weather. The twenty-six people then had to decide how to get home. There were no flights out of Nashville for three days. Amidst the chaos, someone suggested a bus.

The bus ride would take over a day. And so the group boarded their first of four buses on their 1,300 mile journey to New Jersey. Twenty-six hours and eight cities later, the tired group finally reached Newark, where they took a van to High Tech. The 2007 TSA Nationals was a unique experience for all, and the students experienced the joy of competition, the love of technology, and the value of teamwork.