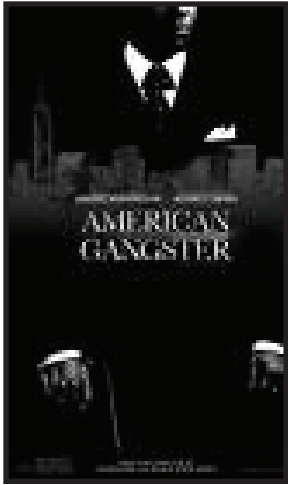


You be the judge *American Gangster*

by Sonia Hernandez
News Staff Reporter



PHOTO/Google

Nobody used to notice Frank Lucas (Oscar winner Denzel Washington), the quiet driver to one of the inner city's leading black crime bosses. However, when his boss suddenly dies, Lucas exploits the opening in the power structure to build his own empire and create his own version of the American dream.

Based in Harlem in the 1970's, the dream builds through ingenuity and a strict business ethic. Lucas comes to rule the inner-city drug trade, flooding the streets with a more purer product at a better price. He out plays all the cities mainline corrupters, but becomes part of its circle of legit civic superstars.

Denzel Washington's role in this movie was well played. He brought the character to life along with its supporting stars.

American Gangster was a great movie. Based on a true story, the movie could be used as a lesson to all the young men out there dealing with drugs and that are involved in gangs. The bad thing about this movie is that it has a lot of crimes because most of the teenagers get influenced by the movie. The film sold 46.3 million worth of tickets and beat the *Bee* movie. *American Gangster* is 2 hours and 37 minutes and is rated R.

Twilight Saga series shines

by Teddie Burden
News Staff Reporter



PHOTO/Google

In September of 2005, Stephanie Meyers published a book that many teenage girls grew to love. She is the author of the *Twilight Saga* series. So far she has written three books in the series; *Twilight*, *New Moon* and *Eclipse*. *Twilight* is also said to be produced into a movie. It will begin production in February 2008. In

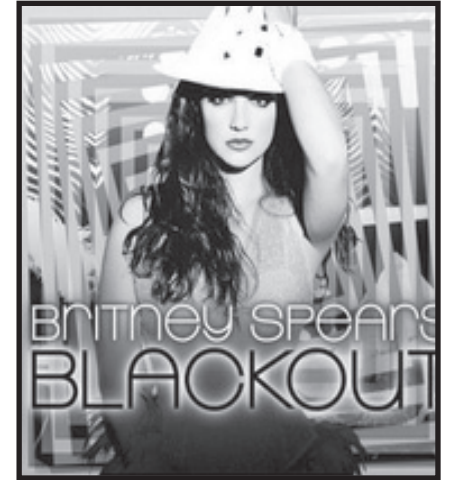
this series, a girl named Bella Swan moves in with her dad, falls in love with a vampire and throughout the series she goes through many struggles. Bella Swan struggles with love, friendship, high school and making the right decisions. It's a never-ending story of fun and excitement.

Once you pick up the book, you will not want to set it down. It's hard to put it down because it's just so interesting and the farther you get, the more that happens and you want to find out about. One bad thing about it is that it may show "vampires" as lovey dovey. They turn this story into a soft vampire story. It is a different perspective than normal books about vampires. One good thing is that there are three extra books you get to read. She has one other book coming out, *Breaking Dawn*, in the fall of 2008.

Britney's *Blackout*: a comeback or flop

by Tarah Elford
News Staff Reporter

Britney Spears had dropped off the music scene until recently with the October 30 release of *Blackout*. Spears CD did surprisingly well the first week. She debuted at number two with sales at 124,000 the first day. However, since it is now being considered a flop with sales not improving.

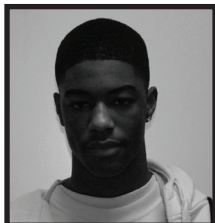


PHOTO/MSN

The first single was "Gimme More". Spears also performed it on the MTV music awards. Some fans thought it was a horrible performance and there are a few fans that liked it. The CD is a mix. Some songs talk about the paparazzi and her wanting to just live her life. The single "Piece of Me" talks about how she wanted to live her life and not want the paparazzi in her business.

There are many reviews about the CD. *Newsday* said to "save your money". *Entertainment Weekly* said "It's a B+". However, it is a perfectly serviceable dance album. So the question is was her CD a positive or another negative thing for the media?

Voices in the hall: what's in your mp3 player?



"Lots of Stellar Kart because they are my favorite band. I also have Soulja Boy because it is my favorite song."
Shuana Garrison
Class of 2008

"Lil Wayne, Lil Boosie, Cassidy, and Gillie the Kid because they are my favorite rappers. They are hip-hop."
Deontay Hanzlovic
Class of 2010



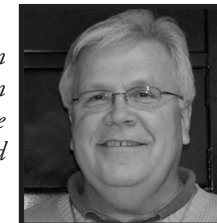
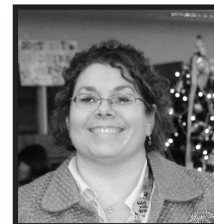
"A little bit of everything. I got to have my Soulja Boy and Ciara because they are my favorite artists."
Sallie Love
Class of 2011

STUDENTS

VS.

Staff

Social Distortion, Dean Martin, Duran Duran and the Beatles. I love them all so much and Social D speaks to me.
Melissa Eddinger
Staff



"I have Pink Floyd, Marshall Tucker Band, The Doors and Led Zeppelin because it's good music."
Gary Canty
Staff

"A little Kanye West. Mostly old school and a little jazz. It's relaxing and they sing about things I can relate to.."

Col. Wil Richardson
Staff

